

THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

Socialism, Internationalism, Votes for All.

Vol. V.—No. 3.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13th, 1918

Price One Penny

THE MONTESSORI PRINCIPLES: By Muriel Matters

IV.—SENSORIAL EDUCATION.

We say that under the Montessori Method the children become independent and spontaneous observers of their environment at an early age. That this, if it became widespread, would be of inestimable value to humanity is daily apparent to us, for we witness the inability of most people to look at things through their own eyes; in a word, to stand upon their mental feet. This condition makes people easy prey to unscrupulous "pillars of society"; and the cause is mainly, we think, to be sought in the hitherto irrational method of education.

The most striking evidence we have that people—irrespective of class or circumstance—are ill-educated is their response to the banal utterances of an unscrupulous Press worked on gramophonic methods. We ask: "What chance would a Northcliffe or a Bottomley have among a people whose nature, mental and spiritual, had risen to the heights of their ultimate destiny?" It is our conviction that St. John did not deceive us when he said—"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, but it doth not yet appear what we shall be." And there are others, too, who have caught a glimpse of our true heritage, not the least of whom is Maria Montessori. This heritage is to be realised here on earth, not postponed to some far future state, as the charlatans have promised, with the proviso that the life of eternal bliss is to be the reward of a well-behaved, submissive life on earth! If there is "no choice save darkness or rebellion," we choose the latter state, knowing well that when the people reach their full stature, in spite, and not because, of the assistance of these "pillars of society," the Bottomley or the Northcliffe pottage will not be accepted by the people in lieu of their birthright, nor will the official Christian faith, which supports the Governments instead of overthrowing them, have power to chloroform the people's soul.

The thought that depressed Whitman depresses us: "There is something profoundly affecting to me in seeing large masses of men following blindly after some man who does not believe in men." Then we turn to our little men, and faith in the promise and dignity of humanity is born again.

These, ranging from 2½ to 5 years, we are preparing for direct and independent observation by the training and refining of their senses, thus bringing order to their minds from the chaos of teeming stimuli in the world around them. This bringing of order out of chaos gives a substantial foundation in their consciousness, and they go forward making their own discoveries.

We are concerned with this question of formation above all, and Horace Mann's words are with us always: "Where there is anything growing, one former is worth a thousand re-formers!" If from infancy the child become accustomed to judge, compare, and select (and working with the Montessori material one sees this power develop), it is clear that he will more likely than his father was before him be proof against those men, who believe not in men, but in machines.

The phrase, "Government of the People," etc., is the travesty we know it to be this day because of the absence of the people. The people, and all that the words mean, the will, the purpose, the full expression of our teeming populace, have been swallowed up to further the aggrandisement of the few. Whither has the spirit gone? Blown like the flame before the wind out of the hearths and homes to disintegrate in the army of destruction. The women hunt in queues for food, and meanwhile we concern ourselves with the future—the race that is marching forward, despite the present gloom, on the feet of the little children.

We present to the children material, in a series of concrete objects, which serves to educate their senses, at an age at which there is naturally a rapid acquisition of the most varied sensations. Therefore this is the educable age, for there is taking place within the infant the formation of an inner organism in response to the stimuli offered by the outer world.

We shall not deal with the question of the technique employed in the sensorial education of the child—this can be studied from Dr. Montessori's books. The main idea to be grasped by those interested is—that sensory education comes by the child himself practising a sensory exercise. When the child begins to persist in repeating an exercise, then—and not till then—does he give play to

the whole of his nervous system, and this leads to the fine discernment of stimuli always increasingly similar.

To reach this stage of sense refinement the child has drawn on his inner powers—attention, concentration, and reason, leading finally to selection. His mental content—the sensations taken from the environment—form, as it were, the armory of a mental construction. By such auto-exercise

Of Special Interest This Week

Is Lansdowne to be our Saviour?

Starving the Girls

he accustoms himself to reason upon, and to choose from the truths which the world, his world, offers. As he comes closer to the truth, say in the small matter of whether two shades of colour are similar or whether they vary slightly, he is bound to analyse, to compare, and finally to decide. Will this not help him later when he deals with other matters of greater import, individually and socially?

