

# THE RED FLAG

A Journal of News and Views Devoted to the Interests of the Working Class

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FIVE CENTS

## Appeal for Help of Evolution or Revolution--- Which?

### Vladivostok Unions

GLASGOW SOCIALIST ON "INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS"

SAN FRANCISCO.—(By mail).—An appeal from the labor organizations at Vladivostok to the working men and working women of the United States has been brought in by courier. Since labor unions are outlawed and illegal under Kolshak, the monarchist dictator, the appeal is made under the Workingmen's Red Cross.

The letter follows:

"Workmen's Red Cross, Central Committee, Labor Unions, City, Vladivostok.—To All the Workingmen and Working Women of U. S. A.: Comrades—

After a forceful invasion and overthrow of the Soviet government by the Allies and under the false pretences of the Checho-Slovaks and the Russian capitalists in the city of Vladivostok and all over Siberia, began terrible oppression of the Russian working class.

Thousands upon thousands of working people, peasants and also the student class, were shot. In one of the cities named Chabarovsk, having a population of about 70,000 people, 1,200 people were shot and slain by the Japanese and Cossacks. Thousands were killed in the city of Krasnoyarsk with the help of the White Guard of Russians and also with the help of the Italian regiments. English regiments have also participated in massacring and suppressing tens of thousands of revolting peasants. Every day there was need for new cemeteries; thousands of other comrades were thrown into jail and at present are rotting there without any charges. Their wives and children are suffering from hunger and cold because they have no means of assistance except from the workingmen's organizations, which are in existence illegally. However, the need is very great, and the Russian organizations can be of little assistance with their meagre means. Furthermore, very many factories are closed, and the workers are unemployed.

"In this needy hour, when a part of the Russian workingmen and peasants are strangled between the cries of international capitalists, while the part on the other side of the Urals (in European Russia) is bleeding to death from the uneven struggle with the enemies on all sides, in this hour we are turning to you with the following demands:

"Protest against the organized killing of your brothers.

"Demand the withdrawal of American and Allied troops from Russia.

"Answer the call of tens of thousands imprisoned, and still the cries of orphans, children and families with brotherly help. Lighten their sufferings.

"With comradely regards, representative of the Central Committee of Labor Unions, City, Vladivostok."

THE Provisional Joint Committee set up by the Industrial Conference, which was called by the Government last month to relieve itself of an ugly situation in the industrial world, has now published its recommendations, which we presume will form the basis for a discussion at the resumed conference this week-end.

When the committee was formed, we predicted that its deliberations would prove futile, since the whole proceedings were obviously a cloak to cover up the inability of the politicians to solve the problem of labor unrest. Now that we have the committee's recommendations before us we are more disposed than ever to regard the situation as farcical, if not a veritable fraud practised upon a credulous working class, with the connivance of self-styled labor leaders.

Despite the assurance of the press that the findings of the committee display "remarkable unanimity," there is no one informed upon trade union or labor affairs generally but will recognize in the recommendations the maximum concessions which the employers are prepared to concede; further, inasmuch as these have the approval of the "accredited" representatives of labor, the government's object has been achieved. That object, as a correspondent in last week's "Observer" put it—to the sentiments of which we subscribe—was to provide "a useful lightning conductor and do something to qualify the ignorance of departmental officials and politicians in handling industrial questions."

It is useless for Cole, Henderson, etc., to think they are putting in fine lies for Socialism by appending a report piously setting forth the virtues of State control, or public ownership, in the hope that belief in private enterprise will be undermined. Private enterprise will never be talked out of existence, as is shown by reference to a speech made by the chairman of the Metropolitan Carriage, Wagon & Finance Co., at a meeting of shareholders called to hear the directors' report on the question of fusion with Vickers, Ltd., a scheme which has now been completed and represents a capital of £26,500,000.

Discussing the question of governmental control, Mr. Dudley Docker (chairman) made it quite clear that so far as their board was concerned, they were determined to fight, since they regarded government interference with private enterprise as a nuisance, besides affording a license for "strikes."

The trade union representatives, after having furnished the government with a programme of "industrial reconstruction" (?) may salve their conscience by high-faluting talk of collective ownership, but if they sincerely believe that "production for private profit is not an equitable basis" on which to build a commonwealth, and that "there is no indication that either the government or employers have realized the necessity for

any fundamental change," there is only one straightforward course to take. That course is to ask their conference to back them up in a demand that Lloyd George and his government forthwith resign as a preliminary step to the reconstitution of society upon an equitable basis.

Such a policy, we believe, would find a ready response among the tens of thousands who are unemployed at present, as well as the mass of those who are fortunate to be in employment meantime.

Since it is admitted by the committee that tinkering with the problem will only produce further waves of unrest in growing magnitude, why, we ask, palaver and waste further time on the matter? As we pointed out after the last conference, "from employers or the government the shop stewards' movement does not look for anything, from those who stand to represent labor, it looks for much. If that is not forthcoming, so much the worse for official labor." It is no secret that in some quarters expectations of something forthcoming were big. Now that it is shown that nothing can be got but an abstraction in the nature of a "National Industrial Council," with, at best, a promise to look into the size of the donation benefit and pensions for old age, those who had expectations will be more convinced than ever of the desirability of taking the remedy for their various grievances into their own hands.

There is yet a chance left for those who concur in the conclusions of the Labor representatives. That chance we have indicated. We are sure it represents the mind of the more active and aggressive workers in the Labor movement. If the Labor delegation has the courage to accept its sub-committee's conclusions, as outlined in appended report, and act upon them, it will find an army of workers ready to back it up. If not, it can look for trouble in the near future.—Glasgow "Socialist," April 3.

### SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

PROPAGANDA MEETINGS

SUNDAY, MAY 11

At 8 p.m. Sharp

EMPEROR THEATRE

Corner Gore and Hastings

Speaker

J. Kavanagh

# Economic and Menshevik Determinism

By MAURICE BLUMLEIN

(Continued from Last Issue)

That the Russian people are ready mentally for a system without class-rule can hardly be questioned; that is the message of the Revolution.

Therefore we come to the final point of our problem: Why do the Mensheviks say that the material conditions are not yet ripe for the Social Revolution?

They contend that Russia has a big agricultural proletariat but a proportionately small industrial proletariat, that further industrialization under the supremacy of the bourgeoisie is still necessary so as to reach the stage arrived at in the advanced nations, such as England, Germany, etc.

But why must a big or preponderating portion of the country be industrialized? Because it brings the workers together, makes them a homogeneous unit, and enables them to become conscious of their relation to each other as members of a class. In other words, it is the instrumentality by which the mental equipment and message of Marx and Engels is conveyed to the masses. The average individual cannot acquire a knowledge of socialist philosophy by analysis and abstract thought, and if that were the only way in which the emancipation could take place, it might never occur.

But the worker learns these things very concretely. "Pressure and more pressure until the cause penetrates to the consciousness."

Nevertheless, if industrialization heretofore has served the purpose of developing mental consciousness by exerting pressure intensively and extensively, it is also true that the Russians have arrived at that condition of mind already, so that the bourgeoisie could only give them what they had attained previously, besides handing them a number of other things which the workers would rather not have.

Moreover, there is a very good reason why Russia does not need the same degree of industrial development as the western nations in order to become a revolutionary mass. The industry that has been introduced came at a late stage, is on a big scale, and did not have to be built up from small beginnings. In other words, the Russians, just as in the case of the Japanese, adopted the completed result that it took the other nations a much longer time to find by experimentation and

pioneer work, and together with it they similarly adopted the philosophy and economics of Socialism.

