

THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

For International Socialism.

Vol. V.—No. 19

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3rd, 1918

Price Twopence.

SOCIALISM IN THE MAKING.

Masses of people to-day believe in Socialism as a theory; but few really possess a living belief in its coming. And yet in Russia it exists; its structure is daily being perfected, and there are in this country now actually visitors from Russia who have lived "Under Socialism"—under Socialism in its early, imperfect stages, of course, but undeniably under Socialism. Socialism is, therefore, no longer a dream but a reality, a reality extending over a territory of 8,669,436 square miles—why should it not also be established in this little island of but 89,088 square miles?

The foundation of the Socialist State, as of all others, is the workaday life of the people, and the Socialist Government of Russia, with frank recognition of this principle, is built up from the workshop and from the village community in agricultural districts.

The Local Soviet, or Council, is composed of representatives of the industries and of the villages, one to every 500 persons. At one time the Peasants' and Workers' Councils were separate. They are now amalgamated. Only factory-workers and peasants who do not hire other men and women to work for them can be electors. Provision is made for recording the votes of unemployed workers, but those who are of the class which refuses to work and endeavours to live in idleness on the labour of others cannot vote.

The elected representatives are delegates, who receive their instructions and report to their constituents after each meeting of the Local Soviet, which sits twice a month. The representatives are not paid for their services as such, but receive a grant to the value of what they would

have earned if at work during each actual attendance at the Soviet. The pay is in no case at the rate of more than from 500 to 700 roubles a month. Each local Soviet elects an Executive Committee and a President, who transact business between the sittings of the Soviet. The President and Committee are paid, like the other Soviet members, for the time they are actually working for the Soviet. There is a paid staff of clerks in the service of the President and Committee.

The local Soviets elect representatives to the national Soviet; one representative being allotted to every 25,000 workers; thus a local Soviet elected by 25,000 people is entitled to one representative on the National Soviet. The National Soviet meets every three months. It elects an Executive of about three hundred and Ministers for the various departments of State. The members of the National Soviet are paid on the same basis as are the members of the local Soviets.

THE STANDARD WAGE.

It will be seen from the foregoing remarks that money and wages still obtain in the Russian Socialist Republic. Money is a useful means of exchange, argue the Russians, for a man may have a sack of corn and be needing a pair of boots: must he then go seeking someone who wants corn and has also boots to sell, instead of selling to any one who wants corn? Nevertheless, since, owing to the depreciation of money as a result of warfare, and the difficulties of transport, and other inconveniences arising from the war and the old regime, trainloads of goods which the peasants need are often sent to the agricultural districts,

where clothes, machinery, and so on, are exchanged for crops. So, too, in dealing with foreign nations, Russia has frequently exchanged commodity for commodity. This, however, is not, we are informed, a principle, but a method adopted where it is most convenient.

So, too, payment by wages, because of its convenience, still persists, but the subsistence level of the people has been largely equalised. The standard wage varies from 500* to 700 roubles a month, and those who do the hardest manual work get the highest wage. Thus an editor gets 500 roubles a month; a compositor 700. Lenin, the Prime Minister, gets 500 roubles a month and lodgings provided by the Government. If any member of the community is engaged in two occupations, he or she can still only draw one wage and must be a voluntary worker in the second employment. In order to silence counter-revolutionary slanders, it has been decreed that if any one of the Bolshevik leaders is found to be drawing more than one wage he shall be shot. Not one of the Bolshevik leaders has ever attempted to draw more money than one salary; this decree is merely a guarantee of good faith. The only people who receive more than the standard wage are the non-Socialist technical experts of the middle and upper classes. They are able to insist on a higher wage, because only a small minority of those whose previous economic

* 500 roubles at pre-war rates were £53 2s. 6d., 700 roubles, £74 7s. 6d. The value of Russian money has greatly depreciated.

Continued on next page.

ALL ABOUT THE "EMBARGO." By W. F. Watson

THE EMBARGO STRIKE.

