

## CLIP AND COMMENT

### The Capitalist Newspapers Read Through Social-Democratic Spectacles

#### HE CALLS THEM TRAITORS.

#### Hot Criticism of Opponents of National Service by Manitoba Premier.

Winnipeg, Man., Jan. 15.—“Agitators against National Service should be called traitors; they are unworthy of the name of men, and should not be at liberty,” stated Premier T. C. Norris, speaking before the Great War Veterans' Association.

“These men who pass opinions against the better judgment of the leading men of the ten allied armies would pass into oblivion as slackers of the first water.

“Men at the head of such organizations as are leading the movement against the Government have no right to liberty, and in the near future will be surprised at their smallness.”

In separating the grain from the chaff we conclude that the Premier of Manitoba never heard the Marxian slogan: “Workers of the world, unite; you have nothing to lose but chains, and a world to gain.” From our viewpoint a man cannot be a traitor to a country in which he owns nothing, and whose laws do not protect him. The oft-repeated better judgment of leading men is indicative of the Premier's class-bias, and his inner hatred of true democracy; not the one for which Europe has become a sea of blood. We are not asking for liberty on any moral ground. We demand it by our right, to take such liberty as is suited to our use irrespective of the foolish ranting of the misrepresentatives of the people. Why not suggest that the practice adopted by the British military administration in India at the time of the mutiny be put into force, and apply the same penalty to the opponents of registration as to the Sepoys. This would suit some Premiers and supporters of Prussianism in Canada.

#### A PATRIOTIC HEN.

#### Sold at \$30 a Dozen—Hamilton Fund Grows Fast.

Hamilton, Jan. 19.—The Patriotic Fund has reached \$450,000, and \$650,000 will probably be the total.

During the luncheon twelve dozen eggs were delivered, with some verses by a Canadian hen, stating that she was unable to go herself, but felt she ought to do her bit. These were auctioned off by Robert Hobson in dozens, and realized \$291, some dozen lots bringing the fabulous price, even in these times of high prices, of \$30.

We have heard much recently of how the allied armies in the field have been adversely affected by the interposition of Providence—or bad weather; and the above news will be joyfully received as an indication that the glad eye of the All-seeing is now beaming on us. It may, however, occasion some surprise to our brain specialists to know that hens are affected by the psychological condition of patriotism. Wonders never cease; we can now confidently look forward to other feminine broods disgorging the golden eggs of “ill-gotten gain.”

Here is a very interesting press despatch clipped from the daily press on munitions:—

#### ENGLISH FIRM WILL MAKE U. S. NAVY SHELLS.

Washington, D.C., Jan. 17.—Contracts for armor-piercing navy projectiles of the 14 and 16-inch type, totalling \$3,141,000, to-day were awarded by Secre-

tary Daniels to the Hadfields, Limited, the English munition company.

This explains the howl that is going up in the United States in regard to what one writer says, viz.: “European war lords corner America's food supply, while capitalist newspapers keep people's minds on trivial subjects; bread-stuffs leave the country in increasing volume, enriching the exploiters and threatening the workers with famine. Their slogan is: ‘Starve America and Feed the War.’”

#### KEEP BAILIFFS OUT OF SOLDIERS' HOMES.

Toronto, Jan. 12.—At a meeting of the Board of Control to-day Mayor Church moved a resolution, “that the City Treasurer be instructed not to place any bailiffs in charge in future to collect from soldiers who are overseas, or who are in arrears for taxes.” It was decided to get a report from the Finance Commissioner for tomorrow's meeting of the Board.

Mayor Church should be complimented for the attitude he took upon this question, but he, like others, is but a creature of environment; probably he had read of some notorious Scottish bailiff being met at the entrance to a Scotchman's castle, “I beg pardon”—a tenement, by a Highlander in full civilizing accoutrement. The bailiff explained his mission of distraint, to which Sandy replied, “I have been to Flanders and have fought for my country”—(fixing bayonets)—“and I will be well, fight to defend my home.” Mayor Church has got the war psychology down fine. I venture to suggest that he will be a different Church when the need for soldiers has been dissipated.

Wasn't the National Service Commission idea a scheme hatched in Montreal with the aid of Baron Von Shaughnessy to secure workers for the Canadian Manufacturers' Association?—Jack Canuck.

Whatever value may be placed upon this as a reason for the registration proposals, we are not disposed to accept it in its entirety, but at the same time admitting, as stated in one of the Telegram's editorials, “that whichever party is in power the jockey of the manufacturers' association plies the whip.—Ed.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF RETURNED SOLDIERS.

Our attention has been drawn to a discharged soldier's letter appearing in the Toronto Star, which we append for the consideration of our readers:—

#### WORK IN MUNITION FACTORIES.

Editor of the Star: As a reader of the Toronto Daily Star, I saw in your Wednesday night's paper about a man trying to get work in a munition plant. Anyway, I agree with him, as he is right in what he says. I myself have tried. I am an honorably discharged soldier from the 180th Sportsmen's Battalion. After serving six months with same I was pronounced medically unfit for overseas. Since I have tried four weeks to get a job in these munition plants, but met with no success, as every place I went to was filled up. The answer was, “Leave your name, or call again.” Most of the factories I went to had a good percentage of foreign labor, and not only foreign labor, but aliens. One firm has even Chinese and foreign labor, which looks like aliens

to me, if I am any judge of faces. I went there for a job, and saw for myself. It's time somebody looked into this matter, as there are hundreds of Canadians and British-born subjects in this city out of work and medically unfit for active service, but could be of value making or working at munitions. I myself am a Canadian-born British subject, married man with a family, and find it a hard struggle to get along in this city now on account of the foreigners and alien labor which is employed. Why should not the Canadian and British-born get these jobs in preference to these foreigners?

