

THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

For International Socialism.

Vol. V.—No. 43

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18th, 1919

Price Twopence.



THE RIFT in the LOOT

MRS. BRITANNIA: After all the troubles I've gone through I believe he's going to have nearly as big a Navy as mine!

HANDS OFF RUSSIA!

BE SURE TO COME TO THE

MASS MEETING

AT THE

Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.,

To-day, Saturday, January 18th, 1919.

Doors Open at 6.30 p.m.

MAXIM GORKI ON THE BOLSHEVIKI.

Maxim Gorki, the famous Russian novelist, whose vivid portrayals of Russian life and character long stirred the world to sympathy with the ideals of the Russian Revolution, was at first antagonistic to the Soviet Government. He attacked the Bolsheviki in his paper, the *Novaja Zhizn*, and bitterly opposed the Soviet Government. The British Capitalist Press even reported that he had been executed by the Soviet Government.

Later, however, he became converted to Bolsheviki methods, and accepted a post under the Soviet Government in order to help its literary and educational work. He has now definitely joined the Soviet Government, and has issued the following Manifesto to the civilised world:—

The war is at an end. German Imperialism has been defeated and has now to pay a heavy penalty for its lust of conquest.

The German proletariat, decimated by the war and exhausted by hunger, will dearly pay for the former victories, because in the past it obeyed the policy of its ruling classes.

On the other hand, the victors, who but a short time ago proclaimed to the world that they were destroying millions of human lives for the triumph of Justice and for the happiness of the people, have now compelled the defeated German nation to accept armistice terms which are ten times worse than those imposed on Russia by German Imperialism at Brest, and which threaten the German people with absolute starvation.

Day by day the cynicism and inhumanity of the Imperialists' policy grow more patent and threaten the peoples of Europe with new wars and fresh bloodshed.

President Wilson who but yesterday posed as the smooth-tongued champion of the liberties of the peoples and of the rights of democracy, is to-day* equipping an immense army for the "restoration of order" in revolutionary Russia, where the masses of the people have realised their lawful right to take the power of government into their own hands, and are striving as best they can to lay the foundations of a new society.

I will not deny that the reconstruction on which the Russian people are engaged was preceded, in many cases, by unnecessary destruction; but, more than any one else, I am in a position to declare that the cultural transformation which is taking place under peculiarly difficult conditions and for which heroic efforts are necessary, is gradually assuming dimensions and forms such as human history has not known hitherto.

This is no exaggeration. But a short time ago I was an opponent of the Soviet Government, and even now I differ from it on numerous points; nevertheless I can say that future historians, in appraising the work accomplished by the Russian workers during one short year, will have nothing but admiration and amazement for the grandeur of the present cultural work.

I will not undertake here to cite facts. I will say only that this work will at last associate the Russian masses with the culture of the world. Everyone who aims at the renovation of the world must rejoice at the rapidity, energy and zeal with which the Russian people is endeavouring to build up a new life. It is true that in this work, which is of world-importance, great mistakes and unnecessary cruelties have been committed. But what are they in comparison with the bestial horrors of the war which was caused by the British and German Imperialists? This accursed war has inflamed with hate the hearts of all European nations, and has absolutely killed the general realisation of the value of life and the worth of labour, which was already none too robust. But is it because of any lack of generosity in the

* This manifesto was issued last year.

Continued on next page.

BETWEEN OURSELVES. By L. A. Motler.

Continued from front page. Russian workers' treatment of their defeated class enemies that the Imperialists of Europe and America have declared war on the revolutionaries of Russia? No, things are not so scrupulously idealistic as the capitalist papers of England, France, America and Japan are trying to represent them.

I do not wish to deny the services rendered by capitalism in the past to the working portion of mankind, out of whose blood and flesh it has created the conditions for the transition to a new and more perfect and just social system under Socialism.

We Russians, who are justly regarded as a culturally backward nation, a people without traditions, are therefore bolder, more rebellious and less attached to the inspirations of the past.

The leader of the campaign against Russia is Woodrow Wilson. The torch of the Russian revolution, which is throwing a light all over the world is firmly held by Lenin, and the proletariat.

In face of the danger of being crushed by the banquets of capitalism the Russian people say to the workers of the world and to all honest men and women: Follow us to a new life for the creation of which we toil, unseparating of ourselves, of any one or anything save that ideal.

Workers' Socialist Federation. H. DEVINE WILL LECTURE ON "Ireland and the Present Political Crisis."

On FRIDAY, 24th JANUARY, 1919, at 8 p.m., At CAXTON HALL, Caxton Street, Westminster.

JOHN MACLEAN. We now learn on good authority that since last July John Maclean has been on hunger strike and undergoing forcible feeding.

My dear Henry,—You will have noticed that in an aforetime article I suggested that when you wanted a pair of boots you did not mark a nice cross on a bit of nice official paper and wait for Parliament to pass an Act.

I do not wish for a moment to imply that they should have brought machine guns and made havoc with them. Or, in the words of a soldier poet: "Then with their trusty bombers turned and cleared the butchers out of Parliament."

If only selfishly, as I said, it is to your advantage to have these Russian workers and these German workers freed from outside interference which hinders their development towards real freedom and real happiness.

There is nothing like doing a job thoroughly once you have started. But it is not the way of Governments to do anything thoroughly.

