

the real social conditions in Europe and elsewhere are not generally known. Working-class unrest has expressed itself in revolutionary form throughout all the European nations. The statesmen at the Peace Conference are really more deeply concerned over the outcome of the Labor and Socialist Conference at Berne, Switzerland, than apparently has just begun. "Because of the strict censorship of news, they are in discussing formulas for a League of Nations, the Labor Conference at Berne is discussing the possibility of having their working class constituents at home taking over the ownership and control of industries. Strikes are rife throughout England, Ireland, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Sweden. They all show symptoms of economic rather than political revolutions. In Argentina and Chile, violent labor uprisings have recently occurred. Given below are some specific instances which serve to show the trend of the times.

In England at least 250,000 workers of various trades have recently been on strike. These strikes are not over isolated disputes, but have as their base the fundamental principles of privileges which working classes are to receive henceforth. All of this occurred, notwithstanding the fact that only a portion of England's military forces has been demobilized. What will be the situation when some 4,000,000 more men return to look for jobs? The strike at Belfast, Ireland, is a direct repudiation of Parliamentary action and is quite in sympathy with the Sinn Fein government recently elected.

Reports from Italy indicate that an explosion may take place at any time. The labor leaders in Italy are calling for the abolition of monarchy and for a soviet government. The sudden return of the Italian delegate, Orlando, to Rome, because of the resignation of the Italian cabinet, is significant of serious trouble in Italy. When President Wilson recently conferred with the Vatican, he was afterwards rebuked by the Italian workers for refusing to address one of their labor conferences. They retaliated by darkening the city and cutting off transportation for two days. Here we see that the weapon of direct action is being used in Italy.

In Portugal the recent attempted overthrow of the republic by the monarchist party indicates that the working classes of Portugal are demanding power and have broken with the present regime. Seeing this dissension, the monarchists took the opportunity and attempted the restoration of the Portuguese royalty. In Spain the working class and labor riots are frequent. While no recent reports have been received, there is bitter class feeling in that country which may burst out into flame at any moment. In Japan trouble is imminent, as is further indicated by the rapid withdrawal of Japanese troops from Russia. The rice riots of a few months ago show the temper of the people, who are beginning to revolt against the imperialistic designs of their leaders.

At this moment the Allies are confronted with the very serious and pressing problem of demobilizing their armies. French labor groups are demanding that their members be immediately released from army service. British labor groups are also persistently demanding the demobilization of the workers. The reason that this demand is not complied with is not because they need any longer fear the German army, but because of the more genuine fear of sending back these millions of soldiers to the homes, factories and workshops from which they were conscripted during the war, to find panics and unemployment.

On the other hand, to keep millions of soldiers resting on their arms with no immediate prospect of using them, tends to disrupt army discipline and precipitate mutiny. The longer they remain resting on their arms, the worse this situation becomes. If they are released and sent back to civilian life and do not find conditions and opportunities such as all the promises of the war guaranteed, then there is going to be trouble on a scale such as we have never known before! People in the United States have little conception of what is really going on. The conditions which exist abroad may not be duplicated here, but we cannot hope entirely to escape from the suffering which they produce. We cannot hope to have prosperity in America while there is revolution and anarchy in Europe.

#### THE VICIOUS CIRCLE—FLOUR MILLS ARE FORCED TO CLOSE. THE ORDER FROM THE WHEAT EXPORT CO. FELL BELOW EXPECTATIONS

By J. L. Rutledge, Editor "Canadian Grocer."

The long expected and long hoped for orders for flour for export, have not yet materialized, and the milling industry is faced again by the necessity of closing their plants, indeed practically all the larger mills are already closed, and will remain so, eating up pos-

sible profits at an enormous rate in general overhead charges, until further export orders are available.

The order from the Wheat Export Company that was to have amounted to 72,000 tons has all been handled, but unfortunately this order fell considerably below this amount, and when distributed among the various exporting companies it was hardly sufficient to cause a ripple on the surface of the milling industry.

Here is a splendid example of the present system of Capitalism. Warehouses are full to overflowing with flour and the mills are "forced to close" while at the same time thousands of people in Canada are feeling the pinch of hunger and trying to devise means of procuring food. Any suggestion on our part of opening the doors of the warehouses and packing plants and thus ensure to every man woman and child a plentiful supply of food would bring upon our heads a perfect avalanche of invectives. We would be termed "Anarchist," "Bolshevist," "Hooligan," "I.W.W.," "Destructionists," etc., etc. No the means of life must be held for export to ensure to the owners abundant profits, and as they close down the mills the army of unemployed will increase and more workers will be hungry, and the warehouses will remain overloaded.

#### GREAT PROSPECTS IN RUSSIA IF CAPITALISTS GET CONTROL.

Mr. Leslie Urquhart—British financier—is bitterly opposed to Bolshevism and suggests to the Britisher the need of a "military dictatorship" in Russia.

He has considerable knowledge of that country both before and since the revolution, having spent some twenty-two years there.

Having such a lengthy experience in the land of the Czar and the knout and later the Bolsheviki, one turns to find the reasons for his deep-rooted opposition to a "dictatorship of the proletariat" and calling instead for military dictatorship.

The London Daily Mail furnishes us with a few details which account for his hatred of the Soviet administration. "Mr. Leslie Urquhart is an oil and mining engineer"....."As chairman and managing director of the Kyshtim group of properties he produces 50 per cent OF THE COPPER, ALL THE LEAD, ALL THE SILVER, ALL THE ZINC, AND A THIRD OF THE GOLD that is raised in Russia."

Mr. Urquhart is also chairman of the Irtysh Corporation Ltd., with its mechanical shop, foundries, railways and river fleets. This corporation was formed after the commencement of the war with the sound backing of the Russo-Asiatic Bank; the Russo-Asiatic Corporation; and the Russo-Canadian Development Corporation.

#### TORONTO IS NERVOUS AS "REDS" BOMBARD CITY WITH LEAFLETS

Twice Canadians Have Awakened to Find Bolshevist Literature on Doorsteps—Police Are Helpless.

Toronto is somewhat nervous over the inability of the police, despite their best efforts, to discover the headquarters of the "Provisional Council of Soldiers and Workers for Canada," a Bolshevist organization which even the most skeptical have been forced to concede is a reality.

Twice in recent days, Toronto has awakened to find its doorsteps decorated with printed four-page messages addressed to soldiers and workers, explaining the principles of Bolshevism and calling upon the population to rise and throw off the shackles of capitalism.

In labor circles a radical element has made its appearance. The same is true of the soldiers' organizations. In both instances the radicals have reached numerical proportions enabling them to challenge the conservative elements for supremacy.

Government officials who are watching the new movement are being relied upon by the conservatives to suppress any really menacing organization. These conservatives believe that there are scores of palliatives which can relieve the situation.

But still Toronto is nervous. In spite of all its optimism it has to face the actual fact that it has a Bolshevist organization in its very midst, that tens of thousands of revolutionary circulars are being distributed among its workers—and the police cannot find the sources.

It is too suggestive of the revolutionary efficiency of the publishers of Belgian papers, circulated directly under the noses of the German conquerors. So Toronto is nervous.