

Workers' Breadnought

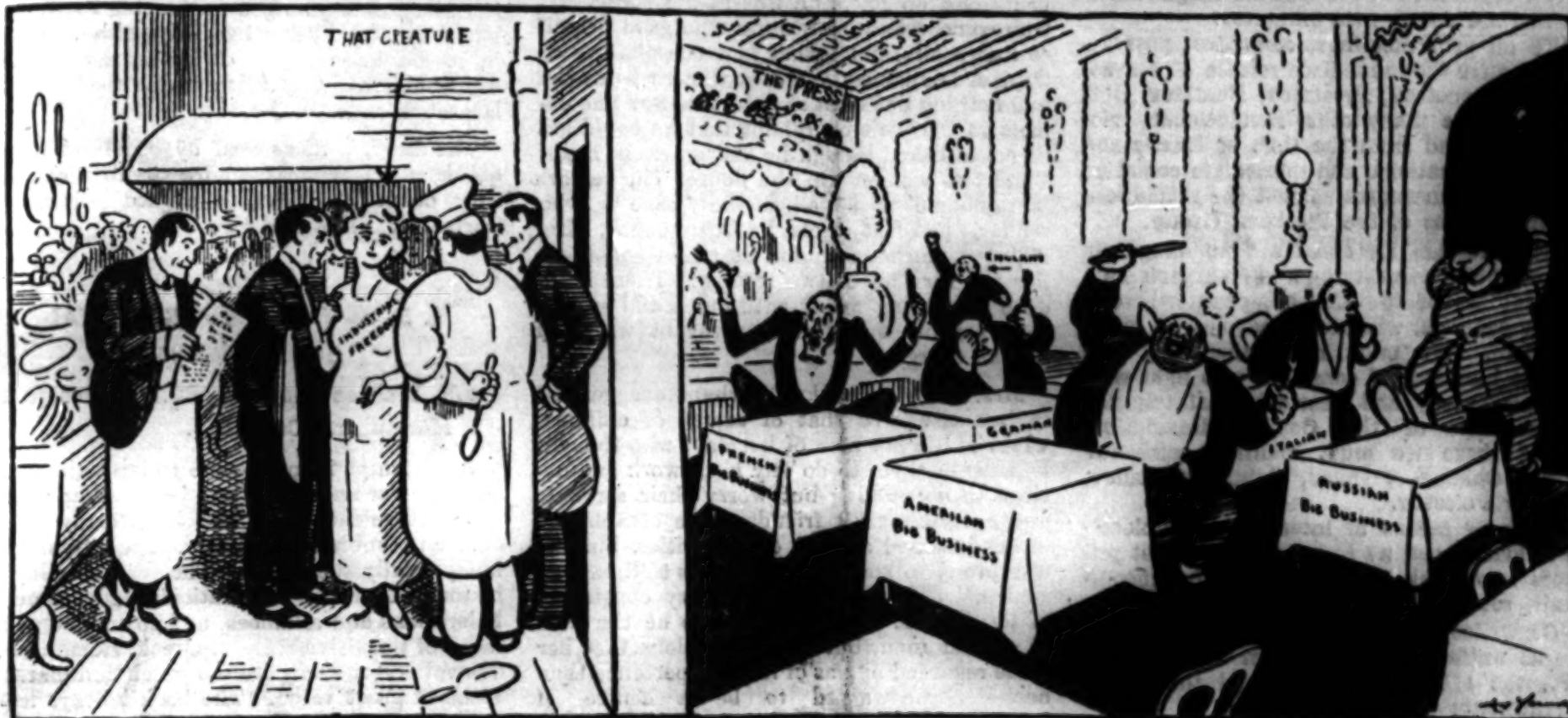
THE RIGHT-TO CONSUME.

Vol. XI. No. 11

May 31st 1924

WEEKLY

Everything Was All Right Until That "Creature" Got Into the Kitchen



Left Wing Imprisonments in Russia.

AN APPEAL.

To the Communist International and its Sympathising Proletariat.

The Workers' group of the Communist Party of Russia consists exclusively of those who work, not as officials in the Soviets, trade Unions, and Party Organs, but in the factories and workshops.

It was formed in March, 1923. The ruling faction of the Russian Communist Party, though it now permits the bourgeois press to exist in Russia, does not allow the workers' group a legal existence. From the first, therefore, the group has been obliged to work underground as an illegal body. Nevertheless it increased in numbers and strength.

Like the Berlin "Opposition" of the Communist Party of Germany and the Communist Workers Parties (4th International) the Workers' group of Russia opposed the united front with the Right or Reformist parties.

The workers' group further demanded free speech and free press for the Russian workers. It endeavours to gain more power for the Soviets, the workers' councils in factories, etc., so that the Soviets may manage the industries and services. The Workers' Group has nothing in common with the so-called "Workers' Truth," which attempts to wipe out everything that was Communist in the revolution of October, 1917, and is, therefore, completely Menshevik.

The central committee of the Russian Communist Party mis-represents the position of the Workers' Group from fear of its influence and even lies about it. The Government per-

secution of the Workers' Group is kept as secret as possible, not only internationally, but in Russia itself. It is largely hidden, even from the representatives of the foreign Communist parties who sit on the central executive of the III International in Moscow. More arrests of members of the Workers' Group take place, followed by imprisonments, transportation to Siberian prisons, exile, and hunger strikes by the prisoners. Those who are suspected even of sympathy with the Workers' Group are banished from Moscow. Comrades Myasnikov, Kuznetsov and Prostatov, are amongst those imprisoned in Siberia.

This policy of the Russian Communist Party is destructive of the proletarian international. . . . Never can the proletarian Communists pardon the oppression of the Communist Workers' Group. . . . We believe that the Communist Parties adhering to the III International, on reading the manifesto of the Workers' Group, will judge for themselves whether the central committee of the Russian Communist Party acted rightly in following this oppressive policy and whether it does not thereby increase the difficulty of our fight against the "Socialist" traitors.

We urge you, Communists of all countries, to compel your ruling comrades in Moscow to liberate the working class Communist prisoners in Russia.

Quick to the rescue, comrades!

The International Group of Communists:
 Moskovskiy Russia.
 Vasilev, Russia.
 Stranmisrova, Russia.
 L. Bersyn, Lettland.
 Berger, Czecho Slovakia,

Alla Akbar, India.
 M. Safar, Afghanistan.
 A. Lepin, Lettonia.
 Puhlinger, Germany, Berlin.
 E. Kasakova, Russia.
 Bratzky, Poland.
 Hartz, Germany (Hamburg).
 K. Steinbrecher, Germany (Hamburg).
 E. Lauterback, Germany (Hamburg).
 Achmed Haljev, Tartar Re-public.

The following information is attached to this appeal:

According to the Soviet constitution members of the Soviets can only be arrested after a resolution sanctioning the arrest is passed by the Soviets. Yet Demidov and Bersina, members of the Moscow Soviets, were quietly thrown into prison without notice.

Many Communists are imprisoned without trial. A Medvedyev was imprisoned, without trial or charge, and held for 21 days. A seven days hunger strike procured his freedom.

