The Insect Play. An Appreciation.

Workers & Dreadnought co-operation, not coercion.

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SATURDAY, MAY 19, 1928.

WEEKLY.

"The Insect Play."

THE MEANING OF THE PLAY.
By E. S. P.

The insect play is a great satire. One leaves it stunned and subdued, so vivid is its portrayal of the brevity and littleness of the individual life to-day, and of the ugly ceaseless struggle for existence of the millions who compose society.

The prologue opens quietly, with the tramp lying asleep and awakened by the silly old repidopterist, catching butterflies to put in his collection, for love of nature. Author and adapters have done their work well, but Mr. Claude Rains over-emphasises the absurdity of the lepidopterist. We wonder, for instance, why he should choose to say "nay-chooer."

The tramp soliloquises on men and things with a touch of poetry and much point, observing that he is a lord of creation "who is ordered to come here and go there in cursory fashion.

Act I., "Among the Butterflies," is new and unaccustomed, even a trifle startling. On a hill-top, draped at the rear with flowered gauzes, is a bar, with bright-coloured drinks, around which are posing some gay young women and their male admirers, some of whom are no longer young. Men and maids are all wearing butterflies' wings and the long antennae of insects upon their foreheads, but in other respects they are as typical a crowd of frivolous modern pleasure-seekers as one could meet in Piccadilly. Some of the men are in evening dress, one wears the bright red of an Army sapper. A poet is in white tennis flannels.

In the prologue the tramp, Mr. Edmund Willard, described the butterflies as playing: the lepidopterist corrected him. The butterflies were engaged, he said, in the contest of sex; the female flees the male, then alures him; then turns to flee again. So it is in the flirtations of these human butterflies. The play of sex is carried on crudely and merrily, without a suspicion of sentiment. When the bright-coated sapper is eaten up by a bird, the bobbed-haired beauty whom he was chasing over the hill-top at the time giggles with glee in recounting the story.

The poet in tennis flannels, celebrating his changing amours in snatches of verse, declares his adoration of the unattainable, and is as trivial as the rest. He shouts out his verses through the strains of the band, as the dancers whirl around him and then pose airily mouth to mouth, whilst he sinks down in tears.

The scene is bewildering; it would gain in subtlety and effectiveness if the poet, Mr. John Gielgud, would refrain from shouting his lines. They would thus be more audible. The poet should at least make an attempt at beauty and clarity of diction. The actor's present method is altogether too clumsy.

"THE GAP."



Specially drawn for the "Workers' Dreadnought" by Manner.

The intonation of the two principal women butterflies is too harshly ill-bred. Something more ethereal in tone is necessary to a butterfly, even though she be an arrant flirt.

With these reservations, the act is well presented. The author's conception is crude, but no more crude than the thing it satirises. Cruel and biting as it is, the joke is apt. The vulgar, shallow life of the pleasure-seekers, who toil not, neither do they spin, is not over-drawn.

When one reaches the Second Act, "Creepers and Crawlers," one has become atuned to the play. This act is immensely clever, and is also well presented. We have grown tiny; the flowers and blades of grass appear as tall trees towering above us. The holes of the ichneumon fly and the cricket would have been more effective had they been made a little more realistic, and this could easily have been arranged; but that is a very minor matter.

A chrysalis, Miss Joan Maude, with a beautiful voice, cries out at intervals that something wonderful is going to happen, that she is being born, that she will inspire, that she will create, that she will do something remarkable. I. I. I. The cry of the aspiring young egoist.

"She thinks she's the earth," says the tramp.

The beetle, a fat old fellow, a typical small shopkeeper or publican, and his wife, who have grown old and fat in avarice and ceaseless attention to penny-getting, have put together a great ball of mud, which they worship as their "pile," their "capital." their "little all." They roll it about with them, proud and fearful for its safety. The husband suggests they should now make a second pile, and even a third, burying the one they have made, lest anyone should steal it.

Mr. Bromley Davenport and Miss Maire O'Neill are highly successful as Mr. and Mrs. Beetle. The tramp observes that the old beetle cannot take his pile with him when he dies.

The beetle leaves his wife in charge of the mud ball to search for a hole. The wife also leaves it for a few moments. A robber beetle seizes the opportunity to roll it away, declaring that it is his "capital." The beetle's wife, returning in distress, runs off to look for her husband, who she thinks has taken away the pile. The husband comes back and rages: "Where's my pile, my pile? My wife don't matter; where's my pile?"

The ichneumon fly, a very rapacious business man, cleverly done by Mr. Ivan Berlyn, chrysalis: "I am being born-I...I... explains that his object in life is to work for I. his daughter, a white-faced, over-fed, softbodied larva, who says: "I want-I don't The epilogue: "Life and Death" con- the county gaol three months, and were know what I want. Oh, daddy, I'm so bored!" cludes the play. The tramp wakes in the arrested for selling I.W.W. papers or pos-Her desire is to kill something moving and darkness under the trees. The may-flies sessing I.W.W. cards, have been charged with alive. Miss Lanchester succeeds in making dance in the pale rays. The winged creature conspiring to wreck the Signal Hill Oil Wells. the larva as repulsive as she was intended breaks forth from the chrysalis. She dances None of these men were arrested in the oil to be.

Mr. Cricket, and pretty helpless little Mrs. Cricket, Angela Baddely, are newly married. They appear to take the house of a former cricket who was eaten up by a bird. Mrs. Cricket dances and sings very prettily, and Mr. Cricket is very loving and solicitous. He goes off to earn their living. The ichneumon fly stabs Mrs. Cricket and takes her down his hole to the larva, crying: "See what daddy has brought you! "

he is a parasite of the poorest sort, slavish mustn't see it, poor dears."

These circulars were distributed broadcast in neumon fly and all who have larders whilst When the children are gone she lays a and ten voluntary workers who were in the fly returns, however, the parasite fauns on beside him.

Mr. Cricket comes in seeking his wife. The ichneumon fly approaches to stab him in the back. The tramp rushes forward to prevent the murder, but the parasite throws himself upon the tramp, saying: "Don't interfere: what will be, will be."

Mr. Cricket is murdered and cast down the hole to the larva. The ichneumon fly runs off, saying that he is too busy to stop, and will not return for an hour.

The parasite again denounces the murder, roaring out what he will do next time, and poll. what he " nearly said " this time. Then, with a sly grin, he says he must just have a look, and creeps down the hole.

After a time he returns, hiccoughing, with distended stomach, and tells the tramp that the fly had collected a famous larder down there for his white-faced daughter, but he, the parasite, has eaten her up with the rest.

"These insects are all working for themselves. They have no common plan. They don't know how to combine for the good of the State," says the tramp at the beginning of the third act. Then we find ourselves in the world of the ants, who are worshippers of time and speed and discipline. Telegraph poles and mill chimneys surround the observatory. The blind timekeeper counts time for the soldiers filing past, and the engineers explain that everything is subordinated to the good of the whole. War is declared. The engineers rejoice. The war is for the possession of a piece of mud between two blades of grass. The soldiers march to the front. The emperor and his assistant, who is decorated for the service, shout patriotic lies through megaphones to the sol-We are back in the days of 1914-18. News comes that regiments have been wiped out. The megaphonists declare those regiments are victorious, and have covered themselves with glory. A woman sells flags for the wounded. The inventor comes in; his head is so large that it will burst. He raves of inventions to kill more

The emperor thanks the god of the ants for his victory. His soldiers are routed. They rush through in panic. The yellows appear. The emperor falls dead. This yellow commander decrees the killing of prisoners and gives thanks to the god of the

The tramp rises up and crushes the yellow commander, saying: "You insect!"

