

THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

Socialism, Internationalism, Votes for All.

Vol. V.—No. 16

SATURDAY, JULY 13th, 1918

Price Twopence.

THE WARING & GILLOWS STRIKE. By W. F. Watson.

AEROPLANE WORKERS FLY FROM WORK.

The strike of aeroplane workers which originated through the discharge of a shop steward at Waring & Gillows has spread quite as rapidly as the "Spanish Flu." As usual the capitalist press, always at the service of the employers, has, with the object of weakening the resolution of the strikers, filled its columns with what Churchill would call terminological inexactitudes concerning Rock and the activities of the shops committee. With a view to giving the facts of the case the committee responsible for the conduct of the strike has issued the following statement:—

A DISPUTE AT MESSRS. WARING & GILLOWS—THE ALLIANCE AEROPLANE, LTD., W.C.

On Tuesday, June 25th last, Mr. Waring sent for a deputation of the men on the question of the recognition of the Shop Committee and the dismissal of a woman stewardess.

Mr. Waring informed the deputation that he would not recognise the Shop Committee in any shape or form, and also that he would not reinstate the woman steward. The deputation retired, and the shop secretary was instructed to call a full committee of the stewards. This full committee then discussed the report made by the deputation and agreed to place the matter in the hands of the London District Aircraft Committee and the Ministry of Munitions.

On the following day, Wednesday, June 26th, the stewards found that 1½ to 2 hours' time was stated, as the period the committee occupied in discussing the refusal of Mr. Waring on the points above mentioned. The Committee meeting had lasted actually about 50 minutes. The stewards had protested, and Mr. Gillingham altered the time to one hour. The men protested against this, and considered that as the settlement of the two questions was to the advantage of the firm that there should be no stoppage of time at all. The shop secretary was asked to call a committee meeting in the grounds outside the erecting shop of the stewards of that department. The committee met and further considered the matter, and a resolution was moved that the committee call a meeting of the men and let them know of the trouble that had arisen. An amendment was moved that the matter be placed in the hands of the officials. The amendment was put and lost, and then the resolution was carried unanimously. The time was then about 5.30, and the committee went into the erecting shop and held a meeting of the men. The Chairman explained the trouble, and a resolution was moved, namely: "That we stand by our benches until the time be put back on the cards." This was passed. The meeting then appointed a deputation of four to acquaint the management with the same. As the deputation approached Mr. Gillingham's office, the Chairman was called aside for about half a minute, and was told that his money was made up till 8 o'clock P.M.

The deputation then went back to the meeting and reported the situation, and as it was then 6 o'clock, and a considerable number of men had gone home, it was agreed that the meeting be adjourned to 8.30 the following morning. A member of the L.D.A.C. who works on the firm, was asked to report the trouble to the L.D.A.C. at their next meeting the same evening. The following morning, Thursday, June 27th, the meeting passed a resolution, "To stand by their work till the one hour's time was put back on the cards, and our Chairman be re-instated."

In the afternoon the shop secretary and the acting chairman were told that they were wanted in the office, and on proceeding there, were asked by Mr. Jennings, the Chairman of the Company, to request the men to leave the factory—otherwise they would call in the police and clear them out. A representative of the Ministry of Munitions present asked to see us by ourselves. We went downstairs and explained the trouble, and he stated the men must return to work, and that inquiry would be held afterwards. The acting chairman and the shop secretary promised to give all information to the men and women, and this being done, the meeting passed a resolution "that they would wait until the firm called the police in," and that they still held to their resolution not to return to work without the Chairman, and the hour put back on the time cards.

The firm were informed, also the representative of the Ministry of Munitions, who stated he wished to see the full committee. On seeing them, he repeated his previous statements. A Conference being fixed for Saturday morning, June 29th, Mr. Stennett was asked whether the trouble could be settled at that Conference called to discuss the refusal of the firm to recognise the shop committee. Mr. Stennett informed me (A. Murrell) on Friday, June 28th, that as the men were out, this was doubtful, and stated that he considered the Conference would not take place, or even if it did, it would be a farce. On Saturday morning, June 29th, at 10.30 the Committee met Mr. Stennett at Hammersmith, and he stated the Conference would not be held. We had a talk with him about the trouble, and he said that in his opinion our Chairman's case was one of pure victimisation. On the Monday, a meeting of the L.A.W.C. was called when all information was given to them.

On going to work on Friday, June 28th, the men and women found the gate opened only sufficient for one at a time to enter, and the police were there. They were asked whether they intended to work or stand by. Only those giving their word to work were admitted.

Signed A. MURRELL,
Shop Secretary, Waring & Gillows.

There are several points worth noting in this statement. Firstly, the men at Waring & Gillows did not technically speaking strike. They resolved to stand by their benches until the case was settled. They were actually locked out. Secondly, they gave the L.D.A.C. every opportunity of dealing with the matter. Further, Mr. Rock, the victimised shop steward, assures us, as also does the shop secretary, that it has always been customary to summon shop meetings by whistle, that he was acting directly under the instructions of the men in the shop and that he had never been warned by the management about calling meetings.

