

## ITEMS OF NEWS FROM ALL PARTS

### COBALT, ONTARIO

#### New Ontario Co-operative Society Commences Business.

This Society, which has been in process of organization for the last nine months, has been incorporated and has received from the Provincial Secretary its license to commence business. It commenced operations last month with the initial paid-up capital of \$4,000. The society has leased premises on Lang street, Cobalt, formerly in the occupation of the Wm. Davies Co. The manager is Mr. Armstrong, who has for some years past been a clerk in a grocery store in an adjacent town, prior to which, we understand, he worked for twenty years in almost every capacity in a co-operative store in Cumberland, England.

The business to commence with, will consist of groceries, provisions and butcher's meat. The initial staff comprises the manager, a butcher and a teamster. It is now for the miners and other working men of Cobalt to make their co-operative store a success by giving it all the trade they are able to place. If the miners will only give to the society that degree of loyalty which they show to their trade union, success is assured from the start. We are pleased to know that the society has the advantage of both the moral and financial support of the Cobalt Miners' Union.—Canadian Co-operator.

#### THE INDEPENDENT (?) PRESS.

By John Swinton.

One of America's oldest and most beloved journalists was tendered a banquet by his fellow-editors, and surprised his hosts by the following words:

There is no such thing in America as an independent press except it be in the country towns.

You know it and I know it. There is not one of you who dare to write his honest opinions, and if you did you know beforehand that it would never appear in print.

I am paid \$150 a week for keeping my honest opinions out of the paper I am connected with—others of you are paid similar salaries for similar things—and any of you who would be so foolish as to write his honest opinions would be out on the streets looking for another job.

The business of the New York journalist is to destroy the truth, to lie outright, to pervert, to vilify, to fawn at the feet of Mammon, and to sell his race and his country for his daily bread.

You know this and I know it, and what folly is this to be toasting an "Independent Press."

We are the tools and vassals of rich men behind the scenes. We are the jumping packs; they pull the strings and we dance. Our talents, our possibilities and our lives are all the property of other men. We are intellectual prostitutes.

#### THE LABOR PARTY AND PEACE TALK.

It would be positively amusing, if it were not so tragic, to watch the frantic efforts made by the public press to prove that the English Labor Party were unanimous in its endorsement of the Lloyd George peace proposals. A press that attempts to spread all kinds of misleading statements about the present Russian Government which already has its representative in England and which is spoken of in such kindly terms by President Wilson, is doing a mean contemptible work. Unfortunately the public seem to like that kind of

thing and swallow it, holus-bolus. Still, misrepresenting a thing does not alter it. The Russian tangle would not have been half so bad as it is if the Allies had only stood by the revolutionary party from the start. The fact is that Russia was so far ahead of them that they failed to see what she was driving at and so left her to struggle alone. President Wilson recognizes them now and the English Labor Party recognizes them. If the English Parliament does not pretty soon do so—so much the worse for Westminster. The reason why the English Labor Party endorsed Lloyd George's war aim is because Lloyd George has made his terms so much nearer their own. There are still points of difference between them, notably on the question of Alsace-Lorraine, but in the main, so far as he goes, they are with him. The point the press fails to call attention to, and which they pretend not to see is that labor goes so much further than the British Premier that they make him look like thirty cents in the distance. They want Alsace-Lorraine to be included in the "self determination" policy. They insist on there being no economic war after peace is declared. They demand absolute autonomy for all parts of the British Empire—India and Ireland included. They repudiate all proposals for protective tariffs, and want an opportunity to carry out the idea of the Stockholm Conference. Lloyd George has come much nearer to these aims than he has ever been before, but he has some distance to go before any one can claim that he has the whole-hearted support of Labor. He has made his peace terms broad but must make them still broader before they are entirely satisfactory.—"The Week," Victoria, B. C.

#### A NEW INTERNATIONAL

"The war and its varied aspects more than ever demand a thorough understanding between the laboring classes of the Mother Country and her colonies. Personally I feel that a new international, with the workers of every country in the world taking their proper place, will be the best safeguard for permanent peace in the future."—David Rees, United Mine Workers, Fernie.

#### WELDON, SASK., DELIVERS THE GOODS.

On the 20th of January we had Organizer F. G. Stirling with us. He certainly can deliver the goods. Everybody was pleased with him and we would like to see him back again. The cold weather interfered some with the attendance of meetings, but we must call his visit a success. The right time for an organizer to work among the farmers would be the month of June.—David D. Hadland.

#### THE TREE OF LIFE.

"Labor is the tree of existence, and upon your shoulders rests responsibility and so far as you are free, organized, and do not cringe or beg, your power will be recognized, your dignity asserted and you will get your just reward. You hold the key which opens the door to life, but not only your own life, but the lives of all those who depend upon you. You build mansions and live in shacks in which the master refuses to house his horses and dogs. This is what you get for producing the world's wealth. Until you men stand up unafraid and unashamed, you will be treated in this way."—Mrs. Rose Henderson, Officer Juvenile Court, Montreal.

