

Proportional Representation for Britain

Lord Hugh Cecil contributes an important plea for proportional representation to the Contemporary Review. His argument is, briefly, that the House of Commons is losing its authority and prestige in the eyes of the electorate, mainly because that electorate does not feel that it really represents them; that the "normal and ordinary machinery of representative government" is there by a threat of political strikes or of revolutionary action; and that the House more truly represents the people which means more independent of the party machinery that has engulfed and crushed its vitality. Proportional representation, in so far as it would, in virtue of its transferable vote, constitute a body with individual preference, ensure the better representation of the various sections of opinion now not represented, and offers a solution which, in Lord Hugh Cecil's opinion, is well worth trying.

R. R. WOULD OBLIVATE THE IRISH TROUBLE.

Had proportional representation existed in England in 1886, the present state of unrest in Ireland would not exist," said Mr. Ronald Hooper, in his address to the Home Economics Society at the Carnegie Library this week. Mr. Hooper, in his address, said that the late Mr. Gladstone in 1886 would have carried England if proportional representation had existed. And in that case Ireland would have had Home Rule and the present state of affairs would have been eliminated. He mentioned the bitter feeling between the extreme Unionists in Ulster, and the Nationalists in the South. In drawing a comparison, he compared Quebec and Ontario. "Take Ontario Champagne," he said. "Only 30 per cent. of Ontarians are French-Canadians and Roman Catholics, and it's the English-speaking vote that elects him." He incidentally mentioned that Quebec had too many representatives on a population basis. Mr. Hooper's address was much appreciated, and he made out a very strong case for proportional representation.

M. P. OPENS CLOTHING STORE



Photo shows the crowd waiting outside the clothing store opened in London by Mr. Mallaby Deely, M.P. in order to combat the profiteering in clothes.

Co-Operative Movements' Marvellous Growth

That co-operation is steadily becoming the greatest and most powerful influence in the social and economic life of all the peoples of the world is evidenced by the reports which continue to find their way to headquarters of the British co-operative movement. The Italian co-operative movement which before the war numbered 7,000 societies, now numbers some 10,000, while the turnover of the Italian Co-operative Wholesale Society has increased from £1,100,000 in 1914 to 3,900,000 lire in 1919. Switzerland had in 1914 298 co-operative societies with a collective membership of 276,000, which by the end of 1919 had increased to 451 societies with a total membership of 841,826. The collective turnover of these societies during 1919 was 257,857,774 francs, and the wholesale trade operations of the union increased from 45,717,076 francs in 1914 to 129,719,746 francs in 1919. At the end of 1919 the affiliated membership of the Swedish Co-operative Union was 849 societies, four of which were insurance societies, and the remainder distributive societies. The collective membership of these latter societies amounted to 228,000. These figures show an increase since 1914 to 268 societies and 92,307 members, the societies then numbering 283, with a total membership of 115,392. The total turnover of the union was 39,466,473 kroner in 1914, making an increase of 104,494,577 kroner. The union also conducts wholesale operations, which from their commencement have, with one exception, the year 1917, shown a yearly increase. In 1914 the turnover of the wholesale department was 3,889,252 kroner, which by 1918 had increased to 27,980,738 kroner. The membership of the Norwegian co-operative movement has more than doubled during the war. In 1914 the members enrolled on the books of the 149 Norwegian societies numbered 31,000. In 1919, 67,510 members were on the rolls, the societies having increased to 235. The total trade of these societies in 1914 was 10,915,600 kroner, which in 1919 had increased to 48,139,900 kroner. Co-operation has grown rapidly in Czechoslovakia during the war as the following figures attest. At the end of 1919 there were 292 societies affiliated to the Czechoslovak Central Union of Distributive, Productive, and Economic Co-operative Societies, the total membership being 14,267. The close of 1918 saw 450 societies in existence, which were supplying the wants of 151,000 members and their families. From 23,742,047 kroner in 1913 to total trade of the union increased to 90,880,000 kroner in 1919. The Co-operative Wholesale Society, with its headquarters at Prague, was doing a trade of 3,228,427 kroner in 1914 and 28,222,525 kroner in 1919. India, too, has its record of co-operative growth to show, for during the year 1917-18 the number of societies in the Bombay Presidency grew from 1281 to 1615, the membership increasing from 221,000 to 264,000, and the working capital from 132.2 lakhs to 162.5 lakhs. The majority of the above societies are agricultural, and they increased a number from 1911 to 1918 to 118 in 1919, while their capital expanded from 53 to 73 lakhs. The remainder of the societies are principally people's banks, and societies formed by railway employees, government servants and mill hand Housing societies are also established in Bombay which have done good work, and a useful future is predicted for them. Germany had at the end of 1919 12,190 distributive co-operative societies with a total membership of 2,231,917, and a turnover of 479,759,193 marks as against 1109 societies, 1,717,519 members, and turnover of 492,989,519 marks in 1914. It will be seen that while the number of societies has decreased the membership and turnover have increased. The figures of the German Wholesale Society record rapid fall in turnover during 1919, for in 1914 the total trade was 157,524,040 marks, and in 1918 was reduced to 104,809,973 marks.