There are several interesting features about this strike. Rock being a woodworker the matter was taken in hand by the London Woodworkers' Council and at first only woodworkers were affected. But the principles of Industrial Unionism so ably propagated for years past had well soaked in; with the result that workers of all grades, trades, and industries, skilled and unskilled men and women spontaneously responded, and many discharged soldiers are also working with us. At the time of writing over 20,000 are on strike. To have brought all these sections

together is a victory in itself. The Strike Committee now consists of the Executive of the Woodworkers' Council, six engineering and metal workers and six women. One of the points insisted upon by the London Woodworkers' Council was that representatives of its Executive must be present at the negotiations between the Ministry and the officials of the L.D.A.C. This point has been gained and to-day (Tuesday) a deputation consisting of representatives of the L.D.A.C., three from the Executive of the Strike Committee (one woodworker, one engineering worker, and one woman worker), and two from Waring and Gillows (the shop secretary and Rock himself), was appointed and secured an interview with Winston Churchill and other representatives of the Ministry of Munitions. The interview lasted five hours with no amicable result, the Conference being adjourned until 3 o'clock tomorrow (Wednesday). As usual the Government insist upon resumption of work before submitting to arbitration. The men agree with this, but insist upon Rock resuming work with them to which the employers' representatives object on the grounds that it would create a precedent and that it would be impossible for any man to be discharged before submitting his case to arbitration. The deputation was able to quote cases where the dispute had been settled whilst the men were out. It is probable that the strike will be settled before this appears in print, but we sincerely trust that the workers on strike will resist this obvious attempt to wear them out and to strike a blow at the foundations of the Shop Stewards' movement. We sincerely hope that there will be no weakening of the determination of the workers, that Rock is re-instated pending arbitration and that greater industrial strength will be developed to achieve this object.

Above all, we hope, and believe, that after this fight is settled the workers will continue to work in close association and that there shall be permanently established in London a Workers' Committee directly representative of the men and women in the shops organised regardless of union or industry, craft, grade or sex, to enable the workers to apply their industrial strength as swiftly as possible.

WORKSHOP NOTE.

FORTH AREA.

Received "Final Report" safely, and am extremely sorry to see things are so bad, but there are a few here willing to assist.

Your fight is generally understood in this area, and I am confident of a decent response. Things in the "Forth Area" have been distinctly "lively" this past month. Rosyth men have been off "overtime" for 10 days, demanding double-time rates for Sunday work, and time and half rate for all ordinary overtime. Held mass meeting on Monday last and made known Admiralty's decision, i.e., dispute goes to arbitration; men go back under protest, pending decision, which is promised for Thursday of this week. "Things" elsewhere are also showing "healthy activity" so you can guess our hands are pretty full. In meantime, trust me to do my best. E. A. BARRATT.

Latest Russian Telegrams.

Supplied by Maxim Litvinoff Plenipotentiary for Great Britain of the Russian People's Commissioner for Foreign Affairs.

GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTS TO STOP SPREAD OF REVOLUTION IN UKRAINE.

Moscow, July 1st, 1918.—At the last sitting of the Ukrainian Council of Ministers in the presence of General Eichorn, Skoropadsky declared that the principal causes of the Ukrainian peasant rebellions are the possession of arms by the left socialist organisations and their other means for fighting. According to Skoropadsky there are in the Oumansk district powerful revolutionary organisations which are assassinating Government officials. Skoropadsky proposes dissolution of co-operative clubs and of workers' organisations as centres of socialist propaganda. Skoropadsky's proposition unanimously approved. Eichorn declared that he ordered the German Military Commandant in Kieff to have in readiness the troops stationed in this town.

At this sitting a resolution was adopted that rigorous measures should be taken against the anti-government movement in the Ukraine.

PETROGRAD SOVIET ELECTIONS.

Moscow, June 27th, 1918.—On June 27th the registration of the newly-elected members of the Petrograd Soviet took place at the Smolny. Of the 600 members who appeared four-fifths declared themselves Communists (Bolsheviks), seventy-five social revolutionaries of the left and about thirty Mensheviks and social revolutionaries of the right. Amidst ovations Sinovieff made an enthusiastic speech. The Executive was formed of four Bolsheviks and two social revolutionaries of the left. The

sitting, attended by four thousand people, proceeded in an atmosphere of immense revolutionary enthusiasm.

SPREAD OF REVOLUTION IN UKRAINE.

Moscow, July 1st, 1918.—Revolution in the Ukraine is spreading from day to day. In the provinces of Poltava, Kherson, and Ekaterinaslay, landowners are being murdered by the peasants. Landowners are demanding that the Government should increase repressive measures against the peasants.

In many parts the peasants are cutting the corn so as to prevent the landowners from reaping the crops. The Germans have hanged 18 peasants and workmen in Ekaterinaslay to terrorise the soldiers, and have officially announced the execution of 8 Hungarian Internationalists. Relations between Germans and Austrians become very strained. The Germans are forcing the Austrians to do all the hard work while they themselves only look after the requisitioning of provisions which they afterwards collect in depots, calling them Divisional Booty Depots. In the district of Zvenigorod all the authorities down to the Militia and German soldiery have been killed by peasants, who have taken possession of the German Munition Depot, containing 14,000 rifles and 50 machine-guns. The Germans summoned an Austrian regiment which drove away its officers, declaring that armed action directed against the peasants would be looked upon as actions directed against the regiment. In the district of Taraschanak nearly twenty villages with 15,000 combatants are in revolt. The peasants have taken possession of

the town of Taraschanak, killing all Germans and liberating the political prisoners.

