

# THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

For International Socialism.

Vol. V.—No. 32

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd, 1918

Price Twopence.

## BEFORE THE BENCH AT RENISHAW.

IS SOCIALIST PROPAGANDA ILLEGAL? The little village court was crowded with men and women.

A man was being tried for singing by the roadside. "I didn't think I was doing any harm; I thought this was a free country," he said. He was fined.

A man was charged with letting his fox terrier be out at night "not under proper control." The policeman said it was running about, nosing in and out of the cottage gardens. (Oh, fie, for shame!) The mother of the prisoner, who opened the door for that naughty little quadruped, had been summoned to the last sitting of the court, but she had been able to prove that the dog was not her's, but her son's, so now the son was in the dock. He was fined 9s.

Half a dozen men were charged with playing "heads and tails"—there is not much else to do in these villages. There they stood in a row, all cowed, one of them on the verge of tears and with shaking knees. Their betters—perhaps even the magistrates themselves—play billiards, bridge, whist, or cribbage, and gamble on the stock exchange; but "heads and tails" is a vulgar, poor man's game. The defendants were fined from 12s. to 30s. each. Would they be able to pay, and, if so, what would their wives and children suffer with the weekly wage thus docked?

Evidently there is not enough real crime in the district to keep the Petty Sessions going, so these trivial matters are dragged into Court. It is time this stupid old machine were stopped!

But the Petty Sessions has now a real criminal before it. Here is the summons, stamped with a crown, that has brought her here:—

IN THE COUNTY OF DERBY.

Petty Sessions Division of Eckington. To Sylvia Pankhurst of 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, London, E.

Information has been laid this day, by Frederick James Andrew of Renishaw in the said county of Derby, Supt. of Police, for that you, on 28th day of September, 1918, at the Parish of Cresswell in the county of Derby aforesaid did unlawfully attempt to cause mutiny, sedition or disaffection amongst His Majesty's Forces or amongst the civilian population contrary to regulation 42 of the Defence of the Realm Regulations and contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided.

You are, therefore, summoned to appear before the Court of Summary Jurisdiction, sitting at Renishaw in the said county of Derby on Monday, the 28th day of October, 1918, at the hour of Eleven o'clock in the forenoon, to answer to the said information. Dated the 19th day of October, 1918.

GEORGE STEVENSON,

Justice of the Peace for the County of Derby.

The charge has arisen from a speech made under the auspices of the Cresswell Labour Party on September 28th. The meeting, be it observed, was held more than a month ago. The summons was issued on October 19th and delivered by the Bow police on October 23rd. We did not receive it till late that night. We were overwhelmed with other important work and wrote asking for an adjournment, since the notice to us was very short. The authorities, who had taken so long to arrange their own proceedings, refused the adjournment.

THE OFFENDING SPEECH.

The words complained of were not disclosed to us; it was therefore impossible to prepare a defence. At the trial the prosecuting counsel put in the following passages, condensed from the notes of a local newspaper reporter. These notes taken from their context, are not a verbatim report; the phrases are not exactly ours. But we do not quarrel with them, because we agree with their substance:—

"Miss Sylvia Pankhurst addressed a meeting at Cresswell on Saturday the 28th, September, 1918, under the auspices of the Local Labour Party. Mr. W. Godfrey presided over a crowded attendance.

"Miss Pankhurst opened with a reference to food prices, and said when Mr. Runciman was President of the Board of Trade he attributed the high prices to the American Market. America was then neutral and he said that whatever the Allies might do they could not prevent the upward tendency in the cost of food-stuffs. America had since joined the Allies, and now they were told that the result of Allied co-operation in the matter of food was going to be still higher prices. It appeared as though they were coming to the end of the war, continued the speaker, and it was high time. It had been the greatest crime of civilisation and was absolutely a Capitalist War. It was not a War for Freedom or of Liberation. It was not a War for subjecting rival groups of capitalists who were struggling to get control of the world's raw materials. The Bolsheviks—who were the main object of the war—had published the secret Treaties with Britain, and the Government had entered into

