

# THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

For International Socialism.

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## HOW THE RED ARMY FIGHTS.

TOLD BY AN AMERICAN FROM ARCHANGEL.

A Russian-American, writing in the *Novy Mir* of New York, explains that he lived in Michigan State, U.S.A., and was taken as a conscript for the American Army. He was sent with the 339th Michigan Regiment to England and from there to Russia, the soldiers not being told their destination.

### THE SOLDIER'S STORY.

#### NO STORES TO GUARD AT ARCHANGEL.

"We landed at Archangel. We found there English and French soldiers. Before we landed we were told that we came to Russia not to fight her, but merely to safeguard the Allied ammunition stores. Yet no ammunition was found there; the Bolsheviks had carried away with them everything to the south—they cleared the place of everything to the last shell and cartridge. Only empty stores have remained.

Our readers will remember that one of the reasons given for sending British troops to Russia was to prevent stores of ammunition falling into German hands. The soldier continued:—

"What are we to do here, then?" we began to question ourselves and our officers. The officers were silent. Others said: "The future will show." The first day passed quietly. The plan was to organise a military parade through the city. Rain torrents caused the parade to be postponed. We scattered around and stood under awnings in order to protect ourselves against the rain. I found myself under a cover of a store-room which was in course of construction and I started a conversation with the workers busy at it. "How are things going?" I asked them. The workers in astonishment looked at me—a foreman who speaks Russian. Their faces betrayed apprehension: "What sort of man is he?"—may be a spy. I calmed them, stating that I was a Russian, their countryman. We started a lively conversation.

**GOOD TIMES UNDER BOLSHEVIKI ADMINISTRATION BANISHED BY ALLIES.**  
I found out that 'under the Bolsheviks' they had lived much better, they had bread and their

earnings had been larger. As soon as the English came—said one of them—everything came to grief; no bread and poor earnings.

"Later I convinced myself of the truth of their words. The English indeed had seized everything there; in a dictatorial manner ruled the territory occupied by the Allied troops. The population hates them, as one can hate foreign invaders. The attitude of the Russians towards the Americans is considerably better.

"But let us return to what followed. A few days after our arrival at Archangel we received orders to march south. 'Where?' we asked. 'To the front,' was the answer. 'There you are! So we have a front here, too, and we came here to fight and not to safeguard something.... The order is given and we have to obey. We were loaded into freight trains and then we started. I do not remember how long we were on the way. Days there are short and dark, nothing can be seen from the train. Finally, we stopped. We discovered we were at the station Oboserska.

#### BOLSHEVIKI RETREATED TO AVOID SLAUGHTER: PAMPHLETS INSTEAD OF GUNS.

We saw no Bolsheviks. Later we found out that the Bolsheviks were retreating to the south, and not because they feared our forces, but merely because they wished to avoid slaughter.

"At one place, south of the station Oboserska, we, instead of meeting the bayonets of the Soviet troops, came across a train loaded with proclamations in English, French, Italian and other languages. In these proclamations the Bolsheviks explained the nature of the intervention and advised us to get home. The proclamations were speedily distributed. Later our officers got wise about it and seized them, burning them immediately."

#### WE HAVE DONE NO HARM TO YOU, SO GO BACK TO YOUR HOMES.

"During the whole of my stay at the front I observed the new Bolshevik methods of warfare. The Bolsheviks did not harm us, although on several occasions they could have shot us down as so many partridges. Once, while we were crossing a river, a man came forward from the



OCCUPIED AND UNOCCUPIED.

Bolshevist side with a white flag and speaking in English he told us that we were being misled, that we ought to leave the Russian territory and the Russian people at peace. 'You have come here to fight us, and not we to fight you; we have done no harm to you, so go back to your homes.' There were also other such instances. We are surrounded on all sides by the Bolsheviks, so that there is no way out of it. We are doomed, we think. But it is not so. They would keep us a day or two and then let us go free unharmed."