The old Bolshevik, G. Myasnikov, an influential and much beloved worker Communist, was imprisoned in Perm and shots were fired into his cell. The shots missed him and he was released. He returned without bitterness to his work. He continued criticising the Russian Communist Party, the III International and the Soviet Government, and making suggestions for their improvement. He was thrown, therefore, into the Siberian prison of Tomsk, and his wife, with her two young children, one a baby, was exiled to Siberia. Comrades Kuznetsov, Prostatov, and many others were also imprisoned in Siberia. The wife of Kuznetsov, with her two babies, one only two months old, was ordered

to Barnaul and Mrs. Prostatova with her two children was sent to Semipalatinsk.

To judge what these things mean comrades should study the map of Russia.

The Russian Workers' Group add the following appeal:

"If we can force bourgeois governments to release comrades of the struggle, surely we can demand their release a hundred times more from the Soviet government. By organising demands for the release by the international working class, and through pressure upon the representatives of the III International and Soviet Government in all countries, we must secure the release of the worker revolutionaries of Russia, our brothers in spirit, from the clutches of those leaders of Soviet Russia who have become megalomaniacs and are struck with blindness.

"In all your meetings, comrades, pass resolutions for the immediate release of Mayasovnikov, Kuznetsov, Prostatov, Remidov, Bersina, and the many other revolutionary victims. Demand from the C.P. of Russia and the III International and immediate cessation of repressive measures against the revolutionary proletarians of the Workers' Group.

"The Russian statemen see no danger in liberating and amnestying and Bourgeois barons, fathers of the Church, counter-revolutionary generals, who are in league with world capitalism. We must insist that they free also the hundreds of comrades who fight with all their energy and hearts to maintain the achievements of the October Revolution. Among these we must mention comrades Svorin, Ochnov, Tlyanov, Ilyin, Michailov, Moissely Polossov.

"Only by means of international proletarian solidarity can we free the Communist prisoners who think as we do from the uncommunist revenge directed against them.

"Comrades, Communists and sympathisers, let us unitedly demand from the Russia: C.P., the III International, and the Soviet Government:

"HANDS OFF THE CONSTRUCTIVE COMMUNIST WORKERS!"

FROM AUSTRALIA

Comrade Fred Spillman, honorary organiser of the unemployed in Sydney, writes that the Government admits the existence of 7,000 registered unemployed here, but he thinks the actual number of unemployed is nearer 15,000. He sends us cuttings from newspapers, showing that whilst the Government Labour Exchange is advertising that adult farm workers desire situations, it is advertising that situations are waiting for boys and youths on the farms. The cuttings also report that a woman had died of starvation in Surrey Hills the previous week, that a man had committed suicide in a railway lavatory, leaving the message: "No funds, no money, unable to work!" An immigrant from Ireland, who had arrived twelve weeks before and failed to find work had also attempted suicide, having no money or other property left and being £4 in debt. Another destitute, workless man had gone to the police station asking to be arrested, and was committed to a month's imprisonment on the charge of not having lawful means of support.

Particulars are given by Mr. A. Carter, secretary of the Factory Employees' Union, of a woman, aged 45, who was paid 4/11 for three days' work in a Sydney suburban factory. Out of this sum she had to pay 4d. a day in fares, and when she received her pay envelope she discovered that 2/- had been deducted as a deposit on the tools she had been using. This 2/- was subsequently returned.

Mr Carter observed: There is supposed to be a basic wage of £2 1s. 6d. for women, but somehow or other, a lot of employers get out of paying it. Many girls of 19 and 20 are not protected by awards and are getting only 12/6 to 17/6 per week. The "New Settlers' League" is desirous of bringing boys and girls to Australia at the rate of 500 a month.

From the Publishers.

JANE WELSH CARLYLE.

Letters to her family, 1839-1863. Edited by Leonard Huxley, L.L.D. (John Murray 21/-).

We cannot join the general chorus eulogising these letters. We find them tiresome and irritatingly so. What an impossible woman! we feel constrained to say as we read this endless string of trivialities. She grumbles continually, but would have it that she never grumbles. She is an invalid and allows none to forget it. She suggests Carlyle is a selfish brute and no doubt he was in the home, but who could tolerate a person who gave herself so many airs and graces and complained always of being busy and over-worked when she had nothing but what she chose to do? She objects to Carlyle's complaint that he could get no cakes baked though he had an oven, meal, "and two women" in the house. The remark is mundane to banality—the "sage" who made it had feet of clay. How absurd, after all, that one man should be able to monopolise the services of two women. There is indeed something wrong with our social system that permits such an extravagant waste of human energy.

Mrs. Carlyle's outlook perhaps exaggerated in her case, was that of scores of childless wives of literary men of her day, who thought it beneath them to do any housework and desired to do nothing but worry their servants and entertain their friends. She complained of her husband and his eccentricities, but she was proud to boast that hers was a "house of genius." The phrase occurs very constantly in her letters. She was proud to be the wife of a great man, but she was jealous that her circle regarded him as of more importance than herself. She wanted to be a centre of interest; she was a satellite but not a willing one. She was too indolent and lacking in self-mastery to bend herself to serious work. This was, perhaps, largely due to poor health and defective training. It was typical of the middle class women of the day, whose only business was marriage. Being anxious to shine, Mrs. Carlyle contented herself with trying to do so by attempts at wit and to a certain extent by making herself serviceable to others. Thus she took a certain interest in other people's affairs, wrote many letters, gave much advice, and undertook some shopping and other small errands for them. Of all this she was exceedingly boastful. Her letters are full of stories of the great exertions she has undertaken. A typical story of the very hard day she has had, records that in the morning she mended one cuff on her gown—the other having been done some days before—interviewed a caller, wrote three or four letters, and spent a little time in the evening mending linen.

On laying down the letters one wonders how anyone could have written so much and said so little of real interest. One wonders, too, at the vogue which the letters of this very silly woman have had. Carlyle is mainly responsible for the inordinately high estimate placed upon them; but Carlyle was no impartial witness, especially in the early days when his estimate of them was written. The woman was dead; she had left nothing behind her but these letters, her only memorial. In the first effulgence of his sentiment over her loss Carlyle collected and annotated some of her letters and wrote of them:

"As to talent, epistolary and other, these letters, I perceive equal and surpass whatever of best I know to exist, in that kind." When he had read and rearranged them he wrote:

"Such a day's reading as perhaps I never had in my life before. What a piercing radiance of meaning to me in those dear

records all, as if on wings of lightning, tingling through one's heart of hearts."

Of course, indeed, he felt so, reading the letters of a dead wife. Who could expect it to be otherwise? But what memory and affection vivified for him may be dry as dust to those who read it as cold print without its associations.

Mrs. Carlyle writes of Mazzini, of Thackeray, Dickens, and other notables, but what she writes of them is very poor stuff, mere tittle tattle in the main. One of the very few incidents she records, revealing something of the social conditions of her time is the story of a young man named Plattner who had a sudden attack of mania was put in prison and afterwards in an asylum. He was chained to the floor and his flesh was all lacerated.