This fact, Henry, should prove to you what you have won in this war. It should prove to you that your own war has still to be fought.

YOU appreciate the excellent Russian News which appears in the 'Workers' Dreadnought; therefore help to make it widely known.

LEANEY'S LTD., WHOLESALE AND RETAIL AGENTS City Agent for the Workers' Dreadnought

WORKSHOP NOTES. By W. F. Watson.

THE RUSSIAN CONFERENCE.

The Anti-Intervention Conference and Mass Meeting arranged for January 18th at the Memorial Hall will be a bumper Conference!

One of our L.W.C. comrades in addressing a meeting a week or two back mentioned that the meeting was still going on in Russia.

There are still only two classes, two nations in the world. The workers and the masters. This is what you should put into the very heart of your mind and remember.

The Chairman, T. Brown (whose voice was not strong as the occasion required) made known the business of the meeting, and quickly called upon the Secretary of the Joint Standing Committee of Shipping Trades to outline the position.

It was stated that delegates had been appointed to attend the B.L. Workers' Committee, and that machinery was in operation to prevent work being done at other ports in the event of a stoppage.

A resolution was moved on those lines. In answer to a question as to the relation of the

CHRISTMAS BEHIND BARBED WIRE.

Knockaloe Aliens' Camp, Christmas, 1918.

This is the fifth Christmas we have spent behind barbed wires. Four last years! four years far away from civilization, from work, from all the comforts and joys of life; cut off from home and friends, from wife and child; ruin and the broken bonds of friendship stare us in the face.

We were born in Germany. We belong to it by birth, not by choice. We are said to be enemies of this territory, and, alas! many of us, after these long terrible years of suffering, have been made to believe it, just as the people of England also came to believe it when the press started its unjust campaign against us.

Perhaps only those can answer that question who have some selfish interest in it. I, for my part, cannot believe that the people of England would tolerate our interment for an hour longer if they knew the real truth.

There is no longer ruled by the Kaiser and his clique. The German people have freed themselves and there is not one amongst us here who did not rejoice over that triumph, not one who did not feel his blood run quicker at the mere thought of a democratic Germany.

Our first thought was that the hour of liberty had struck—and for us, too—that a democratic England would now open the strictly guarded gates of our exile. Alas! the politicians made us the object of election propaganda, once more popular hatred was turned against us.

With all my heart and soul I wish that these lines might inspire the conscience of the British workers to see that justice is done to us. If release to our English homes is still impossible, then give us our liberty, send us to any place in the world outside barbed wires—even back to Germany.

Round me as I write I see white faces, the faces of men of all ages from 20 to 50 years, all bearing the marks of impaired physique and mental powers—men with broken hearts, with slow, painful, tired movements. Please help them! Every day longer makes them more restless—the grey, heavy atmosphere of their present life takes away from them the last ounce of vitality. Five years, wasted years, lie behind us!

The world is at last throwing off the heavy burden of militarism. Freedom! Liberty! We hear from all sides. May we not also at last participate in the beautiful re-creation of humanity?

Forget us not in this great hour of hope!! A VOICE.

WOMEN WORKERS. Just prior to the signing of the Armistice an agreement was arrived at between the Ministry of Munitions and the National Aircraft Committee to the effect that women workers should receive a minimum of 10d. per hour, or if doing the same work as men they should receive the same pay.

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THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

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THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The proposals of General Smuts for a League of Nations are decidedly uninspiring and force one to exclaim: "What an over-rated individual this man is!"

Therefore, whilst the Congress of the League is to be a mere debating arena, "the real work of the League will be done by its Council."

And Russia? Russia would certainly have been admitted as one of the Great Powers if the Czar had been reigning, but now, poor thing, she has become a Socialist nation and so she must occupy a very different position.

From this it would appear that General Smuts intends that Russia shall be cut up and her separate parts divided absolutely; so shall her pride and power be lowered—we conclude because her people have become Socialists.

As for Conscription, Smuts recommends:—"That all nations represented at the Peace Conference shall agree to abolish conscription or compulsory military service, and that their future defence forces shall consist of militia or volunteers, whose numbers and training shall, after expert inquiry, be fixed by the Council of the League."

We fear that in practice this would only mean conscription under another name. Indeed, those who genuinely desire the abolition of conscription should really wake up and take action.

"The limitation of armaments in the general sense" is, according to Smuts, impracticable, but "the Council of the League shall determine what direct military equipment and armament is fair and reasonable."

"In order to prevent wars" it is proposed that members of the League shall bind themselves not to go to war without submitting the dispute to the Council and until the League has made an award or issued a report on the matter, and not even then, against a country which has complied with the award of the Council.

M. Pichon, the French Foreign Minister, has suggested that an inter-Allied force should be sent out against the Soviets, in which case a comparatively small army might be drawn from each country and the bulk of the disconcerted soldiers might be allowed to demobilise.

All existing States at present rely on "the rule of force"; every one has its Army and Navy and police force; what happens to the citizen who disobeys the British law? Force is applied to him.

The Peace Conference. Secret diplomacy of the old Capitalist school, under which the world has so long suffered, is now in full swing in Paris.

We believe that the British soldiers have struck a more crushing blow at the Allied intervention in Russia and against the continued occupation and blockade of Germany than has generally realised.

