

Hodge and the Farm

### LINES FROM TAYLOR COLERIDGE. (b. 1778, d. 1884.) SAMUEL

We have offended, oh, my countrymen! We have offended very grievously, And been most tyrannous. From east to west A groan of accusation pierces Heaven! The wretched plead against us; multitudes

Our brethren! Like a cloud that travels on,

Steamed up from Cairo's swamps of pestilence, Even so, my countrymen! Have we gone

forth And born to distant tribes slavery and pangs,

And, deadlier far, our vices, whose taint

With slow perdition murders the whole man, His body and his soul! Meanwhile, at home, All dignity and power

Engulfed in courts, committees, institutions. Associations and societies,

vain, speech-mouthing, speech-reporting guild, One benefit club for mutual flatterp,

We have drunk up, demure as at a grace, Pollutions from the brimming cup of wealth.

bartering freedom and the poor man's life

For gold as at a market. Thankless too for peace

(Peace long preserved by fleets and perilous

seas), Secure from actual warfare, we have loved

To swell the war-whoop, passionate for war! Alas! for ages ignorant of all

Battle or Its ghastlier workings (famine or blue or siege, or flight through wintry

snows),

snows), We, this whole people, have been clamorous For war and bloodshed; animating sports, For which we pay as for a thing to talk of, Spectators, and not cambatants! No guess

Inticipative of a wrong unfelt,

No speculation or contingency, However dim and vague, too vague and dim

To yield a justifying cause; too vague and dim (Stuffed out with big preamble, holy names, And adjurations of the God in Heaven). We send our mandates for the certain death Of thousands and ten thousands! Boys and urite

girls And women, that would groan to see a child Pull off an insect's leg, all read of war, The best amusement for our morning meal!

-From "Fears in Solitude," written in April 1798, during the alarm of an invasion.

## TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

If you send us the name and address of a robable reader, together with a penny stamp, e will forward a specimen copy of the Workers' Dreadnought " to the address ven ....

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t of production of the paper necessitates prompt payment. These fresh blowing mornings there is Hodge ploughing straight furrows behind the old horse who steps most cheerfully over the clods. The old horse has had his rest and his feed, and his sides are sleek from Hodge's careful grooming, so he goes merrily and

content. The budding boughs stir gaily, the trees seem proud of their wealth of coming foliage, their buds that swell and burst in this en-thralling sunshine. The flowers are spring-ing, the birds are chirping and trilling with pleasure. Hodge alone goes sadly. Hodge pleasure. Hodge alone goes sadly. Hodge alone rises wearily and reluctant to meet re-splendent day. Hodge is heavy with toil and "I want to axe you a

"I want to axe you a question," said Phiddy to his master.

The farmer was sitting on the milk-churn. What is it, Phiddy? " says he.

What is it, Phiddy? " says he. "How would you like to go to work with half a bellyful? " asks Phiddy. The farmer answers: " I shouldn't like t at all."

But Phiddy has to go to work with hunger unsatisfied, and Phiddy has only two child-ren; how do they fare who have four or five? says Phiddy. "I'm putting it plain," s They can't get enough of sop.

Sop, we must tell you, is dry bread soaked in water.

Hodge was half-starved before the war. His father was half-starved before him, and his grandfather before that. Hodge cherished no other hope than that he might not suffer worse than semi-starvation, except in periods of temporary misfortune, and that he might old-age pension at the latter end of get the his declining years. Then came the war.

Others might lay their bones in France and Flanders, but, only he could escape conscription. Hodge saw hope shining before him with altogether unwonted orightness. Prices were rising, labourers had suddenly grown scarce; lusty young chaps were flocking into the Army. Hodge began to realise that if he would, if he were allowed to stay quietly at home and work, he could in time secure higher wages from his master than he had ever dreamed of, and that he had only to threaten to enlist to make his master grow civil and obliging on every occasion. There were a few strikes at first, but these were quickly settled and the wages continued hope shining before him with altogether

were quickly settled and the wages continued rising. Prices were rising, too," though certain necessaries were raitioned. Hodge, nevertheless, fared better than before, and he calculated that if these—to him, wonderful calculated that if these—to him, wonderful— wages could only be maintained, he would be well secured against hunger when prices should fall to their old level after the war. But how, indeed, could Hodge cherish such a hope? How and why should he anticipate anything so remarkable? Hodge was unlifted by hope because of the new Union. All the labourers on the farms were joining it, and speakers came down from

were joining it, and speakers came down from London to assure the men that they would be as well off as the most prosperous city workers, if only they would combine as the city workers had done.

Hodge had faith in the Union and in the Wages Boards, which the Union assured him.

Strike.

Wages Boards, which the Union assured him had been secured by its efforts. The war stopped at last. Soon, instead of the further advantages he expected. Hodge learnt that the Government had decided to, abolish the Wages Boards, and here and there the wages began to fall. The Union leaders made speeches of protest in Parliament, and declared that it was only with tremendous difficulty they were able to prevent the labourers taking strong and unpatriotic action.

Meetings were held in the agricultural dis-tricts. Hodge attended the meetings and heard his Union leaders denounce, the treachery of the Government. He heard them saying, for the benefit of the reporters, how angry Hodge was, and what a hard struggle his leaders were having to prevent him striking or taking to some even more serious kind of direct action. him striking or taking to some even more serious kind of direct action,

Hodge applauded his leaders. It was a: pleasure and a duty, he felt, to applaud such eloquent and clever men, who were giving

eloquent and clever men, who were giving their efforts to serve him, and who worked, as they said, so hard to promote his interests: He hoped the Government would be im-pressed by the warnings of these clever men, and he felt sure that the Government would suffer if it did not suffer if it did not.

Government, however, The completely ignored the warnings of the Union leaders, and quite quietly the Wages Board went out and quite quietly the Wages Board went out of existence, and wages fell heavily in all dis-tricts. In Norfolk the wage fell to 25/- for 50 hours' work. Labourers were now leaving the Union as rapidly as they had joined it in the early days of the war. The Union was no good," they said, and some qualified that verdict with warmly expressive adjec-tives.

Now, at last, the Union was forced to make a stand. The farmers declared still further a stand. The farmers declared sum further reductions, and the men were hot prepared to accept them. In Norfolk the farmers de-manded longer hours and lower wages, and began locking out the labourers who refused. began locking out the labourers who refused. The Union leaders agreed to negotiate at the Bishop's Palace, but the farmers only offered 24/- for 50 hours, 25/- for 52 hours, or 26/-for 54 hours. The men would not have it. So many men had left the Union that the officials were obliged, if they were to have a chance of success, to grant strike pay to all locked-out men who would re-join the Union. The more advanced men in the Union were not satisfied; they declared that the strike ought to be a national one, and complained ought to be a national one, and complained that the negotiations and lunches at the Bishop's Palace were doing more harm

The farmers declare that if the men do not The' tarmers declare that it the men do not a come to' terms they will not grow root crops. They will sow wheat with voluntary or black-leg labour, and then close the farms till the harvest, carrying on with their sons, and daughters and students of farming, and allow-ing the cattle to eat the hay and clover, and cowing the land usually denoted to react anon sowing the land usually devoted to root crops (Continued on p. 8.)