Therefore a much smaller proportion of industry in Russia was able to furnish a much larger proportion of revolutionary understanding than in the nations where these processes first occurred. Russia, consequently, does not have to run through the whole gamut of class relations. What was historically inevitable in the pioneer nations, namely a high degree of industrialization and pressure by concentration, does not mean that similar prolongation of agony must be duplicated in Russia. For while history is a repetition of the application of certain principles and laws, the manner in which this takes place is not a duplication, but varies with our mental capacity.

No wonder, therefore, that the Russian people could not accept the dictum of the Mensheviks to continue to crucify themselves until some later, more suitable time. What on earth the bourgeoisie was to do for them under such circumstances had better be left to a bourgeois social scientist to explain rather than a revolutionary Socialist.

(Continued in the next issue)

## Morals vs Profits

The capitalist is a very moral person. You can tell this by what he says (rather than by what he does), also by what others say of him, particularly preachers and fake reformers of society. The capitalist and those who speak for him can talk in the most idealistic terms, he can use such words as "democracy," "justice," "liberty," "equality," etc., until one is simply astounded at the breadth of vision he displays and his deep-seated "human interest."

That is, he can do this so long as he does not have to talk of the real facts of life. But the moment he tries to combine his high ideals with the real problems presented by the struggle between himself and his workmen over wages, hours, etc., the other side of his character comes to the front, try as he will to hide it, and can easily be detected by anyone who is even moderately critical of what he reads.

The Union League Club of Chicago has published a pamphlet by Herbert T. Perkins of the International Harvester Co., under the title "The Manufacturer's Wage Problem." Summed up, the problem is how to keep the workers contented, make a "fair" profit, find a market for his goods, and absorb the returning soldiers in industry. Mr. Perkins recognizes the bigness of the problem when he says: "He would indeed be more than a man who could measure the problem and fit its answer. . . ."

Mr. Perkins, in attempting to analyze the situation, is obliged to deal with facts, and in so doing he brings out the conflict between the capitalist's word-morality and his economic brutality. He does not do this intentionally, however. Throughout the pamphlet he speaks in terms of idealism.

Here is a sample. He says:

"Too many employers, with their minds more on the experience of the past than the promise of the future, have been watching anxiously and often nervously, the constant rise in money wages. The thought has been borne strongly in upon them that the historical and therefore the most natural and correct method of meeting the period of declining business and profits is through the prompt reduction of the wage rate attained through the stimulation of these past years of conflict."

There is considerable to be learned from this paragraph if we will ponder over it. In the first place we learn that the "historical" method of preventing a reduction of profits in times of business depression is to reduce wages. By "histori-

cal," Mr. Perkins simply means that it has been the customary method of the past. Now, all workers who have experienced reductions of wages, or partial or complete unemployment during such times know what a hardship it is. And, no doubt, Mr. Capitalist also weeps when he thinks of the hardships resulting from layoffs and wage reductions, but we have noticed that he seems to bear this sorrow much easier than the sorrow of having profits reduced. We have noticed that when there is reduction or threatened reduction of profits, Mr. Capitalist not only becomes "nervous" but positively hysterical.

Mr. Perkins, however, believes that the sacrifices which both capitalist and worker, as he says, have made during the war, has bred a higher spirit. Directly following the quotation above, he emphasizes the following remark:

"It does not seem possible, however, that such a thought can be the proper immediate reaction of peace to the spirit which impelled the United States to take up arms in the fight against the Central Powers."

Alas, he who expects the capitalist to live up to the ideals which he is wont to voice at banquets, is doomed to disappointment. These things will never do for the hard realities of business conduct. Already we hear of an organization of soldiers in the same city from which this pamphlet came, Chicago, for the purpose of trying to obtain employment for returned men. We also hear that the organization is not approved by the military authorities. But much as Mr. Perkins seems to wish that the employers will refrain from reducing wages because of the stopping of the war, he is finally obliged to admit that it may be necessary. He says:

"If the worst comes and through the pressure of competition from abroad, it becomes evident that with all other resources exhausted, general employment and consequently general prosperity can only be maintained by a decline in commodity wage, such further adjustment must necessarily follow."

By "commodity wage" Mr. Perkins means the actual amount of commodities which wages will purchase. He therefore means to say that a reduction in the living standard of the worker may be necessary. But Mr. Perkins, if the capitalist has imbibed so much "democracy," we may at least confidently expect that he will not do this until, as you say, "all other expedients are exhausted." We shall expect him to first give up his palatial

## Mining Conditions in Great Britain

[Extracted From a Scottish Newspaper]

At Saturday's sitting of the Coal Commission, Mr. John Robertson, chairman of the Scottish Union of Mine Workers, said that mining was admitted to be a dangerous occupation, but even by persons living in mining districts the danger was not fully realized. The number of persons employed in and about the mines of the United Kingdom was fully 1,000,000. Fifty-five thousand had been killed in fifty years, and from 1907 to 1916 there was a total of 12,400 killed. Persons injured in 1913 totalled 176,868, and in 1914, 158,862. In twenty years there was a total of at least 3-1-4 millions. Mining was more deadly than war, said Mr. Robertson: the miner was always on active service; always in the trenches. The totals given did not include what the miner paid by disease in his occupation. He then went on to relate details of living conditions.

The kept capitalist press of Canada, in order to discredit the struggles of British labor for better conditions, characterizing them as the result of materialistic greed, has been carrying on a regular line of dope on the extravagancies of the British working classes, because of possession of unaccustomed wealth, through high wages. We all remember the stories of the miner's wife buying three pianos, which were served up to us with variations. Mr. Robertson quoted statistics to show that over the period of five years the cost of living had risen by 3s 6d, while the wages rose

(Continued on Page Six)

mansions, his country clubs, his yachts, his retinue of servants and his kept mistresses before he burdens himself with the sorrow of knowing that his workmen and their children are suffering privation. We have a suspicion, however, that if we ever see such things it will be in an opium joint.

Is there any lesson for workmen to learn from all this? Yes: there is one big lesson, and that is, that the way to settle the "Manufacturer's Wage Problem" is to institute a system of society in which there will be no "manufacturer" (capitalist) and no wages. A form of society where the producers will receive their remuneration, not in the form of a wage paid by a capitalist, but as a remuneration for services, tendered by society, for service rendered to society. They are doing it in Russia.

## Our Book Review

Downtrodden and almighty  
Art thou, our Mother Russia.  
—Nekrasov.

### "TEN DAYS THAT SHOOK THE WORLD"

John Reed (371 pages, \$2.00)  
Boni & Liveright, Publishers, 109 West 40th St.,  
New York

(Continued from Last Week)

In the notes and explanations preceding the book proper, the author makes the statement that there were between three and four million trade unionists in Russia when the Bolshevik revolution occurred. This number seems to us to be above the mark. Phillips Price writing from Moscow in 1918 places the number at from three to four hundred thousand twelve months before the March revolution. If Comrade Reed's figures are correct, the organization work carried on during the Kerensky regime must have been extremely effective; but we hardly think they are correct or the Bolsheviks would not have had so much trouble with the Vikzhel, the central executive committee of the Railway Workers' Union.

This body adopted a hostile attitude to the Bolsheviks and played just such a part as we might expect from the A. F. of L. They were the strongest union in Russia; they threatened general strike on the slightest pretext and refused to transport Soviet troops. Trains carrying Red soldiers and sailors had to be moved by force. They maintained the vainglorious contention that they were the saviours of the country and only after the consolidation of power were they forced to place their service at the disposal of the Soviet government.

In several places, however, we get a glimpse of the fact that the rank and file, just as in America, had a different point of view. Mass meetings were held protesting against the actions of the executive. Several thousand sailors moving to Moscow were denied transportation by a member of the Vikzhel. The sailors were about to take the station by force of arms when another door opened discovering some brakemen and a fireman or two. "We will take you," they said, "to Moscow, or to Vladivostok, if you like. Long live the Revolution." Again it is the worker in the ranks who saves the situation.

