

AMONG THE REDS IN SASKATCHEWAN GEN. LORD ROBERTS ON CONSCRIPTION

(Continued from Page One)

I must confess to feeling a little bit diffident on starting my tour to Saskatchewan. Things had not been too bright in my home town, Winnipeg, for some time. Some of the comrades had grown weary of the strife, and others perhaps a little nervous as to the future. Then, too, my letters to the comrades and locals in the Province only brought a feeble response. Add to this that I left the train at Swift Current before 4 a.m. on a wet, cold morning and had to wait at the depot for the local which left at 6 a.m. for Vanguard, you can have an idea of my anticipations. Going up to Vanguard I met a gentleman (a very nice one, too,) with whom I conversed on many subjects. He turned out to be an officer of the North West Mounted Police who was going out to investigate the doings of the comrades. Someone had evidently whispered "treason" or "sedition" to the authorities and hence the investigation. You can picture his surprise when I informed him I was going to meet the comrades and address them. I invited him to the meeting but he declined. The investigation amounted, I believe, to nothing.

Comrade Wetzel, secretary of the Provincial Executive, met me, and we drove eight miles to his place. It was cold, d— cold, but in the morning the sun shone and it shone continuously until on the way to Winnipeg again. The following night we had our first meeting. A good attendance, good attention, good collection, and good literature sales.

On the following afternoon we had a meeting of the Local and discussed the platform of the Party. I must admit to having the idea, founded largely on past experience, that locals in country districts were largely made up of sentimentalists who had but little knowledge of economics; that it was only in industrial centres that the real revolutionary was to be found. You city slaves, if you think this, visit some of the Sask. locals and you will get such a jolt as will loosen this idea from your minds. These men were thinkers and fighters, made of the stuff we need to-day.

The following night another meeting, if anything better than the first, for the school house was packed, and literature sales were good.

Up early next morning for a twenty-eight mile trip to Pontiac. From there a thirty mile drive in a waggon to Buffalo Horn. Here I met comrade Mezzatesta. We had no meetings arranged, for they get mail so seldom in these parts, I arrived before letter telling of arrival reached them. In two days a meeting was fixed up, and such a meeting. Keen interest, intelligent questions, and good literature sales.

Just a word about this local. They keep things lively in these parts by having debates in the school house every month. Have a good library of Socialist literature always on hand, and what they have done I believe many others can do. They certainly let the community know they are alive, and what they stand for. Another drive to Reklaw where I met comrade Oaks and stayed with him on his bachelor ranch. Here again they had only twenty-four hours' notice, and this is a homestead country where everyone lives a hundred miles (more or less) from his neighbor. But two of the comrades saddled their horses and beat up the country. They must have travelled "some" for in the evening we had the largest meeting yet in the school house. It was packed. (I would like to express to these two comrades my thanks for the great work they put in. Not only was it a large meeting, but a successful one

in every sense of the work.

The next morning another big drive, I think thirty-five miles to the railroad, then to Regina. Here I had a meeting on the Sunday, which was a good one. We expected opposition, but it failed to materialize. We expected also to form a local but failed in this also, but we did the next best thing (is it but the next best?) we formed an economic class, which is to be led by a comrade of the S.P.C. At the meeting which was held Sunday afternoon in the Trades Hall, Alderman Perry, an old comrade, took the chair. We encountered the usual religious question, but had an interesting meeting.

From Regina to Prince Albert is a long jump, but it was necessary to reach the comrades at Parkside and Weldon.

At Parkside I had a good meeting, but the local there is suffering from "good crop" or something, and seems to be leaving the bulk of the work to one man, comrade Swan. I believe, however, this winter will see it stronger than ever.

Weldon is somewhere near the North Pole, but they have the best bunch of Reds up there I have met in a long, long time. It was my pleasure to address the first meeting, held in Liberty Hall, a hall built and owned by the young men of the district for social and educational purposes. We had about 150 present at the meeting and a collection of \$26. Added five new members to the local, sold lots of subscriptions to the Forward, and altogether had a splendid time. Comrade D. Hadlands is the secretary of this, the newest local in the Province, and he tells me they are going to form two more in that district. Good luck to them. They are workers and fighters, and withal most hospitable hosts.

This was my last meeting. I regret very much that it was impossible for me to visit Kandahar and Amelia, but it was impossible. In this trip I was only, as it were, spying out the land, but I trust in the near future that this great field which is now so ripe for organizing will be visited by one who has the time to visit the places I missed and who will be able to accept the invitation so kindly tendered me, but which I was forced to decline.

Good luck to you comrades of Saskatchewan. You are fighting under great difficulties, but there are indications that you are winning all along the line.

S. D. P. ORGANIZER

RESOLUTION PASSED BY MONTREAL SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Whereas the Military Service Bill (Conscription) has become a law and the political situation has thereby been radically changed, Therefore, be it resolved, that the activities of the Anti-Conscriptionists conform to the new conditions.

These activities should entail the following:

1. To agitate the Repeal of the Conscription Act, through Mass Meetings, and by written word.
2. To take advantage of the forthcoming Election as a means to Repeal the Law.
3. To explain carefully to the people of Canada the exemption clauses, and especially give every help possible to Conscientious Objectors.