It was but a pretence, this "good of the whole," the ambitious strue of the individual was keener than ever; it had harnessed others to be its tools.

Through the strife sounds the Voice of the UNDER THE STARS AND STRIPES

of life," she cries out; then falters. She is they were arrested there only two days before learnt how to live," he protests; but he dies methods are passing strange. like the may-flies.

The sun breaks forth: it is full day. The syndicalism and tampering with a jury. The straightening up; and his eyes met the dark woodman finds the dead tramp. A young first charge is based purely on his member. grated window. Around him nothing stirred. country woman appears carrying her sister's ship of the I.W.W., the second on the fact Only the Tzigane kept on spitting, and his Meanwhile the "parasite" has appeared baby to the christening. She bids the wood- that he distributed circulars attacking Some pro-capitalist reviewers have wrongly man stand before the body to hide it from criminal syndicalism law in Sacramento I touch the doors and the soldiers. termed him a Bolshevik. On the contrary, the children on their way to school: "They County, where three I.W.W.s were on trial

and ignorant. In real life he would certainly There is a wholesome, kindly, workaday the streets. A juryman exhibited one i vote Tory, and blackleg in every trade dis- humanity about her. She and the woodman Court. Hence the charge. pute. He joins the tramp in decrying the are far removed from the many sorts of P. J. Wielander, who was assisting "Here's a very warm kerchief to wrap

other folk are hungry. When the ichneumon flower on the dead tramp's breast and kneels Defence office at the time of the arrests are frightened by his own question.

charged with vagrancy. So quietly the drama closes. But a little The innocence of Sacco in the frame-up while and our strife with our fellows is over. murder charge, for which he and Vanzetti added Werner.

do not be offended, fellow-worker. It is done compared with bullets fired by Sacco from on high authority. The Post Office does not his gun. Sacco's bullets all show identical open all, or some of your letters, without a gun-barrel markings. There is a wide diverwarrant from the Home Secretary.

Italian Fascists to induce voters to go to the same, the fatal bullet is different. Mr. A. H.

Chi per le due non ba votato perrà scopato: se è ammalato sara purgato; caso contrario sarà legnato.

Translation. Who hasn't voted—by two o'clock—we will find out.-If he is ill-he shall be purgedif he is not—he shall be birched.

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A new frame-up is being developed in Los Angeles. Sixteen I.W.W.s who had been i a brief space. "I will tell you the meaning wells, but it was suddenly announced that

dead. The may-flies die one by one. The The accused ought surely to be able to struggles with the unseen visitant. "I have earlier than the police state, but U.S. Court

Tom Connors, I.W.W. Defence Committee * * secretary, of Chicago, is in gaol in Sacra- saying out late at night with friends. The snails come out and talk banalities. mento, California, charged with criminal "I shall arrive soon," thought he,

murder of Miss Cricket, denouncing the ich- parasites. Connors, has been arrested on similar charges, around your

were sentenced to death, is now proved by the He turned to Yanson, and asked him microscope. Photographs of the fatal bullet tenderly: If your correspondence is being spied upon, have been examined under the microscope and gence between these and the markings on the fatal bullet. The bullets have also been measured under a high-power microscope, and A specimen of electoral leaflets used by show that while Sacco's bullets are all the Hamilton, the expert who has made examination, says: "A gun-barrel leaves marks on a bullet as clear and unmistakable

as those left by a man's fingers." Sacco is now declared mentally diseased, and the authorities refuse to give him a retrial till he is cured. Sacco is said to be suffering from prison psychosis, brought on by

HOUSING THEMSELVES.

In the southern environs of Vienna is a new houses, built by those who live in them. Four hundred houses are in course of construction, and another 400 will be built by the end of the year. Men drifting back from the war could find no homes. They squatted on this land, built little huts there, and then, with anxiously at Yanson, whose hand, holding the the help of wives and children, transformed them into cottages. Finance being a diffi- gane turned, placed his face close to Werner's, culty, the builders produced as much as they and, looking into the whites of his eyes, could themselves, and after a time formed whispered a co-operative society amongst themselves to buy as cheaply as possible. The munici- diers of the convoy? What do you think pality has now granted £36,000 towards the shout it?" enterprise. The houses are said to be splendidly built, and the communal workshops "Why? It is better to die fighting. well planned. The settlers have banned alco- will strike a blow, they strike back, and I shall hol from their community. Each one is now die without noticing it." obliged to do from 1,500 to 2,000 or even 3,000 hours of voluntary work. Whether And he turned to Yanson: these latter conditions have been imposed by the municipality as a condition of its grant we do not know.

British workers may desire to follow the example of the Vienna builders. Would British landlords and Government permit them to appropriate the sites? We think not. Law and order are too strong here. If British workers should decide to buy land to build on, they would, in most cases, find the prices altogether prohibitive if situated near to their place of employment. Land between Woodford and Loughton, an hour and a half or more by motor-'bus from the centre London, is to be sold at from £10 to £6 per foot frontage. Glasgow local authorities had to pay £2 per square yard for housing land.

SEVEN THAT WERE HANGED. (By Leonid Andreyev, a Famous Russian Author.)

THE ARRIVAL.

The train advanced rapidly.

Sergey Golovin remembered to have spent the summer, some years before, in a little tramp also feels the approach of death. He prove that they were arrested three months country house along this very line. He had often travelled the road by day and by night, and knew it well. Closing his eyes, he could fancy himself returning by the last train, after

eyes ran the length of the car, seeming to

It is cold," said Vasily Kashirin between his thin lips, which seemed frozen.

Tanya Kovalchuk bestirred herself in a maternal fashion:

"Neck?" asked Sergey, and he was What matters it, Vasya? Take it."

Wrap yourself up. You will be warmer,

And aren't you cold, too? "

Werner, perhaps he wants to smoke. Comrade, do you want to smoke? " asked Musya. "We have some tobacco."

"Yes, I want to." Give him a cigarette, Sergey," said

But Sergey was already holding out his

And all began to watch tenderly Yanson's clumsy fingers as they took the cigarette and struck the match, and the little curl of bluish moke that issued from his mouth.

"Thank you," said Yanson. "It is good." How queer it is," said Sergey.

'How queer what is?' askd Werner. 'The cigarette,' answered Sergey, unwilling to say what he thought.

Yanson held the cigarette betwen his pale waited." and living fingers. With astonishment he suburb, "Altmannsdorf-Hetzendorf," of 400 this tiny bit of paper, on this evil curl of smoke rising from the gray ashes.

> The cigarette went out. 'It is out," said Tanya.

Yes, it is out."

'The devil take it! " said Werner, looking ing. cigarette, hung as if dead. Suddenly the Tzi-

Suppose, sir, we were to attack the sol-

"No," answered Werner.

'No, it is not necessary," said Werner Why don't you smoke?"

Yanson's dried-up face wrinkled pitifully, as if someone had pulled the threads that noved the creases in his face. As in a nightmare, Yanson sobbed in a colourless voice, shedding no tears:

'I can't smoke. Ah! Ah! Ah I must not hanged. Ah! Ah! Ah! " Ah! I must not Everybody turned toward him. Tanya, Sergey, pensively. weeping copiously, stroked his arms and re-

My dear friend, my dear friend, don't ery, my friend! My poor friend!"

Suddenly the cars bumped into one another and began to slow up. The prisoners rose, but immediately sat down again.

Here we are," said Sergey.

It was as if all the air had suddenly been pumped out of the car. It became difficult to breathe. Their swollen hearts became heavy in their breasts, rose to their throats, beat desperately; and their blood, in its terror, seemed to revolt. Their eyes looked at the trembling floor, their ears listened to the slowly-turning wheels, which began to turn more slowly still, and gently stopped.