The book is illustrated by excellent reproductions. The portraits by Gambardella are very beautiful. There is a good portrait of Carlyle by Elliot and Fry.

A STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

Jessie Wallace Hughan, Ph.D. (George E. Harrap and Co., 10/6.

An attempt is made here to treat the questions of war and peace and international Government scientifically and historically in an objective unbiassed manner. The attempt is but partially successful. The parts relating to historic forms of international government, federations and alliances, and so on, including those of primitive society, Greek, Roman, mediaeval and modern are too much summarised to be of great value. The book betrays leanings towards socialism and the democratisation of industry. The author is of opinion that:

"Material re-arrangements must take place before a League of Nations can efficiently function."

Yet the full importance of the economic factor is by no means admitted. The author obviously tries indeed to evade it, and in an effort to be impartial, attempts to avoid adopting the Socialist solution although obviously finding it not merely attractive but overwhelming in its logic. One of the arguments put up against admitting "Socialism as the complete cure for war is that countries can only become socialist as their economic development reaches a given point. Whereat the provocation to the Socialist countries hemming them round would be, according to the author, very great.

"The history of Russia," says the author "might tend to be repeated by one nation after another through centuries of chaos, with the conceivable effect of a reversion to barbarism and another painful cycle of industrial evolution."

Apparently Dr. Hughan is under the impression that Soviet Russia made war on her capitalist neighbours, though all the world knows the reverse to be the case.

BENJAMIN CONSTANT.

By Elizabeth W. Schermerhorn with a preface by Fernand Baldensperger (Heinemann, 25/-).

An interesting study of the society people of the Napoleonic era in France, who thought themselves the nation itself, and counted themselves social assets, because they could but turn an elegant phrase and were good-looking and well dressed. The relations of Benja-

min Constant and Madame de Stael his correspondence with her, and of her, take up a great part of the volume; indeed one is almost tempted to call it a book about Madame de Stael. When Constant's other love and family affairs are added there is little room for his political activities; and indeed the latter make but a poor show. It is difficult to find any shred of sympathy for this bourgeois politician who supported the Bourbon restoration, then supported Napoleon Bonaparte on his return to power, excusing himself for his vacillation on the plea that he had supported the Bourbons, believing that they would be weak and thus unable to suppress liberty, and that he had later supported Napoleon when Napoleon had told him he was now too weak to aim at absolute power. That Constant had golden locks, and that he and his circle were elegant and witty was of small moment to the poor producers who maintained their leisured elegance.

MAHATAMA GANDHI.

By Romain Rolland, translated by Catherine D. Groth (Swathmore Press 5/-).

A book such as this, in which the author and his subject are of world reputation is bound to be of great interest. We have found the volume disappointing. Rolland, who is essentially an observer, not a man of action, stresses the Mysticism of Gandhi and also unfortunately the tortuous appeals to theology, superstition and ritual, by which Gandhi often strives to disarm criticism and to reconcile the irreconcilable. Gandhi as a man of action makes no great appeal to Rolland; he desires to see in him only a philosopher and man of God. Gandhi is a nationalist politician; his doctrine will not stand the test of examination as ultimate truths moreover it is not international and Rolland cannot be satisfied with it until he has coloured it with internationalism. The result is a somewhat colourless production which is neither good Gandhi nor good Rolland.

LIFE.

An Introduction to the study of Biology by Sir A. E. Shipley (Cambridge University Press, 6/-).

Of great use to proletarian schools and classes, simply and vividly expressed.

THE PARIAH UNION.

By A. Seaman.

There can be no doubt that Trade Unionism, as a force, has fallen into disrepute, and it needs no Sherlock Holmes to discern the cause of the fall. The masters have played their cards cleverly, and indeed deserve every credit for converting a combination, which at one period threatened to be a menace to their position, into a servile ally, in keeping the working classes in subjection.

Their methods in accomplishing their purpose were shrewd and crafty, but as the end justified the means, I presume the gentlemen in question are not allowing their consciences to keep them awake at nights. The effect of the methods employed are glaringly apparent even to the most casual observer, in the attitude of the Trade Unions to-day.

The Shipowners' Bait.

Several of the Unions, it is true, have managed to retain a certain amount of dignity and self-respect, but the majority have proved an easy prey and have taken the masters' bait eagerly, foremost in this class is the National Sailors' and Firemen's Union. In fact, I am sure, that this particular organisation, of which Mr. Havelock Wilson is president, has not only swallowed the bait, but, in its eagerness to serve the shipowners, it must have gobbled the hook and best part of the line also.

Knowing, full well, that only by holding

together and presenting a United front to the masters, can the workers hope to achieve anything in improving their conditions, Mr. Wilson deliberately withdrew his allegiance from the Transport Workers, and dissociated himself and therefore the body of workers of which he is president from the rest of the Trade Union movement.

One has only to walk around sailor town, through the docks, or linger about the Mercantile Marine offices, to hear these statements confirmed by the views that are freely expressed.

Mr. Wilson, must, I am sure, be fully aware of these opinions, and of the attitude of the members of the Union towards himself and the responsible officials. Yet in spite of this knowledge he continues to further his own ends, rather than consider the seamen's very moderate demands. In this respect he is essentially a business man, and sentiment cannot enter into business. His attitude towards the seamen proves that he must regard them as mentally deficient and lacking in observation.

The Southampton and Tilbury Protest.

Take for example his reply to the men in Southampton and Tilbury when they held their ships back, as a protest against the insertion into the articles of agreement the clause binding them to accept any reduction of wages which might come into force during the period of the voyage. Mr. Wilson's excuse was that "The object of this clause was to safeguard the men's interests in the event of an increase of wages being made during their absence."

Increase, indeed, when every man connected with the sea knows, only too well, that every opportunity is being seized by the shipowners to reduce wages, and that there has been a steady reduction since the end of the war.

A Peculiar Ballot.

The first reduction took place in 1921, after a ballot (?) of the men's wishes in respect thereof had been taken. The result of this ballot was officially announced to be that the men gladly agreed to the owner's demand. In fact, I believe, they showed, by their verdict, that they were only too pleased to be relieved of a few extra pounds, for which they really had no use. Whether the actual result of this ballot satisfied Wilson or not, we cannot say. At all events, on the subsequent occasions when reductions were proposed they were not invited to vote on the subject.

He thus left himself free, and fettered by no obligations to follow his own political inclinations, utterly regardless of the opinion of the men he claims to represent, or of the duty that one trade unionist should have towards another.

Isolated by the action of their president, the N.S. and F.U. is now regarded with contempt by other branches of workers, and its members are frequently referred to in terms of derision. As an organization it has been reduced to a state of impotency. It is utterly incapable of effecting any reforms likely to benefit the seafaring classes.

Dissatisfied Members.

Not only is it regarded with contempt by other branches of workers, but its own members, whose subscriptions I presume are its means of existence have lost all confidence in their own leaders. Disappointed and disheartened and bound by laws which prevent them altering the constitution of the Union, they are compelled to remain inactive whilst their delegates, in conference with the shipowners' representatives, accept rulings which are extremely distasteful to the great majority of seafarers.

The Stewards' Strike.

