

THE INTERNATIONAL

THE CALL (England)

G. TCHITCHERINE INTERNED.

Our comrade George Tchitcherine has been interned by the British Government.

The Committee of Delegates of the Russian Socialist Groups in London sends us the following resolution:

"We, the Committee of Delegates of the Russian Socialist Groups in London, enter our most emphatic protest against the internment of our secretary, G. Tchitcherine, and see in it one more act undertaken by the British Government against Internationalism in this country. In their usual manner the British Government deemed it necessary to cloak this brutal act, and give as their reasons for internment alleged German and pro-German associations and anti-Ally sentiments on the part of our comrade. The Government are well aware that these imputations are groundless, because they know full well that G. Tchitcherine, as secretary of our committee, has taken his stand upon the International solidarity of Labor, as opposed to Imperialism and Militarism, whether it be German, British, French or Russian.

"We further declare that this act of the British Government is on par with the acts of the German Government, who are arresting International Socialists in Germany for alleged pro-Entente sentiments. We trust that the British working classes and British democracy in general will, together with us, demand the release of our comrade G. Tchitcherine."

STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE.

In connection with the decision of the Labor Party to take part in a consultative conference at Stockholm it is interesting to note that the German Social Democratic Party and the Trade Unions on July 20th sent a joint letter to the Russian delegates regarding the Stockholm Conference. They express themselves completely in accord with the holding of an International Conference, and then proceed:

"The German Social-Democracy has fought strongly against the annexationists in Germany since the beginning of the war, and is of the opinion that those governments which, after the General Socialist Conference, still do not clearly and ambiguously make known their war aims, or in making known their views, show that they are out for conquests or for violent financial oppression, must be fought in the most decided manner. The German Social-Democracy is ready to recognize and carry out decisions of the Conference based on these principles, providing that these decisions are accepted by all parties, and that all the Socialist parties of the belligerent countries taking part in the Conference pledge themselves to carry out these resolutions by every means in their power.

"The German Social-Democracy wishes the efforts of the Russian comrades every success, and hopes that it will be possible to come to an understanding at Stockholm for all the Socialist parties to work together."

The letter is signed by Ebert (for Executive German S.D.P.), Muller (for the delegates of the German S.D.P.) and Legien (for the General Commission of the German Trade Unions).

A telegram from Zurich, August 6th, has announced that the German minority delegates, Ledebour and Dittmann, have now been at Stockholm for some days, and have conferred with Huysmans.

THE ITALIAN PARTY.

The recent Conference of the Executive of the Italian Party and the Parliamentary group showed considerable difference of opinion within

the Italian Socialist Party.

Although on the whole the attitude of the Parliamentary group was approved, Turati was sharply criticized for his statement that it might be necessary to support a bourgeois Minister who might be ready to conclude a speedy peace. Serrati, the editor of the "Avanti," who represents the extreme left of the Party, repudiated any such policy and declared the Socialist Party was a Class Party and should not be guided by possible combinations in Parliament, but solely by the conditions of the country. Even within the Parliamentary group Turati's idea of possible collaboration was adversely criticized.

With regard to, Stockholm, there again arose much difference of opinion. Turati declared that they must not go to Stockholm merely to take up an impossible attitude or only to participate in a Zimmerwaldian Conference. They must be prepared to work with parties in other countries who had not taken up the same attitude as they had done in Italy, providing they were ready to work together for hastening peace and for the reconstitution of the International. The majority of the Executive were in favor of taking part in both Conferences. Serrati, on the other hand, declared that they should go to Stockholm to continue the work of Zimmerwald and Kienthal. A durable and just peace could only be obtained by Socialism, whilst capitalism is bound to the rivalries between the Great Powers. He was in favor of abiding by the decision of the preliminary Conference of the Zimmerwaldians. If the latter decided not to take part in the General Conference at Stockholm then the Italian Party ought loyally to abide by that decision.

The Executive voted a resolution corresponding with the ideas of Serrati.

Against the wishes of Turati and the moderates it was also decided to call a National Conference of the Party to meet in Rome, September 25th-29th.

REGARDING LENIN.

Lenin and Zinovieff have written to the Maximalist journal, "Proletarskoi Delo," explaining why they have reconsidered their decision to surrender to the Government. At the present moment, they say, there is no such thing as revolutionary justice in Russia, also they prefer to remain at liberty for the purpose of continuing the struggle for the complete emancipation of the International Proletariat. The "Journal du Peuple" of August 2nd was not allowed by the French censor to publish a statement of the Russian Press Bureau denouncing the base insinuations cast upon Lenin and pointing out all his past conduct and opinions.

IN THE FRENCH CHAMBER.

There were some interesting incidents in the French Chamber at its sittings on August 2nd.

Renaudel interpellating the Government on its general policy amidst storms of protest from the right and applause from the left demanded amongst other things, that the French Government should condemn unequivocally the agitation for the left banks of the Rhine—whereupon Ribot accused him of performing the work of the enemy—this, to Renaudel, who has for three years been the ardent supporter of the Government! When further in his reply Ribot said that "one must not go to Stockholm," Mistral shouted, "We shall go in spite of you." Compere-Morel, on the other hand, on behalf of about 33 majority Socialists, declared, amidst the applause of the right and centre, that he would not shake hands with the German majority Socialists (and as the

minority German Socialists may refuse to shake hands with him Compere-Morel may feel secure from all German contamination). Raffin Dugens, during his speech, being reproached with the action of Grimm "in favor of Germany," aptly replied: "He (Grimm) has committed a crime, he has conferred with the Swiss bourgeoisie, Minister of Foreign Affairs, just as Renaudel did wrong to confer with M. Ribot." He then proceeded: "The Press has made more noise about Grimm than it did about the President of the Pan Germans, who had to resign because he was convicted of receiving money from Krupp for his campaign."

