

KNOWLEDGE MUST PRECEDE ALL INTELLIGENT ACTION

THE WORKER

EDUCATE

THE ORGAN OF WORKERS' COMMITTEES SCOTLAND

THE REVOLUTIONARY JOURNAL WITH THE LARGEST CIRCULATION IN BRITAIN.
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THE COLLAPSE OF CONCILIATION.

The outstanding feature of the industrial situation as it appears at present is the complete collapse of the attempt to bring about a reconciliation of the miners and the Government. When that conference was suggested some of us had the fear that the Government were preparing an industrial "peace-trap," into which they hoped to inveigle the miners. The most obvious for them to do would have been for them to grant an increase in wages, and clap its cost on to the price of coal over and above the disputed 14/2.

But the Government did not go the length of even making that concession. They told the miners that the 14/2 coal tax had to remain, and if they felt aggrieved about their wages, why not refer the question to the arbitration of the Industrial Court. The Industrial Court is that delightful body which told the engineering workers, a month or so ago, that they were not prepared to sanction any demands for increased wages. The miners' leaders are anything but revolutionists, but they would have been bereft of any vestige of self-respect had they accepted this impudent proposal. They threw it back in the teeth of the Government, and unless there is an eleventh hour surrender on the part of the Government, a strike seems certain.

THE BOSSES ARE READY.

Judging from the Government's attitude there is no desire on the part of the boss class for a settlement. On the contrary, their attitude appears to be deliberately provocative. The governing classes are spoiling for a fight, and are evidently confident that they can come out on top. For the last eighteen months they have been badgered with what they believe to be excessive wages demands. They feel that these demands will continue to pour in one after the other unless they are able to inflict a crushing defeat on trades' unionism, and so they are throwing their whole weight behind the Government in the struggle with the miners, knowing that if the miners go down the psychological effect of that defeat amongst the British workers will be in the direction of weakening faith in the value of aggressive action. No doubt, the Government have their strike-breaking machinery in existence to put into instant operation when the strike takes place. The miners have, therefore, a tremendous struggle before them, and as they are fighting the battle of the whole working class, the Labour movement has got to back them up with all its might. One would feel absolutely certain of the issue of the fight if the masses of the workers were as eager to support the miners as the boss class are to support the Government, but class solidarity amongst the workers is still a very feeble thing. The vision of the average worker industrially is bounded by the frontiers of his own particular trade, or in some cases his own par-

ticular industry. The struggles of workers outside of those limits are something alien and remote. It is only when such struggles interfere with the smooth working of the industry in which he works that he begins to take any interest in them at all. The average member of the boss class, however, is generally interested in a variety of trades and industries in his capacity of shareholder. The class outlook is more or less a natural outlook to him, while amongst the workers it is only the more active men who have attained to this outlook. It is, therefore, extremely urgent that the advanced elements everywhere should be presenting the class aspects of this miners' struggle to the rest of their fellow-workers.

THE PROFITEERS' PUPPETS.

That the Government in this issue is simply acting as the tool of the coal-owners was amply demonstrated by the attitude of Sir Robert Horne at the conference. Not only did he refuse to bring down the price of domestic coal, but he absolutely refused to give a guarantee that the Government would not decontrol the industry. Now there is a tremendous world-shortage of coal at present, and there is likely to be a shortage for many years to come. It is obvious that if the coal industry is gradually decontrolled and higher prices charged all round, the coal-owners and the Government stand to pocket millions of

pounds at the general expense. If the crisis has done nothing else, it has shown the Government in the most shameful light as being a government operating on behalf of the filthiest gang of industrial sharks who have ever polluted the earth with their presence. As a matter of fact, no government has been as single-minded in its hostility to trades' unionism since the days of the combination laws. Every piece of industrial legislation which it designs has been designed deliberately to weaken trades' unionism. Eighteen months ago it was talking about a universal forty-eight week, and that is not yet law. A year ago it was talking of the benefits that Labour would obtain from the Labour clauses in the peace treaty. Now under the guise of carrying out the resolutions of the Washington Conference it is attempting, in the face of trade union opposition, to legalise a double shift in the Lancashire mills for women and children. The Friendly Society clauses in its unemployed Bill are aimed directly at Trade Unionism. The Coal Mines Bill is a blow at the Miners' Federation, and if the Trade Unions movement stands by and allows a gang of super-scoundrels with a record like that to defeat the miners, then the sooner the Trade Unions go out of the business the better.

(Continued on page 7.)

Congress Demonstration at Petrograd.



LENIN ADDRESSING THE CROWD.

Second Congress of the Third International and the BRITISH MOVEMENT.

By JOHN S. CLARKE.

Through the arch of the old Chinese wall of Moscow and on through badly-paved, shot-scarred narrow and ancient streets; round about the hideously grotesque piece of barbaric architecture called Ivan the Terrible's church* and up through the "Red Square" we at length stood before the massive gatehouse of the Kremlin courtyard.

A black and gilded clock on the tower over the abutment made heroic, if not very successful, efforts to chime the strains of the "International," while two sentries, with miniature red pennons dangling from the tips of their old fashioned three-cornered bayonets, demanded an inspection of our passes.

Through the grim archway (these are always "grim") we wound over the cobbled incline, passed the gigantic "Bell of the Kremlin" and exhibiting our passes to more "ochrana" passed through the doorway of the palace.

Up the beautiful stairway carpeted with red baize and decorated with flags, banners, and emblems of Soviet rule, along a narrow corridor adorned with hundreds of photographs, portraits, cartoons, posters and texts of greeting in four or five languages, we once again produced our passes and entered the throne room of the late Nicholas.

Lofty, spacious, lighted by huge but plain windows, with two rows of gilded stucco pillars, it was an ideal hall for a congress.

Behind the presidium, but hidden behind the folds of a red flag, stood the double throne, at the foot of which the spate of orators delivered their contributions to the world Congress.

And it was a "world" Congress. Representatives of every country in Europe, from Norway to Turkey sat with dark-skinned Hindoos, yellow-skinned Mongols, and olive-coloured Asiatics from behind the Caspian.

A more amazing variety of "types," with distinctive costumes, distinct customs and manners, never surely seen in a single assembly before.

Men with an extraordinary wealth of hirsute adornment sat cheek by jowl with those whose heads had been polished with the barber's razor; every variety and shape of "face fungus" from the reverend beards of the stately delegates from Khiva to the two sideboard atrocities affected by Karl Radek, simply bewildered the eye; and on occasions, the celebrated episode described in the Bible, which put the tin hat on the building of Babel, was positively dwarfed into insignificance.

This language difficulty was one the British and American delegates suffered the greatest disadvantage from. German and French were the official languages of the Congress and the English speaking delegates found themselves dependent on the good nature of any linguist who, out of sheer sympathy, was prevailed upon to give them a garbled translation of a particular speech.

This became so scandalous, in fact that one day every British and American delegate absented himself from the hall, not through any conspiracy of boycott but simply because they were "fed up" listening to speeches that were no more intelligible to them than monkey talk.

John Reed made good use of the accidental

There are several thousand churches in Moscow (six thousand I was told), one at least in nearly every street. There are seven in the Kremlin alone. Ivan the Terrible built a great many of them, one, it is said, for every crime he committed in order to "get right with God." I have forgotten the name of this particular building which stands, reflecting every colour of the rainbow, at the foot of the Red Square in close proximity to the old place of public execution. Ivan, it is alleged, blinded the architect to render him incapable of reproducing the building for anyone else, so infatuated was he with the design. Had less drastic measures been employed we might have felt some gratitude towards Ivan for saving humanity from the infliction of another such atrocity. The architect got two sore eyes for one eyesore but we think the joke was on Ivan.

truanting and by pretending that it was a genuine boycott, succeeded in getting English substituted for French, and as most of the French delegates had departed by this time no injustice was done through the change.

It must be remembered, also, that the English speaking group probably outnumbered any national group in attendance. The Shop Stewards and Workers' Committee movement being represented by the largest number of delegates, namely (six)—Beach, Clarke, Gallacher, Murphy, Ramsay, and Tanner. Besides these were Mrs. Newbold (Young Socialist Movement), Messrs. McLaine and Quelch (B.S.P.), M'Alpine and Connolly (Ireland), and eight or nine delegates from the various political parties and industrial organisations in U.S.A.

Unlike most Congresses this one proved itself to be anything but abortive. It laboured heavily and brought forth an abundance, but whether that abundance was worth the travail or not interested readers will have already formed their opinion ere this.