We believe this early training to be fraught with greater possibilities than we yet know. We believe that such a training will protect man from the illusions which come so easily when there is not the inner guide, and that it will enable him to withstand the snares strewn across his path by man's exploiters in their varied guise.

But as these little men become conscious of their own power, they must be helped to exercise their power, not on others, thus perpetuating the evil, but on themselves.

WORKSHOP NOTES: By W. F. WATSON

THE SHOP STEWARDS' MOVEMENT IN FRANCE.

The "Times" Engineering Supplement for March 20th contains a remarkable article from an engineering correspondent on the French Shop Stewards' movement. The Shop Stewards in France have been reporting to their T.U. branches business which crops up in the factories, and the French Minister of Munitions has issued a circular pointing out the irregularity of such conduct.

The purpose, states the circular, of appointing shop stewards in the works is "to facilitate the relations between the workmen and the managers. Their functions must therefore be exercised only within the factory and no echo of workshop business must escape outside. . . ." The duty of shop stewards is to do their office with complete independence and they must report only to the workmen whom they represent.

The circular also directs Labour controllers to enforce very carefully the instructions of this circular prohibiting the formation of Shop Stewards' Committees, and expressly forbids mobilised workmen, who are shop stewards, to belong to such an association. In comment, the correspondent says: "The perspective in which this circular exhibits the institution of shop stewards is the more instructive because it is presented by such a Government. It expresses a desire for a function in industry for which as yet no equivalent has been suggested in this country." "The first business of shop stewards in Britain," says the correspondent, "is to keep the T.U. branch constantly informed of whatever is going on in the shops." The article concludes by saying: "French opinion would not lightly repudiate the symmetry by which our shop stewards are linked up to their Trade Unions, and the fact that

it has done so is perhaps a hint that the representation it expects shop stewards to undertake is consistent with the real interests of the workmen and necessary to those of industry."

The object of the circular is quite clear. The French Government, recognising and fearing the growth of the shop stewards' movement as a menace to capitalism, are doing all they can to stem it by localising its activities. If they can prevent all communication between one shop and another, thereby preventing any unity of action, they can crush any manifestation of shop activity.

Of course the "Times" wishes the British employers to emulate the French Minister and the editorial comments are really illuminating. These state that in this country the shop steward is, primarily a man selected from the workmen to take note of what goes on, and report to the District Council; but that "of late there has been a disposition in many shops for the stewards to claim a greater independence of action; whereby the contest between the parent bodies and those who in their original function were its officers has given rise to embittered disputes and sometimes even to strikes." This is quite true. It is the inevitable result of reactionary officialism driving the workers to transfer their industrial organisation from the branch to the workshop. Further than that, the new shop stewards' movement will and must be apart from the Unions altogether and, eliminating all barriers of craft and sex, will ultimately usurp the industrial functions of the Craft Unions, leaving those organisations as relics of mediævalism, merely administering "goose club" benefits. The "Times" then re-states the functions of the French shop stewards as outlined in the circular, and concludes by saying: "Shop stewards of this type, if British employers individually could get

the habit of negotiating with them to mutual satisfaction, might do much to localise and prevent the spread of the infection of unrest which, in the view of many, is fostered and disseminated by shop stewards as known to British industry.

"The British type may be necessary if the French type is insufficient; but British employers might do well to consider whether they could not make a success of the French type." How delightfully naive! How little these scribes know of the growth of the shop stewards' movement!! That movement has come to stop in spite of all the machinations of the organised boss and State. And as for localising its activities, whilst human ingenuity can devise ways and means the workers' committees will not only prevent localisation; but will, by scientific co-ordination, prevent any form of victimisation and will finally obtain the entire control of industry.

MORE VICTIMISATION

On March 17th ten fitters, one of whom, Sid Newman, was Chief Convener of Shop Stewards, received their notices from the Hotchkiss Works, Coventry.

The position was placed before a mass meeting of the employees, whereat, after discussion, a deputation was appointed to demand from the management immediate re-instatement on the grounds that it was a clear case of victimisation.

At the interview the management stated that the men were discharged because a certain part of the gun was replaced by a more simple device, which is now being done by women. The management was asked if it were possible to find work for the men in another department. The reply was that it might be possible to place two or three in the Tool-room. Upon being

(Continued on back page.)

THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

Editor: SYLVIA PANKHURST. Published by the Workers' Suffrage Federation. 400 OLD FORD ROAD, LONDON, E.

Vol. V., No. 3. Sat., April 13th, 1918.

SOCIALISTS AND THE WAR

Socialists who have been able to keep their wits in spite of the all-but-universal cry, "My country right or wrong," realise that the origin of this War is the desire for capitalistic expansion.

The Allied War aims have been exposed, not alone by their conquests, but also by the secret treaties which have been published by the Bolsheviks, who discovered them in the Petrograd archives.

We Socialists know this; we realise that world-politics are mainly matters of business to the financier, and that so long as the world is run on a capitalistic basis it will be mainly controlled by financiers.

"This, however, would have to be continued by a change of Government itself. And in changing horses, we must be careful. Naturally I should prefer a Labour Government that is possible."

In other words, the Editor of the "Socialist Review" is of opinion that a Labour Government could not make a satisfactory peace, and that this difficult question should be left to experienced capitalist politicians.

course would deserve political extinction; but what has given the Editor of the "Socialist Review" so much faith in the diplomacy and the intentions of Lord Lansdowne and the other politicians of the old school?

The Editor of the "Socialist Review" speaks of the issues being "prepared" for the future Labour Government. Dear heaven help the Government which has the edifice prepared for it by the men who prepared the Morocco intrigue!

Obviously the Government Bill will not be acceptable to the Irish people, and the Government will attempt to force conscription upon Ireland by the sword.

It lays the innocent woman open to the risk of blackmail and false imprisonment. A woman will have to suffer a week's remand in prison in order to prove her innocence.

The Canadian Government has raided the offices of the International Bible Students' Association and arrested its Elders because they say that the War is wrong, and that England has been as great a violator of treaties as Germany.

PEACE WORK. We need your help! Write to the Hon. Sec., W.S.F., 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

way round you think, dear comrades, but it is the only way. There are no short cuts to righteousness. Christ came to teach men that, but to this day they will not heed him.

"Our country would gain in popular esteem," says the Editor of the "Socialist Review."

We commend this fact to him in his dealing with Lenin and Kerensky. It was not Lenin, but Kerensky who "trusted to the sword" when he re-started the offensive in the Eastern trenches.

The Man Power Bill will bring disaster upon the country. In Ireland will be massacre and revolt, and scenes more terrible than those of the European battle-fields.

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GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

CZERNIN, CLEMENCEAU, AND ALSACE-LORRAINE

Controversy is taking place as to whether the Austrian or the French Government was responsible for initiating the negotiations between Count Reverte, a personal friend of the Austrian Emperor, and Major Armand, of the French General Staff.

The Austrians state further that a reply was received from M. Clemenceau to the effect that he was "not in a position to accept the proposed renunciation by France of this annexation, so that a meeting of the representatives at that time would in the view of both parties be useless."

M. Clemenceau has not denied this, nor is he in a position to do so, because the Secret Treaties show that France has pledged the Allies to fight to conquer Alsace-Lorraine for France.

RUSSIA INVADED BY THE ALLIES

The invasion of Russia by Japanese and British forces (American forces are expected to follow) is an attack by Allied capitalists on Socialism.

The Man Power Bill will bring disaster upon the country. In Ireland will be massacre and revolt, and scenes more terrible than those of the European battle-fields.

THE TRAIL OF THE WAR

OPPOSE THE STATE REGULATION OF VICE!

GET THE REGULATION AND 400 REPEALED. No woman who is suffering from venereal disease in a communicable form shall have sexual intercourse with any member of His Majesty's forces or solicit or invite any member of His Majesty's forces to have sexual intercourse with her.

If a woman acts in contravention of this regulation she shall be guilty of a summary offence against these regulations. A woman charged with an offence under this regulation shall if she so requires be remanded for a period (not less than a week) for the purpose of such medical examination as may be requisite for ascertaining whether she is suffering from such a disease as aforesaid.

The defendant shall be informed of her right to be remanded as aforesaid and that she may be examined by her own Doctor or by the Medical Officer of the Prison.