### THE

## SEVEN THAT WERE HANGED. (By Leonid Andreyev, a famous Russian Author.)

# THE HOURS FLY.

In the fortress where the condemned ter-FOFISTS were confined there was a steeple with old clock. Every hour, every half-hour, every quarter of an hour, this clock struck tope of infinite sadness, like the distant and plaintive cry of birds of passage. In the daytime this odd and desolate music was lost to the noise of the eity, of the broad and animated street that passed the fortress. The trainways rumbled, the shoes of the horses rattled, the trembling automobiles sounded their horns far into the distance. As the estnival was approaching, the peasants of the suburbs had come to town to earn some money as call-drivers; the bells of the little Russian horses tinkled noisily. The con-versations were gay, and had a flavour of intoxication, real holiday conversations. The weather harmonised with the occasion; the spring had brought a thaw, and the road was with dirty puddles. The trees on the squares had suddenly darkened. A slightly wanta wind was blowing from the sea in copious moist puffs-a light, fresh air toward

By night the street was silent under the trilliancy of the large electric suns. The im-mense fortress with its smooth walls was plunged in darkness and silence; a barrier of cain and shadow separated it from the ever-living city. Then they heard the striking of the hours, the slow, sad birth and death of a strange melody, foreign to the land. Like of transparent glass, the hours and the minutes fell from an immeasurable height into a metallic basin that was vibrating gently. Sometimes they were like birds that passed.

Into the cells came, day and night, this single sound. It penetrated through the roof, through the thick stone walls; it alone broke the silence. Sometimes they forgot it, or did not hear it. Sometimes they awaited it with despair ; they lived only by and for this sound. having learned to be distrustful of silence The prison was reserved for criminals of note its special, rigorous regulations were as rigid and sharp as the corners of the walls. there is nobility in cruelty, then the solema deaf, dead silence that caught up every breath, and every rustle was noble.

In this silence, penetrated by the desolate striking of the flying minutes, three men and two women, separated from the world, were awaiting the coming of the night, of the dawn and of the execution; and each was

preparing for it in his own fashion. Throughout her life Tanya Kovalchuk had ight only of others, and now also it was for her comrades that she underwent suffering and torture. She pictured death to herself only because it threatened Sergey Golovin, Musya, and the others; but her thoughts did not dwell on the fact that she, too, would ce executed

As if to reward herself for the artificial firmness that she had shown before the judges, she wept for hours together. This is characteristic of old women who have suffered much When it occurred to her that Sergey might be unprovided with tobacco, or that Werner possibly was deprived of the tea of which he was so fond—and this at the moment that they were about to die—she suffered perhaps as much as at the idea of the execution The execution was something inevitable, even incidental, not worthy of consideration; but that an imprisoned man should be without tobacco on the very eve of his execution was an idea absolutely intolerable. Evoking the pleasant memories of their common life she lamented over the interview between Servey and his parents

Musva she felt a special pity. For a long time it had seemed to her, mistakenly, however, that Musya was in love with Werner: she had beautiful and luminous

dreams for their future. Before her arrest Musya wore a silver ring, on which were en-graved a skull and crossbones surrounded with a crown of thomas. Often Tanya Kovalchuk a crown of thorns. Often Tanya Kovalchuk send her away, whereas Vasily joked and had looked at this ring sorrowfully, viewing laughed and moved about amid the bombs it as a symbol of renunciation; half serious, half joking, she had asked Musya to take it oft.

NED WORKERS DEBADNUUGE

No. Tanya, I will not give it to you. You

ill soon have another on your finger!" Her comrades always thought that she would soon be married, which much offended her. She wanted no husband. And, as she ecalled these conversations with Musya and " nected that Musya was indeed sacrificed Tanya, full of motherly pity, felt the tears choking her. Every time the clock struck she lifted her face, covered with tears, and hstened, wondering how this plaintive and rersistent summons of death was being received in the other cells.

## VII

# THERE IS NO DEATH.

And Musya was happy! With arms folden behind her back, dressed in a prisoner's gown that was too large for her and that made her look like a youth wearing borrowed costume, she walked back and orth in her cell, at a regular pace, never wearying. She had tucked up the long sleeves of her gown, and her thin and emaciated arms, the arms of a child, emerged from the flaring breadths like flower-stems from a parse and unclean pitcher. The roughness the stuff irritated the skin of her white id slender neck; sometimes, with her two hands, she released her throat, and felt cautiously for the spot where her skin was burning.

Musya walked with a long stride, and tried blushingly to justify to herself the fact that the finest of deaths, reserved hitherto for martyrs, had been assigned to her, so young, so humble, and who had done so little. It seemed to her that, in dying upon the scaf fold, she was making a pretentious show that was in bad taste.

At her last interview with her lawyer she At her last interview which her lawyer site had asked him to procure poison for her, but immediately had given up the idea: would not people think that she was actuated by fear or by ostentation? Instead of dying odestly and unnoticed, would she not cause still further scandal? And she had added. quickly

No, no, it is useless! "

Now her sole desire was to explain, to prove, that she was not a heroine, that it was not a frightful thing to die, and that no one need pity her or worry on her account.

Musya sought excuses, pretexts of such a nusya songht excuses, precents of such a nature as to exalt her sacrifice and give it a real value, as if it had actually been called in question.

In fact." she said to herself. "I am oung; I might have lived for a long time.

Just as the gleans of a candle is effaced by the radiance of the rising sun, youth and life seem to her dull and sombre beside the magnificent and luminous halo that is about

confusion. " Is it possible that I and worth anybody's tears?

And she is seized with an unspeakable joy There is no more doubt; she has been taken nto the pale. She has a right to figure among the heroes who from all countries go e heaven through flames and executions What serene peace, what infinite happiness! An immaterial being, she believes herself hovering in a divine light

was not severed by death out continued to gaver and more beautiful. Several time unrolling a calm and regular fashion. She at a distance were filled with anguish at the idea of her approaching execution, of those strikes the hours, who nearer at hand would go with her to New forms con the gallows. She was astonished that Vasily rounding her with transparent clouds an should be a prey of terror, he who had always lifting her to a great height, where birds o been brave. On Tuesday morning, when they prey are hovering. At left and right, above

had prepared themselves to kill, and then t die themselves, Tanya Kovalchuk had trem bled with emotion; they had been obliged t with so little caution that Werner had said to him severely

One should not play with death!

Why, then, was Vasily afraid now? And this incomprehensible terror was so foreign Musya's soul that she soon ceased to thin about it and to inquire into its cause. Suc she felt a mad desire to see Serge Golovin and laugh with him.

l'erhaps, too, her thought was unwilling t dwell long on the same subject, resembling therein a light bird that hovers before infinit horizons, all space, the caressing and tende azure, being accessible to it. The hours cor tinued to strike. Thoughts slended in th harmonious and distant symphony; fleeting images became a sort of music. It seemed to Musva that she was travelling on a broad and easy road in a quiet night; the carriage seemed to have started on a flight, the tired body was dissolved in fight the tired body was dissolved in th darkness; joyous and weary, the though peacefully created vivid images and becar Musya recalle ntoxicated on their beauty. three comrades who had been hanged latei their faces were illuminated and near, near than those of the living. . . . So in the morn ing one thinks gaily of the hospitable friend who will receive you in the evening wit smiles on their lips.

At last Musva became weary from walking She lay down cautiously on and continued to dream, with half-close

Is this really death? My God, he beautiful it is! Or is it life? I do not know. I do not know! I am going to see and

From the first days of her imprisonmen she had been a prey to hallucinations. She had a very musical ear; her sense of hearing sharpened by the silence, gathered in lightest echoes of life : the footsteps of t sentinels in the corridor, the striking of the lock, the whispering of the wind over the zine roof, the creaking of a lantern. blended for her in a vast and mysterious sym phony. At first the hallucinations frightene Musva, and she drove them away as morbi manifestations; then, perceiving that she wa in good health and had no pathological symp toms she ceased to resist.

But now she hears very plainly the sou of the military band. She opens her eves conishment, and raises her head. Through the windows she sees the night; the cloc strikes. "Again!" she thought, as sh closed her eves without disturbing herself Again the music begins. Musya clearly di tinguishes the steps of the soldiers as the turn the corner of the prison; a whole reg ment is passing before her windows. The boots keep time to the music on the from ground; one, two; one, two! Sometimes boot squeaks; a foot slips and then recov The music draws nearer; it is pla erown her modest person. '' Is it possible?'' Musya asks herself, in which Musya does not know. There is prot ably some festival in the fortress.