REACTIONARY ELEMENT DISSOLVE B. C. FEDERATION OF LABOR.

(By A. Farnham.) Ten years ago, the British Columbia wage makers brought into being a federation of the various units of the Trade Union movement in that province, for the purpose stated as follows in the preamble of the constitution of that body: "The British Columbia Federation of Labor is organized for the purpose of voicing the needs and aspirations of Labor legislatively and otherwise, and to provide a place for worthy members of its affiliated unions to participate in the discussion of those practical problems, upon the solution of which depends their welfare as workers, individually and collectively. "With the introduction of modern machinery of production and the increasing of the forces of nature it is only fitting that the wealth producers should participate in the benefits derived. We, therefore, pledge ourselves to unceasingly demand a universal work-day of eight hours or less; so long as labor power is sold as a commodity. "We believe there is more efficacy in electing working class representatives to write the law than by supplementary methods, and our efforts will be more in that direction in the future. We are firmly convinced that the future belongs to the only useful people in human society—the working class." We have quoted this preamble in full so that we can be accused of gobbling the subject matter. And for the further purpose of the workers, at least, seeing at a glance how ridiculous we become when two or three poor men in a room get together, and resolve themselves out of business, because the organization has accomplished what it was organized for. In the place the wage system is still with us. The eight hour day and less is not an accomplished fact, neither are our various parliaments filled with working-class representatives. A very astounding fact to one who was in attendance both at the Western Conference in Calgary and at the B. C. Convention, was to find the report of the executive committee, that representatives had been made from the Prime Minister of British Columbia to have an investigation into certain mines, as they were alleged not to be safe for men to work in. And these supplementary efforts directly after the close of the Western Conference. Ye gods! That the federation was utterly destroyed through the activities of those who were in charge since the last convention held twelve months prior in Calgary, is an outstanding fact, for both the president and secretary recommended in their report the dissolving of that body. This was not really the intention of the president, at least whilst debating the Pritchard resolution dealing with the change of the constitution, at the Calgary, B. C. Federation Convention 12 months prior. For when one debate brought out that the adopting of the resolution would abolish the Federation, Kavanagh stated as follows: "This will not break down the B. C. Federation of Labor as I see it, but it will change it for the better." He goes on to say "Our organization is in the habit of sending representatives to Victoria to talk to the ministers there for half an hour or so, and while they are talking, half of those ministers are asleep, and at the end they promise to take into consideration what our representatives have said and go away and forget all about it." If he really believed this, why did he allow supplementary methods to be made to Victoria on behalf of the mine, through the Federation of whom he was then president? And further why does he now recommend the dissolving of the B. C. Federation of Labor when he had made the statements as quoted, at a previous convention. There is no provincial organization of the O.B.U. in British Columbia. There are a few isolated units, and in fact both the president and secretary of the Federation hold on still to their international cards.

Why? The facts are these: The Longshoremen's organization of Vancouver reversed its stand on the O.B.U. question as have most of the unions in British Columbia, and the only thing for those to do who had hidden the heads to death was to bury it by the wayside, ably assisted by a few of their friends from the O.B.U. unit. And true to form they went on.

The office equipment is to be sold and all available cash after bills have been paid will be returned pro rata to the organizations that have paid per capita tax for the first half year. It was said convention. The enthusiasm of a year ago was not there. They were like the expression of the young man who had endeavored to take a short cut to emancipation and were in trouble, and unlike their actions of a year previous, they had no desire to re-construct the Federation. They wanted to get rid of it, so they recommended dissolution. And so workers must learn our lessons after years of time and service, as well as money, has been paid in bringing into being an organization to assist ourselves. Several get together and scheme to dissolve it. Why?—Edmonton Free Press.

A BOLSHIEV DUNGEON.

