

WHAT OTHERS ARE THINKING

Bright Clippings from Wide-a-wake Contemporaries

MAY INTERN WITHOUT TRIAL.

Lord Chancellor and Three Associates of Privy Council Sustain Govern- ment.

London, May 2.—(Canadian Press Despatch.)—The validity of the Defence of the Realm Act has been upheld by a decision of Britain's highest court in the habeas corpus case in which one Zadig, a naturalized Briton, was interned without trial. The Lord Chancellor and three associates upheld the Crown's contention that the King in Council has power to issue regulations overriding the fundamental laws of the nation. In a long dissenting opinion, Lord Shaw says "I decline to believe that Parliament ever did, or intended to do, by these words those stupendous things—to remove 'the two main rights of civil society,' to repeal 'the clear principle of our constitution that no man can be detained in prison without trial,' or to efface 'the most distinguishing characteristic of our constitution.'"

RUSSIA PREPARES FOR LABOR DAY.

Petrograd, April 30.—From the Czar's winter palace a huge sign to-day reads "The proletariat of all countries, unite." It is the keynote of May Day, which will be celebrated to-morrow.

The following orders issued by Minister of War Gutchkoff to-day were put forth at the suggestion of the private soldiers themselves. They provide all soldiers are to be considered citizens of Russia; complete religious freedom; free speech guaranteed; attendance at church services not compulsory; mail from trenches shall not be censored. The servile "sir" abolished in replies by private soldiers to officers; soldiers need not salute their officers "unless the soldier wishes"; corporal punishment in the army completely abolished.

A SHREWD GUESS.

Turk troops are in Berlin, but as Berlin is not on the direct route between Turkey and the Western front, it looks as if they are brought in to ensure having a garrison upon which the authorities can rely. The Romanoffs lost everything because the Petrograd garrison immediately sided with the revolutionaries.—Mail and Empire.

WAR'S ECONOMIC WASTE.

No less representative and influential a capitalist journal than the Iron Age reminds us that preparedness "means not only a numerous well-drilled, adequately-equipped army and a large and efficient navy, but also an organized army of industrial workers to maintain a continuous movement of supplies to the army and navy. No less an authority than General Leonard Wood has said that every man in the field requires three men at home to keep him supplied with the means of effective warfare."

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS CALL.

The International Socialist Congress is called to take place in Stockholm on May 15th. It is doubtful, however, at the time of writing, as to whether this will give time for the American delegates to be present, and may necessitate a deference until a later date. It is almost certain that all the neutral nations will be represented and many of the belligerent. We understand that Belgium will have a representative, also the French minority.

The thought of peace is growing

everywhere, every day that the war continues increases the suffering of the peoples, the hecatombs of the victims and the billions of debt. The situation is becoming intolerable, and we should now demand the terms of peace. This is necessary in order that the international may again develop its strength.

WEALTH AND POVERTY.

The crowning disgrace is that, with a hundred-fold increase in our powers of wealth-production, adequate to supply every rational want of our whole population many times over, we have only succeeded in adding enormously to individual wealth and luxury, while the workers are, on an average, as deeply sunk in poverty and misery as before.—Dr. A. R. Wallace.

SOCIALISM DON'T SCARE ALLAN.

Allan Studholme Attacks Government's Nickel Policy.

Toronto, April 5.—When the discussion of the nickel bill came up in the house last night, Allan Studholme, Hamilton's Labor member, attacked the Government.

"The wonderful assertions made on the platform or other place by this Government," said he, "that they never sold any acres of land, but that it was given away by the old Government, now admit that they did sell some land. They did this since the appointment of the commission, since the company had made millions out of it, and that in the finest land at Sudbury at \$3 an acre. They are not as innocent as they look.

The premier got warm under the collar when he got after the leader of the opposition. Mr. Rowell took the same position I have taken during the eleven sessions that I have been here. Poor old Sir James Whitney used to shout 'socialism' when I got up and talked about the way things should come to pass. If only kind Providence will give me eleven years more and the people of East Hamilton send me back, you will all be socialists and confiscate everything and own all things in Ontario.

"The members of the Government are only trustees for the public, to see that the domain created for the public is kept for them and not given away. This nickel, the most valuable mineral in the world, doesn't belong to the minister of lands, forests and mines or the government; it belongs to the people of the province, and even to the child that is unborn.

"Get that in your frame, Mr. Minister of lands, forests and mines, if you're not asleep. These men never spent a nickel to create the mines. These men are not like Edison. They didn't even invest a single dollar of it.

"It's the funniest bill I ever saw. Because this company has robbed the people we are going to rob them. He never says a word about 1912 to 1915. It's a silent story. Now we will take \$40,000 a year. If it is right to take it for the other years. Every time my friends across the road make a mistake they get up and say 'You fellows did it.'

"Now, while we are talking about this we have another crowd stealing. The minister of power told us what that crowd did. It would get after them and make it so they couldn't steal any more. Bill and Dan don't scare me, Mr. Speaker."

HOLLWEG GETS NOTICE TO MOVE, AND DO IT QUICK.

"Why does the chancellor shrink back now from unconditional necessity?