The train halted.

The prisoners were plunged into a strange stupor. They did not suffer. They seemed to live an unconscious life. Their corporeal being was absent; only its phantom moved about, voiceless but speaking, silent but walk ing. They went out. They arranged them- mutual satisfaction. The plane is used up selves in pairs, breathing in the fresh air of during the year, but at the end of the year the woods. Like one in a dream, Yanson James receives as good a one, and a plank in struggled awkwardly; they dragged him from addition. He lends the new plane again and

almost gaily.

forest, along a damp and muddy road. Their giving it in return for the use of the plane, feet slipped and sank into the snow, and william 'obtains the power which exists in their hands sometimes clung involuntarily to the tool to increase the productiveness of those of their comrades. Breathing with diffi- labour," and is no worse off than he would culty the soldiers marched in single file, on have been had he not borrowed the plane; either side of the prisoners. An irritated while James obtains no more than he would voice complained:

"Could they not have cleared the road? It is difficult to advance.

A deferential voice answered:

"It was cleaned, Your Honour, but it is thawing. There is nothing to be done."

The prisoners began to recover their consciousness. Now they seemed to grasp the idea: "It is true, they could not clean the roads "; now it became obscured again, and there remained only the sense of smell, which perceived with singular keenness the strong and healthy odour of the forest; and now again all became very clear and compre hensible, the forest, and the night, and the . and the certainty that very soon, in a minute, implacable death would lay its hands upon them. And little by little a

whispering began: "It is almost four o'clock."

"I told you so. We started too early." "The sun rises at five."

That's right at five: we should have

They halted in the twilight. Near by, belooked at it. And all fixed their gaze on hind the trees, whose huge shadows were waving on the ground, swung silently two lanterns. There the gallows had been erected. "I have lost one of my rubbers," said

"Well?" asked Werner, not understand-

"I have lost it. I am cold."

"Where is Vasily?" "I don't know. There he is."

Vasily was standing close by them, gloomy and motionless. "Where is Musya?"

Here I am. Is that you, Werner? "

They looked at each other, their eyes avoidof the lanterns. At the left the thin forest seemed to be growing lighter. And beyond something vast and gray and flat appeared whence came a moist breeze.

That is the sea," said Sargey, sucking in the damp air. "That is the sea."

Musya answered by a line from the song: " My love as broad as is the sea." What did you say, Musya?

" I'hy shores of life cannot contain My love as broad as is the sea." " ' My love as broad as is the sea, repeated

My love as broad as is the sea,' echoed Werner. And suddenly ne exclaimed in astonishment:

Musya, my little Musya, how young you

(To be continued.)

INTEREST.

One carpenter, James, at the expense of ten days labour, makes himself a plane, which will last in use for 290 of the 300 working days of the year. William, another carpenter, proposes to borrow the plane for a year, offering to give back at the end of that time, when the plane will be worn out, a new plane equally as good. James objects to lending the plane on these terms, urging that if he merely gets back a plane he will have nothing to compensate him for the loss

the advantage which the use of the plane uuring the year would give him. William, admitting this, agrees not merely to return a plane, but, in addition, to give James a new plank. The agreement is carried out to again, until finally it passes into the hands 'Are we to go on foot?'' asked someone, of his son, "who still continues to lend it," receiving a plank each time. This plank, "It isn't far," answered a careless voice. which represents interest, is said to be a Without a word they advanced into the natural and equitable remuneration, as by have had if he had retained and used the plane instead of lending it.

Is this really so? It will be observed that it is not affirmed that James could make the plane and William could not, for that would be to make the plank the reward of superior skill. It is only that James had abstained from consuming the result of his labour until he had accumulated it in the form of a planewhich is the essential idea of capital.

Now, if James had not lent the plane he

could have used it for 290 days, when it would

have been worn out, and he would have been obliged to take the remaining ten days to make himself a plane, which he could have used for the remaining 290 days. Thus, if we take a plank to represent the fruits of a day's labour with the aid of a plane, at the end of the year, had no borrowing taken place, each would have stood with reference to the plane as he commenced, James with a plane, and William with none, and each would have had as the result of the year's work 290 planks. If the condition of the borrowing had been what William first proposed, the return of a new plans, the same realtive situation would have been secured. William would have worked for 200 days, and taken the last ten days to make the new plane to return to James. James would have taken the first ten days of the year to make another plane which would for 290 days, when he would have received a new plane from William. Thus, the simple return of the plane would have put each in the same position at the end of the year as if no borrowing had taken place. James would have lost nothing to the gain of William, and William would have gained nothing to the loss of James. Each would have had the return his labour would otherwise have yielded-viz., ing the silent and terribly significant swaying 290 planks, and James would have had the advantage with which he started, a new plane. But when, in addition to the return of a plane, a plank is given, James at the end of the year will be in a better position than f there had been no borrowing, and William in a worse. James will have 291 planks and a new plane, and William 289 planks and no plane. If William now borrow the plank as well as the plane, on the same terms as before, he will at the end of the year have to return to James a plane, two planks, and a raction of a plank, and if this difference be again borrowed, and so on, is it not evident that the income of the one will progressively decline, and that of the other will progressively increase, until the time will come when, as the result of the original lending of a plane, James will obtain the whole result of William's labour—that is to say, William will become virtually his slave?—From Henry George, Progress and Poverty.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS. Three Months (13 weeks) ... Post Free 1/74 Six Months (26 weeks) Une Year (52 weeks)

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Our View.

THE COURT OF APPEAL has decided in favour of the letter of one of the old English liberties for of Liberty. which our forbears fought. The Irish deportations were so flagrantly illegal that the Court had no alternative; and the House of Commons, with all the prejudices attaching to that body, preferred to wash its hands of the matter. The Home Secretary has flagrantly defied the Habeas Corpus Act, and for that offence is legally liable to heavy punishment. The Government, however, is strong, and what is called public opinion torpid. The leader of the Labour Party, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, did not claim the resignation and punishment of the Home Secretary when he raised the question in the Commons. He merely inquired what sort of Indemnity Bill the Government meant to bring in to rectify the Ministers' mistake.

Labour Members are pressing, not for the Britain. resignation of the Home Secretary and the Government, but for compensation to the sentation in the Conference is given to the is that Social-Democratic Mr. Branting, ex. deportees; and the Labour Party is the official Opposition, with all the responsibilities for upholding popular liberty against the encroachments of the Government which is supposed to attach thereto. The Labour Party is not a success in that position, even from the Parliamentary standpoint.

refused to reverse the Appeal Court decision, British Government rejected four wholly and the Tory "Daily Telegraph" observed: three in part, and only gave a complete assent friends had not been so zealous on their be- assent to nothing that is a hair's breadth in half." Undoubtedly the Government, smart- advance of the present British Labour ing from its rebuke in the Appeal Court, will regulations. be specially anxious to vindicate itself by securing convictions and harsh sentences of THE GOVERNMENT apparently believes punishment against the deportees. Mr. Art O'Brien has already been re-arrested. To Capitalism intern without trial is, however, much easier and than to present evidence capable of securing Keform. a conviction in law and of standing the test, in the case of the Irish deportees?

THE RUSSIAN WAR SCARE has passed. The Russian We do not anticipate an early gressive development towards Socialism, as war with Russia. We do not was hoped.

very distant future.

