

THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

For International Socialism.

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NAPOLEON'S INVASION OF RUSSIA.

Condensed from 'The Retreat from Moscow and Passage of the Beresina,' by Colonel A. E. Turner, C.B. Woolwich, printed at the Royal Artillery Institution, 1898.

It is often overlooked that a large portion of "La Grande Armée" was composed of contingents drawn from nearly every part of Europe. For instance, there were 30,000 Austrians, 30,000 Prussians under Marshal MacDonald, each forming a separate Army Corps, while in several of the regular French Corps, and even in that of the Guards, other troops were incorporated. With the latter corps was a battalion of Baden troops; whilst in the 1st Corps, 67,000 strong, there were 9,000 Mecklenburg-Hessian, Spanish, and Polish soldiers. In the 2nd Corps were 1,600 Portuguese, 1,800 Croats, and 7,000 Swiss. In the 3rd Corps were 23,000 French, 3,000 Portuguese, 3,000 Illyrian, and 14,000 Wurtemberg troops. The 4th and 6th Corps numbered 77,000 men, of whom 38,000 were French, 1,700 Croats, 1,200 Spanish, 2,000 Dalmatians, 20,000 Italians, and 12,000 Bavarians; whilst with the 9th Corps there was a brigade of Baden troops 5,000 strong. Of the Reserve Cavalry, 44,600 strong, 27,000 were French, 4,400 Prussians, 600 Wurtemberg, 1,100 Bavarians, 2,000 Saxons, 6,000 Polish, and 3,000 Westphalians.

The strength of the French army on June 23rd, 1812, was 414,000 men, which was made up by later arrivals to at least 500,000 men, and 1,200 guns. Opposed to these were 330,000 Russians. It is very difficult to estimate at all approximately the number of those who perished, for, in addition to the above, a vast host of camp followers, including women and children, accompanied the army, thousands of whom succumbed to the cold and of whom no account was taken. The Russian report stated as follows:—

Killed in battle	125,000
Died from cold, &c.	132,000
Prisoners (3000 officers, 48 generals)	193,000
Total	450,000

The plan of the French Emperor was to force the passage of the Niemen at Kovno, and by a rapid advance to separate the two defending Russian armies. On July 27th Napoleon entered Witebsk. Though everything had gone so far well the condition of the "Grande Armée" filled many superior officers with feelings akin to dismay. No general action had been fought, but a third of its strength had already wasted away. The commissariat, transport, and hospital arrangements were terribly defective, and even pillage availed nothing in an impoverished country over which the Russian armies had already marched. The

mortality amongst the horses was enormous, a large quantity of the cavalry was dismounted, and great difficulty was experienced in horsing the artillery. Napoleon halted fifteen days at Witebsk and made a general advance on Smolensk on August 10th. Fifteen days' provisions were carried. The Emperor reached Dorogobuje on August 25th, Slavkovo on the 26th, Semlivo on the 28th, Viasma on the 30th and Gyat, about a hundred miles from Moscow, on September 1st.

The battle of Borodino was fought on the 7th, the French attacking early simultaneously on the right, centre, and left of the Russian position; there was no manœuvring but a direct advance all along the line, and desperate hand to hand fighting. The Russian army of 130,000 was posted in a very strong position on the high ground beyond the Kaluya.

The strength of the French army with Napoleon had wasted to 120,000 men, having lost over two-thirds of its effective in two months and a half!

The battle was one of the most sanguinary ever recorded, the Russians lost 50,000 out of 130,000; the French 28,000 out of 120,000.

The next day the French army advanced; the French advance was now uninterrupted and the city was entered by the advance guard on September 16th.

Eye-witnesses agree in saying that the terrible losses had seriously affected the morale of the army and that the demeanour of the men was more like that of troops retreating than advancing on the enemy's capital after a great victory. On September 15th Napoleon arrived with the Imperial Guard, and took up his quarters in the Kremlin. His eyes were at last open to the fact that the Russians would not make peace at any terms and that his army was in a situation of desperate peril.

