

KNOWLEDGE MUST PRECEDE ALL INTELLIGENT ACTION

THE WORKER

ORGANISE

EDUCATE

THE ORGAN OF WORKERS' COMMITTEES SCOTLAND

THE REVOLUTIONARY JOURNAL WITH THE LARGEST CIRCULATION IN BRITAIN.

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PROLETARIAN HOLIDAYS.

The following official decree is reprinted from a Vladivostok newspaper, "Nabat," in which it appeared on March 23, 1920:

1. In every branch of labour one day a week is to be set aside as the day of rest.

2. This day is decided upon by the People's Commissariat of Labour in agreement with the Supreme Council of National Economy, and the All-Russian Council of Trade Unions.

3. The days of rest, as decided upon by the People's Commissariat of Labour, are made public in the *Izvestia* of the Central Executive Committee, and in the code of decrees and instructions of the Workers' and Peasants' Government.

4. The workers of the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic must observe the set days of rest. This excludes establishments mentioned in the 6th article of these regulations. The local Branches of Labour, in agreement with the local Soviets of Trade Unions, may set various days of rest for various regions and establishments or groups thereof, in accordance with local conditions and the composition of the population.

5. When setting the day of rest for the workers of enterprises and establishments, the workers of each branch of commerce are divided into groups and each group is to observe a different day of rest which does not coincide with that of any other group.

6. In establishments, the activity of which is continuous, the work may be carried on during the general days of rest, and instead of the general holidays, special days are set for each group of workers.

(Note.—The order in which the days of rest are taken by various groups is established by the institutions mentioned in Article 4 of these regulations.)

7. No work is to be done on the following holidays, dedicated to certain historic and social events—

- (a) January 1—New Year;
- (b) January 22—the 9th of January (old Russian calendar, 1905);
- (c) March 12—the overthrow of autocracy;
- (d) March 18—the day of the Paris Commune;
- (e) May 1—the day of the Internationale;
- (f) November 7—the day of the Proletarian Revolution.

8. The local Councils of Trade Unions, with the consent of the People's Commissariat of Labour, may set special days of rest (besides the above mentioned); but no more than ten per year and in accordance with the general days of rest, with the local conditions, and with the composition of the population. Such special days must be announced in advance for the information of the public at large, and they are not to be paid for.

For the All-Russian Central Executive Committee
J. SVERDLOV, Chairman.
V. AVANESSOV, Secy.

"A PARTY IS LIKE A SAUSAGE-MACHINE: IT GRINDS ALL THE HEADS TOGETHER IN ONE MASH; AND THAT'S WHY THERE ARE SO MANY BLOCKHEADS AND FATHEADS ALL SEETHING TOGETHER."

—HENRIK IBSEN.

The Yellow Ticket.



Plute—I suppose if I wish to visit Russia there will be no er-trouble about a passport, Mr Lenin?

Lenin—Certainly not. I've just discovered where the Tsar kept his yellow tickets.

Workshop Committees and the Shop Steward Movement

From the murky industrial depths a grimy fist breaks through the ballroom floor. It is the threat of the masses backed by toil-hardened muscles and directed by brains developed in the modern machine process. It is the rising workshop movement.

The social dancers recoil with fear. Then to shut the scene from mind they dance more madly than before. But it is the dance of death. The useless must go. Only the useful are to remain.

Beneath the surface a menace to the masters has long been gathering. Above it the world of labour has moved along with apparently no sign of change from the ordinary routine. Suddenly, like a flash from a clear sky, comes forth the new action and a new vocabulary to describe it. So it was when Direct Action winged its way across the economic world. So it was with the General Strike. So also with Soviet idea. So it is with the Shop Steward system.

Conceived from the bitterness of past betrayals and defeat, born of the brutal necessities of the present, the workshop movement reaches into the future to hold for Labour the most democratic of all ideals—industrial self-government.

The Shop Steward System is not an attempt to impose a theory upon the Labour movement. It is rooted firmly in conditions existing in large-scale industry. Having only a nominal existence prior to the European War, it has since thrived wherever dilution of skilled labour has occurred by the introduction of unskilled or semi-skilled workers. Machinery made it possible. The subdivision of the productive process and the disappearance pushed it forward. It is here in response to a need for definite economic expression on the part of men forced together in clearly defined groups by the requirements of their part of production.

In the workshop movement is found both the spirit of revolt and the spirit of conquest. It is as much a revolution against the reactionary and despotic machine rule of the "recognised heads"

of the unions as it is against the workings of the wage system itself. For that reason it disturbs the placid minds of the per capita absorbers who look upon the unions as their private property and the labour power of the workers as goods to be sold under contract, and strikes a blow at the serenity of the autocrats who hold legal titles to the industries and are possessed with a naive belief that they are rulers by divine right.

The workshop affords a natural unit which is a direct stimulus to self-assertion. Organisation on the basis of the shop or job group gives the workers strength and ability to manage their own affairs and to carry out the will of the majority in a more democratic manner than is possible by delegating power to any set of men who are divorced from the productive process. The future of labour does not depend upon national leaders, but upon local and workshop leaders, the intelligent minority among the rank and file.

To all intents and purposes the officials of the international unions are members of the capitalist class. In a lesser degree, but with the same bourgeois aspirations, the district and State officials are separated from the rank and file by a social chasm. Even the higher officials of the local movements are not immune. This is due as much to the faulty structure of the unions as to the personal failings of the officials.

The union officials are removed from the atmosphere of workshop life. He is enmeshed with the red tape routine of office work. He becomes an efficient clerk, with all the timidity and respectability that is the hall-mark of the clerk. His fighting powers are weakened, and the change of environment continues to weaken them still further as time goes on. He rarely goes back to the bench. In place of returning to the workshop at the end of a term in office he goes forward as far as he can go officially in the labour movement and graduates either as a politician or a member of the lower middle class. The salvation of Labour does not lie in the direction taken by the professional officials.

Amid his office surroundings the tumult of the

industrial battlefield seems a trifle distant and unreal to the union official. He deplores an aggressive attitude on the part of the workers toward the employers. Diplomacy—secret diplomacy—becomes his stock in trade. He mingles with other officials who form an intermediate class between the workers and their employers. Neutrality soon becomes an obsession with him. As a consumer who does not produce he judges disputes by their effect on prices. The next step is to adopt the "public" point of view and to tell the members that their interests are subordinated to the interests of the "community."

Attaining a position of comparative security and comfort under Capitalism, the union official acquires a middle class morality and with all the cowardice of that class he clings pathetically to his job rather than to run the slightest risk leading the workers in their struggles. He becomes a reactionary. In times of crises he is more capitalist in outlook than the capitalists themselves. A labour movement so constructed that it removes from a working class environment those whom it chooses as leaders, and managed that its destinies are placed in the hands of men entirely out of touch with production, is actually raising barriers to the emancipation of the workers.

This state of things can be remedied by organising on the basis of the workshop, the smallest socially productive unit of industrial life, thereby making the organisation responsible and responsive to the rank and file. The movement must proceed from the bottom upward. Its credentials must come from Labour direct.

When the rank and file of all trades and occupations get together a class outlook is created. Industrial solidarity is generated. The official organisations must respond to this upward thrust to the left or make way for the unofficial organisation of shop stewards and shop committees.

Doyle—How're ye gettin' on, Rafferty?
Policeman Rafferty—Bad. I ain't made anything for a couple o' weeks but me wages.

Jim Larkin.

(To the Editor of the "Worker.")

Dear Sir,—The agitation initiated a few short weeks ago calling for the release of Jim Larkin, the universally recognised leader of Irish Labour, has swept throughout Ireland. Resolutions of protest by the score are pouring in from all parts of the country to the offices of the Larkin Release Committee, 10 Languske Place, Dublin. Strong protests have been made by the following public boards:—Corporations—Dublin, Kilkenny, Sligo, Drogheda. County Councils—Kildare and Westmeath. Urban Councils—Athlone, Bray (Co. Wicklow), Kavan (Co. Meath), Kilkenny (Co. Kerry), Middleton and Killow (Co. Cork), Carlow, etc. Town Commissioners, Trades Councils, Trades Unions, and Labour bodies throughout Ireland have sent in strong protests.