#### NO TRENCHES: A TERRIBLE COUNTRY TO FIGHT IN.

"Only once they treated us to machine gun and field gun fire—and indeed, at that time there was no way out of it. There are no trenches, because one cannot dig in the frozen ground. Everywhere are marshes, and one stands almost to the waist line in water. We hid behind barricades made of logs. But of course it is a poor defence. When a shell strikes such a barricade nothing but splinters remain.

"During this 'meeting' I was wounded. I was sent to England and thence I came here."

## NEWS FROM SOUTH WALES. By F. P. N.

### ANTI-SANKEY REPORT

A Delegate Conference of the S.W.M.F. held at Cardiff on Monday, March 31st, decided to recommend the miners to vote against the adoption of the recent settlement based upon Sankey's Report, and it was only due to the obstinate constitutionalism of Mr. Brace, M.P., president, that the conference did not refuse to have anything to do with the ballot at all. The Conference showed that the rank and file are not at all satisfied with the result of the recent settlement, and the objection to the Sankey Report as a basis for negotiation was keenly felt.

Mr. Noah Ablet intimated, but failed to give any direct lead, that the best course would be to fix upon a certain day when the men would cease work at the completion of six hours. Provided the M.F.G.B. as a national body decided on these lines this would undoubtedly be the best course, for in spite of Smillie's opinion to the contrary, the miners' right is in their might. The fight in front of the miners necessitates an undivided front and sectional action will weaken the organisation at a time when strength and unanimity are of the greatest importance; but, on the other hand, if the Executive of the M.F.G.B. makes it difficult for the rank and file to take immediate action on any particular question, the Executive alone will be responsible for any sectional uprisings that may result in the discarding of constitutional rights.

### DOWLAIS DISPUTE

For six weeks the Dowlais men have withheld

their labour, and at Saturday's Delegate Conference, the question was up for discussion. The miners of Dowlais are now virtually "locked out," because the coalowners refuse to allow the men to work on the terms settled upon by W. Cook of the Coal Control. One of the chief points in dispute is that the men claim the right to admit the coal washery workers as members of the S.W.M.F. The washery is situated some six miles from the pits, and in consequence, the management claim it is not part of the coal-mining industry and on that ground refuse to admit the washery men as members of the S.W.M.F. The real bone of contention is that as members of the Federation instead of the Workers' Unions, the washery men are entitled to higher rates of wages and better working conditions all round. This dispute is not alone a Dowlais dispute, but is applicable to the whole coal-mining industry and will come to the fore especially with the increasing development of the by-product plant connected with the mines. This question has much to do with the principle of Industrial Unionism, and all future like disputes should be guided by the principle that these subsidiary industries are a part of the coal-mining industry. In the case of the washeries it is definitely so, for the process of washing the coal is a stage of preparation for the market. The Dowlais men claim, too, that at one time the washeries were situated adjacent or close to other pits that have long since ceased to work.

The result of the Delegate Conference on

Saturday, March 29th was an unanimous decision to give the coalowners seven days to settle the dispute, and failing settlement by that time action to be taken by South Wales. Great was the feeling for a "down tools" policy. At the time of writing a settlement has not been reached, so the next few days will decide the fate of the Dowlais men. Even if this dispute is settled satisfactorily, the difficulty is by no means ended, and it is up to the miners to tackle the question once and for all and lay down certain general principles that may guide the S.W.M.F. in matters of this kind for the future. I should suggest that the C.L.C. students in South Wales discuss the question of organisation by Industry in relation to the coal-mining industry.

### TEACHERS RETURN TO WORK.

After a month's holiday the Rhondda teachers resumed work on Tuesday, April 1st, on the understanding that the Educational Committee negotiate the points at issue within a month. If at the end of that period a settlement is not forthcoming, the teachers, without re-tendering their notices, will automatically cease work on April 30th. It is a disgrace to think that the teachers have been on strike for a month—for what? For the right of having their grievances negotiated upon. They have achieved neither of their demands, and if the Educational Committee (consisting of a few Labour men, too) refuse to accede to the requests of the teachers, then a deadlock will arise on April 30th. We wish the teachers every success in their desire to live as human beings should live.