Smolny Institute, the headquarters of the Bolsheviks, was cut off from the rest of the city, the telephone operators refusing to connect them; the postmen refused to handle their mail; telegraphers would not despatch their messages. The "autocracy of labor" sabotaged as did the bourgeoisie.

This weapon, sabotage, that the workers have never learned to use, appears to have been the natural one for the dethroned masters. Coal mines were flooded by their erstwhile owners, machinery destroyed and locomotives crippled. Bank clerks were bribed to strike and so dislocate the machinery of finance. The employees of sixteen government departments struck work and still the revolution swept on its course. Uneouth seamen, with hands like the knuckle-end of a ham, operated the plugs on the telephone switchboards; factory workers waded laboriously through the ledgers of the State bank; they filled their square selves into round holes and brought order out of the chaotic conditions thrust on the country by the intelligentsia in the interest of an incompetent bourgeoisie.

This same bourgeoisie did not belie their fellows in other lands. They did not scruple to use Red Cross wagons to transport ammunition nor to shoot down delegates bearing the white flag. All of their kind lined up to help them. Officers connected with the Allied embassies offered advice at their canels and mounted arms for them in the streets. They used the boy scouts to distribute their literature and the students of the military schools to do their fighting, leaving them in the lurch when failure had crowned their efforts. They did all these things they accuse the workers of today. They impeded production and transportation, in spite of the fact that soldiers' lives were at stake.

The bourgeois Mensheviks who had lost out in the Workers' and Soldiers' Congress, forming in line and marching in procession "to die with their brothers in the Winter Palace," might have ended in tragedy had the processionists been any other than bourgeois. As it was it turned out a farce. The sailors on guard there offered to spank them and they wended their way elsewhere to die. Their words were loud but their antics shallow!

Thwarted in all other directions the bourgeois played its last card, its final weapon—the printing press. After the March revolution, the Russian worker, barred from the avenues of information open to the slaves of other countries, displayed an insatiable thirst for knowledge. How rapidly he learned to read and write is more or less a matter of history now. All parties circulated indiscriminately among the masses; newspapers, dodgers and proclamations explaining their particular programs and philosophies. A prominent member of the Social Revolutionaries admitted to John Reed, the "necessity of lies to create a certain frame of mind" and if the others did not admit it they acted in accord with the fact. For the same reason our local press is now publishing phoney cablegrams telling of Bolshevik reverses, cablegrams which come in the mails and were manufactured in the back rooms of a London press agency.

The bourgeois desired to remain the exclusive manufacturers of public opinion. The Bolsheviks were decried as traitors to the working class, their peace, a lie, their bread a hoax, and their land a fairy tale. One paper advocated a Bolshevik massacre as the easiest way out of the situation. Carloads of literature were launched daily, from the Bolshevik headquarters carrying the message of working class salvation to the toiling masses, and from the bourgeois "screaming, cursing and phophsying evil."

Under the Kerensky regime the Bolshevik papers were ruthlessly suppressed. The soldiers complained that they were prevented from getting them in the trenches even when they were published. But with the power in their hands now the Bolsheviks threatened to handle mercilessly such papers as would incite to resistance or deliberately prevent news. They showed the class nature of the struggle and the absolute foolishness of allowing the bourgeois any means of expression.

Lenin speaking on the Press Decree makes the point clear: "We Bolsheviks have always said that when we reached a position of power we would close the bourgeois press. To tolerate the bourgeois newspapers would mean to cease being a Socialist. When one makes a revolution, one cannot mark time, one must always go forward—or go back. He who now talks about freedom of the press goes backward, and halts our headlong course toward Socialism."

When the history of the Revolution comes to be written in full, the sailors of the fleet, "the flower and pride of the revolutionary forces," as Trotsky calls them, will loom largely in its pages. The standard of education was higher among them than any other body of the Russian working class and it showed its effects during the course of the Revolution.

The maintenance of order in Petrograd through those troublous days was imposed on them and the factory workers in the Red Guard. They were the men entrusted with the work of offsetting the wine pogroms. They destroyed hundreds of thou-

sands of bottles of wine, millions of dollars' worth, all of which was meant to lure the workers from their revolutionary purpose. When Petrograd needed food, in detachments of 5,000, the sailors scoured the country from the Ukraine to Siberia, and when the factories were almost compelled to close down for lack of fuel, the battleships emptied their bunker-coal on the wharves of the city. The sailors it was that prevented the mob from lynching the members of the Provisional Government after they had been driven from the Winter Palace by the shells from the Aurora. Kerensky pleaded to the Cossack, General Krasnov, not to allow any sailors to come near him; and when he made his inglorious flight the only good thing about him was the dress he was disguised in, the uniform of a Kronstadt sailor.

All through the course of the Revolution, these sailors from Kronstadt, from the Baltic and the Black Sea fleets, remained firm and steadfast to the revolutionary battlecry, and the self-imposed iron discipline of the men from the fleets stiffened the morale of the fighting forces of the Workers' Republic.

Just when I was coming to the most interesting part of the book, the Editor (so-called) came down on me, all four feet together, and brayed, "didn't I think I ought to publish a paper of my own."

The doctor says he'll be out of hospital in a week.

The next and concluding installment of this review will commence by giving John Reed's graphic description of the almost miraculous changing of the proletarian rabble of Petrograd (men, women and children) into a disciplined force for the successful defence of the city against the oncoming counter-revolutionary army W. B.

### THE SAME GOAL

Charles E. Hughes predicts downfall for Bolshevism in Russia and says "it does not deserve to be counted even as Socialism." But is he warranted in making this prediction or correct in his description of the movement? Lenine has been in power for nearly two years and can claim to lead "the oldest popular administration in Continental Europe." Premiers and cabinets of long-established governments have come and gone while this grim revolutionist has held undisputed control. What chance is there that he will be overthrown if his followers see him treating on equal terms with other powers and are told that revolution is spreading all over the world? To say that Lenine, in his objects, is anything but a Marxian international socialist seems to us to misread his writings. In advocating dictatorship by the proletariat—that is, the workmen of the cities—as the original step toward, first, the "emancipation" of the peasant population, and, later, a general levelling, he is in accord with the great genius, Karl Marx, who gave form to modern socialism. If his end is a simple communal state practically without laws, he does not disagree with the writings of Friedrich Engels—Marx's "right-hand"—or with the dream of other socialist philosophers. The difference between Bolshevism and Menshevism as it appears in the works of the two schools is almost entirely a difference in immediate practical methods of bringing the proletarian dictatorship about. Lenine is for the "direct method," for violent domination; the others for orderly political processes. It is no surprise to learn from Simeon Strunsky, who looks upon socialism with the indulgent eye of a good-humored student, that the Socialist Conference at Berné was overwhelmingly against the ways of Bolshevism. But so were the liberals of the world against the methods of the French revolutionists, who, nevertheless, almost broke the heart of Europe before their madness came to an end.—Collier's Weekly.

# THE RED FLAG Labor Leader on the World Revolution

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Editor ..... C. Stephenson

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## The Peace of Capitalists

We are on the verge of peace. The conferees at the Paris peace conference, powerful heads of powerful nations, have strained all their resources to the utmost to put the world on a peaceful footing again, for they fear another world war as it is said the devil fears holy water. And yet, what are the prospects? We do not need to scan the political horizon for war clouds, though they are looming up and threatening as never before, even though the "war to end war" has just been waged. We have only to examine the structure of capitalistic society itself to realize that wars, more bitter and all-embracing as time goes on, are inherent in its very nature. The seeds of future wars are not in the pact of Paris, as the futile Liberal pacifists claim, but in the soil of capitalist economy. And the Paris Conference, with its squabbles, its intrigues, jealousies, suspicions and secreties is but a symptom of the disease in the whole social body politic.

