THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT.— Saturday, June 2nd, 1923. —ONE PENNY.

Hunger War in the Ruhr.

See Special Article on Page 5.

Workers' Dreadnought

PRODUCTION FOR USE. NOT PROFIT.

VOL. X. No. 11. SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 1923. WEEKLY.

SHORT POEMS BY L. A. M.

THE BLACK BLOODS.

Colours there are of brighter hue
  Than that which seems to suit you well,
But for your outer symbol you
  Dipped down to hell.

There are such eyes as daylight hurts,
  Such deeds as only night extols;
How must the hue of your black shirts
  Match your black souls.

GERMANY 1923.

She turns her back towards her past,
  But dare not face towards the new;
And on her sight such spell is cast
  As hides the new dawn from her view.

Hers is a prison where the gates
  Already shattered stand agape,
But in her unlocked cell she waits,
  Still thinking, thinking of escape.

FUTILITY.

They strung them up so they could see the stars
Better from where they hung, at break of day,
Brothers of stars, on whom they gazed alway;
Fresh on their bodies all the battle scars,
Theirs was not fear, nor theirs despair that mars;
Though broken in sunder each man's body lay,
Their souls outleaped, nor could the tyrant stay
Thought's splendid lightning, shattering through their bars.

Where lives no man who, standing on the shore,
Can still the singing of the restless sea,
Bursting anon into a lionlike roar,
Harness the winds that race along the lee,
Hold back the thoughts that grow from more to more,
Stifle for e'er the striving to be free.

AN INVITATION.

I know a man, he said to me:
" Why don't you come along of me
  And have a drink? "
I said: " I'll come with you as soon
As you will sing another tune
  And have a **think**."

SAFETY FIRST.

I wish I was an Archbishop;
  It would just suit me well and fine,
And when I chucked a dirty job,
  A-going down of a gold mine,
And took a little rest, while they
Took little thinks about my pay,
  I wouldn't have them let sunshine
Right through my Little Mary and
Say I was stirring up the Rand
  Or blowing up the railway line—
I wish I was an Archbishop,
Or maybe keep a fried-fish shop;
  These jobs would suit me mighty fine.

The Sybarite: " . . . . Motherhood is a luxury."

WAR WITH RUSSIA?

Most newspapers confidently predicted that the trouble between the British Government and Russia would now blow over, since Russia has conceded so much to the British Government ultimatum. On the authority of Mr. Chicherin, however, Mr. Arthur Ransome telegraphs from Moscow to the " Manchester Guardian " that the situation is still serious, since Lord Curzon demands the recall of two of the Soviet Ambassadors and the signing by the Russian Government of a declaration written by Lord Curzon himself.

" On the knee, vassals! " is the attitude adopted by Lord Curzon in dealing with Soviet Russia. Do not be led away by the foolish story that the selection of Mr. Baldwin instead of Lord Curzon, as Prime Minister, denotes any change in [illegible] policy.

THE EMPIRE NEEDS SOLDIERS.

The Ministry of Health has declared against giving information on birth control to women attending maternity and infant clinics. The municipal councils are obediently passing resolutions in accordance with the instruction of the Ministry of Health. In these days of poverty, however, the difficulty of maintaining children will cause working people to limit their families, whatever the Government may say. If the women cannot obtain information at municipal clinics they will get it elsewhere. The birth-rate is still falling.

RESULTS OF RUHR OCCUPATION.

The special Ruhr credits submitted in the French Chamber for the first six months of 1928 amount to 267,000,000 francs

CONSTANCE LYTTON.

The death of Lady Constance Lytton removes one of the most heroic figures in the Suffragette Movement. Though suffering from chronic heart complaint, she endured four imprisonments and was twice a hunger-striker. She joined the militant deputations to the House of Commons on February 24th, 1909, and endured the extreme violence from the police by which it was sought to beat the women back from their endeavour rather than arrest them. After being several times thrown to the ground, she was arrested and sentenced to a month's imprisonment. On Friday, October 8th, 1909, she was again arrested in Newcastle. On hunger-striking, she was released on account of her heart disease, which had been marked since her ill-treatment outside the House of Commons. In January 1910 she disguised herself, and went to prison under the name of Jane Warton. After four days' hunger-strike she was forcibly fed from January 18th till January 23rd, when she was released, her identity having been discovered. She was then so terribly emaciated that for months after she could not sit in a chair, but often knelt on a cushion to take her meals. Two of her teeth were injured by the gag, and her mouth so much hurt that she could not be dentally treated till the following April. Her heart was in a sreious state. In the autumn of 1910 she had a heart seizure and was paralysed down one side. She recovered after six weeks. She was now an active worker in the Suffrage Movement, and had had several seizures after speaking; but on November 20th, 1910, this courageous woman again sought arrest. On November 24th she was sent to prison for fourteen days, but four days later she was released, her fine having been paid.

Soon after she had a more serious heart seizure, and for the greater part of her life afterwards she was paralysed and unable to rise from her bed. In the graphic account of her experiences which she has given in her book "Prison and Prisoners," she reveals the fact that she was herself almost penniless, though the daughter of an earl and dependent upon her mother, with whom she lived at the family home at Knebworth. In July 1910 the Women's Social and Political Union appointed her a paid organiser at £2 a week, whereat she felt "highly honoured." On her modest stipend she took a lodging in London. Living sparely, she was able to maintain herself in the midst of her arduous labours as a propagandist, for which she was all unfitted.

Constance Lytton was no madcap plunging into the Suffrage Movement for excitement or notoriety. In spite of her aristocratic environment, she was already a democrat, in a profound sense, before she entered the Suffrage Movement.

She was not a Communist only because her vital strength was already spent when she came into contact with Communist ideas. Though she was not, at the time she last wrote to us fully, brought to a realisation of the practicability of Communism, she admired its ideology, and was a subscriber to the "Workers Dreadnought" from its first issue to the time of her death. Even this small subscription she had often difficulty in sending, and would post it in instalments.

Here follow two extracts from Constance Lytton's book:

"I lay in my bed most of the day, for they did not disturb me, and I tried to keep warm, as I felt the cold fearfully. They brought me all my meals the same as usual—porridge in the morning at 7, meat and potatoes mid-day at 12, porridge at 4.30. When they were hot I fed on the smell of them, which seemed quite delicious. I said: 'I don't want any, thank you,' to each meal as they brought it in. I had made up my mind that this time I would not drink any water, and would only rinse out my mouth morning and evening, without swallowing any. I wrote on the walls of my cell with my slate pencil and soap mixed with the dirt of the floor for ink: 'Votes for Women,' and the saying from Thoreau's Duty of Civil Disobedience: 'Under a Government which imprisons any unjustly, the true place for a just man (or woman) is also a prison.' On the wall opposite my bed I wrote the text from Joshua: 'Only be thou strong and courageous.' That night I dreamt of fruits, melons, peaches and nectarines, and of a moonlit balcony that was hung with the sweetest smelling flowers, honeysuckle and jessamine, appleblossom and sweet-scented verbena; there was only the sound of night birds throbbing over the hills that ranged themselves below the balcony. . . .