The soldiers are under her windows, ar the cell is filled with joyous, regular, and ha monious sounds. A big brass trumpet emit false notes: it is not in time; now it is advance, now it lags behind in a ridiculo fashion. Musya pictures to herself a little soldier playing this trumpet assiduously, and she laughs. The regiment has passed ; the sound of t

Of what else was Musya thinking? Of footsteps grows fainter and fainter; one, two many things, since for her the thread of life one, two! In the distance the music become

New forms come and lean over her

# The Seven that Were Hanged.

April 7, 1923.

and below, everywhere birds are crying like heralds; they call, they warn. They spread their wings, and immensity sustains them. And on their inflated breasts that split the air is reflected the sparkling azure. The beatng of Musya's heart becomes more and more m and peaceful. She sleeps; her face is ale; her features are drawn; there are dark ings around her eyes. On her ups a smile morrow, when the sun shall rise, this inellgent and fine face will be deformed by in which no trace of the human will left; the brain will be inundated with thick lood; the glassy eyes will protrude from their rbits. But to-day Musya sleeps quietly, and iles in her immortality. Musva sleeps.

And the prison continues to live its special ind, vigilant life, a sort of perpetual anxiety hey walk. They whisper. A gun rings out seems as if someone cries out. Is this lity or hallucination?

The grating in the door lowers noiselessly the dark opening appears a sinister arded face. For a long time the widely-ened eyes view with astonishment the sleep-g Musya; then the face disappears as ietly as it came.

The bells in the steeple ring and sing interinably. One would say that the weary irs were climbing a high mountain toward idnight. The ascent grows more and more inful. They slip, fall back with a groan, d begin again to toil painfully toward the

There is a sound of footsteps. Whispering heard. Already they are harne the horses to the sombre, unlighted (To be continued

# NDER THE STARS AND STRIPES.

illie Murphy was sentenced by Judge . Purcell, in California, to from 4 to 40 membership of the I.W.W. and po ssion of the I.W.W. weekly, "Industrial lidarity.

The Californian Supreme Court has now rersed the sentences and ordered Murphy's scharge; but the release is deferred for 20 ys, in order that the Trego County prose , who originally proceeded against Murphy, y show cause why he should not or eased.

Harry Breen, another Californian I.W.W. s sentenced to from 3 to 30 years' imonment. In this case also the Supr urt ordered the prisoner's release last Sepmber 4th. Nevertheless, Breen was kept prison till October 14th, when his lawyer out a writ of Habeas Corpus to ensure release

In spite of these decisions of the Los geles Supreme Court, 30 members of the V.W. are before the lower courts charged th criminal syndicalism on the ground of embership of the I.W.W. alone. The prin-The prinpal witness against eight of these men is G. O'Dale, who admits he joined the .W. as a paid spy of the police.

oliceman Barnard Moran, in giving evi se against 22 of the prisoners, declared t he had found certain copies of " Indus-Solidarity " in the room of one of them en arresting him. It transpired, however, t the bundle of papers in question had not printed until some time after the prier's arrest, as the date on the papers

At Galveston, in Texas, the I.W.W. took ion for damages against Police Chief James venson for unlawful seizure of literature jury awarded a dollar damages to the The literature was returned.

New Orleans, Louisiana, Appellate, je Dowling, reversed the sentence on tor Calle, sentenced for being an I.W.W Judge Leininger, who sentenced Soid

This man is a member of the I.W.W. which which is notorious. I am firmly convinced that he is dangerous and suspicious, and I want evidence to that effect.

# THE SITUATION IN GERMANY. and to buy a very small, very cheap meal for

movement. It is common talk that the Hitler banas intend first to seize the power in Saxony, then to march to Berlin. The Nationalists feel encouraged in this project by the fact that there is no regular Government at present in office in Saxony, as the Social-Demo-crats, who have a majority, have not a clear majority. The Social-Democratic and Communist l'arties endeavoured to some to an agreement, but the Communists insisted that he programme of the Coalition Government should be compiled by the Workshop Com-mittees. The Social-Democrats refused.

This seems currously out of marmony with e general policy of the Third International but we give the information as given by our

The Nationalist programme is estensibly The working class is able to buy neither directed against the French, but its first in meat nor fish. Many workers cannot even tention, as is stated broadcast, is to crush afford potatoes. They exist somehow on the all resistance to the Nationalist reaction in small bread ration. ermany. The first move in this direction Coat is dear and very scarce. Milk is much s the passing of an anti-Socialist law, the adulterated, out costly and bad as it is, the working-class children cannot get it. They wholesale arrests of Socialist and Communist leaders, and the further creation of armed bands of reactionaries. Already these are are pale and wan, and have nasty scaly skin ptions, due to mal-nutrition growing; drilling is going on all over the coun-The éinemas show pictures of the French invasion of the Ruhr, displaying the French and arms are said to se concealed in the armhouses.

Having onse crushed the Socialist Movenent, the reactionaries declare that they will carry on a guerilla warfare against the

Reactionary nationalism certainly has a great hold on all classes. When the French entered the Ruhr, demonstrations were held the various proletarian organisations in These were fairly well attended, but Berlin the Nationalist demonstrations before the Reichstag and hostile to the Government were overwhelmingly greater, and working people flocked to them.

There is a great apathy throughout the country. Even towards nationalism and resistance to the French the people are relatively inert, but nationalism grips the people tore than anything.

So at least it seens to our correspondent; viewing things as a visitor to the country. meeting those who are working in the various movements, and attending the political meetings of all sorts.

The poverty is appalling: our correspondent views with amazement its tragic ravages, and the still more tragic acquiescence of the people

> The Social-Democrats speak enthusiastically of "our revolution." Their children bring out photographs of the 1918 upheaval to show to visitors, and everyone present tells with bated breath of how freedom was won in Germany. No one of the household seems remember the Capitalists, who are still bleeding the population white.

Even the middle class Social-Democrats themselves are hungry. The editor of one of the Social-Democratic newspapers gets what English money ancounts to £2 a month thimself, wife, and six little children. They manage to get a little-a very little-meat and fish the first two weeks in the month, and to purchase that the wife goes at 5 a.m. to a market in a poor quarter. She never buys more than 11 lb. The second two weeks the family cats potatoes only, and not enough of them. The youngest child, a boy of three, was not able to go out once all the winter, because he had no clothes warm enough to wear outside., Clothing is as costly even in English money as in England. woollen combinations costs £1 in English

For our part, we regard Mr. Ramsay Macmoney donald with considerable compassion. He is so bankrupt of policy and courageous thought Another Social-Democratie editor earns 50,000 marks a week in German money. that he will cut a pitiable figure if he takes he were to go with his wife to a restaurant office.

A correspondent writes us frem Germany that the most noticeable feature of the situa-tion there is the reactionary nationalist

two people, a meal which would not satisfy English people, he would have to pay 10,000 marks. A fifth of his week's salary would be spent on that one meal ; five such meals would absorb a whole week's earnings. Obviously he cannot go with his wife to dine at a res-12. rant, however measurely

Bread, milk, and sugar are rationed. One losf per week is allowed for each member of the family, and the bread gets ever worse and wo.se. The rationed bread costs 1,000 marks a loat. Unrationed bread of better quality is beyond the means of most people: it costs 3,000 marks a loaf. Milk costs 1,000 marks a litre (a quart), a sausage costs 500 marks, eggs 500 marks each, butter costs 1,750 marks for a quarter of a pound; hardly anyone is able to afford it. Margarine is too scarce to buy. Coffee is an unheard-of luxury ; a kind dried bean is ground up as a substitute A sort of very poor lard is the fat in general

soldiers driving the German workers before them with fixed bayonets, and under threat of murderous weapons, forcing men to load railway trucks. After such pictures follows a silence, and after that the strains of a silence, and after that the strains of "Deutchland Uber Allies," whilst everyone stands. A well-known Social-Democrat has called "Deutchland Uber Allies" the German national anthem. "Vorwaerts," the principal organ of the Social-Democratic Party, is mainly a national paper now; but the Social-Democracy is weak and apathetic. It drifts

What will follow?

