

PEN PUNCHES BY THE LOCALS

RESOLUTION.

Timmins, Ont., July 16, 1917.

To the Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Borden:

Dear Sir,—As you have been entrusted with the duty of guiding the destinies, not only of this great Dominion, but of the citizens in general that have made this Dominion what it really is, for it is an established fact that a community is no more progressive than the average citizen that goes to form that community, and the same rule applies to this Dominion as well as to all other nations. We are well aware of the fact that in the performance of your duties you are confronted with many serious problems in dealing with questions that vitally concern the citizens whose destinies you are guiding and to a great extent the destinies of unborn generations; and feel sure that you will agree with us that this conscription bill which is now before the House concerns the people of Canada more vitally than any measure that has ever been dealt with heretofore in the history of Canada. We therefore consider it our duty to appeal to you and trust you will not enforce this act without consulting the people that have entrusted you with the powers you now possess.

The enforcing of this act over the heads of the people is characteristic of Prussian Kultur, and as the fundamental principles of Socialism is democracy, we, the members of South Porcupine Local No. 32, of Social Democratic Party of Canada, in regular meeting assembled at Timmins, July 10, 1917, unanimously agreed to make this appeal and also to inform you that we have endorsed the action outlined by the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress re Dominion-wide strike, should this act be enforced without a referendum vote.

Wm. J. Bates,
Secretary.

SECRETARIAL NOTES

The Dominion Executive report and balance sheet will be mailed in the course of a few days. The report shows a fifty per cent. increase in the general income. Eight new Locals have been chartered, and two re-organized. The sale of literature is decidedly encouraging.

All Locals are advised to take advantage of the clubbing offer for Forwards. You can help us, and your Local at the same time. Get the Sub-card with your ordinary supplies and thus circulate the word. Provincial Secretaries are requested to stock Sub-cards for supply.

Locals desiring to take part in the Anti-Conscription Convention to be called to take place at Port Arthur, about the 6th of August, are requested to write A. A. Heaps, 259 Pritchard avenue, Winnipeg, Man., and instruct as to number of delegates you intend to send. Do it at once.

INFORMATION WANTED

The address of Max Schaab, Rosenberg, Man., would be of great assistance to the Dominion Secretary, as he wishes to convey important information.

Will A. E. Medley, of Harris, Sask., please communicate with the Dominion Secretary, as we have lost track of him, and communications sent to Harris, and Saskatoon have been returned.

Will John Ford (late of 65 McFarlane street, St. John's, Newfoundland) please communicate with this office. Important.

I. Bainbridge,
Secretary.

AN INTERESTING LETTER.

A Diagnosis of the Situation in U.S.A. and Russia.

Pittsburg, Pa., July 6, 1917.

Editor, "Forward":

Dear Comrade,—As you notice, I am at present sojourning in the land of the free. Yesterday was the glorious Fourth of July. The streets of this city were filled with people, marching and displaying banners and flags to celebrate their independence, and, incidentally, their part in the "fight for democracy."

With a few comrades, we journeyed to Homestead Park and spent the afternoon under the trees, and this is certainly a country worth fighting for. At 5 o'clock 2,000 men and women assembled on the pavilion and had a meeting, called by the Socialist party. Prof. Kiesby of Texas University was the first speaker, and was there to organize the People's Council of America, the object of which will be the union of all truly democratic institutions, in order to keep this land of liberty from sliding back to the dark ages of military and industrial despotism.

It is a fact that to-day every strike for higher wages to help offset the activities of our food boosters is "pro-German"—strike leaders, especially the I.W.W., are now being thrown into jail without bail, for strikes are now "financed by the Huns." Everything from an earthquake to corns will soon be charged up to these enemies of democracy. If you want to start a fight here, start a Peace Parade. It is thought that a man who fails to stand up and take off his hat when anyone whistles the "Star-Spangled Banner" will soon be shot for high treason, but we of Canada passed through this same stage, and we have sympathy for our friends on this side.

The first meeting of the People's Council will be held September 1st. Besides Socialists and representatives of labor, many people, such as Dr. Starr Jordan, Prof. Scott Neering and Jane Addams are among its promoters.

Among other activities, the Council will demand an immediate statement of the terms of peace, and will want to know why it was that the United States became the enemy of Germany, not on the invasion of Belgium or the sinking of the Lusitania, but only when the submarines of the Central Powers began to sink the munition ships of Wall Street, which were supplying the enemies of Germany.

The Council will insist that this country which is fighting for liberty and the world-peace, will follow the conditions of peace recently declared by their ally, the Democracy of Russia, rather than the imperialistic Lloyds and Lords of Britain; that there shall be no annexations or indemnities, since the war is not to shackle the people of Germany, but to overthrow their military exploiters.

The Council will insist that the people of captured territory, such as Belgium and Serbia, as well as the Colonies of Germany grabbed by Japan, decide their own future alignments by a referendum of the people, and if any territorial assignments take place, if Alsace and Lorraine for instance go back to France, the same principle

must be applied to the victims of invasion and subjugation, such as Ireland, South Africa, India, Morocco and even the dominions of Old Spain; and further, that all nations in the war, assist equitably in restoring the ruins caused by the war.