The stewards being members of another Union, did object to the first reduction, and came out on strike, but what could they do single handed? Alone and divided amongst themselves as a result of outside influence they were powerless and were forced to sub-

mit. Things might have been very different had the stewards been supported by their shipmates, the sailors and firemen, but Mr. Wilson had decided otherwise, in strict accordance with the mandate from his members.

Can any sane person imagine that any working man would consent to have his wages reduced, simply for the sake of satisfying his employers, and increasing their profits?

The P.C.5 and Overtime Agreement.

Regarding the much discussed P.C.5, whatever merits it possesses in the enforcement, the real purpose of its introduction reflects no credit on Mr. Wilson's policy. Moreover the amendment relating to overtime in the articles has no merits on which to base a claim of justification. It is a scandal, pure and simple, and the delegates, whoever they were, who accepted such a ruling, are utterly unworthy of the respect of honest men. I have heard even Union delegates admit as much. It permits a master, in the event of overtime being worked, to substitute equivalent time off in lieu of payment. Everything at the master's convenience, the extra work, and the time off.

The Seamen's Food.

The scale of provisions at present in operation, is regarded as a triumph for the seamen. It does not make bad reading, and the bill of fare, with such items as roast beef, or mutton, cabbage and potatoes and pudding, certainly encourages a man's appetite, but appearances are often deceptive. The law relative to the scale, guarantees the quantity, it is true, but provides no standard of quality, and very often the whole of a meal finds a watery grave, untasted. Complaints follow as a matter of course, but the popular method employed in such cases, is to take the food in question up to the captain of the ship, and ask him his opinion upon it. Well schooled on this point, he makes a pretence of inspecting it, then secretly, congratulating himself that conventions forbid accepting any invitations, which might be issued by the crew, to dine with them, pronounces it to be beautiful food, and the case is dismissed. That is all the satisfaction the crew get, although the captain's verdict would certainly not be endorsed by any honest sanitary inspector. Sometimes a seaman, armed with the kettle and a cup, will pour out a cupful of the contents and invite the captain to taste the offending beverage. He complies, and, although almost poisoned, smacks his lips with an assumption of enjoyment, and exclaims "beautiful coffee!" He grows rather confused when the complainant explains, "but it is not coffee at all, it is tea." These, and numerous other instances of great variety serve to illustrate the joys of life on the ocean wave. As each succeeding indignity is forced upon him and the seaman's burden becomes heavier, he cries in despair "And this is what we pay one shilling a week for; Thank God we have a Union."

Yet in spite of reverses, in spite of the Havelock Wilsons, even, progress is being made in accordance with the demands of Evolution, the inflexible law of Nature. The demands daily grow more apparent and are at last being understood by the workers. The writing is on the wall, and the time is not far distant when the great re-united army of Industry will resume the advance, so long delayed.

ROBBO.

IMPORTANT!

We urgently suggest that comrades should endeavour to secure new subscribers to the "Workers' Dreadnought," and that they should collect at meetings and from their friends whatever is possible. However small the sum you can collect, it will be welcomed. Send it in stamps or postal orders. The "Dreadnought" is not self-supporting: the editing and managing is unpaid.

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Our View.

THE APPEAL, which we publish on our front page from the Workers' Group of Russia, reveals the struggle still continuing there between the opposing ideals of capitalism and communism. Capitalism is still in the ascendant. In Russia, the cue of its protagonists is no longer to sing the of private enterprise and the right of every man to do as he likes with his own. They pose now as the prophets of centralised efficiency, trustification, State control, and the discipline of the proletariat in the interests of increased production.

The Communist advocates of the New Economic Policy of intensified capitalism explain their lapse from principle by the plea that Russia must be developed by capitalism before she will be fitted for Communism. They hope to keep the teeth and claws of capitalism to reasonable proportions.

The non-Communist manipulators of the "Nep," are working in an element which habit has made appear to them the only natural and possible state of affairs. They are growing in power and numbers and will passionately adhere to their own post-revolutionary acquisitions.

To the dominant class it is always easier to maintain things as they are and proceed by the old methods than to forge new ones.

The result is that the Russian workers remain wage slaves, and very poor ones, working, not from free will, but under compulsion of economic need, and kept in their subordinate position by a State coercion which is more pronounced than in the countries where the workers have not recently shown their capacity to rebel with effect.

In spite of the N.E.P. and the advocates of State capitalisation and trustification, however, the urge towards free and complete Communism is not dead in Russia as is evidenced by the existence of the Workers' Group and other Left Wing bodies.

The Left Wing bodies, both consciously and doubtless also unconsciously to a certain extent, are forces working towards the disintegration of capitalism and all its methods. They are working towards the creation of a new system in which instead of society being maintained under the control of a centralised directorate imposing its will by economic compulsion and backed by force of arms, Social needs will be met by free self-motivating units co-operating for mutual ends.

Those who, professing the Communist faith, yet fail to recognise this part which the Left Wing bodies are destined to play in the evolutionary process are apt to regard with regret the very existence of a Left Wing movement. In Russia such superficial observers complain that Left-Wing activities will arouse discontent with present conditions, and so, perhaps, hinder the growth of production and cause various troubles by upsetting the disciplined acceptance by the workers of the

directing authorities.

In the same manner the educationalists who have sought to awaken the pupils' own initiative and to institute self government and pupils' organisation of the curriculum in the schools, have been met with objections that order has been replaced by chaos and that the ratio of knowledge acquired by the pupils has been grievously reduced.

The educational pioneers have persevered in spite of discouragement and have been able to produce schools in which the pupils are able to maintain a more fruitful and harmonious order than that which the old schools imposed from above. They have been able to demonstrate by results that the knowledge which they have stimulated their pupils to acquire for themselves becomes a permanent possession and part of the personality.

So it will be with the ideals of those who are working for the complete emancipation of the race from economic subjection and the authoritarianism that accompanies —?

Many Communists outside Russia object to the searchlight of fact being turned upon Soviet Russia by their fellow Communists. They desire to have it appear that everything is perfect there. They imagine it to be bad propaganda to admit frankly the failures and shortcomings in the land of revolution and to criticise the methods and expedients resorted to by those who have secured the power.

Their objections are short sighted, for after all, what we desire to vindicate and to achieve is Communism itself and not the policy or position of any party.

If we pretend that the present regime in Russia is Communism, is actually the sort of life towards which we are striving, those who observe its shortcomings will naturally tell us that our ideal is a very faulty one.

AS SOON as the Soviet Government began to negotiate with capitalist governments it placed itself upon the inclined plain which leads to the surrender of principle and the abandonment of the revolutionary conquest.

In negotiating with the MacDonald Government, the Soviet delegation has found that it has been negotiating with those who are representing the interests of a capitalist empire. The definite refusal of the British Government to guarantee a Russian loan, will cause much disappointment to those who believe in the policy of stimulating capitalist development in Russia, for ourselves, we believe that the closer the bond between Soviet Russia and the capitalist countries, the less healthy will be the position in Soviet Russia from the Communist point of view.