It is hardly inspiring that the present contest with Soviet Russia should have arisen system. from the Russian claim to prevent foreign vessels fishing within twelve miles of her IN THE SPECIAL CONSTABLES BILL coasts. That is not the attitude one would expect from a great friendly Communist Strike-

It must always be remembered, however, by Whom? that Russia is not a Communist country. Russian friends in Russia tell us that in constables must replace those services, or pri-Russian Government circles Communism is vate persons like himself must organise for now quite out of sight, and the possibility that the purpose. the policy of the controlling party may even- Mr. George Lansbury replied that such tually tend towards Communism no longer organisations would not be necessary, as the

Herald "has characterised the Curzon charge great strike was anticipated some time ago, that Russia carries on propaganda as serious, the Labour and other Members of local govand that Mr. Ramsay Macdonald has said if erning bodies, irrespective of their political the charges are true the British Government views, had met together to arrange machinery is "entitled to make its most energetic and to carry on essential services. We put it to effective protest." Such observations come Mr. Lansbury that if the strikers are to be with little grace from the "Daily Herald" replaced by blacklegs, it is immaterial to the and from Mr. Macdonald, of whom we must strikers whether the blacklegs are special conask: Did not the Second International Gov- stables or employees of borough councils on ernment of Georgia carry on propaganda with which there are Labour majorities. his approval?

fied protests that it did not receive certain which those organisations which declare they periods. The C.P.G.B. would be well advised conclusion. to reply that it is not answerable to Capitalist Government for the sources of its anti-Capitalist propaganda.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO OBSERVE that the British Government is proving Heactionary itself a reactionary force in the affairs of the International extent of one-half to Governments, one- Premier of Sweden, as a member of quarter to representatives of employers' League Council, discussed it, suggested modiorganisations, one-quarter to representatives fications, but made no motion to cancel it. of Trade Union organisations. The Conference is therefore by no means an advanced in a public meeting, or in public, in the Saar, body. Nevertheless, the British Government is a drag on its progress. In the case of nine Versailles, or "insults or traduces the In announcing that the House of Lords had recommendations of the Conference, the Some of these deportees will wish that their to two. The fact is that the Government will

the workers cannot be granted not only of lega, but of public, examination. server is willing to admit. The recent fall of Can the Government present such evidence the Swedish Socialist Government added one zeitung" was prohibited in the Saar for two more to the toll of Social Democratic Govern- weeks, the "Berliner Tageblatt" for fo ments which arose in the after-war revulsion, weeks, and "Die Woche" for six months, only to make way for Capitalist Governments because it published photographs of incidents We did not take it seriously. in a short period, instead of beginning a pro- in the Ruhr.

think the Government is yet Why did the Social-Democratic Govern- one Frenchman (M. Rault, formerly Prefect prepared for war except against defenceless ments fail? Is the Socialist idea at fault, or of Lyons and now Chairman of the Commiswhat was the reason? The reason was that sion), one Dane (who is a well-known resi-Nevertheless, the official refusal to state the the reforms they strove to introduce could dent in Paris), one Canadian (Mr. Waugh), number of aeroplanes and torpedoes under not be successfully carried through under a Belgian, and a representative of the Saar construction is one of the many indications the Capitalist system. The Government population, who, according to the Peace that war is again looming ahead in the not which endeavours to raise the working-class Treaty, must not be a Frenchman, and standard of living above the general level ob- nominated by the Council of the League. The The proposed Russo-British Conference can- taining in the countries which are its com- first Saar representative was Mr. Hecktor not bring forth anything for the advancement petitors in the world market will immedi- A local newspaper observed that Mr. Hecktor of Communism. The British Government re- ately find itself faced with a slump in trade had entered into compromising relations with presentatives will use it for the purpose of and a great unemployed problem. Moreover, the French during the war, and had failed to drawing from Russia further capitulations to the Capitalists will not produce without what recover damages in a libel action respecting Capitalism and special advantages for British they consider a fair margin of profit for them- that allegation. Mr. Hecktor thereupon retired Capitalists. The moment to press for the selves. By their vast economic power they from the Commission on account of his health. latter is no doubt considered opportune, since obstruct and defeat reforms which they con- Mr. Land was appointed by the League in France is busily engage in squeezing out ad- sider unnecessary. Thus the reforms intro- Mr. Hecktor's place, although when Mr. Land vantages for French Capitalism from Ger- duced by the Social-Democratic Governments was acting Mayor of a Saar town the Presimany in the Ruhr. It is the established made the position of the workers no easier. dent of the Governing Commission felt that custom of Capitalist diplomacy that a robbery If they got higher wages and social he was not fit to be confirmed in his office.

from a weaker neighbour by one Great Power services, they also got higher prices and more gives licence to a similar robbery from an unemployment. Therefore, they turned back other weak neighbour by another Great to recall Capitalist Governments, which they hoped would give them good trade.

The moral is: Destroy the Capitalist

debate Mr. A. Hopkinson re. plied to the protests of Labour Members that if essential services should be interfered with by a strike, either the special

Government and the local authorities could re. It is interesting to observe that the "Daily place the strikers. He added that when a

This is a matter which the working-class The Right Wing Communist Party of Great movement of this country would do well to Britain makes a great mistake in its undigni- discuss in all seriousness. It is a matter on particular sums of money at certain specified are working for Socialism should arrive at a

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS IN THE SAAR.

One of the most amazing things about t decree which the Governing Commission ap-Labour Conference. Repre- pointed by the League of Nations has passed

The amazing decree provides that whoever casts discredit on the Treaty of the Peace of League of Nations, its members or the State signatories of the Treaty, or the Governing Commission, or its members, organisations or officials," shall be liable to up to five years imprisonment and up to 10,000 francs fine. Offenders are to be tried at "a special Chamber of the Saarlouis Supreme Court." This Court shall consist of five members appointed by the President of the Governing Commisthat further reforms to benefit sion on the advice of its Department of Justice. Meetings, processions and demonstraunder Capitalism. There is tions may be prohibited if there is ground t more to be said for that con- apprehend that language constituting tention than the superficial ob- offence under the decree may be used. For protesting against the decree the "Arbeiter-

The Governing Commission under League of Nations consists of five members-

Parliament As We See It.

The Government is very generous to the the loss of the steel shells which case the would-be Indian railway magnate. It is will- T.N.T. The burning at Bramley, he said, is ing to lend him capital. It is also willing only a small part of what has to be done in to guarantee the interest on "his" capital. some districts in England and France. The interest guaranteed by the Government to Indian railway companies with offices in London on share capital, debenture stock and debentures, varies from 21 to 61 per cent.

INDIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS.

In the effort to whitewash Visapur Gaol and its treatment of politicals, Earl Winterton (C., Under-Secretary of State for India) read extracts from the report of a Governmentappointed committee, which stated:

" Medical and sanitary arrangements are adequate, but the scarcity of water is a

"Fetters must continue to be employed. "The present gaol should not be continued at Visapur, nor should a gaol of regular type be built there."

"Latrine arrangements should be improved by the provision of more seats . . . privacy . . . , an adequate supply of

'Prisoners should have a weekly bath, if this is possible."

"The superior staff, as far as possible, should check and punish unnecessary hustling of prisoners during the night, at early morning and latrine parades."

"The treatment of prisoners, except some of those under ex-warder Sabrao, has been humane. Only as regards ill-treatment in the grinding sheds do we consider the complaints of any prisoners examined by us disclose any serious grievances.' Colonel Yate (C.) asked whether the authors of a pamphlet denouncing the treatment at Visapur will be punished.

Earl Winterton said the Government is considering whether further action against them is desirable.