It would be curious if after all that has been said, America should finally be left as the only one of the Allies whose people are willing that their Government should finance and send troops to aid the intervention in Russia.

tion at the Peace Conference on these terms. Soviet Russia, able to speak only to sub-committees, and even there, as the only Socialist nation, being in a majority of one, would be outvoted probably on every point.

It is now stated that there are only 20,000 Allied troops in Russia; but, as Commander Wedgwood asks: does "Russia" in this connection include Siberia, the Baltic Provinces, Baku, the Ukraine, and the land of the Don Cossacks?

The revolt of the soldiers and sailors, who demanded their demobilisation, has undoubtedly come as a serious check to those whose ambition was urging them on towards a gigantic invasion of Russia.

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Continued on next page.

THE NEW CABINET.

The new Cabinet is of the type that drives the Emperor to Revolution. It contains many leading capitalists of the modern school, who in the positions assigned to them will secure abundant opportunities (which they may take leave) to reap advantages for themselves and for their class.

Mr. Barnes is a Minister without Portfolio. He is not "on the mat" yet; but to all intents and purposes he is superannuated.

Mr. Balfour, as Foreign Secretary, is a guarantee that the old methods of diplomacy are not to be replaced by the "new spirit" which we hear so much, but, alas, see so little.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Bonar Law still to remain "leader" of the House of Commons. Why is Mr. Lloyd George still Prime Minister? His excuse in the last Parliament was that the business of the War had prevented his attendances in the House; but what excuse will he offer now?

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS (Continued).

the natural course, the conscious Socialists always pressing forward, but not unduly forcing the pace. In Berlin the obstacles to progress appear greater; capitalism is more firmly entrenched, and, at the same time, both the example of the Russian revolution and the efforts made by counter-revolutionaries to overcome it, together with appeals from Russia itself, have perhaps caused precipitate haste.

At the Peace Conference, whilst the great struggle for a new society continues in Germany, the Ebert-Scheidemann Government will presume to represent the German people, and there will tread the sordid way of capitalist diplomacy,

The Labour Ministers.

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India.

The Indian appointments are claimed as advanced, but what are the facts? Mr. Montagu, the second son of Lord Swathing, was given an Under-Secretaryship as soon as he entered the House of Commons in 1906.

Mr. Churhill can always be counted on to issue an aggressive policy. It is interesting to note that Mr. Bonar Law still to remain "leader" of the House of Commons. Why is Mr. Lloyd George still Prime Minister? His excuse in the last Parliament was that the business of the War had prevented his attendances in the House; but what excuse will he offer now?

and unjust. Sinha was a leading barrister in Calcutta. He earned a large income and sat in the Indian National Congress on the moderate side. When Lord Morley's scheme for the first time made it possible for an Indian to belong to the Viceroy's Executive Committee, Sinha was appointed to the committee as a legal member, and paid a high salary.

Having become President of the Congress, Sinha disappointed those who had put him there by his retrogressive and undemocratic policy. He showed plainly that he desired an oligarchy of the privileged few.

We are not dismayed by the reactionary character of the new Cabinet, since we believe that its actions will stimulate the desire which is growing amongst the workers everywhere to replace Capitalism and its Parliament by a Workers' Industrial Republic.

The International.

The International Socialist and Labour Congress, whether it be held at Lausanne or elsewhere, cannot be a genuine International, because those who are to-day leading the Socialist movement—the Russian Bolsheviks and the Spartacists of Germany—will be absent from its councils, as from the official Peace Conference.

Little as we expect from this Congress, we can at least consider it a healthy sign that the most reactionary of the Labour officials have refused to attend it.

Meanwhile our policy must be to work for the establishment of the Soviets in Britain.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

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TROTSKY'S SPEECH ON THE RED ARMY.

The following speech by Trotsky (President of the Supreme War Committee), which was delivered on September 30th, 1918, at a session of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee, and is reprinted from the *Izvestia*, October 2nd, constitutes the first authoritative report on the Red Army and the military situation generally that has reached this country. Consequently, although belated in arrival, it is of great interest. It serves both to hearten us in our hope that the Soviets are able to survive all attacks and to show us that the Allied Governments are using the Allied peoples in a very dangerous enterprise when they send them to attack Socialist Russia. Trotsky said:—

The general situation on our fighting fronts may be accepted as completely satisfactory. And, if we consider it with a certain amount of historical perspective and anticipation of the next two or three months, the situation must be more than satisfactory to anyone. There can be no doubt that an Army has been created. We have an Army and a good one. It is not yet large enough to equal the numerical strength of our enemies, but it is growing. Strong and reliable cadres have been formed on all fronts which we shall supplement; and in a very short time we shall have produced a good, strong and organised Army, which will show our enemies that Russia is not an easy prey.

Turning our attention to the individual fronts, we must observe on the northern, first of all, that the situation is well in hand, and that the adverse balance is on the side of the enemy. We have lost Archangel, but after this initial Allied success there were no more. The sudden descent of the Allies there was intended to be the proverbial axe (of the Russian tale), out of which the soldier cooked his stew; instead of which the Anglo-French stew is cooking a great deal more slowly than the Allies expected. The cold season is approaching; the White Sea will be frozen over, and if by winter the Anglo-French expeditionary force is not united with the Czech-Slovaks—and it will not be united—its position will be difficult to a degree, and there will be left for us only the task of clearing it off the ice of the White Sea, or from underneath it.

