

THE SOVIET

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Industrial Soviets In Belfast Soldiers' And Workers' Councils In United States

"While It Is Day" is a fine article in the last issue of the Nation, from which we reprint the following:

"The despatches from England, meagre as they are, should in our judgment be resolutely and disinterestedly considered by minds who guide the larger operations of American industry and commerce. Strikes are many, and widespread, and obstinate in all major branches of British industry. The city corporation of Belfast has been superseded by a strike committee or Industrial Soviet, 'uncommonly well organized,' as one despatch admits, which administers the affairs of the city from its sessions in Artisans Hall.

Important public utilities in Glasgow are controlled and administered by the local strike committee, whose power appears to be increasing so rapidly that the city looks forward with quite definite expectation to a state of things essentially similar to that prevailing in Belfast. The hundred thousand transport workers, associated with great numbers of railwaymen, threaten a strike which, if called, will unquestionably lock up the whole transportation system of the kingdom; and a general nation-wide strike is openly talked of as an imminent possibility. Meanwhile, considering the magnitude of these industrial disturbances, remarkably little violence and disorder have been reported."

About the same time as this report, we read in the Edmonton Journal: Referring to "demands put forward not to obtain fair conditions but to overthrow the existing order, to destroy the Government," the premier (Lloyd George) declared: "I say in all solemnity, on behalf of the Government, that we are determined to fight Prussianism in the industrial world exactly as we fought it on the continent of Europe." So Lloyd George is beginning to show his hand.

Where Do You Stand?

The objects and aims of this paper is to give to the general public a resume of world conditions, and to place clearly before the working class what their fellow-workers are doing in other countries.

The Capitalist Press withholds much important news relating to labor questions and all news published by them is out-lined in the interests of their masters—the Capitalists Class—. Every item of news here published is taken from authentic sources and from periodicals that the average wage-worker cannot afford to have in his possession.

The necessity of such a paper in this city is fully realized by most workers. We have therefore decided to circulate a free issue. If you are desirous of getting this paper regularly send at once a donation, (just what you can afford) accompanied with your name and address to Business Manager, Box 1682 Edmonton, Alberta. This will ensure you getting every publication.

The financial results from this appeal will prove whether the workers of Alberta are really desirous of knowing world happenings and their significance for the laboring classes. Remember this is entirely a workers paper and therefore we ask that every member of the exploited class give it their moral and financial support.

(Reprint from "Nation.")

Labor unrest in the Northwest is apparently becoming alarming. The recent convention of the Oregon Federation of Labor was controlled by the radical element. It voted against industrial councils representing both sides as a method of settling disputes, one delegate saying "There is only one solution. Eliminate the wage system and refuse to deal with the employing class."

Councils of Soldiers and Workmen's delegates, it is reported, have been organized in Portland and Seattle. Last week 37,000 ship-workers went on strike for higher wages, and the discontent among the lumbermen is no less marked. Recently a labor meeting in Seattle advocated a general strike unless American troops were immediately withdrawn from Russia, was broken up by the police, whose action was bitterly resented by labor. Immediately following this situation, bills directed against syndicalism were hastily introduced into both houses in Oregon and a far-reaching red flag measure as well was put forward. Corresponding legislation has been passed by an overwhelming majority over the Governors veto in Washington.

The syndicalist bills in the two States are practically identical. Their purpose is to eliminate Bolshevism and I. W. W. terrorism. An opponent of the syndicalist measure in the Washington House declared that under such an act Lincoln would have been imprisoned, and according to the Portland Oregonian Governor Lister of Washington had also some "groundless apprehensions" lest innocent persons be punished in the enforcement of the law. But Mayor Baker of Portland is less disturbed on the score. In delivering an address to the Legislature, he is reported to have said that "unless we meet this situation and put down this movement it will put us down." We are inclined to agree less with him than with Senator Pierce of Oregon, who, in voting alone in the Senate against the bill declared that the way to cure Bolshevism and all its manifestations is not by such threatening measures, entailing violence for their enforcement, but by making conditions of employment so favorable that the movement will die out "of its own accord," as he said. This is no complete philosophy of the matter, but at any rate it has the merit of being the most sensible palliative, pending measures of fundamental economic justice.

Peace Conference Or What?