TRADE WITH RUSSIA. Agricultural Machinery Exported to Russia. (a) United Kingdom manufacture:

| | Tons. | £ |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| 1913 | 26,729 | 1,103,293 |
| 1920 | 140 | 15,000 |
| 1921 | | CHINA THE STATE OF |
| 1922 | 10 | 4,991 |
| (b) Foreign or Colonial manufacture: | | |
| | Tons. | £ |
| 1913 | 8,932 | 273,118 |
| 1920 | | |
| 1921 | 369 | 26,843 |
| 1922 | 993 | 70,014 |
| Goods Export | ed to Russia | from United |
| Kingdom. | | |
| 1913 | | 5,537,000 |
| 1920 7,854,000 | | |
| 1921 4,031,000 | | |
| - 000 | | 0 775 000 |

1920 GERMAN POLICE.

The Allied Conference at Boulogne allowed Germany 150,000 police, with 1 rifle for a men; 1 short pistol per man; 340 heavy machine-guns; 150 armoured cars. These are for use against the German

1922 6,775,000

From Germany.

£43,277,000

people, of course. INTERNATIONAL POLICE CONFERENCE

General Sir T. F. Horwood, Commander of to attend the International Police Conference. Look out for more Americanism in police

BURNING T.N.T.

T.N.T. at Bramley Camp causes dense of the whole people. volumes of smoke to be blown across the Those who hold that view ought not to ernment guaranteed loan for building miners' ing damage to houses, Major Boyd-Carpenter Strikes are, of course, nasty things; but yards of the pit shaft at Llantrisant and (C.), the Under-Secretary for War, said that then, of course, so is Capitalism. So long as Pengarn. the alternative was to dump the shells at sea, we have Capitalism we shall have the warfare The Government says it has " no power to which would be costly in transport and entail between Capital and Labour.

You must remember, good people, that you are simply pawns: you do not count!

LANSBURY AND THE GENERAL STRIKE.

On the Police Bill Mr. George Lansbury uttered some very remarkable statements, which are worthy of careful consideration.

Mr. A. Hopkinson (Lib.) had argued that in a great strike, when the food and necessaries of the people might be held up, the The Bill also gives power "to use and occupy special constables must do the work of the the surface for spoil heaps." The refuse strikers. Otherwise private persons like him- from the mine should not be left on the surself must organise to prevent starvation. Mr. face, it should be stowed below to prevent Lansbury replied:

the circumstances where the capitalists of the country have failed to provide a great Bill as "Thieves Consolidation, Unlimited." national service and to organise it peacetaking part in local government, especially people would not be any better off. in London, were asked to undertake the The scandal of Labour M.P.s voting in believe that all the local authorities, a growing one. whether Labour or Tory, certainly in the metropolitan area, came together and formulated a scheme whereby these essential services could be carried on."

Mr. Lansbury here raised a point of great importance to the workers, which has its roots deeply embedded in the Capitalist system. Mr. Lansbury objects to the special constables replacing the workers on strike, but he has actually assisted in preparations for the local out-relief to single men on the gap. The authorities to do it. To the workers whose Minister of Health does not propose to take strike is broken it really does not matter action. whether the strike breakers are special constables, members of a voluntary middle-class association, or employees of a borough

Mr. Lansbury, of course, argues that the local authorities who replace the strikers are acting purely in the public interest and apart from the employers. What, however, will be the result of their action? The workers have gone on strike: their effort is to create a situation in which the employers will give way to them, because they are losing profits, because their plant, as in the case of mines, may be injured by neglect, because they fear that home or foreign competitors will use the strike to annex their custom, because public opinion brings pressure to bear upon them, or the Government intervenes to insist upon a settlement.

manent competitors will oust them, the pres- the years 1920, 1921, 1922. sure of public opinion and Government The same answer was given as to aeroplanes and such plant which might spoil for lack of horizon again. attention, in the case of perishable foodstuffs, BUILDERS: TOO MANY OR TOO FEW? the local authority steps in to do what is The Minister of Health says there are not necessary. The contest becomes one between enough workmen to build the houses required the employer's capacity to lose profits and by the people. The Minister of Labour says the Metropolitan Police, has gone to U.S.A. the workers' capacity to lose wages. One day there is not enough building work to employ it will be a contest to end Capitalism.

position of the striker be worsened by the has "a large number of trained canvassers intervention of the State or local authorities, going about the country" to find vacancies. Complaint being made that the burning of the intervention is necessary in the interests

MINES BILL. The Mines (Working Facilities and Support) Bill is a measure agreed on by the mining, railway, and canal companies. It gives compensation to these great interests for any loss; but the person who has built a house in a mining area, because he works there, is expressly debarred from compensation, if his house falls down through mining operations. If it is decided to "let down the surface" in the interest of mining, the matter will be referred to the railway and canal companies for decision; farmers and dwellers on the surface will not be consulted.

Speaking for myself, I think that in of dangerous gases in the empty workings. Mr. George Hardie (Lab.) described the

subsidence of the surface, and the collection

Nevertheless, two Labour Members, Mr. fully, it is the duty of the State not to take Frank Rose (Aberdeen, N.) and Mr. G. A. sides against the workmen, but to organise Spencer (Broxtowe, Notts.), voted for the those services quite apart from the capi- Bill. Mr. Spencer said he believed that talists who have failed to organise them. "where the national interest is concerned, There is no need for the setting on foot of it must be understood that the people who voluntary organisers in that sort of way. own the coal should be properly pro-During the period when it appeared likely tected." He agreed that people who suffered that there would be a great general strike damage through subsidence should be comin this country, all the people who were pensated, but if the Bill were defeated those

organisation of essential services, and I support of the employers of their members is

TO END TITLES. Mr. Ponsonby (Lab.) obtained leave to bring in a Bill to terminate hereditary titles 'amongst His Majesty's subjects."

The measure is incomplete: why not terminate also "His Majesty's hereditary title

Some Boards of Guardians refuse to grant GOLD PRODUCTION.

British Empire £44,000,000 Other countries 21,000,000 BANKRUPTCY PETITIONS.

6,277 in 1922; liabilities, 16,314,660; assets, £3,969,173. A happy time under Capitalism! RENT RESTRICTIONS (NOTICES OF

INCREASE) BILL. The Third Reading was passed.

Mr. Morel (Lab.) asked why Egyptian political prisoners held without trial are not tried, since there are British judges in Egyptian Criminal Courts.

Mr. McNeill (Under-Secretary): "That is a very difficult question.'

TORPEDOES.

The First Lord of the Admiralty says it is If the local authorities intervene to carry "not in the public interest" to state how on, the employers will have no fear that per- many torpedoes were built for the Navy in

pressure are ruled out. In the case of mines the other day. War is looming up on the

the ex-Service men trained for the purpose. Some people may argue that even if the He cannot find jobs for them, although he

HOUSES.

Powell Duffryn Coal Co. has secured a Govdistrict, and heavy explosions which are caus- occupy the position of Labour representatives. cottages, and is erecting them within 200

Swansea required 6,378 houses in 1919. It will get 988 shortly.

The Black Country in 1920 required 26,420 new houses. It has got 5,727. South Wales and Monmouthshire in 1919 required 56,900 new houses. It has got

Hull required 7,778 new houses in 1919. It has got 614, and will get 124 more.

DEMOCRACY. The Treaty between King Feisal of Iraq and

King George of Britain requires sanction by the Constituent Assembly of Iraq, but not by the Parliament of Britain. Lieut -Commander Kenworthy asked why:

'We are to be in an inferior position to an uncreated Legislative Assembly in Iraq." INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CON-

FERENCE.

The setting up of a League of Labour International Conference was represented in some quarters as a great victory for Labour. This Conference recommended that children under fourteen may not be employed in agriculture during school hours so as to reduce their total annual school attendance to less than eight months. A poor concession,

The British Government has not yet assented to the proposition, ostensibly because in Scotland school attendance exemptions are granted by local authorities. The Government is holding up ratification till power to give further exemptions is agreed to. The British Government is also holding up agreements to protect the workers in regard to white lead painting and sandpapering, and is refusing to ratify the weekly rest-day convention.

