

THE LOWER ORDERS.

The Rev. Dr. Eaton, writing to the Times from the land of multi-millionaires, is greatly concerned at the prevailing spirit of labor unrest in England. The ruling classes have just completed their latest achievement: a world-war, lasting five years, and not yet ended. "Spending money for five years upon non-productive effort" is how the Rev. Dr. Eaton describes it. What more can our ruling classes do? The Rev. Dr. Eaton admits that they are in a somewhat helpless condition. The remedy lies solely with the worker. It is now the worker's turn. The duty of the worker is plain. Having been put by their rulers for the last five years to the "non-productive work" of murdering one another, they are now, unless they want to see their rulers ruined, to return again to "plain, every-day work." Take coal, for instance. "The only way to get coal is to dig it out of a mine." The Rev. Dr. Eaton can see no other way. Let the miner cease troubling himself about wages, housing conditions, and hours of labor. The Rev. Dr. Eaton is shocked that such selfish considerations, at such a time, should enter into the miner's head. If the Rev. Dr. Eaton were a working man, he tells us, he would be ashamed to "think of asking for a six-hour day, surrounded by an entanglement of legislative safeguards for fear lest I got a smooch of coal dust on my nose or soiled my fine linen by sweat." The American miner's output, Dr. Eaton tells us, is "three times" that of the English miner's output. One presumes Dr. Eaton knows what he is talking about. Possibly the English miner's habit of wearing "fine linen" while sweating in a coal mine gets in his way. Maybe worrying about that "smooch of coal dust" on his nose also interferes with the output. The Rev. Dr. Eaton, who is all out for removing "ill-will" between the classes, proceeds thus: "A man who must be protected by law from working more than six hours a day (down a coal mine) ought not to wear trousers. He ought to be garbed in petticoats and have a nurse to stand between him and the rude realities of a work-a-day world." If a child die of pneumonia this winter, because the English miners are willing to work for "only a few hours a day," the death of that child, owing to the dearth of coal, will lie at the door of the Miners' Union. The mine-owner, the royalty-owner, the ship-owner (whose profits during the war have been multiplied by six,) the railway shareholder, and the half-a-dozen other middlemen standing between the coal at the pit's mouth and the child dying of pneumonia in its distant slum, can of course only shed a tear. "Let us take on faith," counsels the Rev. Dr. Eaton. Let the miner "work for England."—Jerome K. Jerome, in "Common Sense."

Propaganda Meeting, Empress Theatre, corner Gore avenue and Hastings street, Sunday, 8 p.m. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

STARVED IN CROWDED CELLS.

Treatment of Soviet Prisoners.

Berne, Sunday.—Serious reports of the excesses committed by the Hungarian counter-revolutionary Government on the thousands of Socialists who at present fill their prisons have been received by the Budapest "Respublica."

It is stated that the prisoners have been cast indiscriminately without food into little cells, where they are dying of hunger. None of the acts of violence alleged against the previous Soviet Government (says the message) approach the tortures which are being inflicted daily by the so-called Democratic Government of Friedrich, which is regarded as simply the ferocious tool of the Italian Government.

Italian Socialists have made a vigorous protest against the action of their Government in giving assistance to the massacres and outrages which are being carried out.

Goods We Need and Goods We Can Sell

RUSSIA.

The war waged by the Allies has swallowed up an immense quantity of the living forces of the country. Their blockade separates the country from the entire world and condemns it to a lack of every kind of machinery and industrial products which are absolutely necessary for normal economic life. All the workers, all the peasants, clearly see that the victory of the counter-revolutionists can only aggravate the situation enormously, and add to the hunger and to the lack of everything, the anxiety of the White Terror and of political and economic reaction. It is on this feeling that the general action of the people is based at present.