Under the heading of Foreign Correspondence dated Paris, Jan. 13th, we read of "the popular acclaim" accorded to President Wilson and the implicit confidence placed in him by the people of various nationalities. However, the following excerpt is interesting: "What if he disappoints victors and vanquished alike? I know that if he fails it will seem to all liberal thinkers in England as if the blackness of utter desolation and hopelessness were settling down upon the world. Here in this city, in that heavily over-ornamented Louis VI room in which the conference is to meet, will be decided whether the dead died in vain or not. Whether this was really the war to end war, or whether that phrase was merest cant and hypocrisy. Is it any wonder that in these hours of maddening delay, of ignorance on the part of all press representatives here as to what is on, one thinks ever of the ghostly legions which must be marching up and down the Champs Elysees and mounting guard over the palace where sleeps Woodrow Wilson?"

"No one knows tonight all that is happening, except a few insiders. Much they may be putting thru, the little group of men who rule the world, but they alone can measure how much. I am told, by one who should know the truth, that the real business is being accomplished in these informal meetings; that when the Peace Confer-

ence meets it will be really only to record decisions, and that until the behind-the-scenes decisions are ready the conference will mark time. "Open covenants of peace, openly arrived at." What a mockery the phrase sounds here!

"Outwardly things are not going well" which statement is explained by a number of details, one of the chief being the dissatisfaction of the Press Correspondents over the scarcity of information re plan of League of Nations. In fact "many of them believe that there is no such plan."

The writer informs us that "Now it can be stated authoritatively that all danger of American as well as British intervention in Russia is past." This accords with the statement in the Local Press where Lloyd George is reported as saying that no sane person would think of intervention.

The correspondent gives us this further information: "The recent sensational statement of the Swedish correspondent of the London 'Times,' that the Lenine army was no longer a Bolshevik Army but a Russian one, well armed and well officered, and commanded by one of the ablest officers the old army produced, has put statesmen on notice that the task of unseating the Bolsheviks is one to call for blood-shed on a large scale and for an expenditure of treasure which the United States alone can supply. We cannot expect to hear of the immediate withdrawal of our troops from Archangel because it is inaccessible now on account of the ice. But the Vladivostok troops may be home-ward bound sooner than people at home expect."

Another squabble is arising out of Poland, Pilsudski claiming that his Government is truly representative of the wish of the people. The Polish national committee formed in Paris, headed by Roman Dmowski is backed by France as out-lined in our last issue and supposed to be in control, and the Bolsheviks still gaining ground. What the result will be we cannot fortell but it is evidently causing the Peace Conference some worry. Also the Lithuanian Committee at present in Paris are asking that "some twenty thousand Lithuanians in Pershing's army be released to them and that plenty of arms and ammunition be given to them as well." All this time the Bolshevik Army is "sweeping thru the Lithuanian country at a rate that makes it obvious that it will have been over-run long before adequate military aid can arrive there."

Correspondence dated January 31st by same writer—Oswald Garrison Villard—states Wilson himself is reported to have shown his teeth at Wednesday's conference and to have let it appear that there are times when he will fight. Lloyd George is not so happy as he was and is complaining that the conference is slow."

Open diplomacy is so open in Paris that we read: "Evidently there is no intention of using the American Press to educate people in the details of the scheme before it is sprung on the world" but perhaps the next item is of most interest to the workers "The growing unrest in various nations is reflected in Lloyd George's own feeling of impatience." Mentioning the conditions in England he says: "While greatly pleased that the Peace conference is taking up international labor problems it is feared that any action will have too much Governmental flavor especially since George Nicoll Barnes and Mr. Gompers will have so much to do with it."

We do not hesitate to endorse that, as we have known these two "gentlemen" and watched their actions in the past, and are glad to learn from all sources that the laboring men of England have ditched their "leaders" and are acting independent of them—leaders whose function it has been to fool the workers. Further we are told that it is reported that Wilson has ordered Gompers to attend the Berne conference "where he is not wanted." We can only hope that he will get a worse reception than he did in England last year, where his Gompersism got a severe blow from the laboring classes.

In summing up the two epistles, one is inclined to the conclusion that the Peace Conference is more of a grand squabble amongst the noted and brilliant (?) diplomats, accompanied by a continuous and dissatisfied growl from the press correspondents.