The British Government, which boasts of leading reforms, has refused to assent to three out of seven conventions for ameliorating the lot of the workers.

As to the three recommendations of the As to the mere recommendations of the Conference; the British Government dissents fojon, on the first occasion, the first time. from that, suggesting unemployment insurance in agriculture; it dissents from suggest- duoble du in the sense "twice two." ing maternity insurance being given for twelve weeks instead of four; it dissents from sug- at a time, or together, thus: duope, by twos, story and built of sun-dried brick), \$1. on night work shall have at least nine hours' consecutive rest; also from the recommenda- at a time? tion that agricultural workers "living in should be insured separate beds and other amenities; it dissents from accepting the recommendations for agricultural workers' insurance, on the ground that the yare too broad; it dissents from the recommendation to provide at least 24 hours' rest every seven days in commercial establishments. Of the nine recommendations, the British Government accepts two entirely, three in part, and rejects four altogether.

There is no ground for the poast of Labour patriots gave that this is the best country in the world for the workers!

TREATMENT OF AN IRISH DEPORTEE. Mr. Dunnico (Lab.) reported that Miss kuris MacDermott, a London school teacher, was arrested and deported on March 11th. She twice applied to appear before the Advisory ttee, without result. On April 26th the was to be removed from Mountjoy Prison. horoj ni ricevas duoblan pagon. Kvaroble She resisted being searched and stripped. Whereupon four women officers knocked her dek. La hundoj kuris al ni kvinope. En la down, another sat on her, whilst the four libro estas 300 (tri cent) paĝoj; do (then, others beat her from head to foot with her so) se mi legos po 30 paĝoj ĉiutage (or en boots. They partially stripped her, and hurt ĉiu tago), mi finos la tutan libron en dek her so much that she became unconscious. When she regained consciousness she was paĝojn ĉiutage. drenched with water, almost undressed, and surrounded by soldiers who, she says, were infanoj po du pomojn. La "Daily X." drunk. Miss MacDermott is a delicate kostas pogrande po 8d. por dekduo. woman. On May 5th her face still bore the imprints of the nails of her shoes.

NO INTERVENTION.

The Foreign Office says it "cannot properly to 22nd, Whitsuntide. ntervene" in the case of Richard Brazier, I. A. MacDonald, and Charles H. McKinnon, Bournemouth. British subjects who are war-opinion prisoners in U.S.A.

ESPERANTO. Lesson 18.

NUMBERS (continued). Cardinal Numbers.—1, 2 . . . 10; 100;

1000, unu, du, tri, kvar, kvin, ses, sep, ok, naŭ, dek; cent.; mil. Ordinal Numbers.—1st, 2nd, etc.

-a to the cardinal numbers-e.g., la (unua), 2a (dua), 3a (tria), etc.

forms the multiplicatives—i.e., duobla, two- dictionary we shall supply the meaning. Y fold (double), triobla, three-fold, treble, etc.; the last lessons we used some Babylonian centobla, a hundred-fold, milobla, a thousandfold; duobla fadeno, a double thread, triobla fadeno, a treble thread.

Obl- can be used also adverbially (i.e., with the ending -e); thus, duoble dika, doubly thick; duoble du estas kvar, twice two are four; centoble dek estas mil, 100 times (a hundred-fold) 10 are 1000.

Po used before numbers means at the rate of, or (so many) apiece. Do not confuse it with the preposition por. Pomoj po 6d. per funto, apples at (the rate of) 6d. a (per)

Most Esperanto grammars call po a preposition, but it is apparently an adverb (like the corresponding English word apiece), as can be seen from the following examples: Li donis al ĉiu knabo po du pomojn, He

gave to each boy two apples apiece. Ili ricevas po tri funtojn ĉiusemajne, They receive (at the rate of) three pounds a (every)

If po were a preposition, we should not use the accusative -n in pomojn and funtojn. Note the words pogrande, wholesale; po- quart malgrande, retail.

... Fojo, used with numerals, means time (occasion)-e.g., unu fojo or unufoje, once, one time; du fojoj or dufoge, two times, twice; tri foje or trifoj, three times. As we usually mean to imply "on two occasions," we generally use the word fojo with -n; thus, unu fojon, on one occasion, once; du fojojn, on two occasions, twice, etc. La unuan A lamb, 5d.

Dufoje du is practically the equivalent of

-Op used with numbers means (so many) two together, two at a time; triope, three at a time, three together; klomope, how many

| av a villio: | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Y | ocabulary. |
| fadeno | thread |
| forta | strong |
| ekster | outside (of) |
| ordinara | ordinary |
| pago | payment |
| paĝo | page |
| se | if |
| legos | will read |
| finos | will finish |
| tago | day |
| tuta | whole |
| ni | we |
| tiom | so (as) many |
| semajno | a week |
| | |

Translate.

Triobla fadeno estas pli forta ol unuobla. Ni ricevas po kvin funtojn semajne (or ĉiusemajne). Por laboro ekster la ordinara) dek estas kvardek. Kvarfoje dek estas kvartagoj. Ni legos duoble tiom; ni legos 60

Jen dek du pomoj; donu al ĉiu el la ses

The British Esperanto Congress takes place this year at Bournemouth, May 18th

Tickets, 5/- each, obtainable of P. H. Harry Lloyd, Burt Lorton, Donald Sheridan, Lewis, Hon. Sec., 12 St. Clements Road,

Arrangements made for return journey at a fare and a third.

LESSONS FOR PROLETARIAN SCHOOLS.

Some young comrades have written asking that a vocabulary should be added to these lessons. Young comrades should make it their rule to consult a dictionary in the case of any word that is not fully understood. If in the course of these lessons we use words -Obl- corresponds to the English -fold and which are not to be found in the ordinary terms of weight and measure. We repeat these below, with the approximate English equivalents: 1 cubit=18 inches.

> $1 qa = \frac{3}{4} pint.$ 400 qa = 1 gur = 3 1-3 bushels.1 grain=1 troy grain. 180 grains=1 shekel=180 troy grains. 60 shekels=1 mina=221 oz. troy. Taking pure silver at 5/5 per oz., the values

would work out as follows: 1 grain=half a farthing. 1 shekel=2/3. 1 mina = £6 15s.

E. Cuq. and B. Meissner have collected current prices from the contract tablets in the time of Hammurabi. From these the following table of average values at the time the code was first promulgated was prepared by Chilperic Edwards:

Corn, wheat, or barley, 7d. per bushel. Oil (oil of sesame), 4d. per pint. Toddy (fermented juice of dates), 1d. a

Sheep's wool, 4d. a lb. Goat's hair, slightly cheaper. Copper, 9d. per lb. Iron, 12/- per lb. A draught ox, 18/6. A cow, 18/-. A ram, 3/4. A sheep, 2/3.

A male or female slave, £1. A mantle (the ordinary garment), 1/8

A house (covering 36 sq. yds., having one Rent of a similar house (tenant to do repairs), 2/- to 4/- a year.

A house, with land it stands on, £1 10s. Agricutlural land, 8/6 per acre.

Whilst the price of an ordinary slave was £1, a slave with special qualifications might cost up to £6. It will be observed that an ordinary slave cost little more than an ox, and was the same price as a house, though in his lifetime a slave might build many houses!

By comparing the wages given last week from the code with the prices given above, it will be seen that a workman's wage was little more than a halfpenny a day, and that he would have to work thirty days to buy himself the cheapest sort or garment.

