

THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

For International Socialism.

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SELF-GOVERNMENT IN THE SOVIET ARMY.

Decree concerning the Revolutionary Military Soviet, adopted unanimously at a session of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets, on October 2nd, 1918.

1. The Revolutionary Military Soviet of the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic, constitutes the organ of the supreme military power in the country.

All powers and means of the people are put at the disposal of the Revolutionary Military Soviet for the defence of the frontiers of the Soviet Republic.

All Soviet Institutions are under the obligation to consider and satisfy without delay the demands of the Revolutionary Military Soviet of the Republic.

2. The Revolutionary Military Soviet of the Republic takes over all the rights of the College of the People's Commissariat for War, the members of which are incorporated in the Soviet.

3. All military institutions are subordinate to the Revolutionary Military Soviet of the Republic and must work under its supervision.

The All-Russian General Staff, the Supply Department, the Military Legislative Soviet, the Military Inspection Department and other military institutions, are subordinate to the Revolutionary Military Soviet.

4. The People's Commissary for the Army and Navy is the president of the Revolutionary Military Soviet of the Republic. The inter-relationships between the president and the Soviet are similar to the inter-relationships between the People's Commissary and the College of the People's Commissariat for War, as laid down by the Constitution of the Soviet Republic.

5. The Commander-in-Chief has full powers in all questions of a strategic character. All other orders, for which he is responsible, must be counter-signed by one of the members of the Revolutionary Military Soviet. In all other matters the Commander-in-chief enjoys the rights of a member of the College.

6. The members of the Revolutionary Soviet of the Republic attached to each separate army, form a link with headquarters, and fulfil the functions of observation and instruction. They do not directly interfere with the orders and arrangements of the commander, or of the military soviet of the particular army; but have the right, in extreme cases, to dismiss commanders and members of the local military council. Moreover, they have the right to issue orders of a local character, subject to their immediate notification to the Revolutionary Military Soviet of the Republic.

7. In the event of a member of the Revolutionary Military Soviet of the Republic being

also a member of the Revolutionary Military Soviet of the army to which he is attached, his rights, as far as his work is concerned, are only those of a member of the said Soviet.

8. The election of the president of the Revolutionary Military Soviet must be confirmed by the All-Russian Central Executive Committee; and the election of the members of the Revolutionary Military Soviet, including the Commander-in-chief, must be confirmed by the Soviet of People's Commissaries.

AFTER THE WAR.

Charles Willingale, a returned prisoner of war, spent the last £3 he had on a horse, which he bought at an auction sale, in order that he might earn a living for himself and family by carting and hawking green groceries. When too late he discovered that he had made a bad bargain; the horse was 23 years of age and only fit for the knacker's yard. Next day he went out to ply his trade but the horse collapsed and as a result he was charged with cruelty at Westminster Police Court. The magistrate said he would take the circumstances of the case into consideration and made the ex-soldier pay the costs.

But what could the poor fellow do? Workless in the country he worked for but of which he owns not a yard.

HANDS OFF RUSSIA.

Speech by Mr. Israel Zangwill at the Albert Hall, February 8th, 1919.

To avoid obtaining applause under false pretences, let me confess at once that I speak as a bourgeois with hard-earned savings and not as a Bolshevik. Bolshevik, I understand, means one of the majority, and that is, alas! a position I have never had the comfort to occupy. I speak from your platform because you have offered me it, and I would as cheerfully hold forth in the House of Lords if they gave me facilities. I do not belong to the Red Army, unless you will spell it "Read."

Do not despise that "Read" Army—Lenin himself compares newspapers to bombs and guns, and thought it so dangerous that no Government in the world dares leave it uncensored. Even he has expressed the opposition press, I am sorry to say. But I was relieved to find the suppression described as a temporary and extraordinary measure till the new order was firmly in the saddle. But he would have done better to leave the press free, especially as the Russian masses cannot read.

It is our press that is Lenin's real danger. A Muscovite when he reads that the gutters of Moscow run blood, knows whether the blood is really there, or only invented by the gutter-journalists. But we over here in the fog of peace, can never be absolutely sure that our journals are lying. The other day, I saw an article headed "Russian Dangers." On looking more closely I saw it was only "Russian Dancers." But so hypnotised was my brain by the popular chorus: "Hush, hush, hush, here comes the Bolshevik," that I read it even into a eulogy of the only good thing now admitted to come out of Russia—its ballet.

What a difference from the beginning of the war! Then, when I read about Archangel, I thought it was the Czar. Those were the days of Stephen Graham and "Holy Russia" and Russian Supplements of *The Times*. On the first anniversary of the war, Count Benckendorff, the Russian Ambassador, emphasised on behalf of Czar and people "the hearty and constant union of views

between Russia and Great Britain and the continued confidence and faith which each has in the other." In those days, for saying a word against Russia, I was denounced as a pro-German. Now the danger is to say a word for Russia.

This is in one way a blessing; for now that Russia has taken the place of Germany as the enemy of the human race, now that Bolshevism is, in the language of Lord Denbigh, "a curse in comparison with which German militarism would have been a blessing," now that at Riga the Eighth German Army has actually co-operated with our troops against the Bolsheviks, there has been a relaxation in our iniquitous blockade against Germany. Just as the Bolsheviks, by undermining German morale, helped to save us from Prussian militarism, so they are now helping to save us from ourselves.

Moreover, they have so frightened Capital that everywhere wages are rising—even in the Army and Navy, hours of work are falling, and the Peace Conference is offering Labour an international charter. The fear of Bolshevism is the beginning of wisdom. Bolshevism may be a curse, but its evil is by no means unmixt.

But is Bolshevism a curse? Well, we must distinguish between Bolshevism in itself and the violence with which it has been established. As a conscientious objector to violence of every species, I do not believe that revolutions can be made only with blood, I believe they can be made with ink, or with electric light. But revolution with blood is not unknown even in English history and violence in Russia is not confined to the Bolsheviks. In recording the court-martialing and shooting of 117 Bolsheviks near Omsk, *The Times* remarked recently: "These prompt measures have made a good impression." But you cannot in the same breath praise violence and abuse it.

It is impossible to whitewash the Bolsheviks, but I have no doubt that the bloodiness of their régime has been as exaggerated as its bankruptcy. If the possessing classes in England were suddenly deprived by the masses of their lands and factories, and even turned out of their homes, I should not

go to them for an impartial view of the situation, nor expect them to recognise that, once things had settled down, Britain as a whole might really be better off. When Mr. Lloyd George was denounced for "robbing hen-roosts," I did not accept that as a complete account of his politics. Lord Milner prates of "the unspeakable horrors of Bolshevik rule," but I was not so ready to believe all that the Boers said about his concentration camps. Quite a number of those murdered by the Bolsheviks seem to pop up again.

But when all is said, it is unquestionable that infinite injustice and brutality have marked the Bolshevik as every other revolution, including the revolution against the Czar, which the British Government endorsed. I do not doubt that the same Russian hooligans who carried out the brutalities of the army in Galicia, or the Jewish pogroms against which the British Government refused to intervene, profited by their new and rich opportunities to carry out those horrors against which the British Government has been so anxious to intervene: horrors which for the most part, indeed, were the very result of our intervention. Had we recognised Lenin's Government as we recognised Kerensky's, instead of trying both secretly and openly to subvert it, Bolshevism would have been comparatively bloodless. But it was forced to stand with its back to the wall against the whole world. This animal, as Buffon puts it, is very spiteful: when you attack it, it defends itself.