RUSSIAN BOLSHEVISM—TYRANNY OR FREEDOM.

There is a wide divergence of opinion among American progressives concerning the Russian Soviet Government. Even advanced people in this country are opposed to the Bolshevik idea. Among the Russians in America there is bitter disagreement, and this disagreement has become one of the largest contributing factors to the general chaotic American opinion.

Telling the story of Russia in revolt as it appeared to me, I am confronted again and again with the same questions: "Can the Soviets be considered democratic when they deny representation to the bourgeoisie and the aristocratic classes?"

"If the Constituent Assembly was not elected under fair conditions, why did the Bolshevik not call another election, and immediately convene another Constituent Assembly?"

Coming from the lips of the liberal, whose social vision stops with the guaranty of political rights, of free speech, free press and inviolability of person, these questions are understandable enough, but from the lips of the Socialist, whose conception of liberty is based upon an economic rather than a political foundation, such sentiments are queer indeed.

Lenin, when he overthrew the Kerensky government, made no claim to being a creator of a new democracy. He scoffed at democracy as it was practised in the western nations.

"To imagine Socialism as these gentlemen would have it, we would have to serve it to them on a silver platter. It is impossible. It will never be. There is no other road to Socialism except the dictatorship of the proletariat and the merciless suppression of the rule of the exploiter."

The Bolsheviks do claim that the Soviet form of government contains the rudiments of a democracy, much broader, more complete than any of the democracies of the western powers.

In America we require that a man must have attained his majority, that he must be a citizen of the United States by birth or naturalization, and that he must not be either insane or a criminal, before we permit him to vote.

Whether delegates of the Soviet are there in the flesh makes little difference. Soviet Russia and that which it has unleashed upon the world is uppermost in the mind of every man who sits at the board.

The challenge cannot be met by sticking the national head under the sand and denying the existence of the Soviet or the extent of its power. Continued misrepresentation of its program or its performance will not suffice to crush it.

The Bolsheviks disenfranchise by different standards from those used in all other democracies. The Bolsheviks disenfranchise the parasite class just as we disenfranchise the insane and the criminal classes, on the principle of the social good. They refuse to permit any individual or group of individuals to make use of the past stored labour power of the world, or to control and profit from the present labour power.

It is true that the Bolsheviks suppressed the press and imprisoned persons who disagreed with them. They offered in justification the same reasons offered by the governing group in America: that it was a war measure which the safety of the Government demanded.

As to the Constituent Assembly, I saw it come and go, and it is my honest opinion that it would have been dissolved if Lloyd George, Woodrow Wilson, Clemenceau, or any other group of English, French or American statesmen had been in the position of Lenin and Trotsky.

Our evidence of the vitality of the Soviet in Russia is to be found in the fact that it has survived every form of counter-revolution from within, and Allied intervention from without.

"She asserted that graft [corruption] in the department reached into millions of roubles, and that the elimination of this alone would go toward realising some of her schemes. She proposed also requisitioning the monasteries and convents, which were the repositories of untold wealth in land and jewels, and turning them into children's homes and asylums."

"The Bolsheviks would not call a Constituent Assembly because they believed the will of the majority was better expressed in the more flexible convention of the Soviets, which had already replaced the Constituent Assembly, even before its formal dissolution."

The challenge of which Vladimir Lenin spoke is beginning to be recognised by the statesmen of the world. The Russian Soviet is at the peace table. Whatever the decision of the peace plenipotentiaries, the fact remains that Russia is there.

Military intervention has failed. It deserves to fail for its sheer criminal stupidity, if nothing else. The scarcely less sinister policy of starving Russia into submission to the other nations can be hardly more successful.

The most essential thing in understanding the Russian situation is a realisation that the Russian situation is a realisation that the Allies is so great, that they will realise, in spite of Vandervele and Huysmans, that the workers must take the power in their own hands, and this they can only do effectively by the establishment of Soviets.