On the eastern front the situation is quite satisfactory. The initiative remains completely in the hands of our troops. On the Volga two important points remain in the hands of the enemy, Syzran and Samara. Against these at the present moment a far-reaching operation is in progress. I can promise you that they will be taken in a very short time. (The promise has since been fulfilled.) This will mean that

we shall clear the whole Volga, and that the Volga will become, what it should be, an honest Soviet river.

You are aware that operations on a large scale are also taking place in the Urals. After the Red Army has been cleared these operations will naturally assume a more successful character, but it is difficult to forecast and estimate beforehand their role of development. One may say with certainty, however, that the tract of territory occupied at present by the "Constitutionalists" will be evacuated, and that soon each region will exist in which there is a compromise between the territory of the Soviet Dictatorship and the Black Hundreds.

On the southern front the fighting is developing up to the present with varying success. There are good grounds, however, for believing that here, too, we are on the eve of a decisive alteration in our favour, that Krasnov's successes will soon be terminated, and that the northern Caucasus will soon be freed for Soviet Russia. (Since then, a crushing defeat has been inflicted by the Soviet troops on one of Krasnov's armies, and its entire staff, with General Lukomsky at its head, was captured.) I must observe here that our successes are being determined by the rapidity with which the Army is acquiring experience, and I cannot mention the regiment which bears the name of the Soviet in which we are sitting, the regiment which was formed and trained in the province of Tula, under the direction of Comrade Panushkov, decided the fate of Kazan. This was a catastrophe for our enemies, obvious from the fact that they left more artillery behind them in the city than they had captured there from us. The stores were left untouched and we received them as they had been surrendered; the artillery we received with an increase.

Turning to the question of the Command personnel, we are also making headway. I have already pointed out that on the one hand from the soldiers' ranks, officers who are capable commanders are making their appearance. On the other hand, from amongst the former officer class we have already scores of workers, who have thrown in their lot with the Red Army; to say nothing of Comrade Vatsitiss, to whom must be ascribed the successes at Kazan.

The Czech-Slovaks have done us an excellent service in the occupied territories. The districts they have held all meet the Red Army as liberators. Our successes have also another important result—they render acute the conflict amongst another of our own party, and the whole of the Soviet regime have, at no time, been so consolidated as at present. Meanwhile our enemies are falling apart "at every seam."

A STRIKE FOR OVERTIME. W. F. Watson.

"Got plenty of work, Fred?"
"Yes. Thank God!"
(Overheard in a train.)

The position I usually take up that the workers are always right when they strike must be reconsidered, for I hear that members of the E.T.U. at Troupe Curtis & Co. of East London are on strike for overtime. I am quite certain this is not the policy of the E.T.U., rather are they agitating for more to strike for a 40 hour week with the same pay they received during the long weeks of overtime there would be some justification for their action; but to strike for overtime—!

The A.S.E. men sent for the District Secretary Sam Bradley for advice (fancy needing advice on such a matter), and he promptly told them to knock off all O.T. except in cases of absolute necessity.

The following has been issued by the N.A.C. of Shop Stewards' and Workers' Committees—

Reports are to hand from several committees respecting the shorter working hours. In connection with this the Engineering and Shipbuilding Unions are taking a ballot of their members for and against the acceptance of a 47 hour week, together with an agreement arrived at by the Trade Union officials and the Employers' Federation. The agreement embodies the initial steps towards the foisting of the "Whitley Committee" proposals upon the workers in the engineering and shipbuilding industry. You are requested to take all available measures to ensure the defeat of this ballot and, to this end, shop meetings should be immediately convened. As an alternative to the above proposals we recommend that conferences

of all workers should be convened, to which the following proposals should be submitted:—

1. The all-round reduction of the working week to 5 days per week, one day constituting 6 hours.
2. A further reduction, if necessary, to ensure employment for all.
3. No reduction of wages to accompany the adjustment of hours.
4. The cessation of wholesale dismissals.

MINERS AND THE SIX HOUR DAY.

Our congratulations to the miners on their determination to secure a 6-hour working day, both because the 6-hour day is long enough, and because a shortening of hours is necessary in order to prevent unemployment by absorbing all the same workers into the industry. The miners are demanding a substantial increase in pay. But when will the miners take control of the industry? They are strong enough to do it whenever they please.

WOOLEN OPERATIVES WANT SHORTER HOURS.

Woolen spinners and weavers are asking for a 45-hour week but it is expected that they will accept 48 hours. An Industrial Council on Whitley lines has been formed for the woollen industry. Apparently, the operatives anticipate getting less through its agency than the miners are able to secure by their unions. This being so in regard to the reduction of hours, which, according to many experts, actually benefits the employer, it is obvious that nothing can be hoped from the Whitley Councils when the workers decide to take over the industries.

JOHN MACLEAN.

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One cannot even talk now of the possibility of a catastrophe of any kind in the near future. The eyes of the White Guards are turned to Japan and America, and certainly a very real danger might threaten from those quarters; but they are separated from us by thousands of miles, and we have the whole winter at our disposal for strengthening our forces. Some sort of agreement has just been arrived at between Japan and the United States. We do not as yet know its scope or its attitude towards our party. But we have seen too often in this war how allies have been transformed into enemies, the sharper become world-differences, the oftener do the friends of yesterday become the enemies of to-day.