France and Italy; and therefore they clearly knew the War Aims of the Allies. They had not yet seen the Secret Treaties of the Central Powers, but they knew they were of the same type. The Secret Treaties had proved that the War was a Capitalist War. The Allied Governments were not troubling about the people of Alsace, they were worrying about what they could get there in the shape of mineral deposits. Austria had asked for a non-binding and secret discussion on the question of Peace but the Allies had rejected the offer because they did not approve of secret diplomacy. That was rather a joke. It was nonsense for them to talk about secret diplomacy when they were so deeply steeped in it.

"If the Allies were going to fight on in order to get better terms in the direction of German colonies where there was rubber, or in the direction of the oil-fields of Mesopotamia, or the steel or iron of Alsace-Lorraine, it would be of no benefit to the working people who had a right to tell the Government to make Peace as quickly as possible and to allow them to express their views as to whether the peace terms were just or not. Annexation on the part of the Government had always been the rule. That was why we had an Empire on which the sun never set. Russia was being dragged into the War again because the Governments of the Allies were fighting against her. What we were fighting for out there was for British capital and for concessions in the East. She was one of those who believed in the old saying: 'Let those who make the quarrels be the only ones to fight.'

"Alluding to the Police strike in London Miss Pankhurst said it was most remarkable to see the police taking people out of prison instead of putting them in. When you have a police strike, she continued, you are not far from a Soldiers' strike. I advise the Government to be a little wiser in the way it manages this War, or the soldiers will take the management of it upon themselves.

"Dealing with the Railway strike she said she did not think the trouble was over, and although it was true Mr. Thomas had shown a little more independence of the Government than some of the other so-called Labour Leaders, who had behaved as if they were capitalists themselves, she thought the fact that the workers had shown that they were not going to have the big men in London pulling the strings would have an excellent effect upon the Labour movement throughout the country. Mr. Thomas seemed to forget that he was the railwaymen's servant, not their King Emperor, and he had no right to order them back to work and say that he would not open negotiations until they went. Mr. Thomas had seen what she thought was the beginning of the end of the ultra-dominance of the Labour leaders in this country. They were going to see a bigger independence of the rank and file in every industry and in every country.

"The speaker advocated the endowment of maternity by which the people who brought children into the world should not suffer, but said they would not get it until they had a strong spirit of Socialism throughout the country. The sooner they realised that the capitalist system under which they lived was played out the better. They should realise that the industries were theirs and that they could manage them. When they did that they would be able to hold out the hand of brotherhood to all those Russian people who were fighting to obtain control and who had been starved out. It was one of the greatest tragedies of the War that while the intelligence of the country was being sapped by the capitalistic system under which we lived, we were sending working-class soldiers to Russia....

"Replying to questions Miss Pankhurst said that so far as she knew the Labour Party had not protested against the Allied intervention in Russia. Miss Pankhurst was asked 'In taking over the industries of the country would you pay out the present capitalists?' Miss Pankhurst replied: 'No, I would not, I would offer them work at a decent wage. What more do they want?' (Laughter.)"

The prosecuting counsel informed the Court that he had been instructed by the Director of Public Prosecutions in London and that proceedings had been taken with the consent of the competent military authority.

Having at length heard the words cited against us, we again applied for an adjournment. We wished to produce our authorities for the statements contained in these passages, every one of which is based on abundant evidence that we have culled from the speeches of members of the Government, and other prominent politicians, official documents, Parliamentary questions and answers, or the financial and news columns of the Press. We desired the opportunity to bring this evidence into Court; but it was refused.

The police put two witnesses into the box to state that they thought the speech objectionable; one of whom is a regular reader of *The Daily Express* and occasionally reads *The Daily Mail*, but "not," as he volunteered, *The Daily News*. The other admitted that he goes to the *Daily News* and takes little interest in it. The witnesses, including the Treasurer of the

shire Miners' Association and a Cresswell Councillor, gave evidence that the meeting was orderly and enthusiastic, that the speech was "heard gladly," and with much applause; also that they agreed with it.