However we must "wait and see", and in the meantime we hear that the workers in Belfast are forming "industrial Soviets"; that Glasgow workers are treading along the same path and that in Seattle and Portland they have formed organizations of workmen and soldiers called "The Council of Workers and Soldiers." It seems as though the workers were at last waking up and taking upon themselves some of the problems which affect them most. They are seeing the finger-post bearing the inscription: "Soldiers, Sailors and Workers unite, you have nothing to lose but your chains and a world to gain."

College Students As Tools

Mr. Baillie Scott, as reported in "London Times": "It is much to be feared that our desire to commemorate our victory over Prussia will lead us to express those very qualities which we set ourselves to overcome in her."

This was amply illustrated at the Alberta College on Monday, February 10th, when a member of the Socialist Party of Canada and also a student at that institution was subjected to very drastic treatment by some forty members of the Alberta College, aided by about fifty from the University.

Undoubtedly they fully realized that a Socialist is a force to be reckoned with, as otherwise we cannot explain why nearly one hundred would pounce upon a solitary individual, who looks anything but Herculean.

After a series of kicks and blows, administered while the Comrade had his hands fastened behind his back with handcuffs, they concluded their miserable attack by plunging him into a bath of ice cold water. He was then allowed, by these ruffians of civilization, to leave for his home, having to walk several blocks, drenched to the skin.

We know full well that students are irresponsible, and we further know that their actions were stimulated from outside influences. Our opponents are plainly playing a losing hand when they have to use children to bolster up their cause.

The effect of the treatment upon the comrade physically was sufficiently to keep him confined to his bed for three days, but the mental effect has but stamped more indelibly upon his mind the aims and objects of the revolutionary Socialists which "lead the world at least to freedom."

Extract From "The Nation"

"In the good times coming when industry shall be considered for use and not for profit, there is an agreeable prospect of abundant leisure. When each of us shall have done his three or four hour daily stint in productive industry, he will have some twenty hours left on his hands that he must get through with in one way or another. It has always been the assumption of the Social prophets and chiliasts that he would devote a considerable part of these to expression of the creative instinct. Emancipated from long task-work, he would have ample energy to devote to painting or sculpture, if he were of an artistic turn, or of music, literary composition, or whatever his gift or fancy indicated; and since he would be employing himself in this pleasant way merely as an avocation, without money and without price upon his work, his creative impulses would be free from commercial control, and their expression, therefore would be much more sincere, spontaneous and abundant than now, while its survival, too, would be determined by merit alone."

Senator Johnson And The Russian Intervention

In the New York Times almost two columns on the front page were given to Senator Johnson's speech in the Senate. He characterized the American government's attitude towards Russia as "weak, vacillating, stupid and ignorant."

"Our dealings with Russia," declared Senator Johnson, "and the dealings of our Allies with Russia have been not only an exhibition of the crassest stupidity, but have contributed to the awful tragedy there."

"If you favor armed intervention," he said, "it is obvious that the scale upon which it has been undertaken is too small to accomplish lasting results. It has become painfully clear in the last few days that by the present intervention we merely hazard the lives of our men. It is equally clear that the people of England, and our own people, will not tolerate intervention on a larger scale. Even if you favor intervention, you should for the protection of the lives of our soldiers insist that those there—few in number and their position courting disaster—be immediately withdrawn."

"If you favor intervention, why do you not on this floor, by resolution or otherwise say so? If you believe in war with Russia, why not introduce an appropriate resolution and permit Congress to vote upon it in accordance with the Constitution? Upon what theory can you justify war without affirmative action by Congress? That we're in an actual state of war with Russia the recent ominous news from there demonstrates only too plainly."

Senator Johnson read to the Senate a letter from Colonel Raymond Robbins, formerly prominently identified with the American Red Cross work in Russia, challenging statements of fact regarding Russia, made by George Creel, of the Committee on Public Information in a current magazine. The Allied military missions, according to Colonel Robbins, were helping to train the Bolshevik Red Army last April.