In this regulation the expression "venereal disease" means syphilis, gonorrhoea, or soft chancre.

Get this regulation repealed! It lays the innocent woman open to the risk of blackmail and false imprisonment.

All this, Mr. Lloyd George assures us, is necessary because of the reverses on the Western Front; yet he admits that the Allied forces are already numerically greater than the German forces and America is pouring in more men.

This organisation demands the immediate repeal of D.O.R.A. regulation 40d, which establishes the State Regulation of vice."

PEACE WORK. We need your help! Write to the Hon. Sec., W.S.F., 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

LIEUT. PLOWMAN, C.O.

Our admiration goes out to Lieutenant Mark Plowman, who has twice been wounded at the front and who in January wrote to his colonel stating that he wished to resign his commission on the ground that he had become a conscientious objector.

WOMEN CANDIDATES

Miss Nina Boyle having decided to stand for Parliament the L.L.P. has followed by nominating Miss Bondfield and Mrs. Snowden as candidates. The returning officer will almost certainly declare the nominations to be illegal.

UNDERFEEDING THE GIRLS

We join the protests which are being made against the discrimination in the food orders between boys and girls. Medical men and women testify that the processes of growth make a greater drain upon the vitality of girls between 13 and 18 than upon that of boys.

An unexpected spirit of independence has been displayed by the clerks at the War Office, who have refused to work overtime, and who go at five o'clock each day, leaving the extra work to accumulate.

TEACHERS & THE LABOUR PARTY

The National Union of Teachers, by a vote of almost two to one, has refused to ally itself with the Labour Party. The Labour Party is unsatisfactory from the Socialist standpoint and its officials, in our view, have entirely failed to realise their duty to the working classes whom they represent.

MR. HENDERSON

Mr. Henderson has again shown himself unable to withstand gusts of War fever. After a shower of epithets he told the Wesleyan Mission: "We can only await the necessary change in the mentality of the German Government and people, easily though the fight may be."

THE BUDGET

The press and public are speculating on the next Budget. We recommend that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should confiscate all property which brings in an income of more than £500 a year per family, or £2 a head per week per adult member of the family and £1 a week per head for each child.

AUSTRIA

Another general strike is expected in Austria. Speed the day!

An article in the "Manchester Guardian" on the American position is just the sort of thing that jingles complaint of the Germans doing in this country.

FREE TRADE AGAIN

In view of the Paris Conference proposals and the loud outcry for tariff walls, it is interesting to find that the Dover Chamber of Commerce is advocating the establishment of a number of "free ports" in the United Kingdom.

"THE DREADNOUGHT"

In these hard times it is difficult to keep the DREADNOUGHT afloat owing to the high cost of paper and printing. Donations towards the DREADNOUGHT Fund are urgently required.

NEWS FROM IRELAND

The Iron Heel is still pressing in Ireland. The "Mayo News" and "Clare Champion" have been suppressed and their plants seized.

The centenary edition of Fintan Lalor's works has been suspended because of the Censor's objections. Mr. Joseph Mangan (brother of Thomas, who was executed in 1916) has been arrested under the Cat and Mouse Act while participating in the King's County election.

Widow of disabled soldier who dies after receiving alternative pension: Present scale, half husband's pension; new scale, two-thirds husband's pension.

The temporary pension should certainly be at the full pension rate; a man discharged unfit is not fit to start work immediately. It would be logical also for the illegitimate child to be paid for the motherless rate, since its mother does not get separation allowance, though if the father acknowledges the mother we cannot see why the War Office should pry into the question as to whether the parents are married.

The daily Press publishes every day long lists of persons convicted of breaking in upon unused grass lands in order to carry out the demand of the Government—"Till More Land; Grow More Food."

Comrades who may be spending holidays in Ireland, and are willing to assist the S.P.I. in propaganda are asked to write the Lecture Secretary, Room 3 Liberty Hall, Dublin.

Volunteer helpers are urgently needed at the Mothers' Arms to help and care for and amuse the babies and to take them out in the Park.

A CORRESPONDENT. Volunteer helpers are urgently needed at the Mothers' Arms to help and care for and amuse the babies and to take them out in the Park.

