

THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

Socialism, Internationalism, Votes for All.

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ASIA FOR THE ASIATICS

By Marmaduke Pickthall

Have you ever thought how history is being falsified, and has always been falsified, to suit the political interests of the moment? When a nation is allied with us, it is at once enlightened, loyal, kindly; although up to a certain hour of a certain day it may have been regarded as the opposite of all those things. And when a nation happens to become our enemy, how villainous do its most harmless actions in the past at once appear! If that is true of nations which are linked together by a common civilisation and a common Christianity, what must be the case of those which are outside the European family party, outside Christendom? Their history in relation to Christendom has been religiously and devoutly falsified by Christian writers.

Little more than a generation ago the Ottoman Turks were protégés of England, and most educated English people were then aware that they were not so black as the fanatics painted them—not so good, naturally, as they would have been, with the same qualities, if they had been baptised, but still tolerable. Then the desire for an alliance with autocratic Russia, whose chief political aim was the destruction of the Ottoman Empire, arose in certain influential circles. It became necessary for our Czarists, in pursuance of this object, to defame the Turks; whose right to live became thenceforth a party question; and the Czarist party won, chiefly by insistence on the fact of massacres.

So crudely, yet successfully, has that war-cry been employed that the majority of English people to-day are unaware of any cause for Muslim indignation against Christians in the Turkish Empire other than the difference of religion; when, as a matter of fact the difference of religion has nothing whatever to do with it, the Christians under Mohammedan rule having always been allowed full liberty of conscience.

The disabilities of Jews and Christians in the Turkish Empire—which are now abolished—were benefits, compared with the condition to which people of an alien faith were relegated at that time in Christian Europe. Jews kept emigrating into Turkey from the persecutions of the Inquisition; and Christians who, by independent views, had earned the condemnation of their chiefs, religious or political, found refuge there. At the very worst, not the treatment of the subject Christians under Turkish rule—I do not wish to minimise it in the least, however much the other side may have exaggerated—was preferable to that which the French nobility before the Revolution accorded to their own Catholic peasantry, or than Catholics received from Protestants in Ireland. And its harshness was felt chiefly by the rich. There was little difference and, so far as I can learn from folk-lore, no ill-feeling between poor Muslims and poor Christians in old days. What then is the cause of those atrocities of which we hear so much of recent years?

Now that Czarism has fallen, I can state quite plainly my conviction that the principal cause of massacres (1) of Mohammedans by Christians; (2) of Christians by Mohammedans, has been Russian intrigue.

When Peter the Great waged unsuccessful war on Turkey he found a counsellor and ally in Cantimir, Hospodar of Wallachia, a Christian ruler under Turkish sovereignty. This Cantimir expounded to the Czar the whole system of Christian autonomy within the Muslim Empire, and pointed out the splendid field for intrigue which those "realms within the realm" offered to a Christian prince whose aim was to corrupt and so destroy that empire from within. This is stated both by Christian and by Turkish writers. The events arising from it justify the saying of the cynic, that the one great error of the Turk as conqueror, his one unpardonable crime in Europe's eyes is that he was more merciful than Christians of the period, and did not exterminate or forcibly convert the conquered peoples who professed another faith.

The Russian intrigues in Turkey met at first with small success; the country being on the whole well governed, and the Christians on the whole content. But in course of time, as the Government became disorganised—a condition Russia furthered when she could—by utilising every local grievance they became effective. At length, after a successful War with Turkey, Russia obtained the right to intercede, if need

were, on behalf of Turkish Christians and advise the Porte for their advantage in a friendly way. Then she poured in her agents—mostly priests and monks—bidding the Christian population look forward to a day when the banner of the Cross should be again triumphant. The Christians of the Turkish Empire are hot-blooded people and their religious feelings are not tempered by morality. The hottest heads began to plan rebellion with the simple object of despoiling and exterminating the non-Christian Turk.

First came a rebellion of the Serbs, when all the Muslims in a large district were exterminated. That is the first of all those massacres which horrify the student of the Eastern Question in the last hundred years. Then came an armed rebellion of the Greeks in their autonomous area—the Greek War of Independence, it is called in Christian histories—and every Muslim soul in the Morea, man, woman and child, with many thousands in the northern part of Greece, was massacred with horrible barbarity.

When tidings of these horrors reached Constantinople there was rioting against the Greeks, and the Patriarch, as the responsible head of the Greek community, was hanged at the door of his own church. There was also a massacre of Greeks in the island of Chios, where a Turkish army was putting down a rebellion in the following year (1822). But the Turks did not exterminate the Greeks on these occasions as the

Greeks, on their side, had exterminated the unhappy Muslims of the Morea. And they did not slaughter them for being Christians, but for being malefactors. The Eastern Christians massacre the Muslims for being Unitarians.

The case of the Greeks in 1821-2 is typical of all

Of Special Interest This Week

WORKSHOP NOTES By W. F. Watson

Japan's Secret Treaty

The Coming Social Order

By E. Sylvia Pankhurst

the later massacres except two—that of Damascus in 1860, which had purely local causes, and that of Adana in 1909, which was part of a reactionary plot against the new régime.

Take the case of the "Bulgarian Atrocities" of 1876, the first exaggerated reports of which were used by the friends of Czarism to inaugurate the present period of Turcophobia in England. In the following year (1877) Sir Henry Layard, the British Ambassador at Constantinople, wrote to

(Continued on Page 954.)



A LUCKY FIND . . . DARTMOOR, 1925 A.D.

NOTES FROM THE WORKSHOP

THE A.S.E., THE GOVERNMENT AND MAN POWER

The rank and file of the A.S.E. having rejected the Government's Man Power proposals by a decisive majority of 93,547 on a total vote of 150,000 one wonders what will be the next step. Annoyed and disappointed by the result of the ballot the reptile Press, with its usual insidiously misleading methods is endeavouring to create ill-feeling between the A.S.E. and the rest of the workers. The Press is pretending firstly that the ballot is really a demand, not that the coming out of Engineers shall cease, but that the Government shall first confer with the A.S.E. and come to a separate agreement with the Society. Secondly, that the Engineers are a lot of cowards who want the war to continue, but do not want to do the fighting whilst they are getting £18 and £20 (?) per week for making munitions. How these two statements coincide the one with the other is not explained.

The capitalist Press does not worry about such trifles. When the Bolsheviks first gained power in Russia, Lenin and Trotsky were in the pay of the Germans. When they were making a success of it, Lenin and Trotsky were really good, sincere men. It is the usual way with these filthy rags.

A critical survey of the A.S.E., its relation to the other sectional Unions, its quarrel with the Government and the attitude of its members towards the Man Power proposals is not out of place here. The quarrel with the other sectional Unions arises out of the insistence of the A.S.E. upon a separate conference with the Government, and is the result of the policy of splendid isolation pursued by the A.S.E. for some years past. All this, of course, is the outcome of sectionalism. Whilst there are over one hundred separate organisations catering for workers in the same industry, friction is bound to arise, and the larger of these Unions each considers itself the most important. The A.S.E., by reason of its increasing numbers and power, has, it seems, developed swelled head. In consequence of this, the other Unions, whose combined membership exceeds that of the A.S.E., have got their backs up; hence the quarrel.

With the A.S.E. policy of isolation I, a member of the A.S.E., entirely disagree. I believe that immediately war broke out all the Unions should have met to decide on a common policy. That I am not alone in this view, is manifest by the rapid growth of the Workers' Committee movement.

Nevertheless, it is quite true that the A.S.E.

did conclude a separate agreement with the Government last May; and, from the point of view of etiquette, the A.S.E. is justified in using all the power at its command to compel the Government to keep that agreement.

Now let us examine, and, if possible, analyse the ballot. It can of course be safely assumed that those voting in favour of acceptance of the Government's proposals are firm believers, rightly or wrongly, in the justice of the war, and are prepared to do their bit to help it on. Whilst admitting that the issue was slightly confused by the wording of the ballot paper, I am nevertheless convinced that the great majority of those voting, did so on the Man Power proposals and were not greatly concerned about the separate conference business.

The 121,017, who voted against the acceptance of the proposals can be divided under three headings. Firstly, there are those patriots who do not care a hang who does the fighting, so long as their precious skins are safe and they are getting big money by making implements of destruction. This is a most despicable type of individual, and whilst I am confident there are not many of them in the A.S.E., we know that this type is found in all walks of life; the A.I.D. and all Government departments are full of them. They should all be in khaki, regardless of age.

The second class of men who voted against the Government's proposals included more who also believe the War should continue and are prepared to do their share of the fighting if they are assured that eligible dilutees will not step into their jobs immediately they have joined up. Hence their position: "dilutees first." There are many more of these men than of the patriotic type, and that they are justified in their attitude cannot be disputed. During the whole period of the War, the employers have used the dilutees, both men and women, to secure cheaper production. Women and unskilled workers at reduced rates have been placed on work that had hitherto been looked upon as the special preserve of the craftsman. This is still being done throughout the industry, to such an extent that one sometimes wonders whether the war is being prolonged to enable the patriotic (?) employers still further to dilute labour. But I should like, just here, to point out to my fellow members that dilution is not something that has arisen out of the War; it is an inevitable development of the industrial processes that were going on before the War, and will undoubtedly continue after the War. What has happened is that the employers, taking advan-

tage of our blind patriotism, have speeded up dilution in every direction. Nothing can be gained by being hostile to the dilutees; recognise them as a product of a rotten capitalist system; organise them and yourselves, regardless of craft or sex, and we shall not only be able to prevent the boss using one sex or section to wage war on the other, but we shall be laying the foundation of an organisation that will ultimately enable us to assume complete control of the industry and to abolish the wage system altogether.

The third and by far the most important and influential section of those who voted against the Government proposals consists of those who believe that the War must cease and are anxious that the A.S.E. should actively resist the Man Power proposals on the grounds that no more of our young men shall be used as cannon fodder in the interests of an idle parasitic class. This section also is not confined to the A.S.E. It is to be found in every sphere of industrial activity; it comprises men, and women, be it noted, of all ages, from sixteen to seventy, and if the Government think they can deal with this section by bleating "pacifist," "pacifist," they are bigger darned fools than I took them for. Most of them are certainly not pacifist, they are militants of a highly self-sacrificing character, but they object to murdering their fellow workers promiscuously at the behest of the boss class.

The A.S.E. delegate meeting is even now sitting to decide what further action shall be taken, and the news filters through that they are quibbling about not having a two-thirds membership majority.