Colonel Robbins' letter asserts that Edgar Sisson, one of the agents of the Creel committee, who was responsible for the Bolshevik expose made in the documents given out last year by George Creel, "fled from Petrograd" last March, shouting that the Germans would take Petrograd in collusion with the Bolsheviks within a few days, while American Red Cross agents remained in Petrograd and were still there in May, 1918, feeding starving children "under Bolshevik protection." Colonel Robbins' letter also asserts that "Mr. Bullard and all the American members of the Committee on Public Information in Russia" fled from Moscow on May 5 last year and went on board an English ice-breaker at Archangel, "dressed in English uniforms," where they remained several weeks, "while the American Red Cross was doing business as usual in Moscow, and English, French, and Japanese were under Bolshevik protection."

The document which Senator Johnson read and which he declared had not been published in this country, he said had been sent by the Soviet Government to the Allies as follows:

"In case (a) the All-Russian Congress of the Soviets will refuse to ratify the peace treaty with Germany, or (b) if the German Government, breaking the peace treaty, will renew the offensive in order to continue its robbers' raid, or (c) if the Soviet Government will be forced by the actions of Germany to renounce the peace treaty—before or after its ratification—and to renew hostilities—in all of these cases it is very important for the military and political plans of the Soviet power for replies to be given to the following questions:

"1. Can the Soviet Government rely on the support of the United States of America, Great Britain, and France in its struggle against Germany?

"2. What kind of support could be furnished in the nearest future, and on what conditions—military equipment, transportation, supplies, living necessities?

"3. What kind of support would be furnished particularly and especially by the United States?

"Should Japan—in consequence of an open or tacit understanding with Germany or without such an understanding—attempt to seize Vladivostok and the Eastern Siberian Railway, which would threaten to cut off Russia from the Pacific Ocean and would greatly impede the concentration of Soviet troops toward the East about the Urals—in such case what steps would be taken by the other Allies, particularly and especially by the United States, to prevent a Japanese landing on our Far East and to insure uninterrupted communication with Russia through the Siberian route?

"In the opinion of the Government of the United States to which extent—under the above mentioned circumstances—would aid be assured from Great Britain through Murmansk and Archangel? What steps could the Government of Great Britain undertake in order to assure this and thereby to undermine the foundation of the rumors of the hostile plans against Russia on the part of Great Britain in the nearest future?

"All these questions are conditioned with the self-understood assumption that the internal and foreign policies of the Soviet Government will continue to be directed in accord with the principles of international Socialism and that the Soviet Government retains its complete independence of all non-Socialist Governments."

Received in Silence

Commenting on the offer, Senator Johnson made these significant statements:

"The men who were then in Russia familiar with the situation, including the representative of England and the representative of the United States, advised the Governments to respond favorably. I have copies of the telegrams which were sent at that time to different Governments. But the communication was received apparently in indignant and contemptuous silence.

"When last I addressed the Senate upon this subject I asked certain question of the Government," Senator Johnson continued. "No answer has been made, of course, to questions that I asked, because the implication in every question is known by the State Department to be true. Men are in this country today who can establish every single fact suggested, and if this body, or the Foreign Relations

Committee, really desires information, if they wish to tell the mothers and the fathers and the wives of the men who are freezing in Russia today just what the facts are, they have at their disposal the evidence, and it can be brought before them upon the briefest notice.

"There is a heavy reckoning some day for those who have been responsible for this wicked and this useless course in Russia. And the heaviest responsibility, the wrong which can never be atoned, is the shedding of American blood in Russia. It is to this phase-I desire to arouse the Congress, and to which, if I had the power and my voice would carry, I would arouse the people of the nation. It is of American boys and American blood I am thinking."

Bolshevists In London

The London Times informs us of a conference convened by the "Hands of Russia" Committee held in the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street. A large placard "Long Live Bolshevik Russia" was displayed. Some two hundred or three hundred delegates attended and were occupied mainly in discussing the possibility of engineering a general strike as the first definite step towards the revolution.

A mass meeting was held at night in the same hall and although we understand that it has seating capacity for some ten thousand people, yet the over-flow meetings had to be held downstairs.

The chairman was Mr. Arthur MacManus, of the Clyde workers. He said "that it was deeds that counted now and referred to the Socialism of Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg as taken from Red Russia."

