

Discharged Soldiers and Sailors in Congress

(From the "Socialist," Glasgow, April 24.)

We have received the following resolution from a correspondent in Glasgow, which, being passed at the Conference in question, speaks for itself. —Editor.

RESOLUTION.

The Federation of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers in Congress assembled at Glasgow on April 12, 1919, hereby enters its protest against the organized attempt by the scullions of unscrupulous vested interests in and out of Parliament to establish in Britain that very system of militarism, bureaucracy and absolutism, which, in entering the war, we sought to crush. It would seem that instead of killing Prussianism in Europe, and making the "world safe for democracy," we have sacrificed ourselves merely to uproot the evil system in the Central Empires and plant it in our own country.

Solemn pledges made by responsible Government officials and given wide publicity in the Press have, one after another, been treated as "mere scraps of paper," in the true Prussian fashion. As an example of this, we point out that:

The Army Council promised in 1914 that: "Any man enlisting under present conditions

will be discharged (note: 'discharged,' not demobilized) with all possible speed the minute the war is over, whether this lasts three weeks or three years. Should the war last over three years, their continuance of service will be optional."

We find that an attempt is being made by the British Huns to start another war, this time against the people of Russia, making use of Conscription to get the men they could not get voluntarily. We find that the lives of many British soldiers have already been lost in the fighting in Russia, against whom we have never declared war; and we wish it to be understood that we hold the British authorities—not the Russian—responsible for the deaths of every one of these men.

We find that the promoters of the old German system in this country, in order to further their vile scheme, propose to pervert our children in our public schools by making militarist instruction compulsory, under the guise of "physical training."

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the Federation of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers in Congress assembled, this 12th day of April, 1919, do hereby pledge ourselves to do whatever lies in our power, by means of publicity, to abolish Conscription, prevent the war in Russia, and give the "knock-out" to the Huns at home.

The Derby Scheme provided for: "Service for the duration of the war, at the end of which you will be discharged (note: 'discharged' again) with all convenient speed."

Under the Military Service Act, 1916, all men were "deemed to have been enlisted . . . for General Service with the Colors, or in the Reserve, for the period of the war."

These pledges and contracts have been ruthlessly broken, as have most of the pledges given by the Government since the beginning of the war.

We find Conscription—the bedrock of militarism—being foisted upon the nation in lieu of the freedom we fought for. We find that great financial concessions are granted to commercial interests, whose active participation in the war took the form of plain profiteering; while, on the other hand, those who fought and suffered and whose lives have been blighted, are treated like criminal paupers, and require to fight a system of circumlocution and Prussian-like bureaucracy in order to get sufficient doles in shillings and pence to keep them from starving, and being thrown on the streets by the owners of tenement "dug-outs," misnamed houses."

There are other countries where the above applies.

Socialist Parties in England

By N. Mescheriakov.

(From the Moscow "Pravda")

THERE are a number of Socialist parties in England.

At the front of the Left there is the British Socialist Party. It is Marxian in theory and its sympathies are with the Russian Revolution and Bolshevism.

The party's leaders (Newbold, Fairchild, Sylvia Pankhurst) follow with great interest the march of the proletarian revolution in Russia. They are particularly interested in our organization of worker's control of industry and the structure of our Soviet Government of Workmen's Deputies. Its leaders proudly call themselves Bolsheviks. The British Socialist Party has expressed its solidarity with the Russian Revolution in one way, by publishing a Manifesto protesting bitterly against the sending of English troops to crush the Revolution.

Alongside of the British Socialist Party there exists in Scotland another party revolutionary in its nature—the Socialist Labor Party. Theoretically, this party strives to combine Marxism with the teachings of the American Socialist, Daniel De Leon, teachings as yet slightly known in our own country. Newbold, in the memorandum he gave me for Lenin (as the coming leader of the revolutionary labor movement of the world) characterizes the Socialist Labor Party in these words: "These are the most enthusiastic Bolsheviks. In my opinion they are the real Bolsheviks of England. The S. L. P. is very consistent and carries on a wide propaganda; it has a large quantity of literature. The members of the S. L. P. propagate as much as possible the ideas of Bolshevism, published the secret documents, defend the Bolsheviks from attacks, and call themselves the party of the British Bolsheviks. They are our Leninites." It must be taken into consideration, in evaluating this description, that the writer—Newbold—is not a member of the S. L. P.