# IS THE KING A POLITICAL **OPPONENT?**

The " Daily Herald " reports that the 1.L.P. carried a resolution that Labour M.P.s should not accept the hospitality of their political opponents, "after the resolu-tion had been gramed so as to convey no suggestion that the King was ' a political oppose This means, we presume, that Mr. Macdomald may continue to dine with the King; but it will certainly not be possible for him to exclude opponents to Socialism and to the Labour Party from such dinners if they are to take place, either at Buckingham ralace or at any other place frequented by the King.

It is interesting that the I.L.P. should have It is interesting that the I.L.P. should have been at pains to avoid the interence that the king is a political opponent. Do they sug-gest that the King may approve the abolition of the monarchy, or does the peculiar Socialism of the I.L.P. provide for the reten-tion of the Crown? The I.L.P. is, of course, bearing in mind that, under our so-called democratic constitution. it is the King whe democratic constitution, it is the King who appoints the Prime Minister. The I.L.P. 18 apparently anxious that no failure to make a show of loyalty to the Crown shall stand between Mr. Ramsay Macdonald and the remiership. History teaches that a party which displays timidity when out of office has no reserves of strength to fall back upon when faced with the difficult task of shouldering responsibility for its professions and putting its programme into practice.

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Our Diew.

WHEN WE LEARN that Mr. H. N. Brails 1,000 a Year feditor of the New Leader,"

tor we ask ourselves, in wonder, Propaganda. how a man can reconcile himsuch a large sum from a struggling little party, largely maintained by the pennies of working people. If Mr. Brailsford believes in the propaganda for, which he is responsible, the New Leader, we wonder how he able to put aside the thought of the thou of copies of the paper which might be distributed each week for the difference Setween the £2 of £3 a week on which he could live if he chose, and the £20 a week he actually draws. We wonder how he is able to accept the fact that sweated workers, unemployed workers, and old-age pensioners are their pennies for Socialist propa-whilst he is making £1,000 a year out

st this part of it alone \* Mr. Brailsford has certainly made a very profitable thing out of the Socialist move-ment during recent years. He has visited Rvissia, and being given polite assistance by the Soviet Government, has written several books about the Russian Revolution. These have been published by Capitalist firms, and, with the zealous aid of comrades in the move ment, have had a large, and by no means un profitable, circulation. Meanwhile, he has taken this post at £1,000 a year with the 1.L.P., which opposes the Soviet Govern-ment, the Russian Communist Party, and the Revolution itself. With the able help of a woman sub-editor and 'a number of regular, contributors, Mr. Brailsford's éditorship will be merely a part-time occupation; he will congive the movement, through the medium of Capitalist publishers, a regular, supply of books on not unprofitable terms.

THE ABERDEEN, FISHERMEN who have been on strike for a month and a half against German Aberdeen Fishermen and trawlerg, Janding Icelandic the German fish, are learning something Trawlers. about patriotism as displayed

by the governing authorities. 30 This Empire and nation went to war to prevent German Capitalism and trade from competing to the advantage of British Capitalism and trade The fishermen and other workers of this nation were conscripted to fight on land and ea for the triumph of British Capitalism and trade over German Capitalism and trade, in order that viotory should strengthen and inrease the former and weaken and reduce the

German trawlers, the mounted police are sent, to beat them with their truncheons.

THE PRESS has just announced that the policy of Governments, and this becomes Roman Catholic priest condemned to death in Moscow The Priest has been executed. The an-Condemned In Moscow. nouncement may probably be reversed in an hour or two.

For our part, we consider both the sentence and the prosecution of the various Catholic priests both inconsistent and unintelligent. it is but recently that the Soviet Government made an agreement with the Vatican to allow the Jesuits to open schools in Russiaschools in which Russian children and adults were to be taught Jesuit doctrine. Everyone knows that the teaching in the Jesuit scl is hostile to Communism and hostile to the revolution." It is absurd to follow an agree ment to facilitate the setting up of Jesuit schools by the prosecution of those priests for ose priests for counter-revolutionary activities in which 't was from the first quite evident that they would busy themselves as far as opportunity would serve them. The death sentence adds a grotesque theatricality to the blunder. It the very worst sort of propaganda for Com munism, which, though some people are apt to forget the fact, is based upon human traternity. The priests can hardly pose as heroes they refused to give Church property for the relief of famine; but execution is hardly the apt retort to such a piece of churlish greediness. If; as some say, the priest were a Polish spy, he should have been sent to Poland.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL'S BILL deal-

ing with working-class insur-Insurance ance effectively reserves this Companies' profitable field to Big Busi-Plunder. ness, by its stipulation that

companies and societies dealing with this class of insurance must deposit and keep deposited £20,000. Mr. Thomas Johnston, the Labour Member for Stirling, stated in the House of Common's that the Frudential, the largest of the great financial octopuses which are amassing wealth by this means, has even to day only raised ±6,000 in actual share capital. Its nominal capital is larger, it is true, but it recently granted £1.000.000 in bonus shares to existing shareholders. Having made such profits as to be able to do that, and also to pay out upwards of £5,000,000 to its shareholders between 1909 and 1918, the Prudential will find no difficulty in depositing £20,000. A workers' mutual aid society of moderate size, and one which provides substantial benefits on lenient terms to its members, would, on the other hand, find the deposit of £20,000 an utter impossibility. Even were it given a number of years in which to gather such a sum, it ild only do so by placing an intolerable burden upon its members or by denying them the needed benefits for which they entered upon insurance.

The defenders of the great insurance com panies are apt to ignore the hardship of lapsed policies and the many abuses connected with this sort of insurance. They argue that because these companies deal with immense numbers of people they are able to provide fairly substantial insurance for the policy holders, as well as to reap unexampled profits for themselves. Even were the benefits and the security of the policy holders always superior to those provided by the mutual aid lieties, the great insurance companies would, nevertheless, constitute a BOCIA

The great insurance companies have the ower to control the policies of Governments, Aberdeen fishermen who joined in fighting. go to the great insurance companies German competition in the interests of big when they desire to borrow money-business, now find German competition. If the insurance companies and the other threatening their own livelihood. When the great organs of finance say "no" to s fishermen attempt to protect inemselves hy piece of legislation entailing the spending of resistance to the inloading of fish from the money the Government pauses and changes and local authorities, because these bodies money the Government pauses and changes its course. If, after legislation entailing expenditure is enacted, such great financial purces object and pull tight their purse-Buy your magazines from your regular The holders of vast sums of money are able strings, the legislation becomes a dead letter newsagent, and ask him to show our poster. thus to control both the home and foreign

more and more the case as such companies

grow in wealth, and as Government expenditure increases. An insurance company is a typical example of the exploitation and useless toil that exists under Capitalism.

On the one hand, there are its shareholders. drawing large profits purely in return for the loan of money, without having rendered any service whatsoever to the community, with out taking part in any productive work. Or On the other nand, there are the company's thou-sands of employees. working long hours at utterly distasteful and unproductive work, and, in the main, for small wages—the clerks casting up figures, the agents trudging the streets to collect the pennies of the policy holders. A vast number these, and all divorced from the necessary work of the community-the production of food, fuel, clothing, housing, transport, the arts and sciences. All these uselessly employed thousands must be fed, clothed, and housed by the toil of the productive classes, upon whom their mainten-ance is a heavy tax. The shareholders, too, together with their chauffeurs and gardeners eir secretaries and domestics, must have the necessaries and the luxuries of life pro vided for them by the men and women who plough and spin and build and create all seful things.

