

ITEMS OF NEWS FROM ALL PARTS

LEDEBOUR, IN REICHSTAG, ATTACKS GOVERNMENT.

According to a copy of the Cologne Gazette, received at Amsterdam, the Socialist George Ledebour, recently made a bitter attack on the German Government in the Reichstag. Ledebour denounced the Government's policy of annexation and criticized the "emptiness" of the German peace offer and the demand for a war indemnity, which he characterized as unrealizable.

He protested against the deportation of Belgians and Poles, and also the proclamation of a Polish kingdom, which he termed a "most glaring and flagrant contradiction of the people's right to decide for themselves."

Declaring that the intention was to place a German or Austrian king on the throne and thereby chain Poland to the central powers, Herr Ledebour added:

"You do not want a free Poland at all. Indeed, you do not look as if you could free any one."

Herr Ledebour was thrice called to order for improper remarks, and his speech provoked a heated reply from Dr. Karl Helfferich, the vice chancellor.

NEW YORK SOCIALISTS TO FIGHT WAR MEASURES.

In the event of a war declaration, New York City socialists will use every endeavor to hasten the return of peace, to oppose the war and the war policies of the government, oppose censorship of the press and the mails, the restriction of the rights of free speech and free assemblage and organization, and to fight the enactment of oppressive sedition and espionage laws. Every possible aid will be given to the workers in any concerted mass action against suspension or curtailment of their rights to organize and strike, and against the tyranny of conscription and martial law.

"A DISGRACEFUL EPISODE."

"A disgraceful episode," was the term applied by Representative Mann, minority leader of the national House of Representatives, to President Wilson's snobbish action in refusing to include Congressman Wood of Indiana among the list of those invited to the congressional reception in the White House.

The Indiana congressman excited Wilson's displeasure when he introduced the "leak" resolution calling for investigation of the peace note "leak" in Wall Street that promised to involve seriously several higherups in the Democratic administration.

This attempt of the President to use the social prestige of his position in the national capital to snub members of Congress who disagree with him is sadly undemocratic and exhibits a petty spirit on the part of the President that will not meet with the approval of American citizens.

BISHOP FALLON'S OUTBURST.

Makes a Bitter Attack on Lloyd George's Irish Policy.

London, Ont., March 17.—Condemning the denial of Home Rule to Ireland as a measure comparable to the brutalization of Serbia, Belgium, and Armenia, Bishop M. F. Fallon, D.D., of the Roman Catholic Diocese of London, last night assailed the Lloyd George Ministry. His Lordship, lecturing on "Irish Education and History" before a mixed audience of several hundred people at a St. Patrick's entertainment in St. Peter's parish hall, concluded:

"Is Irish nationality of less concern

to Imperial interests than that of Serbia, Roumania, or Armenia? When Mr. Lloyd George deserted the ranks of the people who had made him to align himself with the privileged class which merely tolerates and uses him, he put himself in the category of Grenville and Lord North, who a century and a half ago drove the American colonies into rebellion and caused a schism that has never been healed; he gave the project of Imperial unity and the political ideal of a British Commonwealth the worst blow it has received in a score of years. I am giving expression to no momentary irritation. For a quarter of a century I have been a believer in and an advocate of some form of federation of Britain's wide-spread dominions.

"I speak with a full sense of the responsibility and the bearing of my words when I say that Mr. Lloyd George has filled many of us with mistrust and suspicion. He has made us doubt that it would be wise to confide, I do not say the custody, but even the consideration, of any particle of Canada's liberty or any aspect of Canada's destiny to an imperial legislature where this irresponsible oligarchy can exercise such an evil predominance."

The failure of so-called "arbitration" in New South Wales having been thoroughly demonstrated, the following extract from a pamphlet entitled "Labor Leg-ironed," written by H. E. Holland in 1916, is interesting:—

The militant socialists fought the idea of arbitration from the outset. The first newspaper attack was written by "Dandelion." "The workers and the robbers have nothing to arbitrate about," he wrote. "Labor being the creator of all wealth, should own all wealth, and since labor power is the sole commodity possessed by the working class, only the working class should fix the selling price of that commodity."

