

THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

For International Socialism.

Vol. V.—No. 39

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21st, 1918

Price Twopence.



By Hilda Jeffries.

MAKE PEACE!

BURIED LIGHTS.

By EVA GORE BOOTH.

I.

Year of the great wind
Of Pity and Terror that swept
Through every gentle mind,
Whilst the world's soul wept,
Folded her wings from flight
And slowly fell,
Lay like a broken lily white
In the blackest fumes of hell,
Silver shining stars of thought,
Eternal beauty, gracious will,
Golden joy that comes unsought
When the sunset crowns the hill -
Thrust into the darkness these,
Buried, trampled underground,
When fierce banners stain the breeze,
And loud drums break the heart of sound.

All the blue sunny skies
Are dark for your sake;
Soul of the world arise,
Spirit of life awake;
Life, if thou art divine
As I know thou art,
Scare, with that truth of thine,
Hate from the world's heart.

Tired is every one -
Tired to death—
Weary of bomb and gun,
And broken limb and fading breath,
Weary of forming fours,
And swearing your will away,
Iron bars and prison doors—
To-day and yesterday.

II.

Lo! to the Council Board
Great men have come;
They hold you by the sword,
They think you blind and dumb,
All our lives to ruin hurled,
Just to give them joy;
They dream it is their world
To make or to destroy.

Great men and grave are they,
Men of Honour and Affairs
Solemnly they rob and slay,
For the world is theirs—
All our lives and toils and dreams
Lo! our blood has drenched their sod,
Theirs are hills and fields and streams,
Given them by God.

They will tell you, you'd are free—
Down with tyrant kings
O'er the world Democracy
Broods with Angel's wings,
A new ordinance benign
For the race of man,
Is the golden rive divine
Capitalist-Republican!

Spirit of life arise!
Soul of the world awake!
All the blue, sunny skies
Are dark for your sake
Rise and conquer friend and foe,
Make our hate of no avail,
Where the winds of twilight blow
Great guns falter, trumpets fail.

III.

Soul of the great wind
Of Pity and Sorrow that swept
Through every gentle mind
Whilst the world's soul wept,
Lost in hell's dark deeps divine
O'er a garden not a grave
All our buried stars still shine
And new, mysterious flowers wave.

FROM A SOLDIER'S WIDOW.

A soldier's widow writes:—"We are told that we are to be allowed double meat rations at Christmas, but how are we to afford it on the pension? I only get 6s. 8d. for a child nearly 12 years old, so you can imagine how difficult it is to cope with ordinary needs, let alone Christmas extras! It will be a very sad Christmas for us war widows. When my child mentions Christmas, it brings a lump in my throat. One can't buy enough food on a pound and fivepence, with 5s. a week to pay for rent, and with such a price clothes are quite out of the question."

The Workers' Dreadnought for
December 28th (Christmas Week)
will be a
Special Russian Number.

We want you to help us to print
a record issue—and to distribute
it "specially" amongst the mem-
bers of your Trade Union Branch;
also in your workshop.

COUNT CZERNIN'S REVELATIONS.

Count Czernin's revelations are interesting, but must not be taken too literally as he is still playing a hand in the game of European politics. Regarding the origin of the war he says: "My impression is that neither the Emperor Francis Joseph, Count Berchtold, nor the German Emperor wanted it. The explanation of how the war started may be found in the fact that in the beginning there was too much diplomatic bluffing, with everyone looking for the other fellow to recede from his position."

This is probably a fairly correct estimate of the facts. Having got into the war, Czernin says that Austria made many attempts to get out of it. There were two possible methods only—one by making a separate peace with the Allies; the other by inducing Germany to join in bringing about a general peace. The first course would have meant that Germany would have made war on Austria, for says Czernin: "It would have been impossible for Germany with her armies and interests in Turkey and Bulgaria to allow us to pull out of the war." Austria dared not face this. Germany was stronger than Austria, the ten million of German people in Austria might have made civil war and the pro-German Count Tisza might have led Hungary to attack Austria. Moreover, the Allies at the Conference of London in 1916 had promised freedom to the various peoples within the Austrian Empire. The only possible course was therefore to induce Germany to make peace, and at Czernin's suggestion the Emperor Charles agreed to offer Germany the whole of Austrian Galicia and Russian Poland, if Germany would cede Alsace-Lorraine to France. Germany refused to agree, "because," Czernin says, "Germany was obliged to obey the military party." Czernin says that he then sent the Austrian Socialist M.P. Wassilko to Berlin to see Erzberger (Clerical) and Sudekum (Socialist). Wassilko "told them why the war must be brought to an end." Czernin in his statement previously explained the reason to be that the Central Powers could never win; that Revolution was coming; and that the Emperors of Austria and Germany would both lose their thrones. "Both understood and took action in the Reichstag." That action took the form of the famous Peace Resolution, but "the German victories began again and England appeared to have the intention of crushing Germany."