The gigantic success of the monster insurce societies, the vast wealth they accumuate by multitudes of small contributions, should remind us of the great power of Labour under modern scientific and mechanical conditions to insure the community against want. Productive labour to-day is feeding, clothing, and housing not only these parasitic workers and idlers who depend on the insurance companies, but millions of others equally unproductive. It is not the pennies of the policy holders and the capital of the shareholders that really maintains unproductive people who draw money from the companies: it is the toil of the producers. A community of productive workers for use, and freed from productive workers, freed from the burden of parasites entailed by production for profit, need have no fear of failure to provide abundance for all its members, without any sparing or rationing, or any slackening of supplies towards those who, by reason of ill-health, old age, or infancy, may be outside the ranks of actual producers. THE I.L.P. CONFERENCE has cut a

curious figure by falling back on its old habit of referring to LL.P. on Cabinet versus the executive the question of Committee Cabinet versus Committee Government. The I.L.P. is Rule. hoping that the Labour Party may become " His Majesty's Government at an early election. The I.L.P. boasts that t leads the Labour Party, yet here is the I.L.P. unable to determine I.L.P. unable to determine on what lines the Labour Government shall be organised. Mr. Jowett, who got his political training

on the Bradford City Council, is keen on municipal methods, and declared himself "tired of the farce of voting in Parliament." Mr. Trevelyan, M.P., who was Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education in Liberal Government from 1908 to 1914, spoke in favour of keeping things as they are. That is not to be wondered at. The I.L.P. has of late added considerably to the number of its non-Socialist figure-heads.

THE ONE RESOLUTION upon which the I.L.P. might be heartily con-Down Tools in gratulated is that declaring Face of War. war should be opposed by calling on the workers for a down-tools policy. We remember, however, that the I.L.P. has many times passed such a esolution pefore, but has never made the slightest move towards putting it inte practice.

The I.L.P. places its faith for the accomplishment of this object in the Trade Unions and the Labour Party. What has the I.L.P. done to secure action through those bodies?

(Continued on p. 7.)

THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

Doctring

march

sheets? '

apiece.

vaterproof.

of scorn.

that bore 'em.

The old drunkards.'

cally, turning to a cripple.

So sav I!

God

body

latter.

away?' ..... Much they see!'

### FROM THE PUBLISHERS.

April 6, 1923.

The Quest," by Pio Baroja, translated from the Spanish by Isaac Goldberg. (Alfred Knopf, New York, U.S.A., \$2.50.)

This tale of Madrid seems a study in the igly ways by which people of all sorts seek o live without working. A flowing series of lescriptions of scenes and persons, and natches of dialogue, rather than a story, it is xtraordinarily varied and alive. The people re strangely odd and striking, the talk racy If we thought these could b and clever. ypical Spaniards, we should declare the spanish, of all races, the least drab, the most resting in personality. "How sordid life is!" one sighs as one

eads these incidents portrayed with this errible vigour; yet it is all so picturesque, and it seems, as one reads, so true. A bitter ight is cast on the miserable uselessness of rganised charity: "This must be La Doctrina," said

Roberto to Manuel, pointing to a building that had a patio with a statue of Christ in he centre.

The two triends drew near to the gate. This was a beggar's conclave, a Court Miracles Assembly. The women took up almost the entire courtyard; at one end, near a chapel, the men were huddled ogether; one could see nothing but swoller stupid faces, inflamed nostrils and twisted ouths; old women as fat and clumsy as nelancholy whales; little wizened, cadaverous hags with sunken mouths, and noses like the beak of a bird of prey; shamefaced emale mendicants, their wrinkled chins bristling with hair, their gaze half-ironical and half-shy; young women, thin and ema-ciated, slatternly and filthy; and all, young and old alike, clad in threadbare garment that had been mended, patched, and turned inside out until there wasn't a uare inch that had been left untouched. he green, olive-coloured cloaks, and the city garb jostled against the red and yellow short skirts of the country

' ' They've already begun to split up into ivisions,' said one of the loafers, who wore coachman's hat, pointing with a stick to e women inside the courtvard of La octrina.

"And so it was; groups were clustering bout the trees of the patio, on each of which was hung a poster with a picture and number in the middle.

There go the marchionesses,' added he of the coachman's hat, indicating several women garbed in black who had just ap peared in the courtward.

'The white faces stood out amidst the

They are all marchionesses,' said one. Well, they're not all beauties,' reorted Manuel, join up the conversation. What do they come mere for?'

" 'They're the ones who teach religion, answered the fellow with the hat. 'From ime to time they hand out sheets and underwear to the women and the men. low they're going to call the roll."

" A bell began to clang; the gate closed; groups were formed, and a lady entered the nidst of each. . .

Roberto passed by the patio. The humming of the praying mendicants con-tinued. An old lady, her head swathed in a red kerchief, and her shoulders covered with a black cloak that was fading to green, sat down in the clearing.

What's the matter, old lady? Wouldn't they open the gate for you shouted the fellow with the coachman's hat "' ' No . . . the foul old witches.'

" ' Don't you care. They're not giving away anything to-day. The distribution takes place this coming Friday. They'll give you at least a sheet,' added he of the hat, mischievously.

"' ' If they don't give me anything more than a sheet,' shrilled the hag, twisting her

The Governor, the queerest Englishman there ever was, with a pair of sidewhiskers that looked like flames leaping from his cheeks, summoned me as soon a

blobber-lip, 'I'll tell them to keep it for ind. 'You're a greedy one, you are.' The bystanders applauded these words which came from a 'zarzuela,' and the chap in the coachman's hat continued plaining to Manuel the workings of La

enrol in two and even three divisions, as to get all the charity they can,' he went on. Why, we—my father and I—once enrolled in four divisions under four different names. . . . And what a rumpus was raised! What a row we had with the

> And what did you want with all those s? ' Manuel asked him. Why, sell 'em, of course. They're

sold here at the very gate at two " chulés I'm going to buy one,' said a coach

man from a nearby hackstand, approaching the group. 'I'll give it a coating of linseed oil, then varnish it and make me a cowled

But the marchionesses-don't they see that these people sell their gifts right

" To these idlers the whole business was nothing more than a pious recreation of the religious ladies, of whom they spoke with

patronising rony. "The readings of the religious lesson did

not last quite an hour. "A bell rang; the gate was swung open the various groups dissolved and merged everybody arose, and the women began to walk off, balancing their chairs upon their heads, shouting, shoving one another vio-ntly; two or three huckstresses peddled their wares as the tattered crowd issued through the gate in a jam, shrieking as in escape from some imminent danger. few old women ran clumsily down the road others huddled into a corner to urinate, and all of them were howling at the top of their lungs, overcome by the necessity of insult ing the women of La Doctrina, as if in stinctively they divined the uselessness of sham charity that reconciled nothing One heard only protests and manifestations

'Damn it all! These women of

And they want a body to have faith

Let them have faith, and the mother

Let 'em give blood-pudding to every-

After the women came the men blind, maimed, crippled-in leisurely fashion, and conversing solemnly.

"'Huh! They don't want me to marry!' grumbled a blind fellow, sarcasti-

And what do you say?' asked the

'I? What the deuce! Let them get married if they have anyone to marry 'em. They came here and bore us stiff with their prayers and sermons. What we need isn't sermons, but hard cash, and plenty of it That's what, man . . . the doughthat's what we want.' " ' And all the rest is nothing but

chatter and chin music. . . Anybody can give advice. When it comes to bread, though, not a sign of it.'

" ' The ladies came out, prayer-books in hand; the old beggar-women set off in pur-suit and harassed them with entreaties." An old acrobat in a tavern gives a curious account of his visit to Jamaica:

we landed. As there was no site for our performance, he made alterations in the municipal school, which was a regular palace; he ordered all the partitions to be emoved, and the ring and tiers of seats installed. Only the negroes of the town went to that school; and what need had those creatures of learning to read and

A rapier thrust that! Baroja can turn his There are some men and women who in two and even three divisions, so get all the charity they can,' he went the charity they can,' he went

Governor made love to the belle of the acrobats, that he made the members of the troup free of his residence for her sake, that the Governor shot her lover for stealing, and when she proved inconsolable, the chief of the police ordered the acrobats out of the school and told them to clear off.