"Most of my friends had been fed by the doctor standing at the back of the patient, whereas this doctor adjusted the tube and fed me from the front, a process which he carried out by sitting across my knees. By this time I could not feel my legs and arms, except just by the joints where I felt the pain of the cold. At night I used to get up and walk from time to time to prevent them from becoming useless. But on Thursday night, my sixth in prison, I fell really asleep, and when I awoke I had an unexpected feeling of ease and freedom from pain or fear. I was unconscious of my nearly rigid limbs, the beat of my heart was scarcely perceptible; I supposed I had only a little while to live. The prospect of release was inexpressibly welcome. Presently I heard, as distinctly as if the wall of my cell had a mouth and had spoken, the words which Mrs. Leigh has made glorious in connection with our cause: "No surrender." They beat upon my brain with a new meaning; not only to a repressive Government, not only to heedless laws and their attendant punishments, but to the temptations of our inabilities, no surrender. What was I about, to abdicate my job in this ease-loving way? I rubbed the painful life back into my feet, hands and limbs, and forced myself to walk up and down my cell. Pictures succeeded each other rapidly in my mind of our fellow-prisoners in the 'Black Maria,' of all undefended women, of children's blighted lives, of downtrodden men and women, undeveloped or ill of body or mind, whose fate women, through their abject surrender of the woman's part in the world's jurisdiction, must to a certain extent have laid at their door. How misplaced, unrighteous and unwomanly did non-resistance appear to me then. With every throb of my returning pulses I seemed to feel the rhythm of the world's soul calling to us women to uncramp our powers from the thraldom of long disuse. My whole being responded, and I yearned to hand on the message as I myself had in spirit received it: Women, you are wanted. Women, as women, because you are women, come out in all your womanliness, and whether or not victory is for your day, at least each one of you make sure that the one course impossible to you is surrender of your share in the struggle.' To you, dear faithful Suffragettes at heart, whatever the handcuffs of circumstance which may limit your powers of visible service, I pass on this message."

ESPERANTO CONGRESS.

The fourteenth annual British Esperanto Congress, which took place at Bournemouth this Whitsuntide, may be looked upon as the usual pleasant rehearsal for the International Congress, which this year is to take place at Nuremberg, in Germany, the first week in August.

As everyone knew English, there was not the same stern necessity of talking Esperanto that is felt at International Congresses, but useful propaganda work was done.

Esperantists from England are advised to travel to Nuremberg next August by the Hook of Holland to avoid the occupied districts, and the German authorities promise that all nationalities will be heartily welcomed. Three thousand Esperantists from thirty-four countries have already notified their intention to be present.

A COMMUNIST READS HIS LOCAL NEWSPAPER.

I spend a good many hours a week, not to mention much physical and nervous energy, in the all-entrancing task of "earning a living." There are many things I desire to do, but my "spare" time is not such a generous quantity as my "working" time, and does not bring to it quite the same freshness that comes with the earlier hours of the day. It is Sunday afternoon, and for the moment I cease my activities and pick up the local newspaper. My reading is somewhat disturbed by the "singing" of a man outside, but more disturbing are the thoughts that come to me suggesting that tragedy lies in the fact that time should be wasted in such unmusical and unnecessary efforts, simply because the system forces upon some unfortunate people such methods of "earning a living."

Fortunately, the system has made me callous, so I endeavour to close up my ears and turn to the intellectual delights of the "local rag." No doubt you, too, fellow-worker, read your local news recorder, I wonder what you think of it? Or perhaps you don't trouble to think about it? It's easier not to. But, in spite of ourselves, thoughts do come sometimes. They may be dull thoughts, but life as we know it makes us somewhat dull.

I notice, fellow-worker, that we have had Empire Day recently. I had hardly noticed it before, so our newspapers are really useful. It seems, perhaps, somewhat unfortunate that it should have fallen during the school holidays, as it didn't give the teachers a fair chance to bring home its lessons. Some schools celebrated it before "breaking up," and at one school in this neighbourhood a gentleman who distributed some prizes appears to have told the children that Empire Day meant a lot to those who are just going out into the world. The newspaper report doesn't elaborate, so I can't say whether the speaker did. I wonder what it meant. I simply haven't the imagination to understand.

The children, it seems, afterwards saluted the flag, visited the war memorial, and sang "Lest We Forget." I wonder if they were told what they had not to forget—that war is the sport of kings, diplomats, politicians, and financiers.

We know the kind of thing the teachers tell the children about Empire Day. It varies, of course, in quality as well as in quantity. But the best of it, the least narrow of it, usually leaves much, and the most important, unsaid. Perhaps the teachers feel there are things they mustn't say. It's easiest not to say them; and there are reporters who feel it is easier to write things—the usual things—rather than not write them, or than to write something else. The world seems to be full of people who feel that first of all they must "earn their living," and much of their time is spent in doing distasteful things or untrue things. They spend most of their time doing that which is lowest, least, and meanest. They never give their better selves a chance. Such a course might prove too risky. They might "lose their living."

What a great force for good lies latent throughout the length and breadth of every land! If it could only be raised and harnessed, what might not be possible?

Some of it is in you, fellow-worker—some of it in me; and we know where the trouble lies, don't we? In economic conditions. We feel that economic conditions prevent us from taking the first steps toward altering economic conditions. So the "living" we earn is the worst kind of living, the lowest and meanest kind of living; and the glorious, fullest living vainly waits our response to its eternal calls.

BEE.

R.U.R.

ROSSUM'S UNIVERSAL ROBOTS.

The public, so far as one can hear it talking in the theatre, does not appear to understand Karl Capek's vision of the social revolution portrayed in R.U.R. The public takes the spectacle literally: "What if machines really were made alive?" "Should a machine be given a soul, or should it not?" "What a funny idea; I never thought of it before!"

The chatter that rises with animation between the acts betrays a total unconsciousness that the play is a satire on life to-day; that the social revolution, only the distant rumble of which has yet reached this country, is being played on the stage.

It is regrettable that the work of the brothers Capek, before reaching the English people, should have had to pass, not only through translation, but also through the hands of an adapter. How far Mr. Paul Selver and Mr. Nigel Playfair have transformed the play we do not know.

The pre entment would be immensely more effective without the long intervals between the acts. This may be true of many plays, but one feels it specially in the case of R.U.R. Acts II. and III. would be better taken as one.

The story is that old Rossum had retired to a distant island to study the creation of life. Having the life substance at last in a test-tube, he made a dog that was like a calf and died in a few minutes. Then he spent ten years in making a man who only lived three days.

Then comes young Rossum, an engineer. He sees money in the invention. Ten years is too long to spend on making a man. His anatomy must be simplified, only the essential parts must be incorporated. He need only be able to do necessary things. To enjoy himself, to play the piano—all that is unnecessary. If he is to be profitably employed as a working machine, he must be made quickly and cheaply to do only what is required of him.

There, in a nutshell, is the elementary school system for workers' children—cheap, speedy, with a restricted curriculum. £12 7s., according to the recommendations of the Geddes "Axe," to be spent on the education of a young Robot (the Czech word for worker, of course), and £373 a year on educating a young gentleman at Sandhurst.

When the play opens, a company has been formed and Robots are being turned out in great numbers at £35 each, fully dressed, to last twenty years. Bread has fallen to 2d. a loaf; prices of all commodities are falling, because the cost of labour is so low. A Robot gets no wages: you can feed him on anything: he has no sense of taste.

Is it thought credible that a man on the dole, or a labourer getting even less, should complain that his diet is monotonous? Has he a stomach full? That is all the well-to-do humanitarian finds it necessary to inquire.