The Awful Experience of an English Red Cross Worker in Soviet Russia.

(The author of the following experiences is an Englishman who worked for several years in the Russian Red Cross and was detained as a hostage by the Bolshievists till he succeeded in escaping from Russia a few months ago.) Before my arrest, I dragged out a miserable existence as a British hostage. I was allowed to remain at liberty within the district of Moscow, where I wasted my strength by begging the kind peasants to give me potatoes and black bread. When I awoke in Moscow I began to feel very ill. I had caught Spanish influenza. That night as I lay in bed in a high fever, a party of about ten Red Guards, headed by a Jewish commissary, burst into the house. They marched into my room, and in spite of my illness they dragged me from the bed and cut the mattresses with swords in the vain hope of finding food, money or arms. They threw everything out of the cupboards and "nationalized" my gold watch and other objects of value. "When they had finished their search, they left the house and I crept back into bed. About half an hour afterwards the commissary returned with four soldiers—two Letts and two Chinamen. They entered my room and told me they had come to arrest me. "I got out of bed and was about to put on a day suit, when a Bolshievist barred my arm with a rifle. "Leave that," he ordered. "Surely I may dream!" I replied. "You are dressed already," said the commissary. "But these are merely pyjamas," I protested. "That's quite enough," he replied. "It's a bourgeois prejudice to wear more than one suit." I just had time to slip on a pair of bedroom slippers when I was seized by two Chinamen. I realized it was useless to resist. Led by the commissary and followed by the Red Guards, I was conducted downstairs and through the deserted streets to a large old house in the Georgievsk square. There I was taken before some Bolshievist women and soldiers, who asked me a number of questions and cracked coarse jokes at my expense. When they had finished with me, a woman cried out, "Take the English rabble (svoloch) downstairs!" and then started an unceremonious dance with a soldier to the accompaniment of whistling and shouts. I was immediately seized by the Chinamen, who grinned at me in a sickly manner. I was ordered a flight of steps and along a dark corridor, at the end of which was an iron grille. This was opened, together with a door, and with a brutal thrust in the back from the butt-end of a rifle, I was thrown into darkness. I saw nothing. The smell of the place was so terrible that I felt it like a heavy cloak. After a few seconds I heard harsh voices, and I was surrounded by invisible people, who felt me from head to foot with their cold bony hands. "Have you brought any food?" was the only cry I could answer. Some of them were enraged at this reply. "Another mouth to devour what little we get!" they said with curses. Every new prisoner was searched by the inmates of the dungeons in the same manner. When the starving prisoners had ceased the soft voice of a cultured lady asked why I had been arrested. I endeavored to go in the direction of the voice, but I stumbled over the bodies of prisoners who were trying to sleep on the damp stone floor. A gentle hand came from out the darkness and led me across the bodies to the wall. "I am a colonel's wife," the voice told me; "I am 75 years of age, and have been thrown into this dungeon for some reason which I cannot at all imagine. When I told the voice that I was ill and merely dressed in my pyjamas, I heard a little rustling sound by my side, and immediately something soft and warm was thrust into my arms. "Put

his on," the voice said. "It is a woolen petticoat. It will keep you warm. I have another for myself." The kind voice obliged me to accept the offer, and I put the garment on. Soon afterwards another warm garment came to me from out the darkness, and a gruff, pleasant voice begged me to accept it as a protection against the damp and cold. I asked who my kind, and invisible benefactor was, and the same gruff but pleasant voice told me that he was a working man, who with thirty others had been arrested for going on strike. From time to time the door of the dungeon was opened and new prisoners were brought in. One was a working woman, who cried out in a hysterical voice that the Bolshievists had obliged her to leave her sucking baby at home. She was almost driven out of her mind by prisoners in a heartrending manner. The fear lest her baby should die after the bolts had been shot in the door behind them an awful silence came over us. A few minutes passed, and we heard the sound of firing in the back yard. Sometimes we would wait in vain for the prisoners had been set free.—Gerard Shelley, in London Times.

Hurrah for the 13-hour day—in Russia.—Justice. Major Schroeder, who fell five miles in an airplane, claims the record for the fall of man. But we must not forget Adam. Trades unionism is the only means by which the workers' aims are given expression. The unorganized are inarticulate.—The Trades Union News.