The latest excuse for intervention is that Bolshevism has replaced Prussianism in aggressive and invasive militarism. But, as the books of strategy teach, attack is often the best form of defence. In the classic language of Barney Barnato, when you see a man about to hit you, you hit him first. But Russia must be saved from the Bolsheviks, the defeated Russian parties tell us. "For reasons of high morality," cries M. Savinkoff, the head of the Omsk military mission to Paris, "it is an international duty to put an end to the odious massacres which mark the Red Terror." Who is this M. Savinkoff, this preacher of high morality, now in such high honour in Paris? The man who, according to his own 'Confessions,' recently published in Bourzeff's

Continued on page 1226.

BETWEEN OURSELVES. By L. A. Motler.

There have been queues at Westminster; not for rationed quantities of coke but for the purpose of swearing.

Before the reader jumps to conclusions, it should be explained that it was a gala day. The Bagges and the Magges and the Snagges arrived, some with their coupons, and the most of them with their election promises. It was an imposing ceremony, and the Speaker, and the Black Rod, and the Gentleman Usher, and the Serjeant-at-arms, and the Mace were all there to impress the Ladies' Gallery with the importance of Being Earnest.

Outside were some hundreds of thousands of strikers who were playing at the ancient game of being insulted by the Bellow Press. These shipyard workers, these railwaymen, these engineers had no sense of the importance of Parliament. They spelt it "Impotence"; which is a way the working classes have of using the free education a kind-hearted capitalist Government made them absorb, willy-nilly.

It is the custom of the papers of the bourgeoisie to use choice gentlemanly language when writing of men on strike; *The Observer*, for instance, referred to them as "blackguards and shirkers." It will be noticed, however, that none of the brilliant and patriotic editors of these papers make a rush to fill the places vacated by the strikers—at the same pay and hours; an editor would feel less risk in handling a file, than in making his ink foam, most frothily, about the Russian and German gold behind these strikes.

But it is the privilege of editors to shed their ink gallantly in defence of their native land. They do not set up the type, or pull the proofs, or cast the plates for the machines. That is left to the workers who, in most cases, are trade-union men. The compositor does not trouble to doubt the truth of the matter he is told to set up for printing. A compositor's motto is: "follow copy"—and apparently the most absurd and insulting fables about his fellow workers on strike do not worry him. Yet the printers know the calumny of the Bellow Press so well, and they so clearly recognise the value of its bark, that in the last great printer's strike, they started a paper of their own to present the truth of their case. This was the original *Daily Herald*, and it proved such a success that it was continued after the strike, until the war changed it into a weekly.

In spite of this practical lesson, however, the compositors are still setting up the wildest stories about strikes, and the machine-minders are putting these stories into black and white, in order to create a "public indignation against the strikers." There is, I understand, what is called a "Labour Press Bureau," which sends out Labour news and views to Socialist and Labour papers. This is in opposition to that suppression of the Truth Factory known as *The Press Bureau*.

Now, of course, it is one thing to be able to avoid preserved eggs thrown by an affectionate opponent, but the best policy is, of course, to cut off the said opponent's supply of bad eggs. The Labour Press Bureau issues contradictions of what the firm opposite issues; but give a lie a good start and half the game is won. The Labour Party and the Trade Unions who control and compose it, make no effort whatever to see that the "facts" of the official Press Bureau, or any Press agency, are sifted. The London Society of Compositors does not worry its head over the matter. Yet the paramount thing is to have a Labour censor, failing a daily press that represents all shades of the movement.

The Bellow Press is not the only menace to the working-class when they go on strike to wring concessions from M. Boss. I read, for instance, that there are six tanks in Glasgow, and since then probably more have arrived. What I should like to know is *who* shipped those Tanks to Glasgow? *Who* delivered the goods?

There are thousands of soldiers there. Who entrained them there? Who drove the engines? Who turned out the rifles, the grenades, the bayonets? Who piled up the munitions? And *what* for?

These soldiers—who are they? Did they enlist to fight for the honour of the Clyde ship-owners, the freedom of "loyal" workers, the rights of small profiteers?

The Clyde workers asked the Government to "intervene." The kind Government declined to do anything of the sort, so it said. The next day it sent troops, and tanks, and Lewis guns—and that wasn't intervention, if you understand.

The London Electricians wanted the Government to pass an Act establishing the 40-hour week. Instead the Government added still another section to Dora, whereby the electricians became liable to six months for leaving their jobs.

That shows how the Government loves the people. And that shows that the Government can only rule the workers by dividing them against each other. To drive the workers back, the Government sends working-class soldiers in trains driven by working-class railwaymen, and with these soldiers there go also a few wagons full of munitions turned out by still other workers. The Government has only to say the word, and the working classes begin to slaughter each other, just as much as if they were in Flanders.

Some of us cheered these soldiers when they went off to kill Germans in defence of liberty. Now these soldiers have come back to shoot us. Some of us cheered the police when they went on strike. Now these police are prepared to batter our brains in when the Government gives the word.

When the Allied Command was going to make an attack on a big scale they did not give the Germans three days' ultimatum.

They did not send the infantry without artillery, or tanks, or aeroplanes. They used every available unit in the whole army in that attack.

They did not believe in small strikes, but in big strikes. They believed, in the General Strike.

The workers' strikes are part of the class-war; but they are mere nibbles. The strikers' aims are part of Labour's aims; but they also are mere nibbles.

The one aim, the real aim, is the whole control of the nation, and the nation's means of existence by the whole nation.

The one means, the real means, is the General Strike.

Get on with it!

THE PEACE CONFERENCE AND BOLSHEVIKS.

ANOTHER MR. DOOLEY EXPLAINS.

"What I think of the Peace Conference, Himmsy, w'd surprise ye if I told ye. Mind ye, there's no har-rm in a Peace Conference, generally speaking, providin' it confines its activities to subjects within its own sphere, as *The Times* would say. Ye'd like to know what that means? Well, it means that they kin talk like the devils on any subject under the sun which has no relation to Peace. Their business is to draw up programmes, and amendments to th' programmes, and amendments to th' amendments to th' programmes. Thin they wrap them up in a couple of edendas to th' last amendment, draw up a revision, publish a summary, issue a blue book, and take away th' number they first thought of. That, Himmsy, is a Peace Conference. If ye want any more details, ye'll have to engage fifteen thousand newspaper reporters, a couple o' million Pinkerton men, and three regiments of German spies. And I kin promise ye, Himmsy, when this Peace Conference has talked itself to slape and woke up wid a star-tr of joyous surprise to find stray slices of th' German Empire in other, an' nobler, an' worthier hands; an' voted itself a vote of thanks for its untiring an' devoted efforts on behalf of th' whole civilised wurld, an' mar-rehes out ar-rm in

ar-rm to the tune of 'Welcome, Little Nations'—then, Himmsy, there'll be such a bust-up as'll make ye're whiskers curl if ye had any."

