

ITEMS OF NEWS FROM ALL PARTS

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN HISTORY.

March 9-12, 1917—Second Russian Revolution.
 March 14, 1883—Marx died.
 March 18, 1871—Paris Commune proclaimed.
 March 24, 1834—Wm. Morris born.
 March 29, 1826—Wm. Liebknecht born.
 March 30, 1898—Eleanor Marx committed suicide.
 March 31, 1908—Socialists overthrew Ministry in Finland.

FINNISH SOCIALISTS CONGRATULATIONS.

The Canadian Finnish Socialists are deeply interested in the events transpiring in their native country, and as a practical demonstration of their sympathy, have collected \$3,000 to be sent to Finland to aid their fellow-workers in their struggles for emancipation. The following cable has been sent to Matti Turkia at Helsingfors:

"With deep interest we have followed your vigorous fight. Hoping for your final victory. We will do our part.

"J. W. Ahlquist,
 "Secretary Finnish Section S.D.P. of Canada."

AMERICAN SOCIALISTS INDICTED.

On Saturday, March 9th, the papers announced the indictment by Federal Grand Jury of five prominent members of the Socialist Party. Those indicted are: Victor L. Berger, Socialist candidate for United States Senator for Wisconsin at a special election to be held April 2; Adolph Germer, National Executive Secretary of the Socialist Party; John Louis Engdahl, editor of the Eye Opener; Wm. F. Kruse, National Secretary of the Young People's Socialist League, and Irwin St. John Tucker, author and lecturer.

These men are charged with having violated Section 3 of title 1 of the Espionage Law by conspiring to obstruct the recruiting of military forces of the United States and by endeavoring to cause insubordination in the said military forces by means of speeches and the publication and circulation of certain papers and leaflets.

BRITAIN REFUSES TO QUIT.

The Persian Government has made representations to Petrograd, London, Constantinople and Berlin for the removal of foreign troops from Persia. Each Government except the British have given an undertaking to withdraw the troops.—Labor Leader, England.

EMPIRE BUILDERS.

In studying the lives of the so-called empire builders, it will be found that, with few exceptions, the matter of empire building was but a by-product of the business of building a fortune for themselves. In keeping with the times this by-product is not allowed to go to waste. One of its chief uses is in the educating of the young, where it serves as a means of instilling a false patriotism in the plastic mind. The moral is pointed out to them that "in this free, glorious and democratic country" they, too, have the chance to rise to similar heights of fame. To this they might well make the same reply as the negro who, told he had an equal opportunity to be president of the United States, said he would sell his chance for ten cents.

A SIGN OF THE TIMES.

Mr. Ponsonby, M.P., has ceased to be Liberal member for Stirling Burghs. A resolution was passed at a crowded and enthusiastic meeting, at which several prominent I.L.P. members were present, re-adopting him as an Independent Democrat.

THE CAPITALISTS' NEW EXECUTIVE.

The press gives us the following particulars as to the personnel of the new Federal Parliament which has just convened at Ottawa:

One-third of the members of the new House of Commons give their professions as lawyers. Of the remainder one-sixth are farmers, one-tenth, each, physicians, merchants and manufacturers, and one-fourteenth brokers and agents. The occupations, according to figures compiled by W. F. O'Connor, general returning officer, are: Barristers, 73; notaries, 4; conveyancer, 1; physicians, 23; veterinarians, 2; dentists, 1; farmers, 39; rancher, 1; publishers and journalists, 11; educationists, 2; manufacturers, 23; lumber operators, 7; contractors, 2; merchants, 22; brokers and agents, 17; plumber, 1; railway conductor, 1; land surveyor, 1; military officers, 4.

Thus is Canada made safe for plutocracy. Keir Hardie once made the comment at the opening of a British House of Commons "Now begins the farce of rich men making laws for poor men." When we consider that the poor men themselves elect the rich men it might well be described as a howling farce.

THE JOBLESS MAN AND HIS VOTE.

