

# ITEMS OF NEWS FROM ALL PARTS

## IN THE NEW RUSSIA.

London, April 23.—A Petrograd despatch says that the peasants of Saratov, a Volga government, have elected all the Social revolutionist candidates to the district Zemstvo. A congress of the peasants passed a resolution in favor of the land being shared by everybody, on condition that each person who takes up a section personally works thereon.

London, March 31.—The Republican union of the peasant members of the Russian duma has issued a manifesto to the peasantry, according to a Reuter despatch from Petrograd, saying that their lifelong need of land is to be satisfied under a form of government suitable for toilers. The manifesto says:

"Hitherto we have been taught in the churches and schools that our rulers were the appointed of God. For hundreds of years we have been pining under their heavy autocratic yoke. We have now cast down the idols and freed ourselves from the old superstitions. We are our own masters and have to shape our destiny with our own hands. Let us be ruled not by the grace of God, but by the common weal."

At a meeting of engineers complaints were lodged that the workmen had changed roles and insisted upon dictating terms as to hours and conditions. One of the chief sources of protest is the insistence of the workmen that they oust ungenial administrators and replace them with men of their own choosing, often from their own ranks. The appointment of an arbitration board, formerly demanded by the workmen, is now desired by the bosses, but declined by the workmen.

Instances are recorded of workmen disciplining their former "bosses" by carrying them in a wheelbarrow, head enveloped in a sack, and depositing them on a dump. The condition exacted for reinstatement was an apology for past offences.

The fortress of Kronstadt is entirely controlled by a council elected by the troops, which is unanimously resolved to defend Russian freedom and territory to the last. The council is equally resolute against fighting for the annexation of foreign territory. One member of the council said that as long as Germany was unwilling to abandon its plan of annexation there was nothing to do but fight.

## SOME RUSSIAN SOCIALISTS ARE WORKING FOR PEACE.

Aim is to Secure Terms for All the Powers. . . . .

Stockholm, April 15.—Recent reports concerning a meeting of Russian and German Socialists in Stockholm to further the agitation for peace now appear to have been anticipatory. Such a meeting, however, may be held in the near future.

The fact that Russian peace agitators have been permitted to cross Germany from Switzerland seems also to indicate that the German Government at least does not desire to throw any obstacles in the way of such a movement.

The party which arrived here Friday included thirty Russians who came through Germany in a sealed coach. Among the principal members of the party were Nikolai Lenin, the Russian radical Socialist leader, and Zinovyof, another radical and peace advocate. Both are members of their party's central committee, and both are editors of party newspapers in Geneva, as well as being prominent figures at the Zimmerwald congress. Another member of the group was Mischa Zhakaya, one

of the founders of the party in the Caucasus, and the man who brought M. Tschaidze, the Russian labor leader, into the party.

## Attack Britain.

While in Stockholm the Russians issued a statement attacking England and accusing it of trying to "destroy one of the Russian revolution's results—political amnesty" and of refusing to permit Russian revolutionists abroad who oppose war, to return to Russia.

The statement reviewed the negotiations with Germany for permission to cross that country, and declared that the Germans had loyally kept their agreement. It was disclosed in the statement that the Russians, while in Switzerland, had been in communication with French Socialists and German Radical Socialists.

## For Universal Peace.

The Dagens Nyheter, however, declares that it learns that Lenin undertook the trip to head an energetic peace movement and he and his friends already have won the promise of support from the German Radicals for a congress in Stockholm. Some French Socialists also approved of the plan, but English Socialists flatly refused to take part. The Dagens Nyheter says that M. Lenin plans to be back in Stockholm from Petrograd within a fortnight at the head of a Russian peace deputation. He is said to want universal peace if it is obtainable, but if the western powers, particularly England, reject the idea, he will endeavor to secure a separate peace between Russian and Germany.

The Russian party is now on its way to Petrograd.

## STRIP FIVE PRINCES OF BRITISH TITLES.

Lords Consider Bill Sent Up from Commons by Premier—Is Coldly Received—Measure Affects Three German Noblemen, Including Duke of Cumberland.

London, March 20—(Associated Press Correspondence).—The House of Lords has received very cold the "Enemy Princes Bill," which the Lloyd George Cabinet has pledged itself to enact, depriving three German princes of their British titles. Viscount James Bryce, former British Ambassador to Washington, is one of those opposing the bill.

The bill applies to only three German noblemen, who happen to be possessors of English titles, technically giving them the right to seats in the House of Lords. They are the Dukes of Cumberland and Albany and Prince Albert of Schleswig-Holstein.

The title of the Duke of Cumberland was awarded over a century ago to the fifth son of King George III. He became King of Hanover in 1837. That of the Duke of Albany was awarded by Queen Victoria in 1881 to the father of the present holder, who is also Duke of Saxe-Cobourg-Gotha, and a reigning prince of a German state. Prince Albert of Schleswig-Holstein is a grandson of Queen Victoria. His title is merely a nominal dignity, and when the present holder's father was born Schleswig-Holstein belonged to Denmark.

