

ITEMS OF NEWS FROM ALL PARTS

The Independent Labor Party in Scotland, according to William Stewart the Scottish National Secretary, has closed its summer propaganda. Some twenty new branches have been formed and all the older branches have increased their membership in some cases to 100 per cent. This has taken place in the closing months of the third year of a great war. If the war lasts, as some people prophesy, for another three years, its conclusion will find the Independent Labor Party the strongest political force in Britain, and as a consequence, the inevitable post-war problems will be faced by a class-conscious organized democracy, such as has never before existed during any period of great national economic crisis.

Mr. H. A. Campbell, late organizer for the United Federation of Labor in New Zealand, and organizer for the Social Democratic Party of New Zealand, writes with reference to the Syndicalist resolution passed by the Lanarkshire Miners' Reform Association, to say that the experience of State Coal Mining in New Zealand is diametrically opposed to the statement that Nationalization of the mines strengthens Capitalism and further exploits Labor. About 16 years ago, he says, two coal mines in New Zealand were nationalized by the late Dick Seddon. Immediately coal fell from 30/- to £1 per ton, the miners got increased wages, the mines became safer to work in, and the hours of labor were made 8 hours, bank to bank. The experience of working these two mines, even under Capitalist governments, is such that both the Social Democratic Party and the United Federation of Labor, with the coal miners at their head, incessantly demand a complete State Ownership of all the coalfields. The Capitalists, of course, oppose, as they have opposed State Coal Mining all along, and so far the Capitalists have been able to prevent any extension. In Queensland the State has taken over coal mines, and the result has been a complete success in every way, as the Government admitted recently at the opening of the Queensland Parliament. In Queensland the State Coal Yards or Depots supply coal delivered into citizens backyards at 1/- per cwt.

—Glasgow Forward.

THE YELLOW PERIL

Chinese Invading Winnipeg—Sway Extending Eastward—Laborers Brought From Orient are Virtually Slaves.

Not least among the peculiar local conditions created by the war, says the Grain Growers' Guide, is a strike of Galician women working for the market gardeners around Winnipeg. These have been patient laborers for years at \$1.25 and \$1.50 per day, now they are demanding up to \$2.50 and their board. The tendency seems to be to import Chinese labor to take their places, and there is said to already be a considerable trek of these Oriental laborers from the Pacific Coast where the news of the strike has spread.

PROFESSOR SCOTT NEARING'S HOME RAIDED

A raid was made by Federal secret service agents on the home of Professor Scott Nearing at Toledo on September 12. The occasion for the raid was not announced. Professor Nearing was in New York City at the time and on learning of the visit wrote to the Department of Justice as follows. I notice in the New York papers of September 13 a statement that your agents visited my house last evening

and took a number of letters and papers for examination. While I have not the slightest objection to your examining any papers in my possession, I have been working for years to get my material in useful shape, and I am extremely anxious to have it disarranged as little as possible.

—"The Public."

FINANCIAL STUDIES FOR HENRY DUBB

(From the "Reminiscences" of the late Prof. Goldwin Smith. Published 1911).

Crimean War—The day before the Crimean War nobody expected it or desired it; while it was going everybody was mad about it; when it was over, everybody condemned and deplored it.—P. 139.

Lorcha (Opium) War—The Lorcha War was kindled by Bowring, the British Resident of Canton, a disciple of Bentham, who had quarrelled with the native authorities and embraced the opportunity of "promoting the greatest happiness of the greatest number" by throwing bombs into the most densely peopled city in the world. It was practically a war in defence of the opium trade. By the House of Commons it was condemned. But when Palmerston appealed to the people, telling them that an insolent barbarian had trampled on the honor of the Empire by hauling down the flag of an opium smuggler, the flame burst out in full fury. Opponents of the war lost their seats in Parliament. So long as there are great armaments on foot, wars of passion will not cease.—P. 289.

Boer War—Another example is that of the Boer War. . . . the only fruit of which was the loss of 250 millions of money and a far worse loss of honor.—P. 219.

. . . the infamous Boer War, than which there never was a more flagrant breach of humanity or a fouler stain on the character of any nation.—P. 363-4.

Alone or almost alone (in Canada) I wrote against the attacks upon the independence of the South African Republic. Great unpopularity for a time was of course the result. The people went mad, as they always do when an appeal is made by the party of war to the savage passions which still lurk beneath the varnished surface of civilization. . . . There is, however, nothing in my life on which I look back with more satisfaction than I do to the part played by me, however feeble, in defence of justice, humanity, the faith of treaties, national independence, and at the same time the honor of my country, forever sullied by foul and perfidious oppression of the weak.—P. 449.

Jamaica Atrocities—The ex-slaveholders hatred and fear of the emancipated slave, after long brooding, broke out in 1865 with terrible violence. A local and accidental affray caused by the unpopularity of a district magistrate was seized upon by the whites as a pretext for a reign of terror, Governor Eyre sharing and giving the reins to their panic rage. Altogether, 439 men and women were put to death, and the numbers flogged could not have been less than 600. The hangings went on for nearly five weeks after the outbreak. Men received 100 lashes, women 30. Many of those who were flogged with a cat-o'-nine-tails were women, or the simple charge of stealing. Wire was twisted round the cords of the whip. There had been enmity, personal as well as political, between Eyre and Gordon, the political leader of the blacks. Eyre arrested Gordon at Kingston, where martial law did not prevail; carried him into a district

where martial law had been proclaimed, and a court martial was sitting; packed the court afresh, and when even that packed court hesitated to put the man to death without evidence, himself ordered the execution.—Pp. 357-58.