"I don't know," he continued, "if ye've heard of Bolshevism, but it is one of th' great problems of the Conference. Bolshevism was invited by some of th' most malignant an' sinister an' traitorous enemies of th' British, French, German, Russian, Venezuelan, an' Shoresditch Empires. They're also th' enemies of th' people an' the press an' th' pulpit an' th' public house. They're enemies of society, Lloyd George, an' th' Emperor of China, an' all th' noble institutions which a noble civilisation has instituted. What they don't know about opposition isn't in th' cookery books. They hold massyeres like ye'd hold a mother's meeting if ye was a par-rson, Himmsy. An' no Bolshevist considers he has passed his first-degree until he has spilled as much blood as would float a battleship, an' made as many corpses as would sink it again."

"Well, these Bolshevists have the poor, misguided notion that they're th' only hope of mankind an' a human patent medicine to cure all diseases from palm-itch to sharcholders' meagles. They've got th' idee to such an extent that they want the earth from th' Himalayas down to Little Silver Street, where th' widdy Maloney carries on wid six children an' an income of nothin' pound fifteen a week. And when they've got their unholy hands on it—th' wurld, I mean, they're goin' to turn it inside out, an' wash out all th' dirty blood spots off av it. An' nat'urly these blood spots will want a divvie of a wash."

"But they're one thing, Himmsy, I'd like to draw ye're attention to—an' if ye'll just compare th' wurld to a dirty shirt, ye'll follow me better—th' Bolshevist says that seem' as he made th' shirt he's got to have th' handlin' of it. On the other hand, the man behind the gun—about fifty miles behind, Himmsy—says th' Bolshevist can't wash it because he don't know how to manage a laundry."

"That's logic, Himmsy, but arguments usually keep logic on th' doornat. An' what does th' Bolshevist say? He says, says he, 'Me shirt might be dirty but th' soap I'm goin' to use ain't to ye're taste, just wipe them out of ye're eye, an' if ye want to have a shirt washing competition I'll match me soap again yours, belave, says he, 'me soap is a new kind of soap invented by me frind Karl Marx, an' vastly improved by subsequent experiment, an' none genuine without th' trade union label,' says he."

"An' th' man behind th' gun, who is open to any reasonable argument, steps firmly on the shir-rt an' wipes his feet on it, an' th' Bolshevist who appreciates th' logic of th' occasion lets it wid a bit of his soap."

"An' the man behind th' gun, who is struck for-reibly by th' Bolshevik argument says, says he, 'I've reasoned wid ye, an' argued wid ye, an' talked kindly to ye. I've sacrificed some of th' finest blood of th' finest nation th' wurld has ever seen. I've spint th' nation's money an' th' nation's young min like wather, an' this is ye're gratitude. Me hear-rt bleeds for th' ignorance of ye. But if ye won't do as ye're told by thin that a kind an' farseein' providence has place in authority over ye, thin ye're blood be upon ye're own head. Ye have put ye're hands where th' sword wick I said would never be sheathed till th' Germans was cr-rushed. After all, royalty is royalty an' it has its privileges an' ye cannot be a Treat in a chair an' prod him wid a bayonet without raisin' th' blood in ivry decent-minded subject. So forew'd wid me old an' trusty frind Sazonoff, an' Milukoff, an' Hindenburg, an' Erzberger, an' Prince Max o' Baden, to preserve th' ancient relics of our noble an' enlightened civilisation."

"An' what d'ye think th' Bolshevists will do, Dooley?"

"If th' weather kapes fine," said Dooley, thoughtfully, "I'll be out with me gun an' lightin' his pipe. Th' Bolshevists will soon be ready hangin' out th' shir-rt to dry."

INDIAN NEWS.

The Conference of Indian ruling Princes and Chiefs at Delhi has passed a resolution expressing gratitude to the Viceroy and Mr. Montagu for the solicitude shown in their report for the welfare of the ruling princes and chiefs and for safeguarding their welfare. We are glad that the Indian aristocrats have been too frank to pretend that the Montagu-Chelmsford report offers anything to the Indian masses. But we are even a little sceptical as to the advantages which the Indian aristocracy will derive from it. It appears to us that the report mainly consists of do-nothing platitudes.

IRELAND, MARX AND INTERNATIONALISM. By Capt. White.

There can be no internationalism except a league of governments against the peoples, until, in each country, government ceases to mean the administrative machinery of the masters over a wage-slave class. Hence, to quote Marx:—

"Though not the substance, yet the form of the struggle of the proletariat against the bourgeoisie, is national, at first. The proletariat of each country naturally must first settle accounts with its own bourgeoisie."

This is what is happening in Ireland, as illustrated by the complete loss of influence of the constitutional Nationalist Party, which represents bourgeois interests and ideals.

Connolly has shown us in "Labour in Irish History" that in the struggle for freedom of an oppressed nationality, the employing and middle classes are forced, by the pressure of economic conditions, to make terms with the oppressor. Thus the onus of the struggle comes to be thrown more and more upon the most subject class, on whom a double toll is levied.

So long as the struggle remains political—that is, so long as the workers have not conceived the idea of their economic emancipation as a class—they make common cause with their own bourgeoisie against the oppressor nation.

But once they become class conscious, their struggle for national independence assumes a totally different colour. Whereas formerly they supported their own masters at home to get rid of foreign dominance, it is now nothing but foreign dominance which enables their "masters" to disguise the true nature of the national struggle. Where would the constitutional Nationalists be to-morrow but for the fact that the British Government persists in regarding them as representative of the Irish people, and backs up their opponents while trying to the latter all opportunity to express Ireland's altered will? But the very arbitrary removal of the Sinn Fein leaders, the representatives of uncompromising Nationalism, by throwing the lead more on Irish labour can only result in exposing the identity of aim and interest between genuine Irish Nationalism and International Socialism.

If there is a difference between them, it is that Irishmen fight without talking for the objects about which the International Socialist

is apt to talk without fighting. I believe it is time to exchange roles, or at least for the English proletariat to act with more firmness, whilst Irishmen, without evacuating a trench or removing a sentry, devote all the energy they can to explaining their national position in international terms.

Sinn Fein is accused of a policy of isolation. So far as there is any truth in the charge, its object is to isolate Ireland from foreign domination and infection, in order the more easily to eradicate some disease which it believes to have been introduced from outside into the national life.

The back-veldt type of Sinn Feiner, to borrow an expression from South Africa, attributes this disease to British influence and leaves it at that. The back-veldt Sinn Feiner is right, only his diagnosis does not go deep enough to effect a cure.

It was unquestionably British influence which destroyed the Irish clan system, and replaced it by a feudalism which has developed into world-wide capitalism. But since the disease has become world-wide, the cure must be world-wide too. The great and growing influence of Labour in Irish revolutionary nationalism is the best guarantee that an international cure will be applied.

Sinn Fein stands for the protest of Ireland against capitalistic internationalism; Labour, for Ireland's entry as an organic unit, into International Socialism. Each comes daily to understand and respect more fully the function of the other.

How is it that even Irish Labour, not to mention Sinn Fein, stands somewhat aloof from English Labour, even from that section of it which professes sympathy for Irish independence? The plain truth is that Ireland has learnt by centuries of bitter experience to judge by deeds, not words. There is an old Gaelic proverb which warns us to beware of three things: "The horns of a bull, the heels of a horse, and the smile of an Englishman." Though Irishmen do not fear treachery behind the smile of English Labour, they are apt to be contemptuous of the smiles of those who show so little power to win respect for their frowns. Nor is it easy for them to be conscious at a distance of the number and strength of the

elements, which some day in Britain, will give cohesion and driving force to the invertebrate mass.