It is a commonly accepted error that the burning of Moscow was done by the orders of the Governor Rotopshine and that want of provisions brought about the retreat of Napoleon. This was by no means the case. In the first place, only portions of the city had been consumed by the fire and enough of it was saved to shelter the whole French army; in the second place there were provisions in the place sufficient to supply the latter for six months. The real reason was that it was manifestly impossible to remain with an army which had withered away to a quarter of its strength.

The early winter during the retreat of the French army to the Beresina was remarkably mild and it was only after the Beresina had been crossed that the cold became extraordinarily intense, and completed the destruction of the army. The day on which the proximity of Smolensk was reached

during the retreat the strength of Napoleon's force was then reduced to 41,500.

From the day Moscow had been entered to October 19th, 1812, the day on which the memorable and terrible retreat began, the Russians were busily occupied in strengthening their army and their positions on the bank of the Nara, while they left to the Cossacks and to the armed peasants the task of cutting off convoys and detachments on their way to join the French army. Day by day these auxiliary bands became more and more enterprising, till at last it was dangerous for individuals or even small numbers of men to go any distance from the main and occupied parts of the city.

During the retreat the number of stragglers, most of whom had thrown away their arms and who now accompanied the army, had attained enormous proportion; the number has been put at 30,000 upon November 1st, when Smolensk was reached. A huge depot had been formed there when the place had been taken by the invading army. Napoleon, who feared that his half-finished troops would break all bonds of discipline, hurried on with the Imperial Guard and occupied the town, but when the main body reached the town the men could no longer be restrained; they rushed into the city and a wild scene of pillage ensued, and continued till nothing was left—what could not be carried off was destroyed, so much so that when General Ney arrived with the rearguard, who had been keeping the enemy at bay while others plundered and wild orgies were going on in Smolensk, he found nothing for his weary, hungry soldiers. The retreat of the army from Smolensk commenced on November 12th, but it was not until the 17th that the rearguard evacuated it. The march was constantly molested by attacks. Of the 6,000 that with General Ney were at Krasnoë on November 18th only 900 reached Orscha on the 21st. On the night of the 25th two bridges were commenced by the sappers working through the night with the greatest devotion, to their waists in the half-frozen water. By the next afternoon both bridges were ready. The army had bivouacked near Studienka. During the whole of the 27th the army defiled over the bridge without intermission; the Emperor himself crossed at 1 P.M., and order seem to have been preserved till 4 P.M., when the artillery bridge broke down.

On the 28th one division had to be sent back, recrossing the river to defend the rearguard. Numbers of helpless sick and wounded men were hustled without mercy in the river, and to add to the horror of the scene a fierce snowstorm raged. Many attempted to ford the river on horseback

Continued on back page.

THE INTERNATIONAL.

FINNISH SOCIALISTS TO BE SOLD AS SLAVES TO GERMANY.

According to the *Berner Tagwacht*, the Finnish Diet read a second time the Punishment of Insurgents Bill which was passed by 63 votes against 36. The insurgents are to be sent abroad, that is to say to Germany, to serve their terms of penal servitude there. The Finnish Government stated that it would cost about £4,000,000 to keep the 40,000 rebels and would require about 4,000 men to guard them.

Owing to the war, a cheap and easy way out of the difficulty has presented itself to the Finnish Government. The 40,000 Socialists will be sent to Germany to work in alkali factories where they will be no doubt kept by the German Government and guarded by German bayonets.

The Socialist Parties of Sweden and Norway have published a declaration denouncing the policy pursued by the Finnish Diet and the Government. The declaration attacks the coercive measures employed against the working class to crush the revolutionary rising, and also the tendency to oppress minor nationalities. The Danish Socialist Party signified its complete agreement with the above declaration.

KERENSKY SHOUTED DOWN IN PARIS.

According to the *Journal du Peuple*, Kerensky was received by the Committee of the Confédération Générale du Travail on July, 10th. While he was speaking on the Russian Revolution there were interruptions and the bulk of the members of the "Committee of Syndicalist Defence" mercilessly heckled Kerensky. Outside the building a hostile crowd assembled which booed and whistled and sang revolutionary songs, so that Kerensky was compelled to leave the platform amidst the jeers of his opponents.