We explained to the Bench that we had spoken as an advocate of International Socialism, and that we had endeavoured to expose the evils of the capitalist system. In pursuance of that object we had, in our speech at Cresswell, drawn our illustrations from current events. We submitted that it was not illegal to advocate changes in the British Constitution. We pointed out that we had made no such abusive attack upon members of the Government as, for instance, that made last Sunday by *The National News* upon Lord Milner. In the course of that attack certain utterances of Lord Milner were described as "treason talk," and it was said:—

"This barging-in of the Secretary for War is a sinister and disquieting fact. We have had quite enough of the Hidden Hand... every patriotic man in the country welcomes Mr. Wilson's answer as a blow between the eyes for the Secretary of State for War."

We, however, had not directed our attack against individuals; we had sought to prove that the capitalist system is bad and must be changed. It was objected that we had characterised this as a Capitalist War; but that was, in our honest opinion. We submitted that there is overwhelming evidence in support of our contention. We were sorry that we were not then able to present copies of the secret treaties to each of the magistrates and to the counsel for the prosecution, but that omission can now be repaired. The prosecuting counsel took special exception to all that we had said about Russia. By reading to the Court the leading article in *The Manchester Guardian* of October 23rd, we were able to show that at least some of our views have been reinforced from an influential quarter:—

"If, after we have stopped fighting with the Central Powers, we persist in fighting against the Bolshevik Government, it can only be because our aim is to overthrow that Government. The overthrow of the Bolshevik Government would then stand revealed as an end in itself. Our objections to the Bolshevik Government must fall under one or more of three heads: we may object to the person and the practices of that Government; we may object to the Bolshevik Constitution; we may object to the Bolshevik social philosophy and economic. Is it our intention and purpose to wage war against Lenin and Trotsky, or against the Soviet system or against Bolshevik Socialism? We have said very often that we have no intention of interfering in the internal affairs of Russia. The pretence has been very thin, since wherever the arms of the Allies reached, the Soviets were destroyed and a more or less reactionary authority was set up. But once an armistice with the Central Powers is signed in shadow of pretence can survive. If the Allies' armies still remain in Russia and still operate in Russia, their purpose can only be to effect a revolution in the internal affairs of Russia."

When the magistrates retired many sympathisers, who had come from Sheffield, Cresswell, Clowne, and other places, declared that there could not be a conviction; but those who knew the calibre of the Bench thought otherwise.

The Chairman, returning with his colleagues, announced that we must be fined £50 and £8 12s. costs. We replied that we were not in a position to pay, and inquired as to the alternative. The Chairman replied "three months imprisonment," and gave us seven days' grace in which to make up our mind whether to appeal.

We are determined to pay no fine; indeed, we cannot afford to do so; but almost before the Court had risen the local friends—working people remember—had collected £11, declaring that they could not agree to let us go to prison; as we should be doing better work outside. We are loath to let our comrades pay out this money; but, in the meantime, we have arranged to speak for the Cresswell Labour Party next Saturday, November 2nd; we, and they, are determined to maintain the right of free speech and to continue in our advocacy of International Socialism, and in our exposures of all the many evils arising from capitalism, including the War and the intervention in Russia. E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

TWO PILLARS OF CAPITALISM.

Lord Milner urged that the Allies should press Germany too far, lest Bolshevism develop in Germany. Lord Northcliffe, however, decried that there is no such danger and dismissed Milner's arguments as "extraordinarily unex-Lansdownisms." We always suspected that Lord Northcliffe had been seeing the Red Light when he wrote his letters.



WORKERS' SOCIALIST FEDERATION.

