

## ITEMS OF NEWS FROM ALL PARTS

Many people wonder why the Socialists do not manifest more enthusiasm as individuals and as a party over the minor reform laws. "Why are Socialists so uncompromising, so revolutionary? Why do they not abandon their separate organizations and join with others to secure better laws under capitalism? 'Rome was not built in a day,' and we must accomplish the reformation of the world by slow, short steps."

Wherever they have a chance to do so without forfeiting their opportunity to vote against the profit system itself, the Socialists will generally be found lining up with the forces of reform. They furnished the big balance of power to place Prohibition on the statute book of Finland; they supported the (partial) Single Tax law in England; they stand for Woman Suffrage, Direct Legislation, Old Age Pensions, Public ownership, and all Labor Reform laws, wherever they can make their power felt; but they never cease demanding the complete overthrow of the Profit System as their ultimate goal, because business for profit is "the sum of all villainies," the source of all commercial crime, all political corruption and practically all human misery, physical, mental and moral; and, therefore, no deep, general, permanent reform can come to relieve humanity appreciably until the Profit System is abolished. People cannot "reform" while they make their living by a criminal system.

Profit making is robbery in method and purpose; it deliberately aims to get and must get more than it gives; and out of our efforts to make profits flows almost every other crime.

—Christian Socialist

### PROMINENT IRISH BISHOP ENDANGERS HIS LIBERTY.

"Tells the Truth" Regarding the War.

I think it is now universally admitted that Belgium was not the sole reason of our entrance, as it will not be the sole reason of our continuance, in the war; in a word, that it is really "British interests" that are at stake.

He writes: "Then see the case of the small nationalities on whose behalf many people have believed that the war is being waged."

"What good has it done for them? What part have they played in it except that of catspaws for the larger nations that used them? Belgium delayed the German advance for two weeks and gave time to the English and French armies to rally. For her pains she has been conquered and ruined. Serbia began the war by an atrocious crime, and as reparation for it might weaken Russia's aims in the Balkans, she was encouraged to resist. She, too, has played her temporarily role and has followed in the wake of Belgium. Montenegro is the next to go; and it would seem that the great belligerent nations look to themselves only, and use their weaker neighbors for their own purposes. This war is not waged by any of the great powers as a quixotic enterprise for lofty ideals. 'Small nationalities' and other such sentimental pretexts are good enough for platform addresses to an imaginative but uninformed people, but they do not reveal the true inwardness of this war. All the belligerents have had practical and substantial aims in view. France wants her lost provinces of Alsace and Lorraine; Russia wants Constantinople; England wants the undisputed supremacy of the sea and ridance from German commercial rivalry; Austria wants domination in the Balkans, and an outlet on the Aegean; Italy wants Trieste, and what is called Italia Irredenta; Germany wants a colonial empire and a powerful navy; and all these powers have formed alliances and laid their plans for many a day, simply

for the realization of their respective purposes.

"They planned and schemed solely for the sake of power and material gain. All the talk about righteousness is simply the cloak for ambition, and the worst of it is, that some of the belligerents have gone on repeating the profession of their disinterestedness until they have come to believe it themselves."

"Truth, and right, and justice, have had very little to say to this war, which is an outbreak of materialism and irreligion. The peoples did not want this war; there is no hatred of one another amongst them; but the governing cliques in each country have led or driven them like sheep to the slaughter. God has been ignored; His law has been put aside; Christianity is not allowed to govern the relations of nations. And now the retribution is on them all. The fair dreams of victory and expanded empire and increased wealth and prosperity with which they set out have to answer for its stewardship to its own people. If they knew as much in July 1914 as they do now, which of them would have plunged into war? And probably if the war goes on for another year they will curse the cowardice which kept them from manfully facing the problem of peace, for which every principle of religion and humanity, every interest, social, material, and political, of their countries, calls aloud."—The Irish Republic (Dr. O. Dwyer, Bishop of Limerick).

### HON. MR. BLONDIN ACCUSED.

Easy to Dodge Conscription—Affidavit Says that Canada's Postmaster-General Told Quebec Voters They Could Easily Cross Border.

Quebec, Jan. 26.—The first roorback of the Dorchester bye-election has been sprung at Ste. Germaine, Dorchester County, where the Liberal organizers announced that Hon. Mr. Blondin, who is in charge of the Conservative organization at Ste. Rose, in the interests of the Hon. Albert Seigney, had been guilty of uttering statements of disloyalty in addressing meetings in the Conservative committee rooms at Ste. Rose.

The following affidavit, sworn before a justice of the peace, was produced in support of the story: "We, the undersigned, declare that we heard last night at Ste. Rose, the 24th day of January, 1917, the Hon. P. E. Blondin make the following declaration:—

"As for the Allison scandal, and others of the same nature, let us consider that if these thefts have taken place they have no importance for the people of Ste. Rose, because it was English money that was stolen."

"Speaking of the danger of conscription, Mr. Blondin declared that even if conscription were put in force, it would mean little to the people of Ste. Rose, because they had only to get across the frontier to get away. (Signed) Dorille Prevost, Walere Lamontagne."—Toronto Star.

### A MINISTER HITS OUT.

The Victoria Women's Association held a most successful luncheon yesterday, when Rev. J. A. Macdonald spoke on "War and the Human Breed."

Dr. Macdonald maintained that war was not only foolish, expensive, and cruel, but that it directly traverses that plain law of evolution, the survival of the fittest.