UKRAINIAN PEASANTS ARE PRO-SOVIET.

The *Izvestija* (Soviet organ), No. 129, writes that the Ukrainian peasants recently held a congress at which the Mensheviks, Socialist-Revolutionaries, Bolshevik and non-party delegates acted in unison. One resolution stated that the congress does not recognise the Skoropadsky Government, will disobey the mobilisation order and will support a popular

uprising against the Germans and their henchman Skoropadsky. The congress recognises only the Soviet Government of the Ukraine.

SOCIAL SCIENCE IN RUSSIA.

In the Palace for Proletarian Culture at Moscow facilities for the study of social science have been started, under the guidance of the "Karl Marx University." The lectures are free. The Budget shows that there are two categories of Socialist academies. They comprise (1) the scientific academic section, and (2) the section for promoting instruction and education. The sixty professors receive £100 a month each, the assistant professors £85 and £60 respectively. (As the exchange value of the rouble is very low the real wages of the professors probably do not exceed £3 a week.)

The sum of £343,100 has been provided for the high schools in Moscow alone by the Socialist Government of Russia. The Lloyd George Government proposes to spend about £500,000 on secondary schools in the whole of the United Kingdom. The ignorance of the masses is the chief capitalist bulwark.

FRENCH SOCIALISTS AND RUSSIA.

The Council of the French Socialist Party on July 29th decided by 1,544 votes to 1,172 to oppose Allied assistance being sent to Russia except by "the unanimous consent" of the Russian Socialists. The Minority section has become the Majority.

PROPOSED GENERAL STRIKE IN SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss Federal Council adopted a decree empowering the Cantonal Governments to allow the police to forbid or break up meetings, and to punish those connected with them with fines of £200 and imprisonment for two years and to expel foreigners for twenty years. In reply the Socialist Congress at Basle, representing 180,000 workers, declared for a general strike. The 35,000 employees of the Federal Railways support the strike proposal.

The police at Montreal dispersed a meeting of 700 Russian and Jewish Socialists assembled to

protest "against the attempt to demolish by force the freedom and self-ruling of Russians." Fourteen men were arrested.

THE BOLSHEVIKI.

An appeal against the Bolshevik Government was published in *The Times* of July 31st from Mr. Paul Axelrod and Mr. Nicholas Rusanoff. Mr. Litvinoff replies that these two supporters of the Kerensky Government have not been in Russia during the past twelve months. They have, therefore, no first hand personal knowledge of the Bolshevik regime. He contends that Russia is suffering from the effects of Czarism and the war, and that the army which the Bolsheviks are accused of disbanding had little or no existence, having demobilised itself when the Bolshevik Government came into power 8½ months ago. "In order to recover from the wholesale destruction of the war and autocratic misrule, Russia must have a respite to enable her to make a beginning with the work of reconstruction. This work is being hampered by the civil strife brought about in various parts of Russia by the enemies of the Workers' and Peasants' Government."

An Englishwoman, newly arrived from Siberia has an anti-Bolshevik article in *The Times*. The gist of her complaint is that she and other Englishwomen were sent to Siberia in a fourth class carriage, of the sort that, as she says, in former times might have been seen "overflowing" with peasants and exiles. The political exiles under the Czarism were made to walk many a weary day's march on the long, long journey. But why should this woman demand a better coach than that habitually used by the peasants? She complains that Russian Red Guards boarded the train and examined the luggage, and, finding no firearms, "withdrew sheepishly," muttering misunderstanding. "It is all a question of point of view. The customs officials waked us to examine our luggage as we crossed European frontiers in pre-war days and never apologised! This lady further tells of a railway guard who was paid 35 roubles a month under the Czarism and saved in twenty-seven years 1,700 roubles (£170). Now he gets paid, like every one else, 500 to 700 roubles a month: and he is supposed to be asking for an Allied invasion to safeguard his 1,700 roubles!

WORKERS' SOCIALIST FEDERATION.

