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NO WOMAN'S POINT OF VIEW UNDER BOLSHEVIST RULE, SAYS MRS. SNOWDEN

British Labor Delegation to Russia Has Returned—Mrs. Philip Snowden, One of the Women Delegates, Gives Her View of Conditions Under Soviet Rule.

Members of the British Labor delegation to Russia arrived in England on Wednesday last week. Mrs. Philip Snowden, a member of the delegation, states that in Russia there is no woman's point of view; men and women work together in everything, and under the same conditions. Russians consider they have solved what is called the woman's question by establishing equality in every profession, business and occupation at the same pay.

As to Bolshevism, Mrs. Snowden says: "Like others, I went into Russia with an open mind, but I have returned with the following decided objections to Nicholas Lenin's government. In the first place, it is not Socialism. There is no Socialism in Russia. Nor is it Communism, as I understand the word. All the Socialism and Communism of Soviet Russia appears to be in their manifesto. Land is supposed to be owned by the state, but the peasants pay no rent and eldest sons inherit the property. Apparently it is all a matter of labels.

In the second place, the Soviets are not democratic, and make no pretence of being so. Speaking politically they think Democracy is an outworn theory. They believe, of course, in what they call the dictatorship of the proletariat, but they have only got a dictatorship of the Communist Party. As the Communist Party in Russia numbers at most 400,000, it is obvious that the dictatorship is a dictatorship of a small section. It does not stop there. The Communist Party is divided by a handful of people inside the party. When you get down to the bottom, dictatorship of the proletariat means dictatorship of about six men aided by an extraordinary commission.

Soviet Russia's Good Points. Mrs. Snowden confesses that there were good things in Soviet Russia, at least. She considers that the revolution, such as arts, music, and drama, and the Bolsheviks have at least the sense not to destroy them. She also states that helpful things are being done for children, who receive first consideration in the distribution of food, amongst the civilians at least. She considers that the best of which existed before the revolution, such as food and other necessities, which she thinks not so much due to the Bolsheviks as to the blockade and the war. The whole delegation is therefore perfectly unanimous in advocating that war should cease and that the blockade should be raised, in fact, as well as in theory. Resumption of normal conditions and trade relations, she believes, would result in the worst features of Bolshevism disappearing. Mrs. Snowden considers the Soviet Government quite stable and supported by the whole population which is patriotic enough to unite

against all countries with which they are at war.

Russia's Need of Peace. Peace would result in the Government being criticized. The Russian people, she declared, have come to look upon the Bourgeoisie with marked dislike, no matter what nationality they belong to, and were hoping for a world revolution at an early date, which they expect in a very short time.

She considers Mr. Lenin has been successful, not so much on account of his intellectual power as of the fact that he is undoubtedly honest, but his ignorance of Bolshevism and politics is colossal, believing, as he does, that the British working class movement is palpitating to leap over barricades at the least provocation.

Mrs. Snowden is quite emphatic in her statement that Russia will be able to pay her debts and fresh obligations should be resumed, and she speaks of the enormous quantities of flax and stores of wheat in Russia and of the large output of gold and platinum in Siberia. She concluded by stating "that it was a tragedy that men had to be taken away from the work of reconstruction to fight in a new war with Poland."

RAIL MEN START BANK.

The treasury department of the United States has approved a charter to "The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers Co-operative Bank of Cleveland Ohio," with a capital of \$1,000,000. The bank will be chartered under the federal law for national banks and under the Ohio law.

The engineers have several million dollars at their disposal and are financially able to take over all the stock, but it is understood that some of the stock will be offered to the public. The railmen have discussed this question in several recent conventions, but final action was delayed because of the war.

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Manitoba Elections Justify "P. R."

Ronald Hooper, honorary secretary of the Proportional Representation Society of Canada, who had charge of the counting of the proportional representation election at Winnipeg, in a statement on the working of the new system says: "The Winnipeg proportional representation election just concluded, in which 41 candidates contended for 19 seats, has clearly shown that a 19-member constituency may be as practical as a small one, provided that the staff engaged to sort the ballots is competent and well trained. The personnel of the Winnipeg counting staff was all that could be desired in these respects, and it was this that made possible the announcement in less than four days of the results obtained from sorting and re-sorting, nearly 48,000 ballots.

"The average number of all men engaged in the work was 34, and the time during which they were actually employed amounted to 45 hours. "Seventy-five per cent. of the electorate cast their votes, and the percentage of rejected ballots amounted to only 1.72. This very low for so cosmopolitan a city. "The Labor party (which included the Socialistic group) polled 42.5 per cent. of the first choice votes and elected four members, the Liberal party polled 30.4 per cent. and elected four members; the Conservative party polled 13.7 per cent. and elected two members. The eleven Independent candidates together polled 13.4 per cent. but these candidates were each independent of the other, and therefore none succeeded in securing the quota of votes necessary for election.

"A further analysis of the result sheet shows that all parties received their fair share of representation. A considerable proportion of the 11,586 first-choice votes for F. J. Dixon, a Labor candidate with a surplus of preference for Liberal and Conservative candidates, as were also many of the eliminated six candidates.

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