

# THE SOVIET

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## Industrial Soviets In Belfast      Soldiers' And Workers' Councils In United States

"While It Is Day" is a fine article in the last issue of the Nation, from which we reprint the following:

"The despatches from England, meagre as they are, should in our judgment be resolutely and disinterestedly considered by minds who guide the larger operations of American industry and commerce. Strikes are many, and widespread, and obstinate in all major branches of British industry. The city corporation of Belfast has been superseded by a strike committee or Industrial Soviet, 'uncommonly well organized,' as one despatch admits, which administers the affairs of the city from its sessions in Artisans Hall.

Important public utilities in Glasgow are controlled and administered by the local strike committee, whose power appears to be increasing so rapidly that the city looks forward with quite definite expectation to a state of things essentially similar to that prevailing in Belfast. The hundred thousand transport workers, associated with great numbers of railwaymen, threaten a strike which, if called, will unquestionably lock up the whole transportation system of the kingdom; and a general nation-wide strike is openly talked of as an imminent possibility. Meanwhile, considering the magnitude of these industrial disturbances, remarkably little violence and disorder have been reported."

About the same time as this report, we read in the Edmonton Journal: Referring to "demands put forward not to obtain fair conditions but to overthrow the existing order, to destroy the Government," the premier (Lloyd George) declared: "I say in all solemnity, on behalf of the Government, that we are determined to fight Prussianism in the industrial world exactly as we fought it on the continent of Europe." So Lloyd George is beginning to show his hand.

### Where Do You Stand?

The objects and aims of this paper is to give to the general public a resume of world conditions, and to place clearly before the working class what their fellow-workers are doing in other countries.

The Capitalist Press withholds much important news relating to labor questions and all news published by them is out-lined in the interests of their masters—the Capitalists Class—. Every item of news here published is taken from authentic sources and from periodicals that the average wage-worker cannot afford to have in his possession.

The necessity of such a paper in this city is fully realized by most workers. We have therefore decided to circulate a free issue. If you are desirous of getting this paper regularly send at once a donation, (just what you can afford) accompanied with your name and address to Business Manager, Box 1682 Edmonton, Alberta. This will ensure you getting every publication.

The financial results from this appeal will prove whether the workers of Alberta are really desirous of knowing world happenings and their significance for the laboring classes. Remember this is entirely a workers paper and therefore we ask that every member of the exploited class give it their moral and financial support.

(Reprint from "Nation.")

Labor unrest in the Northwest is apparently becoming alarming. The recent convention of the Oregon Federation of Labor was controlled by the radical element. It voted against industrial councils representing both sides as a method of settling disputes, one delegate saying "There is only one solution. Eliminate the wage system and refuse to deal with the employing class."

Councils of Soldiers and Workmen's delegates, it is reported, have been organized in Portland and Seattle. Last week 37,000 ship-workers went on strike for higher wages, and the discontent among the lumbermen is no less marked. Recently a labor meeting in Seattle advocated a general strike unless American troops were immediately withdrawn from Russia, was broken up by the police, whose action was bitterly resented by labor. Immediately following this situation, bills directed against syndicalism were hastily introduced into both houses in Oregon and a far-reaching red flag measure as well was put forward. Corresponding legislation has been passed by an overwhelming majority over the Governors veto in Washington.

The syndicalist bills in the two States are practically identical. Their purpose is to eliminate Bolshevism and I. W. W. terrorism. An opponent of the syndicalist measure in the Washington House declared that under such an act Lincoln would have been imprisoned, and according to the Portland Oregonian Governor Lister of Washington had also some "groundless apprehensions" lest innocent persons be punished in the enforcement of the law. But Mayor Baker of Portland is less disturbed on the score. In delivering an address to the Legislature, he is reported to have said that "unless we meet this situation and put down this movement it will put us down." We are inclined to agree less with him than with Senator Pierce of Oregon, who, in voting alone in the Senate against the bill declared that the way to cure Bolshevism and all its manifestations is not by such threatening measures, entailing violence for their enforcement, but by making conditions of employment so favorable that the movement will die out "of its own accord," as he said. This is no complete philosophy of the matter, but at any rate it has the merit of being the most sensible palliative, pending measures of fundamental economic justice.

### Peace Conference Or What?

Under the heading of Foreign Correspondence dated Paris, Jan. 13th, we read of "the popular acclaim" accorded to President Wilson and the implicit confidence placed in him by the people of various nationalities. However, the following excerpt is interesting: "What if he disappoints victors and vanquished alike? I know that if he fails it will seem to all liberal thinkers in England as if the blackness of utter desolation and hopelessness were settling down upon the world. Here in this city, in that heavily over-ornamented Louis VI room in which the conference is to meet, will be decided whether the dead died in vain or not. Whether this was really the war to end war, or whether that phrase was merest cant and hypocrisy. Is it any wonder that in these hours of maddening delay, of ignorance on the part of all press representatives here as to what is on, one thinks ever of the ghostly legions which must be marching up and down the Champs Elysees and mounting guard over the palace where sleeps Woodrow Wilson?"

"No one knows tonight all that is happening, except a few insiders. Much they may be putting thru, the little group of men who rule the world, but they alone can measure how much. I am told, by one who should know the truth, that the real business is being accomplished in these informal meetings; that when the Peace Confer-