#### CANADIAN BRITISH SUBJECT.

This should help some of our erstwhile enemies to appreciate the value placed upon heroism as an asset for future job-getting purposes. We venture to reiterate our statement made a few weeks ago, that the only consideration our returned soldiers will receive at the hands of our employing aristocracy will depend upon the amount of profit that can be wrung from that portion of his being not rotting upon some battlefield.

## THE CASE AGAINST CONSCRIPTION

By J. McArthur Conner.

A great campaign is being waged in this country by a number of prominent militarists in an attempt to stampede the people and the Government to adopt conscription. Among the leaders of this movement is Magistrate Kingsford, who is very anxious that the present “Militia Act” be now put into force. This Act exempts judges as well as clergymen from being called upon for service, thus giving them every encouragement in their advocacy knowing that they themselves will be safe and that the conscripts will be men drawn from the ranks of the working class. The sympathy of the “Local Council of Women's” leaders, such as Mrs. A. M. Huestis and Miss Constance Bolton, has been sought in order to destroy the trend towards democracy in this great Dominion of Canada. “Conscript the men,” they cry, but when you ask what about conscripting the wealth, they either profess ignorance or tell you that conscripting of wealth is a matter that can be left till after the war. In order to offset their campaign, I propose to give some facts about the first British colony to adopt conscription.

In Australia they have conscription for Australian defence only, and recently an attempt was made to add a clause which would make it lawful to conscript the men for the battlefields of Europe. A referendum of the people was taken and defeated, the soldiers in the trenches voting seven to one against it. The conscription law in Australia has caused a great deal of dissatisfaction, a well known Labor journalist, writing from Australia, says: “In the matter of Australian defence, as a labor journalist, I took some part, but to-day I see there are grave dangers in the system. This was brought home to me in connection with a recent strike in Brisbane City, in the State of Queensland, in which the conservative parliamentarians asked that the newly-formed Australia militia be called out to break the strike.”

Under the Australian system a junior cadet service is conducted in the schools. It commences when the boys are twelve years of age and lasts for two years, when they go under the compulsory military system. It consists of 90 hours' drill every year, or half an hour per week. No registration is then made, but when the cadet goes into the compulsory military system he has then to show that he has done his two years in school. This training is aimed at improving the physique. It

consists of physical training and elementary marching drill. Following are the subjects taught: Miniature rifle shooting, swimming, running exercises, organized games, ambulance work and first aid, and in the naval marine compass and signalling work. The school cadets do not wear uniforms, neither are they organized in bodies. The Government maintains a special staff of instructors for physical exercises—who teach the school teachers (these are experts), and the teachers are examined as to proficiency before they are allowed to teach the scholars. There are also physical exercises for girls, but as this has nothing to do with after military work, it is a matter purely of education. Special schools of instruction are arranged for the teachers, usually during vacation period—the course including physical training, drill, shooting, swimming, first aid, etc., and the women school teachers also get special training so that they in turn may teach the girls.

From 14 to 18 years the boys are ranked as “Senior Cadets” and made do 12 half-day drills and 24 night drills in the year. From 18 to 25 years they become members of the citizens forces and are required to drill 16 whole days in the year, eight of which has to be done in camps of continuous training, which had also to be followed by muster parade for six years.

The boys are made to bear the financial loss which their training involves by a clause inserted in the Act exempting employers from liability to pay apprentices wages for the time they lost at drill. It was this fact which impelled a clever writer in the northern Australian coal fields (Dandelion) to declare that Hughes and Pearce were turning the Union Jack into a non-Union Jack.

The Act gives military officers powers to inflict fines on the boys without trial and provides six months hard labor for the boy who refused to take the military oath and one year's hard labor for parents and others who refused to inform on lads who refused military service. There is also a clause which makes it possible to sentence lads to death if they should refuse to fire on workers during a strike, and provision is also made for blacklisting and boycotting boys out of public employment for their conscientious objection to military service.

Since January 1, 1911, when the Compulsory Training Act was proclaimed, a flood of police prosecutions has ensued. In all 20,000 lads, who had never been before a court previously, had been dragged into the reeking atmosphere of the police courts and herded with professional criminals. Heavy fines were inflicted and boys were cast into gaol and treated not differently from burglars and pickpockets until public opinion literally shrieked its protest. Mr. Harry Holland (now editor of the “Maoriland Worker”) broke down in May of 1911 and lay for five months in the coast hospital, from which he was not long discharged when—still on crutches—he was prosecuted and fined under the Act £100 (\$500), with the option of three months' hard labor.

Let me give you some of the cases that have been discussed in the Commonwealth Parliament.

1. Mr. Higgs asked the Prime Minister if he would request the Minister of Defence to cause inquiry to be made into the case of a boy named Walter Kreyger, who, at the Northcote Police Court, gave it as his objection to compulsory drill that the teaching of the Bible was against it. He was sentenced to twenty-eight days' detention and has written to his mother in these terms:—

“We had to drill till half-past seven this morning, and they all formed up and started off. I fell out with Harry Flintoff, and the officer came up and

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