LONDON MEETINGS.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1st. Waterloo Road, near "Old Vic." (Food Campaign). 11.45 A.M., Miss Price. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd. Great Push for Socialism, Peace, and Votes for All in the St. Pancras District. Meet 44 Malden Road at 2.45 and 5.45 P.M. Speakers: Mrs. Cole, Miss Price, Miss P. Rickards, Mrs. Walker, and Mr. Moscovitch. SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd. Finsbury Park. 4 P.M., John McLean Demonstration. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5th. Clock Tower, Burdett Road (Food Campaign). 11.30 A.M., Miss Price. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8th. Queen's Crescent, Kentish Town. 5.30 P.M., Miss Price. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9th. Great Push in Tottenham.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4th. 44 Malden Road, St. Pancras W.S.F. 2.30 P.M., Business Meeting. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5th. 400 Old Ford Road. 3 P.M., Mrs. Brimley. Bow Members' Meeting, 400 Old Ford Road, 8 P.M. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7th. 29a Lincoln's Inn Fields. 7.30 P.M., E. G. Smith, "Dear Brutus." 76 Whitechapel Road. 8 P.M., Edward Fuller, "Sex and Social Liberty." Chair, Mr. Moscovitch. SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10th. 400 Old Ford Road. 4-7 P.M., Irish At Home. (Full particulars next week.) FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15th. 400 Old Ford Road. 8 P.M., General Meeting (London Section).

OTHER ORGANISATIONS.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5th. Walthamstow League of Rights, William Morris Hall, Somer's Road. 2.30 P.M., Mrs. Walshe.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

FAMILY LIMITATION DOCTRINE. Post free, ljd., Malthusian League, 48, Broadway, Westminster.

ANTIQUES.

Highest Prices given for Old China or Antique Furniture in any condition, MARY CASEY, 29b Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.2.

THE NOVEMBER PLEBS

(The Magazine for Students) Contains:—OUTLINE ECONOMICS COURSE, by N. Abbott; OUTLINE INDUSTRIAL HISTORY COURSE, by J. T. W. Newbold; Reviews; Correspondence; The PLEBS Bookshop, &c. &c. 2d. postpaid, from Sec., Plebs League, 176 Springvale Road, Sheffield.

Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.

Joint Protest Meeting

against REG. 40D, D.O.R.A., at QUEEN'S HALL, WEDNESDAY, Nov. 6, at 7.30. Rt. Rev. THE LORD BISHOP OF KENSINGTON Miss MAUDE ROYDEN Miss MARY MACARTHUR Mr. E. B. TURNER, F.R.C.S. Mrs. BRAMWELL BOOTH. MONSIGNOR PROVOST BROWN, &c. Chair - Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT. Admission Free by Ticket only. Reserved Seats, 2s. 6d. & 1s. From the Secretary of the Association of Moral and Social Hygiene, 19, Tot Hill Street, S.W.1.

CRESWELL, DERBYSHIRE

Open Air Meeting. Saturday, November 2nd at 3 p.m. SYLVIA PANKHURST. WILL GODFREY, Chair.

FOR SCRAMBLED EGGS, ETC.,

Greer's Agreeable Whole Dried Eggs, 2 whole eggs 2 1/2d. wholesale only. D. W. GREER & Co., Camberwell, London, S.E.5.

Vote for The Children's Birthright.

7 shillings a week to every child in our midst, as proudly welcomed citizens till they reach the age of 21 years, when they will be able to vote for themselves.

To Dreadnought Readers in the Borough of Croydon.

Do you know Croydon's own Socialist Weekly Newspaper?

THE EPISTLE (estab. 1916).

The Editor, Contributors, Publishers and Printers are all Socialists. Price 1d. weekly, delivered anywhere in Croydon. Send post card 112, Woodville Road, Thornton Heath, for weekly delivery.

JOHN McLEAN DEFENCE COMMITTEE.

A Grand Demonstration

WILL BE HELD IN FINSBURY PARK, Sunday, November 3, at 4 p.m.

To demand from the Government the immediate release of JOHN McLEAN, who is serving 5 years' imprisonment for his Socialist Views.

ASSEMBLE IN YOUR THOUSANDS.

An injury to one is an injury to all.

