THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

For International Socialism.

Vol. V.-No. 22

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24th, 1918

Price Twopence.

FOR EQUAL PAY. BUS GIRLS STRIKE

Although we missed our appointments we were glad to walk when we realised that the women bus and tram conductors were striking to secure the observance of the important principle of equal pay for men and women.

The question has arisen on the refusal of the Committee on Production to allow the 5s, weekly war bonns-which has recently been awarded to the men to be extended to the women also. The women are determined to get that bonus because of the far-reaching principle involved. Said one of them with a buoyant determination: "We shall not give in even if it means a month's holiday; we women are going to stand strong to the last and will not go back till they tell us we've got that 5s. We were engaged on the promise that we should get equal pay and we will have it."

The men say that the work the women conductors are doing is harder than that of the men conductors hefore the war because, as every one is unpleasantly aware, the reduction in the number of vehicles has led to veritable fighting by crowds of would-be passengers who are pressed by those behind against the barring arm of the conductress, stretched out, either to secure a passage way for those who are dismounting, or to signify that the bus is full. Many inconsiderate men and women try to force their way in in spite of her, and when at last the 'bus starts she has five people standing inside where the pre-war conductor had none.

In the spring when all the workers demanded a bonus the Committee on Production awarded £1

a week to the men and to those women who were engaged on the definite understanding that their pay was to be the same as the men's. The London conductresses got the £1 bonus, but in the provinces many did not and some got as little as 4s. Yet surely the equal pay understanding applied to all the women as when they were first engaged on the trams and buses the men only agreed to work with them on condition that there should be equal pay for men and women. In July, when another claim was made for an increase, the workers demanded complete equality with the men for all the women, but the Committee on Production refused to assent.

refused to assent.

Therefore the women have taken the matter into their own hands. The movement began at a private meeting of the women at Willesden Garage on Friday, August 16th, where is was decided to strike immediately, without waiting either for trade union officials or employers. The Willesden women conductors solidly refused to work on Saturday morning; they were followed by Acton and Hackney—soon the strike had spread all over London. Some of the women on the trams also struck.

The trade unions concerned are the London and Provincial Vehicle Workers' Union, to which most of the 'bus workers belong, and the Amalgamated Association of Tramway and Vehicle Workers, of which the main proportion of L.C.C. tram workers are members. Mr. Robert Williams of the Transport Workers' Federation (to which

both the L.P.V.W.U. and the A.A.T.V.W. are affiliated), urged the women to return to work pending negotiations, and notices calling attention to this were posted in the L.C.C. depots. The majority of the tramway workers remained at work. Mr. Ben Smith and the Executive of the Vehicle Workers' Union, at a meeting on Saturday night endorsed the action of the strikers, so large a proportion of whom belonged to their union. At a Blackfriars mass meeting on Sunday Mr. Smith moved a resolution urging an extension of the strike to the provinces. He asked the meeting to consider this very seriously as it meant "throwing arbitration overboard," but in the audience of 2,000 no hand was raised against the resolution. Mr. Beal, London District Council N.U.R., said that when 128,000 miners on strike were put under the Munitions Act they refused even to consider returning to work till they were withdrawn from under the Act. He said that in a fortnight the women railway workers would be striking for the same reason.

Many of the Tube girls who belong to the

women railway workers would be striking for the same reason.

Many of the Tube girls who belong to the N.U.R. have struck in sympathy with the bus girls. The tramway workers displayed less spirit, though some conductresses soon came out. The trams are under the control of the L.C.C. and various local councils. Under the latter the war bonus varies from 9s. to 16s.

The women conductors are fighting a big fight with splendid spirit. Good luck to them!

LABOUR ON PEACE TERMS. AUSTRALIAN

AUSTRALIAN

The situation in Australia since the anticonscription vote has been one of rapidly increasing tension between the Labour Party and the Nationalist (= Liberals × Labour seceders) Government. The consequent anti-war tendency of the Labour Party has now come to a head with the decision of the Inter-State Labour Conference, at Perth on June 25th last, not to participate any further in recruiting unless the Allies declare their immediate readiness to enter into peace negotiations on a basis of no annexations and no penal indemnities.