Some of our readers may have noticed that in last week's lesson we said that the Akkadians were a Semitic people. Some authorities declare, however, that they were a Turanian people allied to the Turks and Tartars, who had come down from the mountains in the north at some distant unknown period. These people were later conquered by Semitic tribes coming in from the Arabian deserts, and the Akkadian rulers were thereafter Semitic and

bore Semitic names. Having considered the code of Hammurabi, which the Babylonians believed they had received from a God, it is interesting to compare it with the Laws of Moses, which the Hebrews believed had been givn to them, through Moses, by their God Jahweh, or Jehovah, a name which arose purely from ignorance of the proper way to pronounce

Scholars now regard the Hebrew Pentateuch as having been written at several periods ranging from the eighth century B.C. to the time of Alexander the Great (356-323 B.C.). They consider that the so-called books of Moses contain at least four systems of legislation, in the following order:

The Book of the Covenant = Exodus xx. to xiii., 33, and Exodus xxxiv., 26. The Book of Deuteronomy.

The Law of Holiness = Leviticus xvii .- xxvi.

May 19, 1923.

The Priests' Code = the rest of the Mosaic Some scholars are of opinion that the Book 1 gan=18 feet.

> from the Babylonian or developed independently, we should not be surprised to find them alike in certain respects, because they were the product of peoples living under conditions which in certain respects were similar.

legislation was well known.

The code of Hammurabi sanctions and egislates for three classes of persons—the Freemen, the Plebeians, and the slaves. The law of Moses does the same. The freeman and the slave is there, and also an intermediate class the "ger," called in the English version "stranger" or "sojourner.

As we showed in an earlier lesson, the laws ontained in Leviticus were issued at a time popular unrest, and contained provisions for the relief of debtors, and slaves and the poor made to placate the people. These laws were not, however, enforced.

On the whole, the laws of Moses are more arbarous than those of Hammurabi, notably n their treatment of slaves, women and offeners against the law. The code of Hammurabi loes not treat of religious rites, and contains no punishments for failure to conform to Mr. Strobel declares that the failure of the President of the German Republic. If the largely concerned with barbarous religious regulations which to a large extent are of a Government of Right and Independent Social tone of the people been favourable, Ebert and punishments.

more hardly with the slave than the Ham- the front was entrusted to Hindenburg by the murabi code. The code limited the slavery Cabinet of six. The Independents had three of a free native to three years; Exodus (chap- members of the Cabinet; but, says Mr. ter 21) makes the period six years. It further Strobel, they "were persuaded by the ir stipulates that if the man were married when sistence of the over-anxious Social Demohe went into slavery, his wife leaves it with crats," who feared mass uprisings. The him; but if his master gave him a wife, she workers' councils were temperate and senand her children remain behind in slavery sible, and secured order where the old officers when the husband goes out free. If the man utterly failed, Mr. Strobel declares; yet he who is entitled to his freedom prefers to thus excuses the members of his party who remain behind with his family:

shall bore his ear through with an awl; and instructions: he shall serve him for ever.

Tragic indeed is this cruel ordinance, and a reminder to us of the atrocities that men have perpetrated upon each other throughout the ages. It is a witness, too, that the most unfortunate classes of humanity have the e affections and tender feelings that the poblest may lay claim to.

It is further provided that if a man sell his daughter to be a maidservant, she shall not regain her freedom as the menservants do.

As to sorcery, Exodus (ch. 20) says: "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live," and Leviticus declares that the soul that turns to wizards "shall be cut off from among his

The Hebrew priests permitted no unauthorised competitors; Leviticus directs that if one of the children of Israel, or a "ger ' or stranger, should worship Molech, he shall be stoned to death. Numbers (chapter 15) says that whilst the children of Israel were in the wilderness they found a man gathering sticks on the sabbath day, and that the Lord Jahweh directed Moses that the man should be stoned by the congregation; and this was done, and the man died.

FROM THE PUBLISHERS.

The German Revolution and After. By Heinrich Strobel. (Jarrolds, 12/6.) (Continued from last week.)

Mr. Strobel declares that when the German of the Covenant was based on the code of Capitalist Government fell in November Hammurabi. They believe it to have been 1918, the essential task of the revolution was written in the eighth century B.C. A new to complete the destruction of German mili- the army back to Hindenburg: what wonder wave of Babylonian influence was then rapidly tarism and to replace the old Government that others were arming? The Spartacists spreading westward, owing to the Assyrian officials by democrats. He considers that began to form a Red Guard; but when the conquests. If, on the other hand, Exodus Germany was not ripe for large measures of soldiers' councils protested that this was a dates from the time of Moses, and if Moses socialisation, and he argues that workers' mark of distrust, the project was dropped, had an actual existence, it is computed that council control was inadvisable, because: according to Mr. Strobel. Eichhorn, of the he must have lived about 500 years after (1) the economic process, in his view, must Independent Party, who had been appointed Hammurabi, and that in the land of Canaan be carried on by the leaders, and the led and Chief of Police by the Berlin Workers' and which the Hebrews were entering Babylonian the rank and file cannot organise; (2) because Soldiers' Council, formed a new armed police the peasants were hostile to socialism, and force. Otto Wels, the Social Democrat, Whether the laws of Moses were derived the middle class numerous, and therefore rule whom the Coalition Government had made by workers' and soldiers' council would have Military Commander of Berlin (the Otto meant permanent civil war; (3) because the Wells who is still prominent to-day in the German proletariat was numerous enough to Second International) formed a Republican assert its power through democratic parlia- Militia, composed of reactionary elements, to

The two last reasons conflict. Moreover, When, on November 21st, a procession of Mr. Strobel himself shows that the German people marched to the Chief of Police to deproletariat has failed to assert itself through democratic parliamentarism. Moreover, if and was dispersing satisfied, the soldiers of the working class could assert itself through Social-Democratic Wels appeared and fired democratic parliamentarism, why the revolu- on the crowd, and several people were killed. tion of which he expresses approval, and the workers' councils, which he declares were necessary to that revolution?

of reasoning in this book of his. He is at pains to praise and justify members of troops, and again several persons were killed. the Independent Socialist Party to which On the same day a contingent of troops drawn he belongs. Thus he approves Ledebour, who was active in the workers' and soldiers' councils, and demanded all power for Soldiers' Councils, but was prevented by the them; Kautsky, who denounces workers' council rule; and Haase Ditmann and Barth,

the Social Democrats. German revolution, which he frankly admits, arrest of the Workers' and Soldiers' Council is mainly due to the fact that the Coalition Executive had been achieved, and had the Democrats, which took office at the height of would doubtless have accepted the invitation. the revolutionary crisis, gave power to the As it was, he replied evasively that he must reactionary troops and disarmed the troops consult his colleagues. Exodus (the Book of the Covenant) deals that made the revolution. The retreat from assisted in giving the command of the military "Then his master shall bring him unto machine back to the reaction. The Supreme the judges; he shall also bring him to the Army Command took immediate advantage door, or into the door-post; and his master of the opportunity. Here is one of its

"Order and security in the homeland will again appear only with the return of the field army. It is, however, an indispensable pre-requisite that the field army should once more be placed under the firm

The Hebrew priests, like other ecclesiastics who have followed them in later times, were great stirrers up of warfare. Deuteronomy (chapter 7) gives the following instruction:

possess it, and hath cast out many nations Socialist Government. before thee. . . .

them; and utterly destroy them; thou shalt politicians had increased. make no covenant with them, nor show mercy unto tehm:

control of the leaders, and that it should be convinced of the high importance and absolute necessity of protecting Germany from Bolshevism. When the field army crosses the western border, precautions must be taken to prevent contamination by the revolutionary influences in the

The so-called Socialist Cabinet had given hold the Left in check.

mand the release of Left political prisoners, Before the end of the month the Coalition Government had formed an "Iron Division" against a possible "invasion of Russian Bol-Mr. Strobel fails, indeed, to show clarity shevism." On December 6th a procession of unarmed men was fired on by Government from various regiments attempted the arrest of the Executive Committee of Workers' and appearance of revolutionary troops. The reactionary troops then went to the Palace of who entered the Coalition Government with the Imperial Chancellor and called upon

> Reaction was having its fling. Incitements to "kill Liebknecht," because of his outstanding Left position, were pasted on the public hoardings and distributed on thousands of handbills, the Government taking no step to suppress them. A new general commander, named Leguis, who tolerated no soldiers' councils, was appointed.