If my advice is worth anything, and if it comes in time, it is that the delegate meeting should stop fooling around and take advantage of an opportunity that seldom presents itself to a representative body of workers. It should say to the Government: "Our membership has turned down your Man-Power proposals and we now recommend that the Manchester resolution shall be given effect to and that you declare for an armistice and commence to negotiate for peace." If they will only adopt this course, I feel sure that they will get the support of the rank and file.

As a final word, I would say, in this great move towards a people's peace let us not neglect to perfect our organisations to prevent such wars in the future.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I learn that the A.S.E. sent for the Prime Minister. It seems that they are hopeless.

THE WORKERS' COMMITTEE

ITS AIMS, OBJECTS, AND STRUCTURE.

Whilst it is perfectly true that Trades or Craft Unionism has in the past done much to preserve and improve workshop conditions it is an indisputable fact that that method of organisation is obsolete and impotent. The method of production has been revolutionised. Increasing subdivision of labour makes all workers more interdependent upon each other; the application of machinery, simplifying operations renders a long apprenticeship unnecessary and makes it easy for a man or woman with scarcely any previous training to do work hitherto done by the skilled man. The "Times" Eng. Supplement asserts that after two months' training women without any previous knowledge are doing non-repetition work from drawings and machinery to a thousandth part of an inch. There are factors which compel the thinking worker to look around for a form of organisation that will enable him or her to deal adequately with the changed method of production. We find that the orthodox constitutional methods, arising out of the multiplicity of Unions, are too slow and cumbersome to deal with workshop grievances. Hence the rapid growth of the Workers' Committee Movement.

AIMS AND OBJECTS.

An inspiring feature of the Workers' Committee is that it not only aims at organising the workers at the point of production, regardless of craft, grade, or sex, but such is the change in the mental outlook of the bulk of the workers—doubtless brought about by over thirty years of Socialist propaganda—that it has for its objective control of the workshop, control of the Industry, the overthrow of the present capitalist system of society and the establishment of Industrial Democracy.

STRUCTURE.

The structure of the Workers' Committee

Movement is entirely democratic and leaves no opening for time-serving officialism.

First, there is the Workshop Committee composed of Shop Stewards elected by the workers in the workshop. This committee represents all grades of workers of both sexes.

Secondly, there is the Works or Plant Committee, elected from the Shop Stewards of the Workshop Committee. The function of this committee is the co-ordination of the Workshops Committees.

Thirdly, there are (1) the Local Industrial Committee to co-ordinate the Stewards in a given industry; and (2) the Local Workers' Committee to co-ordinate the activities of the Workshop Committees in all industries.

Fourthly, come the National Industrial Committee and the National Workers' Committee, to co-ordinate the activities of Local Industrial and Workers' Committees.

It must be clearly understood that none of these committees have governing powers, the entire control of policy and action being vested in the rank and file.

INTERNATIONAL.

Such is the structure of the Workers' Committee. It is hoped that similar movements will be set up in all other countries so that we can build up a real working-class International, meeting periodically, in which the workers will determine their own conditions and lives. When such an organisation is erected there will be no room for diplomatic political pimps engineering bloody wars and using the working class of one country to slaughter the working class of another. The workers will then at last have come to their own.

LONDON WORKERS' COMMITTEE

T. Knight, the Hon. Sec. of the London Workers' Committee, writes:—"Efforts are being made to reorganise the L.W.C. with some

amount of success. The offices of the committee are now established at 7 Featherstone Buildings, and a circular letter is being issued urging the workers to link up and to form committees in every shop in the Metropolitan area. The committee is also running educational classes every Wednesday from 8.30 to 10 p.m., at the office, and arrangements are being made to hold a Sunday afternoon class for the convenience of workers on night shift. Our financial position is none too rosy, and with a view to improving it, and to propagating the L.W.C., a social and dance is being organised to be held, probably on June 1st, at the Holborn Hall. At the monthly meeting, held on Sunday, March 3rd, at Chandos Hall, it was agreed to convene a conference of all workers' committees in Greater London, with a view to defining geographical areas and co-ordinating activities. A resolution was also adopted urging all Trade Unionists to work in their branches and district committees to induce the executives to bring pressure to bear upon the authorities to compel them to squash the scandalous sentences imposed upon our I.W.W. comrades. All information concerning the L.W.C. will be gladly furnished by T. Knight, 7 Featherstone Buildings, Holborn, W.C.1. Monthly meetings at Chandos Hall first Sunday in each month.

TO ALL WORKERS AND SHOP STEWARDS' COMMITTEES.

You are urged to send along pithy reports of the activities of your committee and all matters of interest to the workers.

It is our intention to make the "Dreadnought" the medium for nationally co-ordinating the movement. All reports and matter dealing with Workshop Notes to be sent to—

W. F. WATSON,
7 Featherstone Buildings,
Holborn, London, W.C.1

By W. F. WATSON (A.S.E.)

TOPICS OF THE MOMENT

PULLING THE "TIMES" BY THE LEG

In the "Times" of Saturday, February 23rd, there appears an anonymous letter purporting to be written by "a young Australian engineer, who came over when the call was made for engineers." A careful perusal of this makes us wonder why Northcliffe's principal paper allowed such an obviously spoof letter to creep into its columns. The letter is supposed to be "a report on the British munition workers as I found them in England." The writer started work at Vickers in November, 1916. While there his wages, as he says: "averaged £3 10s. per week, compared with men who were drawing between £7 and £8 per week. Some of these men had never seen a tool before the war, but were members of the A.S.E. I knew three of them who kept hotels and had only joined the A.S.E. to keep out of the army."

It may be true that some men have joined the A.S.E. and other Unions to avoid military service, but to suggest that hotel keepers and others who had never seen a tool before the War were admitted to the A.S.E. is simply absurd, and shows a lamentable lack of knowledge of A.S.E. rules. Personally, I wish the A.S.E. would admit all the workers in the industry into its ranks, but the fact remains that it does not do so.

This anonymous Ananias tells us that he was transferred from Vickers to Woolwich Arsenal, where he found the majority of workers in corners playing cards instead of working. The bad boys! and on the Lord's day, too!! I myself failed to notice it during my seven months' sojourn at what Col. Burnaby once called "the sink of iniquity."

From the C.I.D. our reporter went to C.F.C., and was employed setting up machines for girls. His complaint here is that he only had five machines to look after, those wicked A.S.E. men having prevented him taking on any more! The result was that he was only able to work 10 minutes each hour. "One man," says he, "could easily have managed 25 machines." What a gourmand for work this chap is! I wonder what he did with the odd 50 minutes per hour. Probably he searched the canteens and odd corners looking for loafing A.S.E.ers.

Then these horrid A.S.E. chaps held shop meetings every week and were paid for the time they were not working. This is scandalous! How dare they have shop meetings! And how dare they allow the authorities to pay them for time lost!! One wonders if our grumbling grouser attended the meetings. If he did it is obvious that he did not learn much from them.

But the tit-bit is:—

"The men in the tool-room were getting £12 to £18 per week, one man in the tool-room was making £28 to £30 per week, and any time during the day you could go out to the canteens and see them sitting down smoking when they should have been at work." Just think of it, thirty quid a week for sitting in the canteen all day smoking. What would they not have drawn had they remained at WORK?

If we have much more of this in the "Times," we shall not be able to distinguish it from that other famous Northcliffe production, "Comic Cuts." The postscript is exquisite: Most of these men, when an air raid warning is sounded, rush

out of the factory and leave the girls to look after themselves. I suppose our Australian pal carried a few of the girls out with him. It is an entertaining report, but it is evidently an inspired letter to pull the leg of the "Times."

"MORNING POST" v. I.W.W.

On March 21st Colonel Repington and Mr. Gwynne, editor of the "Morning Post," were fined £100 each for publishing an article containing matter which the Censor had forbidden, and which was supposed to have given information to the enemy. The £200 fine is of no importance to the wealthy proprietors of the "Morning Post."

Next day five members of the I.W.W. were punished for issuing an uncensored leaflet. E. G. Boyington, A. P. Manning, and A. E. Titley were sentenced to six months' imprisonment, Boyington and Manning being recommended for deportation, and W. Lucas was sent to prison for three months. D. J. Horn, aged 21, charged with "obstructing the police and being in possession of a leaflet," was sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

The leaflet contained nothing that has not been said from dozens of platforms for months past. The sentences are a clear instance of fear and prejudice on the part of the capitalist class. The organised workers should use their power to secure the release of our young comrades.

MORE VICTIMISATION AT VANDERVELL'S

Recent happenings in West London are perhaps unique in up-to-date industrial history. Arising out of the prosecution of the Editor of the local shop stewards' paper, "The West London Metal Workers' Record," twenty men from the above firm and some hundreds of other workers in the district attended the West London Police Court on February 6th. This necessitated being absent from work on the afternoon of that day. On the men presenting themselves for work the next morning they found their cards out of the rack. They were told by the foreman that their services were no longer required, and that their money was waiting for them at the gate. A week's wages in lieu of notice was not given. In fact, it was as dirty a "kick out" as possible, and was supervised by the manager in person.

The case was taken up by the West London Engineering Workers' Committee. Owing to an oversight in communicating with the A.S.E. District Committee and a certain rule not having been complied with, that body refused to act officially! The West London Committee sent a deputation to the Ministry of Munitions and saw Sir T. Munro and Mr. Hurst, and claimed reinstatement. Following the usual procedure, the Ministry of Munitions refused to negotiate with the Shop Stewards' Movement in any shape or form. The officials of the A.S.E. and Tool-makers' Societies were consulted, and several conferences were held at the Ministry. Finally the men were reinstated on February 27th. The majority of them restarted on that date. The most important feature of the case is that, though the men who were left in the shop concerned, had not got sufficient spirit to take action, the dismissed men were reinstated, because of the soli-

darity and the pressure brought to bear by the other workers in the district. Surely there is a great lesson to be learnt by the workers from this!

Just two comments. Though at one time there was a little friction between the official and unofficial bodies, this was happily smoothed over, and every credit must be given to the two officials for their conduct of the negotiations. It must not be forgotten, however, that the chief credit is due to the West London Committee, as it forced the hands of the firm, the Ministry, and even the officials. More power to the committee. Perhaps the firm of C.A.V. will now be convinced that the Shop Stewards' Movement is a force to be reckoned with, and that the firm's efforts to undermine it are doomed to failure. A manager's duty is to manage, and not to be a bully. If a manager cannot manage, then he is a failure.