What an Independent Investigator Said Under Date of Wednesday, March 17

Two Canadian gentlemen, Mr. Willard and Mr. Denault, who became sufficiently interested in this company's proposition to consider investing in it, herewith reproduce the telegram they see the oil field and the company's holdings with their own eyes. We took the precaution to go to Texas and sent to Mr. Denyes, General Manager of Canadian-American Resources, Ltd.

Grandfield, Oklahoma, March 17, 1920.

L. E. DENYES, Manager, Canadian-American Resources, Limited, 1006 Royal Bank Building, Toronto.

We met Judge Stephens and toured Burkburnett oil field, around your property. Mr. Willard and I find more than double the number of wells adjacent to this property than is shown in blue print. A man must see this field to realize its magnitude. It is most wonderful. Leaving tonight.

DENAULT.

This company makes conservative statements as to its properties and its prospects, as the above telegram shows; but we could very properly make some astonishingly alluring forecasts as to the profits and dividends that will come to this company when a few of our wells are driven. We shall be ready to start work very soon, and should have a number of wells flowing by mid-summer. It is likely that the present generous Bonus of Common Stock will be reduced when the oil starts to come in. We own 60% interest in the leases of 4,818 acres right in the producing area of the Burkburnett oil field. These leases are valued at this moment in excess of \$6,000,000.00, and their potential value, when wells are driven, is greater in millions of dollars than any person would feel capable of putting down in figures. We might state that, in one year, in the Burkburnett oil field alone, over \$9,880,000.00 was paid in dividends, equal to over 200 per cent. on the capital actually expended. Wonderful returns to the investor are within expectations on this proposition.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President—Alexander Alexander, New York City, President National Gum and Mica Company. President and Director of other companies.
Directors—Colonel Jacob Ruppert, New York City, President Ruppert Brewing Company, President and Director of other companies.
George B. Gifford, New York City. For thirty years with Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, and Manager of Refining operations.
S. W. Jencks, Brookline, Massachusetts, President Canadian Engineering and Machine Company, Limited. President and Director of other companies.
Secretary and Director—Dr. L. Gordon Bogart, Kingston, Ontario, President Wood Air-Tight Valve Company, Limited. President and Director of other companies.

STATUTORY INFORMATION

The By-laws of the Company provide that the qualifications of each Director shall be the holding of at least ten shares of the stock of the Company. The Directors, who are not salaried officers, are allowed a fee of Twenty Dollars for each attendance at any meeting of the Board of Directors.
The minimum subscription upon which the Directors may proceed to allotment in ten shares and the amount payable on application and allotment is Ten Dollars per share.
The Company purchased from Easton Marshall Anley, of the City of Toronto, County of York, 1,981 acres of land in the Province of Ontario, in consideration of the sum of \$500.00 and 3,499,950 shares of the Common Stock of the Company, of which 1,560,000 shares were placed in trust to be used for the best interest of the Company as the Directors may direct. An agreement providing for the said purchase was made, dated the Eighteenth day of November, A.D. 1919, and may be seen at the Company's Head Office, in the City of Toronto, during business hours.

CAPITALIZATION

Authorized Capital, \$50,000,000. Common Stock, \$35,000,000. Preferred Stock, \$15,000,000. We offer for sale, Treasury Stock. Proceeds to be used for development of Oil Wells on our Texas Leases \$500,000.00 (50,000 Shares) 7% Cumulative Preferred Shares (Par Value, \$10 each), with 100% Bonus of Common Stock. Dividends on Preferred Stock accrue from date of issue, and are payable quarterly. Literature and Full Information Furnished on Request.

Canadian - American Resources, Limited Head Offices: 1006 Royal Bank Building, Toronto.

God First

THEY have been called a people of one idea—God first.
WHATEVER happens, their work goes on, serving God and their fellowmen.
EMPIRES may rise and fall, the world may seem to be enveloped in blood and strife, but they still see God's sunshine and love, still do the nearest work of mercy. Still praise God for the saving of souls.
JUDGE if you will from what you know of their work, whether the world has not come to rejoice with them in their adherence to this one idea—"Seek first the Kingdom of God."

The Salvation Army—308 Citadels and Institutions in this Territory—use them!

Advertisement for The National Way, featuring the Salvation Army. It lists locations in Winnipeg, Brandon, Regina, Saskatoon, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, and Victoria. It promotes standard trans-continental train equipment, including new all-steel tourist sleeping cars. It provides departure times for Ottawa (Central Stn.) at 5.45 p.m. and Toronto (Union Stn.) at 9.15 p.m. daily. It also includes information about industrial department tours and a website: Canadian National Railways.