

## Book Review.

WHERE IRON IS THERE IS THE FATHERLAND.—  
52 pp. (paper), 50 cents. New York, B. W. Huebsch,  
Inc.

BY an inversion of the law of optics, when we consider social affairs, the more remote we are from the affairs considered the better we see them, so as the war recedes our view of it is enhanced, and in proportion as our view enlarges so does our disgust.

This pamphlet is a record of the European Metal Trusts' activity during the war. To the patriot, and especially to the soldier who answered his country's call, it will awaken painful memories; to the Socialist it will but add practical examples to his historic and economic theories.

The Basin of Briey, a portion of invaded France seized by the Germans in their first onslaught, was held by them until almost the close of the war, without any real effort being made to dislodge them.

In fact one French General, Sarrail—who conceived an offensive in this sector, had his plan vetoed, and was himself removed to another front, where his active mind was esteemed more precious than honor or human life.

The Basin of Briey is part of the great iron fields of France. After the Franco-Prussian war, France was allowed to retain this part of the iron fields, when Alsace-Lorraine was taken over by Germany; this was not an oversight or out of charity, but because the iron of this section was not favorable to the then known steel process. But development of the industry ultimately makes this despised iron the finest in the whole field, so that in 1913 Germany imported almost four million tons of iron ore from this district.

As this war was fought with iron it might be seen by the least military minded, that the loss of such an enormous output of necessary war material would have crippled blockaded Germany.

But the Gods of War or some one more potent decreed that this should not be. France left this valuable territory an easy prey to Germany, and failed to exert any appreciable effort to regain it.

When the American troops in 1918 relieved the French in this sector, they were told that not one man had been killed there since the war began.

This remarkable and estimable method of conducting a war might very well commend itself to the followers of Christ, but as it was peculiar to this sector, it requires explaining.

The explanation is not commendable of that degree of self-sacrifice which the French capitalist demanded of the French worker.

Germany was allowed to extract the same quantity of iron from these mines during the war, that she had been in the habit of doing during peace. How this was accomplished is interesting, and may well repay the price and time necessary to read the book.

Lead and nickle are also needed in modern slaughter-fests, and here we are told some unsavory facts. In September, 1914, a Norwegian ship the "Bennesloet" loaded with nickle, sailed for Hamburg, Germany, and on the 24th September it was stopped by the French ship "Dupetit-Thouars," and brought to Brest. Half of its cargo had been paid in advance by Krupp. Despite the opinion of the prize court, this ship was released and directed to Copenhagen. From whence did this ship come? It came from New Caledonia, a French colony.

So the man who fought in the mud of Flanders might learn that when he was lacking lead and nickle, the French Government was very kindly passing it on to Germany. Of course every labor trouble was brought forcibly to his notice, but of such little incidents which were frequent in occurrence, as reported in "Paris-Midi" by Senator Henry Berenger, he was not informed. Of ferro-silicon, another war necessity, we have some very interesting information. French manufacturers supplied this material to Germany knowing that it would be used against France within a few months. We are told that former Premier Viviani stated that a supply of silicon was placed handy to Krupp

## New Zealand Review.

EVENTS are so few and far between in the life of New Zealand, and so similar to those that are history in nearly every other country, that the task of writing a report upon them makes one feel like the man who gets up to speak and discovers that he has nothing to speak about. But in keeping on with this work, in spite of its apparent formality, we are building an institution that will some day be of greater importance than most people think.

The cost of living has remained fairly steady since our last report, 62 per cent, above pre-war standard. The coal miners, waterside workers, seamen, slaughtermen, railwaymen and the workers of a few other industries have received increases in wages corresponding to the C. of L. The greater mass of workers remain far below the pre-war standard of living. The railwaymen took a ballot in April and decided by an overwhelming majority to strike for better conditions and higher wages. The North Island drivers, firemen and cleaners, immediately struck, with a few shunters and navvies following, but the South Island men stuck to their good work. The whole thing fizzled out in a most amusing manner, and it was only last month that they received their increases. It was their first strike, and now they have broken the ice they are taking a more active interest in social affairs. The railway department administration is going to increase fares and freight rates to "offset" the increased expenses due to rise in wages. All our little middle-class and slaves with middle-class ideas are wailing the old cry, "increased wages higher prices."