Czernin says that Lloyd George, Clemenceau, and Ludendorff "always maintained the same attitude." Regarding the Brest-Litovsk Treaty Czernin says that Austria took nothing by it and that he and Kuhlmann tried to make peace without entering Russia and to apply "the Wilson plan of occupation of territories by nationalities," but that Ludendorff successfully opposed them.

GERMAN PEOPLE AGAINST MILITARISM.

Mr. H. W. Nevinson writing from Cologne says: "The ex-Kaiser appears to have no party and few adherents. All agree that even if he had been victorious the fall of militarism could not have been long delayed, so strong was the growing opposition to it throughout the whole country."—*Daily News*, December 14th.

Many German people are asking themselves now: What was it all about? Why did we bring this ruin upon ourselves? They were made to believe—I think they believed, quite honestly—that they were fighting in a war of self-defence, just as the British and French believed that they were, and they were duped into the belief that by a few more months of sacrifice they were bound to win a fairly good peace. Now they have awakened from this nightmare to the cold, horrible reality of defeat, and they ask who were chiefly to blame, and answer it, not in the name of the Kaiser, but of the capitalists.—Philip Gibbs, *Daily Telegraph*, December 14th.

WORKERS' SOCIALIST FEDERATION.

For Revolutionary International Socialism, the ending of Capitalism and Parliaments, and the 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.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20th. Queen's Crescent, Kentish Town.—5.30 P.M., Miss Price.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21st. Hammersmith—Meet at 3 P.M. and 6.30 P.M. at the Grove (near both railway stations). Speakers: Miss Birch, Miss Price, and Mrs. Walter.

INDOOR. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20th. 400 Old Ford Road.—8 P.M., General Meeting, London Section.

We shall be pleased to insert notices of meetings in this column, giving one line free and a penny for each additional word.

Christmas Sale and Social,

SATURDAY, 21st, 3-10 P.M., 400, OLD FORD ROAD, E. Christmas Presents, Clothes, Books, &c. Refreshments at Popular Prices. Concert. Dancing. Admission 3d.

W. S. F. NOTES.

Mr. A. McConnell, 76 Doneraile Street, Fulham, S.W.6, will be glad to hear from all comrades and members willing to join a branch of the W.S.F. in that district.

Every member of the W.S.F. should sell a record number both of this week's issue and of the special Russian number of THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT. Send the paper to your friends. It is better than any Christmas card and a year's half year's, or quarter's subscription makes the best Christmas present. 1918 is drawing to an end. Do not let it end without your having done something to bring the Social Revolution nearer. THE DREADNOUGHT stands for Socialism in our time. It spreads news of the Socialist Revolution in other countries and

thus heartens the workers to strive for Socialism here. The W.S.F. Committee has often a very serious struggle to keep the paper and propaganda going. Do what you can to help in every way. Help us to raise funds and, above all, help to spread the good news—sell the paper, sell the pamphlets, get new members and subscribers, talk to every one you meet, talk in the workshop, in the shops, in the trains and trams; educate, agitate, organise! There is no time to be lost! Let us all be up and doing with renewed vigour.