GUERRILLA WARFARE IN UKRAINE.

Moscow, June 30th, 1918.—The Ukrainian section of the People's Commissariat for Nationalities, learns from a reliable source that, in the province of Ekaterinaslay, a sanguinary combat has taken place between White Guards, Germano-Ukrainians and peasants, who are carrying on a guerrilla warfare in this province. It is an organised "Red" army of peasants 200,000 strong, with artillery and machine-guns. The factories are closing as the majority of workmen are leaving to enlist in the guerrilla war.

In the province of Chernigoff famine is on the increase and the indignation of the populace is rising.

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A LIBERAL-LABOUR CANDIDATURE.

The South Islington Labour Party on the recommendation of Mr. Arthur Henderson has adopted as its candidate Mr. Joseph Martin, Liberal member for East St. Pancras since 1910. Has Mr. Martin become a Socialist? What did he do in Parliament to justify his adoption as a Labour candidate? The formation of the Labour Party was thought to signalise the end of Liberal-Labourism; but Mr. Henderson is evidently bent on its revival.

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GRAND-PARENTS.

At the concert people were gay and happy. The pianist wore a blue bodice brocaded with gold. She played with a charming touch and bowed to us, glancing from under her heavy hair with shy sweet looks. The singers amused us by elegant little fantasies. The orators spoke cheerfully and rallied each other in pleasant fashion. What is wrong with life? Why should anyone worry? The thought that the way of the pioneer is hard and ignominious seems an exaggeration here.

Out in the darkness an old woman crouches in the doorway.

It is hot, very hot, and the sordid streets are dusty; but the thirty old folk go jauntily. Men are going to Parliament to ask for an increase in the pension. The old man* who leads them says that two years ago he went there with others, most of whom are now dead, and a few days after their visit the pension was increased from 5/- to 7/6 a week. They will ask for 15/- this time and they believe that they will get it.

It is a long way to the station. They walk so slowly with feet wearily dragging. That man has lost the sight of an eye, he is 83 and his limbs tremble. This man is 81. His wife the same age, is bed-ridden. "Nobody comes near her." He is the nurse and housewife, and does the marketing and washing. They have no relatives: she was one of eighteen brothers and sisters, but they are all dead and have left no trace. He was one of five, but all the rest are gone. He and she had one child only—a daughter who disappeared at 13 years of age. "She trained from London Bridge," that is all they know. So they are alone. He has worked for his living since the age of ten, and was apprenticed in Grey's Inn Lane. He was a brick-layer, but has also worked as a miner, and in pursuit of employment has travelled all over the country, but he has never been to the House of Commons before. That tall, spare man, with the pallid face of one who is always under-fed and seldom out in the sun, is 82. As a seaman he sailed all round the world, but he does not know the way to Westminster. Several of the women have never before left the East End. They walk so slowly, choosing the shady side of the road. Their faces grow drawn and haggard. Five of them give up the effort. When we reach the Mile End Road they have disappeared.

In the cool of the station their spirits revive for the walking is almost over and the train will carry them swiftly to the House of Hope. "Would you like me to sing you a song?" an old fellow asks waggishly. "I could sing if I had another voice."

The train stops. They mount the steps very slowly and are out again in that burning sun. Surely it never seemed so far from Westminster Bridge Station to the Strangers' Entrance!

And now they go into the Lobby with another band of ancient comrades from St. Pancras. Right in this time, for the ban against women has been removed. The old women are voters now—at last! But there are not many seats in the Lobby, and younger people, who do not budge, are occupying them. The pensioners must stand. Already they are so tired, so tired, and the air here is exhausted.

Only a Scotch Vote on to-day: Members of Parliament do not care for it, very few have thought it worth while to come. British Members of Parliament are not fined for non-attendance as Representatives are in America, their pay is not docked like that of factory workers.

John Burns comes out and rates Miss Price, who sent for him: "Dragging old people here in the heat, it can do no good!" The old man who arranged the visit hears Burns in silent smoldering indignation, which bursts forth only when its object has disappeared: "What! do no good! Won't he speak up for us! It was men like us who put John Burns where he is!" He expects Burns to act; cannot conceive that he might be powerless; cannot believe that Parliament could hear the case and see the pitiful little budgets, and still refuse to act. John Burns has known the House of Pretence for many years, and heard thousands of pitiful stories told here without result. Now he sits silent and the World has well-nigh forgotten that he is still alive.