WHATS' ON? W.S.F. FIXTURES OUT DOOR

FRIDAY, APRIL 12th.
Hague Street, Bethnal Green, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
SATURDAY, APRIL 13th.
Great Push for Peace, Socialism and Votes for all in Poplar and Bow. Meet 2.45 p.m., at 20 Railway Street, speakers: Miss Price, Mrs. Walker, and others.
SUNDAY, APRIL 14th.
Osborn Street, Whitechapel, 11.45 a.m., Mr. A. Kings-Lynne.
"The Flagstaff," Hampstead, 3 p.m., Mrs. Walker.
Clapham Common, 3.30 p.m., joint meeting with the W.P.C., Mrs. Lancaster, Miss Price, and others.
FRIDAY, APRIL 19th.
Pretoria Road, Walthamstow, 5.30 p.m., Miss Price
SATURDAY, APRIL 20th.
Great Push.

INDOOR

FRIDAY, APRIL 12th.
Billiard Saloon, High Road, Leyton, (N.U.R.), 8 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
SATURDAY, APRIL 13th.
400 Old Ford Road, 7 p.m., Recital and Dance.
SUNDAY, APRIL 14th.
Metropole, Hull, I.L.P., 3 p.m., Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.
400 Old Ford Road, 7 p.m., "Anarchism versus Parliamentary Government," Mrs. Bessie Ward will open the discussion. Chair: Miss Lynch.
MONDAY, APRIL 15th.
44 Malden Road, St. Pancras W.S.F., 2.30 p.m., Mrs. Clara Cole.
400 Old Ford Road, 8 p.m., General meeting, London Section.
8 Bonchurch Road, N. Kensington I.L.P., 8 p.m. Mrs. Bouvier.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17th.
Leonard's Academy, near St. John's Church, Leyton, W.S.F., 7 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
THURSDAY, APRIL 18th.
29b Lincoln's Inn Fields, 7.30 p.m., Miss Regina Miriam Bloch will give a Reading from her own works. Mrs. Bouvier, "The Present Outlook."
W.S.F. FEDERAL MEMBERS' MEETING.
(London Section).
This meeting will be held at 400 Old Ford Road, E., at 8 p.m., on Monday, April 15th. Important business will be discussed and every member should make a point of being there.

OUR FUNDS

Donations to be sent to the Hon. Financial Secretary,
Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.3.
All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.3.

Gratefully Acknowledged.

GENERAL FUND.—Collections, Bow meetings, 13s. 1d.; Leyton meeting, 3s. 6d.
"DREADNOUGHT" FUND.—Britton Ferry I.L.P., £1; Mrs. A. Green (card), £1; Miss Mary Tighe, 10s.; Mrs. Bodley, 5s.; Miss Woodruffe, 5s.; S.W. (half-yearly), 5s.; Mrs. and Miss White, 3s.; Mr. W. Readman, 2s. 6d.; Miss E. L. Osmond, 2s.
CLINICS AND SOCIAL WORK.—Charles Gulliver per Mr. G. Lansbury, 24; Mrs. Watt, £1; H. Thorpe, Esq., £1; Countess Tomasi Isolani (monthly), £1; Nurse Clarke (card), £1; L. S. Skidelsky, Esq., 10s.; Cathleen Schurr, 5s.; Misses Barrowman (monthly), 5s.; D. Wilkie, Esq. (monthly), 2s. 6d.; Mr. Siebel, 1s.
COLLECTIONS.—L.S.A. Tool-room, £1 2s. 2d.; G. S., 5s. 9d.
CLOTHES, &c.—Mrs. McCombie, Claire Oldham, Rathmel Wilson, Esq., Mrs. Parry.
FLOWERS.—Miss Whitehead.

INTERNATIONAL YOUNG AGE PENSIONS.

Dear Friends of Humanity.—In order to relieve the terrible poverty and suffering that is devastating Europe, let us endeavour to place the children and all those who are helpless in comparative safety by securing SEVEN SHILLINGS A WEEK each for them from the State, that we may be free to work for other reforms. At present, we whilst they are exposed to cold, poverty and hunger, would enable sensible girls to marry where they would otherwise not dare to do so, and to bring up healthy happy children to become stalwart citizens and parents in their turn, besides relieving untold pain and suffering, and being an estimable benefit to the State.
The fact of a married man becoming automatically POORER at the birth of each child constitutes a cruel wrong to all children, and until each child has 7s. a week in its own individual right, as an infant citizen, suffering, war, disease, and poverty can never be abolished. Let us all demand this from our different Governments now, before it may be too late.