The process leading up to this decision may be traced from the Conference convened by the Governor-General in April to consider the question of recruiting. This Conference convened by the Labour and Nationalist Parties from each State the Employers' Federations and the Industrial Labour Movement. The Labour delegates took the opportunity to bring forward matters which they declared to be prejudicial to recruiting, viz., victimisation of strikers, de-registration of the Unions that took part in the strike, the attempt to force men to enlist by economic pressure, the heavy penalties imposed upon political offenders, especially in connection with the last conscription campaign, the abuse of the censorship, and the failure to make adequate provision for returned soldiers. As a result the Government and employers promised to rectify those matters—re-employ strikers, re-register the Unions, put a stop to economic conscription, &c. Finally, the following resolution was passed:

"That this conference, meeting at a time of unparalleled urgency, resolves to make all possible

"That this conference, meeting at a time of un-paralleled urgency, resolves to make all possible efforts to avert defeat at the hands of German militarism, and urges the people of Australia to unite in a whole-hearted effort to secure the necessary reinforcements under the voluntary system."

While the various Nationalist Governments, represented by the Premiers, were bound by this resolution and the promises made, the Labour representatives, having no definite mandate, had to refer the matter to the various bodies that they to refer the matter to the various bodies that they represented, and here the centre of interest passes to these Labour bodies. One section, headed by Mr. Morby, the President of the Sydney Trades Council held that the Conference had resulted in a bargain, and that in order to secure the registration of Unions, &c., the Trade Union Movement, as such must begin a whole-hearted recruiting campaign. Hence Mr. Morby, after he had presented his report on May 17th, moved the motion carried at the Conference. There was most violent opposition from the strong body of class-conscious unionists known, as the Indi strial section, who are responsible for the scheme of Industrial Section, who are responsible for the scheme of Industrial Section now commands a majority on the This section now commands a majority on the Sydney Trades Council, but has not yet captured the executive. Their leader, Mr. Judd, moved a long counter-resolution declaring the war to be

capitalist in origin and in aim, citing the Secret Treaties, the German peace offers, the Lansdowne letters, &c., and concluding:—

"Therefore, whilst fully expecting anti-Labour forces to misrepresent and calumniate our action, we refuse to take part in any recruiting campaign and call upon the workers of this and all other belligerent countries to urge their respective Governments to secure immediately an armistice on all fronts and initiate negotiations for peace."

fronts and initiate negotiations for peace."

After a protracted controversy and three adjournments, during which a violent press campaign was carried on against the "seditionists and disloyalists," this resolution was finally carried by the Sydney Trades Council by a majority of 104 to 75. Thereon the press went nearly mad and set out to promote a split in the Council. A much advertised meeting of the Conservatives was held to consider the formation of a separate council. Not one fifth of the Unions, however, affiliated to the present Council are joining the new body, and these only small Conservative craft unions of little importance with the possible exception of the Electrical Trades. (This is the split which The Times has reported.)

On June 1st the State Labour Party (New South Wales) met and considered in camera a series of

On June 1st the State Labour Party (New South Wales) met and considered in camera a series of drastic resolutions on peace, asserting that the war was being prolonged for imperialist and capitalist ends, demanding an immediate armistice for discussion of peace terms, and affirming that the white races were being exterminated, and that, in view of the sparse population of Australia, it was undesirable that further men should leave the country. These resolutions were after long debate carried amid enthusiasm, and sent along as recommendations to the Inter-State Conference. The Inter-State Conference at Perth, which qoncluded on June 25th, passed the following resolution on the subject of the war:—

generated on June 25th, passed the following resolution on the subject of the war:—

"The attitude of Labour towards the publicly declared objects of the war is what it was at the outbreak of the war: (a) For liberty, democracy and the independence of small nations; (b) for honouring publicly made treaties; and (c) for the maintenance of public and international law.

"The aims of Labour in participating in the war purposed t (a) assistance to Britain under the voluntary system, maintaining the publicly declared objects for which she entered the war, and those only, to the best of our capability, consistent with Australia's paramount essential needs; (b) bringing about an enduring world peace on terms of equity and justice to all mankind.

"Further participation in recruiting shall be subject to the following conditions: (a) a clear authoritative statement to be made on behalf of the Allies, asserting readiness to enter into peace negotiations upon the basis of no annexations, no penal indemnities; (b) that Australia's requirements in man-power be ascertained, and met in respect to home defence and industrial requirements. Immediate inquiry, upon which the Australian Labour Party shall be adequately and officially represented, to be held, and its decisions given immediate effect.

"Provided this determination shall be immediately submitted by each State executive under the direction of the Federal Executive, with a recommendation from the conference for adoption, to a referendum of the members of all branches and affiliated organisations, and shall become operative upon a majority of votes being cast in the affirmative, the ballot to close not later than November 1st. In the event of the ballot being interfered with by the Federal Government, the decision is to become operative at once."

THE CZECHO-SLOVAKS.

THE CZECHO-SLOVAKS.