The embargo strike is in suspense having achieved the suspension of the embargo and a promise that an inquiry shall be held, and that there shall be no victimisation either by calling up notices or otherwise. If the Committee of Inquiry does not dispose of the embargo the workers will again, doubtless, manifest their discontent. For the moment things are as they were and the workers have therefore scored. The Committee will consist of nominees from the Employers Advisory Committee and the Trade Union Advisory Committee. The rank and file outside hold the industrial power.

Deplorable as a national stoppage may be at the present time the whole responsibility rests with the Government. Times out of number the workers have in no uncertain language declared their intention of resisting Industrial Conscription, and for the Minister of Munitions to say it is merely a question of rationing skilled labour is mere camouflage, when we remember that no embargo is placed upon skilled discharged soldiers and sailors. We are pleased to note that for the purposes of this struggle sectional organisations do not exist, all sections are working splendidly together. All Union District Committees for London and its environs have formed a joint committee to co-ordinate activities. Our nine years' work in the Amalgamation Movement is bearing fruit, and sectional Unionism is at its last gasp. Maintain this unity, Comrades, and we are bound to win!

SHOP STEWARDS AND WORKERS COMMITTEE COVENTRY.

The Coventry strike is suspended. There is to a large extent what one might call a split in regard to the *opportune time of striking*, but as regards the strike itself, Coventry, as far as the skilled Unions are concerned, is unanimous; the only point of difference is as to whether the A. S. E. and the A. T. S. were justified in deciding on action at once. This was done after receiving reports from the scouts sent out by the A. S. E. that our comrades throughout the country were ready to give unqualified support.

L. JACKSON,
Secretary C.S.S. and W.C.

MORE NOTES FOR WORKMEN.

1. What does the embargo scheme do?

It deprives the worker of freedom to choose the employer and, taken in conjunction with the scheme of compulsory War Munition Volunteers, is nothing more nor less than Industrial Conscription in a most aggravated form.

2. Is the Government sincere when it tells us it is desirous of rationing skilled Labour?

If it is, why does it not also ration skilled discharged soldiers and sailors?

3. Has the Government the ability to ration skilled Labour efficiently?

Emphatically NO. Read the letter about the Leeds and London men.

4. Why is the scheme at present limited to skilled workers?

We think because the skilled workers by their organisation have in many instances secured favourable conditions and the employers view with alarm their growing power.

5. Is there a shortage of skilled men?

May be; then why scoop them up for the Army.

6. Is the embargo intended to force men into the Army?

What else is it for?

7. Why does the embargo letter speak of men in receipt of District Rate?

Echo answers WHY? Perhaps it is because the bosses are fed up with paying the District Rate.

8. Is the embargo scheme deliberately calculated to undermine the power of organised Labour?

??

9. Why are young skilled workers being called up for military service?

Because there is an enormous unsatisfied demand for skilled labour on war work in the factories. (This is Governmentalism.)

10. How can the workers best organise to counteract these attempts to enforce industrial conscription?

??

11. Will the workers be intimidated by the threat to cancel exemptions?

Certainly not. The worker realises that the only reason he is not in the Army is because he is essential to the production of munitions.

12. Is it not a wicked insult to the "boys in the trenches" to threaten to put the strikers in the Army?

Yes. If the action of the strikers is criminal—and the capitalist press says it is—then it is an insult to the soldiers already in the Army, to conscript men who are criminals. Jail is the place for criminals, not the Army.

13. What about the discharged soldiers and sailors?

They are all right. It is only a few disgruntled ones led by renegades like Stubbs who are incited to fight against men who are ungrudgingly fighting their battles.

Ministry of Reason,
July, 1918.

RATIONING THE SKILLED.