The rule of Capital which is over the world dictates that the end and aim of all economic activity, be commercialism—the realizing of additional capital. And so it continues to rule and exist only by virtue of expansion in the face of competition. In a world suddenly grown small before the ingenuity of man and close-knit in its social inter-relationships, we have the nations, mutually exclusive because of their special economic needs around which they have developed exclusive patriotisms, hates and prejudices. These antagonisms run too deep along the bedrock of the form of society in which we exist at present, to be affected or set aside by any artificial political machinery set up by bourgeois statesmen, or by any sounding formulae, no matter how high pitched in the upper registers of idealism. Put to the test of practical affairs, idealism must come down from the clouds to matter-of-fact earth, and though even nations may not live by bread alone, yet it is a first and prime necessity. The prime necessities of nations engaged in capitalist production is that they find conditions for expansion. Capital is wealth used to produce more wealth. Hence, the struggle for territory, whether the source of raw materials or of fields for the reinvestment of the accumulations of capital, the surplus products of labor. Hence the struggle for the control of ports and the highways of commerce. The bickering and squabbles in Paris have not been due to differences of opinion on questions of abstract principles or justice, but have been on matters of a very earthy and material character. Questions capitalistic in character root and branch and which are of high concern of the capitalist exploiters of all nations but are yet of no concern of their working classes.

While material science has made it possible for the world to give ample food and ample leisure to all men, the mass of human kind are a mess of scrambling, poverty-stricken slaves, belly-crawling to the owners of capital for special favors against others of their kind. And yet all this sordid activity follows of necessity from capitalism. So long

Frank Anstey, a federal Labor member of the Australian Parliament, is spending a brief sojourn in London, his native city. At 11 years of age, as a stowaway, he traveled over the world. He has been a seaman, wharf laborer, miner, and has followed other vocations. He was vice-president of the Australian Seaman's Union for several years, and is now president of the Transport Workers Union of Australia and editor of the Labor Call of Melbourne. He entered the Victorian State Parliament in 1900, and resigned in 1910 to contest in the interests of Labor, a federal seat, Bourke, which he won and has since held.

In 1918 Mr. Anstey came to England and traveled via the United States, where he remained for a brief space. On arrival in England, the Australian Government nominated him as representative of Labor at the imperial press mission, and he toured England and allied territories. On the return of the delegates he remained in Europe, visiting Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and France.

(We give here in part the correspondent interview with Anstey on the matter of the One Big Union in Australia.)

### Craft Unions Absorbed

"Centralized authority is a curse, whether in a government or a union, but the new unionism in Australia, which absorbs the old narrow craft unions, with their restricted activities, will give the Australian organized workers a living industrial organization within each locality. Under the old craft union system 1000 organized workers might be living in a locality without knowing each other or meeting each other, because they are divided into so many craft unions, though not one is strong enough to have a local existence. They attain only a corporate existence through the members of each craft and of each locality going into some centre.

It all amounts to this," declared Mr. Anstey, "there is only one union for working men. I favor the 'One Big Union' as a medium of solidifying working class power and securing active local industrial combination. The fact that the I. W. W. or other organizations or unions advocate 'One Big Union' is merely incidental. Western Europe goes into the melting pot and there is, in my opinion, no power on earth that can save it. The war has gone on too long. Had it stopped at Brest-Litovsk in March, 1918, capitalism might have saved itself. Now capitalism suffers from over-indulgence. Jack London tells a story of two

as it endures, love for your neighbor cannot be for the basic needs of food, clothing and shelter are in dispute. And so our collective strength is dissipated, and lives wasted in internecine strife to obviate which, amid a fanfare of trumpets, a league of nations is brought into being, but still-born and already in process of disintegration, as the world's last chance to the bourgeoisie to justify their control.

Civilization, progress, lays with the uncompromising assumption of power by the proletariat in order to substitute for the system of bourgeois imperialistic exploitation, social ownership of the means of production and international harmony on the basis of production for use. Only the proletariat can "guide the distracted world out of the bloody slough in which her present rulers, diplomats and social system have made her wallow."

To the Imperialisms of Capitalism and its Armageddons, we socialists oppose the Internationalism of the world's proletariat and the co-operative commonwealth.

wolves that fought over a captured rabbit. They fought to exhaustion, and a mean, hungry, non-combatant wolf jumped in and grabbed the rabbit. Outside nations are gathering the spoils. Everybody can have them. Europe has fought to the point of economic exhaustion. It starves and the nation not starving today will starve in a few months. The capitalist wish to preserve their perquisites. The workers want the promised paradise. At a time when the debt is heaviest, and the burden of crippled workers the greatest, are asking for a larger share of the wealth they produce at the very time when the drain upon it for pensions, debts, interest, and armies, is the heaviest.

### No Preparedness For Peace

"It cannot be done. Either the workers must go back to the pit, work harder, produce more, get less, and permit the surplus to meet the debts, or the bondholders must be sacrificed. The workers cannot get a better world, and the bondholders their pound of flesh, at one and the same time. Therefore, every demand of the worker hastens the catastrophe, and the struggle impedes production, and chaos is inevitable. There has been no preparedness for peace, and now the penalty must be paid. If nations refuse to develop a social conscience, then that which might have been secured by an intelligently thought-out plan, must involve chaos, as much on the field of economics as on the field of war, and that new world must evolve out of anarchy, misery, and bitter experience. I don't think there is such a thing as organized Bolshevik activity. There is unorganized massed dissatisfaction with the politicals who have promised so much and realized nothing. That dissatisfaction is as much with the orthodox labor leaders as with the Tories. They are all one branch—policy-less and, in a great crisis, a flood; direct action is imperative. Everywhere it is an unintelligible boil-up. We are on the verge of the unknown. The leaders of tomorrow will come from no man can say where—but the so-called leaders of today will be buried. Australia I have not seen for 12 months. It is bound to catch the ripples of European action, but it is far off, and has immense food supplies. It is bound, however, to feel every financial and economic crisis in Europe. Russia yesterday, Germany today, France tomorrow, and England after. Then Australia. They will all be caught in the whirlpool, and out of it comes triumphal reaction—a working class driven back into degradation and despair, or else a revolution that sweeps out the capitalist system, root and branch."

### KULTUR FROM "A SOLDIER'S POCKETBOOK"

"As a nation we are brought up to feel it, a disgrace to succeed by falsehood; the word spy conveys in it something as repulsive as slave. We still keep hammering away with the conviction that honesty is the best policy and that truth is bound to win in the long run. These pretty little sentences do well for a child's copybook, but the man who acts upon them in war had better sheathe his sword for ever.—Lord Wolsey."

### CHRIST NOT A GEOGRAPHICAL EXPRESSION

Father Bernard Vaughn, in a sermon, recently, declared that "until Christ is given the right place among nations I cannot believe much in the League of Nations." The dear man does not mean that Christ is a geographical expression, but that the Roman Catholic church has been left out in the cold.

# Elements That Will Abolish Social Wrongs

"Economic science can find no grounds of proof in moral indignation, however justifiable, but merely a symptom. Its task is to show the newly-developing social wrong as the necessary results of existing methods of production, and, at the same time, as signs of its approaching dissolution, and to point out, amid the break-up of the existing economic system, the elements of the new organization of production and exchange which will abolish those social wrongs. The feeling stirred up by the poets whether in the picturing of these social wrongs or by attack upon them or, on the other hand, by denial of them and the glorification of harmony in the interests of the dominant class, is quite timely, but its slight value as furnishing proof for a given period is shown by the fact that one finds an abundance of it in every epoch."—Engels in "Landmarks of Scientific Socialism."