Nor is the movement for Larkin's release confined to Ireland alone. Several L.L.P. branches throughout England have interested themselves in the matter. It is hoped that the remaining men will show up in this fight. An injury to one of the world's workers should be the concern of all the others, unless indeed our professions of loyalty to one another are like the utterances of the politician "who had to say something always when he got on a platform, but of course I did not mean it that way." One feels forced to the view that there is a little too much of that in the Labour world of to-day. Not so was it with Jim Larkin. He said what he meant and did what he said, and so lies in a convict cell in Sing Sing to-day. Strange it is that efforts on behalf of the "bottom dog" leads one man to a prison cell and another to "afternoon tea on the Terrace."

Scotch Trade Unionists are bestirring themselves on behalf of Larkin. Promises of support

have been received from many Labour organisations in the Land o' Cakes.

In the capital city of Ireland the strength of the demand for his return will soon be demonstrated at the public meeting organised on Sunday, July 4, to be presided over by the Mayor of Wexford (Alderman Richard Corish), the only Labour Mayor elected on a clean Labour majority and an ardent Larkinite.

Larkin is not dead nor is his memory forgotten in the city by the Liffey. Those who imagine so can question the dockers, the coalheavers, the carters, and the casual workers along the Dublin quays.

Trusting you will publish the above in full in your next issue,—I am, yours fraternally,

DELIA LARKIN.

Copy of Resolution unanimously adopted by the Kilrush (County Clare) Branch of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union:—

"That we, the members of the Kilrush Branch I.T. and G.W.U., enter our protest against the bogus trial and unjust sentence imposed upon James Larkin in the boasted land of Freedom, on the grounds that the charge against accused was both false and malicious. The following facts prove this:

(1) That at the trial of the accused no effort was made to sift the evidence to prove if the accused advocated the methods alleged in the charge;

(2) That terrorism was used by the police at the trial, thereby preventing impartial evidence being produced to refute the charge of "Criminal Anarchy";

(3) That the Court was forced to be prejudiced on the cause owing to the fact that its members were dependent upon the prosecution for their

positions, and therefore was compelled, "not volens," to find a verdict for their employers."

(5) That the accused was prevented without any proved cause from using the rights of a free citizen in returning to his own country;

(6) That the Government who were the cause of depriving him of his liberty were the parties who aided and abetted the capitalistic controlled Court to impose the unjust sentences upon the accused.

We therefore call upon all sections of American workers to take steps to demand the immediate release of James Larkin and any of his fellow workers who are at present lying in American bastilles, and to refuse to vote for any Candidate who is seeking election unless he shall pledge himself to demand the release of James Larkin and his fellow workers.

We further request the Internationale to take the necessary steps to (a) Gain the immediate release of those men, and (b) To take such steps as shall be the means of ensuring the fair and impartial Courts shall be set up to try any charges alleged against Workers.

(Copy of Resolution forwarded to the American Consul, 15 Lower O'Connell Street, Dublin)

CROMWELL'S OPINION OF FORCE.

An opinionated dissenting minister had the impudence to tell Cromwell that it was both unlawful and impracticable for one man to assume the government of the country. "Why is it impracticable?" said Cromwell. "Because the voice of the nation opposes it," said the minister. "There will be nine in ten against you." "Very well," rejoined Cromwell; "but what if I should disarm the nine and put the sword into the tenth man's hand, would that not do the business?"

INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

By E. R. V.

Warlike Peace.

When the future histoiran is disentangling the web of confusion that surrounds the present turmoil, he will no doubt be astounded at the apathetic attitude of the victorious proletariat of the Western European States.

This proletariat went forth and was shot to rays by the million to defend a choice capitalist selection of such high virtues as right, justice, self-determination, etc.

It fought a war to end war; ten thousand capitalist papers told it so. The result is a chronic state of spasmodic war throughout the bulk of Europe and Asia.

In Siberia the Japanese continue to land more and more troops. Japan is proceeding to carve out its own "sphere of influence" from off the body of fallen Russia, and is making use of every czarist bandit for the purpose.

In Russia the Poles and General Wrangel, with the support of huge quantities of British and French and aeroplanes, tanks, guns, munitions and equipment are once more at the throat of the Soviet Republic, in spite of the "signs of grace" and amity towards Russia which puerile Labour leaders professed to see from time to time in the utterances of Lloyd George & Co.

In Syria and Palestine the Allies have dropped all pretence of self-determination. These lands, with their populations are pawns in the game of capitalist diplomacy, and peoples concerned are banding together to fight both British and French would-be masters.

GERMANY.

Democracy and Dope.

They have just been keeping the restless starving workers going in Germany by giving them another beautiful General Election, accompanied by all kinds of ingenious democratic improvements to the franchise, which is nof reckoned to be the finest franchise in the world (of Capitalism).

All this kind of electoral dops is of course designed for the chloroforming of the rising proletariat, desperate in its misery. It did not need the elections to show that the oil-and-water Government was breaking up, while reaction and revolution were consolidating their forces.

While the dope of the election is still in the heads of millions of Heinrich Dubbs, Capitalism is preparing the big stick.

At Wittenburg there is a munition factory. This factory is working at high pressure turning out—hand grenades. You know how useful these little handfuls of sudden death are in street fighting. The workmen—chosen men, no doubt—are working piece-work and earning big money.

And the French Supervision Commission sits quiet and says nothing. Why not? All these grenades are for the White Guards for use against the workers.

And you can lay long odds that the Wittenburg Munition Factory is not the only factory that is working full time and at high pressure for the counter-revolution.

SPAIN.

Madrid General Strike.

The price of the Spanish "peseta" is very high in the world's currency to-day. The Capitalist press states that Spain has done good business out of the war.

Of course, you know who they mean by "Spain." It isn't Enrique Dubbio. Those who happen to have read in these columns something of the happenings in Spain during the lase few months will be clear on that point.

In spite of the periodical attempted repression and dissolution of the Trade Unions, there is still quite a crop of serious strikes running to-day throughout Spain. I have already described those in Catalonia.

In the capital, Madrid, there is a general strike in force. The railway stations are held by that useful adjunct to Capitalism (which modestly retreats into the background during that period so beloved by Labour leaders—election time), the military.

There is no street traffic, no trams. All works, shops, and cafes are closed.

All powers are vested in the hands of the military Commander.

The Ministry is occupied by the military forces. While Cabinet Ministers declare war, they never fight, but their lives are precious.

And the whole trouble is that the people are hungry. Crowds of women and children gather in the streets crying "tenemos hambre" (or we are starving). On one occasion, the armed police fired into the crowd, killing two children and three women.

Anyhow, Spanish Capitalism did well out of the war.

HUNGARY.

International T.U. Federation and Hungarian White Terrors.

While British Labour leaders, presumably at the desire of their Capitalist colleagues, are using every effort to resist the pressure among the workers for direct action on other questions than wages and hours, the International Federation of Trade Unions, to which the British Federation belongs, have at long last declared a blockade of the black reactionaries placed in power—for certain considerations—by Allied Capitalist Governments in Hungary.

During the first two days travelling by river and railway was allowed, but owing to black-legging and smubbling the International Federation has ordered a complete cessation of all navigation and rail transport.

Hiawatha's Ingenuity.

NOT BY LONGFELLOW.

Slew he then the Mudjokives;
With the skin he made him mittens,
Made them with the fur side inside,
Made them with the skin side outside,
He to get the warm side inside,
Put the inside skin side outside,
He to get the cold side outside,
Put the warm side fur side inside,
That's why he put the fur side inside,
Why he put the skin side outside,
Why he turned them inside outside;
Gave them then to Laughing Water,
To the arrow maker's daughter,
Caught her in his arms to press her—
Kindly send a sub to Messer,
The paper famine's just as bad
As the famine Hiawatha had.

In a series of documents addressed to the French General Confederation of Unions, the International Federation gives the reasons for the blockade, and details inter alia the following instances of the White Terror in Hungary:—

At Szekszard Geza Deak, an old man of 65 years, together with his son and son-in-law, were made prisoners by the Janovitch detachment. All three were hanged without trial. The daughter of Deak was forced to witness the execution of her father, brother, and husband.

