



FRANCE.

A Trade Union Congress Resolution.

The Congress of the French Trade Unions has adopted a resolution demanding the admission of representatives of the working classes to the preliminary peace conference; also the establishment of a Society of Nations.

The League of Nations: All Not Allied.

The Union of Postal and Telegraph Workers on June 6 passed a resolution demanding the extension to its members of the "family bonus" which is paid, in many other branches of labor, to employees with dependents also demanding an additional bonus of two francs per day in view of the increased cost of living.

Demands for Peace.

The demands for a clear statement of Allied terms of peace continue to appear in most of the French papers, capitalist as well as Socialist. There is almost complete agreement that any new German offer of peace must not be bluntly rejected. Robert Dell's striking articles in the **Manchester Guardian** and in last week's **Herald** has shown the strength of the movement for peace in France among the workers; a movement that the members of the French Chamber of Deputies have now begun to appreciate.

RUSSIA.

It is stated that an armistice has been agreed upon between Russia and the Ukraine, but it does not appear what significance this has. On the other hand, the peasants in the Ukraine are still vigorously resisting the Skoropadsky authorities, and it is generally recognised in Germany and Austria that the Ukraine will bring very little relief to the food situation in those countries.

Famine.

The counter-revolutionary movements are being successful in adding to the miseries of the Russian population and in Petrograd the plight of the inhabitants is desperate. The Bolshevik Government is doing all it can to relieve the situation, but the main lines of supply from Siberia and the south-east have been cut by the reactionary forces. Fortunately we learn that President Wilson is really making good his word to help Russia: several hundreds of American specialists have arrived in Russia to take part in a special conference to facilitate transport and to re-organise the whole Russian railways. "This material testimony to the truth of President Wilson's professions of loyalty to Russia absolutely disproves the statements carefully circulated by the Allied jingo press that the Allies intend to oppose the Bolsheviks with armed force: as the **Nation** observes, one does not send help to the enemy just before making

The Plight of Finland.

Reaction of the blackest type would seem to be following the "White Guards" of Finland. Press and even letter censorship of the worst description prevails: all freedom of meeting and association has been suppressed. A threat has gone out that all Socialists are to be banished — and that when more than half the adult population voted Socialist at the last general election. All the property of workmen's associations of every description, Trade Union and Co-operative, is to be sequestered, and even the municipal properties where those municipalities have shown themselves "sympathetic with rebellion." Special courts for the trial of "offenders" are to be set up. There are 80,000 of them. Only the suppression of the French Commune can show any parallel to what is going forward in free Finland to-day.

Italy and the Steel Trust.

The danger of the Money Trust, another form to-day all over the world apparently of the Iron Hand or Mailed fist of the Steel Trust and so of the Armaments' Rings, is being clearly recognised in Italy.

According to "A Deputy" writing in the **Giornale d'Italia**, the country has to face the possibility that . . .

... certain manufacturing interests, i.e., the steel magnates may obtain a mastery over the private banks, wherein the national wealth is concentrated, and so place the smaller industries and other commercial interests at their mercy; while they also, by holding the Press in their hands and by placing themselves in a privileged and commanding position, may dispose of an unshakable influence over Parliament and the Government.

We advise our readers to cut out that sentence and paste it in their note books. It is a succinct statement of the form which Twentieth Century Slave Holding is gradually taking all over the world.

Christian Pacifists in Germany.

In November of last year, German Protestants were called upon to celebrate the anniversary of the Reformation, and a little later, to judge by a report in the **Neue Wege** for February, a number of Berlin and Hanoverian clergy issued the following proclamation, which was endorsed by many hundreds of influential men in other parts of Germany. We are glad to hear that it has been laid before the National Council of Evangelical Free Churches in this country and hope that they may soon issue a worthy response. Only very slowly, and mainly by the help of International Socialists and Pacifists are any signs of good in Germany allowed to reach this country, whereas three telegraph agencies and

the whole war press of the Allies is at work to spread knowledge of the evil that is there and to exaggerate even that.

We German Protestants' conscious of the Christian principles and aims, heartily stretch out a brotherly hand to all co-religionists, including those of enemy countries.

We recognise as the deepest causes of the war the anti-Christian Powers dominating the lives of the peoples, e. g., suspicion, idolatry of force and covetousness; therefore a peace based on mutual understanding and reconciliation is in our opinion the peace that must be brought about.