Amongst the Robots on the island are a group of human beings, thirty-two in all, including four managers. The Robots assist even in manufacturing themselves, but they do not know the essential secrets of their creation. Harry Domain is the manager of the Rossum Company. He is an enthusiast for the idea of liberating humanity by the aid of the Robots, and the creation of an immense abundance, in which poverty shall be altogether unknown. Dr. Gall, the head of the R.U.R. physiological and experimental department, is intensely interested in the work of manufacture and in varying the process. He is giving the robots the sense of pain, in order that they may protect themselves from injury in the course of their work. Thus they will not get broken.

The factory, workmen's compensation, health, and unemployment Acts are introduced to protect the working class from being too wastefully used, and to prevent too many of its disabled becoming chargeable to the community.

Sometimes a robot gets wild: he gnashes his teeth and refuses to work. He is immediately sent to the stamping mill, to be used up in the manufacture of other robots.

That need not shock us; the soldier who will not fight is put to death, though for the workers who disobey the ruling class the punishments are graduated.

Mr. Alquist, head of the works department of R.U.R., is an artisan and a Conservative. He is opposed to progress.

Jacob Berman, chief cashier, is a feeble clerk whose horizon is bounded by ledgers.

Romain is dictating his letters to Sulla, a Robotess. Helena Glory, a girl of 21, arrives, as a missionary of the League of Humanity, to plead that the Robots should be treated like human beings, and to stir them to revolt. There are no women on the island; and the eyes of the four managers fasten greedily on Helena. Romain tells her that she will have to marry one of them, and after five minutes' discussion she obligingly agrees to marry him.

After ten years the Robots have been multiplied in extraordinary numbers; 300,000 of them are employed on the island making more Robots. The human workers throughout the world are thrown out of work in enormous numbers. Debarred from a share in the great abundance created by the Robots, they revolt, only to be crushed by the Robots owned by the employers.

Does the question arise in the mind of the audience: "Why could not the workers share the abundance, even though the Robots, and not they, were producing the goods?"

We heard no comment of that nature amongst the babel of voices that arose in the theatre whenever the curtain fell.

The Governments are sending for enormous numbers of soldier Robots; the employers continually order new consignments of Robots as workers. Competition increases; wars follow wars.

Helena still desires that the Robots shall be given souls. "That was just a sentimental idea of hers," says the young school teacher who was lately discoursing on the function of the Greek chorus and the staging of Greek and Roman plays. He, from a higher and clearer thinking, could see that it was better for them to be fitted simply for what they had to do."

It is useless to teach French and music to working-class children, protests the Conservative. The ancients denied the worker a soul. That was but the signal for other denials.

Helena has persuaded Dr. Gall to attempt giving souls to the Robots. He has changed the formula in the case of some hundreds of the mechanical workers, and has made Helena 2, who does not work, but moves as in a dream. Gall pronounces her a failure.

The Robots have begun to revolt. They have issued a call: "Robots of the world, unite" for the destruction of mankind. They declare they are "stronger and more intelligent" than human beings.

The boats cease to bring news to the island. The cable is cut. Romain and his colleagues fear the worst. The danger is kept from Helena, but she divines it. She has been married ten years, and has no child. She learns that all over the world no children are being born, and that the Robots have revolted. Filled with horror at the news, she burns old Russum's formula for the manufacture of Robots. The formula is so complicated that it would take even Dr. Gall years of experiment to rediscover it, although he has altered it to produce a more human Robot. Helena's deed is yet unknown to the managers.

Romain declares that he will set up a Robot factory in every country, to make national Robots. The Robots will hate every Robot with another factory stamp, and therefore they will never fight against their human masters, but always against each other.

Then the mailboat comes in full of revolting Robots, who call the island Robots to mutiny, and send a message to the managers that they are to be killed. The managers await death, only protected by the electric current which Romain has laid on to the railings about the house. Thousands of Robots assemble.

Helena plays the piano in an adjoining room. The doctor observes that music is a fine thing, and that immersed in business the managers have had little of beauty and pleasure.

Berman toils over his ledger. He is anxious to leave all in order. "I shall not wait till January to strike a balance this year," he says. In his last hour, and when the end of humanity is come, unable to see beyond his ledger and an employee's careful attention to his master's business.

Suddenly Berman is struck by the idea that he will buy the lives of the human beings on the island for Rossum's formula, by which the Robots may go on making themselves.

The managers are overjoyed. They are certain of their reprieve. The doctor declares that they will retire to a distant land to wait till humanity can reconquer the world.

In all revolutions the counter-revolution hopes to rise again.

Helena then confesses that she has destroyed the formula. Their hope seems futile.

Berman writhes in horror. Then again he is seized with an idea. His ledger has shown him that there is more than half a million of money in the safe. "Surely they'll sell for half a million—for half a million!" he declares, and rushes off to negotiate the sale, undeterred by the thought that the social system controlled by ledgers is at an end. His puny effort proves futile. His colleagues watch him from the window rushing forward, waving his bundle of banknotes and cheques. They see him, in his eagerness, touch the railings and die.

So long as the men in the power-house hold out, the electric current will keep back the Robots. Romain turns on a little electric light on the mantelpiece. The managers and Helena watch it in anxiety.

Bombs begin to fall. The light goes out. The power-house has been overwhelmed.

Romain rushes with Helena into an adjoining room. The doctor flings some ineffectual little pieces of furniture against the door. Alquist declares that he is going out to die.

It is dark. The Robots enter by the window, crying: "Robots of the world, unite." The doctor, Romain, and Helena perish. Alquist is spared, "because he works with his hands."

Alquist is the only human being left on the earth. The Robots are dying off. No new Robots can be made. In twenty years they will all be gone.

Alquist, the Conservative, who is opposed to progress, who joined with the others in decrying Helena's plea that the Robots should be given a soul, now desires to give them immortality. Since there are now no human beings, he would recover the power to reproduce Robots in order that Robots may be eternal. He studies feverishly to recover the formula, and falls asleep exhausted. He is awakened at dawn by the laughter of Helena, the Robotess, who, with the Robot Primus, is learning to make love.

Seeing the Robots love, Alquist knows that they have become human and that new Robots will be born. Helena and Primus go out in the sunshine. Alquist sinks to his knees, declaring:

"Now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace; for I have seen thy salvation."

The audience arises; that part of it which analyses the meaning of the play at all asks the question: "What is the moral?"

"He recognises the divine principle," says a lady from the stalls, drawing her furs around her as she goes, clack, clack, over the stones in her high-heeled shoes to the motor.

And the moral—is it that we should remain as we are; for in spite of all change, we shall nevertheless revert to what we were?

No; rather it is that after the workers' revolution has swept away economic slavery, we shall create a new and a better humanity.

Workers' Dreadnought

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Editor: SYLVIA PANKHURST.

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Our View.

The New Second International.

THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL in its latter days was controlled by a new-comer to its counsels—the British Labour Party Executive. The reconstituted Second International, the Socialist Labour International (or Socialistische Arbeiter Internati nale), as it now calls itself, will remain under British control. There is a show of Internationalism in the composition of its executive, but there is also "an Administrative Committee which shall sit permanently in London or within near reach of it, so that it can be summoned at short notice." This committee is to consist of Messrs. Henderson, Macdonald, Thomas, Gosling, Clifford Allen, Sidney Webb, Wallhead, Tom Shaw, and Frederick Adler of Austria, who, as secretary of the International, is an ex-officio member of the committee, as a matter of form.

The British Labour Party, always supremely insular, has certainly secured an almost all-British International this time!

* * *

Why are the French Left Out?

WHY ARE THE FRENCH and Belgians left off the Administrative Committee? They could easily be brought over to confer at short notice. Indeed, it would be easy for all the countries concerned to have a permanent representative in London.