The challenge cannot be met by sticking the national head under the sand and denying the existence of the Soviet or the extent of its power. Continued misrepresentation of its program or its performance will not suffice to crush it. The pathetic wail of the few anti-Bolshevik Russians in America about the suppression of the press

ALEXANDRA KOLONTAI CREATES A RUSSIAN PALACE OF MOTHERHOOD.

Bessie Beatty, an American writer, in her book 'The Red Heart of Russia,\* refers to Alexandra Kolontai, the Bolshevik People's Commissary for the Department of Social Welfare which she renamed the Department of Social Security.

"The revenue for the department was raised largely by a monopoly on playing cards. They were sold at 30 roubles a dozen. Kolontai, on the theory that cards were not a necessity of life and therefore should be heavily taxed, raised the price to 300 roubles a dozen."

"When Kolontai took charge, the officials went on strike and took the key from the Treasury. For two weeks the whereabouts of the key remained a mystery. Then Kolontai sent for a band of Red Guards and sailors, and her order, backed by their bayonets, was obeyed."

"She reorganised the department from below, but installed democratic management, giving every employe a vote. There were 4,000 minor employes drawing very miserable salaries, while a few figureheads received as much as 25,000 roubles a year. She readjusted the scale so that 600 roubles a month became the highest salary paid to any one."

"There are two and a half million maimed soldiers in Russia, and in January [1918] there were four million others who were sick or wounded. These and nearly half a million dependent children came under the care of the department."

"Russia's infant mortality rate is the highest of any so-called civilised country. Kolontai, in an effort to correct this, opened a Palace of Motherhood, with a maternity exhibition and training classes to prepare a mother for the coming of her child. She planned this as a model for similar houses to be established all over Russia."

"Several measures were passed by the Council of People's Commissaries to protect maternity, and these were under the jurisdiction of Kolontai's department. The working day for nursing mothers was reduced to four hours and a compulsory rest period before and after the birth of the child, was established."

"Little Republics" were established in all the homes for older children and for the aged, and self-government was introduced. The social programme included an adequate scale of compensation for the disabled victims of the war, many of whom were forced to beg in the streets, and entailed a tremendous expenditure and I ask Madame Kolontai how it would be possible to raise so much money. "We found money," she answered, "we shall find money for this."

"The challenge of which Vladimir Lenin spoke is beginning to be recognised by the statesmen of the world. The Russian Soviet is at the peace table. Whatever the decision of the peace plenipotentiaries, the fact remains that Russia is there. Not the Russia of Prince Lvoff; Bakhtmatieff, whose campaign of misrepresentation is largely responsible for the anomalous intervention policy of the Allies; not the Russia of Korniloff or Kalden or the Czar; but the Russia of the masses of peasants and workers who are fighting and starving and dying to fling their challenge at the world."

The most essential thing in understanding the Russian situation is a realisation that the Allies is so great, that they will realise, in spite of Vandervele and Huysmans, that the workers must take the power in their own hands, and this they can only do effectively by the establishment of Soviets.

\* Published by the Century Co., New York.

In a national state of society such prohibition will be unnecessary, but the Socialist structure cannot be perfected all at once. This statement refers to a period within three or four months of the Soviet Government took control.

THE SOVIETS REACH BAVARIA. Continued from page 1288.

The war against the Soviets of Russia and all the Soviets must be stopped; it is a disgrace to the Allied workers that they ever permitted it to be begun. The most effectual way to end it is to set up the Soviets in Britain.

The Parliamentary Committee of the Trade Union Congress and the Labour Party, as we write, are holding a conference to discuss this question. Indeed, it is high time that they should act. Their policy towards Russia has been most reactionary; Henderson, who placed his faith in Kerensky and bitterly attacked the Bolsheviks and the Soviets, has been very much to blame. Now that the pressure of the reactionary officials to a change of front, it must be made plain to them that mere resolutions are not enough: that action alone counts. Already in Bristol dockers have taken action by refusing to load ships for Russia; in the Thames area, the press complains that men are delaying the export of munitions. In the Labour world is a smouldering fire of hostility to the anti-Russian adventure, which may break into flame at any time. Soldiers and sailors also, have manifested their determined disapproval.