Ireland has realised the place of Labour in Irish history; it is for the British proletariat to recognise the place of Ireland in Labour history. A subject and industrially-depressed Ireland has meant in the past a constant source of cheap labour at the disposal of the master class. Capitalism cannot afford the conversion of its casual labourers into the backbone of an Irish Republic. That is why it is worth while to the British Government to suppress genuine Irish freedom at all costs, even at serious risk to itself. And for the same reason, it is not only worth while to the British workers, but the first essential of their own emancipation, to realise that British rule in Ireland is the corner stone of their own house of bondage.

On this point hear Karl Marx, who wrote to a friend as long ago as 1869:—

"I have more and more arrived at the conviction, though this conviction has not entered the mind of the English working class, that we shall never be able to do anything decisive in England, if we do not resolutely separate our policy, in all that concerns Ireland, from the policy of the dominant classes, so that not only will we be able to make common cause with Ireland but even take the initiative in dissolving the union of 1801. . . . and this aim should be followed, not as a matter of sympathy with Ireland, but as a necessity based on the interests of the English proletariat. . . ."

"The first condition of emancipation in this country—the overthrow of the English moneyed oligarchy—remains impossible, for the position cannot be raised much while the oligarchy retains strongly fortified advance posts in Ireland. But there as soon as the matter is placed in the hands of the Irish people, so soon will the latter become its own legislator and governor and the downfall of the English moneyed aristocracy, in great part the same people as the Irish landlords, will become infinitely more easy than here in England, for the reason that in Ireland, it is not only an economic, but a national question, because the landlords are not, as in England, the traditional dignitaries and representatives, but the oppressors of a nationality which they mortally hate."

"But as, on the other hand, it is the English working class who will incontestably throw the decisive weight in the balance of social emancipation, it is they who must act as the lever."

THE FRENCH STRIKE.

The French Government is taking a high hand with the French transport workers. Whilst the bus and tube workers' demands remain in the hands of negotiators the workers of the Paris-Lyons-Mediterranean Railway, who have long tried in vain to secure improvements, decided to show their solidarity and power by a demonstration strike. Therefore it was arranged that on January 25th at 3 o'clock the mechanics should stop work for one minute, some of the workers for a quarter of an hour, and others for one hour. Almost every employee responded, including non-unionists and Americans. The public did not observe the strike but the company was fully aware of it, and in Clemenceau, "the tiger," as he is called in France, they found ready aid. Midol, the Secretary of the Railway Workers' Union, and other comrades were arrested the same night. Colonel de Charentenay, commanding the sub-committee of the line, replied to inquiries that Midol was arrested as a very dangerous trade unionist. On Sunday Midol was taken to Bourges in a motor car, as no railwayman would have driven him there by train. Great excitement has arisen amongst the railwaymen. Clemenceau has promised that "all claims will be examined in a friendly spirit," and no action taken against the demonstration strikers, but Midol is kept in prison and the proceedings against him cannot be stopped.

THE CHARGES AGAINST KIRKWOOD AND GALLACHER.

The authorities who are prosecuting Kirkwood and Gallacher for incitement were glad to allow them to speak to the crowd after their arrest and to appeal to the people to go quietly away.

LEANEY'S LTD.

WHOLESALE NEWS AGENTS
City Agent for the Workers' Dreadnought
9 and 10, ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S AVENUE, E.C.4

JOHN MACLEAN.

We now learn on good authority that since last July John Maclean has been on hunger strike and undergoing forcible feeding. Is this country to be the last in granting reprieves. Germany has shown the way by freeing Karl Liebknecht, whose popularity has been increased enormously by the unjust treatment meted out to him. When are we going to have our political prisoners released? All sections of the community should protest against

use of the machinery already in the Bill. There might be reason in the Bill, but the meantime our right it had to claim more attention the Bill was read a annexations. admittances right of the peoples vs. us that Mr. Bonar national Federation of "Never Endians" agents to grant facilities statement the York

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THE STRUGGLE.

At the London shop stewards' meetings men met with haggard faces. They were weary with tramping from shop to shop in the biting cold and sleet, through the much trodden snow and half frozen mud. The weather conditions oppressed them, because their reports were dismal. The workers in the engineering and the allied trade workshops were solid enough in their desires, but they saw before them the spectre of victimisation, of long unemployment, long weary tramping in search of work in this most blighting weather, knowing the bosses sternly prepared to wait through the trade slump to bide their time till the beaten men should come to them, begging for work on any terms. Seeing these things, the workers flinched from their stand and wavered in fear.

If the electricians would but come out and stop the machinery, so all work must cease automatically! That was the general hope. But the Government had threatened the electricians with the Defence of the Realm Act. The Government has declared its refusal not to intervene in the dispute between the workers and the employers. It has not intervened; it has ranged itself solidly on the side of the employers. To Glasgow it sent tanks. It has used the Defence of the Realm Act (the act ostensibly passed to preserve Britain from invasion, to preserve the prerogatives of British capital from invasion by the workers). Here is the regulation brought out to crush the strike.

"43C. With a view to affording to the public similar protection in relation to the supply of electricity to that conferred in relation to the supply of gas and water by Section 4 of the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act, 1875, the following provision shall have effect—

"Where a person employed by a Government Department, or by a municipal authority, or by any company or contractor upon whom is imposed by Act of Parliament the duty, or who have otherwise assumed the duty, of supplying any city, borough, town, or place, or any part thereof, with electricity, wilfully and maliciously breaks a contract of service with that Department, authority, company, or contractor, knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that a probable consequence of his so doing, either alone or in combination with others, will be to deprive the inhabitants of that city, borough, town, place, or part, wholly or to a great extent of their supply of electricity, he shall be guilty of a summary offence against those regulations."

"Any person guilty of an offence against this regulation is liable to a month's imprisonment, with or without hard labour, or to a fine of £100, or to both such imprisonment and fine."

"Any person who attempts to commit or solicits or incites or endeavours to persuade another person to commit such an offence or procures, aids or abets, or does any act preparatory to the commission of such an offence is liable to like penalties."

Webb and Muir at the E.T.U. offices, men in imminent danger of arrest, were undaunted by the proclamation; but would the men in the power stations remain firm? Would the men of superior education who are in controlling positions remain solidly allied with the workers? Would they face imprisonment from which only the complete solidarity of the workers could possibly save them?

At twelve o'clock the engineers were to strike; at six the electricians: a poor arrangement. A united move would have been easier to make.

"Wait for the miners"; "Wait for the

transport workers," all the more cautious elements gave counsel, but the miners and transport workers were and are still negotiating. Therefore the Clyde and Belfast were still left unsupported, and the London general strike hung fire.

The Underground Railway workers struck under an intolerable sense of grievance. Not a forty hour week, but a forty-eight hour week was recently assured to them, and it was expressly stated in the agreement that the usual practices in regard to meal hours should be adhered to under the eight hour day. Nevertheless the London railway workers found their meal times abolished. Were they expected to work eight hours at a stretch without food? Was this cruelly absurd order intended as a punishment for securing an eight hour day?