F. D.

PITHY PARS

"I am aware that I have laid myself open to an attack from those who would say I have taken a good job. I have been reminded of that elsewhere. Nothing would please me better than to get back to the back bench to-morrow." (G. N. Barnes in the House of Camouflage.) No, no gentle reader, George did not mean the back (or front) bench of a munition factory. He merely meant another cubicle in the camouflage factory. Besides everyone knows G.N. was a turner. Any way, he has turned some during the war.

....

The Clyde Workers' Committee have announced their intention of running twelve candidates for the House of Camouflage.

As we understand the Workers' Committee its function is to erect machinery to supercede Parliament not to send men there. To paraphrase old Omar Khayyam:

Where men for pieces swindle you and I,
Lift not your hand to it for help
For its a blessed fraud and ought to die.

....

After 12 months' labour the Special Committee appointed to enquire into the deportation of workers from the Clyde has issued its report and the "A.S.E. Journal" has published excerpts therefrom. It makes interesting reading in so far as the Clyde Workers' Committee is scolded for its unconstitutional actions and the Official District Committee, together with the E.C., have been whitewashed.

We still maintain, however, that the mere fact that the men were deported should have been sufficient ground for using the whole organisation of the A.S.E. to compel the Government to release them. It will take many, many pails of white-wash to wipe off that blot on the escutcheon of the A.S.E.

....

The Government, in collusion with the big employers, is making preparations for the outbreak of peace. They are gradually discharging numbers of workers, especially women, for the purpose of creating a reserve of unemployed to be used as a lever to keep the rest of the workers quiet. We notice that Governmental reconstruction committees and the orthodox Women's Unions are conferring on the subject and various suggestions are offered for dealing with the situation, none of which adequately meet the case. There is only one solution, my comrades, and that is that, as the work falls off, hours shall be reduced, so that none need be discharged. But that solution is so simple that the workers would easily understand it, and understanding it they would very soon give effect to it. And this would never do. When the workers begin really to understand how to solve their own problems there will be no need for "experts" be they Governmental or Trade Union officials.

TO YOUNG SOCIALISTS

Dear Editor,—Workers (or, rather, wage-slaves) of Britain, do you realise the times in which you are living? Do you ever think that as the days roll on we get more downtrodden by the Anglo-Prussian Military Machine and the Patriotic Capitalists? They are marching the boys of 18 years to their doom. Do any of these babes (they are no more) know why, and what they are fighting for? I think it is time the young boys of to-day, especially the Young Socialists should unite and fight for the only freedom worth fighting for, i.e., the emancipation of the working class. I am forming in Leeds a Young Socialists Club under the auspices of the N.C.F. and the S.L.P., and I hope our example will be followed by other large towns. I shall be pleased to supply any information to anyone desiring same, which may be had at the following address.

COM. N. BLOOM.

52 Elmwood Street, Leeds.

THE NEED FOR WORKING-CLASS EDUCATION

By W. Fordyce (late Clyde Workers Committee)

It is useless to attempt to take an active part in any industrial process without, to some extent at least, having a knowledge of mathematics. Similarly it is dangerous to take an active part in the Labour Movement without knowledge of the principles, at least, of "Political Economy," or, as I prefer to style it: "Economics." Valuable time, lives, and opportunities are wasted in cul de sac adventures ending in disappointment and bitter reflections. Hopes and ideals are lost in attempts to do something in a way which even an elementary knowledge of the structure and operations of modern capital, would show to be futile. The complexities of modern society are becoming more complex and difficult to analyse. Our own movement is in a fluid state. It cannot afford to remain so. And if you wish it to be an effective force in moulding the conditions of life after the war, you must understand the social and political forces which surround you. That you have hitherto been sitting at the feet of some political Gamaliel is no reason for continuing to waste good cloth. Stand on your own feet and form your

own judgment. With a sound understanding of the principles of working class economics you will be able to do your bit in the great class war, either in the Co-op. section, the industrialist section, or the political section of that great movement which shall lay a practical, material foundation on which to build the world the poets have dreamed of, and the martyrs died for. In the time that is coming the rich will buy the best brains they can, and pit them against yours, schemes will be put forward in every section of the labour movement to mislead you and set you against your workmates. Political agitations will be set going to keep you arguing and wasting energy on trifles, while the economic system that makes the rich richer and the poor more destitute remains to enslave your children as it enslaved you. A working-class education will enable you to separate the important from the unimportant issues that come before you for judgment. You have to act quickly in these days, and must realise the necessity of obtaining the education that will enable you to come to a speedy decision.

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND

THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

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THE COMING SOCIAL ORDER

"Just do away with the money business and let the people come in and eat their meal as they like, and you have the Socialist kitchen."

So said a shabby-coated philosopher glancing with a smile around Bow Baths Hall, now converted by the Ministry of Food into a "National Kitchen" for supplying cheap food to the masses.

The philosopher's coat is shabbier than most other people's even there, and his face more pinched because once, when he was working in the docks, a great weight fell on his hand and crushed it, so that now, as he says, with a whimsical smile, he can only do "brain work." The capitalist system has not provided the East End docker with the opportunities of general culture, and with the means and leisure necessary to profit by those opportunities, which would have enabled the philosopher to step into well-paid "brain work." Therefore he lives precariously, occasionally keeping shop for a friend, or doing some other odd job.

Having no work to-day, he has time to sit and chat with us: "What times we've had here! Do you remember when the police jumped out from behind the curtain on to that platform, and yet we got you away? What a rush there was! And now here we are all sitting down to dinner together! Shall we ever have times like those again? And will the boys take up the good fight when they come home (those who come home)? There was a lot of Socialism talked in this district before the War; but when it came the people all went mad. I wanted to commit suicide. But they are changing now. That Secret Treaty 'Dreadnought' was a useful thing—handy to pass around among your mates. It made many think. Yes, we've had great meetings in this hall."

Bow Baths Hall will not again be used, either for meetings, or as a swimming bath till after the War since it has been taken over by the Ministry of Food. The Local Food Control Committee was asked to undertake the work, but the Borough Councils refused to agree, because 50 per cent. of the cost of kitchen equipment was to fall on the local rates.

The cooking is done by electricity at one end of the main hall. Everything is businesslike and new; great ovens and boilers of modern type, an army of waitresses in white overalls and caps. The food is commandeered direct by the Ministry.

At the pay-desk one buys one's food tickets. Prices are as follows:—

Dinner Menu, 11.30 to 1.45: All meat dishes, 4d.; vegetables, 1d.; puddings, 1d.; fish dishes, 2d. and 3d.; vegetarian dishes, 3d.; Scotch broth, 1d. and 1d.; minced beef and rice, 4d.; lentil and cheese pie, 3d.; potatoes, 1d.; greens, 1d.; baked rice, 1d.; apple turnovers, 1d.; soup, 1d.; half-pint 1d.; table service for dinner, 1d.; table service for tea, 3d. Teas are to be started shortly. Suppers much the same as dinners are served from 6 to 8 p.m.

If one wishes to eat the food in the hall, one buys another penny ticket for a seat at one of the tables covered with shiny white American cloth. If one wishes to take one's food home, one brings one's own bowl or plate; or the waitress will supply a piece of newspaper (the latter plan is not very satisfactory). One carries one's own food, knives, forks, and spoons from the counter to the table. "Very soon," says someone, "we shall be ashamed to expect other people to wait on us in a restaurant."

Most of the diners are obviously factory workers, but here and there is a mother with her babies, who seems to foreshadow the time when dinners will no longer be cooked at home by over-worked mothers forced to be "Gills of all trades."

The little restaurant keepers in the neighbourhood who have to buy in the open market, cannot compete with the big Bow Baths kitchen, for which the food is commandeered and where meals are provided in immense quantities. These little traders complain, but of what use is their complaining? They are but powerless little people. They cannot even secure compensation for their losses. Stern commonsense has swept their sectional interests aside for the general welfare. For the general welfare, however, it was much more important that municipal or national control of the milk supply should be established than that "National Kitchens" should be opened. It is a notorious fact that in order to enhance the profits of private dealers dirty, diseased, and adulterated milk is sold. The distribution of milk is hap-

azard, because numbers of private traders enter into competition. Milk produced in the East is taken to the West, milk produced in the West is taken to the East, and a dozen rival milkmen's carts visit a single street. Yet much milk is destroyed in transit. The price has been allowed to mount to an exorbitant height. Milk is a vital necessity to young children. It would seem that even without the stress of War scarcity milk should be placed under public control as readily as the water and even more readily than the trams. As yet, only the small restaurant keepers are affected by the National kitchens. Their protests are disregarded because they are poor, insignificant people. The milk dealers are left in possession of the milk trade because they are powerful. When an industry is Socialised, all those who have been employed in the industry, from the manager to the errand boy, who are willing cordially and loyally to co-operate should be absorbed into the Socialised industry which should be governed by the workers in the industry.

Our philosopher is not the only person to whom this public kitchen, run for use and without profit, has suggested a further step towards Socialism. Some of the customers who presented their meat coupons at the Bow National Restaurant thought that the Socialist plan was actually in operation and expected that the meat would be supplied without any payment.

But what would happen if the poor philosopher's suggestion were put into practice and anyone could walk in here and take a meal without paying? If this were the only free kitchen, great crowds of men, women and children, too numerous to cope with, would undoubtedly besiege it. But suppose that free public kitchens were as numerous as are public-houses, and that the kitchens were able, if required, to supply food to the entire population?

After the first days of surprise people would cease to eat more than was good for them; only the exceptionally rich man habitually eats more than a little too much.

This nation is spending weekly more than £1 a head of the population, and food on the Bow Baths scale costs considerably less than £1 a head per week. War expenditure produces nothing useful; it only destroys. It kills and maims human beings on the battlefield; it wears them out and poisons them in the munition factory. With prodigal wastefulness it expends energy. To feed the people is to build up vast stores of human energy; to make it possible for that most essential of all commodities—human men and women to create abundant wealth of every kind. To-day and at all times masses of people are underfed, and through actual lack of proper food their powers are dwarfed and restricted. It is pretended that the mass of people would refuse to work were they not spurred on by the fear of actual hunger. Yet those who are hungriest grow to work little from sheer hopelessness and depression. The girl who leaves the comparatively luxurious food provided in domestic service for bare living as a factory worker in order to obtain her freedom; and the mother who starves and toils rather than enter the workhouse and be separated from her children, prove that men and women do not live by bread alone.