The acrobat tells an illuminating story of his visit to New Orleans that shows Baroja's keen insight into the seamy side of life:

"'Ine circus was higher than a church. I said to the carpenter: 'Place our trapeze as high as possible. Pérez and 1 were in the hotel when we

received a message calling us to the circus at once. . . . They're going to demand that we lower the trapeze. . . .' And so it was.

"Not even if the President of the Re-bublic of the United States himself comes here, together with his esteemed mother. I won't lower the trapeze an inch.' 'Then you'll be compelled to.' 'We'll see.' The showed the fellow my contract, and he sided with me; he told me that my com-panion and I had a perfect right to break

That night, in the circus, before we went on, Pérez and I listened to the com-ments of the public. 'What? Are these Spaniards going to perform at such an alti tude? ' the people were asking each other They'll kill themselves.

They it kill themselves. They it kill themselves. Thembling and screwing up our cour-age, Pérez and 1 entered the ring. We had to put on a little rouge. We wore a blue costume decorated with stars, a reference to the United States flag. We saluted, and then up the rope. "At first I thought I was going to slip;

my head was going round, my ears were humming; but with the first applause I forgot everything. Pérez and I performed the most difficult feats with admirable precision. The public applauded wildly. What days those were!

Baroja's philosophy is summed up in the ncludng passages of this work: He understood that the existence of

the night-owls and that of the working folk were parallel lives that never for an instant met. For the ones, pleasure, vice, the night; for the others, labour, fatigue, the sun. And it seemed to him, too, that he should belong to the second class, to the folk who toil in the sun, not to those who dally in the shadows.

# MINERS' NYSTAGMUS.

In 1910 there were 956 new cases of miners' nystagmus, and a total number of 1,618 cases. There were 1.94 compensation cases per 1,000 persons employed below ground. In 1921 there were 1913 new cases, a total of 6,717 cases, and 7.40 compensation cases per 1,000 employed. -----

# FROM THE EDITOR.

We must still urge our readers to give further financial assistance to the '' Workers' Dreadnought.' We again appeal for regular weekly or monthly lonations.

We again appeal to our readers to get us new subscribers. The question of finance remains ex-

ceedingly urgent. We cannot empha-sise this too strongly. E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

### ESPERANTO. Lesson 13. THE OBJECT.

In the last lesson we learnt how to dis-tinguish the **Subject** of a sentence. Now we proceed to learn the part played by the Object.

Take the sentence: Tom hits John, and rece the names (nouns) by pronouns, thus: He hits him.

In the south-west of England, country eople say: "He hits he." In standard English, however, we change one of the pro-nouns into him. Why is this?

Let us consider the sentences in Esperanto 1) Tomaso frapas Johanon, Thomas hits

John. (2) Li frapas lin, he hits him.

First of all, which word is the subject?

Clearly, we are speaking of **Tomaso** in sentence (1), and of **li** in sentence (2); in other words, Tomaso is the Subject of (1), and li is the Subject of (2).

The word frapas (strikes) indicates the action—that is to say, it is a **verb**. (A verb may be defined as the word which tells what a thing does, is done to, or in what state it exists.)

Now, if we said Tomaso (or li) frapas (Thomas—or he—strikes . . .), we should be asked, What or whom does he strike? And (Thomasshould

word which completes the idea in the verb by answering that question is called the direct Object (or direct Complement); and that word in Esperanto takes the ending -n.

Usually, we should mean the same thing if we said that the termination -n denotes the Accusative Case. (" Case " refers to the change of form of a word.)

Here are some further examples:

Li vidas . . . he sees . . . (What?) tablon. a table

La sinjoro manĝas . . . the gentleman (What?) pomon, an apple eats

Kion li trinkas? What does he drink (what is he drinking)

trinkas teon, he is drinking tea.

Kiun vi vidis, Whom did you se vidis . . . I saw . . . (Whom?) lin,

him Some verbs require a direct Object (or direct Complement) to complete their sense-e.g., vidas, manĝas, trinkas in the above examples. These are called **Transitive** verbs, because the "action " of the verb " passes

over '' to an object. Some verbs do not, however, require a direct Object to complete their sense-e.g., Birdoj flugas, birds fly; la infanoj marŝas al la lernejo, the children walk to school. Such verbs (the idea of which is complete without an object) are called Intransitive verbs.

for him; kontraŭ li, against him, etc. Com-pare this with the language of country folk

" against he," etc. Vocabulary.

| havas   | has, have          |
|---------|--------------------|
| trovis  | found              |
| sub     | under              |
| volas   | wish, want         |
| manĝi   | to eat             |
| kiu     | which, who         |
| ien     | here (behold)      |
| viando  | meat               |
| kadavro | corpse             |
| ja      | expresses emphasis |
|         |                    |

Translate.

Mi havas pomon. Mi trovis ĝin sub la tablo. Manĝu ĝin! Ne, mi ne volas manĝi ĝin. (Vi) donu la pomon al mi. Jen estas pomo, kiun mi trovis. Cu vi manĝas viandon? Cu mi ja manĝas kadavrojn? (The "Accusative" is shown in heavy type.)

Keep in your pocket, for handy reference

### LESSONS FOR PROLETARIAN SCHOOLS.

COMMUNIST PRACTICE AND THEORY IN ANCIENT GREECE.

We have seen how Lycurgus established in Sparta a partial Communism which was conned to the citizens, and which rested upon labour of slaves. In course of time this ommunism was undermined, largely through victorious warfare of Sparta, which red the spirit of private greed. The Spart ans fought on the victorious side wars of the Ionians against the Persians (494-479). Sparta was victorious in struggle for supremacy in Greece forty ears later, and in the Peloponnesian War sting from 431 to 404. Succeeding wars stending up to 371 brought the Spartans oth victory and spoils, but also catastrophic Plutarch says

"The first symptoms of corruption and distempers in their commonwealth ap-peared at the time when the Spartans had entirely destroyed the Athenian power and begun to bring gold and silver into Lacede-monia, when the love of money made its way into Sparta and brought avarice and meanness in its train, on the one hand; on the other, profusion, effeminacy and luxury, that State soon deviated from its original virtue and sank into contempt till the reign of Agis and Leonidas. Men of fortune now extended their landed estates without bounds, not scrupeling to exclude the right heirs, and property quickly coming into a few hands, the rest of the people were poor and miserable. There emained not above 700 of the old Spartan families, of which perhaps 100 had estates a land. The rest of the city was filled with an insignificant rabble without property or honour, who had neither heart nor spirit to defend their country against wars abroad, and who were always watching opportunity for changes and revolutions at

The young King Agis, not yet twenty years age, was impressed by the teachings of Athenian stoics, who were Communists id preached the simple life. Agis set him. to restore the old semi-Communist laws. The Spartan constitution at that time proded for two kings, controlled by Ephors," who were chosen by the noble families, and had the decisive voice should the kings disagree. There was also the Senate, to which projected legislation must be expounded, and the People's Assembly, which ratified or rejected the laws propounded in the Senate.

an object) are called **Intransitive** verbs. Note that after the preposition we do not use the ending -n; thus al li, to him; por li, for him; **kontra**ŭ, li, against him, etc. Com-pare this with the language of country folk in the south-west of England: "To he" "for he". " against he" etc. mentally fit to be made citizens of Sparta.

(2) All debts should be forgiven.

(3) All the people should be divided into groups for common meals.

The proposals met with much opposition, especially from the old members of the the Senate. The Senate, nevertheless, failed to agree on the proposal. It was brought then before the People's Assembly. Agis in-formed the Assembly that he would contribute to the community his own great estate, and also his money, amounting to 600 talents. His mother, grandmother, and other relations, who were the richest people in Sparta, would do the same.