The railway workers struck but the buses were still running. The busmen and women were undermining the position of the railway workers, just as were those who drove the blackleg army motors. The bus workers are on duty for appallingly long hours, often from 7 A.M. to 11 P.M., with a two hours' break, which, of course, is of much less value to them than half-an-hour's break and an hour-and-a-half knocked off the end of the day. If the bus men and women had come out with the railway workers, they would easily have won a shorter day for themselves. As it is they have so far acted the part of blacklegs, and many of them have bitterly regretted their position.

"If I were not working late I would go to my branch meeting and get them to come out."

"We ought to be out with the rest instead of blacklegging here."

Such sayings were common amongst the conductors.

"We came out for the equal pay, but the fight for shorter hours, to make room for the unemployed is the men's fight. We will support them if they come out, but we shall be dismissed altogether if we start the strike."

So said a woman bus conductor. But the women, the newcomers, should feel that the chivalry and comradeship of labour lays on them a special duty, to insist that the original workers shall not be crushed out on their terms. Since the reduction of hours will ease the question of unemployment, it has what should be an irresistible claim on their support.

The Underground railways were on strike: Londoners fought for a place on the buses, trudged home in the rain, and made their way by unaccustomed routes. Some of the city men, commercial travellers, heads of departments, and employers loudly denounced the "swine," who dared to inconvenience them. In the first class carriages of suburban trains, the accustomed occupants viewed, with disgusted annoyance, the third-class passengers, who crowded in, standing, crushed up against the knees of the great, and swaying over them, almost falling upon them, as the train lurched. "They'll only be wanting to work one hour a day next," they complained, and the angry protests of the great were weakly assented to by the small.

Demobilised soldiers were impatient at finding their journey home thus retarded. "Let them go out there: let them have a dose of it in the trenches!" "They've been taking the big shilling while we've been fighting." They would have had a touch of cold steel if they hadn't brought the train up for us this morning." So grumbled some of those who were noisily talkative. Perhaps the men who were silent saw the position more clearly. Most of the men released because they had definite work to go to have now been demobilised. The men who are returning now may probably soon be spurred by unemployment into the loudest clamour, the most desperate action for the reduction of hours.

Whilst the workers struck, the negotiators were busy. Bromley of the Enginemen's Union accepted by way of compromise, a proposal that though meal times should not be allowed during the eight hours, reasonable facilities for taking meals should be allowed. This was rejected by the N.U.R. Executive, because

Bromley had accepted it, but the N.U.R. agreed to a slightly different proposal, the workers have accepted neither proposal. They want nothing less than the original agreement and they look with favour on the Clyde demand for a 40 hour week. The trains are again running. J. H. Thomas returning from France to secure this result has thrown his force into the effort to get the workers back to their daily grind and to damp down their unrest.

The Trade Union Executives seem as much afraid of the Labour unrest as the capitalists themselves. The A.S.E. has dismissed the London, Glasgow, and Clyde District Committees, and has even given the family of Harry Hopkins, the Glasgow secretary who has been arrested, notice to quit their home, which happens to be the property of the Executive—a peculiarly cruel act! Sam Bradley, the London District Secretary, and others who have been dismissed, actually opposed rank and file action and only accepted the strike when it was forced upon them by the majority vote. The A.S.E. Executive, in taking sides with the employers against the workers in this strike, is making a bold bid for absolute authority. They have adopted a terrible policy: a policy of absolute materialism. They probably refuse to think the position out for themselves squarely, but however much they may shrink from recognising it, it is this: The Trade Union officials have been emancipated from the work shops by their work mates, who are now struggling to raise themselves from oppression, not individually each man for himself, but as a class. The Trade Union officials are comfortably moving upward in the social scale, and as a class they are both individually, and as a class, they are found useful as pacifiers of Labour, and for this service to capital, capitalist Governments reward them. The present Social Order maintains these officials in assured, and, by contrast with their former state, in luxurious positions. Labour threatens now an upheaval, in which their world of to-day will be overturned. To side with Labour might mean imprisonment, as it has done to Kirkwood, Hopkins and others, beside all sorts of losses and discomforts. They do not believe very much in the Socialist Revolution, and if it comes, as it came in Russia, it will certainly bring danger and hard living to those who take part in the early stages of the struggle. If the Revolution succeeds, no one can foretell what his particular position under it may be; if it fails, those who have been prominent in it will be sacrificed. Therefore, material interest ranges the Trade Union officials on the side of capitalism. When they work to palliate its rigours, they do so with the smug sense that they are working unselfishly for the working class to which they no more belong. Now that the workers demand a serious attack on capitalism, the instinct of self-preservation has ranged the officials against them. But the officials who attack the workers are playing with fire. To the idealist it is depressing to find the law of materialism working so accurately, leaving scarcely an exception to its rule, in the shape of a Trade Union official who has not become a part of the middle class, who does not regard the workers, and act towards them, as though their interests were antagonistic to his own.

The workers, in their struggle, and merciless as with a ring of steel, cold and merciless as the winter. All the forces of comfort and middle-class respectability are arrayed against them. The Press reported, with circumstantial detail, that some of the Port of London shipyard workers had returned to work, that work was restarted in four yards, and so on. The strikers were still solid, still bearing the pinch in silence, still steeling themselves not to believe such disquieting stories. The government has displayed the force at its disposal, the employers await events; their larders are full; their fires burn merrily; they can afford to wait whilst the people starve.

The soldiers and workers, too, are discontented; they, too, are held in the vice. Kept hanging about day after day, when they

Continued on page 1225.

THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

This Conference is by no means a Bolshevik Conference; it is mainly a Conference of Reformists who may believe in Socialism, but will not work for it directly in our time. Gompers, Russell, and Walling have declared against the Conference, because it contains representatives from Germany and Austria, and because they say one-third of it consists of persons holding Bolshevik views. Henderson and Branting (and we are surprised that Branting shows no greater breadth of view) have issued a counter declaration insisting that so far from there being Bolsheviks in the Conference, the Bolsheviks everywhere have opposed it, and several of the delegates are Russian Socialists who have been driven out of Russia by the Bolsheviks. The Conference has really disgraced itself by passing a resolution condemning the world's first Socialist movement.

How terrified some people are of being thought to have taken sides with the workers against the established order of Capitalist Society?

The proceedings of the Conference, as reported in the Press telegrams, read like those of a League of young Liberals. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald stated that British Labour favours Home Rule for Ireland, India and Egypt. Cathal O'Shannon said the Irish do not want Home Rule within the British Empire. Mr. MacDonald further said the German colonies should be under a system of international control and administered with regard to the wishes of the natives themselves. Representatives of other nations are sure to ask as Ebert does: "Why not the British colonies also?" If there are any Socialists in the Conference they will doubtless observe that since in no country does a Capitalist government administer affairs according to the wishes of the workers, it were folly to expect a Capitalist League of nations, or mandatory of the League of nations to administer a colony according to the wishes of the natives.

On the question of the International Chapter of Labour Legislation (a highly dangerous proposition in the hands of an Internationalist Capitalist League) the Press reports some disagreement; but only on details, it would appear, not on the fundamental principle.