One could not elude the ever intruding suspicion that every item brought forward was presented for unqualified acceptance, and as one watched the proceedings and observed how little the most skilfully conducted opposition influenced the crowd of Bolshevik-worshippers present, one could be righteously excused for suggesting the "cut and dried" policy was mainly responsible for the "success" of the Congress.

During the discussion on Radek's thesis, "Trade Unionism and Shop Committees," the position of the Shop Stewards' delegates was either loftily ignored or wilfully misrepresented. With a monotony that would have done credit to a parrot or a gramophone but which certainly reflected none on Radek and his supporters, threadbare phrases and inuendos, which were repudiated over and over again, were dragged out to bolster the original thesis which (and this was the chief objection to it) was too equivocal and lacking in detail to be of any service to the British movement.

The debate on Parliamentary Action was characterised by the same woeful tactics. Bucharin simply massacred Parliamentary Action in his speech. He exposed its shams by mercilessly tracing the sinister career of every "Kautsky" element in Europe, and by dialectics, wit, sarcasm, and serious argument he left it without a leg to stand on—and then pleaded for its acceptance by the Congress on the same grounds as those laid down by Lenin in "The Infantile Sickness" brochure.

The pro's and con's of this question which everyone is familiar with need not be intruded here. There is nothing in the Bolshevik position that need keep genuine Communists of the rigid anti-Parliamentarian school from uniting with revolutionary parliamentary actionists. Nineteenth of the controversy waged over the two positions is sheer hair-splitting jiggery-pokey, but when a policy of misrepresentation is pursued, as it was at the Congress, it is time to protest.

Gallacher opposed, after Bombacci's trenchant speech, and Murphy defended in a manner which aroused Gallacher's ire as well as his indignation, for Murphy spoke as a politician while labelling himself a "Shop Steward."

Murphy pointedly accused the deliverers of "trades against Parliamentary action," of the damning inconsistency of banging around the lobby of the House, during industrial crises, in order to solicit assistance from the despised Members of the Labour Party.

Then Gallacher, who, apparently didn't travel through the territory of the Vikings for nothing, became a verbal berserker, with the result that pandemonium reigned for a considerable period both in Congress and in the smoke-room.

In justice to Murphy I must point out that he recognised the absolute injustice of his allegation

so far as Gallacher and his colleagues were concerned, and openly withdrew his statement at later sitting.

Another amusing scene took place when telegram arrived announcing the arrival in Britain of The Communist Party with "affiliation to Labour Party," as one of its planks. Gallacher was just about to ascend the platform when received the news and once again the atmosphere became a trifle "stoury." His perfectly logical accusation that the new party had one foot in the Third International, the other being in the Second, drew cries of dissent from the British delegates, which merely prompted more biting torts from Gallacher, who concluded his performance with the astounding revelation (to the Congress) that Russia "recognised" a Party directly affiliated to the Second International after it had repudiated another Party wholly for the Third (Sylvia Pankhurst and Co.).

The evident dissatisfaction of the Workers' Committee delegates gave no little concern to leaders, and the suggestion of the advisability of devoting one whole day to a discussion of British question was seriously considered. The Congress concluded, however, without this being done and British industrialists will have to work out their own policy and tactics without regard to Moscow. The utter incapacity of the Congress to legislate for the British movement was perhaps the most conspicuous fact there. Some of the tactics that were useful and successful in Russia would be grotesque failures if put into operation here.

The difference between conditions in this highly organised, industrially-centralised, politically compact and insular country, and medieval, barbaric, loosely-organised (industrially) and politically-infantile Russia is almost inconceivable to those who have not been there to see.

The Bolsheviks are masters of manoeuvre and have absolutely nothing to learn from us in conducting of their own affairs, but they know very little about British workshop conditions and organisation and less about British working class psychology. Their knowledge of workshop action was nil, and their exaggerated idea of the influence of the Guild Socialists and certain political parties was positively ludicrous. This was due to the fact that they had to depend on totally unreliable sources for their information. Books, semi-reformist periodicals, bourgeois papers, bourgeois people, Labour sympathies who have visited Russia, that worst of all evils, special pleaders who see the World Movement because the rotten Russian patriotism blinds them, have been responsible for the erroneous ideas of the Bolsheviks.

In private talks I had with Radek and Lenin this was virtually admitted by both. Radek who is undoubtedly one of the subtlest thinkers in Russia, plied me with question after question because, as he said, grave doubts had entered his mind (since, no doubt, coming into contact with the Workers' Committee men) as to his grasp of the unofficial workshop movement and the attitude of the rank and file towards it, while Lenin not only confessed similar feelings in regard to the matter but expressed a certain dissatisfaction with his previous views on Labour Party affiliation, without making a definite statement on the matter.

The Russian Communist Party (611,000 members at last Congress) is one of the best organised political movements on earth and is undoubtedly the most centralised and rigidly disciplined. Such a movement could achieve and has achieved marvellous results by using any and every method which presented themselves. But have the British Communists such a Party? Have the British Communists an earthly chance of ever having such a Party?

Have a good look, one long fingerings look at the movement in this country, reader, and

for a new Gilbert and Sullivan.
Here every "Communist" with a kink has a small hell of his own, and each little hell is the only one with the purest brand of fire; the pre-empting genius struts to and fro brandishing his political pitchfork with every "point" almost identical with those of his competitors, and the Communist imps trail around with a microscope on one hand (to discover points of difference) and a magnifying glass in the other (to make them look formidable when discovered). In a multitude of cases the "difference" consists in a personal antipathy to an individual or individuals attached to another party or group, and in these instances heated discussion springs not so much from a loyalty or devotion to principle as from a hatred of personality born of jealousy and a desire for revenge.

It is of no special importance to the cause of working-class emancipation, for the public to be made aware of the fact that "the few shop stewards who have recently been to Russia do not represent the Communist thought in this country." Personally speaking I went there as a journalist, a Socialist propagandist, and because the opportunity to go there presented itself. I would risk a journey to Hell for the same reasons if there was a sporting chance of getting back, without presuming to consider myself "a leader of theologic thought."

The aimable comrade responsible for the above-mentioned communique, presumably a leader of Communist thought himself, has been busily engaged of late propagating the type of Communist thought advocated by the war-mongers during 1914-18—racial antagonism.

"Scots and Irish are Celts, but Englishmen are only Germans" is the burden of the tale—concluded no doubt with the singing of the "International" and cheers for the Spartacists.

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels as inspirers of the new movement must give priority to William Wallace and Robert Bruce—both of them, in the words of a celebrated historian, descendants of William the Norman's rag from France, tag from Germany, and bobtail from Hungary. Rare Celts these! Apart from the utter absurdity of such mischievous propaganda, the statement is absolutely untrue. Scientific ethnology (anthropology) exploded the Celtic myth years ago. The preponderance of Teutons over Celts in Scotland is one of the most demonstrable facts in existence—but it cuts no ice anyway. Who the blazes cares?

Such propaganda may be good sound British Communism, but our readers can take it from me that it is a kind absolutely unknown in Russia. Russian Communists only know two races—the exploiter and the exploited. They know that their present enemy is not the Pole but the international bourgeoisie, who have been egging on ignorant Polish people to attack "their hereditary enemy, the Russians." Russian Communists know the value of race-hatred propaganda to capitalism, and in consequence they emphasise, in precept and practice, the opposite.

They constantly visualise a classless world, not mere classless Russia. Their vision of revolutionary activity is boundless. Because the International to them "shall unite the human race," they devote their lives to its realisation. They think, speak, and act only in terms of the universal application of Communism. They preach and work for the World Revolution. They are not Slavonic, Tartar, Kalmuck, or Mongolian; not Indo-European nor Ural-Altaic; not Aryan nor Semitic. These senilities were never part or parcel of their creed. They are simply Proletarians who have won through, and with that true Communist spirit which prompted the utterance of their favourite slogan, "Workers of the World, unite," they are working for the emancipation of mankind.

Another new Communist Party—"The B.C.P."—has signally failed in one of its first tests. One of its prominent members (I won't say "leaders") Mr Robert Williams of the Transport Workers' Union. "Bob" has been to Russia, and knows what's what. He confessed, on his return, "all my previous hopes and expectations were more than borne out by my actual contact with Soviet

Russia's affairs." Very good! Robert would like to see the Revolution take place in this country, and knowing, as he must know, that the wonderful achievement in Russia was mainly due to an enthusiastic, mentally well-balanced, scientifically educated, and iron-disciplined Communist Party, he conscientiously attaches himself to the British copy. One of the first things Robert is asked to do in order to further the Revolution is to make an effort to secure two representations for the Communist Party on the Council of Action.