G. A. K. Luhani, an Indian member of the Industrial Workers of the World, spoke, amid cheers, against conscription, and Desmond Ryan spoke as a representative of the Socialist Party of Ireland.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst asked how many of them had cheered Wilson's League of Nations at the Albert Hall? (A voice, "None.") She did not trust them very much. (Laughter.) She did not somehow believe that Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg were dead, but if they were it was better to die like them, for something worth while, than to die in bed or, like Keir Hardie, of a broken heart.

William Paul, S.L.P., said that at the conference that day all sections of the working-class revolutionary movement were united for the first time.

The resolution drawn up at the afternoon's conference was then put and carried.

The capitalist press does not favor us with the resolution. Doubtless it was too revolutionary to spread broadcast.

Have The British Steel Makers Stolen March?

(By A. R. Kennedy, Editor Canadian Machinery, in Financial Post)

Apparently the British steel industry is in good shape to attend to a tremendous amount of business, and it begins to look as though the Britons were out securing their full share of business that is offering from any of the European countries. The list of imports for which licenses are required indicates that the country intends to have the entire situation entirely in hand, and are guarding against any business slipping away that can keep the wheels going at home.

One of the selling agents in this country for large American steel concerns says the impression is growing with the principals of his country that the British steel trade had "put one over" in being in shape for the afterwar business. His view is that the British, anticipating a quick finish of the war, had dropped the manufacture of war material and turned their plants over to be in shape for anything that might offer in the way of reconstruction or ordinary lines. In this way they were able to jump into after-war business while the industries of North America were still wondering what to do about completing their war orders.

In this connection it is worth recalling that at the first of the year a representative of THE FINANCIAL POST had an interview with a representative of one of the greatest English steel concerns. At that time he expressed the utmost confidence in the ability of British plants, as they stood then, to go ahead and compete with the world for all the steel business that was offering. It was only a few weeks after that that the first order that came into the world's market for 600,000 tons of steel rails was secured by a British concern at a figure better than was turned in by the United States interests.

Every week sees a new line of British steel on the Canadian market—or it might be more correct to say an old line coming back. All this seems to lend color to the story that the British were well prepared and made the change to peace work well in advance of the rest of the nations.

So endeth the first chapter. In the past the Socialists have been accused of confounding the word "democracy" with that of "markets," but 'nuf sed. Here beginneth the reading of the second epistle:

American Senate Protests About British Embargo

Speakers Call Attention to Effect it Will Have on U. S. Industries
(Edmonton Journal, February 6th)

NEW YORK, Feb. 6.—An Associated Press dispatch from Washington says:

Democrats and Republicans in the senate today joined in criticizing the new British embargo on imports and calling attention to the effect it would have on American industry. During the discussion that followed, Senator Reed, of Missouri, Democrat, attacked the Carnegie peace foundation's activities abroad, questioned its loyalty and declared it should be dissolved.

Senators Knox, of Pennsylvania, Republican, and Ashurst, of Arizona, Democrat, joined in the attack.

Senator Weeks, of Massachusetts, Republican, and Senators Lewis, of Illinois; Smith, of Georgia, and Reed of Missouri, Democrats, led in protests against the British embargo.

Senator Weeks said he did not charge that the embargo was aimed against the United States, but Senator Lewis remarked that a majority of articles listed are manufactured in the American middle west. The Illinois senator said the action might bring on a trade war.

"I invited the attention of British officials to the delicate situation," he continued. "While the president is in France battling for the principles which our country feels are right, one of our Allies takes a course so inimical to the welfare of the United States that it is calculated to create a sentiment of hostility which will embarrass harmony in the United States."

A "trade war," that indeed would be something new to the capitalist order of society, but let us now see how kindly Senator Reed deals with this question:

Edmonton Journal: "The embargo which the British government has felt it necessary to impose for a while in order to allow certain of the country's industries to adjust themselves to peace conditions has been the subject of violent denunciation by some U. S. senators. Here is an extract from a speech by Senator Reed, of Missouri:

Great Britain, to whose rescue we went, said the Senator; Great Britain, whose marshals stood out and cried, "Our backs are to the wall; Britons, stand or die;" Great Britain, who heard the Yankee cheers and the rebel yells from the rear; Great Britain, whose armies turned and began their march to the front when the Yankee boys were leading in their bloody charge; Great Britain, no sooner had she succeeded in extricating her two hands from the great mouth of the German war monster, but she proceeds selfishly to put up the bars of her trade against the very race and the very nation that went to her rescue."