Mr. Shirkie made the guileless statement that the British Government desired the assistance of Labour in working out machinery for the inter-

national Labour legislation. The points resolved on by the conference include:—

Child Labour.

No child labour under 15 years. In Bolshevik Russia after the year 1920 no one under 20 years may be employed for hire.

Hours of Labour.

Men over 18 to work 48 hours per week. Children from 15 to 18 years, 6 hours per day and two hours education. It is not stated whether or not educational classes are to be included in the 6 hours work.

Women 4 hours a day! Strange that women should be held less capable of working than children. Do children include girls?

A number of minor improvements are suggested, including the obligation by employers to supply automatic couplings on the railways, to come into force within five years. This after a world war and with rumblings of revolution! Lloyd George himself might surely have displayed more imagination.

The Strike.

The Conference asks for the specific right to strike on questions affecting wages and working conditions. Why not any question? The proviso suggests the sinister possibility that the Labour Leaders are prepared to agree to international and national legislation to make striking illegal under certain conditions. It is really monstrous that the men who are refusing to the actual workers on strike the money which the workers have provided to help them at such times, should be proposing to co-operate with the Government in legislation concerning strikes.

The German and Danish delegates agreed that a plebiscite should decide the fate of Schleswig, and the German and French delegates agreed that the question of Alsace-Lorraine should be decided in the same way. Some common sense is finding its way into the conference after all, but it cannot be called a Socialist conference.

Another Conference.

The Swiss Socialist Party refuses to take part in this so-called International Socialist Congress and is calling another.

THE CLYDE STRIKE.

THE STRUGGLE.
(Continued from page 1224)

might have been allowed to be at home; then given one day's leave; they demanded seven. They actually went to the War Office, and presenting the usual official insolence with which complaints are treated, they demanded attention and sang: "We're here because we're here." The War Office complains that they made a "noisy demonstration." The Government of the world made a noisier demonstration when they started the war in which these men were conscripted. Troops were sent to surround the demonstrators with bayonets and to march them to Wellington Barracks.

Nine men who were guilty as ringleaders of an insubordination and disorderly conduct were arrested, and the names of all the others were taken and will be communicated to General Headquarters in France.

Force conquered. It seems that the workers and soldiers are beating themselves in vain against an unyielding wall of steel. But it is not so: the workers themselves are their own saviors, and when they have learnt the lesson of solidarity, they will set each other free. Presently we shall strike, not for 15s. a week, for 40 hours, for a week's leave, or some other minor thing, but for the Socialist Republic. Then we shall not only strike but take possession.

Whether the strikers at this juncture win the 40 hours week or not, they have stirred the workers of Britain to new energy. The news of their struggle will reach the workers of the world. The capitalists know this and are anxious. Hence the reference to reduced hours in the King's Speech.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

in readiness to take action if their demands regarding an 8-hour day, from signing on to signing off, in the case of those railwaymen who have no allotted hours for meals, are not conceded. As the Railway Executive are openly determined to resist this demand there is a probability of important developments in this branch of essential services.

THE STRIKE FOR 40 HOURS AND SCOTLAND.

The Clyde movement for a 40-hour week is gradually extending all over Scotland. Here is a list, which is constantly being added to, of some of the trades and districts to which the strike extended:—

Glasgow	Govan
Cathcart	Parkhead
Springburn	Gorbals
Maryhill	Clydebank
Paisley	Partick and Whitehead
St. Rollox	Polmadie
Glasgow Central	Plantation & Tradeston
Anderson	Bridgeton
Cambuslang	Kilsyth & Kirkintilloch
Port Glasgow	Whiteinch
Shettleston	Blantyre
Rutherglen	The Forth Area
Rosyth Dockyard	Grangemouth
Perth	Edinburgh
Dumbarton	Greenock
Gourock	Leith
Dumfries	Barrow in Furness
Kilbride	Coplawhill
Coalburn	Bullistown
Uddingston	Bolshill
Shotts Miners	Burnbank
Renfrew	Hamilton
Alexandria	Bo'ness
Bathgate	Dumfries

Machine Workers.
Flour Millers.
Bakers.
Municipal Employees.
Joiners and Carpenters.
Brass Moulders.
Iron Moulders.
Electricians.
Iron and Steel Dressers.
Pattern Makers.
Sheet Iron Workers.
Boiler Makers.
Fitters.
Moulders.
Platers.
Riveters.
Tinsmiths.
Motor Builders.
Bricklayers and other Builders.
Wagon Builders.
Shipyards Workers.
Railway Workshop Employees.
Gas Workers.
Engineers.
Paper Workers.
Miners.

The Conference of the Scottish Trade Union Officials and Delegates, which met in Glasgow on February 1st, adopted the following resolution by 92 votes against 22:—

"That, having heard the report of the Parliamentary Committee with regard to the establishment of the Joint Committee and the events leading up to the agitation for a General Strike, the Conference endorses the action of the Parliamentary Committee, and recommends that its affiliated bodies do whatever is possible to make the movement a complete success; and, recognising the great volume of opinion in favour of a 40 hours' week, urges all Executive Committees to take such steps as will support the present strike, and calls upon the Government to take such measures as are necessary to have a 40 hours' week established by legislative enactment."

The employers have opened the works' gates, but the workers do not enter. The Cattle Market has been turned into a military camp. Six tanks are stationed there.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN GLASGOW.

The Unemployment Exchange reported 29,465 persons unemployed in Glasgow on January 24th, three days before the strike. Huge numbers of men daily returning from the Army are adding to this number. Hence the enthusiasm for reducing the hours of labour to 40, in order to absorb the unemployed.

THE FORTH STRIKE.

The Forth Area is solid for the 40-hour strike. Eighteen electricians, all ex-soldiers, were dismissed from Donibristle Aerodrome for refusing to blackleg. One was a sergeant with the Mons ribbon, another had a medal for bravery in the field.

LEANEY'S LTD.

WHOLESALE NEWS AGENTS
City Agent for the Workers' Dreadnought
9 and 10, ST. E. S. AVENUE, E.

JOHN MACLEAN.

We now learn on good authority that since last July John Maclean has been on hunger strike, and undergoing forcible feeding. Is this country to be the last in granting reprieves. Germany has shown the way by freeing Karl Liebknecht, whose popularity has been increased enormously by the unjust treatment meted out to him. When are we going to have our political prisoners released? All sections of the community should protest against

use of the machinery already here might be reason in the Bill, the meantime outlie right it had to claim more action the Bill was read a annexations. right of the peoples. us that Mr. Bonar National Federation of "Naver Endians" the agents to grant facilities statement.

RUSSIAN NEWS.

By W. F. WATSON.

THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT:

Its Constructive Work

3. Demobilisation according to length of service, whether at home or overseas.

4. No discrimination in favour of married men.
5. All men over 41 to be automatically discharged at once.

the rank and file, to advise the Admiralty, War Office, and the Ministry on all matters affecting the interests of the men of the Forces.

It is also intended, I am told, to link up with the soldiers and sailors of all other countries, which would easily prevent the League of Nations becoming a League of Capitalists.

NEW GERMANY.

SOERMUS.

