

CLEARING THE AIR

From the New York "Nation"

William C. Bullitt was one of the investigators sent to Soviet Russia by the Peace Conference. The report of the investigators has never been published.—Editorial Note.

THE resignation, reported last week, of nine members of the American Peace Commission, has received little publicity and less editorial comment, though it would appear to be as significant a subject for disinterested rumination in the sanctum as any that has come over the wires in some time. Some of the later dispatches are apparently intended to soften the force of the first impression that the members resigned by way of protest against the iniquitous terms of the treaty. Naturally, all the forces of publicity at command of the Government would be used to minimize the effect of action of this kind, and the United Press accordingly deserves the best thanks of all American citizens for having placed us in possession of a letter which Mr. William C. Bullitt, one of the nine disaffected members, wrote to President Wilson, giving the reasons for his resignation.

We are glad to assist in making this document a matter of public record. The time has passed, apparently, for faking the peace treaty on faith. Along with the process of disillusionment there goes an increasing interest in fixing the responsibility for what is beginning to be felt and resented as a deception of first-class magnitude. Mr. Bullitt's letter meets this interest; it does the public the service of clarifying and precipitating in plain words, a vague and perhaps unreasoned, but wholly sound, sense of shabbiness and treachery. We reproduce it directly from the United Press report, as follows:

Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States:
Sir: I have submitted to the Secretary of State my resignation as assistant in the Department of State and attache to the American commission to negotiate peace. I am one of the millions who trusted implicitly in your leadership and believed you would take nothing less than "a permanent peace based on unselfish, unbiased justice." But the Government has consented now to deliver the suffering peoples of the world to new oppressions, subjections and dismemberments—a new century of war.

I can convince myself no longer that effective labor for a "new world order" is possible as a servant of this Government. Russia, the "acid test of good will" for me, as for you, has not ever been understood. Unjust decisions regarding Shantung, Tyrol, Thrace, Hungary, East Prussia, Danzig, and the Saar Valley and abandonment of the principle of freedom of the seas make new international conflicts certain.

It is my conviction the present League of Nations will be powerless to prevent these wars, and the United States will be involved in them by obligations undertaken through the covenant of the

League and in a special understanding with France. Therefore, the duty of the Government of the United States to its own people and to mankind is to refuse to sign this unjust treaty; refuse to guarantee its settlements by entering the League of Nations, and refuse to entangle the United States further by an understanding with France.

That you persistently opposed most of the unjust settlements; that you accepted them only under great pressure is well known. Nevertheless it is my conviction that if you had made your fight in the open instead of behind closed doors you would have carried with you the public opinion of the world, which was yours; you would have been able to resist the pressure and might have established the "new international order, based upon broad universal principles of right and justice" of which you used to speak.

I am sorry you did not fight our fight to a finish and that you had so little faith in the millions of men like myself in every nation who had faith in you.

WILLIAM C. BULLITT.

VICTORIES CLAIMED BY NICOLAI LENINE.

LONDON, England, (Monday).—In a wireless message from Moscow to Budapest, Nicolai Lenine states that great victories have been won in the East over Admiral Koltechak's army and declares that this theater and that in the South against General Denikin are those where operations must be decisive, since the reinforcement of the Lettish and Esthonian fronts can not be as great as is desirable for the present. The entente's attack on Petrograd, says the message, is nothing more than a political demonstration, and whatever is achieved can have only a political effect.

TEN DAYS THAT SHOOK THE WORLD.

By John Reed, \$2.00. Boni & Liveright, 105 West 40th Street, New York.

This book recently reviewed in these columns, is meeting with anything but an enthusiastic reception.

The capitalist press, true to its class basis, has welcomed it with a flood of unbroken silence.

Bookstores refuse to handle it in any but the smallest quantities, and outside of a few Eastern cities it is almost impossible to buy it at all.

To those of us who have read and enjoyed the book, this is apparently part of an organized plan to prevent the truth about the Bolsheviki and Soviet Russia from reaching the ear of the working-class of this country.

For four years now the Socialist press has been subjected to censorship and suppression, and while the system lasts, that is a condition that will obtain.

It devolves upon us therefore to make known those avenues of information that the capitalist rags try to keep us from. We are for that reason urging on all readers of this paper the advisability of securing a copy of this work, and studying it that they may learn the other side of the Russian question from that presented by the paid liars of the bourgeois press.

STRIKES CONVULSE DISTRICTS IN INDIA

ROME, June 13.—There have been sporadic strikes throughout the city for several weeks past in which the demands have been for decrease in the hours of labor and increase in wages, while others have been in protest against the high cost of living. The most serious of the strikes is that of 76,000 school teachers demanding a minimum of \$2 daily.

Rioting and labor disturbances continue in many parts of the country, according to dispatches received here today.

The general strike in Naples has been settled, the workers receiving a few concessions.

Printers Refuse to Set Up Misleading Copy at "Sun"—Ordered Off Premises

Before going to press this morning, Saturday, June 14, we received the information that the printers in the employment of the Publishers of the Vancouver "Sun," had been fired for refusing to set up copy in which untrue and inflammatory statements were made regarding certain members of organized labor, and on the strike situation in general. The printers are working men, belonging to one of the most conservative of labor organizations, and as such, not likely to take drastic action without warrant. But they are in touch with the organized labor movement and are capable of judging as to the fairness of any news matter or comment dealing with the affairs of the movement. In addition to this, because of long practice in handling press news, and acquaintance with the methods used in "making" the "dope" up, they are able to tell at a glance what is genuine news and what is adulterated with "dope."

We understand that though the vicious nature of an editorial was the chief cause of this action, they were also influenced by an equal vicious and inflammatory half page advertisement carried on behalf of an organization, formed since the strike commenced, operating under the name of the Returned Citizens' Law and Order League. Who ever they may be.

We quote a few extracts from the editorial in question, which had for a caption, "No Revolution in Vancouver."

"Vancouver is now in process of reaping the reward of the weakness shown by the authorities some months ago when a coterie of extremists engineered a strike to show their approval of a dead poltroon.

"Let there be no mistake. This strike is dishonest to its heart core. To attempt to explain what the trouble is about, would be a waste of time. It isn't about anything. Nominally it is an expression of sympathy with Winnipeg, but no man can give a rational account of how Winnipeg is to be helped by tying up the business and industrial activities of Vancouver. In cold fact this is a demonstration by the "Reds" who have taken Russia for their model and who hope to make their profit amid the general confusion and overturn of government.

"There is no means of knowing how much further the strike may spread, but in any event it must be fought to a finish. However, many may become involved, it must be beaten and beaten decisively. The mass of our citizens do not intend to let the government of Vancouver be conducted from a back room at the corner of Dunsmuir and Homer streets."

The local union of this trade, more than a week ago, unanimously passed a resolution, in which they practically requested their employers to be fair in their treatment of labor during the strike, and offered to assist them in furnishing the public with truthful matter on the progress of the strike situation. The press has unanimously turned this offer down and in so doing acknowledged, that while masquerading as the "Public" press, they were in the game of taking sides, and that they were not interested in publishing the truth, that is, that they could not publish without distorting facts and misrepresenting the motives of organized labor. The truth is they desire to help to bring about that "situation" so heartily desired by the malignant enemies of the laboring classes.

SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

PROPAGANDA MEETINGS

SUNDAY, JUNE 15

At 8 p.m. Sharp

EMPRESS THEATRE

Corner Gore and Hastings

Speaker W. W. Lefaux