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THE RED FLAG

A Journal of News and Views Devoted to the Interests of the Working Class

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FIVE CENTS

The Situation in the Hungarian Soviet Republic

A comrade who has joined the Hungarian Red Army wires to the Avanti, under date May 23rd, his impressions:—

Such "stories" as that Dr. Bela Kun has died of extreme hunger and that a general strike has been declared against the rule of the Soviets are all lies. Here in Hungary, owing probably to the want of great resistance on the part of the Hungarian capitalists, the Dictatorship of the Proletariat is a mild rule indeed.

Dr. Bela Kun is more alive than ever, surrounded by the affection of all workers; he is optimistically inclined, in spite of the fact that his country is surrounded by an enemy well armed and well supported by the international reaction, and, consequently, without access to the market of the world.

All the factories here are working at full speed, in order to increase production for the benefit of all. I have visited, together with Comrade Morgari (the Italian Socialist) the great workshop for agricultural machines, the "Langmaschinen Fabrik," and I have found the greatest possible harmony prevailing between manual and intellectual workers. The same thing I observed in the work on the fields, and, but for the menace of the Allied Powers, the Hungarian people would be able soon to produce enough for its needs. Never has the countryside been so intensively cultivated, and this year the crops will be more abundant than ever before.

I spoke with Capt. Arcami, of the Italian Military Mission, which has remained here, and he confirmed this view. Naturally enough, the Soviet Government's chief care at the moment is the formation of a strong Red Army.

The Commissaires for War, Fidler and Szanto, together with the Commander-in-Chief Boehm and Commander Landely, and, of course, with the assistance of trade unions and various political groups, have in less than three weeks put together an army that can face the Czechs, the Roumanians, etc.

Yesterday I went with Morgari to visit the north-east front and where we were about a mile from the Czech position of Miskolecz. We crawled for a while on all-fours to avoid being hit and in order to study the enemy position. That night that posi-

(From the "Worker's Dreadnought," June 7, London, England.)

tion, a town of 50,000 inhabitants, was taken by the Red Army, with many prisoners and thirty Maxim guns.

Everywhere the discipline of the Red Army is good; they go to the front singing the Marseillaise and the International. At Harszag the soldiers stopped our car and a private from the ranks stepped forth and spoke, asking us to convey to the workers in the factories the assurance that the workers in uniform will fight to the last for Socialism.

The military organization is also good. On the 19th inst., at a given point, I saw that 56 trains passed in 40 hours, carrying soldiers to the front. The soldiers have meat, vegetables, bread nearly white, but alcohol, in every form, is strictly pro-

hibited. Tobacco is not lacking.

Chief-Commander Boehm is a metal worker, who rose from private to lieutenant; became Minister for War under the Government of Karolyi, when he rapidly carried out the demobilization of 1,700,000 men of all forces. He has now shown his skill in an equally rapid mobilization of the Red Army.

Comrade J. Alpari, who is with Dr. Bela Kun at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, thinks that the danger experienced by the Red Army in the last days of April has had a beneficial effect: it has united the workers the more. He, too, is hopeful of final success and sends greetings to the workers of all countries.

With me are now 230 Italian Socialists who have also volunteered; in our native country they may call us traitors; we know that we are amongst brothers fighting for the only righteous cause.

The Laborer's Turn

(From the June "New Republic.")

DEMOCRACY means essential equality of men, but there can be no equality of men except on the basis of equal dignity of function. Prate of equality as much as you must; you never do consider those your equals who must "rise" out of their status to yours. That every intelligent workman knows. You say, "I was once a workman myself; I feel myself one with the working class." Nobody takes your statement at its face value. Everybody knows that behind your words there lurks a smug complacency. "Even though I was born into the working class, see what I have become!" More than that: there is a hidden assumption that you never really belonged among the "lowly," that you had characteristics that distinguished you from the erudite for a higher place. That is just the sort of thing every self-respecting worker means to rid the world of. He means to reshape the conditions of life and industry so that nobody not a fool will ever talk about "rising" from the carpenter's bench to the constructor's roll-top desk, from the farm to the bank or the bar or the pulpit. He means to emancipate his job and make a respected career of it, just as the merchants and lawyers of two centuries ago emancipated their jobs.

The middle class won emancipation by forcing a society that lived by their services to give them a voice in the conduct of public affairs. As soon as the merchant and the lawyer got their hands on the budget, the aristocrats and generals found their privileges clipped. The working class will win emancipation by forcing society to give them a voice in the public affairs that now count most, industrial affairs. When conditions become such that we shall consult the United Building Trades rather than the associations of builders and contractors on the question of the shortage of houses, when we shall consult the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers about the shortage

of steel, rather than Mr. Gary and Mr. Schwab, the manual trades will become careers out of which men do not need to "rise."

But this, you object, is to fly in the face of nature. The lawyer's trade, you argue, is inherently superior to the bricklayer's. Just so the early modern military officer would have argued the impossibility of equalizing the lawyer's status with that of the soldier. Was not the most incompetent drunken general infinitely superior to even the shrewdest man of law? Lawyers as a class, you urge, have a higher average of intellectual ability. Perhaps; we shall have more light on this point when we lay out as much effort on the general education of bricklayers as on that of lawyers. The lawyer's work sharpens the wits; the bricklayer's work is deadening. That may be true or it may not; anyway what most interests society is the mental energy a man has over for disinterested uses after the earning of his living, and the bricklayer may have as much surplus mental energy as the lawyer when we end the working day short of the point of stupefying fatigue.

It is not proposed to reduce all economic conditions to a dead level; it is not proposed to remove the natural incentives that draw men out of one career and into another. All that democracy requires is that the manual trades shall be vested with industrial responsibility and freed from the servile incidents of excessive fatigue and sweated wages, so that the young men of ability and pride and ambition who have a personal preference for them may elect them without feeling that they are committing themselves to a role of inferiority. That is essential to democracy. It is also essential to economic progress.

THE PEACE OF CAPITALISM

A London, Eng., paper has compiled a list of 23 wars now going on which will not be affected by the signing of the Peace Treaty with Germany.

SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

PROPAGANDA MEETINGS

SUNDAY, JUNE 29

At 8 p.m. Sharp

EMPRESS THEATRE

Corner Gore and Hastings

Speaker, J. Harrington