In the Isvestia of May 30th appears a statement by Trotsky explaining that for some months previously the Czecho-Slovak troops had been endeavouring to leave Russian territory. The Soviet Government had taken all necessary measures to fecilitate their departure by Vladivostok, but had amade it conditional on the surrender of all arms save a small number of rifles per company for patrol service. With the assent of the Local Soviets the Czecho-Slovak troops were moving eastwood when the Japanese landing at Vladivostok and Semenoff's bands made it impossible for the troops to proceed and the Soviet Government decided that they should wait until arrangements could be made for them to sail via Archangel. Meanwhile counter-revolutionaries, with the Socialist Revolutionaries of the right as prime movers, were agitating amongst the Czecho-Slovaks and pretending that the Soviet Government had dark designs against them. Some of the Czecho-Slovak officers, numbers of whom were Russians, were cennected with the counter-revolutionaries. The condition of surrendering arms had not been honestly complied with and the agitation led the Czecho-Slovaks to use them against the Soviets. The Peoples Commissariat for War, then issued a statement expressing sympathy with the Czecho-Slovak workers and peacants, but declaring that the seizure of military stations and other acts of violence (as happened in Novo-Nikclaeiovsk) could not be tolerated, ordering, therefore, that the Czecho-Slovaks be immediately disarmed, but promising that steps would be taken to enable them to leave Russia with the least possible delay.

RUSSIAN PROTEST.

The Russian Socialists Groups in London at their General Meeting on August 3rd placed on record their disapproval of intervention, in view of the following:

of the following:—

"(1) That the Russian Revolution is threatened from the enemy from within as well as from without. (2) That all the strength of the Russian profetariat is needed for the organisation and creation of the new order after the demolition of the old regime. (3) That at this particular moment any steps taken against the Soviet Government, no matter from what side, serve only the counter-revolution and interfere with the creative work of the Soviets.

"We protest most emphatically against any interference of foreign Governments in the, internal affairs of the Russian Soviet Republic and against all attempts on their part to start a new war against the Soviets, which represent and defend the interests of the majority of the Russian people. We hope that English democracy will come to our aid in time and will not allow international imperialism to crush the first Socialist Revolution in the world...."

THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

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Sat., August 24th, 1918.

RUSSIA.

Our news from Russia is that the situation, from the point of view of the Russian Socialist Seviet Republic, is still hopeful. The Soviet traction of the people had many victories and, much best could help had not not confidence of the confidence of the people held on the confidence of the people held on the confidence of the people held on the confidence of the soviet trains to the folds and the grain best had many victories and the grain best had now, write the soviet send armoured trains to the folds and the grain best he soviets send armoured trains to the folds and the grain best he soviets send armoured trains to the folds and the grain best many if the train lest enemies should seize it.

No confidence should be placed in the Russian news which appears in the press unless the telegrames come through the Bolshevik agency. Phillips Price in The Manchester Guardian and Arthur Ransome in The Dauly News are the most reliable of the capitalist press correspondents. The latter writes:

"The runnours, mostly from German sources, of the collapse of the Soviet, the evacuation of Moscow, and the with the country... There are two man centres is still the only organised and organising force within the country... There are two man centres is still the only organised and organising force within the country with the few towns—who, after the proposed to hold be ment of workness and their layed the two the current of the country of the two the country of the two the country of the theorem of the country of the theorem of the country of the theorem of the country of the the two the country of the theorem of the country of the theorem of the country of the count

Soviets."

Just as the workers and peasants of the Ukraine are longing to regain the Soviets, so the workers and peasants of Great Russia are anxious to maintain them.

A proof that the Czecho-Slovak movement, to which the counter-revolution has rallied, is less successful than is pretended, is to be found in the statement from General Diterichs, the Czecho-Slovak Commander in Eastern Siberia, published in The Times:—

in The Times:

"It is quite clear that the position of our troops is becoming daily more serious, whereas the forces of the enemy are growing. The task of our eastern detachment becomes, if not impossible, at least very difficult and without any guarantee of success... If our troops do not succeed by the approach of winter, six weeks hence, in reaching their destination it is clear that this will be equivalent to the loss of all our troops."

winter, six weeks hence, in reaching their destination it is clear that chis will be equivalent to the less of all our troops."

