4

RUSSIAN PEOPLE RULED BY A FEW COMMUNISTS

While it is admittedly difficult to uld not represent the Soviet Government to be any worse than it unless a man is a highly trained experiment, and is a strong advocate of the theory that the coun-try should be recognized and once more, admitted to the family of na-tions. On this account an article which appeared recently in the Nation, from the pen of Louis Fish-er, who spent several months in The Nation seems to approve the who spent several months in ia as correspondent of the New York Post, is important. It shows to what an extent the nation is in the taking. The non-Communists were sentenced to imprisonment; the superiority that constituted them a to what an extent the nation is in the sentenced to imprisonment; the sentenced to imprisonment; the Communists were shot. The Com-munist must hold himself ready to the trace apart. "They treated us as the highest case treats the lowest—with aversion no more now than when czerba was at its hight. It is merely a different kind of tyranny that rules a toreign country. He must possess the country. Instead of having one autocrat, Russia has nine, and has no more to say about choosing them the the base to be communist would lay dow the to base to be communist to be communist would lay dow the to base to be communist would lay dow the to base to be communist would lay dow the to base to be communist would lay dow the to base to be communist would lay dow the to base to base to be communist would lay dow the to base to b than it had about choosing the Crar. The true Communist would be the true the true to plead for a 'united front.'

Soviets Have Little Power.

Fisher emphasises the fact from Mahomet. Mr. Fisher sug- were no fine shades of transition in the various Soviets which are gests that eventually the Communist it. One day they were adjuring us, elected have in reality no more authority than the old Douma. The sent nearly a quarter of the members Communist party is the master of are government officials, while some to be one with the 'labor fakira.' Russia. It numbers now 585,600 out thing less than half of them are They are anxious to become an inof a population of approximately workers. It is the frank sim of the tegral part of the organization which 140,000,000. The Communist party, formerly known as the Russian So- of factory workers at the expense Democratic party, was formed of the other social elements, because 898, and in 1903 had its memor- it has been found that workers make 1898, and in able split which divided it into the the easiest converts and the staunch-Majority or Bolshevik party, and the est Communists.

ority or Menshevik party. The latter has disappeared completely. n those years, and in fact until 1917 Communist party was unlawful and had to work underground. To be known as a member was to court death or exile to Siberia. Natur-

ally its membership was small, and at the time of the abortive rising in of thousands of steel workers in the policy between the organization 1905 numbered only 8,400. In 1917. hen it was able to seize the reins Company, who formerly were com-government in Russia, it had pelled to stand by their furnaces for in the rule of a minority necessarily grown to only 25,000. Since then it treased rapidly, and because the week, have been given an eight-morratic to the core, recognizes the hour day. This means that the fur-will of the majority as the only true membership in it is the only sure hour day. This means that the fur-road to political influence in Russia naces are operated continuously by basis of any social order, and repu-ti would be several times as numerous three shifts instead of two, and that diates with loathing the principles of isder means of improving the exist-ing agreement and to approach the ing agreement agreement and to approach the ing agreement agreement and to approach the ing agreement agreem Indeed to become a Communist in duction in the wages paid to each ed as a method of govern Russia is not easier than it is to live operative. It is stated officially that openly as a prosperous bourge siz. at the present time only two per cent

Russia's Nine Rulers.

Communist party is ruled in Political Bureau, composed of Lenin, hours, therefore, for American steel to 9,000 men who Trotzky, Stalin, Kanenev, Dzerzhin- workers are now 56 per week instead aries amount to \$5,700,000. ki, Rykov, Bucharin, Zinovieu and of 84.

Mr. Fisher says that when In Switzerland the hours establish- WHAT THE an important note from a foreign goportant note from a foreign go-ent is to be answered these steel producers have found it necescuss it and decide what is to sary in order to meet world-compe be said in reply. Yet this bereau is be said in reply. Yet this bereau is not a government body and Tomski, Bucharin and Zinoviev are not offi-cials of the government. Yet, has he says, the Russian Government is is so closely identified with the Com-munist party that to discover where is here to be taken on February 17 to determine whether or not the law is so closely identified with the Com-munist party that to discover where is here to be taken on February 17 to determine whether or not the law is so closely identified with the Com-munist party that to discover where is here to be taken on February 17 to determine whether or not the law is a closely identified with the Com-munist party that to discover where is here to be taken on February 17 to determine whether or not the law is a closely identified with the Com-munist party that to discover where is here to be taken on February 17 to determine whether or not the law is a closely identified with the Com-munist party that to discover where is here to be taken on February 17 to determine whether or not the law is a closely identified with the Com-munist party that to discover where is here the taken on February 17 to determine whether or not the law is a closely identified with the Com-that to discover where is the taken on February 17 to determine whether or not the law is a closely identified with the Com-that the taken on February 17 to determine whether or not the law is a closely identified with the Com-that the close of living is officially is a close of living is a close of li authority of one ends and the ot-ers to work 52 hours instead of 45 r begins amounts to little more splitting. Most responsi-German Revolutionists was an eightble positions in the government are held by Communists, and the writer steel makers and coal operators of the Ruhr, like those of Switzerland. us that Lenin and Trotsky are to set greater store upon have declared that they cannot com-