The intervention of English imperialism in Turkestan and the resulting impossibility to export cotton, have ruined a cotton country which must be counted among the richest in the world. The irrigation in that country will soon be in such a wretched condition that the cultivation will become impossible; the case is similar in the Caucasus, where the petroleum industry has been ruined by the English. At Baku alone the petroleum stores amount to three million tons. Owing

The Russian Adventure

The London "Daily Express," which has distinguished itself by its independent criticism of the Government's policy in Russia, has now laid hands on a document of formidable significance. This is an "interview" which General Ironside, our commander-in-chief at Archangel, is alleged to have given on June 1 to an official of the anti-Bolshevik "Provisional Government of North Russia." As the interview was apparently published in at least one Russian newspaper, the "Russki Sever," and thence quoted in "an officially created journal intended for free distribution among the British troops," the presumption of its genuineness is strong, though it does not amount to proof. According to the report of the interview, General Ironside flatly contradicted the repeated assertion of Mr. Churchill and the War Office that they have never had any other intention than to evacuate North Russia with all possible speed. General Ironside, if correctly reported, unfolded a vast programme of conquest in Russia, beginning with the capture of Petrograd and going on to "serious measures against the centre and the south" of Russia. Dismissing all idea of evacuation, he said: "Our shipping facilities are now reinforced by ships which before were required for Africa, Mesopotamia, etc. and during the summer everything which we require will be brought to Archangel." Now, as this is the direct reverse of what Mr. Churchill declares to have been our policy on June 1 and at every other date this year, either General Ironside was then mutinously opposing the policy of his country or else Mr. Churchill was not stating that policy frankly. There is no denying the existence of a widespread suspicion that certain intriguers are trying to complete our national bankruptcy by dragging us into a great and long war against extreme Socialism in Russia. —Manchester Guardian, Sept. 12.

"TEN DAYS THAT SHOOK THE WORLD."

(By John Reed.)

John Reed was in Russia during the Bolshevik Revolution and this book records his observations. He is a journalist, thus a trained observer but besides this he had the advantage of understanding the historical nature of the forces at work. Price, \$2. Postage paid.

to the prohibition by the English of exportation, enormous quantities are being lost.

The Kolchak army, which we have beaten to a frazzle, in its retreat destroyed 219 vessels that had fallen into their hands on the river Kama. In the Donetz basin, the White Guards have flooded the mines. In spite of extremely unfavorable circumstances, in spite of the barbarous methods of the counter-revolutionists who are fighting us, the economic situation of Soviet Russia is sound. All hope of disposing of us by exhaustion is absolutely groundless. The war waged by the Allies against Russia and the economic blockade will not only inflict irremediable injuries on Russia, but also on all the other countries of Europe. Russia, which before the war was furnishing foreign countries with certain raw materials, has been accumulating, within the last year, important stores of such materials. Thus, more than 200,000 tons of flax, 100,000 tons of hemp, of the old harvest, are at the disposal of the economic organs of the Soviet Government. The new harvest promises to be superabundant and to afford an even greater surplus for exchanges with foreign countries.

There are still great quantities of leather, furs, bristles, metals, not to mention the wood which Europe so much needs for the reconstruction of edifices destroyed by the war. Soviet Russia firmly believes that the workers of European countries will find the necessary means to force their Governments to raise the blockade of Russia and to put a stop henceforth to the anarchic destruction of her riches, as well as of those of the countries which are economically dependent on her.

At the end of this message, the Vice-president of the Supreme Council of National Economy, Milyutin, has added a statement on the imports, which Russia may require and of which the Soviet Government has made a summary.

The most important requirements are machines of all kinds, particularly agricultural implements. Although the industry of Soviet Russia is attempting to increase its production of agricultural implements and machines, 80 per cent. of the number required may still be filled by importations from abroad.

On the other hand, the Government is at present concentrating in its hands three thousand factories selected from those which are most important, representing from the point of view of production, 90 per cent. of the industry. These enterprises are in a sad state, as for instance, those of the electro-technical branches, the mines, and a number of textile combines, each including from 5 to 10 concerns. The national industry has in its possession a sufficient quantity of raw material except in the matter of cotton. As far as the machines are concerned, as well as replacing detached parts and accessory materials, its needs according to the plan drawn up by the Supreme Council of National Economy, would amount to 25 milliards of rubles. The Russians also feel a lack of medicaments and of chemical products of other kinds, as well as of automobile motors. Thus Soviet Russia, with its centralized and organized national economy, offers an immense market for international exchange.

Our French source remarks on this subject:

These statements are just the evidence we need. At the moment that Europe, ruined by the war, is experiencing the greatest difficulty in coming to life, owing to the universal poverty, it is absolutely insane to renounce the natural resources of Russia. But our governing classes do not need to obey either the suggestions of common sense nor those of the public interests: they have proved this by the nonchalance with which they have permitted the ruin of the small holders of Russian loans, while they continue a policy solely devoted to the services of the big capitalists with investments in Russia.

C. Y.