LONDON MEETINGS.

OUT DOOR.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9th.
Hague Street, Bethnal Green.—11.30 A.M., Miss Price.

SAURDAY, AUGUST 10th.
Great Push in St. Pancras District for Peace, Socialism, and Votes for All.—Meet at 2.45 P.M. and 6.15 P.M. at 44 Malden Road (nearest tube station: Chalk Farm). Speakers: Mrs. Davies, Miss Price, Mrs. Walker.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11th.
Finsbury Park.—3.30 P.M., Miss Price.
Osborn Street.—6.30 P.M., Mrs. Walker.

MONDAY, AUGUST 12th.
Hoe Street, Walthamstow.—7 P.M., Miss Price.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13th.
Clock Tower, Burdett Road.—11.30 A.M., Miss Price.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16th.
Cobden Statue.—6.30 P.M., Miss Price.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17th.
Great Push in Holloway District.

INDOOR.

MONDAY, AUGUST 12th.
St. Pancras W.S.F., 44 Malden Road.—2.30 P.M., Business meeting.

NAPOLEON'S INVASION OF RUSSIA
(Continued from front page.)

but most of them stuck fast on the muddy bottom and perished; the scene was one of horror and misery in all directions. About 1 A.M. on the 29th the rearguard of the French army marched down to the bridges to find the lighter one hopelessly broken, so that only the heavier one could be used. With infinite trouble and mostly in single line the troops marched across; hours were consumed in the passage, and when the last man was over they were deployed facing the bridge, which was at once destroyed. Then ensued that scene of horror that we are told haunted those that witnessed it for months and years: all that stood on the bridge, including waggons full of wounded, were engulfed in the river; the mass of stragglers on the far bank rushed down in mad confusion, trampling one another to death, while those in front were pushed in the river to perish. To add to the horror of the scene the Russian artillery opened fire on the helpless, struggling mass of humanity and slaughtered hundreds. At last dawn broke and some ten thousand stragglers and all the baggage train, with a vast quantity of spoil, including the Imperial treasure chest, fell into the hands of the Russians.

Then the order to march on Sembin was given and the Emperor, with the old Guard, started at 7 o'clock. The 40,000 men who had survived the frightful ordeal of this fatal campaign so far, now found themselves faced with a still worse horror in the shape of an abnormally cold Russian winter, which day by day closed tighter and tighter its iron grip on the miserable remnants of what had been the most magnificent host that the world's conqueror had ever assembled for a campaign. Large numbers of stragglers were made prisoners daily by the Cossacks, who hovered in the rear and flank of the army, bent especially on plunder, and it is related that at times they and the French stragglers might be seen pillaging the same deserted vehicles, the former, when they had taken everything worth carrying off, turning on the latter and stripping them of their booty. An enormous amount of treasure and riches of all description had been carried off from Moscow in the 40,000 vehicles which started from thence with the army. We must consider that the Russian soldiers, especially the Cossacks, made a remarkably good harvest during the retreat.

The intense cold began its fell work and every day dawned to find rows of soldiers, frozen to death, round the ashes of the bivouac fires. Even the Guard became demoralised and marched in disorder. The Emperor travelled in a carriage at a foot's pace and nearly all his staff followed on foot. The thermometer fell at night to 27° below zero. Food was not wanting and Ségur's assertion—repeated by the Russian Verestchagin in his work "Napoleon the First in Russia"—that the famished soldiers roasted and ate the bodies of the dead, is a gross fabrication. Morning after morning, Marbot relates, thousands of stiffened corpses were left behind in the bivouacs, which resembled a battlefield the morning after a deadly fight.

On December 6th the thermometer touched its lowest point—30° below zero—and the effects on the troops were indescribable. A division of 12,000 men, mostly conscripts, that had marched out of Wilna on the 4th to meet the column, suffered so much by change from barracks to bivouacs that two days later they nearly all perished from cold, whilst 400 men of the Neapolitan Guard that had set forth to meet the King and escort him back to the city all perished.