Bestial Tortures.

In the same locality Imze Engel was executed in the following manner: He was disembowelled, his intestines filled with salt, and was then left to die "in peace."

At Kecskemet over two hundred persons were massacred by a band of officers. Dakonyi Antal and 35 other persons, whose names are known by the International Federation, were dragged from jail and assassinated after unmentionable tortures.

Other persons were loaded with stones and forced to jump into the Theiss.

Josef Dundek, a leader of the metallurgical workers, was imprisoned and transferred to Salgatyin, where he was ill-treated dally with blows from rifle butts. Captain Reich then forced him under threat of death to commit obscenities in the presence of officers.

The wife of this unhappy man went down on her knees to the captain and begged him to release her husband, the father of five children. This gallant captain had Dundek brought out of

his cell, bound him, and then violated his wife in the presence of her husband. This case was brought before Colonel Cherdon, member of the French Mission at Budapest.

At Siefok Captain Freissberger one night killed 42 prisoners. Several of the corpses were cut into pieces, roasted, and the other prisoners forced to eat the flesh of their comrades.

There are many other instances of the Capitalist White Terror too horrible to mention. These are not the charges of such scum as Socialists or Communists, but of the highly respectable and conservative International Federation of Trade Unions, to which all those sane Trade Union national organisations which supported their respective Capitalist Governments (Allied and enemy alike) during the war.

And Sir George Clerk says Admiral Horthy is "a gentleman."

ITALY.

Ancora Sangue.

Readers of these columns will be well aware of the fact that for some time past there has been a social and economic crisis throughout Italy, which is steadily growing worse. Only the disinclination of the Italian Socialist Party in collaboration with the Camera dal Lavoro to organise and direct the spontaneous risings of the proletariat, such as took place at Naples, Turin, and in the neighbourhood of Genoa, has allowed this crisis to drag on so long.

The crisis is not only political, it is social and economic. Strikes break out by hundreds in Piedmont, Emilia, Liguria, and in the Naples region seamen refuse to transport reinforcements to Albania. The idea of class war has taken root to such an extent that it permeates all organisms and governs all acts, and one is forced to the conclusion that the present social mechanism is fundamentally shattered.

The phenomena of a "spontaneous anarchy," that is of revolt, automatic and not concerted, which are daily signalled in the press, clearly indicate the helplessness of the bourgeois governmental machine.

At Bari a crowd of people demonstrating against the high cost of living came into collision with the military. The military pumped the usual quota of lead into the defenceless crowd. There were many wounded, one woman gravely. As a protest against the military aggression a general strike has been called. The town and district has now been placed under military control and a state of seige declared.

At Trento (one of the districts "liberated" from Austria) the proletariat is learning that the Capitalist is the same beast whatever flag he flies. A hunger demonstration was handled by the military in the usual way, and resulted in two dead and many wounded—all workers of course. A general strike has been declared in the district.

At Puglia there is a general strike, and the landworkers are solid with the proletariat.

At Terlizzi the peasants armed themselves and invaded the premises of the Agrarian Association. Firing took place from both sides, and these were several wounded. The strike continues.

At Bergamo the strikers stormed a large factory, turned out the directors, and flew the red flag from the building. (N.B.—The flying of the red flag is not nearly so serious a sacrilege in Italy as it is in Australia. There is nothing quite like Hughes in Italy.)

FRANCE.

Black Troops Mutiny.

That decadent unbalanced French Militarism, which is at present enjoying a swaggering time throughout Europe, looks like having its own troubles. Not once but many times French sailors and poilus have mutinied, and public opinion wouldn't allow us to shoot the dogs, Sapristi! The black African troops seemed to be much more docile, but now this black cannon fodder has actually had the audacity to mutiny at Marseilles, demanding demobilisation, and refusing to embark for Syria (where the poor Arabs and Jews need protecting). Mon dieu!

Miss Nurich—Ma, what is a vulgar fraction?

Mrs Nurich (who married for money)—Your father, my love.



JULY 3, 1920.

All communications to be sent to the Editor, National Council's Offices, 31 North Frederick Street, Glasgow, and must reach this office not later than Monday. Advertisements are received up till Tuesday morning.

Communications must bear name and address of sender, not necessarily for publication.

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HOW LIES ARE MADE.

When O'Grady met Litvinov at Copenhagen he reproached the latter with some atrocities alleged to have been committed in a certain town. Having heard nothing about these atrocities Litvinov asked O'Grady for his source of information, whereupon he was shown a copy of the "Izvestia" (Bolshevik official organ) in which the atrocities were described in black and white. Naturally, Litvinov was astounded, the more so as at the time when the atrocities were supposed to have been committed he was in that very district, and yet had heard nothing of them. He then made further enquiries on the subject in Moscow, and sought and found among his materials the number of the "Izvestia" in question—but no mention of the atrocities could be found in it. The solution was found by comparing his own with O'Grady's copy of the "Izvestia," and it was found that O'Grady's copy was one published by General Denikin. Leading articles, whole pages, were simply reprinted from the real "Izvestia," and the name, appearance, and whole form of paper was almost a facsimile of the Bolshevik paper. At the same time various items purporting to be ordinary news damaging to the Bolsheviks were smuggled in—the whole being passed off abroad as the Bolshevik "Izvestia"! Clever. What?—"Volksrecht," Zurich, Switzerland.

MRS BAMBERGER AND THE "WORKER."

Mrs Bamberger is to be tried shortly. Her crime is described as perjury. She is alleged to have told a few whopping fibs last time she was before the beak. Maybe that very beak had money invested in one of the Capitalist newspapers. We don't know nor care. But we do know what rotten liars the newspapers are. Upton Sinclair's tremendous exposure, "The Brass Cheek," has been followed by Walter Lippman's essays on "Liberty and the News."

In this little work are entertaining criticisms of the kept press. Here is an extract from the book:—

"If I lie in a lawsuit involving the fate of my neighbour's cow, I can go to jail. But if I lie to a million readers in a matter involving war and peace, I can lie my head off and, if I choose the right series of lies, be entirely irresponsible. Nobody will punish me if I lie about Japan for example. I can announce that every Japanese valet is a reservist and every Japanese art store a mobilisation centre. I am immune. And if there should be hostilities with Japan, the more I lied the more popular I should be. If I asserted that Japanese secretly drank the blood of children, that Japanese women were unchaste, that the Japanese were really not a branch of the human race after all, I guarantee that most of the newspapers would print it eagerly and that I could get a hearing in churches all over the country.

In a state of society such as this, where a Mrs Bamberger gets goaled and a Harmsworth gets a lordship, how necessary it is to gather some cash for the "Worker." Have a look at our first paragraph, then, while the sweat's on your brow, dive into your pants.

CIGARETTE PAPERS

By THE EDITOR.

I am aware that many object to the severity of my language, the coarseness of my invective, and the precipitancy of my measures, but is there not cause for severity? I will be as harsh as truth, and as uncompromising as justice.—William Lloyd Garrison.

Jesus versus Christianity.

We have had occasion once or twice in these columns to make unflattering remarks about Labour leaders, politicians, musical comedians, agents provocateurs, soldiers, policemen, black-legs, and priests.

"Everything in the garden is lovely"—until we dare to use our impious pen against the priest. Every time we have mentioned "his reverence" without the servile respect which is supposed to be due to him, a batch of letters complaining about our "attack" has been received. Last week was no exception.

We quoted from the "Statist" a paragraph, which, we said, backed up our assertion that priests (including ministers, clergymen, parsons, local preachers, Boothites, and missionaries) are servants of Capitalism, and who help to keep the people contented under their plundering and exploiting rulers.

Our critics evidently imagine that in going after the scalp of a charlatan priest we are "attacking religion." This is a stupid error. We don't attack "religion." Religion is no concern of ours. We shall continue to scarify anti-socialist utterances, however, whether they are mouthed by an atheist or a priest.

* * *

The Christian War.

Certainly we sometimes indulge in a sneer at Christianity, but who suggests that Christianity is "religion"?

Jesus wasn't a "Christian"; he was, like ourselves, a Communist.