But though the Soviet position is much better than its enemies pretend, as Lenin has warned the Socialists of the world, it is faced by many dangers. Allied, Czecho-Slovaks, and Counter-Revolutionary forces are harassing at Murmansk and Archangel and Vladivostok, and at various points in Eastern Central, and Western Sberia. The Czecho-Slovaks are even in Central Russia. A British force has arrived at Baku, no doubt intending to strike northward through the Caucasus, if it can. It has come through neutral Persial. All these forces are small, too small to endanger the Workers' Government. The greatest danger to Russia is that Germany, advancing to expel the forces of the nations with which she is at war, will gain control of Russia and put an end to the Soviet rule. Though the Allies are invading Russia in spite of the Soviet protests, the Soviet Government has implored the representatives of the Allies not to leave Russia, and when they left Vologda urged them not to go to Archangel, but to Moscow, where complete safety was promised them. Vologda grew to be a hot-bed of counter-revolution during the residence there of the Allied representatives, and it became unusafe for them to remain there as counter-revolutionary piots to secure Allied intervention by any means, in order to crush the Soviets, endangered their safety. Hostile acts, such as the assassination of the German Count Mirabeh may now be expected from the left wing of the Social Revolutionaries, whose tactics are terrorist and who have accused the Bolsheviki of too much toleration towards both the Central Empires and the Allies. The policy of the, Bolsheviki has always been to educate the masses, not assassinate a few tyrants. The Socialist Revolutionaries who are to-day used by the Capitalist Press as a weapon with which to attack Socialism were those who in the Car's day, as now, resorted to assassination.

SOCIALISM IN THE MAKING.

be the workers still belong to trade unions?

Yes, they cannot obtain employment without a trade union card.

OPINIONS OF REPRESENTATIVE PEOPLE.

DEAR EDITOR,—The state of affairs in Russia as described in Thre DirealNovours of August 3rd is certainly not Socialism as we expect to have it in this country? It is far too like subreview. There is, it is a transport of the subreview of the subrevie

We give below the answers to a number of questions which have been asked concerning our account of the Russian Soviet Republie.

How is the Council formed which advises the workshop committees on technical questions?

The Supreme Council of National Economy is appointed by the Central Executive Committee of the All-Russian Congress of Soviets. The Local Councils of National Economy are appointed by the Central Executive Committee of the All-Russian Congress of Soviets. The Local Councils of National Economy are appointed by the local Soviets. The trade unions also send representatives to these councils.

Where are the elections held for the workers' representatives to these councils.

Where are the elections held for the workers' representatives to these councils.

In the factories and workshops.

Do women vote in the Soviet elections?

Yes.

The tranchise is possessed by all citizens of

THE TRUTH IN A NUTSHELL.

THE TRUTH IN A NUTSHELL.

The Times Vladivostok correspondent says: "Considerable crowds lined the streets to witness the march of French troops through the town... At the saluting point at the Czech Headquarters there was some cheering among the better-dressed people in the crowd. The large Bolshevist element, of course, looks upon foreign troops as taking the bread out of their mouths." Were these "better-dressed people" Counter Revolutionaries who oppose the Bolshevik determination to secure social and economic equality?

SOCIALIST EDUCATION. By Eden & Cedar Paul.

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BACK TO THE LAND.

WHAT SOME DISCHARGED SOLDIERS WANT.

WHAT SOME DISCHARGED SOLDIERS WANT.

The Sheffield branch of the National Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Sailors and Soldiers has sent us the following scheme:

SMALL ALLOTMENTS OR HOLDINGS FOR DISCHARGED SAILORS AND SOLDIERS.

It is submitted that the following scheme for placing discharged sailors and soldiers who may have some knowledge and desire to go on the land and become: 'food producers,' at the same time relieving the Government of the interminable expense of pensions, at a comparatively small initial cost, by commuting the pensions of men and giving them a "freehold" in their own right, in view of the pensions armed. It is claimed there are hundreds, if not thousands, who would readily take an offer of this kind, and would succeed if only a little instruction could be arranged so that they were not left floundering for lack of advice, the instruction could be either oral or a postal course, followed by an examination to satisfy as to progress, &c.

It is suggested that the Government have access to Crown or Common Lands, which could be split up into small holdings of not more than "three acres, which, it is maintained, is all that one man and his family could manage among themselves; on each of these holdings a six roorned cottage, with a bathroom complete, should be built, with the necessary outbillings, such as a tool-shed, pig.stye, hen-house for 150 heads of poultry.

Division of Land.

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soldier or sailor, who may require it, in order to keep the Plots to the purpose for which they were originally intended.

Solution of the Housing Problem.

The politician is crying out for a housing scheme for 500,000 houses. We submit here a scheme which may well go a long way to ease the congestion, by taking out of the Towns the partially disabled who are able to work sufficiently to earn a livithood by either gardening, poultry farming, or rearing pigs, or the many side lines which would be open if a man had the land and accommodation for development.

The eventual development could be accentuated by centres of instruction in horticulture, the science of poultry rearing, pig breeding, and marketing, and in many other ways.

N.B.—It is also desirable that the pension should not be touched until one year after entry on the holding. And some guarantee in the form of a preliminary examination, in whatever business the man has decided to follow as a main means of support. The examination being the result of the instruction given either by oral or postal instruction.