The Government was now endeavouring to remove the revolutionary National Sailors' Division from the Royal Castle and Mews, which they had occupied since the day of the revolution. The sailors agreed to go when they received the arrears of pay due to them, but Wells would not agree to this condition, and the sailors therefore made him prisoner. Ledebour, the Independent, intervened to procure a peaceful settlement; but Leguis bombarded the castle and occupied it whilst the sailors retired to the mews. The Independent members of the Government succeeded in negotiating a settlement, but as a result of this incident the Independent Socialists left the Government.

During the weeks that had intervened since the workers made the revolution on November "When the Lord thy God shall bring 9th, the military power had gone back to the thee into the land whither thou goest to reaction behind the smoke screen of a

As the military grip upon them streng-"And when the Lord thy God shall de- thened, the revolutionary spirit of the workers liver them before thee; thou shalt strike had declined and the influence of time-serving

The Spartacists had demanded all power for the workers' and soldiers' councils. The "Neither shall thou make marriage with Independents had made the same claim, but only till the election of a Parliamentary Con-"For they will turn away thy son from stituent Assembly, which they wished to postfollowing me, that they may serve other pone till the gains of the revolution had been gods; so will the anger of the Lord be consolidated. In the meantime, the Coalikindled against you, and destroy thee tion Government, created by Ebert, with the assent of the old order, was to continue in office. Therefore, the real power would not rest with the workers' and soldiers' council in any case.

The Right Social Democrats assented to the Independent plan, but insisted upon an early election. On the matter being put to the workers' and soldiers' council, it accepted the Social-Democratic view, refused to take power, and fixed the Parliamentary election for January 19th.

The facts given by Mr. Strobel are important, but his views are confused, and the facts he leaves out are often more important than those he gives. He suggests that the reaction was largely due to the extreme policies of the Spartacists which terrified the Right Social Democrats and so caused them to turn to the reaction for assistance.

He ignores the fact that the Right Social Democrats and Trade Unionists had made a pact with the employers, limiting the objects of the revolution to the recognition of Trade Unionism, the eight-hour day, and such minor conditions. The Right Social Democrats by that pact renewed the fealty to Capitalism they displayed during the war, and debarred themselves from moving towards Socialism.

OVERHEARD IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE.

Well-dressed Onlooker: Why don't they ever get Thomas, Henderson, and Clynes to speak at these meetings?

Docker: Gawd blime! Why, they're too busy dusting tables at Buckingham Palace!

OUTING.

Federation House, George Lane, South Woodford, Whit Sunday, 3 to 10 p.m.

Music, Recitations, Songs, Speeches.

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WORKERS' FRIEND CLUB,
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Navayuga, an independent weekly devoted to national and international problems, edited by G. V. Krishna Rao, Gandhipet, Guntur, Madras, India, 12/- a year.

Flag Waving and War.

There is Union Jack wagging and there is Red Flag wagging when war is talked of, fellow-worker.

The Red Flag wagging is the most popular before the war, but afterwards the Red Flags mostly go down and the mobs follow the Union Jacks.

"Why is that?"
Why? It is quite simple, fellow-worker: the Union Jacks sweep on in action, and the

Red Flags stand still, or are furled, and some of them even follow the Union Jacks.

That is what happened in the last war. The Labour Party had a great meeting in Trafalgar Square against the war with all the Red-flagging imaginable; but in one day the Labour leaders had thrown down the Red Flags and hoisted the Red, White and Blue.

"Ah, but this time it will be different. The workers have learnt their lesson in the last war, and this time it is not a case of fighting Imperial Germany, but Soviet Russia far away. The Labour Party could never officially support such a war."

Well, well, fellow-optimist; suppose you are right about that; what do you hope from the Labour Party and the Red Flags in the Square?

"Councils of Action," you say.

Indeed, fellow-worker, you should call them Councils of Resolutions.

Will the mob follow councils that merely make speeches and resolutions?

Or will the mob obey the Government that creates economic crises to force men to enlist; that has forces to bring up and punish, unwilling reservists and conscripts, that controls the Press, the schools and the pulpits, and through them thunders forth stories of atrocities, of massacres, of "our boys" abroad, of insults and dangers to "our country."

The Government will not mark time when it is making war: it will act—and swiftly.

As for the masses, unless some clear alternative action is presented to them, they will presently fall into line under the pressure of circumstances created by vigorous

Government action.

What is the most you can expect from Labour leader led Councils of Action, fellow-worker?

Can you expect more than verbal expressions of disapproval of the war?

Messrs. Henderson, Clynes, Thomas, Macdonald, and the other Labour Party leaders, do not approve of action to interfere with Governments. They consider that the people should obey the men who were returned in the Parliamentary elections, whatever those men do.

The Government will not call an election on the eve of war. Therefore, if the Government should make a war, we are all bound to tolerate it—we may protest, but we must not resist. That is approved Labour Party doctrine.

"In case of war, can nothing be done, then?"

Oh yes, fellow-worker, something can be done if the workers want to do something. Something can be done that would place the Councils of Resolution in just the position their leaders enjoy. Something could be done that would transform the Labour Trade Union General Staff, and any Councils of Action it might create, into mediating bodies. Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's lesser colleagues might then be running between the Government and another power making conciliatory proposals, and Mr. Macdonald himself might be calling representatives of the Government and "the other side" to meet him in his room in the House of Commons.

"What would that 'other power' be " what would be the 'other side '?"

Indeed, fellow-worker, do you not know?

The other side should be the workers' shop councils: the Soviets in field and factory, railway and dockyard, and also the services run by the State and the local authorities. Those Councils of the people, without whom the war could not be carried on, could oppose the war with crushing effect.

"Would the mediations of the Labour leaders be successful? Would they be able to get the war re-started as they got the Norfolk labourers back to work on the farms for 25/- a week?

Ah; now you are asking something very interesting, fellow-worker! The question you are asking is whether the rank and file of the working class of this country has got its eyes open yet.

Is there a Workers' Council in your workshop; and if not, why not?

THE SEARCHLIGHT.

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COMMUNIST WORKERS' MOVEMENT. OUTDOOR MEETINGS.

Every Thursday and Monday, 7.30 p.m., Finsbury Town Hall, Rosebery Avenue. J. Welsh and others.

Every Friday, 7.30 p.m., Broad Street and Berwick Street, W. W. Pratt, J. Humphrey, N. Smyth, J. Grove, and others.

Sunday, May 27th.—Finsbury Park, 7 p.m.

COMMUNIST WORKERS' MOVEMENT.

Central London Group meets Thursdays, 152 Fleet
Street. 8 p.m. For Group business, 9 to 10 p.m.

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'A. J., 5½d.; Trene Smith, 1/- (weekly); J. E. Matthews, 4/- (1/- weekly); J. Figgins, 2/- (monthly); Per E. Wright, 10/6; Collection, per J. Welsh, Myddleton Street, 6d.; M. Watkins, 3/6. Total for week, £1 1s. 11½d. Total, £10 2s. 7½d.

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