Christianity is precisely what old George Coleman described it as—

"International Imperial Capitalism is Christianity in practice. It is not alone in the countries under the British flag that this system operates to exploit; it operates in China, in Brazil, in Chile, in the nitrate fields under the ownership of the nitrate trust. In fact all over the world British Capitalism has its agents gathering in revenue for the economic drones of England."

He might have added Mohammedan India, Egypt, and Persia, and the hundred and one "pagan" states and islands which have been colored by priestly missionaries first, then "annexed" by their masters, the murderous imperialists.

Hasn't Christianity always found justification for the treachery, truculence, rapacity, and oppression of the imperialistic class? Didn't Father Vaughan recruit for the great kill from the top of a tank? Didn't the Bishop of Norwich say: "We and our Allies believe that we are fighting to maintain the cause of Christ."

Fighting, i.e., slaying for Capitalism, which is "Christ," i.e., Christianity (which is not the gospel of Jesus).

Then along came the Chaplain of the House of Commons, Archdeacon Wilberforce, and said: "The killing of Germans is a divine service."

While they were busy in Christian England, their "brothers in Christ" over in Germany were practising the same kind of "Christianity." Pastor Schletter is reported to have said, "Bayonetting the enemy is serving God." Pastor Dorruss declared that the war was—for Germany—"a war for truth and right, for humanity and morality; a war for Christianity itself."

And, reader, we believe that it WAS a "war for Christianity itself"—Imperialism.

* * *

Bigotry and Bias.

There is nothing godly about a priest or a minister except his name. We decline to let him off with his blackguardism merely because he wears ridiculous collars, waistcoats, and hats. Bigotry is a human infirmity, and leads folk into making asses of themselves. If one is not con-

tinually throwing bouquets at the Jew and telling him he is the salt of the earth, he looks upon one as an "anti-semitic." If one dares to denounce the impostures of a priest or poke fun at his imbecilities, one is "anti-religious." Pah!

When the Holy Alliance held its secret congress in Verona in 1822, the third article of their treaty read as follows:—"Convinced that the principles of religion (meaning Christianity) contribute most powerfully to keep nations in that state of passive obedience which they owe to their princes, the high contracting parties declare it their intention to sustain in their respective states those measures which the clergy may adopt with the aim of ameliorating their own interests which are so intimately connected with the preservation of the authority of princes."

Yes, read it over once or twice till you've got it—then you'll understand why every thieving, raping, murdering prince, king, landlord, and plutocrat has always sought justification for his villainy from the Church—AND GOT IT.

* * *

Two Kinds of Dope.

In 1905 in Russia the Greek Church was the State church and the Czar was the head of that church. If that church was not officially a Christian church, then what church is Christian? It was the State church, it was the church that blessed the crowning of the Czar and supported the divine right of the Czar to rule. On the morning known as Bloody Sunday there assembled on the public square before the palace of the Czar, faced on one side by the church, a large crowd of unarmed men, women, and children. They came to present to the Czar a petition asking for the redress of grievances and for the granting of certain franchises. Did the head of the church receive their petition? No. But when the square was crowded with the unarmed people, suddenly machine guns stationed on the roof and in the windows of the church opened fire upon them and a massacre was enacted. It was Sunday morning. The massacre was ordered by the head of the church. Whether the massacre was preceded by prayer and the blessing of the priest we cannot say, but it was the only thing lacking to constitute a religious ceremony.

And the Christians in this country denounce the Bolsheviks for disbelieving in the "church." Christianity is Imperialistic dope, worker, dope!

Ever heard of Sir Thomas Browning? He was the prize thug who, to force British opium on the Chinese, ordered the bombardment of the Taku forts, which slaughtered thousands of Chinese. He doped his own countrymen with another kind of dope, however; he wrote Christian hymns, one of which begins—

"In the cross of Christ I glory,

Towering o'er the wrecks of time."

It ought to be "towering o'er the wrecks of humanity."

* * *

A Gargantuan Liar.

A comrade in Cowdenbeath sends us a four-page tract called "The Monthly Visitor." It is to advertise the Cowdenbeath Baptist Church, and is pushed under the people's doors when nobody is looking. It talks, like the cabman to his horse, "an awful lot about God," but a more stupidly transparent accumulation of damned falsehood it has never been our lot to see. It drags in the "reign of terror" in Petrograd in order to terrify and stampede human molluscs into a state of mind felicitously called "God's peace of mind":—

"Hardly any one in Britain can understand what life under the Reign of Terror means. About ten thousand criminals—thieves, burglars, murderers of all descriptions—let loose—huge, swift-flying motors, and rifles, bayonets, revolvers

and hand grenades at their disposal—no police to shield one from their attacks—no law courts for punishing their crimes—and not even laws to stamp those crimes with the stamp of ignominy—who can imagine the anguish and the despair of those doomed to live in Petrograd under such circumstances? But worse still. At the beginning of 1918 we were horrified by reading the decree of the Bolshevik Government, calling on its mercenaries to kill on the spot everybody who looked to them as anti-revolutionary. Long, long lists of names of innocent victims, murdered in that way, appeared; yet how many more perished unnamed unnoticed, who can say? To increase the terror, now and then reports were spread about massacres going to take place in a few days, threatening with death the whole intellectual class. Nowhere safety could be found. One was in danger of loss of life in the street and in the house—in the day and in the night. Is it astonishing that hundreds went mad with fright, and an untold number, not able to stand the unspeakably harassing life, preferred death to it, and committed suicide?

But whilst men and women committed suicide and went mad with terror, those who turned to the great Prince of Peace received peace from Him like Gideon of old and His frightened disciples in Jerusalem; and not only peace, but **Christ's own Peace.**

Such a liar as this ought to be in a museum; but a worse lie remains. The anonymous Munchausen who concocted the above makes his invention worse by hinting, without definitely stating, that he was in Petrograd at the time. Read this:—

"The Bolshevik Government announced all over the country that the British and the French were its worst enemies, and ought to be exterminated—"wiped off the face of the earth"—therefore a massacre of the foreigners was anticipated. Night after night we expected 'the Reds' to break into our house. We prepared all for their coming, but they went quietly to sleep, the Peace of Christ—the "great Peace"—calming our nerves in such a way that sleep was possible and even easy."

So when the nasty Bolshies did come, what happened?

"After having looked round and walked about the rooms for some time, the whole band marched into the hall, and out of the house, without robbing any of us of anything, nor hurting me in any way. Thus whilst others were pillaged, tortured, murdered, we, through Divine protection, were kept in peace and safety for a whole year, till at last we were able to escape from that terrible country, and to return to Great Britain."

The last paragraph is a sheer barefaced pinch from the "Adventures of Robinson Crusoe."

If those Bolsheviks had only known what an elaborate and holy liar they had stumbled across, they might have committed another atrocity and suffocated him in his own vomit. It's a pity they didn't.

What Would Jesus Do?

We remember during the great revivalist boom some years ago a book tremendously popular in this country was called "In His Steps; or What would Jesus Do?" The author was the Yankee revivalist Sheldon. According to a Kansas newspaper, Mr. Sheldon was recently asked to "intervene" in the miners' strike. The report contains this tit-bit:—

"Mr. Sheldon approached the leader of the striking miners and asked him if he loved Jesus. The miners' president said, 'Yes.' "And do you love the governor of the State?" (who had sent troops against the strikers) asked Mr. Sheldon. "No," said the miners' president. "But Jesus teaches you to love your enemies," persisted Mr. Sheldon. "That's all right, parson," said the miners' representative, "you take that stuff to the governor and see if he'll swallow it and love me."

Let us pay our tribute to an honest religionist. Mr. Sheldon saw the point and refused to intervene further.

The Inane—and Inanity.

At Sydney, people paid £1 per minute for the hire of footstools upon which to get a view of the Prince of Wales. Not a few were told, but hundreds. When he visited the theatre to see a performance of "Kissing Time," he had to change his box in order "to let everyone in the theatre see him."

There was a poet once called Adam Lindsay Gordon, he lived in Australia—and committed suicide there.