It may be said that the French adherents to the new International are not numerous because the majority of the pre-war Socialist Party of France has gone over to the Communists, but that argument does not hold good for Belgium. Why are the Belgian Socialists left out?

Is it that the British Labour Party anticipates an early war between France and Britain, and wishes to avoid having alien enemies on the Administrative Committee of its new "International" in that event? Or is it that the French preferred to be left out?

The Second International has been notoriously an instrument of the British Government and its Allies since the war. We predict the same fate for the new International.

The allocation of votes to the various countries on the Executive Committee is interesting:

Britain	30
Germany	30
Hungarians	8
Czechs	9
Germans	7
Total for Czecho-Slovakia	24
France	16
Belgium	15
Austria	15
Italy	15
Russia	12
Sweden	12
Denmark	12
United States	10
Poland	10
Holland	7
Switzerland	7
Finland	6
Norway	3
Rumania	3
Georgia	2
Armenia	2
Latvia	2
Bulgaria	1
Jugo-Slavia	1
Turkey	1
The Ukraine	1
Lithuania	1
Luxemburg	1
Danzig	1

* * *

The Pauper's Body.

THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH has requested Boards of Guardians to send to the hospitals for dissection the bodies of those who die in Poor-Law institutions. The Bermondsey Guardians discussed whether they should send for dissection the bodies not claimed by relatives. "Do not send the bodies of the old people; they have been knocked about from pillar to post all their lives," a Guardian pleaded; but the wife of a doctor, who happens to be a Labour member, dismissed the protest: "It is only a sentimental objection," she declared.

Yet there is justice in the demand of the unemployeddeputation that when bodies are needed the authorities should apply for the bodies of the well-to-do and the fortunate, to the educated people who may boast themselves free of any superstitious idea that it is cruel or sacrilegious to mutilate the dead. If bodies are needed, let there be an appeal for volunteers. Let there be a special appeal to the medical and surgical professions that they furnish all their dead for the hospitals.

Poverty will gain a new degradation if death in a Poor-Law institution is to be associated with dissection. The poor will feel that they are simply being kept in the institution for a little while till their bodies are ready for cutting up.

* * *

The New Ministers.

WITHOUT THE LLOYD GEORGIAN bombast, Mr. Baldwin has been quietly organising a Coalition Government of Liberal and Tory Capitalist politicians against progress.

* * *

Alien Propagandists.

TWO RUMANIANS whom the police charged with being Communist couriers, were the other day sentenced to six months' imprisonment, and thereafter to deportation. On the other hand, the emissaries of the Fascist Movement are received here with all honour. Mr. Pelizzi, writing in a well-known pro-Fascist Italian daily, recounts that he is lecturing on Fascism in Devonshire and Cornwall, and that he dreams of a Fascist army mustering in the South of England to march on the industrial area of the North of England, which he describes as "the enemy triangle." Believers in governmental impartiality will ask why it is that he same treatment is not meted out to the emissaries of Mussolini as to those who are called emissaries of Lenin. Amongst the personal advertisements in the "Daily Mai" appears an advertisement appealing for ex-soldiers to join the British Fascisti. This is an organisation openly organised to smash the proletarian moevment by force.

THANKS.

To Max Beerbohm for attacking snobbery and Royalism.

Had your cartoons been ours, we should now be in prison.

DULL SNOBBERY.

Mr. Hamilton Fyfe, in the "Daily Herald," says of the Beerbohm cartoons:

"The incident has a moral on which those who wish well to the Royal Family, **as we do,** will be wise to ponder. . . . The fault is not chiefly that of the Royal Family, though they have been led away by bad advisers, who urged them to 'make themselves popular' **when there was no need of effort.**"

FROM THE PUBLISHERS.

The Decay of Capitalist Civilisation.

By Sidney and Beatrice Webb. (George Allen and Unwin, 2/6.)

This book is, of course, written from the well-known standpoint of the authors.

The manner in which they elaborate the claim that there was no alternative to Capitalism in the eighteenth century is typical of their views. They say:

"There was no supply of officials who were even moderately honest. The records of central departments and of such contemporary local government as existed in Britain show that it was impossible to get a class of civil servants who did not take bribes, directly or indirectly, or who could be depended on to do a day's work; while most minor officials were addicted to drink, and did not scruple to steal the petty cash. Posts in the public service were spoken of and asked for as sinecures. There was no body of knowledge as to the processes or methods of administration on a large scale, no way of testing the abilities of the candidates for appointment, no system of professional training, so that every public position was either hereditary or inevitably jobbed, falling upon the least competent members of the governing class. There was no efficient system of book-keeping, no system of audits. The intensity of the motive for profit-making as a means of personal gain supplied the only stimulus and test by which men could be selected, processes invented, management conducted, methods cheapened, markets discovered."

This seems to us a most inadequate and undiscerning statement of the case. Are all men in private enterprise honest and capable? Is there no bribery amongst Government servants to-day?

As regards inventions, the desire to create was a stronger motive than that of mere money making. In innumerable cases the inventor struggled under great financial difficulties to perfect the invention, casting aside all chances of worldly advancement.

As to the main argument, it may be held that Capitalism was necessary, since it arose; but we cannot hold that Capitalism was necessary merely because in the eighteenth century the present methods of appointing civil servants and of costing, book-keeping, and audit had not been developed.

It must be remembered that civilisation had ages before produced extensive works of construction, executed without Capitalism. Egypt, under the Ptolemies, did not use the present methods, yet tremendous public works were carried on by the Government, including the Royal Museum at Alexandria, with its library, lecture-halls, exhibition-rooms, courts, porticos, and living-rooms for the philosophers and men of science who resided in the institution. It was in the service of the King that Archimedes invented many mechanical appliances, including one by which the king could launch a fully loaded three-masted ship by turning a light crank. Beside many powerful war machines, Archimedes also discovered the principle of specific gravity. The scientists living in the Museum at Alexandria as Government servants were amongst the founders of scientific research. Amongst them was Euclid, the mathematician. In the Government observatory at Alexandria, under the Ptolemies, Aristarchus demonstrated that the planets revolve round the sun. Eratosthenes computed the size of the earth there. In the laboratory of the Royal Museum it was discovered that through the nerves messages of pain and pleasure pass to the brain. The library of the Museum contained half a million books.

It was not for lack either of honesty or an accounting system that the producing trade unions of ancient Greek and Roman times did not to continue and develop with the growth of science and machinery. It seems to us that the corruption of eighteenth-century officialdom was due to the same cause as the corruption of twentieth-century officialdom—the private-property system.

INSIDE FACTS ABOUT THE RUHR.

The uprisings of workers in the Ruhr, the strikes, the battles with indiarubber truncheons, the seizure of police stations and other public buildings, and so on, are hunger revolts, caused by the desperate situation of the people.

The coal-owners have made enormous profits, and the cost of living has risen to appalling heights through the collapse of the mark, especially in the Ruhr district, where profiteers have exploited the scarcity of foodstuffs caused by the French invasion; yet wages **have been stringently kept down, and,** in some cases, even lowered.

Wages Falling, Prices Rising.

Between February 8th and May 1st of this year there was no rise in miners' wages, but even some reductions. On May 1st there was a reduction in wages of 11 per cent. On **May 15th,** when another great rise in prices began, and prices were 100 per cent. over those of February, the mine-owners demanded a further reduction in wages of 23 per cent.