Robert, however, suddenly discovers that he is going to the Council of Action as a "Trade Union official," not as a Communist, and—refuses.

Good lord! it was for that very reason he ought to have made the effort.

He is still a distinguished ornament to the British Communist Party, and the incident is closed.

Williams might have been right in his attitude and he might have been wrong.

The B.C.P. might be right in their attitude toward Williams and they might be wrong.

I am not going to discuss these points.

But had the incident happened in Russia, Williams would have been booted to hell out of it in a very short space of time.

The easiest job on earth is to look for imperfections, and one never looks in vain.

Friederick Adler is a better man and stronger man than Williams can ever hope to be. He is not only a fearless agitator, but a man prepared to act according to his convictions. Adler himself shot at and killed Sturgk, the Prime Minister of Austria. Later he was made an hon. citizen of Soviet Russia. During his subsequent career, however, Adler showed distinct opportunist tendencies, and on the ground that his activities were not of a strictly Communist character, Trotsky, at the All-Russian Congress of Soviets, proposed the deprivation of his citizenship, which proposal was carried. Adler, after all, was an Austrian Jew and only an hon. citizen of Russia; we never heard of him receiving the highest military honour that Soviet Russia can confer upon her disciplined sons. But perhaps he never asked for it.

These trivialities are only useful inasmuch as they demonstrate that Russian psychology is not British psychology, and therefore before the British Communists attempt to act according to the political and industrial dictates of Moscow, they

had better first try to cultivate a little more of the Moscow character. More selfish devotion to the Revolution is required here. Less egotism, less vanity, less personal ambition, less private injustice toward individuals who agree with us nine-tenths of the way, and a less insular outlook are demanded of us in a task that is going to be no "movie" show, but a ghastly, grim, and bloody struggle between the giants of Right and Wrong. These are the first lessons to learn from the Bolsheviks. This is the spirit that actuates them every hour of the day. They more than any people I ever came into contact with embody the spirit of mighty and magnificently disinterested endeavour drawn by Shelley in "Julian and Maddalo"—

"We are assured

Much may be conquered, much may be endured
Of what degrades and crushes us! We know
That we have power over ourselves to do and
suffer,

What? we know not till we try,

But something nobler than to live and die."

To move with, talk with, and observe critically the life of these builders of New Russia is an experience which fills one with an overwhelming sense of humility, from which springs a greater inspiration. And until we cease strutting about exhibiting our personal idiosyncrasies and elevating other people's frailties into vices and crimes; until we have purged ourselves of that overplus of egotism which makes us imagine ourselves capable of performing the deeds of men who have completely mastered themselves first, we need not attempt to emulate their statecraft. "Seek ye first the kingdom of self-discipline, and all these things will be added unto you."

To do ought else will be to make fools of the Bolsheviks and bigger fools of ourselves.

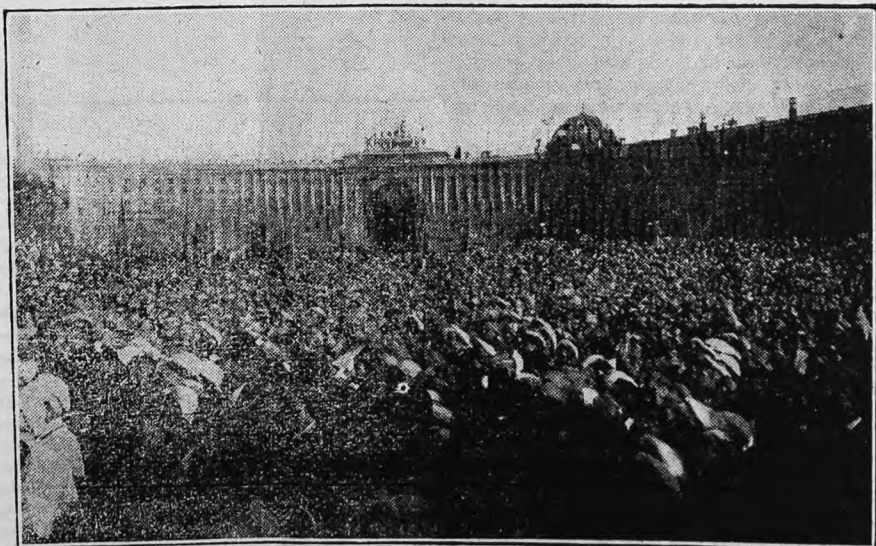
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We will form an alliance with the devil himself if necessary to fight the entente if it will not give us peace.—Karl Radek.

The Emperor Francis I. of Austria was once present while two of his sons were quarrelling violently. At last one of them said, "You are the greatest ass in Vienna." "Hush," said the Emperor, "you forget that I am here."

"THE STRONGEST BOND OF HUMAN SYMPATHY, OUTSIDE OF THE FAMILY RELATION, SHOULD BE ONE UNITING ALL WORKING PEOPLE OF ALL NATIONS AND TONGUES AND KINDRED."

—ABRAHAM LINCOLN.



BEFORE THE WINTER PALACE. (Scene of Bloody Sunday Massacre.)



September 18, 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 till Tuesday morning.

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

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The Communist Conference.

It has been our duty to attend several conferences in the course of our existence in the Socialist movement. We have been searching our memory, and we do not remember in all our experience attending a conference so enthusiastic and yet so business like as that held to discuss the welding together of the Communist elements in Scotland last Saturday. Of course, at times there was a certain liveliness, but that centred around mode of procedure, and the question of the right of industrial delegates to vote, rather than fundamental differences of policy. Indeed, the discussions showed an almost unanimous outlook on fundamental points connected with political and industrial policy. Indeed, the discussion on the former question showed that many who were formerly opposed to all electoral action on the part of a Communist Party have either come to accept that action as being necessary, or are prepared to waive the question for the sake of unity. The finding of the Conference on the question of parliamentarianism was absolutely unanimous, which bodes well for united action in the future. The industrial resolution was carried with one branch dissenting. The point of discussion here was whether the Communist Party, in addition to supporting the workshop movement, should participate in the work of the Trade Unions. The most of the delegates held it to be essential that the Communists should participate in both lines of activity. The resolutions which were passed, and also the general statement of aims and principles, were moved by the Fife Communist League from their constitution, and will be found at the end of this article. These along with questions as to the name of the Party and Party discipline have got to be submitted to the branches concerned for ratification or amendment, and a further Conference has to be held in three weeks' time. There were 21 organisations represented at the Conference, but the Joint Committees have got instructions to approach every likely organisation, and by the time of the next Conference their numbers will doubtless have swelled to a greater extent. No stone will be left unturned to get in touch with every organisation, and any body which remains outside will have to be pretty slick in discovering an excuse to justify their action.

The following are the portions of the Fife Constitution which have been carried with an addendum:—

CONSTITUTION.

1.—Aims:

- (a) The overthrow of the existing state of Capitalist production and exploitation.
- (b) To replace same by the Dictatorship of the Proletariat (expressed meanwhile in the workshops and social committees) as embodied in the Soviet form of government.

2.—Principles:

- (a) The setting up of working-class institutions as the ruling power.
- (b) All rights to the workers, and no rights to any other than workers.
- (c) That any person who does not work neither shall he eat nor vote.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

CIGARETTE PAPERS

By THE EDITOR.

He Should Try Russia!

An advert. from a recent issue of the "Daily Mail":—

"Gentleman, born such, and wishing to remain such, aged 30, single, with expensive tastes and no income, desires remunerative position; capable business man, hard worker, good sportsman. Will some really wealthy person requiring confidential and really trustworthy factor give me a job? Understand thoroughly organising social functions, entertaining, estate management, shootings, game preserving, poultry farming, secretarial work; drive any car, running repairs; conduct and arrange foreign travelling; excellent references. Someone be a sport and give me a trial."

We wouldn't mind "giving him a trial" ourselves. We bet he wouldn't get off.

* * *

Communist Morality.

John O'Neill's letter on another page affords a good example of the confusion of thought which helps to stultify the efforts of Communist activity in this country. There are thousands of so-called Socialists and Communists who have rejected the political, economic, and in some cases religious tenets of Capitalism, but seem unable to throw off the Capitalist morality.