In this country softening of the brain appears to be as prevalent as in Australia. Douglas Fairbanks had to rescue his little Mary from the brainless crowd of yahoos who turned up to welcome them, and who almost trampled Mary to death. And while a besotted populace all over the Empire riots in this kind of degradation, the manufacturers of it in Westminster continue to chuck money down the gutter the while they are squealing for hard work from the proletariat.

Lloyd George blandly encourages the expenditure of £35,000,000 (thirty-five millions) per year in "opening up that stinking, disease infested, corpse strewn desert called Mesopotamia. Winnie is clothing the Guards in pretty clothes. A useless Transport Ministry is carrying on in spite of exposure of its worthlessness, and so far from sacking the bureaucratic leeches, a new crowd is being created.

A Ministry of Mines is to be now established with the chief officer in receipt of £2,000 per year. And don't forget that twenty months after the conclusion of the war to end war, the Government is spending more per year on the army in Mesopotamia alone than was expended on the entire British army in every part of the world in 1913. Those figures are from Asquith's speech.

Increased Production.

Those two words are heavenly twins. They make their pathetic appeal to people of the same mental calibre as the mobbers of Mary Pickford, but to nobody with any self-respect. Workers! look at this, for last week only:—

"Two of the most interested witnesses of Prince Albert's initiation in the House of Lords as Duke of York, this afternoon, were the Queen and Princess Mary. Her Majesty wore a costume of glorious turquoise blue with a turban hat of the same hue. The Princess was in white with what, I believe, is known as a picture hat. A large number of Peeresses, most of whom were in the opposite gallery, also attended the ceremony.

The Prince, who was introduced by the Dukes of Connaught and Northumberland, the trio wearing their scarlet and ermine robes, went through formalities with supreme self-possession and deliberation.

Edinburgh is busy, for at the beginning of July the King and Queen, with their daughter, are going to visit Holyrood, and there will be entertaining at the Palace every night.

At the clubs—the Guards, Cavalry, Naval and Military, Sports, Bachelors, Wellington, Devonshire, and Badminton—the entertaining was wonderful, and at private houses in and out and around Ascot and Windsor, jolly little dinners and dances went on every night. The King and Queen had a dinner party each night, and a small dance on Friday.

The Queen, unlike most of us, is never bored, and takes a most unfeigned interest in whatever she happens to be doing."

She's "never bored," eh! We don't wonder. A damned hard day's washing once per week for a year, might bore her. Increased production, begod, let 'em get it, workers, by giving the parasites a job.

The Yellow Ticket.

Under the Tsarist regime no Jewess was permitted to stay in Petrograd unless she took out a "Yellow Ticket." This meant registration as a prostitute. A more damnable law was never enacted by Christian ghouls. This will assist, readers, who were unaware of it, to appreciate the point in clever Charles Boyle's cartoon.

Are You Game?

No matter what the nature of the strike or labour dispute, the press stands ready to crucify labour with its lies, distortions, omissions, slime and muck. Traitors to our cause are heralded broadcast as respectable, clever, safe and sane labour leaders, while those who remain loyal to us and serve us faithfully are branded as criminals or lunatics. The press as a matter of fact, with but a few exceptions is owned body and soul by the great money lords of the world. They are not newspapers, but capitalists' propaganda sheets, whose greatest crime is not only in falsifying and distorting the news and intimidating public officials, but in omissions or suppression of news. To many people the newspaper is a text book, and thus we see the great harm done by the prostitute press.

We have given many examples in these columns of press corruption and treachery, and shown time and again the necessity for a paper like the fighting "Worker." Are you game to do all you can to help keep us going until paper gets cheaper? Send something to the Maintenance Fund and keep your back up by backing us up.

WHERE DID HE GET IT?

"I believe that the most effective structure of representation is that which is built from the bottom up; which includes all employees, which starts from the election of representatives and the formation of joint committees in each industrial plant, proceeds to the formation of joint district councils and annual joint conferences in a single industrial corporation, and admits of extension to all corporations in the same industry, as well as to all industries in a community, in a nation, and in the various nations."—John D. Rockefeller, Jun.

An Allegory.

Once upon a time
A misanthropic bed bug
Administered a severe castigation
Upon
An inflated flea,
Because
(1) It didn't agree with that flea's politics,
(2) That flea had been setting up its old buck
To
A celebrated dragon-fly.

The flea
"Lay low and said
Nothing."
The dragon-fly
Never let on.
To be ignored is, very irritating
To certain bed bugs—
So this one
Tried a little nibble at
The dragon-fly,
Saying:—
"I declare to goodness
You're worse
Than that
Flea."

Up jumped the flea,
Its visage
Radiant with seraphic joy,
And lifting its snout
Heavenwards,
Ecstasically squealed—
"At last!
At last!
I have received
An unsolicited
Testimonial."
And the dragon-fly—
Chuckled!

J. S. C.

First Botanist—I tell you it's *Cytisus genista*.
Second Botanist—Nonsense! I tell you it's a *Papilionaceae*. (Appeals for confirmation to shopwoman) Tell us what these are, please.
Shopwoman (unhesitatingly)—Fourpence.

Workshop Notes.

ADDIEWELL OIL WORKERS.

The bosses in the oil trade have formed themselves into a huge trust by centralising the management and control into the hands of one central body. This trust is international in character, having interests in Persia, America, and in various concerns in this country. (For particulars of the ramifications of this huge combine see the "Worker" of June 12, 1920.) While you workers were away fighting for liberty and democracy for a bob a day the bosses were scheming and plotting to fleece you. (A glance at their dividends for the past few years proves that they managed pretty well.)

Well, you have "beaten the Huns," but the better life which was promised you has failed to materialise. The reason these promises have not been fulfilled is because the enemy of the oil-workers, and also of the workers in general, has not been killed. Your enemy is not your fellow-worker in Germany, Austria, Russia, or of any other country; it is the capitalist system under which you live to-day. As long as the capitalist system is allowed to remain, the conditions of the workers must necessarily become worse. The present combine in the oil trade is only a phase in the evolution of the capitalist system; the pooling of interests of the bosses in order to cut out waste, unnecessary labour, and also to fight you more successfully. The present system being a profit-making system, and as profits can only be made by robbing the workers of the fruits of their labour, and as the capitalist system can only live by the increased exploitation of labour, it follows that as long as the capitalist system remains, more and more men must be thrown out of employment.

This has been the case in the oilfield since the formation of the oil trust. An attempt was made at Addiewell last week to cut down the working staff in the retort department. The bosses were expecting the workers to take it lying down, but the Addiewell men were not having any. They showed fight, and with the assistance of the men at Uphall and Niddrie they were successful in delaying the proposal until a future date. But the fight is only beginning. Don't be led astray by your "leaders" when they try to make you believe that you cannot fight the oil trust. The action of the men mentioned above proves that you can; it only requires courage. The function of a Trade Union leader is to keep peace between the masters and the men. Peace at any price is their motto, and peace at any price is the master's price. There can be no peace as long as one class lives on the labour of another class. Therefore, fellow-workers, organise for the ownership and control of the oil trust. Take an interest in your organisation, and make it as effective as possible as a fighting machine. As it is presently constituted it cannot function as such. The power of your organisation is vested in the hands of your Executive Council, and this gives them the power to obstruct any progressive action which may be taken by the rank and file. This was plainly seen during the war, when your Executive was continually censoring the Addiewell Branch for its "insubordination." In order to get the best results from your organisation you must take the power of veto out of the hands of your Executive and place that power in your own hands. I understand an attempt is being made to do this by the Addiewell Branch, and it is the duty of every man to assist them in their task.

Delay means destruction! Immediate action means success! Which is it to be?

WILLIAM FOLEY.

WORK FOR ALL.

Our appeal for financial assistance has met with a very generous response. Many comrades are actively endeavouring to raise the amount necessary to meet the increased cost of paper. The letter from Comrade Marshall outlining the effort being made by our Kilmarnock supporters is a most encouraging one. We hope others will

follow the lead of the "Killie" man, and then there will be no fear of the future.