GOLDEN TEXT FOR THE WEEK

The most abominable, atrocious, disgusting and uncivilized act of Germany, next to that of provoking war, seems to be her ruthless and violent attempt to provoke peace.—G.F.S.

ing us of the purposes and preparations of German militarism, was frank enough to refer to the present Kaiser as one

"for whose personal character, noble and imaginative patriotism and capacities as a ruler I yield to no man in my admiration."

And he continued:

"... our German friends, I am well aware do not, at least in sensible circles, assert dogmatically that a war with Great Britain will take place this year or next; but

'Germany strikes when Germany's hour has struck.' That is the time-honored policy of her Foreign Office. That was the policy relentlessly pursued by Bismarck and Moltke in 1866 and 1870; it has been her policy decade by decade since that date; it is her policy at the present hour. And, gentlemen, it is an excellent policy. It is, or should be the policy of every nation prepared to play a great part in history."

An interesting speech it was! Lord Roberts went on to discuss "the power of Labor in international politics":

"The German Socialist, it is said, will not make war upon the French or his English comrade. Gentlemen, it is to the credit of the human race that patriotism in the presence of such organizations has always proved itself superior to any class or any individual."

And here is a most interesting passage:

"Hence, gentlemen, the mistrust with which I have always viewed the proposals of British Ministers for a limitation of armaments. Emanating from Great Britain, such proposals must always, I imagine, impress a foreign observer as either too early or too late in English history. For how was this Empire of Britain founded? War founded this Empire—war and conquest! When we, therefore, masters by war of one-third of the habitable globe, when we propose to Germany to disarm, to curtail her navy or diminish her army, Germany naturally refuses; and pointing, not without justice, to the road by which England, sword in hand, has climbed to her unmatched eminence, declares openly, or in the veiled language of diplomacy, that by the same path, if by no other, Germany is determined also to ascend! Who amongst us, knowing the past of this nation, and the past of all nations and cities that have ever added the lustre of their names to human annals, can accuse Germany or regard the utterance of one of her greatest Chancellors a year and a half ago, or of General Bernhardt three months ago, with any feelings except those of respect?"

Lord Roberts in a later comment upon this passage (in a footnote to his published speeches) commended Bethmann Hollweg for refusing to agree to President Taft's proposals in March, 1911, for universal peace and disarmament. Bethmann Hollweg, he said, "had the courage and the common sense to stand apart."

And Lord Roberts' military patriotism carried him into strange social reform conclusions. I quote from the volume already referred to, an excerpt from a letter by Lord Roberts to the London "Times":

"The conditions amid which millions of our people are living appear to me to make it natural that they should not care a straw under what rule they may be called upon

to dwell, and I can quite understand their want of patriotic feeling."

Yet recent unimpeachable evidence makes it clear that to tens of thousands of Englishmen engaged in daily toil, the call to 'sacrifice' themselves for their country must seem an insult to their reason; for those conditions amid which they live make their lives already an unending sacrifice."

One may dispute Lord Roberts' conclusions, but not his frankness nor his sincerity, and these frank utterances of his read strangely side by side with much of the hypocrisy and cant that has been served up to us during the last three years as Patriotism.

—Glasgow Forward

Congressman Meyer London sees in President Wilson's recent reply to the Pope's peace note the possibility for peace negotiations. He says:

I believe the nations of Europe are exhausted. There is a complete collapse in all European countries. Either our newspapers are too ignorant to understand it or they do not want us to know the truth. You will notice in this morning's paper "the Reichstag is to draft terms of peace."

The declaration of the Reichstag was significant, first, because it was an attempt by a legislative body which had heretofore exercised no interest in international relations. Second, because the declaration of the Reichstag was against an economic alliance. The third demand was for international arbitration, for the establishment of a permanent court for disarmament. All these fundamental things were made the basis of a declaration by the elected representatives of a people in time of war.

—And the significance of that declaration, when followed by the reply of the President to the Pope, gives me hope that the war is about to break down. It (the President's note) must be taken as a reply, not only to the message of the Pope, but as a reply to the declaration of the German Reichstag.

He assures the world, first, that he is opposed to economic alliance after the war. In his reply there is the assurance that there will be no dismemberment of any European nation attempted. These two things are of profound significance to a man who knows what was going on in Europe during the last few years. Dismemberment of Austria and Germany was held over the heads of these nations by French, English and Italian statesmen.

When we read what is going on there now, the things that the censors permit to leak through, you will find that there is a universal demand for peace, both in Austria-Hungary and Germany.

The very fact that the governments of the world have not permitted the Socialists to come together at the Stockholm conference shows that they do not want the Socialists to have the credit for initiating peace; and the very fact that the Centrists in Germany—the religious, conservative party—are now for peace, shows that there is competition between the parties there for the credit of obtaining and bringing about peace.

A well-defined expression in the Reichstag for peace is an assurance that the desire for peace becomes irresistible.

I murder hate by flood or field,

The Glory's name may screen us:
In wars at home I'll spend my blood—
Life giving wars of Venus.

—Robert Burns.

The paper has been issued by a few members of the Party, and if it is not up to the usual standard we hope the reader will consider the circumstances under which we have gone to press.