We are wondering if the Espionage Act is still in force in the United States. However, there is always the likelihood of deportation.

Outlook For Flour Mills Grows Very Serious

(By J. L. Rutledge, Editor "Canadian Grocer" in Financial Post)

With the continuance of the embargo against the export of flour to Britain the situation begins to assume a very serious phase. It is now about five weeks since the mills ceased operation on export business, and since that time there has been a practical cessation of all activities. Already the chance of the mills equalling the output of the past, and the chances of their being able to show a profit of any sort on this year's operations are growing daily less.

The mills are working on a restricted basis of profit of 25 cents a barrel. Under present conditions it is costing them \$5.00 a barrel to produce the flour. It is obvious that given any lengthy continuance of present conditions, it will be impossible for them to overtake these losses.

Meanwhile nothing is being done, it is reported that ships that were chartered to move the 40,000,000 bushels of wheat that still remain of the Wheat Export Company's purchases, have been diverted

to other uses. The Wheat Export Company has ceased buying, and there is no single indication of any likelihood of further purchases being made.

One Buyer Not Buying

Under normal conditions, the milling companies, ruled out of one market would have gone after another, and would have made business as the United States is doing in various neutral countries. But the Canadian business is under restrictions. It is permitted to sell only to one buyer and that buyer is off the market.

There is the domestic business of course, but with the 125,000 daily barrel capacity of the Canadian mills that must be approximately maintained if the mills are to operate at any profit, the domestic demand is a small item. With an annual per capita consumption of something less than a barrel and a quarter a year, the very peak of domestic consumption would be some 12,500,000 barrels, while the production would be 37,500,000 barrels, leaving a surplus of 25,000,000 barrels. Argentine is arranging a credit of \$200,000,000 to finance buyings of her accumulated stock of grain and is selling it at low figures. Ships returning soldiers to Australia and India are coming back laden, because Britain has a surplus now and can afford to wait for those long hauls, but ships bringing troops to Canada are apparently sailing again light. Yet nothing is being done to meet the situation. Business is merely being permitted to stagnate in this line.

Canada is in the most favorable situation for the European market, and produces the finest grade of flour. The lower prices offering in Australia and Argentine are to a measure offset by lesser freights, yet no action has apparently been taken to exert any influences to change the embargo, Canadian representatives in England being apparently willing to let this business go by abroad. The millers feel very strongly, that if they are not supported by the Government, they should at least be freed from all restrictions, so that they could exert their own efforts to find a market for the huge surplus that is in sight. Unless something is done in this regard the industry will certainly find itself in a very serious place this coming year.

The above article, following so close on the heels of the one that we published in our first issue, must impress Mr. Farmer, who will be ready now to agree that \$2.00 grain is a thing of the past. We hope, however, that the embargo will be raised before next fall, otherwise even the Non-Partisan may become revolutionary. One never can tell where they are likely to find Bolsheviks in the near future.

Ukrainians send petition to the Government

(Edmonton Bulletin)

At a meeting of about 1000 Ukrainians held in the city a petition was drawn up and will be forwarded to Sir Thomas White, acting premier, at Ottawa. The petition is as follows:

"Whereas the anti-loading act was enforced until a few weeks ago which compelled every person to be employed in work of national importance, and

"Whereas many of our people were heavily fined or imprisoned who were willing to work but were unable to procure employment, and

"Whereas the world war has ceased and immigrants from foreign countries are being prosecuted because they have been or are employed in work in this country of Canada, and are accused of holding jobs which can be filled by the returned men who have fought in the great war, and

"Whereas we are now being thrown out of employment so that the jobs may be given to the veterans who have returned from France, and

"Whereas we acknowledge full rights to the veterans, but we also desire to live, and to do so we must have jobs or else we will perish from hunger,

"Therefore be it resolved that the Ukrainians unanimously appeal to the Dominion government of Canada to give us means to live or else open up the lines and give us a chance to go to some other country where we will be able to get work that we may live.

"We would also remind the Canadian government that we were invited to come to this country, being promised the same rights as extended to other people.

"S. MOLOSHCHUK, Chairman
J. KBYBANOUSKY, Secretary."

A similar petition has been signed by 180 foreigners of Edmonton and sent by registered letter to Ottawa.