This is submitted as a basis upon which a scheme may be considered.

[Useful suggestions and criticisms are invited, but we

ILLEGAL RENT-RAISING

ILLEGAL RENT-RAISING.

News reaches us from Melksham, Wilts., that farmers have raised the rents of their farm labourers' cottages from Is. weekly to 3s. per week. In one instance the man had lived in the cottage for twenty-eight years. It is noteworthy that these increases of 2s. per week date from the fixing of 30s. as minimum wage for agriculture labourers. This wage includes cost of all allowances such as milk, housing and land. Therefore, these landlords by their actions are infringing the law in two ways: first the Rent Act which forbids raising rent, and secondly the minimum wage, which makes no allowance for increasing by two hundred per cent houses or other supplies which are part of wages. It is simply robbing the unfortunate labourers.

MONDAY, AUGUST 26th.
44, Malden Road, St. Paneras W.S.F. 2.30 P.M.,
Business meeting.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27th.
Walthamstow League of Rights, William Morris
Hall, Somers Road.—2.30 P.M., Miss Horsfall.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31st. Great Push in Hammersmith

LONDON MEETINGS.

OUT DOOR.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23rd.
Rathbone Street, Canning Town.—11,30 A.M.

Miss Price.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24th.

Great Push in Waterloo Road on Socialism, Peace, and Votes for All.—Meet at 3 P.M. and 6.15 P.M.; outside "Old Vic." Speakers: Mrs. Davies, Miss Price, Mrs. Walker, Mr. H. E. Russell.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25th.

UNDAY, AUGUST 25th.

The Flagstaff, Hampstead.—3 P.M., Miss Price.
Osborn Street, Whitechapel.—6.30 P.M., Mrs.

WORKER:
MONDAY, AUGUST 26th.
Hoe Street, Walthamstow.—7 P.M., Mrs. Cressall.

WORKERS' SOCIALIST FEDERATION NOTES.

POW _A Social and Dance will be held at 400,

WORKSHOP NOTES: By W. F. WATSON. GENERAL STRIKES.

THEIR OBJECTS AND RESULTS

By T. C. HOLLOWELL, Amalgamated Toolmakers.

In examining records of General Strikes it is interesting to note that the Armed Forces of the State have been invariably used against the workers.

THE NEXT INTER-ALLIED SOCIALIST CONFERENCE.

CONFERENCE.

Another Inter-Allied Socialist and Labour Conerence is to be held in the Central Hall, Westminster, on September 17th, 18th, and 19th. What will his Conference do regarding the Allied attrick on the Russian Socialist Government? What steps will it take to secure a meeting of the International? Mr. Samuel Gompers, President of the American rederation of Labour is said to have asked for the conference which he will attend. Is he about to nodify his jingoism, or does he hope to stampede he conference?

MRS. SHEEHY SKEFFINGTON.

Our congratulations to her on having won freedom to return home to Ireland. This she accomplished by showing that she yould neither be kept alive in prison nor, if at large, out of Ireland.

THE LUXURY TAX.

This tax will never be completely enforced even by the costly army of officials who will be employed. More money would be saved by stopping the war. The shopkeeperj will, of course, make the purchaser

ALLIED FOOD CONTROL.

THE IRON HEEL.

THE IRON HEEL.

Although it has been publicly announced that the Embargo on skilled men is suspended, men leaving their jobs for better conditions find that various reasons are being given by the firms for not engaging them after promising a job. After all, the embargo stunt is merely the consummation of the Derby attestation scheme and one cannot discuss it except in relation to other circumstances. Side by side with the embargo we have the compulsory W.M.V. scheme, the determination of the State not to allow employers to pay above the district rate and the determination of the employers themselves to eliminate the comparatively highly paid workers. In The Daily Chronicle, August 17th, 1918, it is reported that a well-known firm of motor manufacturers employed in making shells was fined for increasing wages of certain workmen without permission, and we have evidence that it is the intention of the Federated Employers to reduce the workers' wages to the bare minimum. The exigencies of the war have made it necessary to take men from the workshop and at the same time demand an enormous output of munitions, with the result that the demand for men especially skilled far exceeds the supply. The workers, recognising this, go where they can get the biggest pay. To counteract this the Munitions Act, with its leaving certificates, was put on the Statute Book. Persistent agitation succeeded in abolishing the leaving certificates and again the workers began leaving their jobs for higher rates. The lower-rated firms kicked and to keep the worker on the border line of bare subsistence came the compulsory *W.M.V.* scheme and the embargo. And now another Army Order has been issued.

**The Daily News of August 7th says that ** By an Army Order issued last night a soldier released

compulsory *W.M.V. somene and the embadge. And now another Army Order has been issued.