S. MACKENZIE KENNEDY. [Advt.]

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

THE MOTHERS' ARMS CLINIC, DAY NURSERY, AND MONTESSORI CLASS; also CLINIC, 20 RAILWAY STREET, POPLAR, and CLINIC, 53 ST. LEONARD STREET, SOUTH BROMLEY.—Gowns for Babies, Children, and Adults, Maternity Outfits, etc., Children's Toys, Pot Plants, Flowers and Branches, etc., always wanted.

FAMILY LIMITATION DOCTRINE. Post free, 14d.—Malthusian League, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster.

WOMEN WORKERS should spend their holidays at "Sea View," Victoria Road, Brighton.—Hostess, Miss Turner.

WANTED.—SHORTHAND-TYPIST, accurate at figures. Apply "400" this office.

WOMEN DESIRING LAND WORK AND GARDENING should apply to Miss A. Tollemache, Federation House, George Lane, South Woodford, Essex.

CITY OF LONDON I.L.P.

Tom Mann is Coming, Book the date
SATURDAY, MAY 11th.

Full particulars and 6d tickets from ARTHUR FIELD, 28 Ilminster Gdns., Battersea, S.W.11

ANTIQUES

For Genuine Old English Furniture and China
MARY CASEY,
29b Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.2

Greer's Agreeable
BAKING, CUSTARD, EGG AND
BLANCMANGE POWDERS

In 14d. Packets. Obtainable from all grocers, wholesale only from
D. W. GREER & CO.,
London, S.E.5.

ELECTRIC MACHINE BAKERY

91 BURDETT ROAD, MILE END
W. WOODS & SONS
Family Bakers.

WORKSHOP NOTES. (Continued from front page)

asked: "Supposing nine men accepted their discharge would the Chief Convener be re-instated?" The management replied with an emphatic: "No." Another mass meeting was called, and it was decided to demand re-instatement of all men by March 22nd, otherwise down tools.

The men were not re-instated, so tools were downed, since when Tom Dingley, a very active worker in the Industrial Movement, and ten others were fined. We have had no further information, so cannot say whether they are still out. But it is another object lesson of the fact that the bosses are straining every nerve to break up our movement by harassing our active workers. The remedy—for every one to become an active worker. They can't victimise the lot. Perfect the Workers' Committee Movement.

NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL.

A National Conference of Shop Stewards and Workers' Committees takes place at Manchester on April 13th and 14th, to consider a scheme of organisation, a programme for Labour, and ways and means of establishing a National Workers' Congress. A full report will be contained in next week's DREADNOUGHT.

LONDON WORKERS' COMMITTEE.

The meeting of April 7th at Chandos Hall was one of the most successful hitherto held. Delegates were appointed to the National Conference to be held at Manchester; to the Conference of Apprentices to be held at Gravesend on April 20th; and to the Conference of Workers' Committees in the Metropolitan area to be held in London on April 21st, at 7 Featherstone Buildings, W.C.1. This conference is convened by the L.W.C., for the purpose of defining areas, and formulating a common ground for co-ordination of activities. Educational classes every Wednesday evening and Sunday afternoon at the office.—T. KNIGHT.

BARROW IN FURNESS.

The Barrow Shop Stewards have rented a large room at £50 a year wherein they intend to hold all their meetings and to run whist drives. The shop stewards have created a big impression in the town. Three of their number were elected top of the poll in the election of the Co-operative Committee, and it is intended to contest several more seats at the next election. The stewards are represented on the Food Distribution and Food Control Committees. A very strong stand was taken by the Barrow workers on the J. T. Murphy case.

CLYDE WORKERS' COMMITTEE.

We regret to learn that the energetic Secretary has been ill of late. We hope to include a report in our next Notes.

PORTSMOUTH.