I have received the following letter from a comrade, and the statement contained therein has been corroborated by several other members of the Toolmakers who were present at the meeting referred to:—

DEAR COMRADE,—I think this is the best joke of the season and therefore deserving of space in THE DREADNOUGHT. At a Mass Meeting of the Toolmakers Society on Sunday, July 21st, at Euston Theatre, it was given out that two members of the Society were War munitions volunteers, one a native of Leeds, the other of London. The Leeds man was transferred to London and the London man to Leeds.

But the best of it is that the Leeds man was in the audience, and he states that by a remarkable coincidence he met the London man going to Leeds on St. Pancras Station; you can imagine their feelings. The Leeds man went to the Ministry of Munitions for an explanation and all the satisfaction he could get was that the men from the North were used to heavy work, and the men from the South were used to lathie work. Moral, this is the way they "ration" out the skilled men.—Yours fraternally,

T. C. HOLLOWELL.

AN ECHO OF THE AEROPLANE STRIKE.

The result of the inquiry into the conduct of Comrade Rock is that he has been declared guilty of misconduct and his dismissal confirmed. I have been privileged to examine the evidence laid before the inquiry and the comments of Sir Alfred Hopkinson who conducted the inquiry have been faithfully reported to us. Rock was complimented upon the manner in which he gave his evidence. It was indisputably proved at the inquiry that Rock had been most temperate in the discharge of his duties as Chairman of the Shop Committee. As a matter of fact both Muir and Gillingham admitted they had personally thanked Rock for using his influence to prevent a hostile demonstration against those estimable gentlemen. Knowing all this we are, needless to say, astounded at this travesty of justice and we would say to the Minister of Munitions that he has accentuated the discontent. Another factor making for further trouble is that the Ministry has only taken over part of the firm of Waring & Gillows, whereas it was distinctly understood that the whole firm should become a national factory. The strike committee has the matter in hand and methinks more may be heard of this interesting case.

LONDON WORKERS' COMMITTEE.

As the first Sunday in August is Bank Holiday and as the Building Workers' Industrial Union wanted Chandos Hall for their Annual Conference, it has been decided to hold the usual monthly meeting of the Committee on August 11th at Chandos Hall, 11 A.S. Arrangements are now complete for the Newbold Lectures and we urge all London comrades to help make them a success. The Lectures will be on 'Industrial Development in the London Area,' the first one being on August 8th, entitled 'When London was an Industrial Stronghold,' Chairman: W. F. Watson, August 15th, 'The Decline of London Industries,' Chairman: Cedar Paul, August 22nd, 'The Revival in Thames Valley Engineering,' Chairman: H. Joy, August 29th, 'How shall London Workers Organise?' Chairman: Minnam Price. Admission 6d. each lecture, or 1s. 6d. the series of four. Ticket to be had at 8 Featherstone Buildings, Holborn, W.C.—T. F. KNIGHT, Hon. Sec.

NORTH LONDON AREA.

Efforts are being made to form a Workers' Committee for North London, from Enfield to King's Cross. Will all Shop Secretaries and other active workers willing to assist please send names and addresses to T. F. Knight, 7 Featherstone Buildings, W.C.1.

WORKERS' UNION.

LONDON MEETINGS.

OUT DOOR.

- FRIDAY, AUGUST 2nd.
Queen's Crescent, Kentish Town.—6.30 P.M., Miss Price.
- SATURDAY, AUGUST 3rd.
Great Push for Socialism, Peace, and Votes for All (in the South-Eastern District).—Meet at 3 P.M. at the Clock Tower, Lewisham, and at 6.30 P.M. at Camberwell Green where 42 buses stop.
Speakers: Miss Horsfall, Miss Price, Mrs. Walker and others.
- SUNDAY, AUGUST 4th.
Osborn Street, Whitechapel.—11.45 A.M., Miss Price.
- MONDAY, AUGUST 5th.
The Square, Woolwich. 7 P.M., Mrs. Walker.
- TUESDAY, AUGUST 6th.
Hoe Street, Walthamstow.—7 P.M., Mrs. Walker.
- TUESDAY, AUGUST 6th.
Grundy Street, Poplar (Housing Campaign).—11.30 A.M., Miss Price.
- WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7th.
Armagh Road, Bow (Housing Campaign).—7 P.M., Mr. A. A. Watts.
- FRIDAY, AUGUST 9th.
Hague Street, Bethnal Green.—11.30 A.M., Miss Price.
- SATURDAY, AUGUST 10th.
Great Push in St. Pancras.
- INDOOR.
- MONDAY, AUGUST 5th.
44, Malden Road, St. Pancras W.S.F.—2.30 P.M., Business Meeting.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS.

