



THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

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THE OUTLOOK

CENTRAL POWERS' REPLY TO POPE.

The German and Austrian replies to the Pope's Peace Call are a better in general tone and atmosphere than any Note previously issued by any of the belligerent Powers.

So far, the Notes of the Central Powers are a move towards Peace; but there they stop. They do not refer to the immediate objectives because of which the nations are wrangling.

"When the nations led by this spirit shall recognise that for their own benefit it is better to show a uniting than a separating tendency, they will succeed in regularising the few open points still in dispute."

Austria says: "If the nations of the earth were to enter with a desire for peace into negotiations with one another in the sense of your Holiness' proposals, then peace could blossom forth from them."

But, whilst they wish to negotiate, to bring the rulers of the belligerent nations around a table to discuss matters, neither the Kaiser and his Government, nor the Emperor of Austria and his Government are yet willing to make public definite terms of Peace.

THE KAISER'S ADVICE TO THE CZAR. As the very best way out of the impasse, we commend to the Kaiser the very sensible advice which he gave to the Czar during the Russo-Japanese War, a translation of which we publish on our front page.

The Kaiser might well set the example; he is supposed to be fond of taking the lead, and enlightened people in Germany are already protesting against the statement in the Note that the people stand behind the Kaiser in their desire for Peace.

follow. The Reichstag Peace Resolution gives reason to hope that the answer of the German Parliament would be for Peace on reasonable terms, though the National Liberals have now repudiated the Resolution.

But in this country capitalism has a greater hold upon the national life, and therefore, if the Peace issue were submitted to the British people their answer is doubtful.

The Russian Embassy has absolved Korniloff from the blame of the uprising, and officially explains that this defection was due to a mutual misunderstanding between the two leaders. On the night of September 8th Vladimir Lvoff, a former member of the Duma, acting ostensibly as an emissary from Korniloff, appeared before Kerensky, stating that Korniloff demanded a dictatorship.

Because the newspapers call for it, poor haggard frightened people creeping out from their hiding places after the air raid is over say plaintively: "Our airmen ought to go straight to the heart of Berlin; that would stop it!"

Mysterious Russia. From the confused and contradictory reports from Russia one fact giving cause for great satisfaction can be disentangled.

Edward, Edward. Why does your brand sae drip wi' blude, Edward, Edward? Why does your brand sae drip wi' blude, And why sae sad gang ye, O?

The alleged revelations concerning the Korniloff rebellion become daily more astonishing. It has been confidently asserted that his intention was to become dictator in order to secure a more vigorous prosecution of the War; that he desired to make Peace; that he desired to re-establish the Czarism; and that he had declared that the Czarism should only be re-established over his body.

This version of the Korniloff rebellion at first sight seems too implausibly fantastic to be taken seriously; but some colour is lent to it by the still more curious version of the affair which comes from Washington via Exchange Telegraph.

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If the statements made in this telegram are really authorised by the Russian Government, the story of collusion between Kerensky and Korniloff may quite possibly be true.

REVELATIONS AND RUMOURS. New American revelations of German spying and other discreditable methods are published almost daily. We would warn our readers that all news coming from America is highly coloured and deeply underlined.

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QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

THE VIRTUE OF THE VOTE

The "Times" is alarmed! It declares that "obscure revolutionaries have the Government and the nation by the throat." Refraining from advertising its title and authorship, it quotes from that very able pamphlet by Walton Newbold, "The Politics of Capitalism" (which may be obtained by the way, at the W.S.F. shop, 85 Hoxton Street). It says: "Loyal and patriotic citizens can no longer afford to remain passive; they must study, think, organise; and (in the last resort) act." Act? Act how?

The "Daily Express" reports that women clerks employed by the Government are being asked to sign agreements not to leave their employment for four months after peace is signed, but it appears to be implied that the Government is under no obligation to return the women for that period.

BRITISH PRISONERS IN EAST AFRICA

The stories of alleged ill-treatment of British prisoners in German East Africa serve to make us still more impatient for the ending of the War. When the prisoners protested against their treatment the German commandant gave them the answer: "Prisoners have no rights."

FRANCE AND BELGIUM

The accuracy of the statements made by Mr. Conybeare in his letter to the DREADNOUGHT of September 1st being questioned, he adds the following further facts:—

"I repeat that Germany cannot be mutilated on this stupendous scale without the intervening territory being also seized by France, and that territory is Belgian. This policy is an old dream of French statesmen. Louis Napoleon, prior to 1870, arranged with Bismarck a scheme for the partition of Belgium, written out in his own hand and stipulated entrusted it to the German who, in 1870, made capital out of it among ourselves."