If we were sitting with our brothers and sisters at the family table, and one of our number were left without a portion, we should not pause to reflect that he had been ill or had taken a holiday and that therefore he had done less work than we, we should hasten to supply his need from our own portions. At the Little Commonwealth in Dorsetshire, a reformatory for youthful criminals, the boys and girls were obliged to feed the community from their earnings by building, farming, laundry work and so on. When any boy or girl refused to work, the others resolved to tax themselves in order that the idle one might not go short of food, though special privileges were not accorded. The morality of the young criminals was higher in this and many other respects than that of Society in general.

The National family is so large; its members feel no sense of solidarity. Comfortable people who shrink from condemning the system under which we live, refuse to admit the existence of chronic hunger. They declare that the Poor Law, School Feeding, Naval and Military Allowances, the Insurance Act, the C.O.S. and other institutions have solved the property problem. They assure us that no one need want either for food, or medical care.

Yet even in a borough where we are told that the Poor Law Guardians are generous, a widow with three little children is trying to exist on 14s. a week. Her youngest child, now four years old, was born just after her widowhood, and has always been delicate. At two years old he contracted infantile paralysis. He was admitted to the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum, where the doctor thought he "only needed circumcising." After the operation his mother took him to the Children's Hospital, where the doctors held up their hands in horror at

what had been done. The child has not regained complete control of one leg and is often ailing. The mother works as a machinist to supplement the pittance she receives from the Guardians. For some weeks past she has been at home nursing this youngest child through an attack of measles. Before the rash developed she took him to the hospital to ask what was the matter with him; his temperature was then 105.2. "Criminal to bring him out!" someone will say, but poor people's doctors expect their patients to come to them. The Relieving Officer is urging the mother to return to work and to send her child to the Sick Asylum, but, like most other mothers in the district, she protests that the children are not well cared for in the Sick Asylum. Obviously a woman and three children, and one of them a sick child, cannot live above the level of chronic hunger on 14s. a week. Even the prices charged at Lord Rhondda's Bow Baths Kitchen are prohibitive to them!

A soldier's wife who has a baby girl about two years' old and is expecting another baby shortly, is also attempting to live on 14s. Her husband deserted from the Army some time ago, and she received separation allowance for a few weeks after the desertion. Then all payments were stopped, and she had to fend for herself as best she could. The husband has now been caught and dragged back to military service, and the War Office has reduced her separation allowance to 19s., in order to recover the separation allowance which was issued to her before the Paymaster discovered her husband's desertion. Out of this 19s. she has to pay 5s. each week for her furniture, which is being bought on the hire system. She has therefore only 14s. on which to maintain herself and the child, and to make preparations for her baby.

And, again, there is the discharged soldier, disabled by rheumatism, heart complaint and nervous, if not mental, trouble. He received a gratuity in lieu of pension, and as he was unable to work he and his six young children were maintained by his wife, who toiled at the wash-tub till she was broken down by overwork and privations, and was removed to the Infirmary dying of phthisis. One of the children has also been removed to the Infirmary; the others are now in the Poor Law Schools, the soldier, being left alone, exists precariously on the charity of his neighbours and by hawking picture postcards from door to door.

The Socialisation of the food supply, by which we mean the provision for all the people of the nation, of free milk, free bread, free meat, free fruit and all other foods cooked or uncooked, the cost being borne as the cost of Members of Parliament and the Army and Navy is borne, out of the taxes, would sweep away one of the most hideous features of the poverty problem. But nothing short of complete Socialism can wholly emancipate such innocent victims of our present system as those whose cases we have cited.

All the Parliamentary Parties are talking of Re-construction, but their proposals give no hope of preventing such tragic cases. We have studied the programme prepared by the Labour Executive for submission to the next Conference. It is grandiloquently entitled, "Labour and the New Social Order," but it comprises mainly a poor patchwork of feeble palliatives and envisages no new order, but the perpetuation of the present one. It does not propose to abolish the wage system, but to establish a minimum wage of 30s. a week for men and women. It declares that "this is in no sense a 'class' proposal" for "such an amount of social protection of the individual, however poor and lowly" is indispensable. Such phrases are typical of the spirit of the document. When the New Social Order comes, "the poor and lowly" will surely become emancipated and will therefore cease to be "poor and lowly."

The demobilisation proposals are pettifogging in the extreme:—

1. The soldier is to have "a duplicate of his industrial discharge certificate sent one month before the date fixed for his discharge to the secretary of the trade union."
2. The Government is to use the machinery of the Labour Exchanges, and the Exchanges are to be placed under the supervision and control of a joint committee of employers and trade unionists in equal numbers.
3. Pre-war trade union conditions and practices to be restored.
4. Wages to be prevented from falling below pre-War level relative to cost of living, by the Government proclaiming that it will not attempt to lower standard rates, and by rigorously observing fair wages clauses, and recommending local authorities to do the same. (These provisions seem remarkably like the old social order.)

5. Unemployment is to be prevented:—

(a) By arranging public work so that it shall be done in seasons when work for capitalist employers is scarce. (This is put forward as a sovereign remedy, which can maintain "the aggregate demand for labour" at a uniform level throughout the year.)

(b) By setting on foot building operations "to the extent possibly of a million cottages at an outlay of three millions sterling." (Why "possibly"? Why not "at the very least"?)

(c) If unemployment threatens to become widespread, by raising the school leaving age to 16 years and increasing

(Continued on Page 964.)

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

THE WOMEN TEACHERS' PROTEST

We congratulate the 10,000 women teachers who sent a petition of protest to the L.C.C. against the proposal further to differentiate against women in the new salaries scale as follows:—

Old scale:—Men, £200; women, £150.

New scale:—Men, £250; women, £177.

The protest of these women, numbering half the women affected, has secured the rejection of the report. Now the women teachers should go on to demand equal pay with the men teachers. The Council could not afford to refuse them if a strike were threatened.

IS IT PEACE OR BANKRUPTCY?

Do the wholesale dismissals of women munition workers and Mr. Kellaway's statement that certain munition works are to be closed down mean that Peace or national bankruptcy is in sight? If Peace is expected the latest "more merchant ships" scare is, of course, engineered in preparation for the after-War economic offensive by which the capitalists will seek to gain what they failed to win in the War.

The way to meet after-War unemployment is to reduce the hours of employment without reduction of wages till all the workers are absorbed into the industries.

RUSSIA, GERMANY AND JAPAN

It is hoped by the reactionaries of all lands that the Council of Russian Soviets will throw over Lenin and Trotsky, and with them the Bolshevik Government, on account of the peace treaty with Germany, to which the Bolshevik Government has agreed, and which must be ratified by the Soviet. Whilst abusing the Socialists for agreeing to a "German peace," they are actually negotiating to aid Germany in the overthrow of Socialism.

The Bolshevik Telegraph Agency says:—"We learn from a competent foreign source that the Octobrists and Right Party in Pskoff are endeavouring to organise a Government which will sign peace with Germany. . . . These Russian "patriots" offer to organise White Guard battalions and to send them to Germany to reinforce William's troops in the struggle against France, Great Britain, and the other Allies. . . . These traitors cherish the hope of re-establishing the old order of things, taking back the land which has been given to the peasants, and returning the banks to bankers, the factories to the capitalists, and national property to exploiters."

A SO-CALLED SOCIALIST

M. Paul Axelrod, who is prominent amongst those Russians who call themselves Socialists, but have allied themselves with the forces of reaction against the Bolsheviks, has written to the French newspaper, "Le Droit des Peuples" to arouse French opinion against the Bolsheviks. He says:—"We do not wish at this moment to give ourselves up to a critical examination of the activities of the Provisional Coalition Government (that of Kerensky). We will content ourselves with regretting the economic disorganisation and the food crisis that has provoked an always increasing discontent amongst the mass-workers and the soldiers. This growing discontent has spread most of all amongst the mass-workers and the war-weary soldiers. It was fed by the delay in giving hope of a solution of the peace question. This delay was caused by the feeble response of the Western democracies to our struggles for a democratic peace."

Thus M. Axelrod and his friends make excuses for the Kerensky Government, which did nothing to bring peace or Socialism, but reaffirmed the secret treaties arranging for capitalistic annexations. They declare that the People's Commissioners, who are responsible to the Executive elected by the Congress of Soviets, are merely a mask for the dictatorship of Lenin and Trotsky, and that the Bolshevik power was achieved by a military plot, and is maintained by bayonets alone. Yet Axelrod and his friends declare that though the working masses took no part in the coup d'état which established the Bolshevik power, the affair being carried through by war-weary soldiers, they admit that the workers "sympathised passively" with the Bolsheviks, "because they believed in their demagogic promises of peace and the Social Revolution. The Bolsheviks have given abundant proof that they are endeavouring to be true to their promises, though their difficulties are intensified by such professing Socialists as Axelrod. Kerensky and his associates made many promises, and attempted to fulfil none of them."

TORTURE IN THE N.C.C.

The N.C.F. reports that a number of men in the N.C.C. have refused to do certain work for conscientious reasons. Seven men in the 1st Northern Co., N.C.C., at Rouen, were court-martialled on February 1st for refusing to load a truck with rifles. They were sentenced to 56 days' field punishment No. 1, and it is said that they are tied up three nights out of four. Seventeen men in the 2nd Northern Co., N.C.C., at Ambancourt, are being forced to undergo 80 days' field punishment No. 1 for refusing to handle barbed wire. It is reported that while undergoing this punishment many of them were frog-marched, dragged round a square accompanied by two, three, or four military police, who pushed them on till they were completely exhausted and fell to the ground, when they were lifted up till they fell again; they were also kicked and punched. A large number of the company watched these proceedings, and many of the witnesses are said to have shown signs of disgust at this treatment. There is no further news of these men to hand.

BABY KILLING

Dr. Barbara Tchaykovsky points out that it was estimated that Lord Rhonda's "Baby Bill" would save 1,000 infant lives each week, and asks why the promise to introduce this Bill sixteen weeks ago has been broken. On its own computation it appears that the Government is responsible for the needless deaths of 16,000 babies.

PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT

February 26th.—Many questions were asked about the Fifth case without any satisfactory result. As for the arrest of C. H. Norman and I. P. Hughes, Sir G. Cave said these were the leaders of the strike, and were therefore "recalled to their units." Does he really still believe that they are not genuine C.O.s?

MAIMED AND DONE WITH!