Germany, as a power dangerous for us, is still the scene at present and for the near future of our active operations. Bulgaria breaks the ranks, and Turkey, Romania and Austria Hungary follow her example. The ruling classes of Germany can hardly find themselves armed to-day with the material power and the motives for a change of policy in the East. The exit of Bulgaria from the war weakens Germany, and tends to minimise her political terrorism towards us. In reply to the weakening of Germany, will come a revolt of the French proletariat.

Such are the prospects. Two months ago our position was very difficult; but we did not lay aside our labours, and if we have maintained ourselves until to-day, no power will overthrow us. We must take advantage of the next few months to strengthen and develop our Army. Relying on the authority of the Central Executive Committee and the sympathy of the industrial and peasant masses, we shall in a short time transform Russia, not in word but in deed, into an armed camp, and will overcome the conservatism of the provincial Soviet members, who do not always critically examine their standpoint on this question.

Comrade Krasin has the duty of equipping the Army. He is pushing ahead, and his statistical returns he has made in the last few days show that the work of supply is not at all in a bad way. The new calling-up of young men will produce several first-class divisions, which will constitute reserves for the Army. We beg you, on your side, to support with your authority the work of its formation. We must convince the British and French that their intervention here is not only a dishonest and criminal act, but a piece of disgraceful folly. Our resistance on the Eastern front will produce a gigantic effect on the other side of the Pacific; and to all our enemies on one side, to all our friends on the other, we shall show that we are a Power—that we must live and shall live.

WHAT DO THE SOLDIERS SAY?

"The war has been won, or all but won. I cannot help sometimes regretting that it has not been protracted a little longer in order to gain a more complete victory."—Lord Curzon at the luncheon to the America Ambassador at the Pilgrim's Club, January 10th.

DEAR EDITOR.—In response to your appeal in a recent issue of THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT I have very great pleasure in enclosing 2s. 6d. towards your reserve fund. I have been a Socialist since 1885, and am in full sympathy with the Bolsheviks and the Soviet Régime in this country. I feel that when it can be established in place of the present, outward autocracies of every description. Were I richer my contribution would be larger, as it is I am sending as much as I possibly can. I take THE DREADNOUGHT every week, and pass it on when read.

LOUISA SOMERVELL.

WORKERS' SOCIALIST FEDERATION.

New members welcomed, funds urgently needed. Donations will be gratefully received by Nona Smyth, 400, Old Ford Road, London, E. If there is no W.S.F. branch in your district take the initiative in forming one.

W.S.F. SOCIAL WORK.—The Mothers' Army Day Nursery, 438, Old Ford Road, E. Coombe Priory Restaurant, &c., 20, Railway Street, Poplar. Parcels to Miss Lucy Burgess, 400, Old Ford Road. Donations to N. L. Smyth, 400, Old Ford Road, E.

THE LEAGUE OF RIGHTS FOR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS WIVES AND RELATIVES.—Full particulars from Miss Gilbertson, 400, Old Ford Road, E.3.

WORK AND FATIGUE. By W. F. Watson.

THE GOD OF OUTPUT.

In principle most people who have considered the present situation of the country, and its factories, are agreed that either its production must be increased manifold, or it must abandon its hope of maintaining its prosperity and improving its standard of life. Whether we like it or not, production, and particularly the excess of production that is now demanded, must be made to compete with other countries." *The Times Engineering Supplement*, December, 1918.

It matters not which paper one picks up, one is sure to find something therein containing increased output. If it is not some article by an antiquated, fossilised, product of one of the Universities, who has never done a day's useful work or thinking in his life, it is an article by some engineering or labour correspondent, who has as much right so to call himself as Lloyd George. But perhaps the most nauseating of all are the reports of speeches of renegade Socialists and labour men who have sold their souls to the capitalists.

At a dinner of the Industrial League at the Managers Rooms on Saturday, January 10th, James who was the chief guest said,

"They had got to get the idea into the mind of working men, that his interest and the interest of his country and fellow workers, lay in his producing as much as possible while at the same time making that he got his fair share of his production."

Mr. G. H. Roberts, the president of the league, announced that Sir William Dupree, of Portsmouth, had given £20,000 towards the funds of the league in recognition of the importance of its work securing co-operation between employers and employees. Working men, said the speaker, must be given good wages and ample leisure, but they must realise that they had their duties and responsibilities as well as employers, and they must have an intelligent interest in all the principles governing their industry."

Let one remember that both these renegades are once members of the I.L.P. one finds it very difficult to believe in their sincerity. It is only these men but members of the Labour Party also worship at the shrine of output, of whom, to my mind, will have to be included in no uncertain terms by the new breed of movement.

Why should we workers concern ourselves with increased output under a capitalist system? It is all very well for alleged "engineering correspondents" in *The Times* and "sympathetic ex-labour misleaders" to tell us that increased production is essential to maintain our prosperity, and that it is in our own interests, but it is all so much eyewash. The least minded of workers know that to beat the wicked "Hun" enormous quantities of goods have had to be destroyed and the credit of our country pledged right up to the hilt. It

IMPROBABLE NEWS.

WHAT A MILITANT RUSSIAN TELLS US.