The other king, Leonidas, opposed the remission of debts and the admission of foreigners. The people declared for the plan of Agis:

but so great was the hostility of Leonidas and attacks on Sparta were prompted to restore some of the Ephors and Senators, that Agia, nself in danger, took refuge in the owing hi Temple of Neptune

Leakey's Introduction to Esperanto. Post in wait near the temple, and when Agis went out to bathe they seized him and cast him hand books that may appeal to yeu.

into prison. There they endeavoured to intimidate him into abandoning his plan; and on his refusal, they condemned him to death hanging.

April 7, 1928.

The mother and grandmother of Agis begged that he might be tried by a proper tribunal, but Leonidas and the Ephors refused, because they knew Agis would be acquitted by the people. As Agis was being taken to the scaf-fold, he said to a weeping servant:

I suffer innocently I am in a better condition than those who condemn me contrary to law and justice.' Agistrata, the mother of Agis, and his

mother were executed. The widow of Agis married Cleomenes, the

son of Leonidas, who became king five years after the triple execution. He decided to put into practice the Agis plan. Believing that only as a victorious leader in war could he ome the Ephors and the rich, he invaded a neighbouring estate. Returned triumphant, he abolished the office of the Ephors by force, and banished eight citizens who were hostile to reform. Then he convoked the People's Assembly, where he justi fied what he had done on the ground of He added. necessity.

Had I been able without bloodshed to banish from Lacedemonia the diseases and crimes, luxury, love of splendour, debts and usury, and the far more considerable evils of riches and poverty, which have insinuated themselves into our State, I should have considered myself the most fortunate of kings. I have, however, made the most temperate use of the force at my disposal by merely removing those who stood in the way of the welfare of Lacedemonia. Among all the rest, I will now divide equally the whole of the land; the debtors will be forgiven their debts, a selection will be made of the foreigners, so that only the bravest shall become Spartans and help to defend the town, that we may no longer see Lacedemonia fall a prey to the Ætolians and the Illyrians for lack ef defenders.

comenes then placed his possessions at the disposal of the community, and his family friends did the same. The land was partitioned, a portion being allotted to the banished citizens, and Cleomenes promised that they should return as soon as the ald Spartan order should be fully restored.

Sparta, however, was now continually at war with the neighbouring States. His-torians lay the blame upon Cleomenes and Sparta; but looking to contemporary history we may suspect that he and his country were misrepresented, and that the wealthy people of neighbouring States fought Sparta, lest th. Spartan example should spread to their own The Macedonians and the ommunities. Peloponnesians made war on Sparta. Plutarch says

'Cleomenes not only inspired in his citizens courage and confidence, but even by the enemy he was considered an excel-lent general. With the force of a single town to withstand both the might of edonians and the united Peloponnesians, and not only to protect Lacedemonia against every attack, but also to overrun the country of the enemy, and to capture such large towns-these deeds seemed to betray unusual skilfulness and magnanimity

At length Cleomenes was defeated at Sellasia in 222 B.C. Antigonus, King of Maee-donia, entered Sparta. He is said to have treated the Spartans with "clemency and humanity," for he gave them back the old laws which were in force before the reigns of Agis and Cleomenes-the non-Communist

Truly we have reason to surmise that the unrestricted private property!

Our Book Service can procure you books on Leonidas, with a body of armed men, lay all subjects, in English and foreign languages. We also have at our office a few second-

# Parliament As We See It.

PROLETARIAN SCHOOLS. Sir John Butcher's Bill to prevent the teaching of seditious doctrines or methods" o children under sixteen was read a first time, and is to be read a second time on to meet their pril 9th

Sir John Butcher said that his measure ims specially at the Young Communist League, under the auspices of which he ves there are a hundred schools. Mr. W. Thorne said: " Name one any-

Sir John Butcher replied: " They are very numerous." Evidently the ladies who have been very active collecting information onhis matter had neglected to supply him with

### THE INDIAN REFORM FARCE.

With much bombast it was announced that ndia was to be given constitutional reforms. and a large measure of self-government. The alt Tax incident is an example of the falsity these professions. The Governor-General posed the doubling of the salt tax, a proosal greatly resented in India. The Legislaive Assembly rejected the Bill on March 20th. On March 26th the Bill as again presented to the Legislative ssembly, and Earl. Winterton, the Under ecretary of State, told the House of Comons in London that the Governor-Genéral vould be able to put the Bill to double the into operation forthwith, though the Logislative Assembly should per-

PROGRESSIVE REACTION.

### The Prisons Report so highly condemned he conditions of prisoners on the Andaman slands that the late Government decided to lose down the penal settlement there. The Government is imprisoning so ndians that the Andaman settlement has again been taken

FOOD CULTIVATION FALLS. Can Britain feed herself? That question one put by those who consider what might appen if Communism were established here whilst the neighbouring countries retain Capitalism. In 1913 the returns given by ammers showed 1,701,588 acres under wheat, nd 1,974,700 under oats; 1918 returns howed 2,556,661 under wheat, and 12,780,063 under oats. Since then there has been a progressive fall; 1922 returns owed 1,966,917 acres under wheat, and 163.965 under oats.

FAMILIES OF IRISH DEPORTEES. Asked who will maintain the families of persons deported to Ireland, and as to e grounds of the deportations and internnents, the Home Office representative gnored the question of maintenance, and said hat the deportees were " persons suspected f acting, having acted, or being about to t in a manner prejudicial to the restoration and maintenance of order in Ireland."

Accused persons are supposed in England be held innocent till found guilty by due beess of law, but they are made to suffer though guilty meanwhile. The supposition ence is merely a legal fiction

### INDUSTRY VERSUS WAR

Mr John asked whether the Secretary for ines would offer prizes of £50,000 for the vention of safety mining appliances, just as e Secretary for Air has done for improveents in air machines.

The reply was that financial and other ifficulties prevent the adoption of the prother day that none of the safety appliances preventing accidents when men are raised lowered into the mine are satisfactory. The fact is that the mine-owners do not

sire the invention of safety appliances, be- bonus shares given to the shareholders out of ause they do not want to spend money on

really possess What a system! What legislation! When even the Government representative, holding the exalted legal office of Solicitor-General, hends the matter in hand, how is the has to confess that he only partially compre-simple worker, who seeks insurance under deal to be said in favour of people who can this legislation, to protect himself against fraud? LAPSED POLICIES.

£20,000 by way

Mr

In the ten years from 1909 to 1918, the Solicitor-General said that one insurance society issued 9,300,000 policies; of these, no fewer than 6,400,000 lapsed, the company annexing all that the holders had paid on them. It is estimated that 5,000,000 policies lapse annually.

The lapsing of these policies spells the word "misfortune." Poor people endeavour, by weekly self-denial, to build up little breakwaters against the waves of misfortune that beset them in this precarious social system; misfortune, however, breaks upon them before they have constructed their little safeguards.

## SPECIAL CANVASSERS. The Solicitor-General stated that insurance

societies employ special canvassers, who are not regular members of their staffs; and because of that, these canvassers may make THE SPEEDY ESTABLISHMENT OF all sorts of promises without the companies Fascism may be looked for in being responsible for the fulfilment. He added cynically

When this Bill becomes law, it will be impossible for companies to employ these gentlemen to introduce business, but they will be open, no doubt, to seek employ-

ment at suitable by-elections." Ostensibly the sole desire of the Solicitor General was to protect the poor; but instead his Bill making the insurance society company responsible for the promises of all its collectors, whether temporary or permanent, the Bill stated that the insurance societies and companies must only employ persons who are in their "regular employ-

ment friendly society from getting occasional or part-time

1,300 PER CENT. PROFIT. Extraordinary profits are made by the in-surance companies. The total paid-up capital of the Prudential Insurance Company £6.000.