Slowly the time drags on. Members come out

*The old man organised the deputation and applied to Miss Price, of the W.S.F., to arrange for it to be received by Members of Parliament.

and advise sending for others, "your local Member, someone else, anyone else." "I have my dockyard men to attend to." "Oh, I am busy, I must—". Cards come back and the names of Members not in the House are read out by the official: Mr. Tom Wing is Secretary for the Old Age Pensions Committee," someone tells us. He is sent for, and appearing says "a committee is sitting, it has done great work." He assures us that the old age pensioners enjoy many ameliorations. Without loss of pension, they may draw separation allowances and pensions on account of unmarried soldier and sailor sons, that additional benefits may be obtained by those entitled to receive them from friendly societies and benefit clubs: some charities also help poor old people and some are partly supported by their relatives. But none of these mercies apply to the old people around him. He learns that from their downcast looks even before it is explained. His voice grows sharper: "It is no use my promising things, only to disappoint you. I can't hold out any hope—". They stand around in tragic, mute entreaty, their weariness heavy upon them now that hope is gone, hungry-eyed, desperate, with the expression of drowning creatures. He falters; his eyes tear-filled like theirs; catching somehow from them the look of misery. He seems to have grown older: "I'll see what can be done; I'll arrange for questions next week from every section in the House."

Ah hope, buoyant with silver wings, who can live without you? false and elusive you are, but sweeter than what is real! He rushes away, the spurt of energy already, perhaps, is fading. Their faces are radiant. "Ah that was kind," "fairly spoken." "He will do something".....

Sir John Bethel is offering tea. So they go out to the Terrace, slowly, painfully, with spirits joyous. After this they can go home to those who were too feeble to come, with the news that something will be done! The anticipation means more to them than the money will—if it comes.

So to the terrace; the water gleams in the sunshine. It is pleasant out here in the shade of the great building sitting beside the tables with white cloths invitingly spread—A pigeon flutters down. "He's coming down to take tea with us," an old dame says gaily. They laugh: "It is fine to be here!" What do you think of it all? "A beautiful place!" "Splendid carving." Their business done, they can now hopefully settle to mere enjoyment. There is no sugar for the tea; the Food Controller's orders prevent it; but an old man has brought with him a tin containing his store of sugar for the week. He shares it with eager generosity—no care for to-morrow on this day.

Feeble and old, and poorly clad; they are like happy children. Members of both Houses pass by, pacing leisurely. Some are as old as these from the East End; but their contrasting looks belie the truth. There is an ancient who might have passed as the model for Dyson's "Mr. Fat," huge and portly, with immaculate grey frock coat and top hat shining. The clothes of our frail old men are greasy and green with age. Haughty women stalk past, eyeing us with a proud insolence. Miss Price, actively seeking for every chance, calls Members up to talk to our party, showing the miserable little budgets which explain how the weekly dole is spent. Here is the account of an old woman, aged 73 years:—

	s.	d.
Rent	2	6
Coals	1	2
Wood and oil ..	9	
Rice and milk ..	1	5 1/2
Margarine	3	1/2
Bread	9	
Sugar	3	1/2
Tea	8	
Bloaters	2	1/2

Total .. 8 1 1/2

She is very feeble, but she does a day's washing to earn enough to cover the deficit.

Another old woman's account is made up as follows:—

	s.	d.
Rent	3	6
Coal and light ..	1	0
Wood	3	
Milk	1	2 1/2
Tea	6	
Sugar	3	1/2
Bread	9	

Total .. 7 6

She buys no meat, fish, eggs, fruit, or vegetables. Bread, milk, tea, and sugar are all she has to eat. Nothing is put down for soap, nothing for shoes or clothes.

An old man's budget:—

	s.	d.
Rent	3	6
Bread	1	1 1/2
5 oz. Margarine ..	3	1/2
1 lb. Sugar	3	1/2
2 oz. Tea	4	
1 lb. Meat	0	
2 lbs. Potatoes ..	2	1/2
Salt	1	
1 pint of paraffin ..	3	
Soap	3	
Boot Polish	1	

Total .. 7 5

He has put down nothing for firing.

An old man says: "My wife is 69. She earns 4/- a week by minding a baby when she's well enough. Two of us live on 11/6 a week. Sometimes on 7/6." Another old husband and wife spend 5/- on rent. A well-groomed Member of Parliament glances at their budget and asks: "Five shillings for rent; is not that rather high for one room?" "Two rooms," the old husband humbly corrects him. "Two rooms? Is that necessary? One room surely—!" And, of course, it is only the price of food that has risen so much; the price of other things has not doubled." Someone reads an extract from a letter: "She lost her husband in 1870. She is 78. She had just moved, and somehow in the moving a hole was made in her pail and her water jug was broken. She went to buy new ones, but found that a little pail which she used to be able to buy for 6d. would now cost her 3/6, and a jug would cost her 2/6. She cannot afford such prices, and what to do she does not know. She usually makes a pudding when she draws her money; a kind of milk pudding that can be made without sugar or milk." "Yes, yes, of course. The case is a hard one. You have my sympathy."

The Members of Parliament and their friends appear to belong to another race from that of our old people. Their younger relatives, thronging the Roman Road or Green Street, hurrying amongst the market stalls, keen-eyed for bargains, eagerly seeking enough to stay their children's hunger, worn-faced, limp-haired, clad in their old black skirts and faded blouses and little bits of yellow; these contrast strangely with the Members' ladies.