This Council will demand a repeal of the Conscription Law and will in every way possible, safeguard the wages and rights of the workers. It will insist on the rights of free speech, free press and assembly, which are the constitutional privileges of the people, but which are to-day being ruthlessly outraged by plutocracy and the enemies of the people, posing as patriots.

After Prof. Kiesby had spoken, Max Eastman, editor of "The Masses," addressed a meeting on the Russian Revolution, and told us that while Russia was rapidly becoming a land of liberty, the yoke of a military autocracy (the most degrading form of slavery) was being fastened upon the people of the United States and Canada, and being done in the name of Democracy. Oh Liberty, what infamies have been committed in thy name! The speaker said that the people voted for Mr. Wilson to be kept out of the war, but no sooner was his party established in the White House, than the munition patriots of Wall Street began their work for war, through first poisoning the public mind through their kept press. This was the price we paid for not voting the Socialist ticket. During the meeting thousands of leaflets entitled "The Price We Pay" were distributed. I will ask you to print this leaflet, which I here enclose, in the "Forward." The workers of Canada are also paying the price.

Max Eastman had just interviewed Lincoln Steffens, who had recently returned from Russia. Mr. Steffens assured him that the Workers' and Soldiers' Council were actually in control of the nation, and that Russia was fast becoming an industrial democracy, while the "red flag" of internationalism was everywhere displayed. He stated that the Duma was the political machine of the capitalist's class but that the Workers' Council represent the Revolution and that the basis of the society in Russia was economic and industrial; that this process followed exactly the lines that Marx laid down in the "Communist Manifesto," written seventy years ago. He further stated that the socialists of this country have no right to feel discouraged, but had every reason to know that their philosophy and idealism is based on facts and experience, and every reason to believe that the great consummation of their hopes and efforts is near at hand. Mr. Steffens assured Eastman that Russia was in control of the Socialists and Syndicalists, and if we could imagine it here, it would be a Union of the Socialist party and the I.W.W., political and industrial action. He moreover stated that we should not judge the "anarchy" in Russia, as described by our daily press. As far as the capitalists were concerned the country was certainly "ruined," as it should be. The workers are confiscating the landed estates and the industries. When the corporations, for instance, declare a lockout, on account of the demand of 100 per cent. increase in wages, the workers immediately start operation in their own interests. The soldiers, the police and the judges are of and for the people, not for the "Plutes" as they are here. The result is, there is practically no violence or bloodshed, for the workers control the State. The political and industrial machines are working in harmony, and production is more and more being carried on for use instead of for profits. Once more the owners of the tools of production and those who operate them are one and the same, as it must be everywhere before we can have a world of peace and plenty.

Max Eastman informed us that it was feared that a massacre similar to the Paris Commune in 1871 might destroy the Democracy of Russia, but he says it is not possible, even if the capitalists of Russia united with the remnants of autocracy they would only bring destruction on themselves, and in spite of Mr. Root and his check book, capitalism is fast becoming uprooted in Russia. The people have learned a great lesson through bitter and bloody experience, and they will not forget.

Even if the rulers of our gallant Allies, Britain and Japan, united with the forces of Prussianism to invade Russia and destroy its democracy, it could not affect the results. They have now something worth fighting for, but seeing the "hand-writing on the wall," they might well endeavor to quench this fiery revolt from spreading, but the common people are everywhere awakening, and instead of forcing Russia backward, it would rather mean a world-wide upheaval by the workers, which would seal the doom of exploitation and enable mankind to enter upon a real democracy and a true civilization.

The speaker believed that the peace terms outlined by Lloyd George last Spring are responsible for the continuance of the war and the unity of the Central Powers. Robbing Germany of her colonies and trade and driving Turkey out of Europe is enough to unite these people and induce them to fight to the bitter end. He stated that as soon as the Allies accept the terms specified by New Russia, the terms not of "statesmen" but of workers, the democracy of Germany and of Austria would do to their rulers exactly what the people of Russia did to theirs.

Mr. Eastman wanted to know by what authority the people of Turkey should be driven out of Europe. They had been there many centuries, and nations cannot be made democratic through the pressure of their common enemy, but by inside influences, and Turkey is to-day undergoing an industrial and economic evolution just like other nations. If Turkey murdered Armenians, did not the French murder their rulers in the Reign of Terror and thousands of their working class of the Paris Commune; did not Cossacks massacre Jews and slaughter men, women and children on Bloody Sunday? Did not the soldiers of Britain shoot down their strikers and the gunmen in the "land of the free" do the same on numerous occasions? Every war is an atrocity—they are all based on plunder. Truly, "people who live in glass houses should not throw stones." In Japan they shoot men simply for being Socialists, and in this country they have recently murdered men, women and children apparently because of the color of their skin.

Our "kept" press should remember that there are many facts in history as recent and prominent that we remember them, and that the news and views prescribed in the interest of their masters are to-day being subjected to criticism.

Some of the comrades of Pittsburg are now in jail for "sedition" and it is thought that it may be necessary to give up public propoganda and establish secret organizations for circulating literature, etc., which proved so successful in Germany a generation ago, and which formed the basis of the recent revolution of Russia.

"These are the times which try men's souls" and makes it worth while to be alive and kicking.

Yours for the cause,

W. J. Curry.

The most effective antidote to the poison of the capitalist press is to have the Socialist viewpoint of things. So get your friends to subscribe for The Canadian Forward.