The Daily News of August 7th says that ! "By an Army Order issued last night a soldier released from military duty for civil employment shall not be entitled to Army pay or allowances, notwithstanding that he has not been discharged or transferred to the Army Reserve "—which means that it will be possible to put us all in khaki without any pay except our ordinary wages. And what is the next step, my comrades? With the embargo and industrial compulsion in full operation the workers will, in all probability, should the war last long enough, be placed on ordinary army rations, all of which is, of course, to "make the world safe for democracy." It is time we got a move on. Let us continue to develop the Shop Stewards Movement. Therein lies our only hope.

LONDON WORKERS' COMMITTEE.

At the second Newbold Lecture both the Speaker and Chairman, Cedar Paul, were in great form, and the audience was deeply interested. But we want the Hall packed. It is proposed to run Lectures throughout the winter, some on Thursdays, some Saturdays. Probably on September 5th W. F. Watson will again lecture on the 'Growth and Development of the Workers' Committee Movement.' Attempts are still being made to make the L.W.C. a representative body, but more associate members are required. Further but more associate members are required. Further particulars from T. F. Knight, 7 Featherstone Buildings, Holborn, W.C.1.

A MOVE TOWARDS CO-ORDINATION.

A MOVE TOWARDS CO-ORDINATION.

Of Friday, August 16th, a mass meeting of shop stewards was held at Holborn Hall to hear the final report of Rock victimisation case. W. F. Watson reported on the strike and inquiry. It was decided to issue a report fin pamphlet form to sell at 2d. It was agreed that the Committee remains in existance until a more representative committees elected. A resolution was unanimously adopted asking the Shops Committees to assist in organising mass meetings in their districts to get into immediate touch with the Provisional Committee and other shops in their areas and pledging the Provisional Committee to give effect to the Executive's recommendation to set up in London and its environs an administrative body

grade, or sex.

The pending women's strike was discussed, and it was decided to recommend the Shop Committees to give the women every possible support. Similarly with the Enbargo. It was recognised that the only way effectively to combat the attempts to force Industrial Conscription upon us is by and through the Shops Committees. The Secretary reported a deficit of £19 and the shops are being asked to make it good.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

FAMILY LIMITATION DOCTRINE. Post free, 14d.

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

ANTIQUES.

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

Greer's Agreeable Hoe Street, Walthamstow.—7 P.M., Mrs. Cressall.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27th.
Clock Tower, Burdett Road.—11.30 A.M., Miss
Price.

BOW.—A Social and Dance will be held at 400,
Admission 8d.

WORKERS SUCIALIST FEDERATION NOTES.
BOW.—A Social and Dance will be held at 400,
Admission 8d.

BAKING, CUSTARD, EGG AND
Admission 8d.

D. W. GREER & CO.,

INTERNATIONAL YOUNG AGE PENSIONS.

Deer Friends of Humanity.—In order to relieve the terrible poverty and suffriends of Humanity.—In order to relieve the terrible poverty and suffriends of the work of the property of the children and all those who are hepless in comparative discovering SEVEN SHILLINGS A WHEK each for them from the state, that we may be free to work for other reforms. At present, while the control of the co By T. C. Hollowell, Amalgamated Toolmakers.

In view of the fact that the State and the employers, assisted by renegades of the Labour Movement, are attempting to destroy the workers most powerful weapon, the strike, an examination of previous strikes, their objects and results would be quite in season.

Unfortunately the space at my disposal does not permit of going into details. I am informed by the editorial staff of The Dreadnought that if the circulation can be largely increased it will be possible to increase its size to six pages, whereupon Workshop Notes will have a full page and perhaps more. So it is up to all readers to push the paper in the Workshop and Branch.

Surely it is not necessary for me to dwell upon the power of the Press, that is sufficiently demonstrated every day. The workers's case never secures a fair hearing in the capitalist Press. To quote from The State by W. Paul:

"At a banquet of newspaper men in New York (1916). In reservers to a teast of the Independent."

PIGEON CHEST, SPINAL CURVATURE. KNOCK-KNEES, AND FLAT-FOOT

To quote from The State by W. Paul:

"At a banquet of newspaper men in New York (1916). In response to a toast of the Independent Press, Mr. John Swinton said: "There is no such thing as an Independent Press unless it is in the country towns, and you know it. I am paid 150 dollars a week to keep my honest opinion out of the paper I am connected with. We see the tools and vassals of the rich men behind the scenes. We are the jumping jacks. Our talents, our possibilities, and our lives are the property of other men. The business of the New York journalist is to destroy the truth, to lie outright, to pervert, to vilify, to fawn at the feet of mammon, and to sell his race and country for his daily bread."