"It is time to go; "Good-bye," "Thanks," "Thanks," "Good-bye." An old navy breaks in on the ceremony abruptly. "No eggs and bacon for our breakfast!" "Ah, well, good-bye. This is the easiest way."

Hopes are less brilliant now. The old people begin slowly to realise that they have no definite promise to take with them on the long journey homeward. The glamour has faded. "We've had the pleasure of shaking hands with the black-coated gentlemen. That's about all. I thought I would rub it in about the eggs and bacon." So speaks the realist.

In the dusk, by his playing, Scermus becalms our thoughts with soft enchantment, just for a little while. Then he plunges us into the struggle of Revolution: makes us hear terrible cries, makes us see crowds of people surging and striving. Again the old faces hungry, despairing; agonised hunger on all the faces, even the faces of children. March of the Revolution, ruthless, unswerving. Songs of defiance against the tyranny. Songs of despairing grief that knows no solace.

Outside the sky seems angry, yet is still. Dark banks of cloud stretch jagged across the yellow light of the past sunset. Turn from the light, mount the bus that goes swiftly away in the darkness. A woman of the people sits with upturned face, and eyes that see only what is not there. Her tears are undried. She holds herself rigid, with every nerve straining to stay her sobs. To-day's common story. Her husband has just gone to the war. Touch her in pity; for comfort her poor frame nestles towards you; but her indignant brain tells her there is no hope, ruthlessly forces her back to stiffened tension, lest she should lose altogether her self-control. Only a stifled cry escapes her. "Poor people always have to suffer; poor people always have to pay."

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

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Signed.....

SUBSTITUTES FOR PRISONERS.

On July 17th it is hoped to present the following petition signed by between 300 and 400 men and women, offering themselves in place of those imprisoned for conscience sake. Anyone wishing to join this movement and so help to obtain the release of the men now undergoing imprisonment may obtain a petition form from Mrs. Wood, 24 Golders Manor Drive, N.W.4.

We, the undersigned, being in entire accord with the attitude of the men imprisoned for their conscientious refusal to take part in war, and realising that it is merely the accident of age, sex or other cause of exemption which prevents us from being now in the same position, herewith offer ourselves as substitutes, person for person, to take the place of men who are suffering in prison for doing what we also think right, and whose imprisonment we consider to be a crime.

We venture to remind you of the historic precedent of 1659, when 164 members of the Society of Friends offered themselves as substitutes for prisoners for conscience sake.

We therefore in all sincerity place our offer in your hands.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

THE NEW INDIAN SCHEME.

The Report on Indian Constitutional Reforms signed by the Viceroy and Secretary of State, may be a step in the right direction, but it is certainly neither a very big nor a very courageous one. There is indeed nothing Bolshevik about it. It affirms that complete self-government for India is the ultimate goal of British policy, but it indicates that the goal is exceedingly remote and that the present reforms are to apply only to "a limited intelligentsia who desire advance," and whose progress cannot be entirely stayed until education has been extended to the masses. In Russia the Bolsheviks at once gave self-government to the masses and simultaneously undertook the tremendous task of educating them for its exercise by plays, by lectures, by classes. In India the still greater task is scarcely begun; the opposite course of excluding the masses from the suggested franchises is proposed as the present solution of the problem. Masses being barred out, it is proposed to give some share in the national, provincial and local government to selected classes of Indians.

The Report suggests that the decision as to what classes are to be chosen should be left to a committee consisting of "a chairman chosen from outside India, two experienced officials and two Indians of high standing and repute." As the committee visited each province one "civilian officer and one Indian appointed by the provincial government should join it." This committee should also decide the precise composition of the Local and Provincial Councils. Everything is cautious and tentative; nothing definite. The Report insists that: "The government of India must remain totally responsible to Parliament" (that responsibility is a very loose and shadowy one), "and saving such responsibility its authority in essential matters must remain indisputable." It declares that the Government "must have the right of re-entry" to any power which it may surrender. Provincial Councils and Executives are to be formed which may deal with certain "transferred" subjects, to be allocated to them by the Viceroy and withdrawn from them at his will. Altogether it is clear that the curious and complicated hotch-potch suggested would provide an entirely "tame" staff of administrators. One could almost believe that some of the schemes being put forward nowadays are purposely rendered complex in order to baffle the critic by their maze-like character.

GENERAL ELECTION AND THE WAR.

The General Election predicted at one time in June, then in the autumn, has been postponed again till the new year. The life of Parliament is again prolonged till January 30th. Evidently the Government expects the War to be with us still when 1919 comes in.

PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT.

July 1st.—In answer to Mr. King's (L.) question whether the Allies will offer, or have offered, assistance to the Russian Soviet Government to preserve the Murman ports to Russia, Lord R. Cecil said: "In the event of any invitation being received from the Soviet Government for Allied naval or military assistance in defending Russian territory against Germany, it will receive sympathetic consideration."

MR. BILLING.

Mr. Billing (Ind.) put many questions leading up to the internment of all aliens. Finally he tried to move the adjournment to have a discussion on the question. His behaviour was so unparliamentary that he was forcibly removed by attendants and suspended. It would seem that this piece of acting was prepared; for Mr. Billing's wish is to be gratified, and the alien question is being gone into. We are anxious to know what degree of Anglicisation will be necessary to exempt from internment!