- WALTHAMSTOW LEAGUE OF RIGHTS.
TUESDAY, AUGUST 6th.
William Morris Hall, Somers Road.—2.30 P.M., Mrs. Cressall.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

IRISH DEBATE.

In the Irish debate of July 29th Mr. Dillon asked how England could demand the freeing of subject nationalities in Austria, whilst Ireland lay at her own back door under the unfettered tyranny of a military Government. The Government had arrested Sinn Feiners for doing what is permitted Ulster Orangemen. The real German plot was in Ulster. What was the Government's information through their secret agents as to the visit of Baron von Kühlmann there? Dillon still believes this war to be one on which the liberties of mankind depend. (His experience of life seems to us to be incapable of teaching him.) He suggested that President Wilson be called in to settle the Irish question: he would be content to submit the fortunes of Ireland to a jury of Americans appointed by Wilson. (Some people are very ready to trust the liberties of others to a passing whim. We advise Dillon to stick firmly to the principle of the self-determination of peoples; nothing else is safe in the long run.)

Mr. Shortt, the Chief Secretary, audaciously asked whether if Lloyd George were to take up the Irish question the Nationalists would "undertake to accept whatever he brought forward," they aptly replied "Wait and see." Whereat Mr. Shortt added that the state of Ireland has "improved." Mr. Shortt appears to be living in a fool's paradise. So, it seems to us, the Government goes rushing onward towards an inevitable and most terrible conflict.

IRISH IRELAND.

The Irish, refusing to ask for permits, are proceeding with the arrangements for their national festival, the Oireachtas. What will happen? *The Daily News* reports that the Irish Educational Company is selling twice as many Gaelic books as last year. There is an unprecedented demand for elementary primers. If you want to arouse race pride, try to crush it!

ARE YOU A BOLSHIEVİK?

Poor Mr. Henderson! He is already a relic of the past that has hurried into oblivion. In a letter to *The Times* on July 26th he wrote: "You also refer to my experiences in Petrograd, and what you describe as my 'adventures with the Bolshevists.' There is room here for some clarification, but if you desire your readers to infer that I was in collaboration in any way whatever with those who have brought about the undoing of Russia, then you entirely misrepresent my position. Most of those with whom I conferred have either been imprisoned or murdered, or like my friend, Kerensky, have obtained the hospitality of other countries. I am willing to leave it to the judgment of history to determine finally whether the diplomacy I represent has been the failure you expect your readers to believe." (The italics are ours.)

History, Mr. Henderson, will not remember you: your name will be lost amongst the host of would-be Labour Leaders who possessed no faith in Government by the working class; for that and that essentially is Bolshevism.

Mr. Brailsford, in a vivid article in *The Herald* says: "Imagine England after such a social revolution as the Bolsheviks have brought about. The villagers of Hatfield no longer cultivate an acre of allotments: they have cut up the park. In Berkeley Square the surplus population of the neighbouring slums and mews is camping in the drawing rooms. The shop stewards sit in the Board Room of Vickers Works, and the Miners' Federation administers the South Wales coalfield. The gentlemen of the Stock Exchange do the work of the City dustmen, and ex-privates or "ranker" subalterns sit in authority in Whitehall. You may not like the incredible picture

cern themselves with amelioration of the workers; that is, doing for them."

asked to pass the following resolutions at the Branch Meetings, Trades Council and Local Labour Parties, Trades Unions, &c., and forward them to the Prime Minister, Labour Party, 33, Eccleston Square, S.W.; Secretary of State for War, Lansdowne Labour Committee, 31, Essex Street, Strand, respectively:—

RESOLUTIONS TO BE PASSED AT MEETINGS.