Morality differs according to time, place, and circumstance, and is very often largely a "class" affair, i.e., a reflection of class interests. That which is moral in Britain is distinctly immoral in Timbuctoo, and vice versa. That which was moral one hundred years ago is distinctly immoral to-day. It is immoral to batter a man to death in a public park, but an heroic virtue to do the same thing on a battlefield. It is immoral to commit or attempt to commit suicide, and yet perfectly moral to enlist in the R.I.C., which means the same thing. The word "morality" no more sums up a fixed and definite quantity than the word "democracy" or "liberty" does. The far-sighted Lincoln recognised this when he said:

"We all declare for liberty, but in using the same word we do not all mean the same thing. With some the word liberty may mean for each man to do as he pleases with himself and the product of his labour, while with others the same word may mean for some men to do as they please with other men and the product of other men's labour. The shepherd drives the wolf from the sheep's throat, for which the sheep thanks the shepherd as his liberator, while the wolf denounces him for the same act as the destroyer of liberty. Plainly the sheep and the wolf are not agreed upon a definition of the word liberty, and precisely the same difference prevails to-day among us human creatures."

Tactics:

To organise and commit the revolutionary forces within the area to the following tactics:—

- (1) TRADES UNIONISM.—(a) Complete control by rank and file, i.e., local autonomy; (b) officials appointed on terms of immediate recall; (c) unions to be made class-conscious and an aid to revolutionary power in the class struggle.

- (2) WORKSHOP COMMITTEES.—Irrespective of creed, sex, nationality, or craft distinctions, delegates to be appointed representing the various departments at the point of production, to form Committees (Workshop, etc.). Duties summarised as follows: (a) To fight anything considered as an encroachment on that which has already been wrested from the employers; (b) to establish potentially within the workshop the Soviet form of organisation; (c) all committees to be linked up for the purpose of intelligent, directive, revolutionary effort; (d) every situation and crisis at the point of production or elsewhere to be utilised and exploited at its highest revolutionary value.

And it is precisely because sheep and wolf, Capitalist and class-conscious proletarian, are agreed upon what constitutes good morality that we think E. W. Cant has the best of the argument.

Every dominant class in human history has been successful in imposing its own ideology of which morality is a part—upon society. Need less to say, that morality has differed from the class morality which preceded it and which is displaced. The process is being repeated to-day. Capitalist morality is not ours. We want none of it. We refuse to regard ourselves as "immoral" because we break faith with a cowardly bourgeoisie which grips us by the throat with one hand and holds a revolver to our head with the other. We do not moral sanction is extorting from the oath of "de or "word," and we are justified in breaking it because we are the oppressed and lack the force which would make us the equal of the oppressor.

The Capitalist class recognises this, hence the "scraps of paper" in time of war.

The Communists are always in a state of war against an enemy which, at present, is a thousand times more powerful than they are, and to accept the moral code as laid down by the dictates of that enemy would be an act of unmitigated tomfoolery on the part of the Communists.

* * *

The Skull and Cross Bones.

In the month of June Capitalism was responsible for the deaths of 216 workers—killed while producing profit for the boss—besides 5 more who died from the effects of lead poisoning and 48 who were rendered dangerously ill.

In July, the last month for which figures are available, only 34 cases of poisoning and another 48 were reported to the Home Office, of which 3 were fatal—but—The number of killed shows an increase of 36. Of the 252 workers slaughtered the interests of the bosses during July—

39 were railway workers.

94 were miners.

6 were quarrymen.

101 were factory workers.

12 were dockers, warehousemen, etc.

And this little list does not include seamen; does not include the "wounded."

Month after month the same tragedies are enacted, and the industrial machine grinds blood and flesh of men, women, and children for gold. The average number of such deaths for five years 1915-19 is 243 per month. There are twelve months in the year—sixty months in five years. In five years Capitalism has slaughtered 14,580 human beings in its workshops alone.

And this will continue and grow worse as years pass. Starvation, maiming, disease, crime will supplement the total. Think of it! It has gone on for years, it threatens to go on for years!

3.—Parliamentary Action:

Repudiating the institutions of Capitalism. Participation in electoral action shall be limited to the agitational and educational value that can be extracted therefrom.

The addendum carried on Parliamentary action was moved by Greenock. That the E.C. of the Party control the representatives, and determine whether the tactic shall be abstention or participation in Parliament.

P.S.—We notice that the "Daily Record" is a highly imaginative description of the Conference on its front page. When the new Party gets formed we'll give the "Record" plenty to write about without the reporters being called upon to exercise their imagination at all.—J.R.

PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE MEETS CENTRAL HALLS, BATH STREET, MONDAY FIRST 20th, AT 8 P.M.

The bloodiest of bloody Revolutions to end such horrors is preferable. The bloodiest Revolution would not be so frightful as the continuance of such a ruthless system as this.

Such is "peaceful" Capitalism. Now look at Capitalism militant.

Here are the latest figures upon the slaughter of Europe under the rule of make-believe advocates of "peace on earth, good will to man."

The world war reduced the population of the earth 40,000,000. This is the estimate of the Society for the Study of the Social Consequences of the War, a Copenhagen organisation. Its figures include war casualties, rise in deaths, and decline in births.

On this basis Russia was the heaviest sufferer, losing 12,000,000; Germany lost 6,300,000; Austria-Hungary, 5,800,000; France, 3,340,000; Italy, 2,280,000; Gt. Britain, 1,850,000; Serbia, 1,650,000; Rumania, 570,000; Belgium, 375,000; Bulgaria, 275,000; America, 300,000.

The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace places the direct cost of this slaughter at £46,500,000,000, and the indirect cost at £37,903,135,640.

All the wars between Napoleon's time and the world war showed a loss of life on the battlefield of only 4,450,000. The known dead of the world war battles total 9,998,771 and the missing 2,991,800.

This is the result of Capitalism's control of life's necessities; the result of the control of all men's needs by a parasitic few whose profits come first and the welfare of the masses last or not at all.

This fact is the problem of to-day. It is especially the problem of the great suffering masses who pay the terrific cost in blood and treasure. No worker can evade this issue. It will pursue him relentlessly. Whether he recognises it at present or not, ultimately it confronts him and demands his answer.

No one really wishes a bloody Revolution if it can be avoided. The history of mankind from the days of the first troglodyte to the present time is written in blood. We are sick of blood, and because we are sick of blood we would prefer, if necessary, to shed the last shedding all at once and get it over. This may be called a bloody thought. Maybe it is, but the snivelling Mensheviks of Britain who hinder the progress of the approaching Revolution because they shrink from bloodshed, and thus help to perpetuate Capitalism and its horrors, are bloodier than any bloody revolutionist.

What About Wages?

Everybody's wages were reduced lately. Some of you don't know it yet, hence the trouble you've had at home with the wife. If you would only take the trouble to educate Mrs Macnab on the economic point concerning wages and prices, she wouldn't be the reactionary she is alleged to be during strike-time. Anyway your wages came down during July. On the 1st of July the cost of living stood at 158 per cent. above pre-war prices. At 31st July it stood at 162 per cent. These figures are Government figures, and grossly underestimate the real increase. We are all hit the hardest on foodstuffs, and the White Paper statistics on Agriculture give us the following:—

Milk is up 200 per cent.; pigs, 176 per cent.; barley, 167 per cent.; fruit, 218 per cent.; oats, 164 per cent.; cheese, 169 per cent.; beans and peas, 219 per cent.

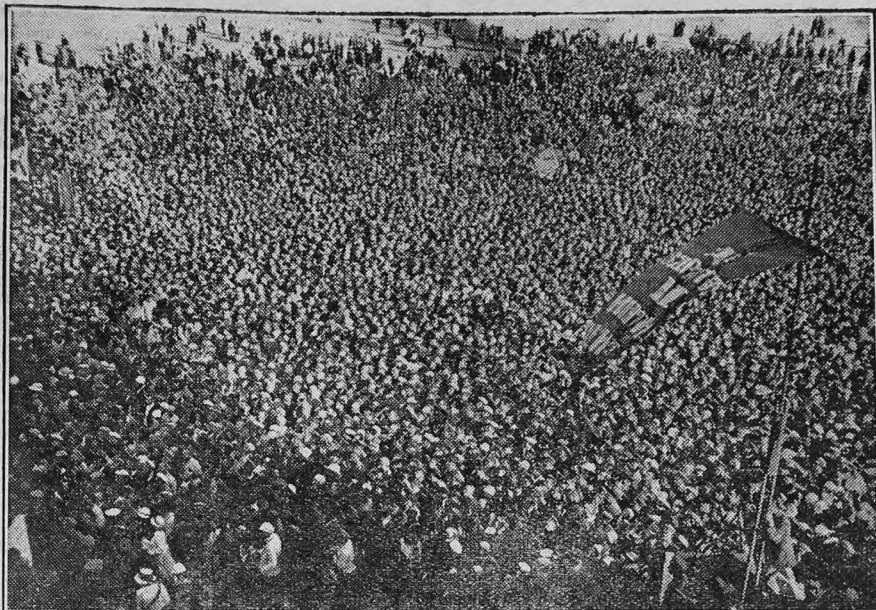
It doesn't matter what the mean average of increase is, because things are included which the worker never buys, such as pig iron, and steel girders. Look at the increase in price of the things you can't live without—your grub, your clothing, your house and furniture—and watch your wages growing smaller and smaller. If you strike for more in order to maintain your standard of comfort you'll be a selfish devil.