Prison. Cathal O'Shannon had gone to Berne. His place was taken by Mrs. Sheely Skeffington, who received a great reception. John MacLean was greeted with tremendous enthusiasm. Neil MacLean gave important news from the Clyde. He said that when the police baton charge started in George Square, David Kirkwood ran out of the City Hall in dismay, and raising his hands said: "Men!" As the press photographs showed he was then standing in the midst of police and was struck by an inspector's baton from behind. He fell unconscious to the ground.

SPARTACUS AGAIN.

Various questions arise. Why is the Government not to allow Sermus to remain in this country? Does it intend to deport him, or to keep him imprisoned here? If it decides to deport him, will it also decide to make provision for his wife and child to accompany him? or will it force them to remain here destitute? Sermus is ready to endure any sacrifice for the people; but we could not rest content that our Government would treat the guests of the British workers in this way. Comrades, what are you going to do about it?

AT ANY STRIKE.

They ranged in one dread line,
The order went ;
Swift came the spurts of flame
And moaning wild :
Back rolled the smoke ; light came
With red besprent :
They found, bathed in life's wine,
A pale-faced child. L. A. M.

SPARTACUS AGAIN.

It is significant that, according to *The Times*, "a wireless station is in working order, in connection with the telephone lines should be cut or railway communications interrupted by Spartacist forces." This shows that Spartacus is very much alive indeed. Another Spartacist Revolutionary seems to be approaching. On February 6, the Spartacist workers of Hamburg seized the Town Hall and the banks. At Kiel Spartacist workers and sailors have occupied the academy station and the police headquarters. In Altona, Itzehoe, Elmshorn, Lübeck, and other places there have been similar incidents. The serious fighting in Berlin.

seems to be approaching. On February 6 the Spartacist workers of Hamburg seized the Town Hall and the banks. At Kiel Spartacist workers and sailors have occupied the airplane station and the police headquarters. At Altona, Itzehoe, Elmshorn, Lübeck, and other places there have been similar incidents. There is serious fighting in Berlin.

AT ANY STRIKE.

*They ranged in one dread line,
The order went ;
Swift came the spirits of flame
And moaning wild :
Back rolled the smoke ; light came
With red besprent :
They found, bathed in life's wine,
A pale-faced child.* L. A. L.

That Soviet now presumes to threaten the Peace Conference itself, if any food is shipped to enemy countries against its views. But the Government cannot tolerate lawlessness when that happens. It will be on its side, and exclaim against anarchy with

JOHN MACLEAN.
learn on good authority that since last
Maclean has been on hunger strike, and
for forcible feeling. Is this country to
be granting reprieves. Germany has
way by freeing Karl Liebknecht, whose
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WHOLESALE with NEW AGENTS
City Agent for the *Workers' Dreadnought*
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(Late City) future no Publishing
under we sit

ROME PRINTERS' STRIKE.

Rome, February 8th.—All composers have gone on strike, demanding an eight-hours day. As a result, only the *Popolo Romano* appeared this morning, while this evening only the *Avanti* and the *Giornale del Popolo*, both Socialist journals, will be published.—*Reuter*.

**SOME OF SOVIET RUSSIA'S
NEW PAPERS.**

1. *Krasnaya Gazeta* (*Red Gazette*).—A daily paper, with morning and evening editions, published by the Petrograd Soviet of Workers' and Red Army Delegates.

3. *Derevenskaya Kommuna (Village Commune).*—A daily paper, published in Petrograd by the Provincial Department of the Commissariat for Home Affairs of the Union of Northern Communes.

3. *Vooruzhennyi Narod (The Armed People).*—A daily military paper, published in Petrograd, organ of the Military Section of the Petrograd Soviet.

4. *Finansy e Narodnoe Vihosiaistivo (Finance and National Economy)*. A daily organ of the Commissariat of Finance and of the Soviet of National Economy in the Northern District.

5. *Severnaya Kommuna* (The Northern Commune), with a daily supplement *Prodovolstvie Severa* (The Provisioning of the North).—Published in Petrograd, organ of the Executive Committee of the Soviets of Peasants', Workers', and Red Army Delegates of the Northern District, and of the Petrograd Soviet of Workers' and Red Army Delegates.

WORKERS' SOCIALIST FEDERATION.

For Revolutionary International Socialism, the ending of Capitalism and Parliaments, and the substitution of a World Federation of Workers' Industrial Republics.

Membership open to all Men and Women. Subscription 4d. per month, 4s. per annum. Write to the Secretary, 400 Old Ford Road, London, E.3.

LONDON MEETINGS.

OUT DOOR.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14th.
The Square, Woolwich.—11.30 A.M., Miss Price.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY, 15th.
Tottenham.—Meet at 3 P.M. at the corner of West Green Road and High Road. Speakers: Miss Price, Mrs. Walker, and others.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16th.
Osborn Street, Whitechapel.—11.45 A.M., John Syme.
The Grove, Hammersmith.—11.45 A.M.—Miss Price.
Club Row, Bethnal Green.—11.45 A.M., Mrs. Walker.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY, 18th.
Armagh Road, Bow.—11.30 A.M., Miss Price.
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21st.
Outside Mansfield Hotel, Kentish Town.—5.30 P.M., Miss Price.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd.
Great Push in Holloway District.

INDOOR.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17th.
44, Malden Road (St. Pancras W.S.F.).—2.30 P.M., Business Meeting.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18th.
Congregational Schoolrooms, Barking L.P. (Women's Section).—3 P.M., Miss Horsfall, 'The Work of the W.S.F.'
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20th.
20, Railway Street (Poplar W.S.F.) Study Circle.—8 P.M., Mr. Edmunds, 'Marxian Economics.'
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21st.
400, Old Ford Road.—8 P.M., General Meeting (London Section).
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd.
400, Old Ford Road.—7 P.M., Mr. Saklatvala, 'India and Western Democracies.' Chair: Miss N. Smyth. Discussion.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18th.
Walthamstow League of Rights, William Morris Hall, Somers Road.—3 P.M., Edward Fuller, 'Sex and Social Liberty.'

Gratefully Acknowledged

GENERAL FUND.—Miss Agnes Hardie (Fair), £1 1s.; Irene, per Mrs. Drake (weekly), £1; Miss L. Isaacs, £1; Mr. Boris Sarna, 11s. COLLECTIONS.—Poplar W.S.F., 4s. 4d.
SOCIAL WORK.—Miss Udny (monthly), £4 5s. 6d.; Mrs. Baillie-Weaver (monthly), £2; per Miss J. C. Woir (monthly), £1; Mrs. Richmond (fortnightly), 10s.; Miss Burgis (sale of clothes), 7s. 6d.; Misses Barrowman (monthly), 5s.; D. Willie, Esq. (monthly), 2s. 6d.
CHILDREN'S CLOTHES.—Miss Cape.

FEDERATION NOTES.

At the last General Members' Meeting it was decided to hold these monthly meetings on the third Friday in the month, alternately in the centre of London and at 400 Old Ford Road. Next meeting February 21st, will be held at 1 Kingly Street, Regent Street (behind Robinson & Coopers), at 8 P.M. I shall be glad to receive subscriptions which are due and the 1s. yearly subscription to the special Headquarters' Fund from all members who have not yet sent it. We are urgently needing funds. More DREADNOUGHT and literature sellers are needed at meetings, outdoor and indoor, and clerical help will be welcomed here and at 152 Fleet Street. Members who have not had our recent literature should get it at once.—NORAH L. SMYTH, Hon. Treasurer.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

Classified advertisements one penny per word. Displayed advertisements 7s. 6d. per inch. Pre-pay and send to Manager, 'Workers' Dreadnought,' 152 Fleet Street.

