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# THE SOVIET

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Devoted to the Interests of the Working Class

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## ALLIANCE OF THE SOVIET REPUBLICS

Budapest, June 4th.—The Hungarian Correspondence Bureau's office at Moscow forwards the following wireless:

On June 1st, a solemn session of the Central Executive Committee of Soviet Russia took place in the evening, attended by representatives of the Soviet Republics of Ukraine, Lettonia, Lithuania, and White Russia. In accordance with the recently passed resolution of the Ukrainian Central Executive Committee, the Central Executive Committee expressed its opinion in favor of close alliance of the various Soviet republics. The Secretary of the Presidium, Kameneff, declared in opposition to the rumors spread by the enemies who falsely represent Soviet Russia as animated by a desire for conquests from neighboring nations, that Soviet Russia on the contrary stands firmly on the basis of a self-determination of nations and of independence for the neighboring Soviet republics. But just in order to secure precisely this mutual support, and the defence and liberty of the working masses of the Soviet republics against the White Guard bands maintained by the Entente, the Soviet Republics considered a close alliance between them to be necessary, so that their working masses may defend themselves with their united forces against foreign invaders and White Guards.

After Kameneff, Rakovski, President of the Ukrainian Soviet Government, delivered a speech to the same effect.

A resolution was passed in which the policy of conquest and of a general counter-revolution on the part of international imperialism was denounced, and in which it was declared that a military alliance of the Soviet Republics of Russia, Ukraine, Lettonia, Lithuania, White Russia and Crimea was necessary in order to defend the workers and peasants of these republics against the attempts to subject them to the yoke of serfdom. Furthermore, the Central Executive Committee of Russia deems it necessary to unite under a single control the military organization of the various Soviet Republics, and the administration of their railroads, finances, economic councils, and labor commissariats. This is to be attained by a union of the central executive committees and the central economic councils of all the republics in question. With this object in view, the Central Executive Committee is to elect a special commission which is to enter into negotiations with the central executive committees of the various Soviet Republics, and the carrying out of these principles.

## Returned Men and The Labor Question

Being the second of a Series of Leaflets on Working-Class Problems from the Standpoint of ex-Servicemen's Real Interests. Issued by Vancouver Local No. 1 of the ex-Soldiers' and Sailors' Labor Council of Canada.

BULLETIN NO. 2

Comrade:

Returned men are very much in the public eye just at present, and the words, "Returned Soldier" are very much in the mouths of a certain section of the public. The "sympathy" of the returned soldier seems quite suddenly to have become something worth possessing.

Many of us have already discovered that those who have our name most frequently on their lips have but little regard for us in their hearts. Perhaps you too have discovered that. If you have been doing any thinking on your own account there is no doubt but what you have.

In the army, as you well know, the individual is by no means encouraged to think for himself. The less he thinks and the more readily and unquestionably he obeys orders the better soldier he makes. "Their's not to reason why. Their's but to do—or die" describes his condition excellently.

It does not take a great deal of life under these conditions to subtly

undermine a man's natural independence of thought. Without knowing it he becomes more or less "off his guard" and is what a hypnotist would describe as "responsive to suggestion."

There is a certain class in society—that class from which most of your officers were drawn—which is very well aware of this fact and is endeavoring to make use of that knowledge to use you to serve its own ends.

You will have noticed, of course, how ever since you were returned and more particularly just at the present juncture, all kinds of influences have been brought to bear in a subtle endeavor to mould your opinions, to settle your viewpoint, and direct your efforts into certain channels.

Statements in the daily press, periodicals published by certain returned soldier organizations, lectures and discussions held under the auspices of those organizations, all are designed to keep the ex-soldier in that state of mental subjection to which army discipline has reduced him.

Now, we are not making any bid for your "sympathy." We do not ask you for anything. We just want to take this opportunity to remind you that, once you have your discharge in your pocket and a civilian coat on your back, you are FREE—at least insofar as your thoughts and opinions are concerned. You once again have the right to think for yourself. And we ask you to exercise that right—to disregard the baneful influences which are being brought to bear upon you—and give your calm, critical and unbiassed attention to the social and industrial problems which confront you.

If you will do this we have no doubt as to where your sympathies will lie. For we know that you will decide, as we have decided, that, as wage-workers, our interests are identical with the interests of the working class and opposed to those who exploit and oppress that class. You will realize, as we have realized, that those who would "use" you now to advance their own selfish ends would cast you aside like a worn-out glove as soon as those ends were accomplished.

The problems with which society is confronted are now more acute than ever before. Practically nothing so far has been done for the returned man and there is little prospect of anything being done until he recognizes just where his real interests lie and lines up with the rest of the members of his class.

The powers that be have recognized long since that once out of uniform, the returned soldier or sailor is just exactly what he was before he enlisted—a wage worker and nothing more—and, as such, he must take "pot luck" with the rest of the working class. It is very plain to be seen what sort of luck that will be if we allow ourselves to be divided and pitted against each other for the benefit of the exploiter and profiteer.

Our only hope is to recognize just where our real interests lie and line up shoulder to shoulder to enforce recognition of those things which are ours by right. We must realize that there is a stronger bond even than that bond of sympathy and comradeship which draws us together as ex-soldiers and sailors, and that is the bond of vital, material interest which unites us all, irrespective of trade or profession, as members of that class in society which is compelled to work for its living.

It makes no difference whether you earn your living with a pick or shovel or with a pen. Those distinctions between the different trades which existed prior to the war are being rapidly swept away under stress of the enormous economic pressure which is developing. Perhaps you have not yet actually got back into harness. Perhaps you are taking a brief holiday with the gratuity which a benevolent government allows you. This gratuity, however, cannot last long. Very soon you will be compelled to look for work. And your attitude in the present crisis will do much to determine whether there will be any work for you and what the hours and pay will be. It will help to decide whether you will have to make the best of a bad bargain as a lone individual or whether the representatives of a powerful working-class organization will be able to demand for you the wages and conditions of labor which you have a right to expect—but which will never be given you voluntarily.

The problems which confront you as a wage-worker are identical with those which confront every other member of the working class. And the workers themselves must solve those problems. No other class in society is able or likely to solve them in a manner satisfactory to the workers.

These matters demand your instant and serious consideration. What are you going to do about it?