In examining records of General Strikes it is YOU are cordially invited to our RUSSIAN "AT HOME," on Sunday Afternoon, SEPTEMBER 8th, at 4 p.m., in the Hall, 400 Old Ford, Road. E.3.

Songs, Recitations, Refreshments. Short Speeches by Russian ands. COME and BRING YOUR FRIENDS WITH YOU.

State have been invariably used against the workers.

The first General Strike on record—which was also victorious— occurred in Rome (B.C. 494), when the Plebians marched in revolt to the Sacred Mount. The Syndicalists regard this as a good augury for direct action.

Considering general strikes under modern capitalism, we find that wages have not always been the question at issue. For instance in 1874 10,000 workers struck in Alicante, Spain, for social reconstruction (blessed words). This strike was suppressed presumably by the military machine.

The great American eight-hour strike of 1886 teaches us many lessons. Riots were deliberately caused by armed Pinkertons and the police. Bomb outrages were engineered; men were jailed and executed; workers were set against workers as they have been recently in this country; married v. single, under 24 v. over 24, &c. Divide and rule is the object and the moral is obvious. WOOLWICH TRADES AND LABOUR COUNCIL ROYAL ARSENAL SHOP STEWARD'S COMMITTEE.

Great Labour free speech and free press Demonstration

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On Saturday, August 31st, 6 p.m. Speakers, J. Ramsay Macdonald M.P., Jack Sheppard-Chair, J. E. Mills.

Procession assembles at Plumstead Station, 5.15 p.m. Other Information from Mr. C. NEW, Acting Secretary Woolwich Trades Council, 3, New Road, S.E. 18.

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THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 31st, 1918

Price Twopence.

THE EMBARGO. By J. T. Murphy,

through the channels of the labour market would appear to be one of those unique events which illustrate the "mutuality of interest" of employers and employees; but there is a fly in the continent for, our Coventry comrades inform us that they were told by their capitalist "brothers" in industry: "This is your funeral, not ougs." We are compelled, therefore, to look for another explanation of the incident. A little research into company reports and reconstruction publications will reveal the fact that many of the rank and file of the trade unions, object to executive control, and are ever "kicking against the pricks" of State interference. Seeing that the "mutual interest" explanation has fallen through, the accusing finger points to an old time trick of the employing class, namely, the use of the workers and their grievances to fight the battles of individual employers and groups of employers, while they enjoy "our funeral."

An open letter to Skilled Workers
BROTHERS.—The extention of the "embargo" is suspended pending an inquiry. What "the inquiry" is going to effect I do not know; but we ought to proceed with an inquiry of our own. The embargo is what? The prevention of the employment of further skilled men at certain firms in order to give a drift to skilled labour in the direction of other firms. To achieve this an Order was issued by the Minister of Munitions.

WHY WAS THE ORDER POSTED? Strange to relate, the Order was communicated to the workers. Had this not been done a crisis might not have developed at all. The workers would have gone to another firm, as they usually downen an employer ceases to want them, and it would have been some considerable time ere they discovered the move to be deliberate.

At first glance this generous disclosure of an Order for the direction of the commodity, labour through the channels of the labour market would appear to be one of those unique events which illustrate the "mutuality of interest" of the mutuality of interest. The interference.

At first glance this generous disclosure of an Order for the direction of the commodity, labour through the channels of the labour market would appear to be one of those unique events which illustrate the "mutuality of interest." These when we apply for an advance in the other the industry is going to win a war In the or the first instance, our wages, and when we apply for the first instance, our wages are due to the system and the employers reap the dayntage of the interference.

EMPLOYERS WHO ARE SHORT OF LABOUR GET TLE MEANS TO COEKCE IT.

Those who are short of labour get their labour, and those who have their supply possess the waspon to correct her visually and the position of the worker appears cheerful. At the twinkle in the employer's even may be merry, and the position of the worker as to choose between a worse employer and the Army. In the second instance our waste, we in the worker has to choose between the warpon of a great word the worker aso APPROVAL OF THE WAR IMPLIES RESPONSIBILITY TO PROSECUTE IT There is a war on now and the workers of this country acquiesce in its prosecution Such agreement implies responsibility, and when the governing body responsible for the conduct of the war makes certain demands upon them, they are faced with certain courses of action. They have either (a) to prove that the reasons advanced in support of the demands are not tenable; (b) to repudiate the prosecution of the war and accept responsibility for such a course; (c) to assent to the Government's demands; (d) to promise an alternative scheme for effecting the objects of the Government. No one has attempted to show that there is not a shortage of 60,000 to 70,000 skilled men and a need for more efficient distribution; nor have the workers adopted the other three courses. So we are in the midst of contradictions, an acceptance of the war policy and a refusal of responsibility. We have observed that a number of obnoxious consequences are involved in the embargo; but they do not justify an attitude of all round negation. So long as the human tragedy continues such an attitude is contemptible.