The Duke of Cumberland has been an invalid for more than two years, and has taken no part in the war. Moreover, he is known as a rater of the Prussian Government and all its doings. His son was in the German army at the beginning of the war, but after a short time his health broke down and nothing has been heard of him for a long time. The Duke of Albany, however, has been on active service with the German army ever since the war commenced. Prince Albert of Schleswig-Holstein is also an officer in the German army. His brother was killed, fighting

for Britain, in the Boer war. His mother lives in England.

The bill, as presented to the House of Lords, does not affect succession to estates or property, and can scarcely be held up as a serious punishment to the three princes, none of whom has ever shown the slightest inclination to exercise his right to vote in the British House of Lords. In fact, most of the speakers in the House of Lords regard the matter as of small importance, although apparently demanded by a considerable body of British public opinion.

## Meddling with Lords.

The attitude of those opposing the measure was that the Cabinet was meddling in the private affairs of the House of Lords; that the bill was a mere sop to the man in the street, and that it might become an annoying and mischievous precedent, especially as nothing of the sort had ever been done in any previous war.

Both Lord Finlay and Lord Curzon, in supporting the bill, declared that none of the three princes could properly be charged with treason or any similar crime.

Viscount Bryce was for postponing action. "The bill is not of very grave substance," he said. Hitherto, when the state had deprived a peer of his title and dignities, it has been for something in the nature of a crime. Nothing in the nature of a crime is alleged in this case."

Lord Lansdowne declared the bill all wrong. "The real object," he said, "is to satisfy a public clamor outdoors. But I feel pretty sure that if we are to satisfy public clamor we shall have to go a great deal farther. There is, for instance, a good deal of disgust at the idea that persons fighting against us should be wearing British orders and decorations of all kinds. There are sixteen German dukes wearing the Order of the Bath."

The Government's position in support of the bill was explained by Lord Curzon. "We must remember," he said, "what is the opinion of the man in the street. He cannot see why anyone serving with the enemy should retain the titles and dignities of a British peer. He feels it an outrage upon his sentiments of patriotism and nationality."

The bill, after having passed its second reading, was placed in the hands of a special committee, appointed at the suggestion of Lord Bryce, to examine the whole subject and recommend action.

## A PROBABLE EXPLANATION.

There are two general classes in the community who do not desire to participate in the war—one which has the manipulation of all the political soft jobs and is deeply concerned in profits on rotten rifles, government contracts, and cheap labor. These exhibit some concern for the moral welfare of the dupes they despoil and have such a great love for their liberty that the other class are foolishly expected to do the fighting for the maintenance of this privilege.

The other class which subscribes to this creed are mainly Socialists. These lay no precise claim to the possession of any country in so far as the capitalists own this one, and the important question they ask usually fails to bring forth any satisfactory explanation, i.e., Why should I fight for a country I do not own, while those who own it do not fight?

There is nothing pedantic about these two groups; they are both materialistic; and are apparently under the impression that "Liberty" somehow, is inextricably associated with "Owning and Living."

H. C. Wells, the English novelist, thinks the time has come for starting a movement for abolishing the British monarchy and establishing a republic.

## BRIGHT CLIPPINGS.

### THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION.

Written for the Christian Socialist.

By Martin J. Connoll.

O Comrades, shout aloud, rejoice! Great Russia's hordes have found a voice.

They burst their shackles over night, They dare defy a tyrant's might: No longer are they shrinking slaves, The tools of base, designing knaves; But free men now, erect they stand, And through the expanse of the land They boldly march, exultant, free, Beneath that Flag of Liberty, The Blood Red Flag of Liberty!

Let tyrants NOW behold that Flag Long deemed by them a loathsome rag Round which were drawn the dregs of earth, The millions, men of humble birth— LET THEM BEHOLD! It marks their end!

This is the challenge TOILERS send, As they rejoice, exultant, free, Beneath that Flag of Liberty, The Blood Red Flag of Liberty!

Fear not to die, O Comrades brave! Better to die than live a slave. Press the battle and fear no foe, Our souls are ours where e'er we go! Better to struggle, and struggling, die, Than lie a slave and eringe and lie! Come, march with us, exultant, free, Beneath that Flag of Liberty, The Blood Red Flag of Liberty!

## MODERN HOUSEBUILDING.

The foreman employed by a big contractor rushed into the office of the boss, wild-eyed and palpitating.

"Boss," said he, in a greatly agitated voice, "one of them new houses of ours fell down in the night!"

"What's that?" exclaimed the boss, jumping right up and beginning to take notice. "What was the matter? How did it happen?"

"It was the fault of the workmen, boss," answered the foreman. "They made the mistake of taking down the scaffolding before they put on the wall paper."

"To hell with the constitution."—Major McClelland, commanding the state militia (paid by the mine owners' association) during the Colorado miners' strike and lockout of 1903-4.

Vice is a monster of so frightful mien, As, to be hated, needs but to be seen; Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face, We first endure, then pity, then embrace.

## ...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.

Riverdale Local No. 87 (Toronto) meets at 82 Wroxeter Ave. (off Pape) every second and fourth Friday of the month, at 8 p.m. Everybody welcome. Address enquiries and communications to the Secretary, Charles M. Thompson, care 82 Wroxeter Ave., Toronto. (1)

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.

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