bling, bribe taking, drinking, engag- Australian Labor and ing in capitalistic enterprises. The Con munists, except for their bloodthirsty tendencies, are extreme mor

while it is admittedly dimcuit to the owners would have the effect ment? get a right understanding of affairs in Russia, practically every publica-it and put him through a pitless third much less appreciate," says the Aus-to make up the minimum wage. would have the effect ment? forth. to make out. On the Capital Levy there must be another election, and later, unless the n heing a partizan on one side or degree in which intimate, private af- tralian Worker in a leading editorial the other, it is equally to be admitted fairs such, for instance, as a man's on the tactics of revolutionists out-that such papers as the New York relations to women are not avoided. and inside the labor organizations subsequent audits, and tends to keep mum Wage Act of 1912, and so se Are Expected to be Models.

Are Expected to be Models. Unless a man is a highly trained expert or a Communist it is impossi-to to the the unitions. "A little while ago the necessity

vention ceased, the men were subject WHAT LABOR "They refused to have anything to to the agreement which ended the ample. Last winter the Moscow courts tried several officials for bribe days, as though they were endowed A severe slump A severe slump in prices and in

The Communists.

rates.

Profit Division.

trade operated, under the agreement, to bring wages tumbling down. Within a very short time many dis-"They treated us as the highest tricts were down almost to the mini-mum named in the agreement--viz.

20 per cent above standard ' rates. Those standard rates were those of 1915, and were practically pre-war figures. The Minera' Federation approached

the owners and the Government seek-ing help to soften the blow, but help "It wasn't convincely done. There was refused. party will become identical with a the next day they were wooing us. By March, 1922, 10 of the 23 areas

were actually on the minimum-which meant wages far below in value "They now desire above all thing those received before the war. The appalling condition in the inthey jeered at as a buttress of capital-

"The insincerity of it all is palpable. The repulsive features of hypocrisy leered at us. this was refused. "No one who has studied their li

terature and their public utterances tive reviewed the situation further. can doubt that with the communists and Mr. Hodges declared: of Australia obedience to bolshevik "So low are the wages and so bad

authority differs very little from the the situation in the mining industry, prostrations of superstitution. that, in my judgment, it can be said "Apart from a psychological es that the British famine has begun." trangement, which is very marked, there is a fundamental difference of The situation was again raised in Parliament in July, 1922, when the Home Secretary (Mr. Bridgman) re-

employ of the United States Steel workers and the communists. Company, who formerly were compeated the refusal of an inquiry and efused any financial help. Approach Owners twelve hours a day and seven days in imposed by force. The former is de At the annual conference of the iners' Federation on July 20, 1922,

> That decision forms the starting LUMBER INDUSTRY oint in the patient attempts to secur

Russia's Nine Rulers. ommunist party is ruled in the Committee of Nine or seven days in the week. The standard is which give annual employment revision of the agreement which have now ended, 17 months later, in dead-In October of last year the Miners se aggregate sal-

Executive met the owners, who re fused to consider the request for an advance in wages which would give rates equal in purchasing power to **MINERS ASKED** the pro-war rates.

Consequently an approach was Continued from page 1 again made to the Government. The Executive saw Mr. Bonar Law on De-Mr. Law refused action, and sug-

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[the demand which would have imme-] Waiting for Hearse. diately affected the present wage-A special delegate conference the miners later in December decided America.

to the deadlock of this week

lic Good.

tical correspondent).

Not only would such a

to await the assembly of Parliament.

It should be observed that any de- In June last the Labor Party ower could:

This labor paper shows that it is wages on the minimum when they cure a higher minimum for (1) Safeguard the tenants by estaminers The Bill was rejected Then, at the annual conference, July last, the Federation declared that (2) Start a national housing up a detailed scheme for the applicathe agreement must be revised, and

scheme through the local authorities negotiations have proceeded since up

MIGHT DO

speculators from erecting "rabbit-hutches" at rents fit only for man-Measures Designed for the Pub-

There is much to be said for the policy of Labor taking office if the interest. opportunity is given (writs a poli-

act as the primary authority, subject to the requirements laid down in the prove conclusively the bona-fides of bousing law. These requirements would include the abolition of slum the Party's persistent and consistent declarations regarding unemployment

but it would show the general body of electors that, despite difficulties and dangers, the Labor Movement is prepared to shoulder the burdens of Local Authorities of considerable expower in order to set the country on penditure. But still further measures the path to a solution of its problems. Moreover, apart altogether from taken by administrative or legislative Justry was brought before the these psychological results, Labor in of Commons in that month by power could by administrative mea-