WEALTHY ESCAPE TRENCHES.

Signor Ferri, the Socialist leader in the Italian Parliament, threw a bomb last week when he charged that 90 per cent. of the fighting on the war front is done by the peasants and city workmen. He showed that the wealthy have successfully worked all sorts of schemes, from feigning illness to bribery to keep out of the trenches. Ferri's charges created a sensation and up to the present the government has not replied to them, and probably won't.

W. F. O'Connor, local food supervisor for the Dominion of Canada, has reported that some coal dealers in Toronto are charging \$30 a ton for coal when delivered in small quantities.

The City Council of Terre Haute, Indiana, has gone into the coal business because of the extortionate prices charged by the coal barons. The net result is that they are now selling coal at \$3.60 per ton to the consumers. This is "municipal socialism," and conservative Toronto could not tolerate such a thing, as it would be calculated to destroy the home. "Starve and Freeze," is their motto.

In the referendum vote on conscription, which was defeated by the Labor party in Australia, the soldiers in the trenches of Europe were also sent ballots and given the right to voice their preference. They voted no by an overwhelming majority—106,000 to 40,000 against compulsory military service. The scheme was defeated without counting the soldiers vote. Peter Larkin (brother of Jim Larkin, the Irish revolutionist), now in this country, and a number of other anti-war agitators have been arrested in Australia by the militarists on charges of treason in re-

venge for their fight against the war-mongers.

CLIP AND COMMENT

SOCIALISM THAT WILL NOT FIGHT FOR LIBERTY IS SHAM SOCIALISM.

If Socialists believe in Socialism every Socialist of military age should be fighting in the trenches under the Union Jack or allied flags.

Socialism will not have a chance to propagate its delusions unless the future of Socialism is sheltered by the triumph of liberty. Let defeat overtake Britain and her allies; let destruction overwhelm the British navy, and Socialism will have the same chance in every country of the world that Socialism now has in Belgium.

All that Germany has done to Socialism in Belgium Germany will do to Socialism in every country that Germany conquers.

Where is Socialism in Belgium today?

The fighting Socialists are all dead or lined up with the army of their country under heroic King Albert.

The talking Socialists, including all the James Simpsons and Fred Bancrofts of Belgium, are captives in German prisons or slaves and exiles in German workshops.—Toronto Telegram.

After reading the previous quotation we feel inclined to ask Mr. Robertson what Socialism is. Apparently he is a Socialist according to his own theory of Socialism. Why is he not in the trenches? We can well imagine his chagrin at the Socialists keeping out of the mud holes; he believes that the only good Socialists are "dead ones," and he cannot see what a boon we are conferring upon him. Imagine, gentle reader, what the Telegram's columns would look like in mid-December without the annual Jimmie Simpson cartoons and nineteen columns of space to keep him out of the council chamber.

The difference between the Socialism of Mr. Robertson and our Socialism—is the difference between "the haves" and the "have nots." It is a good bargain for those who have to get those who have not to fight for the liberty of the "haves." We could hardly be expected to omit notice in looking over the bank balances the entire absence of "Socialism for the Masses." And in the reading of the war bulletins that Russia will get Constantinople, the enormous output of wealth in Britain since the war started, and side by side with this the increasing penury of the workers, industrial conscription, etc. In view of these facts, with the ever-recurring "profit and loss account," with the loss always on the side of the workers, we may be pardoned for overlooking the ethical and moral value of Mr. Robertson's Socialism.