But your money isn't enough; we want your presence at the committee meetings. On Thursday we had two delegates from Dalmuir and Parkhead up in the office going very carefully into all the details of the paper and office expenditure. In the course of discussion they told us there was an impression abroad that we didn't want delegates to attend committee meetings, that we wanted to keep all our debt to ourselves. If anybody thinks so, it's one great big mistake. We want a delegate from every workshop if we can get one to attend. Don't stay away if there doesn't happen to be a Workshop Committee. You can at least get a group of good rebels who are willing to support the workshop movement and the paper. There are any number of shops where such groups are to be found.*

There's the Albion. Surely we can get a delegate from there. There's Lancefield Street, Fairfield's, Babcock & Wilcox, just to mention a few of them. Each of these and many others can quite easily send a representation to attend the committee meetings, held each Thursday in the office, 31 North Frederick Street, at 8 o'clock. Don't worry if the group you represent is a small one. Come and take your part in the work of organising for the last great conflict between the oppressed and their age-long oppressors.

This you can best do by helping to build up the workshop movement, and by ensuring the successful existence of the "Worker."

Understand the "Worker" is a paper that isn't owned by anybody or any party. It's purely a workers' paper, your paper. Get that clear in your mind, and see to it that you are represented at the committee meeting next Thursday night.

STUMPED!

There's been quite an interesting little side-show down in Babcock's "Smiddy." An unfortunate fellow-mortal wandered from a cricket field into that inferno of fire and soot, and commenced to "swing the hammer," metaphorically and literally. He got a job as a hammerman, not because he was any use at slamming the iron, but because he had been fairly effective at holding up his wicket. The other hammermen didn't like him, not a little bit. However, they got relieved of him, and for a time were happy. A blacksmith had chucked his job and a fire was vacant. The cricketer was introduced to the fire as a blacksmith. The fire made no complaint, but the other blacksmiths did. He made a valiant effort to hold up his wicket, but the 'smiths delivered him a deadly " Yorker " by declaring a strike, and down went his middle stump.

The manager, or umpire, was called in, and after a bit of a parley he consented to rule him out, but proposed to put him back in at the other end, to return him as a free gift to the hammermen. "We'll be damned if you do," said the hammermen; "he's no more a hammerman than he is a blacksmith, and we're not going to have him." So there the poor fellow is suspended between the fire and the sledgehammer. What is going to happen to him we cannot tell, but we will watch this interesting little comedy in the hope that it may provide some amusement, and probably a little moral, for the readers of the "Worker."

THE PAISLEY OCTOPUS.

A Paisley correspondent writes to take exception to our remarks on Singers'. He works in Coats' Mill, and he steps forward to assert that the slavery in Kilbowie is as nothing to what goes on in the compounds of the Christian Coats'. Managers, sub-managers, and foremen are bought body, soul and spirit when they enter the factory gates. They aren't have an opinion of their own. Their politics are Coats' politics. Their religion is Coats' religion. Their business in life

is to see that the girls never stop working, and that the profits flow continually into the coffers of their bosses. They are all anti-Socialists, not because they ever were capable of giving intelligent consideration to the subject, but because they aren't be anything else. Miserable little imitation snobs, they lord it over the exploited mill girls in a more offensive manner than any slaver over his chattels.

The one thing they dread, the one thing the Coats' dread, is organisation among the girls. Recently an effort was made to rouse the girls to knowledge of the power they might wield if only they would build up the necessary organisation. Considerable progress was being made, and then came the generous (?) offer from the bloodsucking octopus of old-age pensions if only they would be good and industrious and never offend their kind Christian masters by joining a Trade Union. Well, it won't always work. Sooner or later these girls, the slaves of one of the most merciless and unscrupulous gangs of money-grabbers that has ever tormented humanity, will be forced to organise, then there will be trouble for the Coats' and a much-needed reckoning with the miserable creatures who do their dirty work in the factories.

THE WIDOW'S SON.

A correspondent has taken us to task for what he calls our "attack" on the "Masons," and asks us why we don't go for the Orangemen or the Irish Foresters. Now, we don't admit having attacked the "Masons." We certainly have dealt with particular cases of Masons using the Craft to the prejudice of their fellow-workers, and if anyone can give a case of a member or members of any other organisation behaving in such a despicable manner we will have no hesitation in exposing him or them. That's a different thing from attacking the organisation. Why should we attack the Masons? It's a harmless pastime outside of the workshop. If the members find amusement in the Lodge, what business is it of anyone's? They go through a performance there that cannot harm anybody, unless of course Tubela and one of his colleagues made a mistake and hit the candidate harder than was necessary.

When we were boys of about seven years of age we used to give a similar performance at hallowe'en called the "Goloshens," and we can well sympathise with the "Fraternity" when they feel they are being interfered with.

We at anyrate don't want to interfere with them, and we are certain we earn the gratitude of the worthy members of the order when we expose those who wilfully degrade the Craft.

Here is a typical instance of what we mean. There is a Masonic sign that must only be used when the member is face to face with death. It was said to have been used quite a lot during the war. It was the sign used by Seddon before he was sentenced to death. You raise your arms above your head and bring them down with three successive jerks, exclaiming while you do so, "Alas, alas, alas, is there no help for the widow's son?" Only in the utmost extremity should this be used, yet down in Beardmore's Underwood joint a thirsty brother appeared in the blacksmith shop one morning, and, going over to a blacksmith who was the possessor of a bottle, gave the death-sign, and in an almost despairing manner he muttered, "Andy, is there no help for the widow's son?"

He didn't get a drink. He got a Masonic funeral.

After leading carefully up to the subject the teacher of the class in the Waifs' Mission Sunday School felt confident that he had made an impression on Mike, the bootblack.

"And now, Mike," he said, adapting his style of talk to the vocabulary of the class, "what sort of kids do you think go to heaven?"

"Deaders," answered Mike, solemnly.

Charitable Householder—Are you anxious to earn a good dinner, my poor man?

Weary Watkins—Not half as anxious as I am for the dinner.

COMRADES of the GREATER WAR

I.W.W. CONVENTION AND THE WORKERS' COMMITTEES!

By GORDON CASCADEN.

(Written for the "Worker.")

Co-operation between the British Shop Stewards' and Workers' Committees movement of Great Britain and the Industrial Workers of the World was heartily endorsed by the twelfth convention of the latter organisation in Chicago last week.

Though the I.W.W. and its members have been subjected to the most severe persecution of any body of workers in the United States or any other country, this convention was representative of every basic industry of the nation, while delegates came from every section of it. Though not numerous, numerically the delegation was representative, the men and women attending coming direct from their jobs. Many of them were under indictment, while others either had completed prison terms or were out on bail.

The convention discussed thoroughly the question of working with the Shop Stewards' movement, and then adopted these resolutions, each clause being voted on separately:—

"That an interchange of cards be adopted immediately on the following basis:

"A member of the Shop Stewards and Workers' Committees movement of Great Britain coming to the United States shall be given an I.W.W. card and be recognised as a member in good standing in the I.W.W. from the time he becomes a member of the Shop Stewards and Workers' movement, the same conditions to apply to a member of the I.W.W. entering Great Britain, providing he becomes a member of the Shop Stewards and Workers' Committees.

"That any speakers who may enter the United States from Great Britain will be given an open platform in the I.W.W. to advocate revolutionary industrial Unionism, the same conditions to apply to I.W.W. speakers in Great Britain. (Note:—All speakers should have the endorsement of their respective organisations.)

"That we immediately take steps to have an International Industrial Union Conference called to bring together the I.W.W., the Shop Stewards and Workers' Committees of Great Britain, and all other organisations which believe in Economic Direct Action for the purpose of mutual assistance; and further, to take what international action the workers see fit to take to prevent international calamities brought on by the economic conditions of the capitalist system.

"That the Ways and Means Committee recommend that this Twelfth Convention of the Industrial Workers of the World send this resolu-

tion as the immediate basis for the affiliation of the I.W.W. and the Shop Stewards and Workers' Committees of Great Britain preceding the International Union Conference, which will take place as soon as possible."

The Industrial Workers of the World convention also adopted other measures to make their plan of action conform to the constantly changing economic conditions. They do not look with favour on small administrations of the I.W.W. in countries where the workers already have sound economic movements based on the class struggle and whose ultimate aim is the taking over and operation of the means of wealth production by the workers themselves. They will co-operate with established syndicalist and other economic organisations in other lands.