Always the hesitator, the procrastinator, Bethmann-Hollweg wants to begin to cure Prussia after the war. Russia also promised all reforms after the war, but the war lasted too long for the Russians. Why postpone till to-morrow what is absolutely necessary to-day, what even the king himself declared years ago was one of the most urgent matters of the business of the state? Now is the time for decisive action. The difficulties, which might arise if the government adopts the reichstag system of elections for Prussian elections, are as a featherweight as compared with the difficulties which will come if it does not do this. The chancellor should not delay one day. The Prussian people, as well as the other German states, will stand as one man at his side if he acts decisively."

LABOR DELEGATES ARRIVE.

Britons to Confer with American Labor.

New York, May 4.—British labor leaders appointed by their government as official advisers to American labor in the conduct of the war arrived in the United States to-day, and will proceed at once to Washington.

The delegation, passengers on a British steamship, are the Right Hon. Chas. W. Boverman and J. H. Thomas, members of the British Parliament, and H. W. Garrod, who represents the Labor party in the Bureau of Munitions. They have come at the invitation of the American Federation of Labor.

The British representatives are here to-day to remain an indefinite time. They plan to confer first with Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation. They said their mission was to cement the labor organizations of the United States and the entente in their participation in the conflict.

Miss Jeannette Rankin, the new Congress-woman from Montana, was asked if the reason she was elected was because Western women were more progressive than Eastern women. She quickly responded, "No, it is because Western men are more progressive than Eastern men. Women east and west are much the same, but western men afford women more opportunity to express themselves."

A PREDICTION OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION.

'Tis the Neva Tearing Loose.

By Victor Hugo.

We are in Russia. The Neva is frozen. Heavy carriages roll upon its surface. They improvise a city. They lay out streets. They build houses. They buy. They sell. They laugh. They dance. They permit themselves anything. They even light fires of this water become granite.

There is winter, there is ice and they shall last forever. A gleam pale and wan spreads over the sky, and one would say that the sun is dead.

But no, thou art not dead, O Liberty! At an hour when they have most profoundly forgotten thee, thou shalt shoot bright and shining rays, thy heat, thy life, on all this mass of ice become hideous and dead.

Do you hear that dull thud, that crackling, deep and dreadful? 'Tis the Neva tearing loose. You said it was granite. See, it splits like glass. 'Tis the breaking of the ice, I tell you. 'Tis the water alive, joyous and terrible. Progress recommences. 'Tis humanity again beginning its march. 'Tis the river which retakes its course, uproots, mangles, strikes together, crushes and drowns in its waves not only the empire of upstart Czar Nicholas, but of relics of ancient and modern despotism.

The trestle work floating away? It is the throne. That other trestle? It is a scaffold. That old book, half sunk? It is the old code of capitalist laws

and morals. That old rookery just sinking? It is a tenement house in which working people lived.

See these all passing by, never more to return; and for this immense engulfing, for this supreme victory of life over death, what has been the power necessary?

One of thy looks, O Sun!
One stroke of thy strong arm, O Labour!

Mr. Munro, the Secretary for Scotland, refuses to remit the remainder of John McLean's sentence, and he declines to propose for Scotland the institution of such regulations for the treatment of political prisoners as obtains in England. Scots political prisoners are still to be treated like ordinary criminals.

"BEFORE CARNEGIE."

(Christian Register.)

"I see they have just dug up a cornerstone of a library in Greece on which was inscribed '4000 B.C.,"' remarked a student to a Scotsman. "What do you suppose it means?" "It canna mean bu' one thing," answered the Scot, solemnly; "'Before Carnegie.'"

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT.

(Exchange.)

"I wonder why it takes pay day so long to come around?"

"It only seems long when you're short, and the shorter you are the longer it seems."

DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE REPLIES TO OUR INTERROGATION

We stated in our last issue that the Minister of Justice had been interrogated re the removal of Russian Socialists from a Scandinavian boat and later sent to an internment camp. We herewith append the Minister's reply for your perusal; and request that you will use your influence in order that these comrades may be speedily liberated and allowed to proceed on their journey to Russia. We fail to see that the ends of justice are being met by the application of censorship to individuals. Such action is extremely reprehensible, in view of the fact that these are allied subjects. Must we assume that the recent orders-in-council are especially designed for the indictment of any person avowing the principles of socialism?

Ottawa, May 10, 1917.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge your letter of 25th ultimo, with regard to the case of Mr. L. Trotsky and his associates, who were removed from the steamer Kristianiafjord at Halifax recently by direction of the Naval authorities, and have since been detained at the internment station at Amherst, and I am to inform you that inquiries are being made upon the subject through the director of internment operations, who is in communication with the Naval authorities.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
E. L. NEWCOMBE,
Deputy Minister of Justice.

AN APPRECIATION.

You have been kind enough to send me a copy of the "Forward." I like a paper that is not afraid to speak the truth. Please find enclosed \$1.50 for subscription. Your paper is worth its salt.

W. H. S., Rumsey, Alta.

Ye hypocrites, are these your pranks:
To murder men and gie Gad thanks?
For shame! gie ower, proceed no further,
God won't accept your thanks for murder.
—Robert Burns.