Strike, my lad, strike, and flatten the whole damned system into the dust.

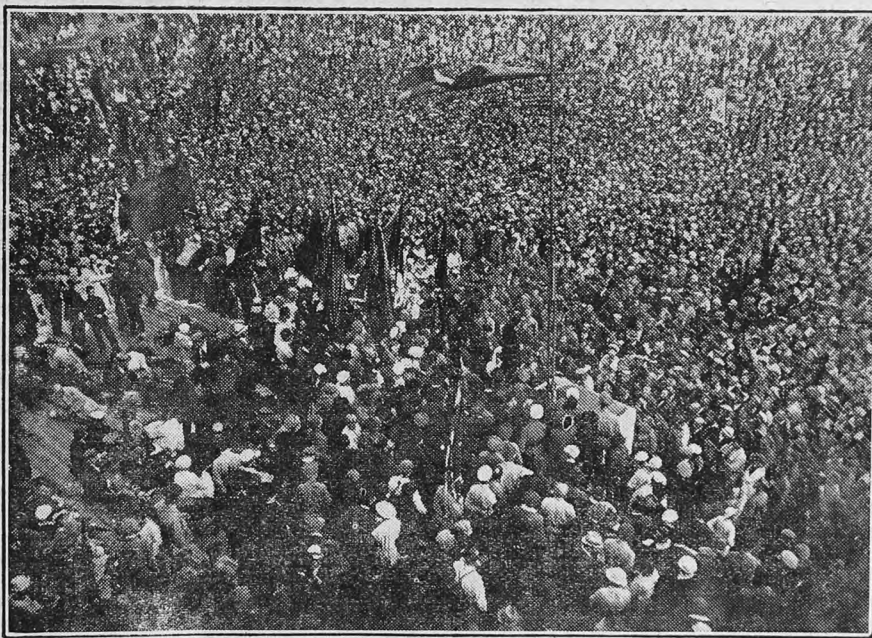
Get at the Cause!

Comrade Bucharin in one of his books writes about the people who permit a tree to grow, and when it sends forth evil branches they spend their lives lopping these branches off. Such are

Are the People Sick of Bolshevism?



THESE PHOTOGRAPHS SHOW THE DENSE CROWDS OF PETROGRAD WORKERS ENTHUSIASTICALLY DEMONSTRATING AT THE OPENING OF THE CONGRESS 3rd INTERNATIONAL, JULY, 1920.



reformers. The revolutionist would pluck the evil tree up by the roots and burn it. In the "Evening News" last Friday we were told that:—

"In Glasgow there are 13,195 houses certified by the Medical Officer of Health as insanitary and unfit for occupation. Yet practically all these houses are occupied.

It is not difficult to understand why smallpox and infectious diseases of all kinds are rife in the city, nor to see that vaccination is not the only way to check the ravages of plague. Prevention, in this connection, is better than cure—and that apart from the social misery of the people who have to live in our slum rookeries."

Every one of these houses has probably had its rent increased, or will have in the near future.

Such are what the fools were prevailed upon to "defend" in 1914-18. Said the poster which depicted, not some of these 13,195 "houses" but a few of Lord Roseberry's picturesque acres, "Surely this is worth defending?" Returning from the

great unpleasantness in France the hero crawls into his human pig-sty, forks out his rent, and gets—smallpox or the "flue." Because the land, houses, and instruments of wealth production are owned and controlled by an idle class, who use them for purposes of exploitation.

Along come the reformers. Give him free vaccination! screams one; give him a better house and raise his rent! screams another; put his house in order and reduce his rent! howls a third.

And as they gabble at one end of the tree in their efforts to lop the rotten branch off—two more rotten branches have sprouted somewhere else.

Says the revolutionist, pull the damned tree up by the roots.

It can be done alright if you gather the strength. That strength lies in the correctness of your workshop organisation.

The correctness of your workshop organisation depends upon the education of the members.

Therefore push the "Worker," and keep it going with subs until paper gets cheaper.

International Notes.

ITALY.

The Italian workers seem to be getting tired of going out into the streets to be shot down with rifles and machine-guns. For some time the Left section of the Socialist movement has been rubbing in the fact that the street is the chosen battle-ground of Capitalism, and that the factory should be the citadel of the workers.

A machine-gun can dominate the street or the town square, but it cannot dominate a great factory occupied by the workers.

For the third time the leaderless Italian workers are endeavouring to seize the factories and run them themselves.

To those who have followed the remarkable success of the Italian Socialist Party in the elections of November, 1919, when 150 candidates were elected in place of 40 in the previous Parliament, it will not be surprising that the Party bureaucracy has stood out of this seizure of factories, and on each of the previous occasions left the workers to the mercies of the military.

As was exactly the case in Germany prior to the November revolution, 1919, the Party leaders declare every rising of the proletariat to be "premature," and in place of developing the revolutionary crisis as far as it will go, every attempt is made to secure the collapse of the movement by compromise.

The third attempt at factory seizure has resulted in the occupation of many hundreds of the largest works throughout the country.

In Naples all the factories have fallen into the hands of the workers, and the same thing has happened in the industrial centres of Spezia, Sestri, Ponenti, and Sampierdarena, where most of the big shipyards of Italy are situated.

The Rome correspondent of the "Daily Herald" reports that the workers are entrenched in the principal factories of Turin, Milan, and Genoa, and are hard at work manufacturing arms and munitions. They already have machine-guns, tanks, and aeroplanes at their disposal. It is stated that two red aeroplanes have been seen in the day-time launching "incendiary manifestoes."

The Government appears to be powerless, but there is a bright ray of hope for Italian Capitalism in the attitude of worker's bureaucracy.

For instance, we learn that the Executive Council of the General Confederation of Labour met at Milan with the representatives of the Executive of the Socialist Party. It was decided that in view of the impossibility of the conflict being limited to a single isolated Union, the conduct of the conflict must be entrusted to the G.C.I. and the S.P. "leaders."

What glorious enthusiasm! You can guess in one how this revolutionary rising will end if left in the hands of these courageous "leaders."

Meanwhile, the Communist Inter-Party Congress at Moscow has wirelessly condemning the indecisiveness of the Italian Socialist Party and demanding revolutionary action.

FRANCE.

The great question posed before almost every Socialist and Labour Party to-day is Revolution or Reform?

With a rapidity that must be astounding to the social student, the masses are moving steadily to the Left, in spite of the despairing efforts of a Socialist and Trade Union bureaucracy.

The rock upon which every Socialist Party is splitting to-day is the Third International. In vain have the old tried and trusted "leaders" of the movement endeavoured to obscure the issue by the introduction of complications and new international proposals. The issue remains—Reform or Revolution.

The split in the French Socialist movement appears now to be inevitable.

Recently the Party sent two of their Reformist leaders to Russia. The whole-hearted adherence of these two leaders to the Russian Revolution and the Third International has precipitated a crisis in the Party.

It was expected by the Reformist elements in the Party that if the efforts towards an "all-inclu-

sive" international failed the Third International would swallow the Party whole, disagreeable yellow elements as well.

The stern conditions of Moscow now to hand demand the purging of the Party of the yellow elements, including Longuet, and prohibit any collaboration with Jouhaux and the other Trade Union bureaucracy that controls the destination of the Confederation of Labour.

The National Congress of the Party takes place in November, and this Congress will doubtless be a landmark in the history of French Socialism.

It remains to be seen whether the Party will agree to the drastic terms of Moscow and join the Third International as a homogenous revolutionary body, or whether it will remain like the German Independent Socialists, wanderers in the wilderness.

RUMANIA.

Rumania is the Continental state that last entered into the war. The longer the war had been on the lower was the belligerents' stock, and the more had to be paid for fresh mercenaries. The Rumanians got their price, and that consisted of huge and fertile territories of Hungary and Russia.