WHAT are these social wrongs, which engage the attention of men today and give rise to so much indignation? Two of them we may mention: One is the apparently fixed and irremediable poverty of the masses of the people even though we have a capacity of wealth production of such dimensions as was never dreamed of by our forefathers and to which, moreover, paradoxical as it may seem, that poverty is directly traceable. The other is the unemployment problem, which is ever with us in a greater or less degree. This standing army of the unemployed, as its name, the industrial reserve, indicates, is recognized by capitalists as a necessity of the competitive system of production for sale, being a powerful lever in keeping wages down. It helps to lower the standard of living and gives permanency to the general poverty of the masses of the people. So these problems are linked together, necessary results of a common cause.

That there is unemployment, when there is neither lack of natural resources nor of means of production, and that poverty exists, when there is a boundless productive capacity, may be, and should be, cause for hot indignation, because, such a condition of affairs constitutes an assault on the ethical sensibilities of social man, or, in other words, that human sense of the fitness of things, which has its roots deep down in, and arises out of the foundation principle underlying all temporary social forms, human association itself. But there is this to be said: that all our indignation will not contribute one iota to that understanding, which is the prime necessity for a successful solution of our problem nor indicate to us the nature of an alternative system of social organization other than the capitalistic. That is the task of mind, the task of thought and sense, devoted to enquiry, to observation and to the collection of data and its classification; to discover underneath the deceptive surface appearances of things as accidental and arbitrary, and show them as necessary results. For instance, to discover underneath the apparently free arbitrary will of the wage-worker, or of capitalist, or of government, the hidden, but determining environment of social laws and forces to which they must respond, and which are, in the last analysis, alone responsible for their actions. In short, it is the task of economic science.

As bearing on these considerations we quote from an article entitled "The Obstacle to Peace," in the "New Republic" of April 26. The author of the article is discussing the Paris Peace Conference and, in part, says:

"In so far as the Peace Conference disagrees or in so far as its agreements are disappointing in their results, the tendency is and will be to blame individual statesmen or particular nations for the failure and its consequences. Frenchmen and Italians will blame America and Great Britain; Americans and Englishmen will blame France and Italy; almost everybody will blame the unfortu-

nate conferees. But before critics push this easy theory of individual and national responsibility too far, they would do well to consider its manifest limitations. When men and nations who control the greater part of the organized military and economic power in the world find it difficult to enforce decisions on which they might agree, and difficult to agree upon decisions which they are able to enforce, even though the failure to reach and put through agreements condemns them to costly personal and national penalties, we should beware of placing the entire blame on individual ineptitude or national egotism. The ineptitude and the egotism also call for explanation. Presumably these statesmen and nations behaved as well as their traditions of feeling, thought and action qualified them to behave. If they erred, they erred as the victims of a conspiracy of circumstances which individually they could not control. As a matter of fact such has been the case. The Paris conference has been struggling to escape from a terrible joint predicament. In searching for the meaning of this predicament we must go behind individual or national ill intentions to the common source of the equipment, the experience, the outlook and the motives of all modern peoples.

The common determining factor in the lives of the individuals and nations assembled in Paris consists in the economic, political and social system known as capitalism. It is not merely Orlando, Clemenceau, Lloyd George or Wilson; it is not merely Italy, France, Great Britain or America which are being tested by the task of international reconstruction. It is the formative relation between property and human nature, between machinery and human life which prevails throughout the modern world. Is a group of states, the equipment, experience, outlook and motives of whose leaders and peoples are determined and limited by the practice of capitalism, capable of creating the Great Society of better nations which alone can soothe the wounds of the war, repair its losses and bind together the mutilated and scattered fragments of industry and society?

"That it is chiefly capitalism which is on trial at the Peace Conference is indicated by one significant fact. Throughout its deliberations the conferees have subordinated moral and political to economic considerations. The headlines in the newspapers have attached major importance to political disagreements, but back of every dispute over territory or the future allegiance of its inhabitants lies the claim to the exclusive possession of natural resources or avenues of commerce which is born of capitalist control of industry."

In the quotation from Engels at the head of this article, he says, "Its (economic science) task, is to show the newly-developing social wrongs as the necessary results of the existing methods of production." In connection with this, applying the probe of science to the unemployment problem, is it possible for the capitalist to employ workers when he is unable to dispose of the products? Surely not, for to do so spells bankruptcy. By the employment of labor, the capitalist increases his wealth, it is true, but only within definite limits. Those limits being set by the market. The market has a certain purchasing capacity and this determines the quantities of products to be produced by regulating the prices. Should the market be glutted, prices fall and fall and so production must slow up and if necessary cease, in order to preserve profits on existing stocks, or to stave off bankruptcy until "conditions improve"; that is, until the market is depleted again. The capacity of the modern methods of production are greater than the capacity of the market to absorb its products. It is the market, its prices, and its absorbing capacity, which the managers of industry must watch, and govern themselves accordingly, and by the same token, so must the governments. And if the latter advise production and more production, the proviso is always understood,

that you produce cheap enough for a competitive market of limited capacity. Those who ask that the productive powers of a country be exercised in full under capitalism, are as children crying for the moon. Governments themselves experience the limitations of their strength. The cry now is for public works to be started, but there is a limit to this method of relief. The cost of public works comes out of taxes on capital and should you penalize capital, it will desert your country for a higher bidder. Capital is not patriotic. Capital is mercenary. Capitalism is a system of production for profit. The capitalists frankly recognize that stern fact, even though the obtuse reformers will not.

Imperial Rome, during her period of dissolution, fed by largess, great multitudes of her unemployed slaves. It was found less costly to do that than to put them to labor, because whilst working, they required more food as well as the raw materials with which to make those finished products, which would, after all, only find their way into an already overstocked market. But Rome was only so able to appease the clamorous multitude because she was an almost unchallenged world power and also a tribute collector. Today, however, the capitalist nations, after an exhausting war, are entering upon an era of economic struggle such as the world has never experienced before. The severity of the struggle being further enhanced by the enormous development of productive power during the war. Success in that struggle means that to any given quantity of products the labor time expended must be reduced to a minimum. It means, for production to be profitable, that only those necessary in production, working at the highest intensity, must be employed. This means unemployment, plenty of competition on the labor market and consequent low wages with all that it implies. Such is capitalism. It is out of society's bondage to the forms of capital, that arises unemployment and poverty and misery and degradation. Out of productivity—poverty. Surely a sign of dissolution.

What, then, are "the elements of the new organization of production and exchange which will abolish these social wrongs?" These are the already socially operated means of production and a working class aroused to the consciousness, that by its co-operative labors applied to natural resources, all wealth is produced and that it is because of the productivity of the socialized method of production that poverty and insecurity of life amongst the producers of wealth are due.

Socialized production demands, in order that productive powers be operated to the full, that the means of production be socially owned and production for use be the end in view instead of production for profit.

It would not be necessary then, as now, for the workers, like impudent paupers to pester the capitalist class for the means of existence, but as full share owners of the means of production, we shall obtain our full share of the products.

Any person under the age of thirty, who, having any knowledge of the existing social order, is not a revolutionist, is an inferior.—G. Bernard Shaw.

"The actual experience of democratic representative government is very disillusioning; and the notion of the state as universal employer is about as pleasant as the idea of conscription."—Hon. Bertrand Russell.

LONDON, April 16.—During a debate in the House of Commons an uproar was created in the gallery by Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Cole and Miss Stephenson, by shouting: "You gang of murderers! You have not only failed to settle the war, but you are leading the country into another one." There were also shouts of "Long live the Soviets."

# Russia Under the Soviets

Being a series of articles based upon an interview with Wilfred E. Humphries, American Red Cross man, recently returned from Russia

By W. A. PRITCHARD

One of the interesting stories Humphries tells is concerning alleged Bolshevik atrocities upon the famous "Battalion of Death," that group of hysterical females who formed a fighting force (!) at the time of Kerensky's regime, to "save the revolution and the soul of Russia."