The Trade Union leaders issued no call to action, but the metal workers in several factories struck, rioting broke out and developed into serious fighting.

The Capitalist Press, both in Germany and everywhere else, attributes this hunger movement to the Communists; but the Communists disclaim responsibility. The Trade Unions **also hold aloof. The movement is** the spontaneous affair of the rank and file workers organised in their shop committees.

Strike Committee Manifesto.

The Central Strike Committee at Great Dortmand has issued the following manifesto explaining the position:

"The Press gives out that the strike of the Dortmund workers is a Communist and Trade Union production. The Central Strike Committee replies to that: There are no political demands behind the strike. The demands of the working classes are: An immediate economic increase to the married of 200,000 marks, and 150,000 marks to the single. In addition, a wage increase of 50 per cent. from May 1st to May 15th, and from May 16th a further 50 per cent. In order to meet any suspicion that the strike is the product of a political party, the Central Strike Committee, which in an overwhelming majority consists of old Trade Unionists, approaches once more the Trade Unions with the demand, and appeals to them to place themselves behind the demand of the striking workers and to recognise the strike. The demands of the Strike Committee are supported by the unanimous will of an overwhelming number of Trade Union organised workers, 50,000 strikers, who expect for the workers of the whole of the industrial area that they will at once join the move of the Dortmund working class and support the strike to victory by every means."

The Fourth International.

The Fourth International will not promote strikes or other proletarian action for increases of wages. It is out for the overthrow of the system, and countenances no partial objective. Therefore, it is not fully in accord with the present hunger revolt.

In its May 1st issue the organ of the Fourth International, "Kommunistiche Arbeiter Zeitung," published in French and German an appeal for Communism, not reformism, concluding:

"Workers of the world . . . the revolution cannot be attained either by Parliaments, Trade Unions, or reformists.

"The proletarian aim can be accomplished only by means of the workers Soviets in revolutionary alliance, by united workshop councils. . . ."

Third International.

The attitude of the Moscow Communists of the Third International is harder to understand. They advocate theoretically the revolution by **accident. They declare that the** masses must be led on to strike or fight for wages, hours, or any other reform proposal for which they can be induced to show enthusiasm. Now that the masses have risen of their own accord and are striking and fighting spontaneously, the Third International repudiates the action and dismisses it as a "putsch." The Third International organ in Germany, "Rote Fahne," declares that the workers' revolt has been desired by the employers as an excuse for turning police, bourgeois defence corps, and White Guard bands upon the workers.

The workers, according to the "Rote Fahne" itself, however, appear to have held their own remarkably against all the forces that German capitalists could muster.

French Intervene.

It is now reported that the French have intervened to suppress the German workers. Capitalism becomes international whenever it is menaced by the workers. Foreign arms are now doubtless the main obstacle to the rising of the German proletariat. It remains to be seen whether a foreign army can, and will, overcome a proletarian revolution in a great country like Germany. Divided counsels and the hesitancy of leaders are probably a greater menace even than French bayonets.

The "Rote Fahne" protests that it cannot be held answerable for the strike, because the Third International Communists "form only a dwindling minority of the metal workers' Union." That is a significant admission. It was the boast of that Party, the K.P.D., that it had captured the Metal Workers' Union so long ago as 1919. As we have always declared, the reformist, Parliamentary, and anti-workers'-council policy now adopted by the Third International, must inevitably estrange it from the advancing workers in the long run.

The "Rote Fahne" adds that out of 1,000 stewards of the Metal Workers' Union, 800 voted for the strike; and whilst the reformist attended the Conference, and the majority leaders lead "a doubtful and hopeless fight against their own members," in trying to prevent it. The Social Democratic Press, controlled by the Trade Union leaders, actually suppressed the decision of the Conference.

The "Rote Fahne" further admits that only some factory councils are taking a decisive lead and endeavouring to co-ordinate the workers' movement, whilst the Trade Unions leave the famished people in the lurch.

The fallacy of the policy latterly adopted by the Third International, of working primarily through the Trade Unions, is here seen for the hundredth time.

The factory councils are not yet fully self-reliant and emancipated from Trade Union domination since, as the "Rote Fahne" reports, they have continually offered control of the movement to the Trade Union leaders.

Trade Unions versus Workshop Councils.

The "Rote Fahne," protesting that its party is not responsible for the disorders, quotes a Press telegram from Gelsenkirchen, stating that "the Communists themselves insist upon some organisation being formed to uphold peace and order." The "Rote Fahne" also protests that the Communists did not wish to take over the protection corps alone. A composite protection police force has been formed, in which the Communists are reported to have accepted a minority share.

For Communists to take part in police forces would be entirely wrong, utterly disastrous in our opinion. It is not for them to assist in quelling the revolt of the exploited masses.

The German situation of to-day seems to echo that of 1919, when Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg lost their lives. There is a rising tide of revolt amongst the people, a **movement that might lead to the overthrow** of Capitalism. But now that the hour they have prophesied is near at hand, the majority of the prophets regard it with horror. To-day there is no Liebknecht; but events in Germany since 1919 have provided many lessons.

E. S. P.

THE TEMPLE OF MAMMON

Outside the Temple of Mammon, 1914.

Mrs. A.: Good-morning, Mrs. B. How is your husband?

Mrs. B. (weeping): He has gone to the front.

Mrs. A.: You should be thankful that he has the glory of serving his King and country in the hour of danger. Moreover, your separation allowance is assured: you are spared the anxieties we unfortunate wives of business men engaged on work of national importance have to suffer.

Mrs. B.: I can't make ends meet on the allowance, because of the profiteers.

Mrs. A.: "Business as usual." Prices are governed by the law of supply and demand. To interfere with that law would undermine the stability of the Empire. You must practise economy: it is a patriot's duty!

Inside the Temple of Mammon.

Mrs. B. enters, kneels before the throne of Mammon, and kisses his hand.

Mrs. B.: O dear, Mr. Mammon, what shall I do to make money?

Mammon: Buy anything, and hold it till the price rises.

Outside the Temple of Mammon, 1916.

Mrs. A.: Good-morning, Mrs. B. What news of your husband?

Mrs. B. weeps.

Mrs. A.: I understand: he has had the honour of giving his life for his King and country. You have the satisfaction of being a soldier's widow. Moreover, you have your pension.

Mrs. B.: He fell off an Army motor when returning from his last leave, and was run over and killed. My pension was refused on the ground that he did not lose his life on war service.

Mrs. A.: It is God's will; and no doubt he was drunk. You cannot expect the nation to bear the burden of a pension in such cases. It is fortunate for you that self-sacrificing people have remained at home to maintain business as usual. There is a scarcity of labour. No doubt your old employer has been glad to take you back at a higher wage.

Mrs. B.: He invests the difference in War Bonds that I shall not be able to draw till the end of the war.

Mrs. A.: You must practise economy: it is a national duty.

Inside the Temple.

Mrs. B. prostrates herself before the throne.

Mrs. B.: Tell me how to make more money. O dearest Mr. Mammon! dearest Mr. Mammon!

Mammon: Buy anything, and sell it to the Government.

Outside the Temple of Mammon, 1923.

Mrs. A.: Good-morning, Mrs. B. Have you joined the Birth Control Society?

Mrs. B.: I shall have no more children. I am a widow. I have no money to pay subscriptions. I'm unemployed, and I don't get the dole.

Mrs. A.: In that case, no doubt you are selling your War Bonds. If they are going cheap, I should like to buy.

Inside the Temple.