Albert Thomas, an abler counterpart of Clynes or Henderson, has made some important admissions concerning Russian affairs, which have appeared in the *Populaire*. Writing to Capt. Jacques Sadoul, French Ambassador in Petrograd, whose indignant letter exposing Allied anti-Soviet plots created a sensation last year, and was seized by Scotland Yard when it appeared in this country, Thomas says:—

"I have always said, here in France, that Lenin, whose character I know, is above suspicion; I have always said concerning Trotsky, that I do not know him and can therefore say nothing, but that I have no reason to suspect him; but as for the others, I have a strong suspicion that they had German money for their propaganda."

"That said, all my reserves are made: it is necessary to negotiate and to enter into relations. And for my part, if I can be of use in this direction, I am ready to forget past injuries. He remarked in an earlier part of the letter that, on his visit to Russia, he was attacked by the Bolshevik press as an agent of French and British capitalism and Russian reaction."

"The very conditions under which they have engaged in peace negotiations force the Russians to show themselves more insistent than ourselves to realise the democratic objects of war."

"I have been, for my part, much impressed by the resistance with which they opposed the Germans on the question of the right of peoples to dispose of themselves. What a pity that we should not support them directly in this effort. . . . Most assured that you find an echo here, that if the Governments hesitate a little at holding a conversation with the Bolsheviks, they nevertheless feel the necessity for such a conversation. Particularly at the time of writing, I think that the futility of a policy of separation and of Russian divisions has been recognised, and what is occurring in the Ukraine ought specially to open the eyes of all those who hoped to organise an important military effort against the Germans and the Bolsheviks."

Thomas also asked Sadoul to assure the Russians that the Allied war aims are now purified!

To have written thus Albert Thomas must either be a fool or a deceitful hypocrite.

This letter of his should be studied in conjunction with the Berne Conference majority resolution, which condemned the Soviets and the Bolsheviks and which he supported.

What is Thomas doing in France to oppose the intervention?

Bolshevism and Belgium. Bolshevism is likely soon to appear in Belgium, because the condition of the people is one of such acute hardship, and the neglect by the Allies is so great, that they will realise, in spite of Vandervele and Huysmans, that the workers must take the power in their own hands, and this they can only do effectively by the establishment of Soviets.

[Reprinted from *The Public*, U.S.

In the neighbourhood of Antwerp all but eleven per cent of the workers are said to be unemployed. Vandervele says that two and a quarter million out of a population of seven millions are living on State aid. Out of 20,000 dockers in Antwerp only 2,000 are working. In Brussels there are 92,000 unemployed. Britain has forced Belgium to cease exporting coal to Switzerland, as this "upset the British exchanges." Belgium has lost 213,000 tons of shipping out of a total 350,000. No compensation has been paid for this or other damage, and Belgium has had no definite guarantee as to her share of the sum to be exacted from Germany. Latterly the Allies have even questioned her right to priority of compensation.

Whilst the Peace Conference wrangles, the people of Belgium are workless and hungry. Many are homeless; their ruined houses are not rebuilt. Yet the Allied capitalist Governments, in a spirit of callous iniquity, are busy spreading reports of Bolshevik atrocities! Belgium may presently have the distinction of starting the Soviets in Western Europe. Thus will her people find what recompense is possible for the sufferings which capitalist rivalries have thrust upon them.

The workers of Europe are fighting a desperate battle with capitalism: a struggle the loss of which means actual death to large numbers, and the living death of subjection to the entire proletariat.

And here we have British trade union leaders unanimsly adopting a report containing a jumble of out-of-date reforms, as a bait to enter into a partnership with the employers under the proposed Joint Industrial Councils, which are designed to stultify working-class action. The worthlessness of the partnership was clearly demonstrated, if any demonstration were needed, by the Chairman's reply to a delegate's request for an interpretation of the term "legitimate grievances." The Chairman's reply was:—

"That is a thing that all the world quarrels about, so I am sure we cannot get any answer."

Precisely: on every important question, employers and employed must fail to agree. What further condemnation of this pretence at unity is necessary! Arthur Henderson, in moving the resolution to accept the report, again showed himself totally unfit to hold an official position in the Workers' Movement.