Horrible yarns have been manufactured and retailed throughout the world concerning unmentionable outrages committed by Bolshevik troops upon this band of enthusiastic but misguided women. Deeds too horrible for words have been perpetrated. Humphries says the truth of the whole matter concerning the "Battalion of Death" is as follows:

This famous female regiment was marching down the street of a certain city one day, when they were stopped by a number of Red Guards who addressed them as follows:

"What's the trouble with you women. Go home and put on female attire, you look ridiculous dressed like that. If you are really serious about dying why not go home and take poison."

## And How Do You View Affairs in Russia at This Moment: What Is the Present Situation?

"One of the greatest dramas is going on there that the world has ever known. It's a pity that we can't get full information. And it's very discreditable that we should be so woefully deceived in regard to matters of supreme importance. When the people of this country (America) find out how persistently they have been fed on lies they will be very indignant. My work for the Red Cross enabled me to get into intimate relations with the Russian people and their Soviets and convinced me that at heart they were very different from what they had been represented as being since the revolution. I hadn't been in Russia very long before I was convinced of the absurdity of the reports that were flying around. For example, before I went into Moscow for the first time, I was told that the city was in flames, that thousands of people were dying, and that the Kremlin was destroyed. I actually found that five buildings had been burned and that the Kremlin Gate and two of the churches had been damaged in the bombardment. The city, as a whole, was quiet; food was being equitably distributed; theatres were soon running full blast. Women went home from theatres and political meetings without male escort."

## Now That You Have Mentioned Women, How About That Famous Decree on Socialization?

I have a paper here which is a translation from the Russian of the repudiation made by the Federal Anarchists in Samara and Saratov. They are twin cities. The alleged decree you speak of was surreptitiously plastered one night all over Samara and Saratov by unknown enemies of the revolution. Later it was found they were very young fellows attached to the monarchist party. It transpired that it was put out in the name of the Federated Anarchists, not of the Soviet, because everyone knew that the Bolsheviks stood for no such thing. The insinuation was that the anarchists were getting stronger, would soon overthrow the Soviet and here was what the anarchists stood for. Therefore, better go back to the monarchy. The next morning they were all torn down by order of the Soviet, and the Federated Anarchists came out with this emphatic repudiation. Let me read it to you:

"Enemies! You are defeated, and you are going down lower and lower. You have reached such a low level that your cause is now desperate. You wish to continue living in idle luxury and have us work for you, and you find the revolution a menace to you. Enemies, you slander and misrepresent us when you say that we anarchists would use our liberty to enslave women.

"You forge our name to this vile decree that your vile hands have written. For centuries and all over the world, anarchists were fighting against all decrees, all force and all oppression. We ourselves have used force and violence only against our oppressors. We want to live and let live in perfect freedom. Is it conceivable that we would now issue such a monstrous and contradictory decree?"

"Think for yourselves! Is it likely that anarchists would advocate or even permit such degradation of women? You think only to provoke trouble. You are only trying to deceive the ignorant people. Don't you suppose we have wives, sisters and daughters of our own?"

"You provocateurs apparently don't know our strength; but you shall know. Death for the provocateurs. Death, no matter who they are. We will make you pay for your vile crime. Anybody found circulating such dirty propaganda will be put in the same class. Everybody, whether with us or not, who opposes such contemptible propaganda methods deserves commendation."

"With all our soul we fight on for all that is best for Russia."

"Isn't it strange that the world should be asked to believe such a slander against Russia when it already knew that the Russian revolution had put women politically on equal terms with men? Can you imagine anything more absurd than the idea that political equality and general prostitution should go together?"

We have been told through our newspapers, etc., that Russia is a country at the present time torn with revolution, her industries completely disorganized, her economic and social life upset. But Humphries says that such is by no means the case. Though at first there was some disturbance, the activities in the interests of peace went on in the liveliest way. Many of the workers were highly pleased with the new conditions. One reason was that they felt they were having greater opportunities for self expression. "The theatres and opera houses were going full blast in the larger cities," he said. "They had big audiences. There was a marked increase in the number of community centres. The restaurants were crowded. And, by the way, the revolution put an end to tipping there. The waiters felt that it was degrading to free Russians to accept tips." The position of the Russian people toward Germany, as given by Humphries, is decidedly interesting. He stated that there was not hate of a personal kind. "The Russian didn't feel that they had any quarrel with the German people. Their quarrel was with the imperialistic government of Germany. In fact, the more intelligent of them hated, with a great deal of bitterness, imperialism of every kind. Lenin used to say that the new movement of industrial democracy meant the end of imperialism in the world. If there had been intense hatred between the Russian and the Germans there could not have been fraternizing between them and the Russians could not have been so successful in their propaganda work among them. The revolutionists have shown a great deal of shrewdness in trying to reach the minds and sympathies of their enemies. For instance, I used to hear it said while I was in Russia that a good many of the American boys who were prisoners there were given a great deal of freedom and encouraged to go about among the people and to make themselves familiar with what was actually happening. Lenin and his colleagues, remember, have great confidence in the strength of the appeal they are making to the people of the world. "You have read the Declaration of Rights!

Very well, think of what promise is held out to the toiling masses of workers and peasants. In the first place Russia is declared to be a republic of Soviets made up of deputies chosen by workers in the industries, by farmers and by soldiers. All power is placed in their hands. Each Soviet is treated as though it were a republic by itself. So Russia, with her one hundred and eighty millions, might claim to be the first real league of free nations. It announces as its basic task the abolition of all exploitation of man by man, the removal of class divisions, and the triumph of Socialism in all lands.

"The declaration says plainly that private ownership in the soil is abolished, that the land is transferred to the toilers without compensation on the principle of equal use and that all livestock and other equipment are declared national property.

"Of course, during my first two or three weeks in Russia, I thought that, from their own point of view, they were working too fast. But later I became convinced that they knew what they were doing and were getting away with it far better than I had supposed. See how they have defended themselves from the internal aggression by this passage in the declaration: 'In order to assure the plenitude of power to the laboring classes and to render impossible the re-establishment of the exploiters' rule, the arming of workmen, the forming of the Red Socialists army of workmen and peasants, and the complete disarmament of the propertied classes is decreed.'

At one period during our conversation he told me of the fact that in Moscow and Petrograd he had seen more of the operas of which he had heard in America and England than at any other place during his travels around the world. "And do you know," he continued, "that the working class so appreciate music and art that for one opera I had to wait myself several nights before I could get a ticket."

I thought of working class existence in Seattle or Vancouver and gazed pensively at the ceiling.

## MINING CONDITIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN

Continued from Page Two

only 2s 3d. And the miners are the most highly organized occupation in the country. Those figures stigmatize the capitalist press of Canada as malicious liars. Furthermore the reports of the evidence given before the Coal Commission as to living conditions in the mining districts have been out for publication and make most interesting reading, but the capitalist press in Canada has suppressed them. So it is left for the socialist and labor press to do the best they can under the handicaps of limited circulation and denial of the mails by the government.

Mr. Robertson also gave statistics on housing conditions. In Northumberland and Durham the percentage of tenements of more than two persons per room was 28.6. He gave Lanarkshire as a sample of Scotland. Between fifty and sixty thousand persons were employed in the mines. He gives the population of Hamilton as 38,000—a large proportion of other workers besides miners. Of the population 27,000 live in one or two-room houses; with the whole population, six per room. The town is built on ground mostly owned by the Duke of Hamilton. In Wishaw (Lanarkshire) there were numerous houses with one apartment—husband, wife, seven children; also several houses, three men, one woman, two children. And so on, a similar condition prevailing all over the industrial portions of the county. Observe the death rate for children under twelve months: In

Continued on Page Seven

# Helen Keller Writes Note of Cheer to Debs

Helen Keller, author and Socialist, blind and deaf, wrote to Eugene V. Debs just before he was taken to prison. The New Age here prints in full the message she sent him, congratulating him on the "added laurel to his wreath of victories."