Mrs. B.: O, dear Mr. Mammon! I am not making so much money; trade is awful! Tell me how to make more money and to keep safe what I have got!

Mammon: Let the Government have some of it for safety; the interest is not too bad; and buy shares in oil, war material, and the key industries. The next war won't be long.

ANTI-FASCIST ORGANISATION.

An Anti-Fascist Organisation, specially appealing to young people between 15 and 30, has been formed. It proposes to attend Red demonstrations, carry banners, collect, sell literature, and so on. It will organise classes and meetings for the young. A Red Shirt uniform is being discussed. Secretary, Mr. H. T. Noble, 157 Church Street, Stoke Newington.

ESPERANTO.

Lesson 20.

WORDS AND THEIR MEANING.

Broadly speaking, every word in Esperanto has one meaning. (This is not true absolutely, but it is true enough for practical purposes.) It is well, therefore, to cultivate the habit of ascertaining the actual meaning of a word and wherein it differs from words of similar meaning.

Take, for instance, the following words:

Reala, real (as opposed to "illusory, "ideal"); e.g., **la reala vivo,** real life; **malreala,** unreal, illusory.

Falsa, false, spurious, counterfeit; e.g., **falsa monero,** a counterfeit coin.

Vera, true; **malvera,** untrue, false; e.g., la novaĵo estas **vera** (aŭ **malvera**), the news is **true** (or **false**).

Efektiva, real (in actual fact), actual; e.g., en okazo de **efektiva** bezono, in case of **real** (actual) need; **efektive!** really, indeed! **efektiviĝi,** to become realised, to come to pass.

Aktuala (**not** "actual" but) **of present interest,** present; e.g., **aktuale afero,** or **aktualaĵo,** a matter of present interest (as opposed to something which might once have been interesting, but is no longer so), a question of the hour; **aktuale,** at the present time, at the moment; **aktualiĝi,** to become a matter of present interest; e.g., la okupado de la Ruhr estas **aktuala** afero (aŭ aktualaĵo), the occupation of the Ruhr is a "question of the hour."

These examples, if carefully considered, should indicate to the learner that a word does not always mean what it appears to mean. In the case of new words he meets with, he should try to get at their real meaning, if possible from the context and, if not, from the dictionary. One of the best Esperantists in this country is a man who always defines his words, not by giving an English translation, but by stating their meaning in Esperanto. A word which has the appearance of an English word does not always have the same meaning; for example, **kontroli** means to **check, to verify, not** "to control." **Kontrolu** tiun kalkulon, check that bill!

The **Suffix -ec-** denotes **abstract quality;** e.g., bona, good, **boneco** (pronounce as "bonnet-so"), goodness; pura, clean, **pureco,** cleanness, purity; rapida, quick, **rapideco,** rapidity, speed, quickness. Note that whereas **-ec** denotes an **abstract** quality, **-aĵ** expresses **something concrete,** e.g., **realeco,** reality, realness; **realaĵo,** a reality, something real. **Utila,** useful, **utileco,** utility (quality), usefulness; **utilaĵo,** utility (something useful).

Vocabulary.

tuned	agordis
rightly	ĝuste
because	ĉar
moustache	lip-haroj
wore, carried	portis
away (off)	for
to shave	razi
odd, strange	strange
fictitious	fiktiva
fear	timo
story, history	historio
loss	perdo
serious	serioza
already	jam
no longer	jam ne

Translation

La piano-agordisto ne agordis la pianon ĝuste, ĉar la tonoj (notes) estas falsaj. La aktoro (actor) portis falsajn lipharojn. En la reala vivo li ĉiam forrazas (shaves off) la lipharojn. La historio estas vera. La realaĵo estas pli stranga ol fiktivaĵo. Lia timo realiĝis (aŭ efektiviĝis). Efektive! ĉu tio okazis? La morto de la reĝino (Queen) Anne jam ne estas aktualaĵo. La socia problemo estas por ni afero aktuala: la Komunismo jam fariĝis (has become) aktualaĵo.

LESSONS FOR PROLETARIAN SCHOOLS.

An old letter, written in London in 1714, records that an apothecary discovered the bones of an elephant in a gravel pit near London, and near by the head of a spear chipped out of flint. The letter was published with a drawing of the spear head. Not until long after that did investigators begin to realise that the bones of the elephant were found by digging into the earth, because England was a tropical swamp ages ago, and the spear head was made and used by a man of the Stone Age.

In recent years many such flint spears have been found in this country, in France, and in many other parts of the world. Much older flint implements have also been discovered; fist hatchets about 9 inches long, made by percussion—that is to say, by striking one flint on another; and much older tools, called eoliths, which for a long time the most famous investigators refused to recognise as the work of man. One of the pioneers of the belief that the eoliths were really made by men striking one flint on another was Benjamin Harrison, an old grocer, living at Eightham, in the Weald of Kent. He had a great collection of specimens he had picked up in the Weald, which he kept in cigar-boxes.

Knowledge of early men has been pieced together from the tools they left behind, and from the races still existing in various parts of the world at various stages of early development.

The age of the flint tools is computed from the situations in which they are found. On the banks of rivers worn down by the gradual action of the waters, the later tools are found near the water's brink, the earlier tools far up the bank. In caves that have been gradually filled up, older and older relics are discovered by digging. The same is true of land that has been gradually rising; the older implements are found beneath the surface. Human bones and early tools have been found as far as 86 feet under ground.

It is now known that there have been several ice ages, with intervening warmer periods. There is much doubt and difference of opinion as to the cause of ice ages. Joseph McCabe * declares that the main cause of ice ages is a great elevation of the land. Prior to the first ice age, he says, the earth was low-lying and steamy, with a thick atmosphere brooding over it, which kept the heat down at the earth's surface. McCabe describes the history of life as extending back fifty million years, though he admits it was probably much more. He computes that, on this basis, it took thirty million years for life to rise above the level of the fern, the beetle and the fish, and seven or eight million years to reach the first reptile. Then came a great ice age, in which the first birds and mammals appeared. Renewed warmth followed, and a reaction to the reptiles for seven or eight million years, during which the mammals made little progress. Of the last five million years, four, he says, were gone before the most primitive man appeared. Then followed more ice ages, with intervening warm periods, and not until the beginning of the last quarter of the last million years, at the end of the last ice age, 50,000 years ago, did man reach a development a little higher than that of the Eskimo, and begin to make substantial and relatively rapid progress. McCabe believes that there were five successive ice ages with warmer periods between. Some other investigators believe there were four.

It was long considered that mankind did not appear until after the last ice age. The eoliths, however, bear the marks left by the ice upon them, and once it was established that the eoliths were man-made tools, the history of man was put back at least beyond the last ice age. Some investigators think that man had developed far enough to make fist hatchets in the third warm interval between the ice; some put this deevelopment in the second period. Many investigators believe that it was in one of the warm periods that man first began to make fist hatchets, but the coming of the cold is agreed to have been the first great stimulus to development.

Some investigators compute that it is 8,000 or 10,000 years since the beginning of the fourth warm interval; 50,000 years since the beginning of the third warm interval, and 200,000 years since the beginning of the second warm interval. Others consider the beginning of the third warm interval was 125,000 years ago.

The descent of the ice covered Ireland, Scotland, and England as far as the Thames. It covered the northern half of Europe as far as Lyons in France, and the banks of the Danube. On the North American continent it reached as far south as St. Louis and New York, and its southern edge is marked by a line of boulders carried down by the ice.

(To be continued.)