He said that the trade union representatives on the Committee were determined not to press the claims of the workers to extremes, and that the employers were of the same mind. He declared that Lloyd George had not been able "to conceal his delight" at the report. He said that this Joint Council would get for the workers those increases of justice to which they believed they were entitled. They could get them "and be an example to the whole world."

"An example to the whole world." Yes, we British workers are in danger of becoming an example, a warning, to the world of to-day and to posterity, in that we set by, our officials smugly priding themselves on their cleverness in avoiding conflict, whilst the workers of all the world were enslaved by our masters!

Lloyd George's reply to the pettifogging proposals of the Conference was not even a promise to legislate, but merely an expression of sympathy.

We are glad to learn that the conscientious objectors who have had the pluck to bear imprisonment for their convictions are to be released after two years in gaol. But we emphatically dissent from the thanks which *The Herald* has offered to Lloyd George. It says: "We are grateful to the Prime Minister and his colleagues that at last they have been able to defy the reactionary forces in our country and release these martyrs to conscience."

We give no thanks to the Government for this tardy relaxation of its cruel grip upon the men who have resisted conscription. We say to the workers: When are you going to join in getting them all released; when are you going to dismiss this Government and end the capitalist system?

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

SMOKE NO MORE.

By James Christie. From Land's End to John o'Groats there are institutions galore for the cure of disease but not a single one for its prevention. There should be many real live dreadnochts in the shape of smokeless Garden Towns studded throughout Great Britain, cooking, heating and lighting to be done by electricity.

In 1909 I suggested that a start might be made in the vicinity of London. At that time the people were not ripe for the change, but there has been a great transformation since then. The idea was that the coal would be brought up to the pit's mouth, the generation was to take place there, and the power to be sent on with cable, but the late Professor Ramsay, four years after, told the world that it was not even necessary to bring the coal to the surface, and, being a scientific man, no doubt he was right. Why use coal and have these periodical pit disasters with their attendant loss of life, our ships can go to sea without it. In British Columbia in 1913 a Company was formed that fitted up a ship to act as generator. A few should be built and anchored at different points of the Pacific; the motion of the sea was to do the rest. Unfortunately, the shareholders were financially poor and the idea was abandoned, but there is not the least excuse for shortness of finance to-day in this country. To the question, "What are the wild waves saying?"—one answer is "Harness me, and I will drive thee wherover thou wilt."

Some time ago I asked a man in charge of a large building being fitted up with electric light, if he did not think it would be a good thing to use electricity for cooking and heating as well. He answered: "Simply grand." But he was terribly puzzled to know how the poor painter would get on for work. From such remarks one would almost think we live on work; the experience of the world is that we live on food and to get that food, and other necessities, a quarter of the hours that have been done in normal times is enough.

It has been suggested that the houses in devastated France and Belgium should be rebuilt in the style of the British Garden City houses. It is to be hoped not for they are chiefly composed of roof with all sorts of unthinkable angles, a thorough waste of labour and material, inside corners and crevices.

When reconstruction begins the new Woman will have something to say about shelving and seeing that the door is not where the window ought to be as compared with the sink and cupboards. Stephen Walsh, M.P., remarked that the house of to-day is a brick box with a slate lid on. That is not to be the house of to-morrow. It will have a concrete roof—flat, so that it can be of use for recreation and sun baths. The walls of the rooms will be smoothly plastered, so that they can be painted and washable. There will be no awkward corners and no projecting brickwork of fire places, as they will not be required. The present chimneys must get their last sweep, then be turned into ventilators.

Professor Simpson has just told us that prevention is better than cure. The cure is simple. Stop constructing rabbit hutches as dwelling places for human beings. People coming out of these places reeking with disease must certainly infect those who live in the palace. It is not wise to exist in an expensive Hell when it is possible to live in a cheap Eden. Health is wealth, and a healthy nation is a happy one.

Architects, Town Dwellers and Town Planners, let the cry go forth "Electricity."