Those in the British Isles who favour Workers' Committees will be glad to know that the I.W.W. convention adopted the following resolution—

"That shop or job branches are the basic unit of the I.W.W. and that wherever there are seven or more members on a job, they shall constitute themselves a shop or job branch, elect a job committee and job delegates to attend to urgent matters between business meetings. No members should serve permanently on a committee. At each meeting a new committee should be elected. All members should take their turn in serving on committees."

The convention endorsed the call for an Economic Industrial International.

It refused to make a right about face on the question of the advocacy of violence, thereby adhering to the historic attitude enunciated by the General Executive Board several years ago. Two letters favouring repudiation of the I.W.W.'s position on this subject were read to the convention, but merely resulted in re-affirmation of the following General Executive Board resolution—

"In order that our position on such matters may be made clear and unequivocal, we, the General Executive Board of the Industrial Workers of the World, do hereby declare this organisation does not now, and never has believed in or advocated either destruction or violence as a means of accomplishing reform; first, because no principle was ever settled by such methods; second, because industrial history has taught us that when strikers resort to violence and unlawful methods, all the resources of the government are immediately arrayed against them and they lose their cause; third, because such methods destroy the constructive impulse which it is the purpose of this organisation to foster and develop in order that the workers may fit themselves to assume their place in the new society, and we hereby re-affirm our belief in the principles embodied in the report of this body to the seventh annual convention, extracts from which were later republished under the title, 'On the Firing Line.'"

The General Executive Board's report to the

convention referred, in most favourable terms, to the reception given George Hardy on his recent visit to the British Isles. Hardy made a capable chairman of the convention. He is one of three men nominated for the position of General Secretary-Treasurer of the I.W.W. The membership will select the General Secy.-Treas., General Executive Board and the editors of the official weekly and monthly publications by referendum vote.

The I.W.W. opposes glorification of the individual at the expense of the movement. For this reason the official press representative was instructed not to use the names of any delegates in his communications to the press.

Chicago, United States, May 28:

A Gruesome Threat.

Send, brothers, send, send with care,
Send in the presence of the paper scare!
We want it now, without any kid,
Your tanner, your bob, your cartwheel or quid!
A tanner is half of a bob, but two
Tanners are a bob—and a bob will do
(If you haven't got ten to give or to lend),
So send, brothers, send, for the Lord's sake,
Send!
Don't hoard it up in the old oak dresser,
Bung it right along to Jimmy M. Messer.
Thirty-one North Frederick Street is the place—
It will put a sweet smile on his fed up face:
This is a rotten poem but don't feel sore,
Send, brothers, send!—or we'll write some more.

"WORKER" MAINTENANCE FUND.

Previously acknowledged	£4	0	0
Gordon, Leven	0	10	0
Cowlairs Group	0	13	6
Bergues Group	0	16	0
H. J. Thompson, Renfrew	0	15	0
Dan Gillies	0	11	0
A. Holdsworth	1	0	0
T. McGill, Ayr	0	5	0
Fairbank	0	5	0
Two Ergatoerats	0	10	0
Mackay, Govan	0	7	6
A. Niven, Cowdenbeath	1	0	0
Red Army	1	0	0
G. H., Kirkmuirhill	0	10	0
D. F., Kirkmuirhill	0	2	6
	£12	5	0

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

G. Westhove and L. Colquhoun.—As fully dealt with as space permits.

A. M. Macdonald (Edinburgh).—See "Cigarette Papers."

"A Reader" (Glasgow).—If your statistical critics had used their eyes as well as their pencils they would have seen that the figures referred to Germany, not Great Britain. Further, they were quoted from the "Times" Trade Supplement.

J. C. Thomson.—Matter received is now somewhat out of date and is far too long. The subject discussed does not warrant a whole page of the "Worker." You did not put any address on the MS., so we cannot return it until you write. Do so, and then cut out the controversial matter and submit it again.

P. Tierney (Partick).—If the individual in question is "forever wandering around the movement blowing his own trumpet," the probabilities are that he has nothing else to blow. Why worry about it?

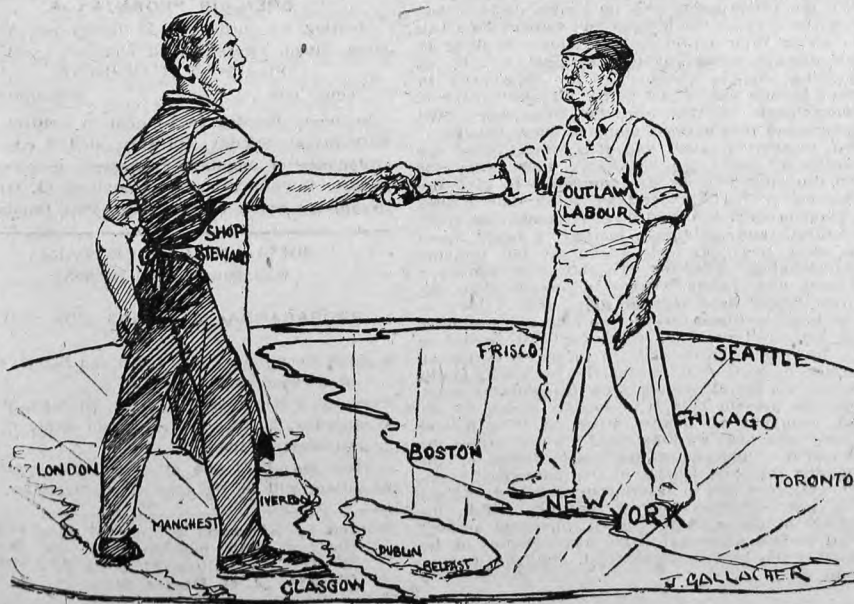
"You can't bear children," said she disdainfully. "Perhaps if you could you would like them better," she continued, wiping her spectacles.

"I see, in speaking of them, you always say the Plymouth Brethren."

"Yes, Plymouth Brethren means the church."

"But when you speak of the Plymouth Brethren why do you not speak of the Plymouth sisters?"

"Because," with a twinkle of the eye, "I suppose the brethren embrace the sisters."



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF EX-SERVICE MEN

All communications to James Cox, Secy., 98 Bishop Street, Anderston, Glasgow.

Earl Haig has received £66,000 from the boss class towards the fund for assisting ex-officers. In returning thanks for the donation he stated that the men were already provided for, as they had the Canteen Fund of about seven millions. That statement is very misleading, as none of the Canteen fund can be used to assist the men. According to the powers that be in London the money can be used for boozing dens or memorials, and there is not seven millions to be distributed, as according to our information, three millions will be used up for administration purposes.

At the first meeting of the Welfare Committee of the Byng Fund that the International was allowed to attend we moved that Glasgow's share of the money be handed over to widows and orphans. That motion was agreed to, but the Area Committee in Edinburgh and the Byng Fund Committee in London turned down that recommendation. The Area Committee in Edinburgh consist of representatives of the Comrades of the Great War and the Scottish, with so-called unattached members. The Committee in London consists of representatives of the Comrades and the National Federation with some unattached members added. So it will easily be seen that no scheme that has not the approval of the organisations mentioned stands the ghost of a chance of being accepted by the above ruling Committees. At the last meeting of the Welfare Committee held in the Christian Institute the original scheme of handing over the money for the benefit of the widows and orphans was again put forward and carried, but the Comrades and Scottish are not satisfied. They are out for local committees, and nothing else will satisfy them. The Secretary was instructed to get in touch with the local Members of Parliament with a view of soliciting their assistance in pushing forward the decision of the Committee that the money be handed over to the widows and orphans. The Comrades and the Scottish refused to vote. They are out for their own pet scheme, which will benefit them and them alone, and yet the Comrades in all their advts., aye, and even in the first issue of their magazine, in which there appeared an article entitled "Aims and Policy," lay great stress on the fact that they are out to assist the widows and orphans of our fallen comrades, and we are asked to give them our united support; but when a scheme is proposed that will assist towards that object, they refuse to support it, which plainly shows that all they are prepared to do is to give lip service. At a meeting held in the Christian Institute at the end of last January Mr McKirdy moved that the money be handed over for the benefit of the widows and orphans, and strange to say about a week after he was touring the local districts, urging the formation of local committees. Why are they so much in love with local committees? The reason is that their organisation is going back, and local committees would assist in bolstering up their membership. Local committees would consist of delegates from the Comrades and the Scottish with three unattached members, who would be in sympathy with their policy. No other organisation would be allowed representation. We of the I.U. have seen through their little game all along, and let me assure them that if local committees are formed we will see to it that all organisations are represented thereon.