WE WELCOME the denunciation of the Dawes Report, embodied in the Union of Democratic Control manifesto, just published. We regret, however, the U.D.C. recommendation that the report be accepted.

The U.D.C. is intimately connected with the Labour Government. Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Ponsonby and Mr. Trevelyan have been prominent in its councils, and the two latter only resigned from the U.D.C. executive to join the MacDonald Government. It is inconceivable that the U.D.C. would have recommended the acceptance had the MacDonald Government not already taken that step. The manifesto describes the proposals contained in the report as "morally wrong," "politically unwise," and "economically disastrous." It urges that should the scheme break down no British Government should ever again identify itself with a policy which requires the payment by the German people of impossible sums in money and kind. Why and how, then, can the U.D.C. recommend the acceptance? It is urged that after the French and German Governments have

accepted the report, Great Britain should renounce any further share in Reparations, an equivalent amount, the total sum paid.

Why should such a desirable proposal be postponed until after France and Germany both accepted the Report. Why should it not be made now and always?

In support of the proposal to renounce further Reparations it is urged that nothing is now due from Germany, except compensation for pensions and allowances, and that the payments "would have the most detrimental results upon our home and foreign trade and upon our employment."

It is strange that the U.D.C. wholly fails to impress these views upon the policy of the Labour Government.

THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY into the

Trade Unionism and the Police.

case of ex-Inspector Syme is not constituted as we should have expected from a Labour Government. Justice Talbot, the chairman, Judge Parfitt, and Mr. Rayner Goddard

K.C., Recorder of Poole, may seem altogether desirable representatives from the point of view of the legal profession, and a committee formed of them would, perhaps, appear adequate to a Tory Government, but it is amazing that a Trade Union Government did not see its way to put some Labour representatives on the committee of inquiry.

The treatment of the police strikers by the Labour Leaders in the present administration has been worthy of censure from beginning to end. When the police first began to organise they were promised the support of the Trade Union congress, but with the first breath of Government opposition the support vanished like smoke. When the police struck and the strikers were dismissed, the appeals made on their behalf by the Parliamentary Labour Leaders were of so faint-hearted and deprecatory a character as to be worse than useless. Nevertheless in the last general election both Mr. MacDonald, and Mr. Henderson pledged themselves to the reinstatement of the dismissed strikers. Now that Mr. MacDonald is Prime Minister and Mr. Henderson, Home Secretary, is in charge of police force it might be thought a simple matter to insure the carrying out of the pledge of reinstatement. Even if carried out to the letter it would have been but a poor, inadequate earnest of the assurances of solidarity given to the police by the Trade Union Congress.

Departmental and traditional influences, coupled with the fear of an adverse Liberal-Tory vote in the Division have proved too strong for the promise to be kept.

The question of the Trade-unionisation of the police force cuts deeply into the class struggle. Regarding the police as the special guardians of their property, capitalist interests are determined to prevent the force from becoming a phalanx of the proletarian organisation. We who realise the conservatism of the Trade Unions and the bureaucracy which controls their action know that a police union affiliated to the Trade Union Congress might easily prove a strong bulwark of the existing system at any time of upheaval. Capitalist politicians are less conversant with the fabric of the working class movement and, therefore, view the possibility of a police union with exaggerated fears. They do not realise that the police will certainly organise to improve their conditions and that if they cannot do so openly they will do so secretly.

For our part we regard every sign of solidarity amongst the police as workers and with the general body of workers as a progressive symptom. Nevertheless we know that the more enlightened workers will inevitably dis-

(Continued on back page.)

Parliament as we see it.

Our Parliamentary Reports and Comments are based on the official Verbatim Reports.

The Auxiliary Air Force and Air Force Reserve Bill, which had come down from the House of Lords, passed the Second Reading without a division. This Bill extends to the Air Force the provision for County Joint Associations established for the Army under the Territorial Act of 1907. That Act it will be remembered was promoted by Lord Haldane in the years before the war. The present Bill also provides for the immediate mobilisation of the Air Territorials in case of actual or apprehended attack on the British Isles.

Mr. Leach (under-secretary of State for war), so lately a pacifist and upholder of conscientious objectors, said:

"I feel I should be guilty of a gross dereliction of duty if I failed to seek efficiency. I feel it is only consistent and honest to ask Parliament for powers which are solely for the purpose of rendering the Air Force a still more highly efficient weapon." Viscount Curzon (C) pointed out that if a young man whose life was insured went into the Air Force, his life insurance policy would be affected, or if he wanted to be insured his policy would cost him more. Viscount Curzon asked what the Government would do about it.

The lives of most of the men in the forces are neither insured nor likely to be.

Military Mental Cases.

The cost of maintaining ex-servicemen suffering from mental disability is now to be borne by the Pensions Ministry instead of the Poor Law Guardians.

This is supposed to be a great score for the ex-servicemen, their status is supposed to be greatly raised.

The Pensions Minister was asked whether these men are nevertheless, still in the same Poor Law Institutions. He replied: "I should think the majority of them are."

It is intended that they shall remain there. If one is in prison or the workhouse, does it matter who pays the bill?

Mrs. Lansbury asked that the dependants of the mentally affected ex-service men should also be made chargeable to the Ministry of Pensions. The Minister refused.

Prisoners from Northern Ireland.

In England and Wales there are 73 prisoners and 10 Borstal inmates from Northern Ireland. In Scotland there are 62.

Welsh Secondary Schools Abolish Fees.

£3,000,000 is now derived from fees in gant-earning secondary schools. Certain Welsh secondary schools have received permission to abolish fees to the value of £4,413 10s. 0d.

C. P. G. B. and the Police.

Mr. Lansbury said during the private sessions of the Communist Party Conference in Manchester, the special branch C.I.D. police made persistent efforts to secrete themselves in the hall.

Mr. Henderson replied that no Special Branch men were on duty in Manchester. Apparently they were Manchester police.

Mr. Shaw Defends Himself.

The Minister of Labour appeared on the defensive. He was asked what has become of the Labour Party's unemployment schemes, about which so many promises were made before the Party took office. He replied that the Labour Government had continued and extended the schemes started by its predecessors. He added:

"Now what has been the principal task of the Government? by a skilful, frank, and

friendly foreign policy, the Prime Minister has restored confidence and raised our prestige in the eyes of the world. . . . That is the biggest contribution to the solution of the problem and it has been made without the expenditure of a single penny of public money, at the same time increasing our prestige in the world, increasing the confidence of our manufacturers and tradesmen and giving the future hope such as has never been held by the working population of these islands since 1918."

Electricity.

The Government is considering a scheme to use the tides in the Severn for electrical undertakings.

The Roumanian Visitors.

Mr. MacDonald denied that any agreements or understandings had been arrived at between Roumania and Britain during the visit of the King of Roumania.

Small Holdings.

The Government is considering a small holding scheme. This is not Socialism; What about Socialising the land?

"A Plain Business Government."

Mr. Shaw said of the Excess Profits Tax:

"We took it off in order that trade might have a chance. A plain business government, wanting to restore trade, we did everything that we could and this was one of the things we did in order to help towards that object."

Some of the Labour members admitted they would have liked to see the schemes of the Minister of Labour mature more quickly.