#### The Real Trouble.

The real trouble is that the people have allowed to be fished from them in the course of the war, even

such limited means as they had before the war of expressing their desire. What we have to do is to extend, in every possible way, the opportunities of democratic expression. So far, the parliaments of the Entente Powers give one the impression of timidly waiting upon each other. But the challenge of the Russian revolutionaries must no longer be evaded. They have forced the Central Powers to accept the broad basis of a peace without forcible annexations or penal indemnities; a peace as far from pan-German ambitions as from those adumbrated in the allies' secret treaties. If this is a victory over German imperialism, is it any objection that it is also a victory over Russian, Italian, French and British imperialism? To militarists everywhere, no peace that is willingly accepted by the enemy can be desirable; to those who desire permanent peace, only such a peace is entirely desirable. Diplomats in every country, always harking back to savage ideals and outworn methods, strive to impose on enemy countries such terms as they would never accept if they could resist them and in so doing they store up causes for future dispute; the peoples of every country, on the other hand, looking forward to civilized ideals and untried methods, regard a peace by satisfaction as the best foundation for disarmament and a League of Nations.

The only sure way of discrediting militarism everywhere is to prove that it has failed; the victory of one's party militarism over that of the other would prove merely that one party was stronger than the other—nothing else.

What we should demand is an unequivocal scrapping by all the Powers of all secret treaties, and a frank recognition that a lasting peace can be made only by open diplomacy on the basis of the self-determination of peoples.—H. M. S. in Women's International League Monthly.

#### ANOTHER CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR DIES IN SCOTLAND.

On Sunday, 20th January, in the West Riding Asylum, Wakefield, the death occurred of John Taylor, a Scottish conscientious objector, who had been resident in London. Taylor was arrested more than a year ago as an absentee under the Military Service Act, and after a stormy passage through the army was sent to Wormwood Scrubs Prison for refusing to be a soldier. On 5th January, after having appeared before the Central Tribunal and deemed a genuine conscientious objector, he was released from prison and sent to Wakefield Work Centre. There he was kept for months working at the almost useless task of making ropes with antiquated machinery.

The atmosphere of the Home Office compounds is very depressing, and devitalizing. Taylor, becoming melancholy and dispirited under the penal conditions, attempted to take his own life. On November 2nd, 1917, he was discovered in his cell with a large gash across his throat, from which he had bled profusely. He was removed to Clayton Hospital, and there being certified insane was transferred to the West Riding Asylum, Wakefield. After lingering for three months in a precarious condition he passed away on 20th January. At the inquest on the following Monday a verdict of felo-de-se was returned.

This was a very surprising decision, seeing that Taylor had been certified insane, and had been an inmate of an asylum for three months. It is also to be noted that John Taylor was granted a non-combatant certificate by his tribunal, but was forced into a combatant regiment, and ordered to do rifle drill, and afterwards subjected to field punish-

ment No. 1.—Scottish Prohibitionist.

"Give me the liberty to know, to utter and to argue freely according to conscience, above all other liberties."—John Milton.

#### WHEN THE WAR WILL END.

Absolute knowledge, I have none,  
But my aunt's washerwoman's sister's son  
Heard a policeman on his beat  
Say to a laborer on the street  
That he had a letter just last week  
That was written in the finest Greek  
From a Chinese coolie in Timbuctoo  
Who said the negroes in Cuba knew  
Of a colored man in a Texas town  
Who got it straight from a circus clown  
That a man in Klondike heard the news  
From a bunch of South American Jews  
About somebody in Borneo  
Who heard a man who claimed to know  
Of a swell society female fake  
Whose mother-in-law will undertake  
To prove that her seventh husband's niece  
Has stated in a printed piece  
That she has a son who has a friend,  
Who certainly knows when the war will end.

—Exchange.

#### THE AVERAGE POLITICIAN.

It is utterly an impossibility to deal with or discuss with benefit the labor problem without knowing something about it. Yet the average politician or candidate for political honors is prepared to settle the whole question at a minute's notice, and fiercely resent the suggestion that perhaps he does not understand.—J. W. Hawthornthwaite, M. P.P.

#### AN M.P. JOINS UP.

Miss Maud Royden, assistant pastor of City Temple Church, Hon. Bertrand Russell, E. N. Bennett, M. P. for Woodstock Division of Oxfordshire and Fellow of Hertford College, Oxford, are the recent prominent people to join the Socialist movement in the old land.

Order a bundle of Forwards for distribution in your locality.

#### ...PARTY ANNOUNCEMENTS...

Oil Painting Drawing of the Women's Social Democratic League (Toronto) Bazaar, is No. 2288. If Mrs. Westwood, 275 Stratford St., will communicate with the Forward Office, she will get the picture.

The Dominion executive committee meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 363 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, secretary, I. Bainbridge.

The Ontario provincial executive committee meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 363 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, secretary, I. Bainbridge.

Local No. 71, Toronto—Meets at 165 Van Horne street, every Sunday, at 2.30 p.m.. A hearty invitation is extended to all friends and sympathizers. J. CUNNINGHAM, 12 Bonstead Ave., Secretary.

Saskatchewan Provincial Executive Committee—Meets on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. All comrades desiring to join party or organize Locals are requested to write.

F. G. Wetzel,  
Box 151, Vanguard, Sask.

Locals and Executive Bodies may have their Advt. in the Directory for the sum of \$3.00 per year.