Mr. Jowett (Lab.) drew attention to the fact that discharged crippled soldiers are in some cases sent home with their luggage without any provision being made for conveying them to their homes. Mr. Macpherson knew nothing of this; but promised to issue orders to ensure that these men are conveyed to their homes "in the most comfortable circumstances."

WOMEN DISMISSED.

The many dismissals of women from munition factories was pointed out by Mr. Anderson (Lab.) Mr. Kellaway stated there were 8,000 dismissals in the three weeks up to Saturday. A "certain amount of hardship is inevitable," he explained. We are much interested in the inability of all these Committees to demobilise 8,000 women without hardship, when, by the various calls for National Service, there is work waiting for willing hands. In the event of the cessation of hostilities millions will be dismissed, how is this same faulty machinery going to cope with those numbers?

SECRET TREATIES AND RUSSIA.

February 27th.—Mr. Billing (Ind.) forced a straight answer from Mr. Balfour on the Russian question, he said: "We have not recognised the Government at Petrograd." Mr. Lees-Smith (L.) tried to elicit whether the Government is bound by other secret treaties besides those published from Petrograd. But Mr. Balfour was not willing to commit himself and refused information.

RATIONS.

We are glad that Mr. Clynes does not advocate lower rations for sedentary workers.

THE NEW REGISTER.

Mr. Hayes Fisher stated that the first register under the Representation of the People Act would come into force on October 1st.

February 28th.—Mr. Alden (L.) pointed out that "there is great difficulty in procuring work in a factory if you have lost the sight of one eye. Employers are held responsible should a workman be totally blinded, and that makes them hesitate to employ those with only one eye. Sir G. Cave said that this difficulty about workmen's compensation was being gone into."

MUNITION WORKERS.

Mr. Kellaway stated that any women who left their homes to do munition work, and have now been dismissed, are entitled to a free pass to their homes. What a reward!

HOME OFFICE MISJUDGED.

Sir G. Cave announced that he had requested to be given the power to release C.O.s suffering from bad health. We are glad to learn that the Home Secretary is capable of

humane acts. If they were less rare, people would not be apt to doubt his good intentions.

AMERICA ON DALMATIA.

March 4th.—Mr. Noel Buxton (L.) quoted the American Minister at Sofia as saying that the American Government "would not countenance Italy's claim to Dalmatia." Mr. Balfour had heard of the statement, but could not tell whether it was correct!

In reply to Mr. King (L.), Mr. Balfour assured the House that President Wilson is kept fully informed of everything by the Allies! In that case we must regard him as an accomplice in regard to the Secret Treaties.

JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

The attitude of the French Press on the question of Japan was referred to by Mr. Outhwaite (L.). He asked Mr. Balfour to have such statements contradicted. We must say that the Government probably foresees that Japan may join Germany, and therefore acquiesces in the French Press theory.

THE RATIONING SCHEME.

Many members quoted instances proving the failure of the meat rations, such as the waste of hundreds of pounds of offal in butchers' shops. But Mr. Parker stated that the Food Controller regarded the scheme "as in the main satisfactory." Well, of course, that settles the matter!

DISMISSAL OF WORKERS.

Mr. Kellaway stated that the fares of dismissed munition workers to their homes would be paid, but no salaries after dismissal.

ALIENS BANNED.

Sir G. Cave announced that the Order in Council giving power to prohibit aliens from addressing or taking part in meetings or engaging in propaganda has been passed. We shall soon become more Russian than the Russians (under Caedon).

SUPPLY.

The debates on Supply were continued on February 26th, 27th, 28th, and March 4th. A new department, that for Overseas-Trade, was discovered among those requiring supplementary estimates. Sir A. Steel-Maitland of that department explained that Commercial Attachés and Trade Commissioners were in future to go hand in hand with Consuls as British representatives; their salaries were to vary from £500 to £1,200 and £1,500. The Trade Commissioners are for the various parts of the British Empire and ten of these have already been appointed. This venture has shown the Government that "A proper education in modern languages" must be encouraged. The suggestion that the Commercial Attachés are to be selected from the "promising" Consuls strikes one as highly ridiculous. Our experience of Consuls does not label them as business men! Where do the workers come in?

THE PEACE OUTLOOK.

Mr. Herbert Samuel (L.) denounced the policy of appointing Lord Northcliffe as Director of Propaganda in enemy countries, and compared it with the idea of the Germans appointing Count Reventlow to a similar position.

BRIBERY CHARGES BY EX-INSPECTOR SYME

Ex-Inspector Syme, who was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for a speech at Abertillery, and was released after a hunger strike, has been rearrested under the Cat and Mouse Act. Ex-Inspector Syme contends that he is persecuted because he is endeavouring to expose certain officials, whom he alleges have solicited, and are soliciting and obtaining bribes from persons who desire to escape internment. He says that at the present time poor persons in internment are told by these men that they shall be placed on the list for repatriation if they will pay a bribe of £3. He says that a certain baker of alien origin paid sums amounting to £30 to a certain baker in order that he might not be interned, and that when the baker could afford to pay no more he was interned.

Another case of bribery alleged by Mr. Syme is that of two Austrian business men, whose cashier has said that he paid out hundreds to certain officials in order that they might not be interned. A case of alleged cruelty and attempted bribery was that of a German who was suffering from cancer, and who to punish him for refusing to pay a bribe was removed from the hospital where he was to have been operated upon until it was too late for the operation to be performed. Attempted bribery is also alleged in the case of an American citizen with a German title, who had become paralysed during his internment.

The authorities would be well advised to arrange for an impartial inquiry into these cases instead of attempting to muzzle Mr. F. Syme by imprisoning him under the Cat and Mouse Act.

ANOTHER C.O. ARREST

On Saturday, February 23rd, W. J. Greene, a conscientious objector, who has been employed for the past fifteen months at the Wakefield Work Centre, was arrested without notice and taken to Pontefract Barracks. Mr. Greene, before his arrest under the Military Service Act, was an assistant organiser of the Bakers' Union in South Wales. The heinous offence with which he is charged is that of writing a private letter to the General Secretary of his union, Mr. Hiles, who was at the time in Swansea conducting a strike, in which he referred to the strike, saying that Mr. Hiles should remain true to his class, and remember the capitalists would continue the War for a small gain at the expense of the workers. He also said he hoped Mr. Hiles would settle the strike satisfactorily. This letter was opened by the authorities, and by writing it he is said by them to have contravened the Rules drawn up by the Home Office Committee for the Employment of Conscientious Objectors.

Rule 12, the only one under which his "offence" could possibly be brought, reads as follows:—"Public propaganda, whether by making speeches, taking part in processions or demonstrations, or otherwise, is forbidden."

WRITE TO MR. ROBERTS

Mr. G. H. Roberts, the Labour M.P., who has become Minister of Labour, said at Exeter on March and that he hoped to give every man who was demobilised a reasonable chance of employment within four weeks of his discharge. This appears to mean that the demobilised soldiers' pay will stop four weeks after discharge whether he gets work or not. Write to Mr. Roberts, and ask whether that is so. Mr. Roberts says he believes "that the men will use those four weeks in such recreation as will cast no blur on their fame or sin on their soul." The sin on Mr. Roberts's soul is that he voted against a minimum wage of 30s. a week for agricultural labourers!

He then carried on his campaign of criticising the present Government to which Mr. Bonar Law replied that Mr. Samuel and his friends ought to "try and get a change in the Government." We feel that continued denunciations, by men who can effect a change, are waste of time. What is wanted is action!

Mr. Balfour, in pointing to the various defects of Count Hertling's speech, said: "It has not been the object, and it has not been the result of the British Empire to squeeze out the individual life of the nations concerned. Where the British Empire has gone, liberty and local interests and the cultivation of local culture have not been neglected." With the flagrant proof of the contrary, in the treatment of Ireland, so near us, we think further comment on this cant and hypocrisy superfluous. The pity of it is that such talk helps to prolong the War.

HOSPITALITY.

Mr. Macdonald told the story of the reception of M. Kameneff and his companions. M. Kameneff was searched as though he were a prisoner rather than the representative of a friendly Government. Lord R. Cecil defended the hostile actions towards the Russians by arguing that the Bolshevik Government has made no secret of its "intense hostility to the Government of this country." We should like to point out that the Democratic Government of Russia is hostile to capitalism, not necessarily British capitalism!

TREATMENT OF C.O.s.

Mr. Whitehouse (L.) denounced the treatment by the Home Office and its officials of conscientious objectors, Mr. King (L.) and Mr. Thomas (Lab.) also joined in the protest. Sir G. Cave urged that everything had been done "to see that these men were fairly and properly treated." Then our advice to the Home Office is to hand the job over to more efficient hands!

GRANT TO LADY MAUDE.

A sum of £25,000 was voted to Lady Maude in recognition of her husband's services. We can but echo Mr. Snowden (Lab.), who said: "I object to the class distinction in such a proposal."

IRISH EDUCATION.

It is proposed to make a grant of £50,000 for Intermediate Education in Ireland. Mr. Boland (I.N.) protested that an equivalent grant to that for English-Secondary Education would be £144,173 for Ireland. Sir Edward Carson added his support to the complaint that Irish teachers are lamentably paid, and pointed out that 35 per cent. receive less than £100 a year non-resident. Surely £50,000 is not enough to surmount this! Mr. McKean (I.N.) was comical in his assertion that teachers "must remember that the country is poor." Well, people cannot live on that; besides, why did not the Nationalist Members of Parliament set the example, and not demand £300 and £400 a year from the poor Irish before they became the hirelings of the British Government?

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND

ASIA FOR THE ASIATICS

(continued from front page)

Lord Derby, Foreign Secretary, as follows: "A great portion of the English public is still probably under the impression that the statements upon which the denunciation against Turkey were originally founded are true—the 60,000 Christians outraged and massacred; the cartloads of human heads; the crowds of women burnt in a barn; and other similar horrors. There are persons and amongst them, I grieve to say, Englishmen, who boast that they invented these stories with the object of 'writing down' Turkey, to which they were impelled by a well-known hand. People in England will scarcely believe that the most accurate and complete inquiries into the events of last year in Bulgaria now reduce the number of deaths to about 3,500 souls, including the Turks who were, in the first instance, slain by the Christians. No impartial man can now deny that a rising of the Christians, which was intended by its authors to lead to a general massacre of the Mohamedans was in contemplation, and that it was directed by Russian and pan-Slavist agents."