THE HARVEST DANGER.

On Mr. Roch's motion, the House adjourned to discuss the new comb-out of skilled agricultural labourers. It drew from Mr. Prothero an appalling statement from which we gather that the War Cabinet is prepared to risk losing the harvest! And this in face of the fact that even they repeat that this war is an economic war. Where does the power of the Blockade come in now? Surely if it is said to be effectual against Germany, we here too should arm against it!

July 2nd.—Sir A. Mond stated that it was estimated to cost £450 to cover up the King Charles statue at Charing Cross. His reason for having this precaution taken is because "it is one of the finest works of art in the metropolis."

ALIENS.

July 3rd.—Sir G. Cave, in reply to Colonel Wedgwood (L.), said that Theodolinda Paster is a German subject and was in touch with German agents. But why keep her interned in Holloway without public trial?

The Home Secretary intimated to Mr. King (L.) that he would watch his efforts to produce Rudolf Rucker's wife and family. Mr. Rucker is in Holland because the Germans refused him admittance, and his wife is here!

EDUCATION.

On July 1st, 2nd and 3rd the Education Bill was considered in Committee. Quite the most important point was the easiness with which Mr. Whitehouse's amendment was overruled on Clause 17.

OUR TREATMENT OF FOREIGNERS.

The Committee appointed by Mr. Lloyd George to consider the treatment to be meted out by this Government to the people of other nations who are resident here, has made the sort of report that was expected of it. It calls for more internments. It desires women (with some exceptions) whose husbands are interned shall be interned or repatriated. It calls for the cancelling of naturalisation certificates granted after January 1st, 1914. "Where *prima facie* evidence is forthcoming from any responsible person or persons questioning the loyalty or good will of a holder of a certificate" granted prior to 1914 it is recommended that the question of cancellation be referred to an Advisory Committee. This would provide opportunities indeed for the gossips and person afflicted with spy mania! "The revision of the regulations under which inmates of internment camps are granted leave and permitted to receive visitors" is recommended. Does that mean that the unfortunates who are interned are to receive no more visits? Such cruelty is almost unthinkable in a so-called civilised country. Have these men ever been in prison? Do they reflect that they themselves might have been interned prisoners had they but chanced to be in Austria or Germany at the outbreak of War? Various other restrictions are suggested and it is also recommended that neutral naturalisation certificates shall be reviewed.

KERENSKY AT THE CONFERENCE.

Jean Louquet, in *La Populaire*, complains that the opposition to Kerenky manifested at the Labour Conference by B.S.P. delegates and others, produced an unfortunate reaction in his favour. We wish we could attribute the enthusiastic welcome shown to Kerenky to the protests made against him. Unfortunately when Kerenky was first announced delegates sprang to their feet, thoughtlessly cheering him before those who protested had had an opportunity to make themselves heard.

KERENSKY AND MACDONALD.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald in *The Labour Leader* says: "Kerenky's policy seems to be to create a Socialist-Radical bloc in Russia and form a Government, and there is much to be said for this." The statement surprises us. The wonderful long-desired miracle has happened: for the first time in history working-class Socialist administration has been established in Russia. Surely the determined efforts of all Socialists should be to maintain that administration and to work so that working-class Socialism may become the dominant power in all other countries. Yet here is Mr. MacDonald suggesting that the flag of the Socialist Government be hauled down and a Radical-Socialist coalition be established in its place. Such a surrender would mean handing the land back to the landlords, the industries to the

capitalists, and relegating the Soviets—the most democratic governmental bodies—to the impotency of mere trades councils. To do as Mr. MacDonald indicates would be to put the clock of progress back to the epoch of the French Revolution. We ask him to regard the situation with the eyes of the twentieth century.

ALBERT THOMAS.

M. Albert has given to the *Daily Chronicle* an interview recording his impressions of the Labour Conference. He is there reported as saying: "Manual workers isolated in the community can have no power; they must be helped by thinkers. . . . Persons like Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb, therefore, really symbolise that union of heart and brain which is laying the foundation for a better future." Apparently M. Thomas thinks that manual workers do not think. We would inform him that the most advanced constructive socialist thought in this country to-day is coming from those who are actually working in the mines and factories. M. Thomas further stated that "old worn out" socialist "formulae" are being discarded, and "there is a desire to substitute organic capitalism for chaotic capitalism." That goes to substantiate the charge made against the executive resolutions by E. C. Fairchild and repudiated by Mr. Webb and Mr. MacDonald. The rank and file desire, not organic capitalism "but socialism"; let them see that they get it. M. Thomas declares himself on the side of Allied intervention in Russia, "even if Allied intervention does not have the immediate effect of raising the anti-Bolshevik forces." Is it possible that Albert Thomas still calls himself a socialist?

POLICE VISIT THE SOCIALIST LABOUR PRESS AGAIN.

MACHINERY DISMANTLED.