FAMILY LIMITATION DOCTRINE. Post free, 14d.—Malthusian League, 48, Broadway, Westminster.

AGENTS WANTED FOR THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT.—Are you a regular reader of the paper? Do you sell it at the meetings of your organisation? Introduce it to your workshop.

VOTE FOR THE CHILDREN'S BIRTHRIGHT.—15s. a week to every child in our midst as proudly welcomed citizens till they reach the age of 21 years, and £1 a week for everyone at 60. MacKenzie-Kennedy Advert.

SOCIALISTS OF CROYDON, Your First New Year's Resolution for 1919 should be to send 2/- (1d. stamps) for 24 weeks prepaid subscription to Croydon's Own Socialist Weekly, THE EPISTLE, Offices, 112 Woodville Road, Thornton Heath.

THE ORPHEUM CINEMATOGRAH THEATRE CROYDON.

Good Films. Good Music. Comfortably Heated. Clean. Well Ventilated.

LILLIAN SCOTT TROY, Managing Director. (Hon. Member D.W.R. & G.L. Union). Tel. Croydon 1827.

THE GEORGE SQUARE OUTRAGE.

Our readers who have all seen many capitalist press comments on the attack made upon the strikers in George Square, January 31st, will be glad to read the further comments of the Glasgow Strike Bulletin:—

THE GEORGE SQUARE MASSACRE.

"The authorities are alone responsible for the row in Glasgow on Friday. The strikers repudiate all responsibility for what occurred. If the police had not attacked the crowd in George Square the demonstration would have passed off quietly, as did former demonstrations.

"The attack by the police was carefully planned. Of this there can be no doubt, in view of what happened. The strikers went to George Square for a peaceable purpose, which was to hear the reply of the Government to the Lord Provost's own appeal for intervention. The Lord Provost was not asked to appeal: he offered to make the inquiry, and his offer was accepted by the strikers in good faith, who agreed to appear at the City Chambers at noon to learn the result.

"The deputation appointed by the strikers to meet the Lord Provost arrived in the City Chambers at the hour arranged for, but were not allowed to see him. While they were kept waiting, it is assumed the Lord Provost, the Town Clerk, the Chief Constable, and Sheriff Mackenzie were in conference, and they, it is believed, were responsible for the decision to read the Riot Act as the legal pretext for dispersing the crowd by force.

"The Magistrates were hurriedly summoned by telephone to attend a meeting in the City Chambers, at 11.30 A.M., on Friday, but it is not known that they approved of the decision to enforce the Riot Act. It is true, however, after the Act had been read and the crowd attacked, another meeting was held at which a minority of the Magistrates wanted the military called out to disperse the people—by guns and bayonets, we presume. In the evening a great number of troops were drafted into the city fully armed with machine guns and wearing steel helmets. A detachment is posted on a position commanding the Glasgow Green.

"All this brutality and display of force simply because the workers ask for a 40 hours' week!

"We knew all about the plot to smash the Demonstration, and will reveal it in due course. Meanwhile, do not forget that the large force of police on duty in George Square knew batons were to be used, and were prepared for action. One

policeman warned a strikers to keep away from the Square as there was going to be trouble....

"The effect of the George Square massacre is to strengthen the strike. More men have left work since the outrage took place.

"Maryhill Strike Committee report that one of the victims of the police outrage in George Square was a boy of 14, who had his head smashed in by a blow from a hoodlum in uniform. A discharged and lame soldier was also laid out.

"The authorities are deluding the soldiers if they inform them that the strikers are keeping back demobilisation. The strikers are fighting for the soldiers, and have given up their work to help to make jobs for the men coming back from the war. Further, the strikers want the soldiers discharged and not demobilised....

"It is reported to us that all the policemen did not use their batons when ordered to attack the crowd, and it is alleged a number of them downed truncheons in sympathy with the strikers. All honour to these men, whose hearts proved stronger than Prussianism.

"During the George Square battle the soldier spectators, it is reported, were commanded by the police in 'the name of the King,' taken to the City Chambers, and there supplied with full equipment in view of further action. This was stated by one of the soldiers involved to a meeting of strikers in the Gorbals.

"A woman, who was attending to a boy who had been smashed by a policeman in George Square, states that when the boy was lying helpless he was given a second blow, although blood was flowing freely from a wound on his head."

PROTESTS AGAINST BRUTALITY.

The Scottish Trades Union Congress on February 1st resolved:—

"That this Congress protests in the strongest language against the authorities and the police in their brutal attack on the people, who had met to hear the reply from the Lord Provost; that they hold them responsible for what took place; and that the Congress demands the immediate release of Councillor Shinwell, William Gallacher, and David Kirkwood."

Glasgow No. 2 Branch of the Boilermakers' Society have resolved:—

"That we, the members of Glasgow No. 2 Branch, do hereby strongly protest against the pre-arranged action of the authorities in reading the Riot Act, and the injuries inflicted on men,

women, and children on account of the employees having broken the agreement of December 8th, 1918. We call upon our fellow-workers to stand solid for a 40-hour week without reduction in time, piece, and real wages."

Upwards of a thousand other organisations have sent similar resolutions. What the workers must do, however, is to take the power of Government into their own hands! Thus they will be able to prevent, instead of merely protesting against, such incidents.

BLACKLEG MEETINGS.

At a meeting of "loyal workmen (?) " against the strike held at Whiteinch the principle speakers were a person, a meat salesman, and a lawyer. A Govan meeting convened for "loyal workmen" against the strike passed a resolution in favour of the strike. The same thing happened at Dumbarton.

At Paisley, Johnstone, and Barrhead the managers of the Palladium, Western Picture House, and Rink grant their halls free of charge to the strikers. At Govan the Picture House which was taken from the strikers by the police has been returned.

The Dumbarton Town Band gives a daily concert to the strikers.

Glasgow pawnbrokers have agreed to boycott strikers by refusing to make loans on their goods. The Strike Bulletin hails this threat as a proof that the 40-hour week would reduce poverty and unemployment and thus lessen the need of pawnbroking.

The Employment Exchanges have been sending unemployed brass moulders to the firms where the moulders are on strike. Every one knows that an unemployed person is offered work through the Exchange and refuses it, unemployment benefits are stopped. The Court of Referees decided, however, that the brass moulders must not be sent where there is a dispute, because the brass moulder organisation has recognised the strike as official.

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use of the machinery already here might be reason in the Bill, the meantime ought not to claim more action the Bill was read a annexations. admittances. right of the peoples MS. s. ternational Federation of us that Mr. Bonar Zents to grant facilities a statement

JOHN MACLEAN.
We now learn on good authority that since last July John Maclean has been on hunger strike, and undergoing forcible feeding. Is this country to be the last in granting reprieves. Germany has shown the way by freeing Karl Liebknecht, whose popularity has been increased enormously by the unjust treatment meted out to him. When are we going to have our political prisoners released? All sections of the community should protest against