That the Armenian massacres of 1895-6 are in the same category of events appears implicit in the statement of Sir Edwin Pears, a partisan of the Armenians, when, writing of the methods of Armenian revolutionaries (which include atrocities upon the Muslim population) he says:

"As a friend of the Armenians, revolt seemed to me purely mischievous. Some of the extremists remarked that, while they recognised that hundreds of innocent persons suffered from these attempts, they could provoke a big massacre which would bring in foreign intervention."

He adds, and the addition sheds a curious light upon the mental posture of the Czarist: "Such intervention was useless so long as Russia was hostile." Not a word of disapproval of the policy of provocation!

A recent, strongly-documented article* in "La Revue Politique Internationale (Lausanne)" shows exactly how, and with what objects Czarist Russia ceased to be "hostile" to the machinations of Armenian revolutionaries and became their instigator. The latest massacres are therefore no exception to the rule. They began with a rebellion organised with Russian help and with a massacre of the Muslim population.

I think it was Lord Palmerston who said that the welfare of all the peoples which composed the Turkish Empire in his day could only be secured under a Turkish Government. That is the best answer to a statement often made, and with some show of reason, to the effect that the policy pursued by Czarist Russia has been productive of much good since it has brought into existence Greece and the Balkan States. In order to set up those Christian kingdoms the Muslim population had to be sacrificed. The excuse for sacrificing those unlucky people was that they were Asiatics, and as such intruders on the sacred soil of Europe. But think of the effect of that on Asia,

* "Le Tzarisme en Asie Mineure," par Edgar Granville.

which also is a sacred soil for its inhabitants!

So long as their sympathies were confined to Europe, however, our Czarists could still claim that they were agitating on behalf of a majority—with few exceptions. The case is different when they come to Asia. There the Christians are in a minority except in small and isolated districts, and the majority is averse to European interference. In the six provinces which the Armenians claimed and called Armenia they (the Armenians) formed on their own showing—in 1913—but 33 per cent. of the population. It is to Asia that despoiled and outraged Muslim refugees from the lost provinces of Europe have fled for refuge, hoping there to be secure from Christian inroads. No high-sounding talk about humanity or restitution can be used to justify the dismemberment of Turkey in Asia. The scheme for the partition of Turkey was a Czarist scheme originally, and now that the Czarism has fallen it should be discarded in the interests of the British Empire, not to speak of humanity, for nothing could be better calculated to alienate our Asiatic subjects.

Our present rulers seem to imagine that it is possible to pit the Arabic-speaking Muslims against the Turkish-speaking Muslims. It is not. Our false ideal of nationality and patriotism was abolished by the Prophet 1300 years ago. Only the half-savage Arabs of the mountains and the desert still preserve a taint of it. And how reactionary is the Arab movement with which England is allied at present may be gathered from the manifesto of the Grand Sherif, in which, among the most dreadful crimes of the Young Turks, is mentioned the steps which they have taken towards the emancipation of woman. The great division in Islam to-day is that between Progressive and Reactionary; and we at present are supporting the reactionaries, who are bound to lose in the long run.

By one generous gesture—handing back the territory we have taken from the Turks—we could, at the peace settlement, completely neutralise the German influence in Turkey proper, and give immense relief to all the millions who are watching our behaviour with extreme anxiety. It is a gesture to which Asia, and the Turks especially, would heartily respond. I fear a mean and covetous, a grasping gesture, which will shame us in those watching eyes.

For these things are not being done in a closed room, with only Europeans present: Remember: there are people looking on. Throughout the length of Asia there is scarce a nation which is not a sympathiser with the Turks, which has not felt their sufferings as its own. You Christians said that you would turn them out of Europe; you have done so ruthlessly; the native homes of many of their leaders are to-day in Christian hands. You have left to them only their capital, and a very small piece of your sacred soil.

Can we wonder that our cry of Europe for the Europeans is being countered by a growing cry of Asia for the Asiatics.

THE COMING SOCIAL ORDER

(continued from page 962)

the number of scholarships and bursaries. (Why H? Why H?)

(d) Wherever practicable (oh, stultifying phrase!) hours to be reduced to 48 per week.

These are measures of the Old Social Order, not of the new, and the draft programme does not even insist that those set forth shall be effectively carried out. This is proved by the following tell-tale phrase:—

"In so far as the Government fails to prevent unemployment—whenever it finds it impossible to discover for any willing worker, man or woman, a suitable situation at the standard rate—the Labour Party holds that the Government must, in the interests of the community as a whole, provide him or her with adequate maintenance, either with such arrangements for honourable employment or with such useful training as may be found practicable, according to age, health, and previous occupation."

Oh! spirits of those unfortunates, who have faced the red-tape, the harsh rebuffs, the punitive questioning and the scanty doles administered by officials and committees under the Unemployed Workmen Act and the Prince of Wales' Committees! Must you, and such as you, again pass through that degrading purgatory? This draft programme seems to have been written by someone whose mind had been partially awakened to the cruelties done to the poor by the system of thirty years ago; but who does not realise that the palliatives which he and others then urged have been gradually coming into force ever since and are both powerless to free the poor from enslavement, and out of tune with the new spirit of comradeship and independence which is being felt by the awakened masses. Says the document:—

"... in the twentieth century there must be no question of driving the unemployed to anything so obsolete and discredited as either private charity... or the Poor Law, with the utilities and barbarities of its 'stone yard' or its 'able-bodied rest workhouse.'"

Quite so, but we advise the Labour Party (and Mr. Sydney Webb, who obviously is largely responsible for this document) to insist further, that

the unemployed shall be spared the "utilities and barbarities" of "relief work" of any kind by whomsoever administered. The right way to deal with unemployment is to reduce the hours of labour, without reducing the pay, and to increase the school age, giving maintenance grants to the children, till all the people are absorbed into useful industry. Socialism is the next step onward which humanity will take, only those ameliorations which make towards Socialism, and render its coming easier will bring any lasting benefit to the community. The draft programme further advocates:—

1. Payment of unemployment benefit by trade unions, aided by Government grants. (How will this affect the freedom of trade union action in case of strikes?)

2. The universal application of "the national minimum, affording complete security against destitution, in sickness and health, in good times and bad alike, to every member of the community, of whatever age or sex."

Does this mean that the minimum wage is to be assured "in sickness and health, in good times and bad," whether the worker is actually employed or not? We hope so, but fear not. The trouble with our Labour Party is that it sees the unemployed worker, not as the superior of the King or the millionaire, because he was a producer yesterday, though circumstances have made him a non-producer to-day, but through capitalist spectacles, as a troublesome failure.

The case of the demobilised soldier and unemployed worker is thus unsatisfactorily dealt with; the case of the widow and orphan is not mentioned. Mothers' Pensions now in force in 30 States of U.S.A. will always in capitalist communities be administered with too much niggardliness and with the taint of pauperism and patronage, but the system introduces a principle which will be maintained in the Socialist community that the children and the mother whose energies are given to her children have a right to the same share as anyone else of the common stock. Therefore it is a palliative measure mak-

ing towards Socialism. The draft programme for the Labour Party makes no mention of it.

On the political side the programme further proposes Adult Suffrage, with not more than a three months' residential qualification. Even the Labour Party might surely ask for continuous registration. And why not the Initiative, Referendum, and Recall? The demand for the abolition of the House of Lords is ambiguously put, and does not rule out Mr. Sydney Webb's plan of a Second Chamber elected by the House of Commons. Oh, spirit of compromise, how persistent thou art!

Nowhere in the programme is the demand for Socialism expressed; the immediate nationalisation of the railways, shipping lines, mines, and electric production is advocated; the principle of the common ownership of the nation's land is "to be applied as suitable opportunities occur"; some form of Governmental supervision of manufacturers' methods and prices is suggested; municipalities are to have local option to prohibit the sale of alcohol, and power to acquire more land, to sell milk and coal, and to organise popular recreation; the income tax and death duties are to be raised and assessed on a family basis; the excess profits tax is to be retained; land values are to be taxed; there is to be a levy on capital. The latter proposals are described as a "Revolution in Finance"; we regret to say they seem to be but the commonplaces of nineteenth-century Liberal propaganda, and not revolutionary at all.

Russia is struggling onward to establish Socialism. As Nikolai Rubakin, a Russian writer in the Austrian Socialist paper, "Arbeiter Zeitung," has said: "Russia, which had the reputation of being the most benighted nation in Europe, has in a few months, moved by an honest and mighty idealism, carried out far-reaching reforms at the hands of countless most insignificant persons."

Russia needs the co-operation of other democracies. We want Socialism in our time for this country also. Socialism can be obtained in our time and in our country, but in one way only. Not by wisacres and experts, but by the solidarity of the workers, combining to accept nothing less than Socialism.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

TO LENIN.

'Tis thine in places dark and desolate
To fashion Beauty—to illumine the night
Of Falsehood and of Fear with Reason's light:
'Tis thine from wreck of empires to create
A Commonwealth of Love, a Federal State,
Not founded on deceit, or gold, or might,
But built by Truth and Justice in despite
Of all the Powers of Moloch and of Hate.

The stucco temples made of dung and mud,
The sordid cities reared by Lust and Lies,
Are piled as rubble in a marsh of blood;
But at thy word the towers of Peace will rise,
And Wisdom, Brotherhood, and Pity bud
In hearts that Death and Sorrow have made
wise.

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MORE SECRET TREATIES

THE ALLIES AND ITALY.

We publish below a translation of the text of a further section of the diplomatic documents which we take from the "Manchester Guardian" of February 7th, which have recently appeared in the Petrograd press. These are from the archives of the Russian Foreign Office. The first is a memorandum dealing with the negotiations which preceded the entry of Italy into the war on the side of the Allies. The second section relates to Japan's war aims.

I.

THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ITALY.

A Memorandum of the Russian Foreign Office.

The question of wresting Italy from the Triple Alliance of that time and of prevailing upon her to join the Allies arose at the very beginning of the war. The attempt was unsuccessful.

Prince Bülow's mission to Rome only led to the change in Italian policy being delayed for half a year. The German representative strove to buy Italy's neutrality with the price of concessions at Austria's expense. The Monarchy of the Danube was unwilling to follow this course.

In view of the fruitlessness of this bargaining, in the latter half of February, 1915, the possibility of Italy joining the Allies arose once more.

At that time the Russian Government did not see any imperative necessity for Italy's intervention in the affairs of the Allies. The Minister of Foreign Affairs expressed his apprehension that the appearance of a fourth European British (sic) member in coalition might complicate the relations between the Allies. While he did not oppose the plan for drawing Italy into the Alliance, S. D. Sazonov considered that in any case the initiative in this matter should proceed from her herself.