Speakers— HENRY ALEXANDER, B.S.P.; JOHN ARNALL, I.L.P.; W. CARTER, N.U.R.; W. T. A. FOOT, N.U.R.; ALEXANDER GOSSIP, N.A.F.T.A.; ARTHUR McMANUS, Clyde Workers' Committee; SYLVIA PANKHURST, W.S.F.; MELVINA WALKER, W.S.F.; G. SAUNDERS, L.P.U.L.V.W.; W. WATSON, London Workers' Committee, and others. Look for further List of Speakers next week. Funds greatly needed. Forward donations to G. PAREITER (Hon. Treasurer), 58 Woodville Road, Southall.

LEANEY'S LTD.,

WHOLESALE NEWSAGENTS. City Agent for The Workers' Dreadnought. 9 and 10, ST. E. DON'T FORGET YOURS AVENUE, E.C.4. (Late City Newsagents, 10, St. E. Avenue, E.C.4.)

PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT.

October 21st.—Mr. Balfour admitted that £4,239 had been "advanced" during the last twelve months by M. Nabokoff for the maintenance of the Russian Embassy. Mr. King (L.) pointed out that the subsequent Russian Government has repudiated M. Nabokoff. From whom then does the British Government hope to receive repayment of this "advance"?

NOT A NATION!

The Hungarians League of Nations, according to Mr. Bonar Law, is not to include Ireland.

ARKHOUSE FOR SOLDIERS' CHILDREN. There are 993 children of men killed in the present war maintained by the Poor Law authorities, Mr. Fisher stated. The number of soldiers' wives was not known. Is this all that is left for some of the dependants of soldiers who are sent to "fight for their country"?

TEACHERS' PENSIONS.

A second reading was given the School Teachers (Superannuation) Bill. We must note first that it is not to apply to Ireland and Scotland! Mr. Fisher stated the demand for the pension age to be in the 51 to 50 or 55 by explaining that teachers might need it after thirty years service, perhaps at 55, and they would be able to look forward to a pension at 60. He forgot to show how an underpaid teacher could exist on nothing for five years.

The Midwives Bill was given a third reading and passed.

BELFAST PRISON BILL.

In order to redeem a "pledge" given before the recess Mr. Shortt moved that the Belfast Prison Bill be read a second time. This Bill authorises an inquiry into the treatment of Catholic prisoners in Belfast gaol in June and July last. It seems that the Chief Secretary proposes to appoint a Presbyterian judge for this purpose, a fact greatly condemned by Mr. T. M. Healy (I.N.), who labelled the whole procedure as a sham. Mr. King (L.) compared the cruelty and inhumanity meted out to Irishmen in Irish prisons with the treatment of British prisoners in Germany!

SMALL NATIONS.

October 22nd.—Mr. Balfour stated that so far as this Government is concerned representation is assured to the Poles, Czecho-Slovaks and Yugo-Slavs on any settlement affecting their interests. We read of his to mean the Peace Conference! The Irish now cannot be denied their claim to be represented.

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

Mr. Baldwin announced that he did not think it necessary to increase the old age pensions nor to increase the limit of means prescribed by the Act. Has he ever tried to live on 7s. 6d. a week?

PROVISION FOR IRISH SOLDIERS.

A Bill to reward Irish soldiers and sailors with 200 acres of land was read a second time. Mr. Shortt the Chief Secretary made a great effort with the object in our opinion of proving that the Bill was not prompted by Lord French's proclamation asking for recruits. The most violent attack on the Bill was Mr. Dillon's (I.N.) and unworkable. It could not provide land for all the Irish soldiers, then who was to choose which should be favoured. Mr. Dillon asked if a similar reward of £300 or £400 was to be forthcoming for all British sailors and soldiers! We think he touched the real danger when he said that the Bill would be the cause of another "plantation." The debate was adjourned.

PENSIONS BILL.