Miss Bondfield, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour, tried to bolster up the Government's reputation. She said that there was not a thing which had been done by the Liberal, Conservative, or Coalition Governments to cope with unemployment which did not find a place in the programme submitted to the Government of the day by the Labour Party and Trade Union Congress joint conference in 1917.

She added:

"When the Prime Minister took office, he stated definitely that, in so far as the Government found schemes that were going in the right direction towards the solution of these problems, his policy was a policy of continuity."

The schemes for unemployment, Miss Bondfield urged, would take a long time to mature. If first class motor roads are to be built, various authorities and interests must be consulted. The Labour Party had criticised the short time views of other governments and striven to avoid them. It had criticised governments with solid majorities. The Labour Party, without a majority, could not pass the legislation necessary to acquire the land. It believed that the land, mines, railways and main roads should be a national responsibility.

Miss Bondfield certainly put Socialism in a very minor form. Asked why the Labour Party does not go to the country to get the majority necessary for its programme, Miss Bondfield said the Labour Party is not afraid to do that. The other parties could send them to the country whenever they thought fit. Miss Bondfield's views on this point appear to differ somewhat from those of her colleagues, but then she is not in the Cabinet.

Dismissing the subject of unemployment, she proceeded to plead for co-operation from all sides of the House in popularising the use of electricity, and protested that "inherent conservatism" is preventing "people who are

actually on the road of the current" from taking advantage of it. They cannot be persuaded to do so, says Miss Bondfield. Does it not occur to her that the refusal she deplores is really a question of L.S.D?

The private property, or capitalist system, debars people from making use of the new developments unless they are in possession of large capital resources. The electrical companies demand substantial deposits, and the cost of the installation is prohibitive to numbers of people, whether the electricity is required for industrial or for domestic purposes.

Miss Bondfield has fallen into line with her colleagues in assuming that the Labour Party should endeavour to make its government acceptable to all classes, not to make a concentrated fight for the emancipation of the workers and the establishment of the classless order of Society.

Disabled Ex-Servicemen.

A private Member's Bill to make it compulsory for employers of at least 10 men to employ 10 per cent. of disabled ex-servicemen passed its second reading without a division. If the Bill ever becomes law it will be a mere dead letter, because it provides that an employer shall not be compelled to abide by it if he can prove that the disabled men who are available are not suitable to his business. Any employer who does not wish to employ a man can prove him unsuitable. There is no doubt about that.

Miss Bondfield said the Government would leave the Bill to a free vote of the House. She preferred the voluntary principle, however, and declared that the Government would be guided by the advice of the King's Roll Committee.

Indian Trials.

Requests were made that the whole of the evidence in the Cawnpore sedition trial of Communists be published. No promise was given.

In the Alipore conspiracy case, seven young Bengalis were arrested in August, 1923 and put on trial for their lives in April, 1924. They were acquitted by a unanimous verdict of the jury in which the judge stated he concurred. They were then set at liberty but four of them were re-arrested and interned without charge.

Russian Propaganda.

Sir Leonard Lyle (Con.) asked whether the Russian delegation here is carrying on political propaganda.

Stimulated thereto by Lieut.-Commander Kenworthy (Lib.), who seems preparing to join the Labour Party, the Speaker said "no question ought to contain an innuendo."

Sir W. Davidson (Con.) pointed out that the Prime Minister, himself, had said the Russian delegation might be guilty of "monkey tricks."

The Speaker replied that the Government of Russia had been recognised and must be treated as any other foreign government.

Probed and challenged further Mr. MacDonald replied, somewhat ungraciously:

"The Soviet delegates are here on a friendly mission and unless and until definite evidence to the contrary is forthcoming, it is to be presumed that they will abstain from actions which could only stultify the negotiations now pending."

U.S.A. and the Cruisers.

Lieut.-Commander Kenworthy (Lib.) declared that the U.S. Navy had eliminated from the U.S. Budget proposals for eight cruisers, but after the British decided to build five cruisers, the U.S. again brought in proposals to build eight.

Mr. MacDonald denied that U.S. action had been affected by the British programme.

Evictions.

The Prime Minister said the withdrawal of the Rent Restrictions Bill had created a new situation which was engaging the attention

of the Government. He could say no more. The rent situation is in a state of deadlock. The capitalist parties refuse to permit anything to be done. The Labour Party has the power to do nothing, nor has it made up its mind what to do.

Confidential Wages Information.

Mr. Buxton (Minister of Agriculture) refused information regarding agricultural wages in Wiltshire on the score that the information was confidential and to disclose it might get people into trouble.

It was stated by Mr. W. Thorne (Lab.), that there are agricultural labourers in Wiltshire who get no more than £1 a week.

Satan Rebuking Sin.

The exhibition of Satan rebuking sin which is the everyday spectacle of Parliament was shown in excelsis on the question of the pre-war prisoners' pensions increase proposed by the Government. This deals with pre-war pensions of sailors, soldiers, and civil servants, not exceeding £100 a year. Mr. William Graham, Financial Secretary to the Treasury said that the proposed increases were in accordance with agreements made by the previous government. Under the Act of 1920 increases were to be granted to pensioners living within the British Isles and subject to age and income limitations.

The Government was soundly attacked by both Liberals and Tories for meanness in being willing only to spend £300,000 on these pensioners and in following the lines already proposed by previous Governments. Mr. Graham agreed to abolish the residence restriction.

Trial by Jury.

A Bill introduced first into the Lords is supposed to restore the right of trial by jury as it was before the war. Nevertheless it gives the judge power to decide that a case is unfitted for trial by jury. The Attorney General, Sir Patrick Hastings, said he was prepared to leave that to a free vote of the House.

Sir Kingsley Wood (Con.) said "There appears to be a sort of detachment of the Attorney-General from the Bills he introduces."

That might well be said of all that the Government does. It is detached from everything, save the seals of office.

A War Office Eviction.

Mr. Arthur Oakley, an ex-soldier, with ten children occupying married Army quarters at Woolwich finished his term of 21 years' service at the end of last year. He has the medal of the Order of the British Empire, the 1914-15 Star, the General Service Medal, the Victory Medal and the good conduct Medal, and he is unemployed. He had a house at Woolwich, but lost it because he was sent by the Army to Colchester. On returning he lived in Army married quarters. The quarters are required for soldiers. Mr. Oakley is to be evicted. Mr. Stephen Walsh, the Labour Minister of War, said nothing can be done about it as the War Office has no alternative accommodation to offer. All that Mr. Walsh would promise was "there will be no departure from the usual forbearance that has been exhibited by the Crown."

Numbers of evictions have taken place in the past. Mr. Walsh said of this man "everyone is proud of him," but if he promised not to evict him, "everyone would have an equal right."

There could be no better example of the iniquity of the present system than this. The man risks his life for his employer, in this case the State. After twenty-one years he is no longer required; he is discharged from employment and turned out of his house.

Lessons for Proletarian Schools.

PROTOPLASM AND PROTEINS.

Protoplasm is living matter.

It was named by Hugo von Mohl.

Huxley called it the "physical basis of Life."