The following resolution was adopted at a mass

meeting of the A.S.E., held at Portsmouth on March 24th:

"In view of the meagre pitances doled out to our sailors and soldiers, this mass meeting calls upon the Government to increase at once the pay of the men of the lower deck of the Navy, the rank and file of the Army, also, the allowances of widows, orphans, wives, and all other dependants of the said men to the same level as that of the Australian fighting forces."

But why merely to the level of the Australians? Why not to the same level as the best paid workers in civil life? Again it is useless calling upon the Government for anything unless you have the power to enforce it. And the best way to secure that power is to organise the Workers' Committee movement and then build up Councils of Workmen, Soldiers and Sailors.

THE WEST LONDON ENGINEERING WORKERS' COMMITTEE.

Practically all large shops in the district are now affiliated, but we want a representative from every shop. Our paper, "The Record," was in a subtle manner recently suppressed, causing a set back. Had it been a horrible capitalist jingo rag it would still be running. The "Trades Hall" scheme is going well, and promises to be a huge success. Already over one thousand £1 shares have been taken up, and suitable premises are required immediately. Our district has some of the most active workers in the London area propagating our views; may the good work continue. Despite the re-action that has now set in, owing to the German offensive, it is certain that when the fever has again subsided, the workers will, and must, stop the colossal crimes now being perpetrated. A joint Conference of all Workers' Committees in this locality is to be held shortly, when it is hoped a common policy will be agreed upon.

Space does not permit of the recording of details, but possibly in future issues we shall be able to point out some of the numerous successes achieved.

In the meantime, best of luck to the DREADNOUGHT, let us hope, and further, let us make Workshop Notes a weekly feature. If the workers were one-tenth as keen on their "Press" as the bosses, what a power we should be!—E. A. C.

FORTH AREA.

Remarkable progress is being made here, over 1,600 members in three weeks! Am inundated with inquiries from shop stewards of outlying firms in the district, and I can see the industrial army assuming huge proportions. Control from the point of production has evidently caught on and the workers have learned that the craft union methods of dealing with industrial problems must be scrapped. We had Arthur McManus, of Glasgow as speaker at our meeting on March 23rd. He dealt with the history of the "Workers Committee" movement, traced it from

its inception, showing the pitfalls to be avoided, and warning us to be prepared to meet attack from any quarter. We know that a movement is afoot to discredit the shop stewards locally, and steps are being taken accordingly. We have no fear of the employing class now, the Workers Committee movement is a power to be reckoned with. A note worth mentioning; our meeting was "fairly" reported by the local press!

DREADNOUGHTS sold out, but shall do better still when Workshop Notes appear as some desire is evinced to know what other "centres" are doing. At a certain dockyard frantic efforts have been made to get the workers to adopt a premium bonus or some other piece-work system, but all attempts having failed, a conference has taken place between the "heads" of departments and subordinates to consider another scheme. The precaution was taken of ensuring that no shop steward or other desperate characters were present, and little is supposed to be known outside the "wisdom ring."—E. A. BARTLETT, Hon. Sec., 4 Spring Gardens, Abbey Hill, Edinburgh.

AN EXPLANATION.

I have got into hot water, and I have been caned. In my article last week I referred to two publicans who had gone into the Engineering industry to avoid military service, and two men who are publicans and who happen to be working in an Engineers' shop have taken umbrage at it. These chaps both volunteered for service, but were rejected on medical grounds. Everyone admires any man who, believing in the war, volunteers to do his bit rather than wait until he is conscripted, and I am sorry that anything I have written should cause these two chaps any inconvenience.

Who was the Socialist Shop Steward at Walthamstow who shook hands with Geo. Windsor and afterwards said he was a decent old cock?

A correspondent writes commenting upon our reference to Trade Unionism as obsolete. She states she is in a millinery workshop, and although milliners and dressmakers are eligible for membership of the Shop Assistants' Union, has met no one inclined to join. Without retreating a single step from our position that Trade Unions are obsolete, we recommend all workers to join their respective Union and use their influence to change the method and machinery of that union.

We suggest that the Garment Workers is the correct Union for Milliners and Dressmakers not the Shop Assistants' Union. Regarding literature, a study of Webb's "History of Trade Unionism" would be helpful.