

# Revive the Internationale

Call Issued for World Congress June 3 at The Hague.

Hope of reviving the Socialist International has been given a new birth by the action of the American Socialist Party National Executive Committee, in session in Chicago, in calling upon the International Socialist Bureau to provide for an international congress to be held June 3, 1917, at The Hague.

It is urged that the Bureau take steps to call such a congress by March 1. If this is not done the American Socialist Party will take the initiative.

The cablegram sent to Camille Huysmans, secretary of the International Socialist Bureau, at The Hague, was as follows:—

"Convinced that the time is ripe for a revival of the Socialist International on the basis of a concerted working-class movement for an immediate, just and lasting peace, the Socialist Party of the United States requests that an International Congress be called June 3, 1917, at The Hague. Unless by March 1, the Bureau takes steps to call such a congress, our party will consider itself justified in taking direct initiative."

This message to the Bureau has also been sent to the Socialist Parties in Germany, Austria, Holland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, England, France, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Russia, Belgium, and the Argentine, with the request that the support of the various affiliated parties be given to this measure. It is urged that any action taken be immediately cabled to the American Socialist Party headquarters in Chicago.

In this way it is hoped to gather up the loose threads now binding the Socialist Parties of the various countries and revive the International Socialist movement to greater effort. The members of the American Socialist Party national executive committee are confident that their appeal will meet with an immediate and favorable response by the Socialists of the belligerent and neutral countries.

In announcing its action to the Socialists of the United States, the national executive committee issued a stirring manifesto as follows:—

To the Comrades of the Socialist Party:

Comrades,—Thirty terrible months have elapsed since the outbreak of the world war. Never in the history of the world has so much carnage, devastation and frightfulness been encompassed within such a space of time. As the twentieth century with its science and invention, its economic organization and achievements dwarfs all the previous history of mankind, so the war exceeds all previous wars of human history in magnitude, horror, destruction and deadliness. All the inventive genius and creative power of many of the greatest modern nations, in neutral as well as in belligerent countries have been prostituted to the lust of war. Now that millions of lives have been sacrificed, and millions of other lives broken and ruined, while all civilization has been imperilled, the war-weary world cries with agonizing voice for peace. Even the ruling classes are at last realizing its unspeakable horror and futility and are beginning to speak openly of their desire for peace.

The Socialist movement ought to be, and can be, the greatest force for peace in the world. The Socialists of the world can do more to bring about a just, conclusive and enduring peace than all the world's diplomats and statesmen combined. Even amid the hellish hate and brute passions of the war, often at great peril to themselves, loyal comrades in all the belligerent countries, true to the principles of internationalism, have consistently opposed the resort to barbarous methods of warfare and bravely urged the cause of international solidarity and peace.

It would be a calamity only compar-

able to the war itself if the organized Socialist movement of the world should fail to exert its great influence and power to bring about a speedy termination to the war madness. Further, International Socialism would lose its great opportunity and betray its trust if it should fail to make all possible efforts to safeguard the interests of the working class of the world in the adjustments that are to come.

Far more important than any or all of the questions of indemnification and territorial rearrangements, is the assurance which must be obtained by the proletariat that the settlement of the war shall be just and lasting; that it shall not contain the germs of future wars. Every capitalist device or measure which may contain the potential provocative of future wars must be stoutly resisted by a reunited international social democracy.

It is in a special sense the task of the Socialist parties, to create the necessary working class sentiment and rally the forces to insure the adoption of means to prevent future wars. All that imperils the fraternity of peoples must be swept into oblivion. Disarmament, both military and naval, is essential to an assured and permanent peace. To the rulers and war lords who have caused the implements of industry to be transformed into implements of murder and rapine, a reunited working class must manifest its determination to beat all the deadly armaments of the air, the land, and the sea into tools of life-giving industry.

It is our task to see that the reactionary bureaucratic rules which war has of necessity brought to the most democratic of the belligerent nations, and enormously strengthened in the others, are not permitted to continue. A wide extension of democracy in all the lands must be our aim in the readjustments which the close of the great world tragedy must bring about.

On the other hand, those measures of collectivism which have been established in the different nations during the war, must be maintained. As Socialists we had always known and declared that capitalism was inefficient and incapable of affording the largest utilization of our natural resources and our productive powers. In the perils and stress of war the ruling classes and war-makers have discovered this, and as a result have been forced to replace capitalist industrial enterprise by a species of collectivism. The much-talked-of "War Socialism" is not Socialism at all. There can be no Socialism apart from democracy. But the collectivism which has been linked to militarism in the war is the wrong application of a great and beneficent principle of social action which must be redeemed from misuse and maintained to bless mankind. The collectivism of war must be made into the Socialism of Humanity. Above all other needs is the need of a world organization based upon the solidarity of all nations. All barriers which stand in the way—tariffs, armaments, alliances, commercial treaties and fortifications at strategic channels of world intercourse—must be broken down. Upon the blackened ruins of this greatest of human tragedies must be laid the foundations of the greatest of human ideals, the federation of the world.