THE WAR V THE TRADE

class

WHEN LABOUR IS SCARCE WAGES
NATURALLY RISE, BUT EMBARGO
PREVENTS WAGES RISING.

Now let us turn to the embargo. First of all it prevents the raising of wages through what is known as the normal action of the market. When labour is scarce, wages rise, and the effect of the shortage of 60,000 to 70,000 skilled men would naturally have been to induce employers who urgently wanted men to offer better terms in order to attract men from other employers. But there is a twar on—and the Government being in need, as we are told, of munitions, &c., steps into the arena to help those who are short of labour.

ONLY THE MINIMUM IS GUARANTEED.
There is a guarantee that district rates shall be paid; hence it is asserted that wages are not lowered. This is very plausible, but the day-rate is the minimum which is guaranteed, and the existence of piece-work and bomus systems, &c., provides great scope for variations in earnings. The firms which offer the best conditions are usually well supplied. Thus the embargo corresponding return which the open market would have expending return which the open market would have the confusion is confusion exists. It explains the difference in the attitude of the employing class are human commodities.

EMBARGO GRADUAL IN EFFECT.
The first was made general at once. The second only after a considerable time. Nevertheless the cocracion is the full be fully achieved only after a considerable time. Nevertheless the cocracion is the confusion of the existence of the War Cabinet to conduct it. That body has dealed the war to be primary, the trade. So the issue changes to the working class have acquiresed in the effect. The the future of their trade. So the issue changes to the working class it has a considerable time. Nevertheless the cocracion is the winder and of a very contemptible kind.

HUMAN BEINGS TREATED AS COM-MODITIES.

The trouble arises because human beings are treated as commodities. On no previous occasion the workers have for the working the existence of the War Cabinet in the fu THE WAR V THE TRADE

But we are told the engineers are concerned for
the future of their trade. So the issue changes
to the war versus the trade. Let us face this issue
squarely. The engineers along with the rest of
the working class have acquiesced in the war and
the existence of the War Cabinet to conduct it.
That body has declared the war to be primary,
the trade secondary. The workers have not

was left upon M. Turpin's own hands. Parts were made in different factories, and were then put together by him elsewhere. The finished article was handed to the French War Office almost on the eve of war. Attempts have been made by German agents to discover the inventor's secret. It is believed that France will only make general use of turpinite in the last-resort. It is affirmed, however, that its deadly powers have been tested experimentally against the Germans on one or two occasions.

The worsel of all this appears to be that travillies

WHO FIRST USED POISONED GAS?

Admiral Dundonald. The British Ministry of Information replied:—

"that Dundonald, who was born in 1775 and died in 1860, and was an expert chemist as well as a great sallor, warned the British Government in the early part of the nineteenth century that it was technically possible to produce an apphysiating gas which could be employed in military operations. Its employment by the British Government was never seriously considered, such a method of warfare being condemned as too inhuman. The fact that the Hague Convention of 1899, to which Germany was a party expressly forbade the use of apphyxiating gas is sufficient evidence that the possibilities of gas as a was well-century will be the possibilities of gas as a was well-century will be the possibilities of gas as a was method. A German wireless message of the 17th inst. maintained that poison gases were first used on March 1st, 1915, by the British and French, whilst the first German attack with poison gas took place. The British Ministry of Information's reply was:—

"The first portion of this statement is, of course, a deliberate falsehood, for which a there is not the sightest vestige of justification."

But some people with good memories will surely have the recollection of hearing of the use of poison

The German press has asserted that the idea fusing poison gas originated with the British dmiral Dundonald. The British Ministry of a dromation replied:—

gas in 1914. If they will turn to some of the newspaper files for September of that year they will find that they are right; for here is an extract from The Evening Standard of September 18th,

WHOLESALE NEWSAGENTS.

Press notices of the Allied food controllers' deliberations indicate that food prices will rise again. The profiteers are being safe-guarded as usual. Guileless people would think that Allied co-operation would preyent prices rising in Allied markets: it might, but it won't under present conditions. When will the workers —the great majority—decide to manage these things for themselves?

City Agent for the Workers' Dreadnought. 9 and 10, ST. BRIDE'S AVENUE, E.C.4-(Late City and Suburdan Publishing Co.)

Friends by J. R. Francis, 11 and 12 Breams Buildings, London, E.G. and Fublished by the Workers' Socialist Federation, 400 Old Fords manage these things for themselves?