

ITEMS OF NEWS FROM ALL PARTS

THE HAND OF MILITARISM.

(A Letter to Women.)

Mothers of Canada:

I would warn you to-day of a hideous danger, long threatened, and now at hand, the evil fruit of war.

At the beginning of this war, we were told in horror-stricken (professedly so) newspapers of the militarisation of German children.

Now, this unspeakable horror is being calmly introduced into the British Empire. A school teacher, Miss Roberts, has been dismissed from a boys' school in Chester, England, for refusing to give special war lessons, based on a Navy League pamphlet.

"Cadet Corps" have been introduced and many English schools for boys of 14 or 15. The Director of Education for the County of Leicester, England, has issued a handbook on military education for cadets.

Mothers of Canada—and all women with mother hearts, listen while I tell you from this book what this man is already arranging to teach to children. Surely this should interest parents? "The teaching of geography is definitely improved by attention to the military requirements of map reading and field sketching. Nor will the teaching of English, mechanics, chemistry, hygiene, history, mathematics or handicraft suffer if occasional reference is made to certain items of practical value. Applied science must invariably provide a sure foundation for practical training upon the machine gun, the bomb, the grenade, or whatever weapon of war human ingenuity may yet contrive.

Special military practices should have a definite status in the cadet curriculum. "Bayonet Practice"—This may be carried out as a physical drill, without bayonet fixed.

"Trench Practice" (c)—In the second trench the sack is lying on the far side, as if a man were crawling out. Leap the trench and make a point; (e) sack lying on ground (wounded man ready to jab upward) Quick point (f)—Into the final trench. Drop butt to ground and seize bayonet to stick into the throat at close quarters!"

I am telling you this to-day because a great many people desire military training in our Canadian schools.

Will we have our boys made into cut-throats? I have read of the bayonet training for our soldiers till my soul shuddered with horror—this training is for our boys, our children.

And we were told this was the last war. We all pray and work for the Social Revolution, but do not let us forget the terrible, subtle, unseen enemies who are waiting with the bayonet and the rifle to place in the hands of the children to whom we try to teach the ideals of humanity and brotherhood. Come forward, please, and help me fight the fiend of militarism; or our whole fair world will be a field of blood, endlessly, eternally flowing, a place of universal hatred, where evil continually overcomes all good.

To-day our enemy stands revealed. The enemy is neither Germany nor Austria, the enemy is the spirit of cruelty and conquest developing in the condition of war and militarism, the oppression of the mother and of all weak and unprotected persons—the institutions of slavery in every form.

We must fight all these evils—let us begin by watching carefully all that goes on in our schools. We are enfranchised women and have power to-day to make our demands for

righteousness.

All who desire further knowledge of these things, please write me at once, enclosing stamped envelope for reply.

(Mrs.) Gertrude Richardson,
Women's Crusade,
Swan River, Man.

P.S.—They are hurling the lads into prison here who will not fight. Write and protest!

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY NEWS.

Hamilton, Ont.

At a recent meeting of the Hamilton Co-operative Store, Mr. William Gillon, the manager, gave an account of its progress since its incorporation. He said that the first half year's receipts were 700, the second \$1,400, the third \$4,400, the fifth \$6,200, and the sixth and present half year would show total sales of over seven thousand dollars. This represents sales of groceries only, with the exception of about \$350 for shoes. The figures speak for themselves, and when the good folks of Hamilton realize there is a real live "co-op." in the city, they will be breaking records. He pleaded to the members to be loyal to their society, telling them that they were doing harm to the store if they divided their purchases between private dealers and the store.

Sidney, N.S.

A delegation from the Steel Makers' Union of Sidney, N.S., recently waited upon the management committee of the British Canadian Co-operative Society, Sydney Mines, N.S., with the suggestion that the Society should open a branch store in the former city. While the committee informed the delegation they felt morally bound to do all in their power to aid in the extension of co-operation, they did not feel justified in complying with their request. Nevertheless, they would give all the assistance they could in the successful organization of a co-operative society for Sydney.

Regent Co-Operative Exchange, Manitoba.

This small co-operative society, affiliated with the Co-operative Union of Canada, is conducted by farmers. According to certain statistics, furnished us recently by the secretary, it had fifty-three members at the end of last year. The Society, during that year, did a trade of \$-757.92 in coal, twine, flour and groceries. The salary bill was a very modest one, there being but one paid official, who received \$125 for his year's services. The paid-up capital was \$387.37, which, with loan capital of \$402.12, makes a total cash investment of \$789.49.

Co-operative Coal.

The Advantage of Federated Buying.

Because the municipal gas works of Kirkintilloch (Scotland) consume 8,000 tons of coal annually, it has been urged by the municipal authorities the town could buy and distribute among the citizens coal more economically than the local co-operative society. It was pointed out, however, that the co-operative society was an integral part of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, which handled 350,000 tons per annum. This turnover made that of the municipality look quite insignificant, and it was proved by co-operators that it would pay the town to buy its own coal through the co-operative society. Lack of federated buying power by individual co-operative societies is one of the obstacles to co-operative expansion in

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Canada. If we could get all the farmers' clubs, agricultural and industrial co-operative societies now making collective purchases federated for that purpose in one institution, as is the case in England and Scotland, there would be a rapid and substantial development of the movement here, as well as a great reduction in cost to the consumers.—Canadian Co-operator.

ABOLISH HIS CREW.

When workers perceive that our Parliaments nine,
Are bars to the doors of a beautiful heaven,
They'll fruitfully labor thro' organization,
And stride towards the goal of Emancipation.
Yes, when they're united, as wise folk should be,
And mindful of custom's and law's tyranny,
The workers will certainly know what to do—
Arise in a mass and abolish this Crew.

The power that's needed, the workers have now,
Yet to put it to best use they do not know how,
So here we tell many, tho' one it fatigues,
To join Labor Unions and help Socialist Leagues.
And when they're united, as wise folk should be,
And mindful of Custom's and Law's tyranny,
The workers will certainly know what to do—
Arise in their might and abolish this Crew. P. J. M.

It isn't so much what a woman does that fascinates a man; it's what she won't do.

....PARTY ANNOUNCEMENTS....

YOU ARE INVITED.

On March 20th I. Bainbridge will be the speaker of the evening at the regular monthly meeting of the Women's Social Democratic League. Subject, "Progress and Poverty." This will be Comrade Bainbridge's first public appearance since his release. On this occasion mere men will be tolerated.

Social Democratic Party
Local 71.

Van Horne Hall Lectures

Corner Van Horne and Dovercourt Road

FRIDAY, MARCH 15th '18

Lecturer

Ex-Controller James Simpson

Subject: British Labor's War Aims.
KUM IN KROUDS.

The Dominion executive committee meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 363 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, secretary, I. Bainbridge.

The Ontario provincial executive committee meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 363 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, secretary, I. Bainbridge.

Saskatchewan Provincial Executive Committee—Meets on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. All comrades desiring to join party or organize Locals, are requested to write, F. G. Wetzel, Box 151, Vanguard, Sask.

Locals and Executive Bodies may have their Advs. in the Directory for the sum of \$3.00 per year.