Many returned-soldiers cannot get a job and the government they helped to put in is doing little to help. This state of matters is of course nothing new. Periods of unemployment have come and gone, yet they have not turned the sufferers from voting capitalist governments into power. Thomas Carlyle has said "A man willing to work and unable to find work is, perhaps, the saddest sight that fortunes' inequality exhibits under the sun." It would be interesting to know that philosophic Thomas' comment had he seen the same jobless man go into the polling booth and vote for more of it. Probably it was while ruminating over such like vagaries of the Henry Dubbs of his day that he uttered that famous saying: "There are thirty million people in these islands—mostly fools."

William J. Bryan has been howled down and jeered by the Canadians. Isn't there any spot on earth where he might be elected?—New York Call.

PARTY ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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.

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 Ads. in the Directory for the sum of \$3.00 per year.

On the Stump-and After

(By Organizer Stirling.)

At a little town called Success in Saskatchewan, I had a very good meeting. One of the comrades decided to arrange to hold the meeting in the hotel as there was always a crowd around the hotel who might be too lazy to walk up to the school-house. It was a capital idea. The hall in the hotel was packed, and we had a very interesting time, caused largely by one or two interrupters who thought to put me right on my economics. The meeting lasted till eleven o'clock, and about half-past twelve after I had gone to bed I heard a bunch of the leading citizens still arguing away down below about some of the strange doctrines which I had been propounding.

I was talking about the distribution of wealth, and in my introductory remarks happened to emphasize the point that money was not wealth, but was merely a convenient means of exchanging wealth.

"How silly," remarked one of the audience, who was seated in the front row. "Don't we know that when a man has a lot of money he is wealthy?"

"Yes," I replied, "we say he is wealthy because the money gives him the power to get hold of a lot of things which are real wealth, such as houses, motor cars, clothes, food, etc., but it is these latter articles which compose his wealth, and not his money."

"You're talking foolish," said my interrupter, "everybody knows that the money is wealth."

"Very well," I said, "let us suppose that money is wealth. In the course of history all kinds of things have been used as money, such as leather, shells, salt, hides, wood, minerals, paper, etc. For hundreds of years wooden money was used in England. It was introduced by Henry I. in the year 1100, and was not abolished until 1783, and in 1830 great heaps of these wooden tallies which had accumulated in the Houses of Parliament were destroyed."

"Now, was the total wealth of England increased when Henry made his wooden tallies, or was it decreased when thousands of them were destroyed?"

"Would the total wealth of Canada be increased if the government printed a few hundred million, dollar bills? If so, that would be an easy way to increase the wealth of the country. Everybody who knows anything at all about it knows that it would only cause confusion if the

government were to adopt such a plan.

"The wealth of Canada consists of food, clothing, houses, implements, motor cars, railways, mines, factories, etc., etc., and money is only used to enable us to get what we require of these things."

My interrupter here chipped in again, and said, "I didn't say that money was wealth."

"You certainly did," I replied.

"No," he answered, "what I said was that when a man has a lot of it we say he is wealthy."

"Now look here, friend," I said, "to get on with this argument we must fix you one way or another. I don't care which you say, but you must keep to it. Now do I understand you to say that money is not wealth?"

"No," he replied, "money is wealth." At this the audience could stand it no longer, and burst into uproarious laughter. I do not know how much money the interrupter had in the bank, but I would like to bet that he stopped a few times on the way home from the meeting and said to himself, "Now look here, am I wealthy or aren't I? Yes! No! Perhaps! Aw, what's the use!"

In spite of the fact that it is about 140 years since Adam Smith knocked the bottom out of the foolish notion that money was wealth, most people to-day talk as though money was THE THING, whereas it is only the means of getting THE THING.

This notion underlies the false idea that it is a sign of prosperity when a country exports more wealth than it imports. As though a nation could get wealthy by what it gave away. All the advantage of foreign trade which has been pointed out by Mill and other economists lies in the IMPORTS and NOT IN THE EXPORTS.

The idea that is common to-day is that if we export more than we import, then we import also a lot of money, and the money is looked upon as wealth.

But if we export twice what we import and that is considered a good thing, it must be a far better thing to export ten times what we import. It will be an infinitely better thing if we export 100 times what we import. And we shall reach the very pinnacle of prosperity when we export all the wealth that we produce and import nothing—nothing but money. The absurdity of the supposition is at once apparent.

If people knew what money was they would not go to war, and if they could realize what war means they would keep their money.

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