This morning we met a friend who is particularly well informed on Russian questions and the Soviet Republic. We asked: "Well, do you say to the arrest of Lenin by the Whites?"

This news proves that the affairs of the Bolsheviks are improving—"

Precisely, because their enemies must be their beam ends to have recourse to such mad imaginations."

It is not when Lenin tries to broaden the scope of the popular power that he will get at the heads with his original colleagues. It is evident that the adhesion of the minimalist Socialist revolutionaries—particularly that of Kropotkin—far from causing disruption, can concentrate the block of the sincerely Socialist elements. In fact, you must entirely ignore the popularity of Lenin, and the services he has rendered to the Revolution, to believe some moment that any revolutionary would ask him.

was the international boss class that caused Europe to be turned into a bloody shambles, and it is their business to get out of the mess as best they can. It is our business to make it increasingly difficult for them to get out of the mess, in the hopes that the mess will finally put them "out of mess."

The article from which the extract that heads this article is taken is mainly concerned with the economy of industrial energy, and endeavours to show how, by conserving energy and preventing fatigue, more can be produced by less labour, working less hours. The writer realises the difficulties when he says:—

"A million or more of the country's best workers are dead or crippled or will be drawn into other occupations; and even when allowance has been made for the unexpected rich vein of labour that industry has tapped in its women workers, there is no prospect that the aggregate of British labour will be found greater than it was before the war. Therefore increased output requires indispensably an increased economy in the use of labour."

After explaining the meaning of energy, he tries to show how the extent of fatigue varies, saying that output depends upon the fitness of the man and the condition of the shop, and because "as yet no generally accepted measure of fatigue has been devised" loss of output results. He then goes on to say:—

"The loss is the graver because the goodwill of all parties, which could at once abolish deliberate restrictions, is insufficient to reduce the inevitable loss of energy that arises from fatigue." Just so. And whilst industry is based upon a system of master and slave, employer and worker, the mass of the wage slaves will not distress themselves to increase output. On the contrary as they become more conscious of the rottenness of a capitalist system, entailing as it does the antagonism of interests between boss and workers, the workers will strive to restrict output: instance the demand of the miners for a six hour day, five days a week, and a minimum of £1 per day.

What always annoys me, and should arouse the fierce indignation of all workers, is the contemptuous way in which these professors and correspondents compare labour and the workers with some machine with which they can conduct experiments. In speaking of measurement of output this precious correspondent says—

"Here very minute experiments and observations have been possible, the operator being indeed studied as though he were a motor and not only his motions analyzed and defined but the effects on pulse, respiration and temperature measured, and sometimes even the mechanical efficiency ascertained by comparing calorimetric observations with the amount of work actually done."

"What is the distribution of power between him and Trotsky?"

Since Brest-Litovsk, Trotsky has only concerned himself with the organisation of the army, a work to which he has devoted the whole of his devouring energy, and to the 6th Congress of the Soviets, which has just been held at Moscow. At this Congress his agreement with Lenin was complete, and the decisions of the Congress are in favour of negotiations for peace with the Allies."

INDUSTRIAL ACTION.

The following resolution was passed by the Southwark Branch B.S.P. at their last meeting. "That this Branch urges that a joint conference of the Labour Party and Trade Union Congress be called to protest against the Allied intervention in Russia, and to arrange to stop it by industrial action if necessary."

CHINA'S COMPLAINT.

China complains that Japan by force compelled her to sign unjust treaties and asks that these be set aside by the Peace Conference.

BUY THE DREADNOUGHT EVERY WEEK.

Unfortunately, the great mass of the workers lack the opportunity, or inclination to read such an article as the one under review. Even had they the time and desire they would, methinks, lack the imagination necessary to realise that their manhood is being consciously or unconsciously grossly insulted.

But I want to tell these heastly "engineering correspondents," wooden headed ignorant "professors" of the Barnes, Roberts, Wardle, Young, Brownlie and Henderson type, who are so concerned about increasing output, that there is an ever increasing minority, by no means pacifist, which does not propose to join the clown's chorus for more and more production. That minority, to which I am delighted to belong, intend by persistent propaganda and active agitation to make it increasingly difficult for the bosses to carry on industry at all. We propose to point out to the worker that it is not his (the worker's) business to help the boss out of the mess into which his knavery has landed him. It is the sacred duty of the workers to repudiate the vast accumulation of debt caused by the war, but at the same time to safeguard the interests of those myopian workers who were stupid enough to put money in war loans and such like. This can only be achieved by developing the workers' committee movement, by securing more and more control in the workshop, by increasing our efficiency in our own way; thereby preventing the boss from exploiting it; and by demanding a reduction of hours to absorb all workers, and increases in wages to enable all to secure the very highest standard of life.

Comrades, keep your eyes off what William Morris aptly describes as a "dung hill." Keep your minds off the relative merits of piece-work, bonus or day work; concentrate your mind, energy and activities on the complete overthrow of capitalism. Russia has started and Germany is following. France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, the Argentine and even Capitalist America are seething with discontent and revolt. Shall it be said of British workers that they lifted their chains and kissed them, whilst workers of other countries cast them off altogether?

The League of Nations stunt is a red herring. It is an international organisation of bosses formed to keep the workers in subjection. Rally to the Red Flag of Internationalism, and let the god of output be put out, until we have secured the power to ensure that the increased output will benefit none but the workers. Then we shall see to it that these confounded professors, renegades, &c., do their share of producing wealth.