Public Inquiry.—The demand for a public inquiry into the present system of Medical Boards and Medical Referees is making slow progress, but we mean to get there in spite of all opposition. At present we are in touch with the Regional Director in Edinburgh, who seems to be very slow in making up his mind. Up to date we have not received an official report of the so-called inquiry that was held in the City Chambers, 9/6/20. In answer to our letter re the delay we have received a reply that to say the least is evasive, and shirks the point at issue.

A Few Random Selections of Cases.

(1) A man called at Berkeley Street L.W.P.C. on 23/6/20. Was informed that there was no money for him, as the decision of the Medical Referee was that he was fit for work, but was to be admitted to Bellahouston Hospital as soon as there was a vacant bed. It seems a funny decision, but it was very tragic for the poor chap that called for the money to carry him over for the week and was turned down.

(2) Ex-Seaforth Highlander, with 24 years' service, is discharged with a pension or allowance of 13/6 a week for 13 weeks; money then stops. Applies for treatment; is accepted; is on treatment for about two years; is sent to an Appeal Tribunal. Their decision was, not attributable to or aggravated by service. All money is then stopped. His service pension also on the plea that as his disability is not due to service, his service pension will be used to pay back the money he received while on treatment. This man is ordered to prepare to go into a home on July

9. Is a physical wreck, unable to work, and the only place left for him is the poorhouse. Thus, after serving King and what he believed was his country for 24 years, this is his reward.

(3) H.L.I. served four years in the great war. Is suffering from bronchitis due to mustard gas. Recommended by Western Infirmary for indoor treatment. Appeals for pension and is refused, as, according to the Board, his disability is not attributable to or aggravated by service. Is out of treatment, allowance stopped. Awaiting Appeal Tribunal. Is married with a wife and two children. Is unable to work, and has received ejectment notice from the factor.

(4) K.O.S.B. wound keeps breaking open. Small pieces of bone galavanting about leg. Dr. says they will come out of their own accord. Owing to disability is unable to follow regular employment. Is receiving an allowance of 5/6 per week.

(5) A. and S. H. Is discharged from the army suffering from bronchial catarrh and debility. Is awarded a pension of 13/- per week for a stated period. On expiry of period is sent to a Medical Board, who assess his disability at 10 per cent. On appeal is granted 5/6 per week.

On the 29/4/20 a letter was sent by the Maryhill Branch of the Comrades of the Great War, challenging this organisation to debate. A letter was forwarded on the 10/5/20 accepting the challenge. A long time elapsed and no reply was received. On the 22nd inst. we received a reply undated informing us that everything had been arranged for the debate to take place on the 30th inst. Hall booked. Arrangement made as to who would receive the surplus of collection. No name of chairman was submitted. Everything had been cut and dry from their point of view, and we as interested parties were not consulted. My opinion is that the whole thing was worked to try and trap this organisation. No time has been given to inform our members, while I suppose they on their part are making preparations to pack the hall; but never mind, we will be there. The opportunity is too good to be missed, but we must protest against the autocratic methods adopted in arranging the debate. The Comrades of the Great War always make a great boast of their business methods. If the above is a sample of their style of doing business, well I am glad I am not a member. Full report of debate, if it takes place, will be published in next issue, also the letter re arrangements, and I can assure my readers it is a gem. I intend preserving it as a souvenir.

BRANCH REPORTS.

Branch reports are rather short this week, as we have been very busy collecting evidence with a view of the public enquiry.

Dundee.—The branch has been successful in getting Comrade Milligan accepted by the Town Council as a representative of the I.U. to the L.W.P.C., and at the first meeting was successful in getting a motion passed—"That the Royal Warrant of 1917 and all subsequent amendments and corrections up to date be placed in all public libraries." The members of Dundee Branch are still carrying out propaganda work, and are meeting with success. The following resolution in regard to the dispute between the iron dressers and their bosses has been sent on to the Dundee Labour and Trades Council:—

We of the International Union of Ex-service men, etc., Dundee Branch, while in sympathy with the irondressers now on strike, declare that it is the duty of the Trades and Labour Party to do all in their power to help those involved in this dispute, which, though sectional, is a direct challenge by the "bosses" to the "workers"—in short is only one of the many "battles" which is being fought in this war, the class war. We understand that a great many of these "strikers" are ex-service men, and that those who are "scabbing" are, also ex-service men, who for economic reasons are compelled to give the "bosses" a "victory," and we think that Trades Unionism as it is constituted at present on craft, sectional, and individual, instead of being based on class lines, not only encourage but promote blacklegging. Therefore we call upon you as a Trades and Labour Party to realise that the irondressers' fight is your fight, and so long as you have sectional disputes so long will you have an industrial problem, which can only be solved by bearing in mind "that an injury to one is an injury to all"; that irrespective of craft, grade, or sex we are all members of the working class, and the present system of society, which we are all members of, defines itself as "the master class" and the "working class," which arises the question—which class are you? Being of the opinion that you belong to the last-named class, we call upon you to assert your manhood and use the only effective weapon that lies within the power of the worker, "united industrial action," and declare a general strike now.—Signed on behalf of the branch members, J. Mulligan, Organising Secy.

Bristol.—Still going strong. Good progress is being made in pushing sale of "Worker." Bristol started off with ordering three dozen, the following week it was six dozen, then twelve dozen, now the order is twenty-four dozen. If they keep it up we will soon require a special train to send through the supply. Evidently the Bristol people know a good thing when they see it. New branches are being opened; a thousand membership cards have been ordered locally, also three thousand copies of the aims and policy of the Union. Arrangements are being completed for a march of the unemployed on London. Meantime the fight against landlordism is still being waged and waged successfully.

Edinburgh.—Good reports are still coming to hand from Edinburgh. Portobello and Leith are being attended to. Outdoor meetings are being held every Sunday and as many evenings through the week as possible. I hope to have a fuller report by next week.

Mr Broadacres (with enthusiasm)—Just imagine the magnificence of the position! Before me, bathed in the glorious sunset, lay the snow-capped summits of the great mountain-range; beneath, the dark azure waters of the mighty ocean; and behind me five thousand acres of the very best building timber in the country!

FIFE COMMUNIST LEAGUE.

A PUBLIC DEBATE

will be held in the

GARDNERS' HALL, BUCKHAVEN,

On SUNDAY, 11th JULY, 1920, at 4 p.m.

Subject:—

PARLIAMENTARISM v.

ANTI-PARLIAMENTARISM.

Affirmative—TOM KENNEDY, National Socialist Party.

Negative—JACK V. LECKIE, Scottish Workers' Committees.

Chairman—Baillie Galloway, Buckhaven.

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ST. ROLLOX SOCIAL COMMITTEE.

OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

Meeting at corner of Parliamentary and St James Road, Thursday, 1st July, at 8 p.m.

Speaker—PAT QUINLAN.

Questions.

Discussion.

Business Meeting to be held in Central Halls, Bath Street, Sunday, 4th July, at 4.30 p.m. Full attendance of members requested. Business important. Intending members invited.—J. QUEEN, Organising Secy., 33 Canal St., Port Dundas.

SOCIALIST LABOUR PARTY

(Glasgow Central Branch).

PROPAGANDA MEETINGS FOR JULY.

Sunday Evenings, 7 p.m., Majtland Street, corner of Cowcaddens.

Tuesday, 8 p.m., Vulcan Street, Springburn.

Wednesday, 8 p.m., James Road, corner of Parliamentary Road.

"The Socialist" and other scientific works on Socialism will be on sale at all Meetings.

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