WHITLEY REPORT.

This meeting places on record its conviction that the industrial councils recommended by the Whitley Report will never establish the control of industry by the workers therein, which is our aim; and that this can only be achieved by the workers' own class-conscious organizations; we therefore declare against the Whitley Report.

RUSSIA.

This meeting recognises the Russian Soviets to be the most democratic form of government yet established, and welcomes its establishment as the beginning of the International Socialist Commonwealth, for which the workers have been so long trying.

LANSDOWNE LABOUR COMMITTEE.

This meeting emphatically repudiates the attempt of the Lansdowne Labour Committee to link the Socialist and Labour movements to the reactionary conservative Lord Lansdowne, who was the Foreign Secretary when the Imperialist Boer War was declared, and who as Foreign Secretary when the Moroccan intrigue was begun, is one of the few in all countries to have created the international policy which precipitated this capitalist war.

We stand for the complete independence of the International Workers' Movement, and regard any attempt to sidetrack it into supporting Tory, Liberal, or any other form of capitalist coalition, as a gross betrayal. This meeting addresses itself, not to Lord Lansdowne, but to the rank and file workers,

and calls for a united effort to secure a meeting of the Workers' International to formulate and work for the terms of a people's peace.

Branch Secretaries are asked to collect the 1s. for Headquarters' Fund from their members and forward it to Miss Smyth; unattached members are asked to send it direct to Miss Smyth, as we are much in need of funds. All membership subscriptions due should be sent at the same time.

Literature and DREADNOUGHT sellers are asked to come to the Great Push every Saturday and other meetings advertised weekly.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

FAMILY LIMITATION DOCTRINE. Post free, 1½d. —Malthusian League, 48, Broadway, Westminster.

WOMEN WORKERS should spend their holidays at "Sea View," Victoria Road, Brighton.—Hostess, Miss Turner.

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INTERNATIONAL YOUNG AGE PENSIONERS.

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 helpless in comparative safety by 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. Is a week worth INHABITABLE 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 taxpayers, 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 each child has its 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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THE TEACHERS' VICTORY.

"It was like the old suffrage days before the war!" so the meetings organised by the London women teachers in support of their demand for a war bonus of £1 a week were described. The teachers have secured 15s. to date from April 1st.

We congratulate the women on the fight which they have won both for themselves and for the men; but we urge them to go on and get equal pay for men and women and equal pay for all adult teachers.

THE ITALIAN SOCIALIST CONGRESS FORBIDDEN.

L'Avanti of July 21st announces that the Congress of the Italian official Socialist Party has been forbidden by the Roman authorities. As it has not been forbidden by the Government will it be held elsewhere?

THE PROTECTION CHESTNUT.

Mr. Walter Long announced at a West India Club luncheon (they settle the affairs of the world so comfortably thus) that a committee appointed by the War Cabinet had adopted a scheme of Imperial preference and the War Cabinet had approved, heavily serious, with the old pro-war arguments. We hope soon to see the old controversy swept away by the oncoming force of Socialism.

A C.O. prisoner on reaching the Scrubs was surprised to find inscribed on the tin utensils in his cell these and other moities: "Workers of the world unite and speed on the social revolution." "Capitalism the cause, war the effect, socialism the remedy."

Mr. Hodge would "rather retire from political life" if his society considered affiliation to the Labour Party of more advantage than the services he had rendered. When one is reduced to appealing to one's past services one has lost the battle of argument!

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND.

Printed by J. E. Francis, 11 and 13 Bream's Buildings, London, E.C.4, and Published by the Workers' Socialist Federation, 400 Old Ford Road, London, E.3