Forest Hills, N. Y., March 11/19.

"To Eugene V. Debs:

"Dear Comrade: Of course, the Supreme Court has sustained the decision of the lower court in your case. To my mind, the decision has added another laurel to your wreath of victories. Once more you are going to prison for upholding the liberties of the people.

"I write because my heart cries out and will not be still. I write because I want you to know that I should be proud if the Supreme Court convicted me of abhorring war, and doing all in my power to oppose it. When I think of the millions who have suffered in all the wicked wars of the past, I am shaken with the anguish of a great impatience. I want to fling myself against all brute

FROM THE NEW AGE, BUFFALO, N. Y.

powers that destroy the life and break the spirit of man.

"In the persecution of our comrades there is one satisfaction. Every trial of men like you, every sentence against them, tears away the veil that hides the face of the enemy. The discussion and agitation that follow the trials define more sharply the positions that must be taken before all men can live together in peace, happiness and security.

"We were driven into the war for liberty, democracy and humanity. Behold what is happening all over the world today! Oh, where is the swift vengeance of Jehovah, that it does not fall upon the host of those who are marshalling machine guns against hunger-stricken peoples? It is the complacency of madness to call such acts "preserving law and order." Law and order! What oceans of blood and tears are shed in their name! I have come to loathe traditions and institutions that take away the rights of the poor and protect the wicked against judgment.

"The wise fools who sit in the high places of justice fail to see that, in revolutionary times like the present, vital issues are settled, not by statutes, decrees and authorities, but in spite of them. Like the Girondins in France, they imagine that force can check the onrush of revolution. Thus they sow the wind, and unto them shall be the harvest of the whirlwind.

"You dear comrade! I have long loved you because you are the apostle of brotherhood and freedom. For years I have thought of you as a dauntless explorer, going toward the dawn, and, like a humble adventurer, I have followed in the trail of your footsteps. From time to time the greetings that have come back to me from you have made me very happy, and now I reach out my hand and clasp yours through prison bars.

"With heartfelt greetings, and with a firm faith that the cause for which you are now martyred shall be all the stronger because of your sacrifice and devotion, I am,

"Yours for the revolution—may it come swiftly, like a shaft of light sundering the dark."

## Appalling Conditions Prevail Throughout India

**32,000,000 DEATHS ESTIMATED ALREADY  
150,000,000 PEOPLE ON THE VERGE OF  
STARVATION**

Plague and famine are rampant in India. Death stalks through the land taking its toll. The existing conditions are unparalleled elsewhere in the history of the world.

This awful catastrophe is due to plagues and the failure of the crops. There has been no rain since May last and consequently the country is literally burned up by the tropical heat. The poor have eaten all their food and thousands upon thousands are reduced to such a state that they are nothing but living skeletons.

### The Indescribable and Ghastly Conditions

The cities are peopled by emaciated humanity. Traffic has ceased, mails are undelivered and business is at a standstill. 150,000,000 loyal British subjects go hungry morning, noon and night, while a vast multitude endeavor to maintain life by eating roots, leaves and kernels of old nuts.

### Immediate Help Essential

Unless the peoples of the world and Governments pour help into India, by immediately cabling relief, millions more British subjects will die and the world will be shocked to know the terrible results of their procrastination and selfishness.

You who have plenty to eat and know not what starvation means—heed the call! Open your purse strings and give liberally for the cause is worthy of your greatest efforts.

### Help Them! Who Helped Us!

When the Great War sent forth its call to sacrifice, India answered unstintedly. She gave of men and treasure, sending three times as many soldiers to the front as Canada.

This call is addressed personally to you. The dollars you send mean life to many. Don't procrastinate! Send your donations today to Donald Cameron, Manager of Canadian Bank of Commerce, corner King and Jordan Streets, Toronto, Hon. Treasurer of the India Famine Relief Committee. Remember! Send them now! The need is so urgent funds will be cabled.

The above appeal which has a long list of the names of public men appended, as the Fund Committee, appeared in Toronto papers on April 24. So far it has not appeared in those of the West,

for what reason we can only surmise. We have no desire to make capital out of the awful miseries of the people of India for propaganda purposes, but wherever a clear and unmistakable connection can be established between such social catastrophes, as has worked devastation on the population of India, and the capitalistic economy of our (save the mark) civilization, it is our bounden duty to do so.

Famines have been of periodical occurrence in India (the writer witnessed one and will never forget it). Yet if any one will look up a Whittaker's Almanac he will find that exports have never failed to exceed the imports of the country. That is evidence that, whilst they were cadging the pennies and two-pences out of the poverty-stricken poor in Great Britain for the relief of starving India, capital was getting away with its surplus values, a legal (observe) tribute levied on the toiling, sweating, exploited masses of that country. For the further information of our public we append the following from the "Labor Leader" of April 3, London, England, which we published before in our April 26 issue:

"The Labor News Service issued at headquarters for this week draws attention to a terrible instance of the way famine can be created in a food-producing country. From the trade returns for 1914-1917 it shows that wheat to the value of millions of pounds was actually exported from India, at the very time that the Indian poor were dying in hundreds of thousands as a result of high prices and want! Even as late as 1916-17, the last year given, £5,969,971 (or 14½ million cwts. of wheat) was exported from India, of which eight million pounds' worth came to Great (the adjective reads strangely here) Britain and the rest went to our Allies, Italy and France. Verily, it was 'War at any price'—and largely a price we did not pay."

### WHO IS THE BOLSHEVIK?

"We went into the war for equal rights, and we were prosecuting it for annexation. (Hear, hear). We went into the country for philanthropy, and remained in it for burglary."

Who is the villain? Quick! Who is he?

Mr. Lloyd George, speaking in the House of Commons, July 25, 1900.

### MINING CONDITIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN

(Continued from Page Six)

the twenty years from 1891 to 1910—Born, 158,531, of which 22,279 died before twelve months: Did we hear some one whisper atrocities? Be careful, there may be a patriot around.

No wonder Mr. Robertson addressed the following words to the Commission: "Think of the condition in these single rooms—pit clothes drying in front of the fire, same room where the children sleep, sickness, accouchements. How can the children have a chance? After the woman has spent her day cleaning, miners come home from work and it has all to be done over again. Do we wonder when the women folks lose heart?"

Mr. Robertson concluded with a long quotation from Dr. Russell, former medical officer of the L. G. B., contrasting the lives of the well-to-do with those who live in one-room houses. It ended:

"You rich ones in your hushed seclusion—how would you deport yourself in the racket and thoughtless noise of the nursery, in the heat and smells of your kitchen, in the steam and disturbance of your washing house, for you would find all these combined in a house of one room? Last of all, when you die, you still have one room to yourself, where in decency you can be washed and dressed and laid out for burial. If that one room were your house, what a ghastly intrusion you would be—the bed on which you lie is wanted for the accommodation of the living."

We regret not being able to give the full text of Mr. Robertson's evidence. It has been handed over to the B. C. Federationist and they may publish it.

### ABOLITION OF MONEY IN RUSSIA

The Russian Soviet Central Executive Committee at Moscow has recently issued a decree to the effect that money shall henceforward be abolished throughout Russia, and in its place labor coupons issued. The rouble accordingly has now no value whatsoever (Kleivis, January 15, 1916). It is possible that this is the reply and no unsuitable one, to the attempt of the American banks at flooding Russia with oceans of worthless paper money manufactured in the United States. The Soviet Government, no doubt remember the "Assignats" that debased the French credit in the time of the Revolution of 1792, and many of which were issued from the British Isles.—Research Bureau, Scotland.