On the 7th and 8th Wilna was reached and on the 12th Kövno, and on the 20th the rearguard reached Königsberg. Thus ended the campaign, that had begun with the crossing of the Niemen on June 23rd.

De Pesenans states that 300,000 perished and that the Russians burnt 300,000 corps. Nineteen-tenths of his own regiment, says he, had perished. Marbot says that these numbers are much exaggerated and that of 155,000 French soldiers only 65,000 perished. I think it is clearly estab-

OTHER ORGANISATIONS.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13th.
Walthamstow League of Rights, William Morris Hall, Somers Road.—2.30 P.M., Miss Horsfall.

MONDAY, AUGUST 19th.
400 Old Ford Road.—8 P.M., General meeting (London Section).

W.S.F. NOTES.

A Cookney Fair will be held on December 5th, 6th, and 7th at Holborn Hall, and members and friends are asked to begin to prepare for it at once. Those willing to equip stalls should write to me. Donations for preliminary expenses are urgently needed, also clerical help. Next meeting at 20 Railway Street (near Poplar and South Bromley stations), Wednesday, September 4th, at 7.30 P.M. N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, London, E.3.

SHEFFIELD.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Carford, 183 West Street. Councilor Barton held meeting 400 strong at West Bar Green July 24th, supported by two dozen silver-badged men, three dozen DREADNOUGHTS sold. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst at Hadfield's Gates, July 24th, no opposition, four dozen DREADNOUGHTS sold. Miss O'Callaghan, Hadfield's Gates, July 25th, excellent literature sales, 300 DREADNOUGHTS given away.

lished that, all told, French, allies, camp followers, not less than 300,000 left their bones in Russia, and to this conclusion Thiers, who is not likely to have over-estimated the number, arrived after most careful research.

Sir Walter Scott says: "Thus a hallucination, for such it may be termed, led this great soldier into a train of conduct which, as a military critic, he would have been the first to condemn, and which was the consequence of his deep moral error."

PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT

(continued from page 1055).

PEACE PROPOSALS.

August 2nd.—Mr. Bonar Law stated that the Government will always be ready to consider proposals for a satisfactory peace. How does the Government define "satisfactory"?

VOTE OF CREDIT.

On August 1st and 2nd the debate on the vote of credit took place. The supplementary sum asked was £700,000,000. After a brief summing up of various expenditure Mr. Bonar Law let the House into a secret. Loans had been granted to the Allies and now he laid bare the total of Britain's contribution. France owes £402,000,000, Italy £313,000,000, the smaller States of the Alliance £19,000,000, and the "Russian Government or the Russian people" £568,000,000. If you lend money to a monarchy how can you expect a republic, which disapproved of that monarchy, to pay its debts? We are glad that Mr. King (L.) did point out this remarkable discrepancy, and agree with him that the Russian people is a very different thing from the old Russian Government. In the face of Mr. Bonar Law's naive statement we have the Murman expedition, about which Mr. King has tried so hard to get Mr. Bonar Law to explain. Is it expected to ensure the repayment of this £568,000,000 thereby?

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

As a proof of the lack of interest in the huge sums of money voted the debate on August 1st was devoted to the idea of a League of Nations. Sir W. Dickinson believes the war is being fought to devise a League of Nations as a preventive of all future wars. Believing that he naturally asked what preparation the Government is making. He drew attention to a Report on the principles of a League of Nations which Mr. Leon Bourgeois sent to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on January 17th, and that on June 29th Lord Curzon confessed that all he knew about this Report was "what he saw in the papers." Mr. J. H. Thomas (Lab.) in the course of his remarks said: "I do not believe you could get a soldier to continue to fight to-morrow or for an hour to obtain one yard of territory for the British Empire." We hope Mr. Thomas is right, because then the same argument must apply to other empires and their aggrandisement. A perusal of the Secret Treaties will show the soldiers where they are!!! Colonel Wedgwood (L.) urged that the League of Nations idea would not be fulfilled by slicing Africa between different contestants in this war. Mr. Balfour did not say too much to enlighten the House. He stated: "A League of Nations, broadly speaking, is designed to maintain the territorial status quo. If the territorial status quo is inherently unjust, if it is of a kind which cannot conduce to stable relations and the peace, no machinery which you can devise will be strong enough to coerce or compress the forces with which mankind will have to deal." Well, Mr. Balfour has pronounced in these words that unless self-determination for all peoples be attained no League of Nations can hope to exist; the status quo of pre-war days was "inherently unjust." Does Mr. Balfour think that empires can continue to exist without the status quo being "inherently unjust"? Oh, these words about great principles, so good for speeches, lead statements into tight corners. If your words are of any value they imply the death knell of empire. But Mr. Lloyd George cries: "Hold Fast"!!!!