* "A. B. C. of Evolution," "Story of Evolution," and "End of the World."

BOOKS ON THE EARLY WORLD.

"Ancient Hunters," Sollas; "Primitive Culture," Tyler; "Prehistoric Times," Sir John Lubbock; "Men of the Old Stone Age," Osborn; "The Origin of the World," R. McMillan, 3/- and 1/6; "The A. B. C. of Evolution," McCabe, 3/- and 2/-; "The Evolution of Civilisation," McCabe, 3/- and 2/-; "Ice Ages," McCane, 3/- and 2/-; "The Story of Creation," Edward Clodd, 1/-; "Easy Outline of Evolution," Hird, 2/- and 1/-; "**Picture Book of Evolution,** Hird, 10/-; "Human Origins," 2/- and 1/-; "Evolution of Man," Haeckel, 6/- and 2/6; "Wonders of Life," Haeckel, 2/6 and 1/-; "The World's Wonder Stories," A. Gowans Whyte, 10/6; "Origin of Species," Darwin, 2/6 and 1/3; "Man's Place in Nature," 2/6 and 1/-.

BIRTHS AND MARRIAGES.

The birth-rate in 1921 was the lowest recorded since civil registration was introduced.

We are not surprised by that! People cannot afford to have children nowadays. The Birth Control Societies are quite unnecessary. Economic pressure will reduce the birth-rate without them.

Here are the figures: 1841-50, 32.6 per 1,000 persons living; 1871-80, 35.4; 1900-10, 27.2; 1921, 22.4.

Illegitimate births are on the increase. There were 38,618, or 45 per 1,000 births last year. This was less than the preceding five years, when war influences were operating, but higher than in any preceding year since 1839. Divorces and annulments of marriage numbered 3,522, the highest total yet recorded.

These figures also are natural—the legal marriage is breaking down with the change in social conditions. It will disappear eventually with the disappearance of the private-property system, of which it is an outgrowth.

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AN OPEN LETTER TO A LABOUR CANDIDATE.

What rage for fame attends both great and small. Better be damned than mentioned not at all.

Dear Mr. B.,—

Rumour says you were a disappointed candidate in a Church Ward at a Borough Council election last November, and Mrs. Candour was surprised at your cheek in expecting respectable ladies in a Church Ward to vote for a person who was never known to go to church or chapel. As for working women of my own class, it's all humbug, you and the rest of the wise men in the East telling us we can get equality later on, if we go now with fine ladies of quality, and put pieces of paper, with crosses on them, in a box.

If you really believe in such-like stepping-stones to social equality, you would be more usefully employed in advocating them in Trade Union circles. Why should the general secretary of a Trade Union receive a bigger salary for a constant job than the highest-paid manual worker in the trade? No doubt both serve the society to the best of their ability; but to pay one servant more than another is the capitalists' creed to get more profit out of the workers who produce the wealth for them. It is out of place in a Trade Union that aspires to give equality of opportunity to all in the trade.

Then there are the members' contributions. It seems fair enough for all to pay alike, but it is impossible for some members to earn as much money as others throughout the year, and when they are required to pay the arrears after a long spell of unemployment, through no fault of their own, it often forces them to become blacklegs. One of your supporters mentioned you were a good hand at accounts and sums of money, and would be useful at a Borough Council meeting; but also, you do not seem to have a reflective mind, like, let me say, Sir Isaac Newton; he was Master of the Mint in the reign of George I., and once, when he was worried over tons of money, he retired to the garden to meditate, when he noticed an apple falling to the ground, which led him to discover the law of gravitation that attracts us to the earth. Perhaps if you were worried over the family budget, and retired to your summer house to meditate with an apple from the tree of knowledge, you could also discover a similar law of gravitation that attracts people to one another for mutual improvement, co-operation, and happiness.

When they understand nature's laws properly, as we do, they will join in our revolt against the artificial class laws that enslave us to a false social system.

Trusting these few remarks, from one of the New Women of Modern Thought, will help to explain our views to you and your friends the amateur statesmen with the "master minds," who pretend they are fit to govern us,

Nor can they bend me to their will,
Though black their numbers swell,
Nor bribe with hopes of paradise,
Nor force with fears of hell;
Me they may break but never bend—
I live but to rebel.
I go my way rejoicingly,
I outcast, spurned and low,
But undreamed worlds may come to birth,
From seeds that I may sow;
And if there's pain within my heart,
Those fools shall never know.
—From the Prison Poems of Ralph Chaplin.

ELIZABETH HARRIS.

IL COMENTO.

An anti-Fascist newspaper, published in London, in the Italian language.

Weekly, one penny, from 21 Frith Street, Soho, W.

REMARKABLE EVICTIONS.

WORKMEN DISMISSED FOR REFUSING TO EVICT FELLOW-WORKERS.

Six months ago the English Electric Co., at Stafford, applied through the County Court for possession of six houses in the vicinity known as Siemens' Colony. When the firm of Siemens established their works at Stafford, some years ago, they built a number of houses for their employees. Hence the name Siemens' Colony. During the war the English Electric Co. took control of the Siemens Works, along with other works, at Coventry, Rugby, Bradford, etc.

Orders for possession for the six houses in Siemens' Colony were applied for, on the ground that they were required to house certain employees and their families, whom the firm were importing from Coventry. These employees were described as "key" men, absolutely indispensable to the smooth running of the works. The orders were granted.

On April 30th, four workmen employed by the English Electric Co. were deputed to go to Siemens' Colony, and on arriving there were authorised to carry out the evictions. These men refused, and consequently were discharged from their employment.

The local organised unemployed held a great mass meeting outside the works. The management refused to discuss matters with a chosen deputation. Therefore the following demands were sent by letter:

1. Reinstatement of the four men discharged.

2. Abolition of overtime.

3. Abolition of the group system of production in certain departments, which was tantamount to slave labour.

The four men were permitted to re-start work the next morning; but as regards the other demands, the management stated they were quite able to run the firm without any outside interference.

The unemployed picketed the area for a week, but nothing happened until May 9th, when County Court bailiffs appeared on the scene in company with a posse of police.

Unfortunately, Comrade Roberts, the secretary of the unemployed, was the only man on duty this particular morning, and upon seeing the bailiffs making their way to the house occupied by Comrade McGory he succeeded in gaining an entrance through the back door. He proceeded, with the help of Mrs. McGory, to barricade all doors and windows, and posting himself at one of the front bedroom windows, he peppered the bailiffs with generous quantities of cold water. They retreated to the rear of the house, but the defender threatened to throw an iron stand if they advanced.

Eventually the front door was forced off its hinges, and Comrade Roberts was speedily ejected by the five bailiffs, four of whom were ex-policemen.

Whilst the first pieces of furniture were being removed, a fresh contingent of police arrived at the house, to be greeted with ironical cheers and jeering by the neighbours. The furniture was eventually moved into the street, and Mrs. McGory and family were left standing there.

Mr. McGory, who had previously been sent by the English Electric Co. to their Coventry works to teach employees there certain methods of production, was discharged upon his return to Stafford. Thus do the oligarchy repay faithful service.

The next house to receive attention was that occupied by Mr. Walls, also an old employee of the firm; but here possession was peacefully given. This gave the unemployed who had rallied breathing space.

Information was received that the next house to receive attention was in an adjacent street. This house was occupied by an old employee of the English Eviction Co.—excuse the joke—who gave the unemployed permission to prepare for a fight. The doors and windows were barricaded, and every provision was made for the reception of the bailiffs, but they did not come. For three days and nights ceaseless vigil was kept, but a month's extension was granted to all those awaiting eviction.