We believe that the chief obstacle to an honest agreement among nations is the pernicious rule of lies and phrases, through which truth is silenced or distorted, only spreading delusion and folly, and we call on all in every country who wish for peace to stand up and resolutely combat this obstacle.

Faced by this terrible war we feel it to be a conscientious duty to strive henceforth in the name of Christianity with all determination to eradicate war from the world as a means of setting differences among nations.

Above the country stands, embracing all nations, the Kingdom of God, whose gospel says: Justice, Peace, Love. For this it is the elemental duty of our service to stand against the greed of gold and sham culture which have had their share in the the making of this war. We are happy to notice similar Christian and moral demands in neutral and enemy countries, and are confident that this new, though eternally old Spirit of the Kingdom of God, will break its way through every barrier, thus bringing the various peoples a future of justice and happiness.

AUSTRIA.

There is still another political crisis in Austria. On the eve of the re-assembly of the Reichsrath Count Toggenburg, the Minister of the Interior, who would seem to have some honest beliefs in Parliamentary government, has resigned. Every "nationalist" movement in the Austrian Empire is at fever heat, and all of them are definitely hostile to Prussian dominance and its aggressive designs in Eastern Europe, though they have no will to play into the hands of Italian or Russian, or indeed any Allied Imperialism either.

Various rumours of far-reaching revolutionary movements in Austria-Hungary are being circulated by the Allied agencies. It is impossible to gauge the truth of the statements, but there is little doubt that the workers are in extreme want owing to the shortage of food, which has been hardly affected at all by the small quantities of provisions which have been so far obtained from the Ukraine. Popular discontent will not be less in consequence of the offensive against Italy: for months the popular cry has been that Austria might have peace were it not for Germany's aggressive designs of the Allies.

Austrian Women and Peace.

From Geneva significant telegrams have come quoting from a long memorandum issued by the Austrian Women's Democratic League, which

would seem to follow the splendid lead of the Women's International, whose resolutions passed at the Hague on the basis of permanent peace in the first year of the war have never been surpassed even by the International Socialists with whom indeed they were in practical agreement in all fundamentals. The Austrian women's demands are (1) The immediate opening of peace negotiations in a neutral country; (2) the democratisation of the Austrian Constitution; (3) sympathetic consideration of the claims advanced by various lesser nationalities in Austria-Hungary.

"An early peace," the document says, "can alone avert the collapse of our beloved country."

Labor Leader, England

NEWS FROM THE PACIFIC VANCOUVER, B.C.

Ye Cannot Serve God and Mammon

By W. J. Curry.

There never was a time in human history when correct analysis and constructive criticism were so essential as now.

There are evidences on all sides that what we term civilization is soon to go into the melting pot, and pass through the furnace of economic and political strife and convulsions. What the resultant of these conflicting forces will be none can tell but one thing is sure, the world will never be the same again, in spite of that ostrich-like optimism displayed by the public press.

Unfortunately for our race, the more reactionary and bestial types of men still dominate human society. The law of the jungle still prevails; not social righteousness, but the longest fangs and sharpest claws, the deadliest poison, are still the ambition of nations. We still hear the cry of the human wolf-pack "Not this man Jesus, but Barabbas, the robber".

Some of the blind guides who pose as our spiritual lights can see no further than the slaughter of the "mad dogs" of Germany and the Christianity represented by reeking bayonets and the roar of cannon, an Imperialistic victory which will surely mean a military despotism and the basis of a still more horrible war.

But it is not entirely dark. There are rays of light coming even from the conventional Church and it seems that a cleavage in official Christianity is not far distant.

Last Monday's papers reported a most unusual sermon delivered in one of our west end Churches, and I can but congratulate the man who was brave enough to defy the money changers who control the temple and who had the courage to speak in the interest of the toiler of democracy.

Out of the hundreds of men claiming to represent the Prince of Peace and human progress, this gentleman is, as far as we know, the third in Canada who sees beyond this bloody scramble for territory in the name of culture or democracy and who has a social vision in line with true Christianity and real progress. The balance stay with the flesh pots of plutocracy, either because of their ignorance or because they lack the moral courage to brave the fiery furnace and the lions den.

Two of the three have already been economically scourged by the Chief Priests and financial pillars of

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