The Socialist Labour Press, 50, Renfrew Street, Glasgow, was visited by the police on Saturday, July 6th. The machinery was dismantled and the vital parts conveyed to the Police Station on a dray. Printing paper, ink, and accessories were also confiscated and removed from the premises. This is the second visit within three weeks. In both visits a considerable number of unsold copies of pamphlets was seized. The Socialist Labour Press, established nearly seventeen years ago by tremendous self-sacrifice on the part of men and women of the working class, has not only built up a literature of its own, but has time and again heroically jeopardised its own safety by fighting the battles of other organisations. The Press challenged the Government in the case of Tom Mann, and the brothers Back by reprinting verbatim the suppressed Crowsley leaflet, "Don't Shoot." It printed *The Suffragette*, Connolly's paper, the *Irish Worker*, *The Vanguard*, edited by John Maclean, and *The Worker*, the organ of the Clyde Workers' Committee. In every case its concern was not with the nature of the contents of these publications, but the fact of their suppression. Only recently, when the official organ of the militant B.S.P., *The Call*, was threatened with annihilation the Press once more voluntarily undertook to continue its publication.

Jas. Stewart, of Walsend, has been arrested for issuing an anti-militarist journal for School Children which the Socialist Labour Press printed unchallenged for over a year. No explanation is known.

The Executive Committee of S.L.P. urges the workers to insist that the Press be unconditionally re-established. The London branch secretary at 107, Charlotte Street, W.1, appeals for contributions to replace the materials confiscated.

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nurse private cases at £2 2s. per week, the hospital gaining over £6,000 thereby. The reply for the Government was that the matter was out of the control of the Government. Surely it is illegal to "farm" in this way, and why cannot the law be applied in the ordinary way?

SCOTTISH ESTIMATES.

On the sixteenth allotted day for Supply all the Scottish votes were rushed through. Much the same grievances seem to obtain there as in England. The agricultural labour difficulties, the change of face of the Government in preferring men to food may prove even more disastrous in Scotland. Old pasture land has been tilled at much expense, and the consequent reduction of cattle, hence milk and meat shortage. Mr. Hogge (L.) did not lose this opportunity of introducing the case of the discharged soldier. He drew attention to the fact that there were messengers employed by the Board of Agriculture who are in receipt of 2s. 3d., 1s. 6d., and 8d. per day military pension—their wages are 24s. a week! A sum not even paid a junior typist or clerk, and that because these men are pensioners, and the defenders of the country, as the phrase goes. Mr. Hogge emphatically said: "If there is one thing we are going to make perfectly certain of this year it is this; that the Government are not going to be allowed to pay a man less than a living wage because he is in receipt of a military pension." We hope you will succeed, Mr. Hogge, but this must not only apply to the Government. All employers should be deterred from taking this mean advantage of pensioned soldiers. In no other case is the income or pension of an employee taken into account when paying wages; therefore a sense of decency ought to prevent this obnoxious exception.

M. O'C.

WAR AIMS.

Lord R. Cecil remarked a propos of Herr von Kuhlmann's speech: "Our war aims are well known, and we wait in vain for a clear and unambiguous declaration of those of our enemies." But does he include the Secret Treaties in those aims?

SWEATED NURSES

Major Chapple (U.) drew the attention of the House to the grievance of nurses in the London Hospital. They are paid 13s. per week at the end of their second year and then "farmed" out to

WORKERS' SOCIALIST FEDERATION.

LONDON MEETINGS.

OUT DOOR.
FRIDAY, JULY 12th.
 Armagh Road, Bow, 11.30 A.M., Miss Price.
SATURDAY, JULY 13th.
 Great Push for Peace, Socialism, and Votes for All in Canning Town. Meet in the Canning Town Station at 3 P.M. and 6.30 P.M. Meeting at 3.15 and 6.30 P.M. Poplar, 6.45 P.M. Speakers: Mrs. Cole, Miss Price, Mrs. Walker, and Mr. W. F. Watson.
SUNDAY, JULY 14th.
 Osborn Street, Whitechapel, 11.45 A.M. Miss Price. The Square, Woolwich, 7 P.M., Mrs. Walker.
WEDNESDAY JULY 17th.
 Beckton Road, Canning Town, 7 P.M., Mr. A. A. Watts and others.
FRIDAY, JULY 19th.
 Cobden Statue, 6.30 P.M., Miss Price. Dock Gates, Poplar, 8 P.M., Mrs. Walker.
SATURDAY, JULY 20th.
 Great Push in Finsbury Park District.
INDOOR.
MONDAY, JULY 15th.
 44, Malden Road, 2.30 P.M., St. Pancras W.S.F. Business Meeting.
 400, Old Ford Road, 8 P.M. General Meeting, London Section.
THURSDAY, JULY 18th.
 Lees Hall, Canning Town, 7.30 P.M. W. F. Watson.
OTHER ORGANISATIONS.
SUNDAY, JULY 14th.
 Kingsley Hall, Bow, E.—8.15 P.M., Rev. A. G. Adams.
TUESDAY, 16th.—WALTHAMSTOW LEAGUE OF RIGHTS, William Morris Hall.—2.30, Miss Lambie.
 Bow.—Social Dance, Saturday, July 20th, 7 P.M. admission 8d.
 Tickets now ready for W.S.F. Outing, Sunday, July 28th. Meet George Lane, South Woodford, 11.30 A.M., tea, concert and sale at Federation House; George Lane, 4 P.M. Tickets, including tea, sale and concert (Edward Soernus and others), 3s. each. To be obtained from Branch Secretaries and Miss Bush, 400 Old Ford Road, E.3.