DREADNOUGHT DEVELOPMENT FUND.

Collecting sheets may be had on application from 152 Fleet Street, London, E.C.4. OUR FRIENDS and supporters are asked to do all they can to HELP the paper now. The circulation has doubled since December, 1918, but it must increase much more. Money is needed to keep up the present standard, and increase the circulation until we have at least a million readers.

If you can get a friend to collect also, please do so. Full result will be printed in our May Day Number.

## WORKERS' SOCIALIST FEDERATION.

For Revolutionary Socialism, the ending of Capitalism and Parliaments, and substitution of a World Federation of Workers' Industrial Republics.

Membership open to all Men and Women. Subscription 4d. per month, 4s. per annum. Write to the Secretary, 400 Old Ford Road, London, E.3.

### LONDON MEETINGS.

#### OUTDOOR.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11th.  
The Square, Woolwich.—12 (noon), Miss O'Neil, Mrs. Walker.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12th.  
Great Push against Conscription in Poplar and Bow.—Meet at 11.30 A.M. at 20, Railway Street, and at 2.45 P.M. at 400, Old Ford Road, meeting at Grundy Street and at St. Stephen's Road. Speakers: Miss Birch, Miss O'Neil, Mrs. Walker, John Elythe, and others.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13th.  
Osborn Street.—11.45 A.M., Mrs. Walker.  
Salmon and Ball.—11.45 A.M., Miss O'Neil.

SATURDAY, APRIL 19th.  
Great Push against Conscription in Stratford.

#### INDOOR.

MONDAY, APRIL 7th.  
44, Malden Road, St. Pancras W.S.F.—2.30 P.M., Business Meeting.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10th.  
20, Railway Street, Poplar W.S.F. Study Circle.—8 P.M., Philip Edmunds, Marxian Economics.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11th.  
20, Railway Street.—7.45 P.M., Speakers' Class.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12th.  
400, Old Ford Road.—7.30 P.M., Anti-Conscription meeting for Women only, Miss O'Neil, Mrs. Clara Cole.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13th.  
20, Railway Street.—7 P.M., Arnold Lupton, Old Slavery in New Governments' Chair: Mrs. Cressall. Discussion.  
No General Meeting on Friday, April 18th. It is postponed to April 25th, 8 P.M., at 3, Great Garden Street, Whitechapel.

#### OTHER ORGANISATIONS.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11th.  
400, Old Ford Road.—7.30 P.M., East London Workers' Committee.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12th.  
Chandos Hall.—7.30 P.M., Reginald Roper, M.A.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13th.  
Trafalgar Square, 3 P.M., Demonstration to demand release of Ramsay and Watson.  
400, Old Ford Road.—7 P.M., East London Workers' Committee's Social in aid of the Ramsay and Watson Fund.

TUESDAY, APRIL 15th.  
Walthamstow League of Rights, William Morris Hall, Somers Road.—3 P.M., Miss Margaret Hall.

#### GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND.—COLLECTIONS: Bow People's Hall, 3s. 7d.; Bow Branch Meeting, 1s. 7d.; International Dance, Mr. J. H. Fowler, 2s. PORTABLE PLATFORM, Anon.

SOCIAL WORK.—Miss A. Udny (Jan. and Feb.), £2 18s. 6d.; Misses Gulland (monthly), £1 15s.; Miss Burgis (sale of clothes), £1 5s. 1d.; per Miss J. E. Weir (monthly), £1 5s.; Nurse Hebbes (weekly), 10s.; Goolle I.L.P., 5s. COLLECTIONS: Misses E. Lagsding and J. Watts (Green's Yard), 11s. 9d. BOOKS, Anon.

## Parliament As We See It.

March 31st.—Mr. Bonar Law said that the question of withdrawing British troops from Russia had been discussed "pretty often." He refused to grant a day for a debate on Russia. There should be no fear of publicity if there were nothing to hide!