Recognizing the solemn obligation resting upon the Socialists of the United States, as the representative section of the Socialist International in the greatest of the neutral nations, the Socialist Party has taken the initiative in calling a special International Congress to be held at an early date, to face the grave problems herein briefly indicated. By means of such a congress we believe that the sundered strands of our international solidarity can be reunited, and that we can enlist

the workers of all lands to fight side by side once more in the great struggle to overthrow the system of economic exploitation and servitude whose natural fruitage is murder, rapine, destruction and war. To our comrades in all the stricken lands we send greetings and fellowship, and hope that before long we shall be able to unite with them in a common struggle for Social Democracy and Peace.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SOCIALIST PARTY:

Victor L. Berger, Morris Hillquit, John Spargo, Anna Agnes Maley, John M. Work, Executive Secretary: Adolph Germer.

## CASE AGAINST CONSCRIPTION

(Continued from page Two)

dragged me round on the ground. Then he called two boys, one a champion boxer, to get me and push me round. This boxer, the boy claims, dug his fingers into the boy's neck, sewed his arm almost out of his socket, until he cried out with pain, and punched him in the face twice and knocked him on the ground. The boy was almost stunned. When he got up, he said that he would summons his assailant and was then struck such a brutal blow that he says "it sent me clean over on my face." (Australian Commonwealth Hansard, Dec. 18, 1913, pp. 4748-4749.)

2. Mr. Joseph Cook, who was then Prime Minister, replied to questions asked in the House, said: The cadets in certain cases have been confined in cells—I do not wish to understate the punishment—and have been detained in solitary confinement. . . . It must be remembered that something must be done with recalcitrant boys, because discipline must be maintained. If one lad is allowed to do as he pleases, it is not likely that eighty or ninety other full-blooded boys will submit to discipline, knowing that the authorities may be defied with impunity. That has to be provided against. But the harsh treatment of the boys should cease. Honorable members may take my word for it that there will be no more solitary confinement for cadets. (A. C. Hansard, June 26, 1914, p. 2652.)

3. Mr. Burns, on June 19, 1914, in the House, said: "Some time ago I asked some questions in the House with regard to Victor Lee, of Broken Hill, who was arrested for non-compliance with the training provisions, and the answer I received from the Honorary Minister was that this lad had been sentenced to imprisonment for a month, a portion of which was to be spent in solitary confinement, with a diet of bread and water, for over a week." A. C. Hansard, p. 2384, June 19, 1914.)

4. In the House of Senate Senator Russell read a letter sent him from the parents of Cadet Roberts, and read as follows:

"For continuing in his refusal the boy was placed in the cell next the guard room on Thursday night, where he was confined until 11 a.m. Saturday morning, and then court-martialed. The military court then ordered him to be placed in a cell for seven days. He is locked in a cell 10 feet by 10 feet, built of wood, with an iron roof. It has no window, the light coming through a grating. He has a wooden stretcher, the mattress and blankets are taken away in the morning, and not brought back until dark. He has half an hour's exercise in the morning and again in the afternoon; he is on half diet; has not been allowed to read, nor to write to his parents.

"We were quite unaware of this treatment of him until we visited Queensland on Monday, when we found him looking worse than when seen five days previously. This we attributed to the mental strain of solitary confinement, a recent illness of a month,

and to reduced diet. After lunch-time on Saturday he received only bread and water until breakfast-time Sunday.

"The boy endeavored to cheer his mother by saying that he had only four days' more solitary confinement to go through. However, this morning we waited on the Defense Department authorities and were officially informed that if the boy continued in his refusal to forego his convictions he would be ordered a further period of solitary confinement.

"The civil court ordered the boy into military custody, but surely it is going beyond the instructions of the citizens army for a court-martial to be allowed to step in after a case has been dealt with by the civil court. Furthermore, solitary confinements should never be ordered. The question may well be asked, is this a citizens' army controlled by the military board. A Melbourne lawyer states that solitary confinement is considered inhuman, and only used in the case of refractory criminals of the worst type.

My wife and I earnestly appeal for your influence in this distressing matter, and hope you will at least write a letter to the Minister of Defense." (A. C. Hansard, Senate, June 2, 1914, pp. 2084 and 2085.)

It is well that we study the effects of conscription in other countries, for we must remember that the men and women who are now enthusiastic over conscription in this country in normal times have never been fervent advocates of social justice to the common people.

Note.—I am indebted to Mr. Harry Holland, article in Maoriland Worker, and several articles by Mr. Abern, and to Hansard reports for information in this article.

Magistrate Kingsford, on July 31, 1914, at Victoria Hall, Toronto, said: I am opposed to Socialism of the revolutionary type, and I abhor internationalism, and I believe the Government should not tolerate these bodies of peoples whose utterances are nearly always in the nature of treason.

## SOCIALIST BULLETS

Capitalism cannot give the people good government because capitalism could not exist under good government.

Socialism will bring industrial justice to the workers, but the workers must first bring Socialism.

The capitalists rob you of the product of your labor. You kick. "We must arbitrate," they tell you. It's your product. You produced it. Why should you submit to arbitration?

Good men in office under a bad system cannot do much for the people, any more than a good workman can do good work with bad tools.

Let the workers learn to trade with themselves through the government controlled by themselves and they need have no concern as to who captures the trade of China or any other nation.

Capitalists have lied about Socialism so long that some of them begin to actually believe their own lies.

Let each nation supply its own wants and supply them fully and very little foreign trading will be necessary.

The world has learned how to produce more than enough for all, but it has not yet learned how to distribute it in a way that will give all enough.

A majority of the voters are workers. Yet the workers do not rule. They do not rule because they use their majority vote to elect the minority to office. And they will go on doing this until they understand Socialism.