

THE RED FLAG

A Journal of News and Views Devoted to the Interests of the Working Class

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FIVE CENTS

Appeal for Help of Evolution or Revolution--- Which?

Vladivostok Unions

GLASGOW SOCIALIST ON "INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS"

SAN FRANCISCO.—(By mail).—An appeal from the labor organizations at Vladivostok to the working men and working women of the United States has been brought in by courier. Since labor unions are outlawed and illegal under Kolshak, the monarchist dictator, the appeal is made under the Workingmen's Red Cross.

The letter follows:

"Workmen's Red Cross, Central Committee, Labor Unions, City, Vladivostok.—To All the Workingmen and Working Women of U. S. A.:

Comrades—

After a forceful invasion and overthrow of the Soviet government by the Allies and under the false pretences of the Checho-Slovaks and the Russian capitalists in the city of Vladivostok and all over Siberia, began terrible oppression of the Russian working class.

Thousands upon thousands of working people, peasants and also the student class, were shot. In one of the cities named Chabarovsk, having a population of about 70,000 people, 1,200 people were shot and slain by the Japanese and Cossacks. Thousands were killed in the city of Krasnoyarsk with the help of the White Guard of Russians and also with the help of the Italian regiments. English regiments have also participated in massacring and suppressing tens of thousands of revolting peasants. Every day there was need for new cemeteries; thousands of other comrades were thrown into jail and at present are rotting there without any charges. Their wives and children are suffering from hunger and cold because they have no means of assistance except from the workingmen's organizations, which are in existence illegally. However, the need is very great, and the Russian organizations can be of little assistance with their meagre means. Furthermore, very many factories are closed, and the workers are unemployed.

"In this needy hour, when a part of the Russian workingmen and peasants are strangled between the cries of international capitalists, while the part on the other side of the Urals (in European Russia) is bleeding to death from the uneven struggle with the enemies on all sides, in this hour we are turning to you with the following demands:

"Protest against the organized killing of your brothers.

"Demand the withdrawal of American and Allied troops from Russia.

"Answer the call of tens of thousands imprisoned, and still the cries of orphans, children and families with brotherly help. Lighten their sufferings.

"With comradely regards, representative of the Central Committee of Labor Unions, City, Vladivostok."

THE Provisional Joint Committee set up by the Industrial Conference, which was called by the Government last month to relieve itself of an ugly situation in the industrial world, has now published its recommendations, which we presume will form the basis for a discussion at the resumed conference this week-end.

When the committee was formed, we predicted that its deliberations would prove futile, since the whole proceedings were obviously a cloak to cover up the inability of the politicians to solve the problem of labor unrest. Now that we have the committee's recommendations before us we are more disposed than ever to regard the situation as farcical, if not a veritable fraud practised upon a credulous working class, with the connivance of self-styled labor leaders.

Despite the assurance of the press that the findings of the committee display "remarkable unanimity," there is no one informed upon trade union or labor affairs generally but will recognize in the recommendations the maximum concessions which the employers are prepared to concede; further, inasmuch as these have the approval of the "accredited" representatives of labor, the government's object has been achieved. That object, as a correspondent in last week's "Observer" put it—to the sentiments of which we subscribe—was to provide "a useful lightning conductor and do something to qualify the ignorance of departmental officials and politicians in handling industrial questions."

It is useless for Cole, Henderson, etc., to think they are putting in fine lies for Socialism by appending a report piously setting forth the virtues of State control, or public ownership, in the hope that belief in private enterprise will be undermined. Private enterprise will never be talked out of existence, as is shown by reference to a speech made by the chairman of the Metropolitan Carriage, Wagon & Finance Co., at a meeting of shareholders called to hear the directors' report on the question of fusion with Vickers, Ltd., a scheme which has now been completed and represents a capital of £26,500,000.

Discussing the question of governmental control, Mr. Dudley Docker (chairman) made it quite clear that so far as their board was concerned, they were determined to fight, since they regarded government interference with private enterprise as a nuisance, besides affording a license for "strikes."

The trade union representatives, after having furnished the government with a programme of "industrial reconstruction" (?) may salve their conscience by high-faluting talk of collective ownership, but if they sincerely believe that "production for private profit is not an equitable basis" on which to build a commonwealth, and that "there is no indication that either the government or employers have realized the necessity for

any fundamental change," there is only one straightforward course to take. That course is to ask their conference to back them up in a demand that Lloyd George and his government forthwith resign as a preliminary step to the reconstitution of society upon an equitable basis.

Such a policy, we believe, would find a ready response among the tens of thousands who are unemployed at present, as well as the mass of those who are fortunate to be in employment meantime.

Since it is admitted by the committee that tinkering with the problem will only produce further waves of unrest in growing magnitude, why, we ask, palaver and waste further time on the matter? As we pointed out after the last conference, "from employers or the government the shop stewards' movement does not look for anything, from those who stand to represent labor, it looks for much. If that is not forthcoming, so much the worse for official labor." It is no secret that in some quarters expectations of something forthcoming were big. Now that it is shown that nothing can be got but an abstraction in the nature of a "National Industrial Council," with, at best, a promise to look into the size of the donation benefit and pensions for old age, those who had expectations will be more convinced than ever of the desirability of taking the remedy for their various grievances into their own hands.

There is yet a chance left for those who concur in the conclusions of the Labor representatives. That chance we have indicated. We are sure it represents the mind of the more active and aggressive workers in the Labor movement. If the Labor delegation has the courage to accept its sub-committee's conclusions, as outlined in appended report, and act upon them, it will find an army of workers ready to back it up. If not, it can look for trouble in the near future.—Glasgow "Socialist," April 3.

SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

PROPAGANDA MEETINGS

SUNDAY, MAY 11

At 8 p.m. Sharp

EMPEROR THEATRE

Corner Gore and Hastings

Speaker

J. Kavanagh