Mr. Hodge introduced a Bill to put more power in the hands of the Pensions Ministry in respect of granting of pensions, disablement treatment and care of children. Great exception was taken to the Bill to introduce "what Lord Cavendish to the Stewards called "autocracy and bureaucracy." Mr. Shortt said that if the Pensions Ministry were to be given the machinery already in use, "we might be reason in the Bill, the meantime our fight it had to claim more innovations. The Bill was read a second time. The right of the peoples' MS.

The national Federation of us that Mr. Bonar Law wants to grant our statement

BRITISH RULE.

Mr. Ponsoby (L.) aptly suggested that Britain should not "lag behind" other European nations who are adopting a more democratic government. But Mr. Law thinks they are only trying to keep pace with Britain! And that after Mr. Hewins' statement of last week!

WOMEN M.P.s.

The motion that women be eligible as Members of Parliament was introduced by Mr. H. Samuel (L.) He reminded the House that the barriers of religion, class, &c., had been removed, and that the sex only remained. Lord R. Cecil (U.) and Mr. Asquith made speeches in favour of the motion which received 274 in favour and 25 against. Sir H. Meux (U.) was amusing in his opposition, whilst assuring the House that he "adored" women he said the House was not "a proper place for any respectable woman to sit in." Then our advice to him is to make it a fit place. We know women who would not stand for election because of the time frittered away in useless debates. It is interesting to note that women are eligible on the same basis as men! This momentous decision was followed up by the making of all galleries in the House available for men and women!!

ILL-TREATMENT OF C.O.

October 24th.—Mr. T. Richardson (Lab.) drew attention to the alleged mistreatment of W. A. Thiel, a C.O. in Wandsworth Civil Prison. It is said that he was kicked by the warder and dragged down several flights of stairs. Sir G. Cave said that the prisoner refused to leave his cell to appear before the Governor, and a visiting magistrate was satisfied that the allegations were untrue; he (Sir G. Cave) could not find sufficient reason for further inquiry into the matter.

The Recruiting Scheme in Ireland cost, from June 1st to October 21st, upward of £52,473.

"BOLSHEVISM UNMASKED."

According to the Lord of the Treasury, the War Aims Committee is having the recent press anti-Bolshevik allegations published, under the title of "Bolshevism Unmasked: Lenin and Trotsky, German Agents." Mr. King (L.) pointed out that the Foreign Office had rejected the information as not being authentic. Then why publish it?

SUPPLY.

The sum of £1,200,000 was moved to be voted, which Sir G. Cave said was in connection with the recent increase of pay granted to the Metropolitan Police. He admitted that the "troubles" with the police in London showed that there would soon be a movement throughout the country for increased pay. Speeches of condemnation were made for ignoring the demands of the police and forcing them to take the line of force to attain their wants. Sir G. Cave however said that no application for increased pay had been received by him.

THE MILNER INTERVIEW.

The adjournment was moved to ask the Government whether Lord Milner's recent interview to The Evening Standard was a Government statement. It was also asked why Lord Northcliffe should speak at Washington Inn and state the British peace terms, when the House is always told that it is not in the public interest to do so. Sir G. Cave, for the Government, had no better explanation to give of the utterances of these two officials of the Government than to urge what even the Prime Minister does not think it right at the present moment to speak about the terms of peace! Then why does he not see to it that his example is followed, not only by the House of Commons, but by his colleagues in the Government! M. O.C.

AN APPEAL.

The joint demonstration organised by the Sheffield W.S.F. Discharged Soldiers and Sailors Federation, and the Shop Stewards Committee, was very successful from the propaganda standpoint, but there is a deficit of nearly £20 to be met. The money was advanced by Mr. A. Carford of the W.S.F. He is not in a position to bear the loss and we trust that the money will be collected. Please do your part.

JOHN McLEAN.

We now learn on good authority that since last July John Maclean has been on hunger strikes and undergoing forcible feeding. Is this country to be the last in granting reprieves. Germany has shown the way by freeing Karl Liebknecht, whose popularity has been increased enormously by the unjust treatment meted out to him. When are we going to have our political prisoners reprieved? All sections of the community should be set against