In Stafford, as elsewhere, the housing problem is acute. Over 700 applicants are on the Council's books waiting for houses. This diabolical action of the English Electric Co. makes the position more difficult.

In the event of any further attempt being made at the expiration of the month, the unemployed will do their best to checkmate the County Court bailiff and his henchmen.

T. MIDDLETON.

UNDER THE STARS AND STRIPES.

ANOTHER FRAME-UP.

On the morning of January 4th, 1923, a suit-case containing a clockwork mechanism and seventy-eight sticks of dynamite, was found within a hundred feet of the shoe factory of Knipe Brothers, in Ward Hill. Previous to the finding of the dynamite a strike had been called in the factory by the Shoe Workers' Protective Union. Not until two days after the finding of the dynamite was the fact made public through the newspapers. Day followed day, and the papers carried wild stories concerning the so-called "bomb plot," but nothing happened. The Haverhill police working on the case then held a conference with Knipe Brothers, Inc., and that night the newspapers carried the announcement that a reward of 2,000 dollars was offered for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for planting the dynamite. Two days after the offer of the reward John E. Merrick, an American, who was born near and raised in Haverhill, was arrested, charged with having planted the dynamite and having been an accessory before the fact in its having been planted.

Merrick, a young man, was formerly a shoe worker, but, having been blacklisted, he established a small automobile repair business at 17 Essex Street, Haverhill.

While Merrick was in the custody of the police on the afternoon of January 22nd, the police raided his garage without a search warrant and "found" certain things which they claim are the same as, or parts of, things used in constructing the infernal machine. The things found were pieces of wire, solder, soldering iron, and the back of a small clock, the works of which the police claim were used in the infernal machine.

The militant attitude of the workers in the shoe industry of Haverhill has achieved better working conditions, wages, and shorter hours than obtain in any other shoe centre in the United States. The "good of the industry," from the bosses' point of view, demanded that the Union be crushed. The arrest of Merrick, we believe, is but the beginning of such an attempt.

On Friday, February 2nd, Merrick was arraigned in the Haverhill police court for a preliminary hearing which lasted two days. As a result of this hearing, the charge that he had planted the dynamite was dismissed, the prosecution being unable to introduce any evidence on this charge, and he was held for the grand jury on the count charging him with being an accessory before the fact in the planting.

The most important thing brought out at the trial was that all the evidence against Merrick was circumstantial. Not a single bit of evidence that could by any possible stretch of the imagination be called direct was introduced.

The prosecution failed to make even an attempt to prove motive.

"**The Workers' Opposition,**" by Alexandra Kollontay, published by the "Dreadnought," price 6d., may also be obtained in German and Russian, price 1/-, with a critical preface by P. Korpelauski, of the Russian Section, Fourth International.

(Continued from preceding column.)

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Where Are You Going?

Mr. Ponsonby, one of your Labour M.P.s, fellow-worker, has said that he is willing to give Mr. Baldwin, the new Tory Prime Minister, a chance.

Mr. Ponsonby says he is willing to give Mr. Baldwin a chance, because he thinks Mr. Baldwin is straight and human, he says.

We are prepared to believe that the new Premier neither beats his wife nor picks the pockets of his friends. Perhaps he is amiable enough to give up his seat to a lady in a 'bus. Such qualities are hardly sufficient, though, fellow-worker, to justify allowing Mr. Baldwin to control the destinies of millions—for that is what giving him a chance as Prime Minister actually means.

The same observations apply to Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's eulogy of Mr. Bonar Law Mr. Macdonald says Mr. Bonar Law, as Prime Minister, was "a strong, courageous man doing his best under almost impossible circumstances." He hoped that Mr. Law's career was "far from finished," and that he would return and "in his own unique way join in our counsels and help us to obtain the political wisdom we all desire."

Consider that, fellow-worker. It is indeed very strange. Mr. Macdonald has accused the Government of Mr. Bonar Law and Mr. Baldwin of preparing war with Russia. He has denounced their retrospective legislation to benefit the landlords. It was Mr. Bonar Law who refused to see the unemployed marchers; it was Mr. Bonar Law's Government, with Mr. Baldwin as Chancellor of the Exchequer, which refused the "parlour houses," which made such grossly inadequate and unsound provision for housing, which told the starving miners to wait till trade revived, and which at every turn has favoured the capitalist at the expense of the worker.

Yet Mr. Ponsonby is prepared to give a chance to the head of such a Government. Mr. Macdonald desires to learn political wisdom from the man who has been responsible for such policies.

If Labour Members of Parliament, and even the leader of the Labour Party, consider the Tories so excellent, so wise, so human, what need of a Labour Party?

Between you and me, fellow-worker, if Mr. Ramsay Macdonald had a clear policy of his own and knew what he is about, he would never have said that Bonar Law was doing his best under almost impossible circumstances. Mr. Macdonald is in a fog, or he would not say a thing like that.

At the present time in the Ruhr the workers are rising spontaneously. Their conditions are so bad that they are forced to revolt. All the political parties, right, left, and centre, are holding them back: they all tell the workers to continue suffering, for this is not the time to act. They all disclaim responsibility for the strike.

Socialists and Communists seem to be forgetting their objective, fellow-worker, now that the masses are growing desperate and the hunger revolt the Marxists predicted is coming about. They continue pleading for increased wages, though the collapse of the mark should have taught even the dullest the hopelessness of that.

Now is the time when the cry should be raised louder than ever: **"Down with the Capitalist system! Up with Communism and the Workers' Councils!"**

Now, when the cry might be heard by the masses who were deaf so long, the Socialists and Communists seem to have forgotten their lesson.

People are starving: they are fighting in despair. Will the people have to wait, fellow-worker, until the Capitalists themselves decide to patch up the Capitalist machinery so that their employees may be obedient wage-slaves once more?

Will the Socialists, Communists, Anarchists, Syndicalists, and all the other ists continue in the Ruhr, as here, waiting for Communism to appear spontaneously?

THE SEARCHLIGHT.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Comrade,—

The following telegram has been received from Jim Larkin by Irish Republicans in London:

"Greeting. Conditions here worse than in the Ruhr. Might right. Force rules, reason fled. Poverty of body and mind lives with us. Hatred, intolerance and death walk in our midst unashamed. The best of our race in the hills and in the gaols; brutalities rampant. Labour Movement akin to your own without a vision, lost its soul, fearful of doing right, acquiescing in wrong unforgivable. We must have a truce of God, peace by understanding, toleration, forgiveness, if we are to save the seed of the race. The opportunity to weld the nation together to accomplish the dream of 1916. A nation free, Gaelic, independent of external interference. A nation one and indivisible, a Workers' Republic, in the name of our sacred dead, and for the safety of the living. Support our efforts for peace course in the service of Kathleen ni Houlihan. This is the United Front.

"JIM."

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Thursday, May 31st.—8 p.m., Garnault Place, E.C., J. Welsh and others.

Friday, June 1st.—8 p.m., Berwick Street and Broad Street, W. Hall, J. Quinton.

Sunday, June 3rd.—7 p.m., Finsbury Park, Sylvia Pankhurst, W. Hall.

Sunday, June 10th.—7 p.m., Battersea Park, Sylvia Pankhurst and others.

PLYMOUTH COMMUNIST WORKERS' GROUP.

This group meets Tuesday evenings at Comrade Wilson's, 2 Frankfort Lane, Plymouth.

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