The Social-Democracy has suspended its international relations—I ask myself if the French capitalists have also suspended relations with the German capitalists. It has been shown that nine milliards of profit has been deposited in Germany. For the most part these milliards have been used for the production of armaments and the development of industry and commerce. I have been assured that the French possessors of German capital have negotiated with the enemy."

Mayeras here read statements from the "Times," and the French press proving the fact that Allied capitalists had had relations with the capitalists of the Central Powers for the protection of their property.

Finally, Raffin Dugens declared: "I have told you at the secret sitting M. le President du Conseil that you did not wish this meeting (Stockholm) to take place, because you are afraid that the statement signed at the London Congress by Guesde, Sembat, Henderson, and Vandervelde will again be issued declaring that all the Governments share in the responsibility of the war. You do not wish us to go to Stockholm because you are afraid peace may result therefrom (exclamations). The soldiers are discontented with your refusal of passports."

A member: "Because you have aroused unreasonable hopes amongst them."

Raffin Dugens: "the men in the trenches seize at every hope. They are clinging to that of Stockholm. You have refused us passports and thus provoked discontent, which it has been necessary to suppress—you know that. Whatever may happen, the Socialist Party will continue its path."

TRADE UNION NOTES

SILESIA STRIKES REDUCE THE GERMAN COAL PRODUCTION.

More Than Million Tons Less Mined Last Month—Restriction on Iron Proves Gravity of Situation.

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Copenhagen, Aug. 27.—Strikes of miners in Silesia last month reduced the German production of coal by more than 1,000,000 tons, according to statements made in the debate in the Reichstag main committee on the fuel problem. Vice-Chancellor Helfferich gave an urgent and earnest warning against further strikes. The Government report stated that production had been affected by inadequate food supplies. This was corroborated by speakers of various parties, who said under-nourished workmen could not do a normal day's work. A representative of the military authorities declared that more miners could not be spared from the army.

The gravity of the situation is shown by the seriously considered proposal to restrict the production of iron, although this is needed for munitions.

IN GERMANY.

The official statistics of strikes in Germany during 1916 shows the interesting fact that although at the beginning of the war the number of strikes

greatly diminished there was a considerable increase in 1916. During that year there were 340 strikes with 124,183 strikers involved, of which 15 were defensive strikes. There was no lock-outs. In the five war months of 1914 there were 26 strikes with 2,084 strikers and in 1916, 137 strikes and four lock-outs. On the other hand, in 1913, there were 2,127 strikes and 337 lock-outs, 311,048 workers being affected. The number of working days lost in 1916, although nearly six times as great as in 1915, was yet only 40 per cent. of those lost in 1913. The metal industries—those therefore connected chiefly with production of war materials account for 52.4 per cent. of the strikers in 1916, and the miners for 35.6 per cent. of the strikers.

According to the official report, which, however, must be taken with some reserve, 2.4 per cent. strikes in 1916 were completely successful, 55.1 per cent. were partially successful, 42.5 were unsuccessful. In 1915 the corresponding figures were 12.0, 51.7, 36.3.

Meetings have been held in many parts of Germany for peace and freedom.

The Executive of the German Social-Democratic Party have decided against accepting Ministerial posts by its representatives in Parliament. Scheidemann has also been reported as saying at a meeting in Munich that under no circumstances could the Socialists take part in the Government unless the latter were completely democratized.

MINERS WILL ASK INCREASE IN PAY, LEADERS DECLARE

President White of United Mine Workers Says Wages Too Low.

Indianapolis, Ind.—John White, president, and William Green, secretary, of the United Mine Workers of America, representing 400,000 union miners, late Wednesday issued a statement on the president's coal price fixing, saying in part:

"The miners will take up with the president at the proper time the just claim of coal miners for not only a substantial but justifiable increase in the mining scale.

"We wish the public to be furnished coal at fair and reasonable prices, but we insist the scale must be increased proportionately with the increased cost of necessities of life.

The statement declares a coal shortage is threatened and prices should be sufficiently high to attract labor to stimulate production.

Goodrich Praises Rate.

Governor Goodrich issued a statement declaring the price fixed by the president is "fair and will yield a reasonable profit to the operators." The statement then adds:

"To the consumer it will reduce the prices which have been characterized as 'outrageous.'

"This step will make unnecessary, for the time being, calling of a special session of the Indiana legislature. Conditions may arise which may necessitate a special session, but not at least for a month."

The governor intimated that if any attempts at extortion are made he will call the legislature and take drastic steps to check abuses.

THREAT TO CLOSE MINES.

Knoxville, Tenn.—Operators of over 100 light vein coal mines in the Kentucky-Tennessee field to-day announced they must close their mines under the new government scale of prices unless wages of miners and cost of supplies is decreased accordingly.

Notice to Locals.

We shall be pleased to hear from you with reference to the approaching elections. As your Executive are contemplating throwing all our resources into the campaign.