LEEDS W.S.F.

We announce with deep regret the death of Fred Cloughton, the highly esteemed literature secretary of the Leeds W.S.F. He will be very greatly missed both at headquarters and by the branch. We tender our sympathy to Mrs. Cloughton and her sons and daughters.

W.S.F. SOCIAL WORK.

Do not forget the Mothers' Arms' Day on Saturday, 13th. We want to raise £500 and can do it if we get enough sellers. Apply for particulars to Nurse Clarke, 438 Old Ford Road, E.3.

Beginning with our issue of next week, July 20th we shall publish a Series of Articles on

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- IV. The New School.
- V. Independent Working-Class Education.
- VI. Contemporary Austrian Pioneers.
- VII. Ways and Means of Realisation.

RUSSIAN LECTURE CONCERTS.

Sylvia Pankhurst and Edward Soernus invite Socialist, Labour, and other Progressive Organisations to co-operate in the organising of Lecture-Concerts to help in elucidating the situation in Russia and to re-establish normal relations between England and Russia. For particulars write to the W.S.F. Meetings Secretary, 400 Old Ford Road, E.3.

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND

THE INTERNATIONAL.

FINLAND

The Central Committee of Finnish Workers recounts the misfortunes that have befallen the working classes of Finland since the ascendancy of the united Finnish and German bourgeoisie, and appeals to the peoples of other countries for aid. It declares that the White Terror reigns throughout the country, nearly 70,000 citizens, mostly members of the Social-Democratic party, of which 30,000 are civilians, have been thrown into prison. The bad and insufficient food supplied to the prisoners has caused a large number to fall ill, and many to die of starvation. "A horrible and inevitable death awaits those that are left. Every instant the prisoners await with terror the arrival of the gaolers, because every day, by order of the White Government, some of them are taken out to be put to death." During the civil war the armies of the capitalists executed without pity the members of the Social-Democratic party. Whole detachments of Civil and Red Guard prisoners who were wounded, or had capitulated, were shot, and, in many cases, mutilated. In the town of Lachna 158 women were shot. At Viborg 8 members of the Socialist Committee were shot without trial or charge, and one of them so clumsily that he had to be finished off with an axe. The editors and correspondents of Socialist newspapers, workmen, commissaries, and employees of the Workers' Government were executed, and their belongings pillaged. Social-Democratic members of Parliament are hunted like wild beasts. All this continues though peace has been declared. The Finnish proletariat is deprived of all human and civil rights.

SOUTH AFRICA.

General Botha has discovered a pro-German plot in South Africa. He has taken "effective military and police measures," and follows Mr. Lloyd George's example by refusing to publish the facts, on the ground that it is "not in the public interest to do so." We suspect Labour troubles to be not far removed from the seat of disorder. Reuter reports disturbances amongst the natives in Ferreira Mines.

BELGIUM.

"Le Populaire," June 23rd, reports accentuated antagonism between Capital and Labour in Belgium. The Grand Bazaar of Anspach Boulevard, Brussels, from March 30th, 1917, to March 30th, 1918, realised a profit of 1,630,000 francs (about £65,200). The daily increase in the workers' wages was only 61 centimes (about 6d.), or 85,000 francs a year (about £3,400). A strike was declared, by which the workers secured the recognition of their Union and a minimum wage of four francs a day (about 3s. 4d.) for women, and five francs (about 4s. 2d.) for men, also a war bonus of 45 francs a month for each employee, with 15 francs extra for wives, and 10 francs for each child under 16 years. Many other Belgian strikes have taken place. In each case the workers have won.

AMERICA.

"Le Populaire," July 3rd, observes that on June 1st, Rose Pastor Stokes, who left the Socialist Party of America because it opposed and she supported the entry of the United States into the war, was condemned to 10 years' imprisonment for writing in the "Kansas City Star": "No Government which is for the profiteers can, at the same time, be for the people. I am for the people; the Government is for the profiteers." This sentence is more severe than that passed on Karl Liebknecht for High Treason. Robert Prager, a German, of Illinois, U.S.A., was arrested in U.S.A. for making unwelcome Socialist speeches to the miners of Collinsville. A mob broke into the prison, dragged Prager out, wrapped him in an American flag, and lynched him by hanging. Eleven men were arrested, but, on the day Rose Stokes was convicted, they were acquitted, on the ground that "a new unwritten law had justified their action."

The United States Supreme Court has declared unconstitutional the Federal Law prohibiting the employment of children in mines and factories. The effort to secure the passage of this law occupied enthusiastic reformers for fourteen years.

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 Subject: "40D. The Fight so far."
 Chair: Miss FITZHERBERT.

Friday, July 19. Speaker: Mrs. SEN.
 Subject: "Position, Family Life and Education of Women in India."

Friday, July 26. Speaker: Rev. C. A. WILLS.
 Subject:
 Chair: Miss NINA BOYLE.

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