THE TRAFALGAR SQUARE PROTEST.

The West London Engineering Workers' Committee supported the National Federation of Discharged Soldiers and Sailors in a Trafalgar Square meeting on Saturday, January 11th, to protest against the discharge from national and controlled factories of disabled men, and the widows of soldiers and sailors. A deputation from the meeting was received by Sir Thomas Munro on the Government's behalf. He said that the difficulties had arisen because the General Election had taken away those responsible for nearly six weeks and the present Ministers were all new to their posts.

The deputation declared the reply to be unsatisfactory. One of the men's demands was that the out-of-work pay should be £2 10s. a week. In Russia it is the same as the wage earned when at work—but that is called Bolshevism!

Mr. G. H. Roberts is worried; he is afraid that in some industries the workers may take more out than they produce within the industry. He does not seem to be worrying about what is taken out of the industry by those who do no work at all! Mr. Roberts is most anxious that the workers shall not become parasitic; does he ever ask himself whether he has become a parasite on the Trade Union Movement?

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use of the machinery already... these might be reason in the Bill, the meantime out the right it had to claim more annexations, demerits, right of the peoples MS. us that Mr. Bonar... National Federation of... never Indians"

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, JANUARY 17th. Queen's Crescent, Kentish Town.—5.30 P.M., Miss Price. SATURDAY, JANUARY 18th. Waterloo Road, near the "Old Vic."—5.30 P.M., Miss Price. SUNDAY, JANUARY 19th. Salmon and Ball, Bethnal Green.—11.45 A.M., John Syme.

400, Old Ford Road.—8 P.M., East London Workers' Committee. Kingsley Hall, Bow.—8.15 P.M., R. Sorensen. TUESDAY, JANUARY 21st. Walthamstow League of Rights, William Morris Hall, Somers Road.—2.30 P.M., Miss Hodges.

FEDERATION NOTES.

Members and friends who can help on the afternoon of February 4th are asked to write to Miss N. Smyth. Clerical help is urgently needed at 400 Old Ford Road and 152 Fleet Street.

A very successful meeting was held at St. Pancras Branch on Wednesday, January 8th, Mrs. Cole speaking on the stand of the C.O. The meeting was well attended and a good discussion followed, the general feeling being that the C.O.s are the bravest men of all and that we should stand by them at all cost.

BOW.—Hon. Secretary: N. L. SMYTH, 400 Old Ford Road, E. Next meeting—Wednesday, January 22nd. Important matters to discuss. Members who can help to make known the Meeting on Sunday, January 26th, 7 P.M., should write to the Hon. Secretary; also those willing to take charge of a literature stall in Roman Road on Saturdays, and to sell DREADNOUGHTS and literature at meetings, &c.

SHEFFIELD.—Hon. Secretary: MRS. CARFORD, 183 West Street. Good outdoor meetings, with which members from London assisted, have been held against the intervention in Russia, and 27,000 free leaflets against the intervention have been distributed. More literature sellers needed.

INDOOR. SUNDAY, JANUARY 19th. 4, York Street, Walworth (B.S.P.).—7.30 P.M., Mr. L. Hogben, "What the Workers have done in Russia." MONDAY, JANUARY 20th. 44, Malden Road (St Pancras W.S.F.).—2.30 P.M., Business Meeting. SUNDAY, JANUARY 26th. 400, Old Ford Road.—7 P.M., Miss P. Rickards, "The Fight over 40 D."; Mr. E. G. Smith, "A Democratic Peace." Chair: Miss N. Smyth. DISCUSSION. OTHER ORGANISATIONS. SUNDAY, JANUARY 19th. Victoria Park.—12 A.M., East London Workers' Committee, Demonstration against Russian Intervention. (Meetings every Sunday).

WHAT WILL SINN FEIN DO NEXT?

The Editor of one of the Sinn Fein weeklies, An Saoghal Gaelchealach; The Irish World, answers the oft-repeated question as follows:—

"The first step of the Republican Parliament ought to be a Declaration of Independence, a Declaration of Ireland's intention to take upon herself the control of her own affairs. The Republican Parliament possesses the authority to make such a Declaration on behalf of the nation, and to send that Declaration to every nation in the world and to the Peace Conference.

"The next step should be to make a formal demand on England for the immediate release of all Irish men and women imprisoned by England contrary to international law. The case for the release of the prisoners does not rest upon whether there was or was not a plot, but upon the fact that England's writ, by virtue of which those men and women are imprisoned, is not international and can have no moral, legal, or constitutional force in Ireland, any more than it can in America.

"The next step should be to present a formal demand to England for the evacuation by England of this country by a certain date, which demand should be sent to all nations and also to the Peace Conference. It should at the same time appoint plenipotentiaries to discuss the necessary details with any plenipotentiaries whom England may desire to appoint for the purpose.