SEPARATION ALLOWANCES.

Mr. Hogge (L.) used the second day of debate to denounce the meanness of the new allowances and the unwarrantable delay in granting them. If the allowances were necessary now why should soldiers' dependants be kept waiting till October? His fight for the soldiers, in which Mr. R. MacDonald (Lab.) and others supported him, was met by a comparison with the wages of the agricultural labourers!!!!

M. O' C.

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

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INTERNATIONAL YOUNG AGE PENSIONS.

Dear Friends of Humanity.—In order to relieve the terrible poverty and suffering that is devastating Europe, let us endeavour to place the children and all those who are dependent on them from the State, securing SEVEN SHILLINGS A WEEK each for them from the State, that we may be free to work for other reforms. At present, whilst they are exposed to cold, poverty and hunger, we can think of nothing else. 7s. a week would ENABLE FAMILIES TO MOVE AT ONCE INTO BETTER HOUSES, and to obtain better milk and food. This would stimulate local trade and reduce expenses of WORKHOUSES, HOSPITALS, PRISONS and LUNATIC ASYLUMS, and do away with all poor rates to such an extent as to be A GREAT SAVING to the taxpayer, and would enable sensible girls to marry where they would otherwise not dare to do so, and to bring up healthy happy children to become stalwart citizens and parents in their turn, besides relieving untold pain and suffering, and being an estimable benefit to the State.

The fact of a married man becoming automatically POORER at the birth of each child constitutes a cruel wrong to all children, and until each child has 7s. a week in its own individual right, as an infant citizen, suffering, war, disease, and poverty can never be abolished. Let us all demand this from our different Governments now, before it may be too late.

S. MACKENZIE KENNEDY.
(Adv.)

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PROTECTION.

Mr. Lloyd George in receiving a deputation of the National Union of Manufacturers promised Imperial Protection for key industries, preferential economic arrangements with the Allies, and in these words foreshadowed the prosecution of a trade war against Germany after the war: "The longer the war lasts, the sterner must be the economic terms we impose on the foe." He hoped that America would fall in with the Paris Conference resolutions, as this would mean that the "economic fate of the world will be in the hands of the great Allied Powers."

Who was accused of fighting for world dominion? By the way, the people have not been asked their opinion on protection, and Sir Robert Borden says that the question has not been discussed by the Imperial War Cabinet or War Conference.

AFTER WAR INDUSTRIAL CONTROL.

The Government is about to take action to ration "supplies" for industry after the war. Do "supplies" include workers as well as raw materials? If so attempts to continue industrial conscription after the war may be expected. The calling up of the Coventry strikers who resisted the "embargo" by which it was sought to ration the workers, shows how Military conscription can be used to intimidate. A standing Council to assist in controlling industry is being formed of members of the Government Departments chiefly concerned, and representatives of "Commerce," "Industry," and "Labour." This Council will consider how far the control at present exercised by Government Departments may be transferred "to purely trade organisations for post-war purposes."

Will the servile state lead to the Revolution?

THE COMING ELECTION.

The Times in an article on the general election declares for a fight to a finish, social reform, and the League of Nations. It urges Lloyd George to go for these; flouts Lord Lansdowne, and the Unionist Party, and seems inclined to pose as the champion of Labour: perhaps it will presently adopt The Herald's sub-title "The National Labour Weekly."

As we expected, the Government has not pressed the question of permits for the Irish sports, Irish opinion being united. It is discovered that there was an official mistake!

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