All living organisms are built up of protoplasm and its products.

Both plants and animals consist of protoplasm.

Protoplasm is believed to be a mixture of a fluid and a more solid jelly.

The proportions of the liquid and the jelly change from time to time. Cells which are at one time very solid are at other times very liquid.

For instance the protoplasm in the egg becomes more liquid after it has been fertilised.

Living protoplasm cannot be analysed. To attempt to analyse its compounds is to kill it immediately.

The analysis of dead protoplasm has shown that it contains **proteins**.

Proteins are mixed chemical substances.

They contain:

Carbon from 50 to 55 per cent.

Hydrogen from 6.5 to 7.3 per cent.

Nitrogen from 15 to 17.6 per cent.

Oxygen from 19 to 24 per cent.

Sulphur from 0.3 to 2.4 per cent.

Carbon is an elementary substance. That is to say it is not a mixture. Charcoal is an example of carbon.

Nitrogen is a gas forming nearly four-fifths of the air.

Oxygen is a gas without taste, colour or smell.

Proteins play an important part in building up protoplasm, and the building up of proteins is the most important factor in living matter.

Living matter always contains proteins.

The simpler kinds of proteins can be synthetically produced in the laboratory, but otherwise proteins are never derived from any matter which is not living.

Proteins are very complex and varied, but they all react in the same way to certain chemicals.

Proteins in food differ from those which are in living matter.

During digestion the proteins in food are broken up and re-constructed. Those parts which are not built up into the flesh are finally broken down into carbon dioxide, water, sulphuric acid, urea and other products which are thrown out (excreted) from the body.

Animals convert the protein of their vegetable food into the protein of their own bodies.

Plants build up proteins by combining the food taken up by the root with the carbon compounds formed by the leaves in sunlight.

The food taken up by the root is **nitrogenous**, that is to say it contains **nitrogen**.

Molecules are the minute particles of which matter is composed.

The molecules of the proteins are relatively large, probably the largest and most complex known.

The molecules consist of hundreds, or even thousands of atoms.

The atoms can be combined in various ways in the molecules. Thus there is a large scope for variety in the proteins.

The varied arrangement of the atoms, in the molecules, in the proteins, in the protoplasm helps to account for the difference be-

tween the various species of plants and animals.

The protoplasm of one species of plant or animal differs from the protoplasm in all others.

Other elements than those found in proteins are found in the bodies of plants and animals. Chlorine, phosphorus, potassium, sodium magnesium, calcium and iron are all taken in with food and water.

An example of simple protoplasm that can be seen with the naked eye is the small fungus called *Myxomycete*, which can be seen on rotten dead wood in damp forests. It is several inches in diameter.

More common still is the little organism, of one cell, called *Amoeba*. It is found in both salt and fresh water and in the soil. The *Amoeba* averages from 100 to 250 thousandths parts of a millimeter in diameter. It is necessary to examine it under a microscope.

Its outline is irregular and constantly changing. It constantly puts out and withdraws lobes which are called **pseudopodia**.

It slowly crawls towards any small organism which it can use as food, and thrusts out two lobes clasping them like arms around it till the tips meet. So it engulfs the food particle. Digestive fluids pass from the *Amoeba* into the cavity in which is the food particle. This fluid is at first acid, afterwards alkaline, just as the juices of our own stomach are acid and those of our intestines alkaline. The *Amoeba* you see has only one digestive organ but it also carries on a dual process of digestion, nevertheless.

Embedded near the centre of the *Amoeba* is a **nucleus** which controls both the building up the food into the protoplasm and the reproduction of the race.

The process of reproduction is very simple. First the nucleus divides then the adjacent protoplasm develops a waist which grows smaller and smaller till it breaks into two and there are two *Amoebae* instead of one.

If the *Amoeba* be cut in two artificially, and one part is left without the nucleus, both parts behave for a time quite normally. The part that has the nucleus may live as long and eventually reproduce itself as though the division had come about in the natural course. The part that is left without a nucleus cannot reproduce. Moreover, though it may take in food, it cannot digest it, and will die in about the same length of time as a normal *Amoeba* with a nucleus which has been deprived of food.

The *Amoeba* has also a relatively large cavity which from time to time contracts and squirts a liquid out of the body. This organ is for getting rid of the waste products and serves as the kidney of the *Amoeba*. This little organ of the *Amoeba* is referred to as a **contractile vacuole**. **Contractile** means having the power to contract. A **vacuole** is a very small cavity in the tissues of an organism.

If the contents of the contractile vacuole are stirred up with the surrounding protoplasm the waste products will cause the rapid break-up of the organism.

The *Amoeba* respire: that is to say it takes in oxygen and gives out carbon dioxide, which leaves it by the general surface of the body.

(To be Continued.)

THE ORATION OF SPARTACUS TO THE GLADIATORS.

The revolt led by Spartacus in 74 A.D. was

the greatest of the many slave revolts against the Roman Empire. Spartacus and his fellow rebels fought twelve great battles against the Romans, and were finally surrounded in the mountains of Northern Italy and defeated. The Romans crucified 30,000 of the rebels and hung their bodies along the great Italian highway, the Appian Way, as a warning to future rebels.

Ye call me chief, and ye do well to call him chief that for twelve long years has met upon the sands of the arena every shape of man or beast that the broad empire of Rome could furnish and who never yet lowered his arm.

If there be any among you that can say that ever in public fight or private brawl my actions did belie my tongue, let him stand forth and say it; if there be three in all your company dare face me on the bloody sand, let them come on.

And yet, I was not always thus, a hired butcher and a savage chief of still more savage men.

My ancestors came from old Sparta and settled among the vine-clad rocks and citron groves of Syracella; my early life ran quiet as the brooks by which I sported, and when at noon I gathered the sheep beneath the shade and played upon the shepherd's lute there was a friend the son of a neighbour to join me in the pastime; we led our flocks to the same pasture and partook together our rustic meal.

One evening after the sheep were folded and we were all seated together beneath the myrtle which shaded our cottage, my grand-sire, an old man, was telling of Marathon and Leuctra, and how in ancient times a little band of Spartans had in a defile of the mountains withstood a whole army.

I did not know then what war was, and my cheeks burned, I know not why, and I clasped the knees of that venerable man, until my mother, parting the hair from off my forehead, kissed my throbbing temples and bade me go to rest and think no more of those old tales and savage wars.

That very night, the Romans landed on our coasts, and I saw the breast that had nourished me trampled by the hoof of the war horse; the bleeding body of my father flung amidst the blazing rafters of our dwelling. And to-day, I killed a man in the arena, and lo when I broke his helmet clasps, behold he was my friend. He knew me, smiled faintly, gasped and died. The same sweet smile upon his lips, that I had marked, when in adventurous boyhood, we sealed together the lofty cliffs to pluck the first ripe grapes and bear them home in childish triumph.

I told the Praetor that the dead man had been my friend, generous and brave, and I begged that I might bear away the body and burn it upon a funeral pyre. Aye, upon my knees, amid the blood and dust of the arena I begged that poor boon, while all the assembled maids and matrons, and the holy vestals they call virgins, and the rabble, shouted in derision, thinking it rare sport, forsooth, to see Rome's fiercest gladiator tremble and turn pale at sight of that piece of bleeding clay.