'DREADNOUGHT' FUND (October and November, 1918).—Lady Warwick, £25; Mr. and Mrs. Enson, £5; Miss Scott Troy, £5; Mr. and Mrs. Roden Buxton, £5; Dr. Scarlett Synges, £5; DREADNOUGHT Social Profit, £1 17s.; Mrs. and Miss Casey, £1 10s.; West Ham W.S.F. Council, £1 10s.; Mr. and Mrs. Schutzo (10s. monthly), £1 10s.; Mrs. Brimley (2s. 6d. weekly), £1 5s.; Mr. Papadimitriou, £1; per Mrs. Lauritzen, £1; Mr. and Mrs. Durant (10s. monthly), £1; Mrs. Chandler, 10s. 6d.; Bermondsey N.U.R., 10s.; Mr. Johnson (per Miss Nagley), 10s.; Mrs. McCarthy, 10s.; Mrs. Dersh, 10s.; Mr. Morton (5s. monthly), 10s.; Mrs. Richmond (2s. fortnightly), 8s.; Pecham and Dulwich Women's Co-operative Guild, 5s. 2d.; Mr. J. Reed, 5s.; Miss G. D. Easterbrook, 5s.; Miss Brett, 5s.; Mr. A. Knight, 5s.; Mrs. Barfield, 5s.; Mrs. Baillie Weaver (2s. 6d. monthly), 5s.; Mr. Toop (2s. 6d. monthly), 5s.; Miss Woodruff, 4s.; Mr. J. Robertson, 2s. 6d.; Mr. Bailey, 2s.; Mrs. Console (1s. monthly), 2s.; Mr. L. Frensen, 2s.; Miss Newsome (1s. monthly), 2s.; Anonymous, 1s.

COLLECTED FOR MISS PANKHURST'S FINE by Dreadnought Staff: £42 6s. 10d.

WORKERS' SOCIALIST FEDERATION. CHANDOS HALL, FRIDAY, JANUARY 10th, 7.30 P.M., EDWARD SOERMUS, THE GREAT RUSSIAN VIOLINIST. Chair, MISS SYLVIA PANKHURST. Tickets, 2 3d., 1s. and 5d., including tax. Application for tickets should be sent to Miss Pankhurst, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.3.

WORKSHOP NOTES:

THE EAST LONDON MOVEMENT.

Things do not seem to be running very smoothly in the East End and the "fly in the ointment" appears to be a little group of A.S.E. shop stewards which is using its influence to prevent the stewards going over en bloc to the Ship-building and Ship-repairing S.S. Committee. The shop stewards of all other Unions have linked up with this committee, the A.S.E. being the only Union outside. With a view to putting this right the more advanced A.S.E. men caused a mass meeting of A.S.E.S. Stewards to be held where it was unanimously decided to link up en bloc with the unofficial committee. Now the secretary is a chap named Charlie Ball with an eye to the main chance; in any case he is up against anything which does not bear the mark of official sanction, so he explained that another meeting was necessary to give effect to the resolution. I am told that when it came to selecting speakers for this second meeting the name of Harry Pollitt, who is well known in Manchester and London as a revolutionary member of the Boilermakers, was suggested but rejected because he was not a member of the A.S.E.! Then someone said Brother Watson, and Comrade Ball replied "I will not put his name down." This was more than the Shop Stewards could stand, so they shouted "Ball! You'll have to put his name down," and down it went.

Finally Bradley, Spencer, Swales, Watson and Mills were selected, and, according to Ball, written to. When questioned Ball said he had received replies from Bradley and Spencer. I must say right here that I have received no communication of any sort from Ball and I did not hear of the meeting (which was to be held on December 15th at the Grand Picture Palace, Blackwall Tunnel) until Saturday afternoon.

By W. F. WATSON.

and then got the information indirectly. Nevertheless, I went along, and upon arriving at the Grand Picture Palace was informed by a group of Rebels standing outside that the hall had not been booked up. Evidently some dirty work is going on in the Dock Area and it is up to the A.S.E. shop stewards to institute a thorough investigation, and if Ball is not acting on the square he must be rolled right out of the movement. He must be made to realise that the day of sectionalism in the S.S. movement is passed. By the way, why not an E. LONDON WORKERS' COMMITTEE?

A.S.E. BALLOT RESULTS.

CHAIRMAN OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, 1918. Brownlie, J. T., Woolwich 3rd .. 24,522* Lawrence, J. D., Woolwich 2nd .. 13,294

EXECUTIVE COUNCILMAN, 1918 (DIVISION No. 5). Fredale, G., Leeds 7th .. 1,981 Wilson, J., Sheffield 4th .. 3,681*

ORGANISING DISTRICT DELEGATE, 1918. No. 2 DIVISION. Hills, W. D., Leith .. 909* Proctor, H., Dundee .. 904

No. 1 DIVISION. Gorman, J., Salford 4th .. 2,743* Peet, G., Gorton 4th .. 1,249

ELECTION OF TWO ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARIES, 1918, TO BE UNDER CONTROL OF E.C.