In consequence of this booty Rumania is the only country in Europe that is able to export grain on a large scale.

But in spite of the abundance of food the lives of the working classes are full of hardship. To Enrico Dubbescu the promised "new era" doesn't seem at all up to sample, and there is much industrial discontent, particularly among the workers in the factory areas.

There is at the present time a strike of the postal workers of Bucarest, and the tramway workers and railwaymen are also on strike. The railwaymen have been on strike for five weeks.

The postal and railway services are being carried on by the military aided by scab "volunteers" from the bourgeoisie.

Taking a leaf from the post-war procedure of those parliamentary democracies, so beloved and respected by the bureaucracy of our movement (Britain, U.S.A., Germany, France, Italy, etc.), the Rumanian Government has acted with promptitude and decision, employing those white terrorist methods that truly belong to the new era or the Capitalist millenium. Mass arrests of the leaders of the strikes have been effected on any or no pretext, and the men have been thrown into jail and, according to "La Internacional" of Madrid, subjected to methods of medieval torture such as were practised by the ancient Boyars.

The Government of General Averescu lends itself to this work of repression openly, and has even summarily ejected the workers' parliamentary representatives from Parliament by armed force.

Here is Capitalism with the parliamentary mask off.

Perhaps it is not wholly a bad situation for the workers seem incapable of seeing behind that mask.

Meanwhile it should be noted that the peasants are also in a state of unrest. They produce much food, but the food is mostly sent out of the country, always an ample sufficiency being left behind of course for their masters, the Boyars.

Such is the charged atmosphere of this "victorious" state.

GERMANY.

Bavarian reactionaries, with the Government at the head, have apparently made up their minds to rescue Germany from Bolshevism. What Bolshevism is they do not trouble to define.

In reality the movement is, according to "Freiheit," an endeavour to set up once more the old regime. But the calculations of these out-of-date reactionaries is evidently made without taking into account the Bavarian workers. These have been crushed by the armies of General Hoffman, of Brest-Litovsk fame, but repression stimulates reaction.

The Inhabitants' Force, organised by the bourgeoisie, has now become the focus of the attacks of the workers, who are striving constantly to

secure the disbandment of these white guards of Capitalism.

"Freiheit" states that after the recent happenings the Inhabitants' Force cannot be regarded as an organisation for local protection and the maintenance of order. It is nothing else than a centralised organisation, which is utilised by the reactionary elements for their own ends.

The Town Council of Nuremberg has demanded from the State Government the immediate disarming of the Inhabitants' Force of Nuremberg. In case of the non-fulfilment of this demand the Town Council intimates that it will organise a counter-force among the workers.

NORWAY.

It is a peculiar phase of development that for many years in Norway the Socialist Party organisation has been built on the Trades Unions. For this reason perhaps the Party has always inclined towards direct industrial action in place of that parliamentary (misnamed "political") action so dear to the leaders of the Socialist Parties of other lands. This direct action, however, has not yet expressed itself in far-reaching practical measures.

At the Party Congress, held in Christiania in 1919, the Party declared by a large majority for adherence to the Third International, but with the reservation of a strong anti-military program. That reservation was withdrawn by a large majority at the 1920 Congress.

From the commencement of the Party's adherence to the Third International an anti-Bolshevik opposition formed within the Party composed of the Reformist elements, which runs its own weekly paper, entitled "Labour Politics."

The chances of a complete separation of these two elements by a Party split are increasingly evident, although it will be difficult for the small group of Reformists to form an independent Socialist Party with their small numbers.

After the Moscow Congress the "Labour Politics" declared openly for a split, and at the same time the principal organ of the majority of the Party, the "Social Democrat," expressed the relief and pleasure of the bulk of the Party to be rid of the "counter-revolutionaries."

X

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Chibbilum" (B in F).—Thanks very much, and write as much as you feel inclined to. The matter will be preserved and used as occasions arise. It is not only interesting but valuable.

Geo. Sims (Larkhall).—In time we shall do so, but either paper must get cheaper or we must get richer.

Alexander Crawford (Glasgow).—Very sorry, but your suggestion cannot be entertained at present. We have a fearful lot of other work to do before we engage in ventures such as you propose. Thanks all the same.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE.

If you see a member of the Workers' Committee "standing at the corner of the street" with his boots brought together to form a right angle and his hand upon his throat, and if when he shakes hands with you he manages to jab his thumbnail into the upper end of your forefinger, don't mistake him for a victim of softening of the brain—he is only telling you how hard up the "Worker" is for funds.

"WORKER" MAINTENANCE FUND.

Already acknowledged	£95 6 2
Parkhead per T. S.	2 5 6
Hamilton Workers per D. R.	0 6 0
Mr C. per C. S.	0 3 0
D. A. Kennedy	0 2 6
Kelvin Motors per J. Q.	1 5 0
B. A.	0 9 0
Cowlairs per J. O'H.	0 14 0
J. P. Hughes, Liverpool	1 0 0
Rosyth Coppersmiths and Turners	0 7 0
The Jolly Beggars	0 4 0

£102 2 2

Note.—Bowday's Boiler Shop per J. G. M. last week's list should read per T. M.G.

COMMUNIST MORALITY.

(To the Editor of the "Worker.")

Dear Comrade,—I was greatly surprised on reading Comrade Cant's letter of the 21st inst., in which he points out the fact that Comrade Geddes is immoral, inasmuch that he considers that he is not bound to keep faith. Comrade Cant is horrified to find that Comrade Geddes is lacking in what he calls class morality, that is, he admits that Comrade Geddes would be justified in breaking faith with the Capitalist class but not with his fellow Communists. I would like it to be understood that it is distinctly immoral to break faith with anyone, or with any class. Again, Comrade Geddes was wrong in this that he drew a parallel between his own act and the act of those who take the parliamentary oath with the avowed intention of breaking it. The cases are very far from being parallel, as Comrade Geddes and others were made the victims of a piece of sharp practice in that they were led to give their word before knowing what was on the agenda.

The moral is, do not bind yourself to agree on what you know not of. As for those who are prepared to take the oath of allegiance, they evidently think that they are justified, and that they are above reproach. Personally, I think that they are beneath contempt. It was this sort of reasoning that made the Carthaginians notorious in ancient times and "Punic faith" a term of reproach. I would be sorry indeed to know that Punic faith and Communist faith were identical. Communism to me is a religion, and I may say my only one, and I, and I am sure many more, would wish it to be kept free from anything which would cast reflections upon it.—Fraternally yours,

JOHN O'NEILL.

DIVIDED WE FALL.

(To the Editor of the "Worker.")

Dear Comrade,—The storm clouds of the grim future are rolling up from all directions. Sombre are they in their forboding blackness. The ruling classes with their remarkable unity of front are solidly welded together in their counter-revolutionary enterprise. Why cannot we, who call ourselves "Communists," at least emulate the example shown by the Capitalists? No one can deny that the inauguration of the Communist Party is an admirable step forward on the path to complete Communist unity. However, when one casts the veil from one's eyes and surveys the legions of folk with Communistic ideals, who, although sincere, are groping in mid air, or floundering in the Ripet Marshes of verbal controversy, one realises the amount of work ahead before our goal is reached. To sum up the situation, we have in Great Britain the Communist Party of Great Britain, the Socialist Labour Party, the Communist Party, B.S.T.I. (late W.S.F.), the Communist League, and I believe a Scots Communist Party is in process of formation. Now broadly speaking these bodies, together with a few so-called Anarchist Groups, and many members of the "Left Wing" I.L.P., have ideals, aims, and programmes that are 99.99 per cent. identical. Owing to metriculous verbal hair-splitting there is almost complete Communist disunity in the country. Can we not eradicate this .01 per cent. of difference, and endeavour to secure that co-ordination of purpose which is so essential to any sort of successful proletarian action? Might I suggest that the above movements put their objections to the scrap heap, take off their coats, and set to work for real unity. An old nursery adage runs, "If at first you don't succeed," etc., etc. Black cloaks, long hair, and horn-rimmed spectacles are imposing, but do not carry the workers anywhere in their fight for emancipation. Affiliation to the Labour Party seems to be the stumbling block. As far as I know it has not had its request for this accepted. Should the affiliation be refused, immediate and complete fusion of British Communists would follow. But even should this not be the case, there is no reason for despair. Personally I am inclined to support the policy of Vladimir Ulianoff, i.e., that of working inside the Labour Party and other similar "yellow" bour-

geois bodies. He deems it extremely efficacious, provided it be limited to Communist propaganda purposes. Those who have read Zinovieff's theses will possibly agree. In any case compromise is always applicable. By our internecine squabbling we play into the hands of the master class. It must cease.—Yours fraternally,

ERIC VERNEY.