And the Praetor drew back, as if I were pollution, and sternly said, "let the carrion rot, there are no noblemen but Romans."

And so, fellow-gladiators, must you and so must I, die like dogs.

O Rome, Rome thou hast been a tender nurse to me; thou hast given to this poor timid shepherd lad muscles of iron and a heart of flint; thou hast taught him to drive the sword through plated mail, and links of rugged brass, and warm it in the marrow of his foes; to gaze into the glaring eyeballs of the

fierce Numidian lion even as a girl into the face of a laughing boy; but he shall pay thee back, until the yellow Tiber is red as frothing wine and in its deepest ooze thy lifeblood lies curdled.

Ye stand here like giants, as ye are; the strength of brass is in your toughened sinews; but to-morrow, some Roman Adonis, breathing sweet perfume from his curly locks, shall with his lily fingers pat your red blood and bet his money upon your head.

Hark, hear ye yon lion roaring in his den; 'tis three days since he has tasted flesh, but to-morrow he shall break his fast upon yours, and a dainty meal for him ye will be.

If ye are beasts then stand like fat oxen waiting for the butcher's knife; if ye are men, follow me, strike down yon guard, gain the mountain's passes and then do bloody work as did your sires at old Thermoplae; is Sparta dead? Is the old Grecian spirit frozen in your veins that ye do crouch and cower like a belaboured hound beneath his master's lash?

O Comrades, Warriors, Thracians, if we must fight, let us fight for ourselves; if we must slaughter, let us slaughter our oppressors; and, if we must die, let it be under the clear sky, by the bright waters, in noble, honourable battle.

THE DUBLIN GAS STRIKE.

To the Editor of the Workers' Dreadnought.

Dear Comrade,—A development of the greatest importance lies behind what the "Irish Independent" calls the internal squabbles of the Dublin gas strikers, i.e., the actual beginning of the breakaway of the revolutionary rank and file of the Irish One Big Union from their Executive.

The Irish Transport and General Workers' Union was originally a union with a revolutionary aim, fighting methods and democratic rules. Through a process which need not concern this letter, the union fell into the hands of a number of cunning rogues, orthodox Labour misleaders, after the holocaust of 1916. This junta remodelled the rules of the Union, recruited members in great numbers, and proceeded to entrench themselves as the officials of the I.T.G.W.U. They played a very deep and evil part in the reaction associated with the "Treaty" happenings of 1921-23, and are to-day the personnel of the Labour Party in the Free State.

A struggle between the rank and file on the one hand, and the master class, aided by the Government and the Union officials, has been proceeding with accelerated vigour during the last two years. The name of the Secretary, Larkin, was used to bolster up the E.C., whilst Jim was in jail in the U.S.A. After his return, Larkin immediately sided with the sections who were in favour of resistance to Capitalism, and the old objective and rules, and he broke with the Executive. The latter, following on their recent law case against Larkin, have "expelled" him from his post.

Meanwhile all over the country sections of the official and "unofficial" union have formed. The E.C. has invoked the aid of the law against local secretaries and others who have refused to surrender money or books to the official tools of capitalism, and some of the rebels have actually been jailed through the E.C.'s litigation.

Now in Dublin the Gas Workers have struck against their conditions, and in support of a worker who was sacked because he refused to leave the Union when promoted to supervisory-rank. The officials are trying to break

this most justifiable strike. The Government having appointed a Commission of Inquiry the men, ignoring the parasitic E.C., named Larkin as their advocate and adviser. Whereupon the Government has refused to receive Larkin or to acknowledge the Strike Committee.

The men have met, and by a 10 to 1 vote, have decided to stand firm, and to negotiate only through Larkin.

But they have done something further. They have called upon every Dublin member of the Union to cease paying dues to the Head Office, to send the money to the Strike Committee, and to demand the resignation of the whole E.C. A big feeling exists in favour of a reorganisation of the Union on lines retaining control in the hands of the delegates from the jobs, i.e., in favour of the old system and a split away from the E.C. and the few who support the reactionary trend.

Although Liberty Hall is the legally awarded property of the E.C., vide Judge O'Connor, the Hall is not used by the officials and is the headquarters of the strikers.

There is now a great opportunity for the Dublin men to link up with those of Sligo, Roserea, and elsewhere who have been officially "expelled" from membership by the Executive, or who are at variance with those who hope to rule by Court Injunction. If the movement bases itself on the rank and file committees from each farm, factory or collection of small jobs, and if it shall declare for control from the bottom, with the Workers Republic as its desideratum, a position of limitless potentialities will have been reached.

It is far better that the numerous rebels within the Union should, in effect, discharge the O'Brien—Foran Tammany gang, than that through fear of being dubbed disruptionists, they should worship a constitution, the only moral justification of which is an order of an Imperial Boss Class Slave State, Law Court. Nobody would accuse a surgeon of dismembering or mutilating a body because he cut out a putrid growth which had been sapping the energy, and poisoning the whole system.

The attitude of the Dublin Gas Strikers is a welcome change from the equally earnest English dockers and shipyardmen, who have remained under the thumb of the little old men of the sea for fear of "splitting" the unions. The sorry policy of the Communist Party of Great Britain, the policy of the "united front," and "boring from within," is evidently not holding back the 600 gas strikers in Dublin, who seem to be the lever by which the whole course of Irish history may be shifted for the better.

Yours fraternally,

W. M. A. ROBINSON.

THE BLIND BILL.

The Blind Bill to give old age pensions to blind persons aged 30, and to compel local authorities to open workshops for the blind, in which they are to be paid at least as much as the unskilled labourer's rate of the district, passed the Second Reading without a division.

The Bill is not likely to become law in its present form. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health, expressed sympathy, but could not say whether the Government would grant the facilities necessary to enable the Bill to reach the Statute book.

A deputation from the blind went home believing that the Government will introduce a Bill assuring to all blind adults £1 a week.

Less confident than the deputation that the Government will do it, we should welcome this small relief for an unfortunate class.

In the coming day of Communism and plenty for all neither the blind nor the other afflicted will experience want. Society will delight to lavish its best upon them.

SPICE.

At the Second Court.

Mrs. J. H. Thomas, wife of the Colonial Secretary, wore turquoise and gold brocade mounted over gold tissue, embroidered with turquoise-dyed pearls.—"Daily Telegraph."



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Our View continued from page 4

card trade unionism for the workshop councils.

Human hearts are beating under the uniform in blue, and human brains are working within the helmets, but we need not be surprised if we find much backwardness and little enlightenment amongst the men who have taken service in defence of private property, which is the main business of the police force.

THOUGH LOOKING ELSEWHERE for the hope of fundamental social changes we recognise the Labour Majorities in the Toxeth and Kelvingrove elections as evidences that popular opinion is moving forward.

CAWNPORE COMMUNISTS is a hard trial and sad to contemplate. Let us hope their comrades will use the sentences as a propaganda lever to advance the cause for which the prisoners suffer.

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