Negotiations were formally begun in London at the end of February (O.S.) on the initiative of the Italian Ambassador, Marchese Imperiali. They were conducted by Sir Edward Grey and the Ambassadors M. Paul Cambon, of France, Count Benckendorff, of Russia, and the above-mentioned Italian.

They became involved, however, on the one hand by Prince Bülow's continued efforts to incline the Cabinet of Vienna to make the concessions to Italy, and, on the other hand, by the contradictoriness of the interests being defended by the representatives of the Great Powers in London.

France and Russia considered Italy's demands to be exorbitant, the former with regard especially to the question of the south-eastern shores of the Adriatic, and the latter with regard to the north-east of this sea. Six weeks were spent deciding the details of the future territorial disposition of Albania and Dalmatia. The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs persistently defended the inter-

ests of the Southern Slavs, and maintained that an outlet to the sea should be permanently assured to Serbia, step by step repelling Italy's desires for the extensions of her seashores and for the neutralisation of the regions intended for Serbia. In the meanwhile the events at the different theatres of war caused the military leaders to consider the urgency for Italy's immediate intervention on the side of the Allies. In the beginning of April (O.S.) the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while not particularly intent on conforming to the desire of the Allies to sign a convention with Italy, began to set forth new demands, namely, the urgency for persuading that kingdom to the earliest possible intervention. Besides that, the Russians demanded (1) the settling of the time for the publication of the convention, and (2) the avowal of the inviolability of the agreements previously concluded between the three Great Powers of the coalition.

On April 13, (26) the convention was signed in London by Grey, Cambon, Count Benckendorff, and Marchese Imperiali. In the days immediately preceding this event we succeeded in obtaining a few more concessions from Italy on behalf of Serbia and Montenegro.

II.

JAPAN'S TERRITORIAL WAR AIMS.

(From M. Krupensky, the former Russian Ambassador at Tokyo. Despatch dated February 8, 1917.)

I never omit an opportunity for representing to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the desirability, in the interests of Japan herself, of China's intervention in the war, and only last week I had a conversation with him on the subject. To-day I again pointed out to him that the present moment was particularly favourable, in view of the position taken up by the United States and the proposal made by them to the neutral Powers to follow their example, and more particularly, in view of the recent speeches of the American Minister at Peking. Viscount Motono replied that he would be the first to welcome a rupture between China and Germany, and would not hesitate to take steps in this direction at Peking if he were sure that the Chinese Government would go in that direction. So far, however, he had no such assurance, and he feared lest unsuccessful representations at Peking might do harm to the Allies. He promised me to sound the attitude of Peking without delay, and, in the case of some hope of success, to propose to the Cabinet to take a decision in the desired direction.

On the other hand, the Minister pointed out the necessity for him, in view of the attitude of Japanese public opinion on the subject, as well as with a view to safeguard Japan's position at the future Peace Conference, if China should be admitted to it, of securing the support of the Allied Powers to the desires of Japan in respect of Shantung and the Pacific Islands. These desires are for the succession to all the rights and privileges hitherto possessed by Germany in the Shantung province and for the acquisition of the islands to the north of the equator which are now occupied by the Japanese. Motono plainly told me that the Japanese Government would like to receive at once the promise of the Imperial [Russian] Government to support the above desires of Japan. In order to give a push to

the highly important question of a break between China and Germany I regard it as very desirable that the Japanese should be given the promise they ask—this the more as, so far as can be seen here, the relations between Great Britain and Japan have of late been such as justify a surmise that the Japanese aspirations would not meet with any objections on the part of the London Cabinet.

Despatch dated March 1, 1917.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs asked me to-day whether I had received a reply from the Imperial [Russian] Government relating to Japan's desires on the question of Shantung and the Pacific Islands, and told me that the Japanese Government would very much like to have at the earliest a promise from us on the subject.

Despatch dated March 21, 1917.

I communicated to-day to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the contents of your High Excellency's telegram, and gave him a copy. Viscount Motono confined himself to the observation that he took note of my communication, and would report it to the Council of Ministers and the Emperor. The attitude of public opinion and the press here towards the Revolution in Russia is, on the whole, sympathetic. It is regarded as a pledge of a successful prosecution of the war until complete victory has been obtained, and the end of the rule of the bureaucracy is welcomed. While paying due tribute to the Emperor's and the Grand Duke Michel Alexandrovitch's patriotic acts of abdication, public opinion here expresses the hope that the new Government and the popular representatives to be summoned would not be inclined towards extreme decisions. The same attitude towards the events in Russia could be perceived in the few general words which I heard in this connection from the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

FAIR FLAG OF FREEDOM

(A song for Socialists.)

"Against the Vested Interests' God
Who works the humble peoples' ill,
Against him—Rise! Be ye no clod;
Yes; keep the Red Flag flying still.

Against the Press that plots to lead
Its tools to lift their voices shrill
Against Our Cause, give little heed;
Though keep the Red Flag flying still.

Against all murderous maniacs
Who cause a world its blood to spill,
Against them, see your zeal no'er slack;
Aye; keep the Red Flag flying still.

Against the Jingo's ferce or blind,
Their rabid lust to maim and kill;
Against these traitors to mankind,
Oh, keep the Red Flag flying still."

—DUNCAN CAMPBELL.

[Extract from a new version of the "Red Flag," which, owing to space limitations, we cannot fully reproduce.]

A NEW WORLD

King's Cross Station: Train about to start for the North.

Blind man leans out of window playing concertina.

Half an hour later, blind man makes his way along corridor, stopping at the door of each compartment and shaking a tin cup in which he collects pennies. At his approach an atmosphere of mingled irritation, boredom, and disgust rises to greet him.

In one compartment six passengers out of seven drop pennies in the cup, some swiftly, with an impatient shake of the shoulders, others slowly and with grudging reluctance as the blind man still stands there rattling the coins.

At last he moves on.

First Passenger (a Yorkshireman, probably a commercial traveller): "That's something new."

Second Passenger (a young woman): "Was he a soldier?"

Third Passenger (an elderly woman, with a prim bonnet): "I don't know. I hadn't any coppers, and I don't care to give silver unless I know what I'm giving to."

Second Passenger: "It is a miserable thing to be blind."

Third Passenger: "Blind? Was he blind?"

Fourth Passenger (an elderly man who accompanies third passenger): "Oh, yes; he was blind; there is no doubt of that."

Second Passenger (turning to third passenger): "What did it say on the front?"

Third Passenger: "I don't know."

Half an hour later.

Blind man again comes to the door of the compartment carrying an open black leather brief bag, in which are boxes of matches and cigarettes.

Fourth Passenger, who has been standing in the corridor, and now tries to prevent the blind man from entering, and to move him along the corridor: "That's not your seat."

Blind Man, maintaining his stand in the doorway: "Does anyone want any cigarettes or wax lights? We can sell you wax lights for 2d., and there's one packet of Greys left for 1s. 6d."

He holds out boxes of matches and cigarettes.

A long pause.

First Passenger: "I don't think this is a smoking compartment."

Another long pause.

Blind man moves off.

Third passenger: "There's no doubt this will be a very different world after the War. It'll never go back to what it was."

Fourth Passenger: "Yes; things will never be the same."

Third Passenger: "The men's wages will never go down to what they were. Look at the agricultural labourers' wages; they'll never come back and work for what they did. They won't be able to if the prices don't come down, and they won't come down, not for years."

Fourth Passenger: "Why, in some parts the agricultural labourers used to work for 9s. a week twenty years ago."

Third Passenger: "They were working for fifteen shillings before the War."

Fourth passenger: "Things will never be the same again. If only we would always do what is best without waiting for a catastrophe."

First passenger: "That's right; it has been done at a great cost, but, when you come to think of it, nothing worth having is ever won without great suffering."

Fourth Passenger: Yes; things are going to be altogether different; the men will never go back to the old conditions; it isn't right that they should; they've got a minimum wage now, and high time."

Second Passenger: "The twenty-five shilling minimum is not worth what fifteen shillings was before the War!"

Silence.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' WIVES DEMAND MORE PAY

The Walthamstow League of Rights for soldiers and sailors and their wives and families has sent to the Prime Minister the following petition, signed by upwards of 2,000 women in the district:—

"We, the undersigned wives, widows, and dependants of soldiers and sailors, maintain that the separation allowances and pensions at present granted are seriously inadequate owing to the increase in the cost of living, and therefore urge that these shall be raised in accordance with the increase in the cost of living which has taken place since the outbreak of War."

The Secretary's address is: Mrs. Sizer, 49 Melbourne Road, Walthamstow.

SOLDIERS' COMMENTS

A soldier writes from the Y.M.C.A., Aldwych: Dear Editor,—Hearing some of the men discussing the people at home, I give you briefly some of the remarks. Some had been to see horse racing at Sandown Park, and they were very sore to find that all the men they saw there thought of nothing else but betting and amusement while they were fighting in France in the mud and slush. One of us said:

"The Food Controller says we must save our food or starve, yet he allows racehorses to eat hundreds of tons of corn in the Kingdom daily."

Another: "If there is oats to spare, why can't the poor and the workers have it for porridge? I don't think one in a thousand gets such a thing now, and seeing we must not now have meat for breakfast, surely a wholesome food like porridge should be obtainable by every man, woman, and child."

"Oatmeal should be sold in every bread shop, as it would be much cheaper than buying in fancy packets."

"Personally I think they should let all these racehorses out in allotments, as we are told we will be very short before the next harvest, and they will start when it is too late."

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

A soldier from the front writes:—

"Dear Editor,—I am home on leave from France, and I am satisfying a desire which I have had for some months, in writing to thank you and express extreme gratitude for the stand you have taken in regard to what we call the great War."

"Your courage—after all, the best kind of courage—and it is a word terribly misused, in parading outside the 'House' was typical and splendid, and although you are aware you represent thousands—thousands who for various reasons are inarticulate, you will not, I feel sure, be sorry to have this tribute. I can assure you, I know many men personally 'out there' who are tremendously grateful for what you and a few others have done—men who realise the horror, and yes, fraud of the continuance of this infernal slaughter. These voices will be heard, but at present they are gagged, and although it is a hard, hard task for you, I say, go on if you can and always remember you have a host of people who cannot be galled all the time—a host who think, backing you, and you are our only hope at present."

The "Dreadnought" would welcome voluntary helpers for selling and distributing the paper, and for clerical work. Please write to Miss O'Callaghan, 400 Old Ford Road.