A COMPLAINT.

(To the Editor of the "Worker.")

My Dear Editor,—In your issue of August 28 appeared three verses entitled "Mansions in the Sky," by John L. Jones. I was sorry to see them for this reason. Tom Maguire, of blessed memory, a rebel of the first order, wrote three verses many years ago called "Be Content," a copy of which I enclose. Tom, as you must know, has been dead many years, but his memory is very sacred to some of us.

The man Jones must surely have seen them. And he is outside the pale of forgiveness, inasmuch as regards both matter and art he has not improved them. Forgive me this growl. I didn't like to see such a thing occur in your very excellent little paper.—Yours for the Revolution,

GEORGE WALLACE.

"BE CONTENT."

Said the parson: "Be content;
Pay your tithe-dues, pay your rent;
They that earthly things despise
Shall have mansions in the skies;
Though your back with toil be bent,"
Said the parson, "be content."

Then the parson feasting went
With my lord, who lives by rent;
And the parson laughed, elate,
For my lord has livings great.
They that earthly things revere
May get bishops' mansions here.

Be content! Be content!
Till your dreary life is spent.
Lowly live and lowly die,
All for mansions in the sky.
Castles here are much too rare;
All may have them—in the air.

TOM MAGUIRE.

NOTICE.

TOM BARKER of Australia will commence a ten day's tour in Scotland on Sept. 24 under the auspices of the Scottish Workers' Committees. Dates and terms can be fixed through S.W.C. Office, 31 N. Frederick Street.

COLLAPSE OF CONCILIATION.

—Continued from First Page

THE RANK AND FILE MUST MOVE.

The average Trade Union official is not likely to give a lead in the matter. It is no use waiting to see what Thomas is going to do or what Brownlie is likely to say. Those gentlemen never do anything except offer soporific advice, unless they are pushed by the rank and file. They set up the Council of Action because they realised that something had to be done to placate an exasperated rank and file. They will use their power in this crisis only if the rank and file force them into using it. At every Trade Union meeting during the next ten days the question of supporting the miners should be raised, and a resolution sent to the Executive. In every workshop where a shop meeting is possible such meetings should be held and the case placed before the men. Wherever possible demonstrations advocating similar principles should be held up and down the country at the week-end so that when the twenty-fifth draws near the Trade Union officials will have no doubt as to the extent of working-class support behind them.

But more than that is necessary. The workers must come together unofficially, through Workshop Committees and Workshop Groups, ready to put that unofficial machinery into operation should the official elements fail. The whole future of the British working class is in the

balance, and every precaution must be taken to ensure victory, even if the officials fail us.

THE ACTIVE GENERAL STRIKE.

Whether the working class support to the miners is given through the official unions, or through the local Councils of Action, or through workshop organisation, it must aim at shortening the strike by extending it and forcing a decision at the earliest possible moment. The workers have far more to gain from this course than by allowing the struggle to drag on for weeks, when their industry gradually slows down and forces them on to the streets. Even if the miners' cause was not also their cause, even if they should not stand to gain from the victory of the miners, sheer self-interest should compel them to enter the struggle and bring it to a speedy conclusion. Immediately the strike is declared steps must be taken to extend it to all the vital industries. Able speakers from the mining areas must be drafted into the towns to assist in working up feeling and facilitating the general stoppage. As soon as the stoppage is complete, steps must be taken by the local strike committee to start certain food distributing services, certain power stations, etc., not under the control of the Government, but under the control of the workers. If a strike takes place, and the Government retains, through the servility of certain workers, control of the food supply, control of the transport services, then the Government wins. If the workers get control of those things, then the Government has got to use unlimited physical force to defeat them, in those days of unreliable armies, or it has got to give in. That is the plain logic of the situation.

The army could be attended to from the very beginning. Leaflets could be prepared for distribution amongst the troops, explaining the reasons for the strike, and urging the soldiers not to be parties to the break up of Trade Unionism and the murder of their own class. If the fact of those leaflets being distributed only suggested to the Government, a doubt as to the complete reliability of their armed forces, then their distribution would be well worth while. People having relatives in the army should be urged on to write them from now onwards pointing out the dangers of them being utilised to reduce their class (the class to which they return after their army service is over) to an even more damnable level of economic enslavement than that which they are enduring at present.

The ex-service men also could be organised to act as a civil defence force to protect any organisation that the workers may set up.

LET THE REBELS COME TOGETHER.

That at anyrate is our policy. If anyone has a better policy we would be glad to support it. At anyrate we consider that the advanced elements should speak with a united voice on the policy to be adopted in this crisis. We are calling a conference of industrial rebels in Scotland to discuss this policy on Saturday, 25th September. Delegates from workshops and workshop groups are invited. Such delegates are asked to get the opinion of their establishments before coming to the meeting. Individual rebels are also invited to attend, so that when a move is made by the advanced workers it will be made unitedly.

"Ah, then, Mary, do you know who that is playin' wid the dog?"

"Troth, I don't, Biddy, but he's a fine lookin' man, whoever he is."

"That's the Archbishop, Mary."

"Do you tell me so? God bless the innocent craythur! Isn't he easily amused?"

"He's not our Archbishop at all, Mary; he's the Protestant Archbishop."

"Oh! the b—— ould fool."

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"I'm sorry to see you so unstrung," said the arrow.

"Yes," said the bow, "it's no use trying to keep straight—I have too many drawbacks."

The family Cat (surveying his reflection in the family water bucket)—One ear gone, one eye closed, thirteen gashes, part of the lower jaw missing, and nothing left of the whiskers but stumps. What a glorious old time I must have had last night!

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF EX-SERVICE MEN

All correspondence to be addressed to Nat. Secy., 98 Bishop Street, Anderston, Glasgow.

Unity.—Again that blessed word unity crops up. Unity is a very elusive thing; everyone seems to be talking of unity and amalgamation. The Comrades of the Great War and the Scottish Federation are arranging to join hands (vide press). I was always of the opinion there never was any difference between the two organisations. The same thing is happening in England. The Federation, Comrades, etc., are linking up. The cry is now, why don't the International and the National Unions join hands? Their constitutions are identical. Candidly I am unable to answer the query. Personally, I deny that the constitutions are identical. In my opinion they are as wide as the poles apart. We of the I.U. believe in the Workshop Committee system of organisation, which means rule from the bottom. The N.U. believe in the principle of Trade Unionism, which is rule from the top. The I.U.X. places its trust in the Third International. The N.U. are parties to the Second International through their affiliation to the Labour Party. The I.U.X. believe the revolution will be decided in the industrial field; the N.U. depend on the political field. A Labour majority in Parliament is their goal. Their belief is that with a Labour Government in power the workers' troubles will come to an end. The I.U.X. have no faith in parliamentarism. Labour is otherwise. We recognise that so long as the Capitalist system is in existence, so long will the workers, the producers of all wealth, be plundered, exploited, and murdered, no matter what Party is in power. We are emphatic in our belief that the only remedy is Communism. Therefore I fail to see how by any stretch of imagination can be said to be identical with that of the N.U.X.