Italian Imperialism—Half the morsel of coarse bread and the cup of meagre wine were being taken from the lips of poverty to pay for the share of Italy in the Imperialist and Militarist craze.—P. 392.

—Glasgow Forward.

INDEPENDENCE OR IMPERIAL PARTNERSHIP

(By Henri Bourassi, Published by Le Devoir, Montreal, Price 25 cents.)

This little book is written in reply to Mr. Lionel Curtis's (editor of the Round Table) book "The Problems of the Commonwealth," in which Mr. Curtis advocates an Imperial Partnership when the Governments of the Colonies shall have some voice in foreign affairs. Mr. Henri Bourassi differs from him and presents arguments in favor of independence, in preference to Imperial Partnership and quotes Mr. Curtis as saying "That independence would be the 'simplest' solution."

In chapter II he discusses quite frankly Canada's participation in the war and what she has to gain; and says, "A thought should also be given to the compensations which some of the partners may find in war operations. In the present conflict, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa have already conquered and actually occupy large tracts of land snatched from the enemy. The United Kingdom has appropriated to itself hundreds of millions worth of goods and ships. Canada alone has received no compensation. In all likelihood she will receive nothing. That such would be her fate in all future wars is almost certain, on account of her special position in the world."

"Again, if the principle of solidarity is to prevail as regards the burden of the Empire, should it not prevail also in the adjudication of Imperial profits? Ought not the conquests and seizures made by any of the partners be thrown into a common fund?" (p. 33.)

Chap. III is devoted to the discussion of why the Quebec Nationalists desire independence, quoting Sir John Macdonald and Bishop Charles Laroque as saying that the present constitution was meant to prepare Canada to take rank with the nations of the earth.

"The kind and degree of liberty which Sir John Macdonald desired for Canada in 1865—absolute independence under the nominal sovereignty of the British King—would be perhaps acceptable. But to all appearances, England's insatiable greed has rendered that solution impracticable." (p. 52.)

Maintaining that there would be less danger of aggression if Canada was freed from the intricacies of Imperial politics and would be much safer than she is now, he continues:

"In the fifty years elapsed since our war agreement of 1865, England has doubled her monstrous Colonial Empire.

"On the other hand, the trade and industrial development of other countries—United States, Germany, Japan, Russia—and the Colonial expansion of France and Italy, have brought revivals to Britain in many lands and upon numerous markets long considered by Englishmen as their own or nobody's.

"The dire result of that situation is that England and her sister nations as well, have more causes of war than half a century ago.

"Some good people take comfort in the thought that the crushing defeat of Germany will be followed by

eternal peace, and for centuries to come the Gaul, the Saxon, the Russ and the Lombard—not to speak of the Jap or the Serb, will play together in celestial amity, as cherubs in some Italian painting of the fifteenth century, and keep the world in joy, happiness and peace.

"A fool's paradise is the abode of those gullible creatures.

"After this other wars will come; and more crushing the defeat, on one side or the other, the quicker the revenge, the bloodier the retaliation.

"In future wars the alignment of armies is sure to be different from the present one. Within a year from the breaking of Germany's power," wrote an English publicist in the first days of the war, "our Imperialists will be calling out for a strong Germany to balance a threatening Russia."

"One thing is certain. So long as England pretends to rule the waves, to govern or protect one quarter of mankind, and police the rest, and sticks to her mania of printing the map in red, she will run more risks of war than any other nation. She may wage fewer petty wars. She will certainly be engaged in more wars of a gigantic character.

"By sticking to the British Empire, Canada and the other Dominions therefore contribute to increase the dangers of war to themselves and to the world at large."

Whilst not agreeing with the writer, I believe Mr. Bourassi is honest in the conviction that to make Canada a nation will solve the problems of war for Canada. We must not forget that Britain or any other country is not the real enemy that faces the common people—but Capitalism with its system of profits; and until we drive this system of Capitalism from off the earth we still will have wars.

The book is well written and should be read by the English-speaking Canadian, who will then have a true conception of the viewpoint of the Nationalist movement in the Province of Quebec.

J.M.C.

Fighting Corruption.

Ottawa Citizen: Premier Brewster is undertaking to put an end to political blackmail in British Columbia at least to the extent of prohibiting campaign contributions by corporate interests. The law to be anything like effective must enforce full publicity of all contributions to the political parties and publicity of election aid in any and all forms. Cynical opposition to a proposed measure of publicity of campaign contributions has been put forward in Parliament in the past. It has been contended that a law could easily be passed but what assurance would there be of enforcing it? Political leaders in the House of Commons in the days before August, 1914, took the position that until the Canadian electorate purged itself of corrupt tendencies nothing could be gained merely by passing electoral reform laws.

"All machinery—at all events of the external part of our Government—is in its intention and its object directed for the purpose of maintaining and facilitating British trade. We have heard, and we rejoice at the great achievements of our Army and our Navy—how they have never failed us under any stress to which they have been put. But the object of all this action is that the various parts of the world may be kept open to the exploration, to the enterprise, to the industry of Britain, may be saved from that encircling band of hostile tariffs which causes us to know, when we hear that a territory has fallen into foreign occupation, that it is really robbed from British trade."—Lord Salisbury, Prime Minister of Britain, March 11, 1897.

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