This has been made up to £1,000,000 by profits Last year the Prudential paid in profits to

ersons. ONE ROGUE AND SIX DUKES.

The Solicitor-General observed that at pre-sent it is open to one rogue and six dukes of the law for a civilised country to have to confess to late in the Capitalist era! BIG BUSINESS.

The provisions of the present Bill, however, incidentally secure the very profitable business of industrial insurance to the big concerns which are able to raise upwards of

## THE IMPOSSIBLE SYSTEM.

Mr. A. M. Samuel asked the Solicitor-General whether, when he spoke of a valuation, he meant a valuation of liabilities or of assets. The Solicitor-General replied: "My hon. friend must not crossexamine me too closely as to financial de

tails of valuation, because I am not going to profess a knowledge which I do not

The Pearl pays 50 per cent. on its shares tax free, but the shares are only half paid up, so that the dividend is really 100 per cent. on the money invested.

to form a society without a penny, and having collected a substantial amount in pre-23 per cent. in 1920, which means doubling miums, to disappear. This is a pretty state of the law for a civilised country to have bulk of the shares, and the directors take  $\pounds 62,920$  in fees, and  $\pounds 4,000$  for other remuneration

The City Life Assurance Company has an income of £8,250,000. Of this, £3,000,000 went in compensation and legal and medical expenses,  $\pm 2,700,000$  in expenses of the com-panies and commissions, and two and a third illions in profits to the shareholders.

The small working-class insurance societies generally established for purposes of mutual a d will not be able to lay down the £20,000 demanded by the Solicitor-General. The ini exploiting companies will thus be left the a clear field

Under Communism we shall all be assured against want; our provision will be always common storeh

### POST OFFICE LIFE INSURANCES.

Sir Kingsley Wood objected to criticism of the enormous profits made by the insurance make "at any rate a very fair sum out of their business He pointed out that there has been a Post Office life-insurance scheme since 1864, but only 11,392 persons are in-sured under it, and there were only 241 new contracts last year. These small results, compared with the great business of the private companies, Sir Kingsley Wood quoted as proof of the benefits of Capitalist management. He went on to reveal that the Post Office insurance scheme is thoroughly bad.

### Our View.

We do not believe such action can be obtained through the Trade Unions and Labour Party: we believe that only through workshop councils formed for the purpose of such can such action be secured.

The I.L.P. has apparently not yet disthat its ch opposed to political strikes, even in face of Capitalist war.

Arms in the Fascism may be looked for in this country, if the "Daily Farm Strike. Herald " report be true that blacklegs are armed in the Norfolk strike. The "Herald's " Norfolk correspondent declares :

West Norfolk farmers are turning hedges into dug-outs, and haystacks into fortresses. . . . Shot-guns are concealed everywhere, and ex-officer blacklegs walk armed with revolvers at the tail of drills and harrows, while ex-soldiers among the strikers look on."

If this is true, it is a serious matter. The entire working-class movement should aroused to its significance. It means that the unter-revolutionary civil war is upon us, This clause might merely debar the small and that the predictions of the Parliamentarians, who are constantly telling us that uch things will not be in this country, are lready being falsified.

An ominous incident took place at the Norwich Consistory Court on April 3rd. The Chancellor of the Diocese, Mr. G. K. North, telephoned that ne would not attend owing to the disturbed state of Rougham, near Fakenham, in Norfolk, where he resides and is

magistrate. Mr. Harry German, chairman of the **INDUSTRIAL INSURANCE.** The Solicitor-General moved the Second Reading of an Industrial Insurance soluties dealing with provides that insurance soluties dealing with

April 7, 1928.

# **On Preparation.**

Observe, fellow-worker, that the employers are now making another attack on hours and wages

The agricultural labourers and the builders are bearing the brunt of it, and the rail-waymen are about to have further trouble, and other workers need expect no quarter. The farm labourers, who are already hungering on the present wage, are beginning to

show fight The farmers, who will have the Government to back them in all they may do, of course, are making it plain that if any blows are to be struck, they intend to strike first

and hardest.

Wages went up during the war, and now they have fallen below the pre-war standard. All the various sections of the working class are now bending their efforts to prevent their own branch of wages falling lower.

The working class is carrying on the old struggle for shorter hours and higher wages, which each section has been carrying on ever since it emerged from serfdom and became yoked to wage-slavery.

Whenever wages rise, the rise in prices will forestall them. The old see-saw struggle will continue, fellow-worker, until the workers determine to put an end to the wage system.

The Executive of the National Union of Railwaymen has notified its members that it is undesirable to suggest alternative proposals to the Labour Party's Capital Levy scheme. The workers, as a whole, are expected, by the Labour Party leaders, to wait quietly, whatever happens, till the Labour Party representatives become His Majesty's Government Then the workers who have patiently waited and endured may perhaps get some of their grievances gradually redressed by the Labour Party Government with the assent of the King assent of the King.

We do not believe in that programme, fellow-worker. Our motto is: never put off till to-morrow what should be begun to-day. Moreover, fellow-worker, we believe it is true that who would be free, themselves must strike the blow.

Therefore, we say the workers should organise in order to be able to take over production, distribution and transport, and manage them on Communist—that is to say, on Workers' Council—lines.

Then if some kind people will pass an Act of Parliament to regularise such a taking the workers will be ready to get to business at once. n any case, it is best to be prepared for all emergencies, whether it be gunmen in over. In any

THE SEARCHLIGHT.

COMMUNIST WORKERS' MOVEMENT. PUBLIC MEETING, Friends' Meeting House, 28 Lower Mall, Hammersmith, Sunday, April 8th, 7.30 p.m.

Norfolk or Fascisti in Rome.

Speakers: st, N. Smyth, and others. Sylvia Pankhurst, All v

Minerva Cafe, 144 High Holborn, Friday, April 13th, 8 p.m. N. Smyth on "Communism." Discussion Collection. Refreshments from 6 p.m.

OUTDOOR MEETING. Sunday, April 8th, 7 p.m. Beresford Square, Woolwich: J. Welsh.

### GRAND RE-UNION

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# FROM "DAILY NEWS" FRONT

ROM "DAILI PAGE. PAGE. The "Daily News" for March 31st, with copyright by the International News Service of America, publishes the News Service of America, publishes the "Pavda."

News Service of America, publishes the following extract from the "Pravda." This Moscow Communist paper, after having remarked that, concerning the sentence to death (now reduced to ten years' imprisonment) passed for treason on the Catholic Archbishop Cieplak, the Soviet Government had received protest wires from Catholic Spain, from a free-thinker like M. Herriot, from the Jewish Reformed Church, and from Messrs. Ben Turner and George Lansbury, adds: "The British Labour Party did not

The Dilish Labour Party did not spend one-tenth as much in telegrams of protest against the execution of South African strikers who were -rutally done to death by Smuts, the idol of English Liberals.

Liberais. "When priests are concerned the British Labour Party realises that the life of man is sacred, and demonstrates not only that the world of capital is up-held by bayonets and the trickery of priests, the bourgeois Press and bour-geois science, but that its last and, per-bane strongest pullar is the servility and haps, strongest pillar is the servility and lackey-like soul of the reformist proleand tariat.

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## Hodge and the Farm Strike.

with rape and mustard, to be eaten by sheep. Here and there the labourers are ginning to intimidate the blacklegs. Fi Fights scribed the situation as "ugly." Hodge considers the situation. He is not on strike yet, and he is wondering whether

to fight against worsened conditions, or to bear, with a dull hopelessness, whatever hard-ship the farmers and the Government may

ship the farmers and the Government may decide to impose upon him. If he could see the chance of a straight fight, with a hope of winning through to some permanent improvement, Hodge thinks he would join in, cost what it might; but he is *c*...ppointed and disillusioned.

A few of the young men are saying: "Form rank and file farm committees "; but Hodge ; but Hodge has not heard thom yet.