Beechey, A., Woolwich 7th .. 14,545 Butts, J., Bradford 3rd .. 14,840* Cunliffe, J., Manchester East .. 15,650* Rose, H. A., Greenwich East .. 12,563

J. Butts is one of the members of the late E.C. who were thrown down stairs on January 1st, 1913. We remember Jimmy breaking his glasses, losing a tooth, and searching in vain for a "bobby." We wish him luck in his new job.

JOHN MACLEAN.

We now learn on good authority that since last July John Maclean has been on hunger strike 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 protest against

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

FAMILY LIMITATION DOCTRINE. Post free, 14d. —Malthusian League, 48, Broadway, Westminster.

FURS £10 10s. Very fashionable black sets with skins. Tango Stole and fashionable round Muff. New two months ago. Approval willingly. Accept £3 13s. Belmont, 3, Aubert Park, Highbury, London.

SOCIALISTS OF CROYDON, Your First New Year's Resolution for 1919 should be to send 2/- (3d. stamps) for 2 weeks prepaid subscription to Croydon's Own Socialist Weekly, THE EPISTLE OFFICES, 112 Woodville Road, Thornton Heath.

FOR SCRAMBLED EGGS, ETC., USE Greer's Agreeable Whole Dried Eggs, 2 whole eggs 2½d. D. W. GREER & Co., Camberwell, London, S.E.4.

THE ORPHEUM CINEMATOGRAPH THEATRE CROYDON. Good Films. Good Music. Comfortably Heated. Clean. Well Ventilated. LILLIAN SCOTT TROY, Managing Director. (Hon. Member D.W.R. & G.L. Union). Tel. Croydon 1357.

VOTE FOR THE CHILDREN'S BIRTHRIGHT. 15s. a week to every child in our midst as proudly welcomed citizens till they reach the age of 21 years, and £1 a week for everyone at 60. MacKezie-Kennedy Advert.

THE TRUTH ABOUT RUSSIA. By ARTHUR RANSOME. Price 3d. Published by the Workers' Socialist Federation, 400 Old Ford Road, London, E.3.

Will SOCIALISTS from Greece and Turkey COMMUNICATE with C. Christo/horidis, 400 Frits Street, H.3, W.1.?

In thanking the members for re-election, J. Brownlie says: "I interpret the result of the election as an expression of opinion on the part of our members in favour of constitutional procedure which has been my chief aim to observe in regard to the conduct of the society's affairs." He forgets to mention that a number of Branches refused to participate in the ballot because of the arbitrary way in which David Kirkwood was disqualified. Anyway, we should like to hear the particular system of logic applied which interprets 24,522 votes cast in his favour out of total membership of over 295,000 "as an expression of opinion on the part of our members in favour of constitutional procedure."

There is to be a mass meeting of Engineers Workers in Trafalgar Square on Sunday, December 22nd, 3 P.M., to push forward the 44 hour week and the abolition of all payment by results system. Roll up in your thousands!

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, LONDON DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

The result of voting for the above position is as follows:— Bro. G. Spenser Bro. J. Tanner Bro. W. F. Watson Bro. Worsnop Therefore Bros. Spenser and Watson take final ballot.

W. Ibbotson of Sheffield writes: "Sheffield is one of the worst sufferers on account of inability to transfer from war work to commercial work quickly. At one of the large firms they are trying to coerce men to leave, also women at the National Projectile Factory they are charging women at the rate of 6,000 per week (official). They employed about 15,000 women when fully employed. This factory is in Rotherham area and the majority of the women were domestic servants (or skivvies—that's what they term themselves). They say they will go back to that kind of employment, so some look like popping out for it when they get on warpath."

Printed by J. E. Francis, 11 and 13 Breems' Buildings, London, E.C.4, and Published by the Workers' Socialist Federation, at 185 Fleet Street, London, E.C.4.

LEANEY'S LTD., WHOLESALE NEWSAGENT, City Agent for the Workers' Dreadnought, 9 and 10, ST. EUSTACE'S AVENUE, (Late City Future News Publishers) Times we start.