UNDERFEEDING IN PRISON

The prison dietary was always meagre; it has now been reduced for all prisoners. Writing from Stoughton Barracks of his experience in Wandsworth Prison, R. Meynell Pearson, a conscientious objector says:—

"During the first 11 weeks I got weaker and weaker with starvation until at the end of that time I had to fall out from the Wood Yard because I was so giddy. The doctor ordered me into hospital and said it was the vegetarian diet. The C.M.O. still would not give me enough to eat although after a week of even less diet I was given considerably more, though this even was still starvation."

A C.O. serving his third sentence writes:—"A comrade often saved all his Saturday's food, except his breakfast gruel, until tea-time, so that he might enjoy a 'good-meal.'" I myself have saved the bread that they give with dinner, until tea, or rather cocoa time, because what we get is insufficient."

The Food Controller is publishing a magazine. Its object is to make us think that our food is, and will be, cheaper; but prices rise steadily. Official figures show an increase of 106 per cent. in the cost of living since July, 1914, and during the month of August the average of food prices rose by 2 per cent. in spite of Lord Rhonddda!

A VISIT TO A GARDEN SUBURB

About a hundred W.S.F. members were the guests of the I.L.P. at the Garden Suburb, Golders Green. After a picnic lunch on the Heath Extension, the children played in the fields and the grown ups went to inspect the houses kindly thrown open to them by a number of comrades.

Old Ford Road, provided in the Institute by the Ten was generously lent to the Wilkinsons, I.L.P. Afterwards our American friend, Miss Joan Lawson, gave an original puppet show. Miss Joan Lawson... lighted up by her charming dancing. Miss Agnes Macdonald recited, and several other friends sang and recited. Kindred of all, our Garden Suburb hosts drew us into the entertainment, and asked us to do what we could, and we volunteered eagerly to do our part. As Mary Carr said when she was asked to report on the outing to the general meeting last year: "They treated us like brothers."

REVIEW

"I APPEAL UNTO CASABAR," THE CASE OF THE CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR. By Mrs. Henry Hobbouse. With introduction by Professor Gilbert Murray and notes by the Earl of Selborne, Lord Parmoor, Lord Hugh Cecil, M.P., and Lord Henry Bentinck, M.P. Second Edition. 74 pp. 8s. pp. XXII and 86. London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., Ruskin House, 40, Museum Street, W.C.1. Price 1s. net.

The first edition of this book was exhausted almost immediately after publication, and an almost equal demand can be predicted for the second. Yet I am not quite sure why the public like to read the book unless it enjoys being made ashamed of itself. For the book must make public ashamed—ashamed that it has tolerated in defiance of the plain meaning of the Military Service Acts, the abominable persecution of objectors to military service that has been taking place since these acts became law. Yet the public is not altogether to blame. The policy of throwing dust in its eyes has been adopted with no little success, and the idea has got abroad that the troublesome problem of the conscientious objector had been admirably solved by a beneficent government. No such problem would have arisen had the Military Service Acts been justly and fairly administered, and the fact is that the government has completely failed to solve it. Between 800 and 1,000 conscientious objectors are at present in prison—many of them men about whose conscientiousness there cannot be the shadow of a doubt. Mrs. Hobbouse tells stories of some of them—of what they have done for their fellow-men and how their fellow-men have repaid them. She does not share with them their convictions as to the immorality of War, but regarding this War as a War for liberty, she does not wish to see Liberty defiled and denied at home while she is fought for abroad. This attitude, I gather, is shared by the other writers, noted above, who have contributed to this book. Well! so be it—the fact perhaps may give the book a wider circulation and assist in the achievement of its object. But the clear statements of the anti-militarist position quoted by Mrs. Hobbouse from the court-martial defences etc., of various well-known objectors, and the feeling that the book produces that the persecuting army of the inevitable incident in the War and in accord with its spirit, cannot be without effect.

GLASGOW COUNCILLORS

The Military authorities in Glasgow seem determined that all the Pacifist Councillors in the city who are of military age will be dragooned into prison. Already Councillors George Smith and P. J. Dolan have been imprisoned for refusing to obey military orders; and now Councillor E. Hinevell has had his exemption withdrawn and is to be called for service on October 17th. All these councillors are active Pacifists and members of the I.L.P. Six other councillors of military age who are supporters of the War have been exempted. Councillor Hinevell is the only permanent trade union official in the Clyde area to have his exemption withdrawn.

Deal with our Advertisers, and mention the "Dreadnought."