WHATS' ON? W.S.F. FIXTURES OUT DOOR

FRIDAY, MARCH 8th.
Grundy Street, Poplar, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
SATURDAY, MARCH 9th.
Great Push for Socialism, Peace, and Votes for All in Hoxton; meet 11.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. at 85 Hoxton Street (near Shoreditch Church and Old Street Tube Station). Speakers: Miss Price, Mrs. Walker, and others.
SUNDAY, MARCH 10th.
Osborn Street, Whitechapel, 11.45 a.m., Mrs. Walker.
Finsbury Park, 3 p.m., Mrs. Cressall.
"The Flagstaff," Hampstead, 3 p.m., Miss Price.
Hyde Park, 3.30 p.m., Miss Rickards.
FRIDAY, MARCH 15th.
Hague Street, Bethnal Green, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
SATURDAY, MARCH 16th.
Great Push in Hammersmith.

INDOOR

SUNDAY, MARCH 10th.
Bow Women's Hall, 8 p.m., Social Evening, Bow Branch.
MONDAY, MARCH 11th.
44 Malden Road, Kentish Town (St. Pancras W.S.F.), 7.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13th.
Bow Women's Hall, Speakers' Class; instructor, Mr. L. Hogben.
THURSDAY, MARCH 14th.
29b Lincoln's Inn Fields, 7.30 p.m., Miss S. Pankhurst, "Peace and the Future"; Mr. Ph. Frankford, "The Importance of Organising the Young."
SUNDAY, MARCH 17th.
Bow Women's Hall, 7 p.m., Miss S. Pankhurst, Mr. W. Carter (N.U.R.).
MONDAY, MARCH 18th.
Bow Women's Hall, 8 p.m., General Meeting, London Section.

FEDERATION NOTES

ANNUAL CONFERENCE.
Branch secretaries who have not yet sent in nominations for the General Committee, and resolutions for the Annual Conference are requested to do so as soon as possible. We wish to have the preliminary agenda ready by March 9th.
LONDON NEWS.
SPEAKERS' CLASS AND LIBRARY AND READING ROOM.—Members and friends are reminded that the Speakers' Class is held every Wednesday evening, 8 p.m., at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, under the direction of Mr. Lancelot Hogben. On the same evening the Library is always open. Miss Mary Carr, who is in charge, will be

very pleased to receive gifts of books. Foreign and British Socialist (Peace and others) newspapers can be read in the large hall at 400 Old Ford Road, from 12 to 4 daily and 7 to 10 Monday and Friday evenings.

BOW (Hon. Sec., Miss Lynch, 400 Old Ford Road, E.)—Every Monday, at 8 p.m., a social and business meeting is held at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.3. All members are asked to attend and bring their friends with them. Next Monday we hope that members will come in good time, as we wish to discuss arrangements for "At homes" to be given to workers in the district.

WHITECHAPEL.—Will any member or friend living in or near Whitechapel offer the local branch a room for weekly or monthly meetings? We have many members in the district, and Mr. Moscovitch, who has kindly offered to act as hon. secretary pro tem., thinks that a great deal of work can be done if the branch has a regular meeting-place.

ST. PANCRAS BRANCH has elected a new secretary, Mrs. Brumson, 38 Dale Street, Kentish Town. The next monthly meeting will be held at the B.S.P. Rooms, 44 Malden Road, Kentish Town, on March 11th, 7.30 p.m. Mr. Arthur Field and Mrs. Bouvier will be the speakers.

HAMMERSMITH.—A new branch of the W.S.F. is being formed at Hammersmith. Intending members and members who can help actively should communicate with Miss P. Lynch, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow.

LEYTON BRANCH (Hon. Sec., Mrs. Hart, 73 Calderon Road).—Regular monthly social and business meetings will be held at the Richter Music Academy, High Road, Leytonstone, near the Midland Station. The first will be held on Wednesday, March 10th, at 7 p.m. Miss S. Pankhurst will look in. Members and friends are cordially invited.

PROVINCES

BULWELL.—Social and Reception, March 9th, 6.30 p.m., in Southwark Street Schools. A meeting will be held on March 10th, at 6.30 p.m., at Albert Street Schools. Speaker: Miss Sylvia Pankhurst. Miss Pankhurst will also speak at the Southwark Street Schools at 2.30, for the Adult School.

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POPLAR SOCIALIST SUNDAY SCHOOL.

20 RAILWAY STREET, POPLAR.

The superintendent would be glad to hear from anyone who is willing to teach the children songs and dances; and also from those prepared to give short addresses on Sundays at 3.30 p.m.

Maxim Litvinoff Greets the Working Women of Great Britain

Through the Women's International Council of Socialist and Labour Organisations (British Section) Maxim Litvinoff, Russian People's Ambassador and Consul-General, sends the following greeting to the working women of Great Britain: Comrades,—Our women comrades in Russia have played an important part in the long and bitter struggle for liberty, and have always been the least sparing of sacrifices for the common cause. It gives me great pleasure, therefore, to see that our women comrades in England are also doing their share in trying to bring about the fraternity of nations.

I desire in all seriousness to impress upon you the urgent necessity for bold and speedy action. Our comrades in Russia are battling with wonderful courage and resource against the organised might of Prussian Militarism and the combined interests of international capitalism. None of us, I am sure, can sufficiently express our admiration for their heroic stand, nor can we help being impressed by the tremendous effect their activities have produced. They have lighted a beacon that sends a message of hope and encouragement to the workers in all lands, and everywhere the smoke of answering fires is rising to the skies. The struggle of our Russian com-

rades is not merely a struggle for freedom in Russia, but for the freedom of the peoples in all countries. That is why all governing classes are at heart hostile to it—"enemy" and "ally" alike. Nor is this all. Our comrades are conducting a bitter struggle against the bourgeoisie among those nationalities for which the Revolution has secured independence. So conscious are the bourgeoisie of the world of their class interest that the Governments of England and France have been actively supporting the bourgeoisie of the Ukraine, in spite of the fact that the latter was negotiating a separate peace with Germany. If the Russian Proletarian Revolution fails, the cause of freedom throughout the world will suffer and the emancipation of the people will be postponed for many a long day. On the other hand, the victory of the Russian people can only be consolidated and their newly-won freedom secured by the active co-operation of the peoples of all lands. The workers in other countries must help them, and burst asunder the shackles of Militarism and Capitalism. The Russian Revolution is at once an appeal and a challenge to the democracies of the world. The response must be forthcoming, and that soon. It is towards evoking such a response from the workers of this country that I hope you and your comrades will direct their efforts.—Yours fraternally,
MAXIM LITVINOFF.

A RECORD EXTRACTING COMPANY

The British Extracting Company, of Hull, recently called a meeting of its employees to explain that the firm was anxious for Hull to do its part in the tank campaign, and to explain what a wonderful investment War bonds are. The directors were so anxious for every one of their workers to invest that they had decided to buy War bonds for them to the value of 10s. per head, the money to be repaid to the firm in weekly payments of 2s. 6d. each. One of the employees asked if it would be compulsory for each worker to take part, as there might be many there who for family or other reasons could not take part in such an arrangement. The firm's representative replied that any man who did not wish for any reason to buy had only to mention the fact to his foreman, and it would in no way prejudice him with the firm. The question was then put to the meeting, and upon a show of hands only about twenty hands went up in favour of the scheme out of about 400. The speaker said that he was sorry to say it could not be called by any means unanimously carried, although he had hoped it would be. He did not put the vote against the motion. The employee who had spoken then left the meeting. Next morning whilst at work he was informed that it was decided to do as suggested by the firm at the previous day's meeting, namely, to buy War bonds to the value of 10s. per head and to deduct 2s. 6d. a week from each man's wages to pay for them. He went at once to the office to tell the timekeeper that no deductions were to be made from his wages for War savings certificates of any kind.

Later in the day he was sent for by the firm's

engineer, who said: "I understand you to have left word in the office that no deductions are to be made from your wages for War bonds of any sort." The employee replied that that was so. The engineer then explained that it was the custom of the firm to deduct 8½d. per week from each worker, 2½d. of which went to various charities and 6d. to a War savings certificate. The employee answered: "As to the 2½d. I shall make no objection, but I object to the deduction of 6d. for a War savings certificate." The engineer then told him he could not be employed on those conditions. The employee asked whether he should leave at once, but was told to remain until Saturday, as that would "suit the books better." It was then Thursday, and on Saturday he received his cards and shook the dust of the British Extracting Co. off. He had only begun work there on the Monday morning.

FROM THE W.S.F. NURSE AT POPLAR

Dear Editor,—May I ask if you know any kind friends who will help us by sending the following necessities:—
1. A blackboard for the weekly lectures to mothers (one with a dull surface if possible).
2. A brown holland concertina file (the paper and card ones wear out so quickly; ours need renewing).
3. A long soft broom and small hearth-brush.
4. Infants' and children's woollen garments, to be sold to mothers at a nominal price (proceeds to go to the Welfare Fund).
5. Clothing and disused articles of all descriptions for a jumble sale (proceeds as above).
6. An ordinary pail for cleaning purposes.
7. Sheets, pillowcases, blankets, nightdresses, and a counterpane for our loan cupboard, which is depleted. (These articles will be inventoried and used carefully.)
8. A pair of watertight shoes—not boots—broad soles, for a very poor woman with swollen feet.

Please ask someone to help. With many apologies for troubling you, yours, etc.
20 Railway Street, Poplar, E. JANET E. MUNDY.

OUR FUNDS

Donations to be sent to the Hon. Financial Secretary, Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.3. All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.3.

Gratefully Acknowledged.

GENERAL FUND.—Profit on Bow and Poplar Social, £5; Chas. Roden Buxton, Esq., £3; Mrs. Nunn, 1s.; Miss Underwood, 1s.

FOOD DEMONSTRATION.—Walthamstow B.S.P., 10s.; Stepney B.S.P., 5s.; Ealing I.L.P., 5s.; Packing Case Makers' Union, Dalston, 5s.; Clapham I.L.P., 5s.; Woolwich I.L.P., 5s.; Ex-Inspector Syme, 2s. 6d.; London City N.U.R., 2s. 6d.

"DREADNOUGHT" FUND.—Dr. and Mrs. Schütze, 15s.; Mrs. Casey, 10s.; Mrs. Dawson, 3s. **"DREADNOUGHT" GUARANTEE FUND:** Previously acknowledged (weekly): £2 10s. 6d.

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[Adv.]

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