Several questions have been asked re the United Service Fund (Welfare Committee), commonly called the Byng Fund. Readers of these notes will remember that there was a committee in Glasgow composed of representatives of the various organisations of ex-service men. That committee was a farce. Anything passed by them had to be endorsed by the Area Committee in Edinburgh before becoming operative. Said Area Committee was composed of representatives from the Comrades and the Scottish Federation. Several schemes were adopted by the Glasgow Committee, but as none of them suited either the Comrades or the Scottish Federation it stood to reason that they would be rejected. Early in the life of the committee the Comrades and the Scottish made it known that they would accept nothing but local areas. The Glasgow Committee refused to agree to a local area scheme. Matters reached a deadlock, with the result that the Area Committee disbanded the Glasgow Committee, or in other words sacked them. The scheme of local areas is not being put in force. We would have agreed to that scheme were it worked on a democratic principle, but according to the regulations only the Comrades and the Scottish Federation are recognised; all other organisations are ignored. The organisations already mentioned have selected their representatives for the different parliamentary areas. Meetings are being held throughout Glasgow during the next fortnight to select the unattached representatives (the International Union members are unattached). Now there is a possibility, nay a probability, that the Comrades will make the attempt to get men favourable to their cause on these committees as unattached, and thus have full control of Glasgow's share of the Byng Fund. It behoves every ex-service man to be on the alert, attend these meetings, and see to it that the proper men are elected. Several meetings will have taken place before these notes are in print, but the following have yet to be held:—

Tradeston.—Kingston Lesser Hall, Paisley Rd. West, Thursday, 16th Sept., at 7.30 p.m. **Govan.**—Govan (Chambers) Hall, Govan Road, Monday, 20th Sept., 7.30 p.m. **St. Rollox.**—Springburn Lesser Hall, Keppochill Road, Thursday, 21st Sept., 7.30 p.m. **Maryhill.**—Maryhill Hall, Gairbraid Avenue, Wednesday, 22nd Sept., 7.30 p.m. **Cathcart.**—Couper Institute (Lesser), Clarkston Road, Thursday, 23rd Sept., 7.30 p.m. **Shettleston.**—Parkhead Hall, 1286 Duke Street, Friday, 24th September, 7.30 p.m. **Kelvingrove.**—St. Andrew's (Mid) Hall, Berkeley Street, Wednesday, 29th Sept., 7.30 p.m. **Central.**—City (Saloon) Hall, Aubion Street, Thursday, 30th Sept., 7.30 p.m. Meetings in Bridgeton, Camlachie, and Gorbals will be announced later.

The N.E.C. wish it to be known as widely as possible that the following have no connection with the International Union, namely:—T. Ginsburg, London; J. Milligan, Dundee; W. S. Taylor, Edinburgh; and P. Burke, Glasgow.

BRANCH REPORTS.

WEST LONDON.—Good reports are coming to hand. Comrade Jones is working hard to organise West London, and his efforts are meeting with success. Propaganda meetings are being held every day and night, special attention being paid to the Labour Exchanges, when Comrade Jones dishes out the gospel to the ex-heroes. Arrangements are in course of completion for the formation of a District Council for London. The formation will assist organisation and promote harmony. A branch has been opened at Acton. Waltham Green will be tapped on Thursday. N. Kensington only requires premises to get going ahead. A meeting will be held in Chiswick next week when branch will be set a-going. The following are a few of the branch officials' names and addresses:—Shepherd's Bush—W. Lyle, 71 Stowe Road, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.12. N. Kensington—H. Styles, 13 Rendle Street, N. Kensington, W.10. Waltham Green—Comrade Stratton, 1 A Radcliffe Street, Fulham, S.W. Acton—Comrade Allen, 2 Roslyn Road, Acton, W. Chiswick—S. Bowler, 98 Bolo Lane, Chiswick, W.4. A branch has also been established in Reading. Other two branches will be opened by the time this report is in print. It is well to remember that only about six weeks have elapsed since Comrade Paister appointed Jones as organiser for West London, during which time he has not had an idle moment. The above list of branches is a testimony to his work. The N.E.C. have forwarded to Comrade Jones their best thanks and appreciation for the splendid work he has accomplished in West London on behalf of the I.U. Comrade Paister reports that he is in touch with Luton, and expects good results. Meantime he is arranging for the appointment of organisers for the other parts of London, and as soon as the right men are found their names and addresses will appear in the "Worker." Comrade Paister, our South of England organiser, is arranging to visit the West of England. Result of visit will appear in a future issue. Advanced and go-ahead ex-service men in London and district are advised to get in touch with Comrade R. Jones, 399 Portobello Rd., N. Kensington, W.10, or Comrade Paister, 22 Phillip Street, Kingsland Road, London, N.3.

PARTICK.—Usual weekly meeting was held in the Young Scots' Institute on Thursday—a very poor meeting indeed, but I daresay the weather had something to do with that. However, let us see a better turnout in future. All intending members should get in touch with Comrade Docherty, 10 Anderson Street, Partick.

ANDERSTON and CENTRAL.—The pioneer branch is still carrying on. The membership has been depleted lately owing to the branch having to supply officials to the new branches that have sprung into existence. Now that the winter months are on a determined effort will be made to place the branch in its proper position at the top of the tree. Branch meets every Friday in the I.L.P. Rooms, 686 Argyle Street, Anderston, at 8 p.m., when the Secy. will be in attendance to enroll new members. Now then, you Boys of Anderston and district, rally round the only ex-service men's organisation that is out for your benefit as workers as well as ex-service men.

SOUTH SIDE.—Weekly outdoor meeting held at Gorbals Cross. Splendid propaganda addresses were delivered by Comrades Smillie and Cheyne. The audience was large and enthusiastic, and many intelligent questions were asked and answered. These meetings are catching on, many of the audience coming from Oatlands, Crosshill, and Kinning Park. They want the real stuff in the South Side, and our Boys don't forget to give it to them hot. A rent strike demonstration was held on Sunday, supported by the S.S. branch. Comrades M'Gregor and Cheyne spoke on behalf of the I.U. A meeting of the United Service Fund (Welfare Committee) has been called for Thursday night, 16th Sept., in the Kingston Lesser Hall for the purpose of forming a local committee in connection with this fund. All Tradeston ex-service men should be there and see that the proper men get on that committee. Only unattached men residing in the district are eligible to attend. Comrades of the Great War and Scot-

tish Federation are barred, as they have already elected the delegates.

PAISLEY.—Branch met on Sunday at 2 p.m. in the S.L.P. Rooms. Comrade M'Gurn presided, and outlined the aims and objects of the Union, and dealt very effectively with the need for an ex-service men's organisation built on revolutionary principles. At the close of his remarks a motion was tabled that all present join the I.U.X. The motion was carried, and 12 new members were enrolled. Branch will meet in future on Thursdays in S.L.P. Rooms, 6 Causeyside Street, at 8 p.m. at 8 p.m. It was decided to run Propaganda meetings on Fridays and Sundays. Friday at Abbey Close, and Sundays at County Sq.

COWCADDENS.—Very successful meeting was held in the Branch hall, 193 Cowcaddens St. 10 new members were enrolled. This branch is paving the way for Communism. The N.U. in this district have now realised the futility of their claims and have cleared out. Now, boys, roll up and help to keep the Red Flag flying.

EDINBURGH.—The members in Edinburgh are as busy as can be with propaganda work. Grand meetings; enrolments fair. It was naturally to be expected that an organisation such as ours would not carry all before it in one full swoop. There is much spade work to be done before the average ex-service man understands his position. The officials are not down-hearted, on the contrary they are very much encouraged as progress has exceeded the anticipations. When it is considered that 15 doz. "Workers" are disposed of every week there is some grounds for being optimistic. Com. Morton is arranging to run an economic class during the winter, also a series of indoor lectures. The first will take place on Sunday, Oct. 3. Speaker, Com. Gormley, Nat. Pres. Note Secy's address—J. Morton, 13, Gardeners Crescent.

DUNDEE.—The officials are very busy organising the Widows and Dependents Branch. A branch has been established of 62, making a total for both Branches of 1,773. A branch is in course of formation in Lochee and will be open some time this week. Arrangements are being made to try and get a woman through to Dundee for a week-end to address the widows and dependents. A new Assistant Secy has been appointed in the person of Com. Pirie, and his duty is to see to it that Branch reports are forwarded in time.

WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIAL UNION.

GOVAN SHIPBUILDING LOCAL.

A meetings of above Local will be held in Arrandale Hall, Shandon Street, Govan, on Thursday, Sept. 23, at 7.30 p.m., to explain and discuss the policy of the W.I.I.U. as agreed on at last Aggregate Meeting.

All members and dissatisfied Trade Unionists invited.

THE ECONOMICS OF LIBERTY.

A summary of Proudhon's teaching. By J. B. ROBINSON. Cloth, post free, 2/-.

List of other books on application.

THE FREE AGE PRESS, Tuckton House, Bournemouth.

THE CLYDE WORKERS' BAND.

Winning Numbers:—8612, 8016, 14780, 12013, 2232, 2759, 14918.

The Clyde Workers' Band was the only band to turn out on Rent Strike demonstration day. In consequence it was victimised by the authorities, its permit being cancelled. Unable to obtain a permit to play at the Springburn Gala Day for the Cowlairs Co-op. Socy., the band nevertheless was prepared to turn out in defiance of the authorities. Composed of instrumentalists who are rebels as well as being musicians, the Clyde Workers' Silver Band is one of the most valuable assets the movement possesses to-day, and deserves every encouragement and support. We believe the band has a vacancy or two. Instrumentalists desiring to offer their services please communicate with this office.

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