The main feature of the State possession of industries is revealing itself in the political administration. The State mines, railways, post and telegraph, by providing the expenses of State, lessen the antagonism between the various sections of the capitalist class. Much of the political history of New Zealand is merely a record of the struggle between the landowning and merchant and industrial capitalist for party domination, the dominant party making the other sections pay most of the taxes. In a young country where roads and such facilities have to be rapidly constructed the expenses of State are extraordinarily high and taxation is an important matter. With industries in the hands of the State at least one bone of contention disappears.

The Labor Party still rubs along gathering in the lambs, while it is being gathered into the fold of the Roman Catholic Church itself. In some districts it is right in the clutches of the R. C. C., and seems to be chiefly concerned with the Irish question. It also advances claims of the R. C. Sisters of Mercy so that they would have command of it when needed. That agents of the French company supplying it were forbidden to deliver any to Russian agents, the ally of France.

So the tale goes on. And the excuses, when they condescend to excuse themselves, are worth reading. A sort of gentleman's agreement was entered upon. Let me alone here. I'll let you alone there. And as an example, the fact is adduced of no General Staff headquarters having ever been shelled. Red Cross wagons, hospital ships, hospitals, helpless women and children were again and again assailed by shell fire and bombs, but let it be written to their credit, the Hun never molested the Allied General Staff headquarters, those palatial private cars in which Haig and company lay in the mud of Flanders.

As the French Deputy Pierre Renaudel said: "It is only for poor devils that war is not a gentleman's agreement."

There are only 52 pages in this book, but they are packed with facts which ought to enlighten even the most ignorant patriot, that the people who do the fighting, are too busy at their trade to get any of the plunder.

And those deluded people who rave about the wage earned by labor during the war will find here something more tangible to test their vigorous speech upon. We heartily recommend this book to those who do the world's work, and fight their bosses' battles.

to cheap transport of government railways, etc. As the L. P. is similar to the I. L. P. of England with which you are familiar, we will not describe it further.

There is an educational organization known as the Workers' Educational Association, operating in the main centres and extending everywhere. It is an offshoot of the University. It is like a grape vine sneaked over the fence for the slaves to pluck the fruit from. The main subject is economics. Many other subjects are taught, but economics is made most interesting to the wage plugs and young shop helpers who want to kill monopoly and stop the wool kings from making excessive profits. It affords the young Marxian students an opportunity of testing their economics against those of the bourgeois instructor. But the economic professors of the W. E. A. are cunning men who know their business well. They have read Marx, they say, but are always willing to go to great pains to show that there has been much written on economics since Marx died. "He was a clever man in his day, but things are different now," they repeat, parrot fashion. However, with all its cunning and the big cloven hoof behind it, it is quite important. Organising classes and introducing the study of economics, it is only paving the way for the scientific Socialist.

The Marxian Association is not growing very fast. Its members are scattered widely and are doing much spade work. Student classes are held in various places and occasionally someone gives a public address. We still require speakers. Much is wasted by members attacking from the floor of public meetings fakirs on the platform. The man on the platform, if his audience be unintelligent or sympathetic, has the last word in an argument, and often gets the better of the young propagandist on the floor. We are still more in need of teachers. In some places there are large classes and no one competent to teach beyond the merest fundamentals. In other places there are competent instructors struggling with a few half-hearted students. The executive of the M. A. has written a pamphlet explaining our attitude towards the Labor Party. So far we have not been able to get it printed, and now have it in the hands of the Australian S. P. printers.

We are not only few, but scattered about so much and it will be some time before we have a sound active party.

We are selling a good deal of literature and individual members each have little stocks of their own in circulation.

Fraternal greetings to the comrades of the S. P. of C.

Per THOS. FEARY,  
New Zealand Marxian Association.

## WHAT THE DICTATORSHIP IS.

(Continued from page 5.)

lish a dictatorship to hold the "desirers" in line, and prevent them lusting after "the old they left behind," toward which the parasite minority would be continually plotting, sabotaging, intruding, and "ravifg," the while they carried on the counter-revolt.

To conclude: if a revolutionary situation develops in a country, and conditions are favorable, the rulers weak, and the masses ripe for action, it will be a treacherous thing for the conscious minority to fall down on the job of leadership.

There is where the half-educated slaves will graduate, Comrade Tyler. F. S. FAULKNER.

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J. H.