# Vested Interests Sabotaging the Rising Generation of Vancouver

The corner grocery intellectuals who manage to get on to our school boards give us the pip. According to the new plans of the Vancouver School Board, pupils who are taking technical courses in the high school must finish their course in Toronto before they can enter the University here. We understood that this action by the board constitutes the tearing up of another "scrap of paper," in that, they promised the pupils, three years ago, admittance to the University on graduation, or, as an alternative, the formation of an advanced vocational course outside the University. The boys are, very properly, up in arms against this. Many of their parents have made sacrifices and are having a hard struggle these days to furnish means to give their boys an education that will make them constructive citizens of the new age, and also, many of the pupils have to work for wages in their spare time in order to carry on their education, so that, going to Toronto, is out of the question and they may as well look for a job in a ditch or behind a counter right away.

All that education evidently means to these dill pickle vendors on the Board, is that it should make good doleful muckstick artists or at the best, forty dollar a month clerks.

They imagine their anarchical system of buying

cheap and selling dear is going to last forever. But they have another think coming. Before long, the proletariat will be in control and then the transition stage from Capitalism to Socialism commences. Production and distribution has then to be recognized on the basis of production for use. That will be largely the work of those who are now attending high schools, and we want them to be well prepared for it.

Yet, these mixing-the-sugar-with-the-sand saboteurs, are intending to frustrate the laudable ambitions of the pupils to play a useful and valuable part in the great task which lies before us.

We shall need hosts of young men thoroughly grounded in the theories of the sciences and their practical application to the new problems entailed in the reorganization of production and distribution upon a basis of production for use instead of profit. The great need will be an abundance of technical experts in those spheres of economic activity.

The blind, anarchic working out of the law of supply and demand on the market as a register of purchasing capacity and regulator of production will be superseded by conscious, scientific accounting, direction and control. We need educated men and women for the experimental and re-

search stations we shall establish in connection with every department of industry. All the out of date means and methods of production must be scrapped and the very best and latest put in the hands of the producers. We are going to be very busy after the proletariat gets control. All those farmers, who are now breaking their hearts, year in, year out, in poverty, on the sand hills and the stump ranches will be settled on the rich lands now lying idle in the hands of speculators. For we are going to work to live, and live high purposeful social lives in the spacious days of the new age.

The masses of the people are going to move out of the tuberculosis breeding slums and erect their homes on the heights. And so, we need our youth educated to be builders instead of parasites, or the hangers on the parasites.

We hope the pupils and their friends will be successful in forcing the Board to change its plans of sabotage. Because we are, for the task of the future, woefully short on men with the vision that comes from possession of constructive knowledge and ability in the socially useful productive spheres of human activity, and long, too long, woefully long on the supply of labor of the manual sort. And, we are too long also on "educated" predatory pirates in the sphere of profit.

## The Socialization of Women in Russia Story

This malicious story has been many times publicly refuted and an apology extracted from the "New Europe," an English publication, which was responsible for its going the rounds of the bourgeois press, but we hear that it is still in private circulation, mostly, no doubt, circulated by those of a pornographic bent of mind, so we have to use space that we needed for other purposes, in order to publish another refutation. First we quote from the Glasgow "Forward" of April 12:

"And the British government sticks to its infamous 'we don't know' attitude about the nationalization of women lie, the alleged decree of Saratoff. Here beside us in the "New Republic" for 15th March, giving the decree in full as it appeared on the hoardings of Samara on the Volga last spring. Mr. Oliver M. Saylor, who was in Samara at the time, gives the whole story to the "New Republic." The decree was not put up by the Bolsheviks. Ostensibly it was put up by the 'Free Association of Anarchists of the City of Saratoff,' but as on the face of it there was something strange in a Saratoff decree appearing in the streets of Samara (which is 200 miles from Saratoff, Mr. Saylor and some friends visited the local Anarchist Club to hear what they had to say about it. He found them issuing an enraged 'reply,' which begins:

"The enemy is powerless. The enemy is falling lower and lower. And in his fall he is blaspheming. And in his fall he is slandering. And he makes use of the most provocative means. . . And the enemy is spreading the vicious slander that freedom goes so far as to do violence to women. In our name they spread their dirty hands. "the Decree concerning the Socialization of Women."

"Northcliffe got a hold of the story. He was not at the time particularly concerned about damning the Anarchists (whom, by the way, the Bolsheviks suppressed by force of arms!), so he fathered the 'decree' upon the Bolsheviks.

"What a howl arose from the gutter press! It squared well with a previous lie that Lenin had to be supplied with a fresh bourgeois maiden every day. In remote corners the story arrived with the added touch that the decree had been

approved by the Independent Labor Party in Britain!

"And now! Proof from Mr. Saylor:

- (1) That the Bolsheviks had nothing to do with it.
- (2) That the Anarchists had nothing to do with it.

"It was therefore part of a counter-revolutionary plot, the work of an 'agent provocateur.' 'In the course of six months in Russia,' says Mr. Saylor, 'I was unable to find record of other allusion to any such document.' Only once on the hoardings of Samara in the night time did an enemy of the working class revolution get his bogus proclamation displayed. And upon the strength of it our capitalist press and our foreign office whip up the indignation of the people of Great Britain against the Socialists of Russia!

"The decree bears upon its face the falsehood manifest. It is overdone. Its grossness and viciousness is too obvious, too transparent. Look for example:

[We did not think it necessary to publish the decree itself but will follow up with a letter from Mr. Joseph King, member of the British House of Commons, to Francis W. Hirst, a noted British economist and editor of "Common Sense," London, England, a journal dealing with public affairs:

To the Editor of "Common Sense"—Dear sir: Lenin and Trotsky must be congratulated! Here is the "New Europe" apologizing for starting and spreading the stories which have been spread ad nauseam by the Government and the Press that women have been "nationalized," meaning that all women are made prostitutes by law. This piquant idea was first started by the "New Europe" several months ago. Now the "New Europe" is a weekly magazine, very ably run by a committee on which sit men like Mr. Wickham Stead, (editor of the Times), Colonel Buchan, and Dr. Seton Watson, gentlemen in high official authority. So, when the "New Europe" stated that the Bolsheviks had made a monstrous decree of this kind, many believed it. The "New Europe," after the abominable lie had done its work, is now brought to book by the People's

Russian Information Bureau, and Dr. Harold Williams, of the Daily Chronicle, a strong anti-Bolshevik writer, and recants its error; it "withdraws unreservedly the imputation and expresses regret for the mistake." We ought to congratulate Lenin and Trotsky, and the Bolsheviks on getting an apology from the Editor of the "Times" and his Foreign Office colleagues. Yours truly,

JOSEPH KING.

Reform Club, March 17, 1919.

In addition to the above we have other matter contradicting this and other stories of the socialization of women in Russia, notably a refutation of an alleged incident at Briansk (Orel province, East Russia) issued by the People's Russian Information Bureau.

### "THE TRUTH IS NOT IN THEM"

Those who read and accepted at its face value Mr. Lloyd George's bland denial of any knowledge of the Bullitt mission to Russia, ought to know that Mr. Bullitt took breakfast with Mr. Lloyd George the morning after his return from Russia to Paris and that Mr. Lloyd George is as thoroughly familiar with the Bullitt report as are the members of the American Peace Delegation. . . "The Nansen project for feeding Russia appears to be the main result of the Bullitt mission, and bids fair to have an interesting career. In a manly letter to the Big Four, Dr. Nansen outlined the terrible situation in Russia and suggested an acceptable method of relief through neutral agencies. The Big Four replied with still another sanctimonious profession of impartiality in the internal affairs of Russia, made it a cardinal item of the project that the Soviet government cease fighting, and told Dr. Nansen to go ahead. As all the fighting in Russia is being done either by Allied and American troops or by counter-revolutionary troops, instigated, financed and supplied by the Allies (according to the frank admission of Mr. Lloyd George in the House of Commons on April 16) it is difficult to see how the Soviet government can cease fighting until the Big Four call off their dogs."—New York "Nation," April 26.