

International Civic Federation. It is to consist, first, of an annual conference of four representatives from each state, two from the government and one each from the employers and the workingmen—leaving Labor in a safe minority of one to three. Then there is to be also an international Labor office "to collect and distribute information throughout the world," and this is to be under a governing body consisting of twenty-four members, twelve representing the governments, six the employers and six the employees—leaving Labor in a safe minority of six to eighteen. And these eighteen can reject any delegate that they don't like, so that if the workers of some country should ever happen to send up a real man, he wouldn't even be allowed to come in and make a noise, to say nothing of exercising an effective franchise. Intelligent working men will have no more to do with the International Civic Federation than they have had with the National one.

There is also included in this treaty a Labor Charter or Declaration of Principles, of which the eight-hour day and equal pay for men and women are the only ones which have a definite meaning—and these are subject to "exceptions necessitated by differences of climate, habits and economic developments." Especially—we should say—habits. In other words these principles are to be adopted where the working people have the strength to enforce them, and not where they haven't.

HUNGARY REVOLUTION

Bela Kun, People's Commissary)

"As soon as we gained the power necessary to put our programme into action, we proceeded without waiting a moment. Already we have felled the impregnable walls of the capitalist fortress, blow upon blow. The fetters of wage-slavery are torn into a thousand shreds; and at the same time we have begun the creation of a new world. Industrial life is taking its normal course, indeed it is already functioning more smoothly than before. Only the parasites have been abolished, their life of idleness is at an end. What the country possesses of mental and physical energy has been put to work. Production and transportation are entirely in our hands. All supplies have been confiscated and will be in part equitably distributed, and partly used as material, with which we will build up the communist organization of production. All those legal fetters that were invented by Capitalism for the oppression of proletarian existence have been swept away. Air, light, cleanliness, at one time the exclusive privilege of the children of the bourgeoisie, have been placed within the reach of the children of the proletariat. Theatres, hitherto exclusively the possession of the wealthy class, are being encouraged to devote themselves, more than ever before, to the propagation of a higher art, and have been opened to the proletariat. The Press, that mighty weapon of Capitalism, has been pressed into the service of the movement for a better future. Joyously, great masses of the proletariat are crowding into the Red Guards, ready to defend their liberation from capitalist slavery with their hearts' blood. Heads up, brothers! The Gotterdammerung of capitalist society has come. The hour has struck for the expropriation of the expropriators of the world.

TRIPLE ALLIANCE OF UNIONS MAKE DEMANDS ON BRITISH PREMIER

Gratifying, indeed, is the news that the "Triple Alliance" of British railwaymen, coal miners and transport workers, the most powerful unions in Great Britain, have served notice on Premier Lloyd George that he must at once abolish conscription, withdraw all troops from Russia, lift the blockade of Germany, release all the conscientious objectors still in prison, and raise exemption from the income tax to \$1,200 a year. The propriety of the last demand alone is to be questioned. The wisdom and justice of the others is obvious; they do honor alike to the humanity and honesty of the unions. Best of all, this ultimatum is serving proper notice upon Mr. Lloyd-George that he is not the sole arbiter of Great Britain's destinies, just as the news that a great trades union congress next week will denounce the treaty as far too severe is reputed to have had a good deal to do with the reported intention of the "Big Three" to make certain changes in the sacrosanct treaty which the Germans were first told they would have to take unaltered, without discussion, whether they liked it or not. Drunk with power as the "Big Three" are, it is of the utmost importance that they should realize that they are not to continue their despotic course much longer, but that, with the coming of peace, they will have masters with whom they will speedily have to reckon when democracy resumes its sway again. Meanwhile, the "Triple Alliance" by its action is serving democracy everywhere.

THE ANTI-BOLSHEVIST CRUSADE

An anti-Bolshevist meeting was held in Detroit on April 20. It was attended by over 4,000 people. The chairman began his speech with the word "Socialism—" and there was applause lasting two minutes. He continued: "and Bolshevism"—and there were three minutes of applause. The speaker of the evening, an alleged "industrial expert" named Peter W. Collins, later on mentioned the name of Debs, whereupon the audience stood on chairs and cheered for five minutes. The meeting ended with impromptu Socialist speeches and the singing of revolutionary songs.

LABOR AND THE NEW ERA

In periods of transition, such as the world is now passing through, old conceptions of old things are swept aside and old conceptions of new movements must be also swept away. Any change in the world's affair must necessarily affect all the peoples and all sections of society. Particularly is that section of society affected which is the instrument of the particular change in question. In succeeding eras the aristocracy, the upper middle classes and the lower middle classes or petty bourgeoisie, have played the dominant role. Now it is the proletariat, the propertyless workers, who are the instrument of the change which is at present taking place in society. It therefore behoves the propertyless workers to prepare themselves that they may fulfill their function.

In its upward struggle Labor, like everything else, has had to learn from experience both in its conceptions and its practices. But the rise of Labor has been so swift that its conquest of power in one section finds it still clinging to its old conceptions of its functions in other sections of the world. Thus we have the workers of Russia and Hungary marching on triumphantly to the conquest of their historic mission while in other countries Labor is still arguing over petty concessions. The Canadian workers have not, as yet, recognized the fact that the mission of the workers of the world is to own and control all they produce and that this accomplished they are the rulers of the world. The average union man to-day wants more pay, shorter hours, better working conditions. He does not dream of owning the tools of his industry, except in the same manner as his boss owns them—so that he might exploit his fellows—he does not see that as long as someone else owns the means whereby he and his family live, his life will be one long struggle for reforms. He is convinced that his boss gives him a job, that without a boss to provide a job he would starve. He has a vague idea that his boss amassed enough money to buy the industry that he directs its operation and that he is entitled to the money he gets from his enterprise. The boss recognizes that the worker thinks in this way and so it is a common answer of the employers to the demand for more wages or shorter hours that they cannot afford to make the required concessions.

But with the march of events the worker must revolutionize his ideas. He must study the conditions under which he lives and he must watch the progress of his brothers in Europe who are overthrowing the bosses and operating industry themselves for the benefit of the community as a whole.

What do the owners of industry do? What use are they? What do they contribute to the operation of the world's work that entitles them to control the lives of thousands of families? Not one in every five hundred of the capitalists could operate the machines which make their fortunes. Few of them understand anything about the actual operation of industry. Few of them could rivet a bolt, feed a furnace, drive an engine, run a lathe, or perform any of the thousand jobs that go to run industry.

Nor are they capable of performing the executive work of their own plants. If all the owners of industry in Canada were to take a year's vacation to-morrow morning not one wheel would stop as a result. But if all the workers in industry would take a day's vacation the nation would be at a standstill. These are simple truths and they are irrefutable. But if the workers recognized them it would mean the end of the present system of society, and so those who benefit by things as they are attempt to misrepresent the issue. They lie about the progress of the proletarian revolution in Russia, represent all the actions of the Soviet government as destructive, picture Russia in a state of chaos.

When some news about the workers of Russia gets through the capitalist press perverts it. One of the best evidences of this perversion is supplied in the comments of the newspapers and weekly magazines on the pamphlet by Nicholas Lenine, entitled "The Soviets at Work," which the Post Office authorities recently suppressed. In this pamphlet Lenin deals with the difficulty experienced by the workers when they took over industry owing to the shortage of engineers and other highly skilled men. The press immediately hailed this as an admission that capitalism was necessary to the preservation of society.