"The call of war to the nations has always been: 'Send us the best ye breed,'" the speaker said. "The best were sent, the physically strong, the daring, and the nation's best died on the battlefield or in the hospital, or they

returned maimed and unfit. They left no breed behind. The high task of fathering the nation's children was left to those who lacked the physical fitness or the moral courage which was required."

To this was traced the decline of Rome, of France, of the South, of the Highlands and now England, where the population is crowding together in cities and is degenerating physically and mentally with every generation.

There will come a time, the doctor declared, when all this wasteful foolishness, this racial course will not be tolerated by an enlightened world.

## RETURNED SOLDIERS

Editor of Forward: May I be permitted to offer a suggestion on the matter of the employment of returned soldiers? Every day for some weeks returned soldiers in uniform have been peddling maps, song sheets, and soliciting subscriptions for two Canadian journals through this section. This may be right, and again may be wrong—just depends on the viewpoint. Sufficient to know that these men are left on the mercy of the great general public for maintenance in a manner that does not reflect a creditable action on the government of the country. Each and every one of these men gave their little bit at the call of the Government. Many have been broken in the service. They are discharged from further service as warriors. Now, the offices of the Government are choked with young, able-bodied men, drawing generous salaries, enjoying a safe, comfortable existence, and I ask it is a square deal that this should be permitted when their jobs can be handled very nicely by the men who have answered the call, and done their bit? Further recruiting has slumped, conscription is asked for and demanded by certain sections of the community. If we are to have conscription let us start off right. Clear out the Government offices first, and make room for returned soldiers. Conscrip and send to Europe the battalions of colonels, majors, captains, and lieutenants, also M. P.'s and M.P.P.'s. Conscrip the vast army of non-producers. Conscrip all dividends from public utilities and conscrip every cent of profits on war contracts. Conscrip all the labor from factories not assisting on munitions. Go the whole hog at once, and get the big job over. Money is needed by the Government; let the Government take it, and use it—use it without interest charges—and let the Government conscrip the rent paid by tenants for one month all over the country. This will find both men and money for Government use, and reach the sections that are as yet untouched by the war.

### LONG WAY AHEAD OF LLOYD GEORGE.

We admire the temerity of the writer of this pen picture, which graphically describes the treatment being handed out to returned soldiers. In view of the united determination of the allies to alter the map of Europe, the vendors are taking advantage of the heroic—unfit to do any other kind of work, for the purpose of selling off their old map stock pending the premeditated changes in European geography, which otherwise might be a losing hazard.

But to be informed of battalions of colonels, "probably drawing big salaries" with no intention of doing the soldiers' duty of dying for their country, appeals to us as being the depth of perfidy. With M.P.'s, Magistrates, parsons, lawyers, etc., the situation is different. Probably our friend has not considered the dire results that would befall our country if law makers, law administrators, and the modern prose-lytes were to go to war. "Think what a calamity it would be if we were left with a great Empire on our hands." Their departure would be the signal

for a reversion to barbarism, and the children would want to play baseball on Sundays. Shades of Galileo! the people would not dare to speak the truth after the guardians of our liberty have departed, and Rosedale residences would go to rack and ruin as uninhabited buildings. The hand of the mechanic would become the tool of his own destruction rather than the producer of surplus values for our generous philanthropists. Surely, "Long Way Ahead of Lloyd George" is not foolish enough to imagine that the departure of such grace and genius and the confiscation of the generous employer's wealth would be permitted by the representatives of the people and the guardians of our liberty. What would become of the soldier-citizens if the junk shop was closed and they could no longer dispose of the rewards of valour? And then who would submit to be governed by housewives?

### A PILL FOR PROFIT-MONGERS "TO REDUCE THE COST OF LIVING."

This country is now facing the critical question: How shall we reduce the fabulous cost of living? The writer would suggest a bill to Congress substantially as follows

All goods shipped under the jurisdiction of the Inter-State Commerce Commission shall be invoiced at prices graduated according to the following scale:

The prices prevailing on January 1st, 1917, shall serve as a basis:—

One month following the passage of this bill, the prices shall be uniformly reduced by at least 10 per cent.

Not later than July 1st, 1917, by at least 20 per cent.

Not later than January 1st, 1918, by at least 30 per cent.

Not later than July 1st, 1918, by at least 40 per cent.

Not later than January 1st, 1919, by at least 50 per cent.

There shall be no reduction of wages in any corporation thus affected

In any case, where a company or corporation shall plead inability to conform to such law, that company or corporation shall be declared in the hands of a receiver. This receivership shall be exercised by the Inter-State Commerce Commission. The books shall be examined and all information necessary to explain the creation of prices, shall be published. If it is shown that the corporation can operate at a profit of 6 per cent. or more under the law, said corporation may resume its business. Otherwise, the Inter-State Commerce Commission shall institute proceedings to purchase for the United States Government all the stock of the business concerned at a figure based upon actual physical value of its equipment.

The average mind can trace the results of such a law. Retail prices must needs drop in proportion to wholesale, or each locality would demand the reason why. Immediate relief would be followed by steadily improving conditions. The way would be blazed toward public ownership, while Wall Street would enjoy a monopoly of wailing. Congress might shy at such a bill at first, but popular agitation in every state could make Congress obey the real United States of America.—Rev. James L. Smiley in American Socialist.

"I am not afraid to stand on my record," yelled the old party spell-binder. "Better keep on it," broke in a horny-handed voter, "becuz if yer ever moves off of it and the people sees what it is it will be all off wid yer."

### ...PARTY ANNOUNCEMENTS...

#### ALBERTA PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meets on the First Wednesday in each month, at 8 p.m., at Mrs. A. Martin's, 10528 98th Street, Edmonton, Alta.