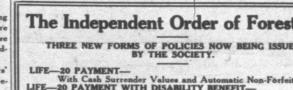
his was refused. In June, 1922, the Miners' Execu-Housing, Foreign Affairs. Let us take the last first and con sider what could be done without th

slightest possibility of the proposals leading to defeat in the Commons. Labour in power could: (1) Put the Russian situation to

rights once and for all by giving full order to relieve the parents financia and complete Recognition to that strain. country. The only opposition to this In order to find money for the

the Tory Party. (2) Call an International Confer-Army, Navy and Air Services, which be effected in expenditure on the

sailles Treaty. To that conference be ended, steps could be taken to



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More Reforms. But apart from that, Labor in (a) Take the necessary steps to prevent the building trusts from fleec-ing the public by charging exorbitant coffee, cocoa, and abolish the entertainments tax. (b) Prevent the private building (2) Make up the deficit thus caused by raising the super-tax and in-

(d) Leave the local authorities to

property and insanitary dwellings. The effect of such a scheme would

be to reduce unemployment and thereby relieve the Exchequer and the for meeting unemployment could be action. Labor in power could: (1) Extend and develop the Trade

the Labor Party. The Government was asked to set up an inquiry, but deal with three of the country's most home and foreign, which entail emhome and foreign, which ployment for the British Worker. (2) Set on foot National Schem

for the development of Roads, Water-ways, Land Declamation, and Affor-(3) Fix the leaving age from

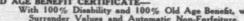
school of children at 16, and make provision for Maintenance Grants in

would come from a small section of enterprises drastic economies could

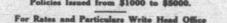
nce to deal with the problems of could be brought back to pre-wa Reparations, War Debts, and the Ver- costs, the Singapore escapade could



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not only the War Allies would be in- cure international agreement on the Wages Boards, give Credit Faciliti of vited, but also Germany, Russia and lines of the Washington Conference to farmers, offer a subsidy provide for the curtailment of armies, air there was stringent control France, knowing that practically forces, and underwater craft. Finally duction and prices.

tion of the principle.

ation of land values.

Tories.

against, except by a section of

Nor would this end the list of re-

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forms Labor in power could accom

plish. It would be possible for it:

alists and no member is supposed to drink or gamble. However, many of the do, according to Mr. Fisher. Examining commissions are likely at Education, Trade Boards, Factory In

Tuesday, January 15th, 1924.

there must be another election, and Age Pensions, and later, unless the ould have been taken. Turn to Housing and the possibili-before then an intensive campaign receipt from the Land Values Tax ties are even more bright. Labor in of education as to what the Levy is, to operate a scheme for who will be touched by it, how it will Pensions. work, and who are the people who

A Great Rec

(1) Safeguard the tenants by esta-blishing the principle that until there is a sufficiency of houses there shall be no evictions and no increase of rents. Work, and who are the people who have it in their power to make things difficult. And, in addition, Treasury experts could be sent to work to draw with its proposal for a Capital Levy War Debt, the natio o reduce the alization of Mines, Railways, Elec-trical Power, Land Reform, Fuller and Better Education, and its Gener

power could: / Social Programme. (1) Reduce the taxes on tea, sugar. The work sketched out above is of a character that no party dare oppose and hope to live, It is admittedly necessary, admitedly beneficial, ad mittedly useful, and the party, creasing the death duties on the un- parties that attempted to obstruct a

derstanding that, with the passing would receive short shrifts from (c) Secure the local authorities by of the legislation needed to imple-ans at the lowest possible rate of ment the Capital Levy, these taxes appealed to it. electors when the Labor Govern would be removed.

Labor has nothing to lose by be-(3) Include a proposal for the taxcoming the Governments, and r to gain Such a budget would not be fought

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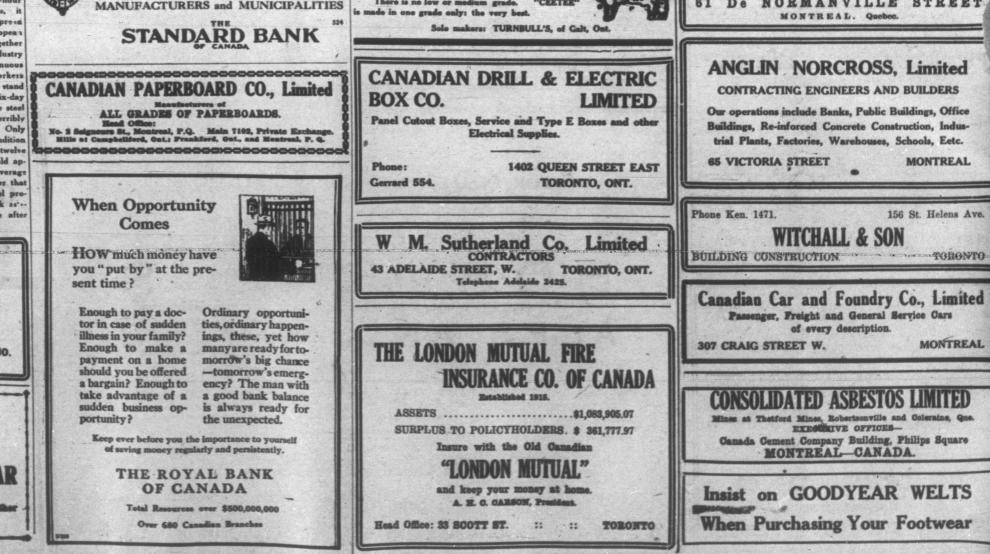


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