#### CONSCRIPTION.

On the ground that there was no "immediate national necessity" for the Naval, Military and Air Service Bill, Mr. G. Thorne (L.) moved that the House refuse to give a second Reading. The Bill, however, was given a second Reading and passed. Mr. Churchill assured the House, that "even if Russia did not exist the measure would have to be passed." Yet the acquiescence of the Commons in this further crime against the people, has been followed by the dispatch of a "rescue" force to Russia!

#### COBBLING.

April 1st.—Mr. Bonar Law had to admit that the Government had not as yet considered the question of women magistrates; but he supposed "it will have to be considered some day." Why not save time by removing the sex barrier in all such matters, instead of using the people's rights as a means of winning favour. For instance the "reward" of war work was the vote to women over thirty. Other countries are giving votes to all over eighteen as a right.

#### THERE IS A LIMIT.

April 2nd.—People who have followed debates since the elections with a feeling of despair were glad to note that even the present House of Commons can be pushed too far! The Army (Annual) Bill was read a second time on Mar. 31st, and already then protests against Clause 12 were raised. On the Committee stage Mr. Adamson (Lab.) moved that paragraph (a) of that Clause be omitted. It provided for the complete muzzling of public opinion on military matters. One could neither speak nor write one's views without risking being punished for causing disaffection under this Clause. Mr. Churchill when he realised that the whole House was up against him agreed to withdraw the Clause. This success should encourage the opposition to greater efforts.

#### THE POUND OF FLESH.

The adjournment was moved by Colonel C. Lowther (C.U.) in order to bring the question of indemnities before the House. He was supported by a goodly number of coupon bearers, filled with indignation at the very thought of Germany not being bled to death. Mr. Bonar Law held out no hope to them that all the desired millions would be forthcoming.

#### RUSSIA

Colonel Hoare (C.U.) referred to a peace offer which "two distinguished Americans" now in Paris had brought from Lenin to the Allies. He warned the Government against having any traffic with those Bolsheviks! Mr. Bonar Law said he did not "think there was the shadow of a foundation" for the said report. Everyone knows

now that a peace offer does exist. The great four are keeping Mr. Bonar Law in the dark it seems!

#### "MISCONDUCT"

April 3rd.—Mr. Churchill announced that a decision had been arrived at whereby soldiers, including conscientious objectors who have completed a total of two years' imprisonment, will be "discharged from the Army for misconduct." Was there ever such irony!

#### "SOME" LINEN.

People who during the war have been unable to procure linen, will be glad to hear that the Air Ministry has about 40,000,000 yards to clear. Cost price 1s. 8d. and 3s. 0d.; 1s. a yard now offered. It is only another instance of the business ability of modern Governments.

#### OLD AGE PENSIONS.

Only one woman has been appointed on the Old Age Pension Committee, the other fifteen are men. Does the Government fear that the misfortunes likely to come to light during this inquiry will be too much for a woman's feelings?

#### IRELAND.

A whole debate was devoted to repeating the old story with few variations. Mr. T. P. O'Connor (Nat.) opened it with a detailed speech on Irish wrongs. The only new elements were those contributed by Sir E. Carson and the new Chief Secretary. Carson said that no one now was in favour of the Home Rule Bill on the Statute Book, and that "he was waiting thirty years for Home Rule" and was now going to work for reconstruction, especially the improvement of educational facilities. These as we all know are a disgrace in Ireland. Mr. Macpherson whilst making no promises to Ireland admitted that housing conditions "are a disgrace to civilisation." They are the allies of Bolshevism and Sinn Fein! With a little more insight into the rule of Great Britain in Ireland he will give up the ghost, if he has any self respect.

#### VOTES FOR WOMEN.

April 4th.—When Mr. Adamson (Lab.) introduced a Bill to give votes to women at twenty-one—a Bill which had difficulty in obtaining a second reading—one felt that Westminster was more antiquated than ever! It is all past history now! Advanced women are so disgusted with the Parliamentary machine that they wish to see it superseded not perpetuated. Above all they surely will not countenance Mr. Adamson begging for this right on the ground of good services. Let us get on with the new world and leave these fossils to amuse themselves; one cannot take them seriously.

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RE-ELECTION OF OFFICERS.  
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