Away from us stands the most influential English Socialist Party, the so-called Independent Labor Party. Those of its leaders whom I met (Snowden, Bruce Glasier, MacDonald, Brailsford and others) are not at all revolutionary. They do not believe that there will be a revolution in England after the war. On the contrary, they believe that after the war there will be a reaction in England. They expect a still more reactionary

wave in France. However, the ideas of this party have always been opportunistic. Nevertheless, even these leaders show sympathy for the Russian Revolution, and are greatly interested in it. They have also protested against sending English troops to fight the Russian Revolution.

But the rank and file of the Independent Labor Party is much more sympathetic toward the Russian Revolution. In his memorandum, Newbold, who as an agitator has traversed England from one end to the other, is thoroughly acquainted with the English labor movement, characterizes the I. L. P.: "Their rank and file, insofar as they understand our movement, approve of it; they are proud of the name Bolshevik and without hesitation will follow your example at the proper moment."

Unfortunately, all these Socialist parties are numerically very weak. The British Socialist Party has 10,000 members, and the Independent Labor Party 45,000. The majority of the English workers are not affiliated with the Socialist parties, but are in the trade unions which form the so-called Labor Party, semi-aristocratic in its program and extremely moderate in its tactics. In that party the notorious social-patriot, Arthur Henderson, wields great power. At the beginning of the war the Labor Party concluded a "civil peace" with the bourgeois parties.

But the mass of the English workers are slowly and gradually being revolutionized. Their sympathy for the Russian Revolution grows steadily. Following our example, the English workers tried to form Workmen's Councils. But the English workers do not yet clearly understand that Councils—as organs of the revolutionary struggle and proletarian dictatorship—can work successfully only in the atmosphere of a proletarian revolution. Accordingly, nothing so far has been accomplished by these Councils in England.

The old leaders—adherents of coalition with the bourgeoisie—and the old unions are gradually beginning to lose their influence over the laboring masses. More and more often the workers violate the "civil peace" by calling strikes in spite of the advice of the old leaders and the

prohibitive orders of the old unions. The Workmen's Councils are in control of these strikes.

The revolutionary spirit among the English workers is gradually increasing, though the process may be slow. The food crisis and the dislocation of industry must assume more acute forms in order to provoke a revolutionary outburst in England.

Even among the petty bourgeois radicals in England there is noticeable a sympathetic attitude toward the Russian Revolution. The most enthusiastic among them is King, the famous member of parliament. The radical papers, the Manchester "Guardian" and the London "Daily News" give the best information concerning Russia. These two papers also resolutely protest against intervention in Russia and interference with the Russian Revolution.

The English Labor movement is at the crossroads. New and younger leaders are coming up out of the depths of the working masses, taking the places of the old leaders, the opportunists and social-patriots who are losing their influence. Newbold says in his memorandum: "A number of riots have occurred in the coal regions; to the surface have come a considerable number of fine young comrades, but they are not yet able to oust the old leaders in the centres of trades unionism in Britain."

The inevitable disruption for which war is responsible and the industrial crisis which will come out of this disruption will accelerate the process of creating a new revolutionary labor movement in England.

PROFESSOR FIRED FOR FAVORING LENIN

Houston, Texas, May 25.—Dr. Lyford P. Edwards, professor of sociology, was dismissed by the faculty of the Rice Institute because, it is alleged, he declared during an address at the First Congregational Church, on May 11, that, "fifty years hence Nicola Lenin, (Bolshevik Premier,) will rank in history with George Washington."

According to members of the faculty, Edwards later told them that the Soviet form of Government in Russia would succeed and that he thought it was a good form."