"The next step should be to undertake the organisation of the whole country behind the Republican Parliament and the manipulation of its government on a broad, co-ordinated plan. In order to control Ireland it is not necessary to levy and collect Republican taxes, as The Irish Times fondly imagines, but it is necessary to control every public Board and Committee in the country, however obscure. Boards of Guardians, County Councils, District Councils, Corporations, Harbour Boards, Asylum Boards, Cornmarket Committees, Public Health Committees, Tolls and Markets Committees—these are the actual machinery of everyday government, these can be made a predominantly Republican as the Parliamentary representation at the next elections, which are due, we understand, in June. With the Parliamentary representation and the whole machinery of local government Republican, dovetailing into each other on a clear thought-out policy, and manipulated as a whole towards the one goal, the result is a foregone conclusion.... we can so manipulate local government in Ireland

as to make all its operations subsidiary to the decision of the Republican Parliament, in the event of England refusing to abide by the decision of the Irish People. It has been made clear over and over again in the last four years that even a great Empire can only govern a determined small nation against its will by the sword. If Ireland is determined to be free, as determined as Belgium was, England cannot prevent her achieving her freedom. She can maintain an army of occupation, but no army of occupation can fight against moral insurrection, and we are going to be the stayers this time.

"We have won our principles to the fealty of all Ireland. Two years ago an Irish Republic was the dream of a handful of men who died. Let us carry on their work in their spirit, in their assumption of international status, in the national breadth of view...."

IRELAND'S ACCEPTANCE OF BRITISH RULE.

The Irish World further argues:—"So long as Ireland sent her representatives to Westminster to uphold the English constitution Ireland as a whole could not logically complain of injustice. Practically speaking, there could be no injustice, for Ireland had accepted the constitution and the political theory under which injustices were committed. If England had any right to govern Ireland, then she had also a right to shoot, hang, and imprison Irishmen; and so long as Ireland admitted England's right to govern her England's position in Ireland was practically unassailable. When, therefore, England in May last imprisoned De Valera and Griffith and Mrs. Clarke she was acting within her strict rights as the situation then stood.

UNTIL THE REPUBLIC.

"But now the situation has changed. Ireland has committed the most complete and authentic act of self-determination that has been committed within a living Empire since Hungary refused to compromise her rights in the Austrian Parliament sixty years ago. She has refused any longer to recognise England's title in Ireland, she has formally withdrawn from England's Parliament more than 70 per cent of her representatives, and she has notified the nations of the world that she puts an end to the political connection with England.

The "Dreadnought" Needs YOUR Help!

DREADNOUGHT FUND (December).—Condon Fair, profit, £75; Anonymous, £25; Miss Scott, Troy, £10; Mr. J. Leakey, £6; Anonymous, £5; Anonymous, £5; New Zealand W.I.L., £4 1s. 1d.; Sir D. M. Stevenson, £2; Mrs. Montgomery, £2; Mr. S. A. Chandler, £1 10s.; Mr. F. Lawes, £1 10s.; Mrs. Kinton, £1; Mr. W. Carter, £1; Mr. H. J. Davies, £1; Mrs. M. Almond, £1; Mrs. S. Birch, £1; Mr. A. Carford, £1; Mrs. Entwistle, 10s.; Mr. Harvey, 10s.; Mrs. Minford Scott, 10s.; Mr. A. St. John, 10s.; Mr. T. Rodgers, 10s.; Mr. P. Anstey, 10s.; Mr. A. T. Rodgers, 10s.; Mrs. Mayhew, 10s.; Mrs. Brimley, 10s. (2s. 6d. each); Miss P. Eyre, 9s. 2d.; Mrs. Dersh, 7s.; Mr. J. Morton, 6s. (m.); Mrs. Herbergova, 5s.; Mr. I. P. Hughes, 5s.; Mr. Bachrach, 4s.; Mrs. Richmond, 4s. (2s. f.); Anonymous, 3s.; Mrs. Somerville, 2s. 6d.; Mr. G. Hewlett, 2s. 6d.; Mr. Toop, 2s. 6d. (m.); Mrs. Baillie Weaver, 2s. 6d. (m.); Miss Newsome, 1s. (m.).

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

FAMILY LIMITATION DOCTRINE. Post free, 14d.—Malthusian League, 48, Broadway, Westminster. Mrs. Litvinoff, 11, Bigwood Road, N.W.4, requires TWO FURNISHED ROOMS for herself and two babies; London or suburbs.

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

SOCIALISTS OF CROYDON, Your First New Year's Resolution for 1919 should be to send 2/- (4d. stamps) for 24 weeks prepaid subscription to Croydon's Own Socialist Weekly, THE EPISTILE, Offices, 112 Woodville Road, Thornton Heath.

EDWARD SOERMUS, the "Russian Violinist," has several open dates, "week nights," in January and February. No Sundays available. March dates all booked. Free from April 1st onwards. Apply to Harry Morris, 10 Fairview Terrace, Merthyr.

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IRELAND'S NOTE TO AMERICA. "Dr. Patrick McCartan, Irish envoy to America on the receipt of the news of the Republican victory in Ireland, presented a note to all diplomatic representatives in America, and to every United States Senator and Congressman, informing them that:—"Exercising the inherent right of self-determination of a sovereign people, Ireland on December 28th by a majority of more than two-thirds severed all political relations with Great Britain." The Irish nation, therefore, does not recognise his Britannic Majesty as King of Ireland. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland is at an end, and the Republic of Ireland declares its right of any Foreign Government henceforth to enter into negotiations concerning the Irish people with the Government of his Britannic Majesty.

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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 released? All sections of the community should protest against

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