Quite true it is that Socialists would not have a chance to propagate the so-called delusions without the triumph of liberty, the delusions will not be necessary to point the way to freedom and in the absence of liberty we propose to propagate the so-called delusions. In any case, liberty is not an absolute quantity, and the victory of either belligerent can have very little bearing upon a principle that is non-existent in any country in times of war; and we ardently anticipate that the struggle for liberty will have to be fought after the war is over, and the sham socialism of the Robertson type is dissipated by a knowledge of the truth.

John Ness, a little Scotsman, scarcely a bantam in stature, was to-day sentenced by Magistrate Denison to 30 days in jail because he "spoke against and discouraged recruiting" at a rally held by Rev. Mr. Boal, at the corner of Yonge and Albert Streets, yesterday noon. Ness is the first Toronto victim of the recent order-in-council aimed at those who disturb recruiting meetings. According to the witnesses examined, Corp. Sullivan, Corp. Samuel Shields, the preacher, and the accused himself, it was a case of a man with radical views and a cigaret in his mouth, being too prominent in a crowd of loyalists.

"I asked all who were in favor of

prosecuting the war to hold up their hands," said the preacher. "The prisoner at the bar didn't. I asked him if he didn't want to win the war. He said he didn't care. I asked him if he was a Britisher. His reply was—well, I can only confirm the testimony of the previous witnesses."

That testimony was that Ness had said it was none of the preacher's business.

"I guess I could tell him that, or even call myself a dago, if I wanted to," said Ness, with all the faith of a Britisher in free institutions. The preacher had made him sore by questioning his nationality.

"He asked me what nationality I was. Well," said the accused, indignantly, "if he had only listened a minute he would have known I was Scotch."

According to his further story, the preacher, when asking for a show of hands, had pointed him out and said, "You with the cigaret, what are you doing there?" Against his will they dragged him up before the preacher, put him through a sort of inquisition, and then marched him up street between two soldiers, "as if I was a deserter."

"Why didn't you leave the crowd," asked the magistrate.

"I guess I could stay and hear him if I wanted to," said Ness. "When I did want to leave, they wouldn't let me go."

"How long have you been in Canada?"

"Five years."

"Why did you express disapproval of enlisting?"

"Because I am a Socialist and don't believe in war," said Ness, reluctantly.

It was the last straw. "Your whole attitude tended to discourage recruiting, and you will go to jail for 30 days," said the magistrate, decisively.—Toronto Star.

After reading the foregoing one wonders if there is anything more to be dreaded "than British justice" under the ministering graces of men like Boal, and the administration of justice at the hands of Magistrate Denison, who, by the way, is also a colonel in the Canadian Militia. We are informed (on the side) that this same reverend gentleman was a one-time anti-socialist agitator, who in his ministry of killing truth on Glasgow Green was ducked in the Clyde by a number of Glasgow workers. Without bearing any ill-will to the Rev. Mr. Boal, we may be permitted to suggest that had it not been for the charitable characteristics of the workers referred to—John Ness, a fellow-countryman might have been spared 30 days in the rat hole. Suffice to say, that if Mr. Boal was as sincere as he is voluminous in his bulldozing characteristics, that is, according to his size and his apparent physical fitness, it would be more fitting that he should be taking a chance at stopping a German offensive rather than hounding a wee fellow like John Ness to prison, whose only offense was being honest to his own convictions. We can assure our friend Ness that he has lost nothing in dignity by his courageous stand, and, true to his racial traditions, notwithstanding his stature, he presented a solid front to a full-blooded hulk of an "Irish snob."

To Magistrate Denison we merely have to say that he is true to his reputed despotic word, "If I had my way with the Socialists, I would shoot the whole lot."

Is it well that while we range with science, glorying in the time
City children soak and blacken soul and sense in city slime?

There among the gloomy alleys Progress halts on palsied feet,
Crime and hunger cast out maidens by the thousand on the street.

—Tennyson.

...PARTY ANNOUNCEMENTS...

ALBERTA PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meets on the First Wednesday in each month, at 8 p.m., at Mrs. A. Martin's, 10528 98th Street, Edmonton, Alta.