

THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

For International Socialism.

Vol. V.—No. 33

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9th, 1918

Price Twopence.

AT THE ALBERT HALL: RED FLAG WAGGING AND REACTION.

That this Mass Meeting of workers welcomes the opportunity to make a lasting and just peace now appears at hand, and demands for organised labour an effective voice in the peace negotiations. We support as a basis for the settlement the fourteen points laid down by President Wilson and endorsed by Mr. Lloyd George in his speech to the American troops on July 5th.

We also demand that those responsible for crimes committed against humanity and international law shall be brought to the bar of justice; that full reparation and compensation shall be paid for injury to life and property on land.

We further demand the repeal of conscription and restoration of civil liberties.

Within the four corners of that resolution the Socialists can secure all the annexations, concessions, tariffs, and boycott regulations that they desire. They have only to describe the loot as reparation and compensation "to bring it within the terms.

It is that resolution held the field all the red-flagging and revolution-talk at the Albert Hall meeting was mere window dressing. "Come to the meeting and sing rebel songs; you must create the atmosphere." So the Socialist rank and file were told, but what did that saying really amount to? Only this: "You come along and do the talking; whilst we, the big men, form the policy." Then, having adopted a feeble imitation of capitalist policy, which the Government is only too ready to recognise from its own because of its lack of vitality, the big men endeavour to bluff the Government by saying: "Unless you do as we our followers will be angry." The Government is quite sure of retaining the support of men like Thomas and Henderson, or, at any rate, of blunting their serious opposition, by assuring them that it is taking their advice and by wrapping its action in democratic phrases. And, even if the Government merely flouts Mr. Thomas and Henderson, it will go no further than a little bluffing. In spite of such revelations as the Government has admitted to the Government during the War. At the Albert Hall Mr. Thomas admits that in the South African War there was the same bitterness and hatred against the Boers as now is against the Germans, "but a wise Government said: No, now we have conquered the Boers we will endeavour to be just." The German Socialists would have been so very pleased to be told that to us! Mr. Thomas forgot that the British Capitalists who were interested in gold and diamond mining had obtained what they had before there was any question of a South African constitution!

Those who had invited the Red-Flaggers to come to the meeting and create the atmosphere seemed as anxious to damp down their enthusiasm as Thomas himself. They taunted those who voted to the resolution with not having created the atmosphere, whilst Thomas taunted them with not having voted Labour at the ballot box. The Red-Flaggers at the meeting have each done at least as much for the Revolution as the speakers on the platform, and if they are disappointed they have doubtless voted Labour at the ballot box, and if they are disappointed, grievously disappointing, they have voted Labour men in Parliament. But though the Red-Flaggers were in the majority at the Albert Hall they have been

hitherto in a small minority outside. What is the use of taunting them with that?

The Red-Flaggers were lectured at and frowned at by the speakers on the Albert Hall platform; but what is the indictment which the Red-Flaggers have to bring against the speakers? It is that those big men are either—like Thomas—clinging to the skirts of capitalist policy, and incidentally drawing the cheap popularity and the big crowds brought by the newspaper publicity given to them because of their subservient methods; or, whilst refusing to support the War—as Thomas does—they are clinging to the skirts of men like Thomas, in order to gain a share of the big crowds Thomas and his kind can draw. These men sneer at the Red-Flaggers for not being able to create a big movement, though they themselves have failed to create such a movement and, despising the cheers of hundreds, are obliged to join with the Thomases and Hendersons in order to hear the cheers of thousands. These gaseous revolutionaries despise and boycott the efforts of the Red-Flaggers instead of helping to make them bigger. Whilst it was all hands to the pump for the Thomas meeting, with its reactionary resolution, the John McClean demonstration was ignored and, owing to the rain—the excuse of the apathetic—and the rush to the Albert Hall, it had to be postponed.

As for the rank and file, even a big proportion of those who yelled "Revolution!" and cheered the Red Flag on last Sunday are too prone to wait for Thomas and an Albert Hall meeting to express themselves.

Some of us wanted to move this amendment to the official resolution:—

This meeting demands peace on the basis of no annexations, no indemnities, the right of the peoples to decide their own destinies. This meeting halts the Russian Bolsheviks and the world-wide Workers' Revolution.

We could not catch the Chairman's eye, or make our voices heard above the hubbub; but undoubtedly that amendment better represented the spirit of the meeting than the official resolution. There were many cries of: "We want an amendment" from various parts of the hall at various points in the meeting; and if the Chairman had not rushed the vote at the moment when every one was expecting him to call on Ramsay MacDonald, he would have been faced with a more determined call for an amendment.

"We want revolution" was the dominating note of the meeting. But we ask our friends to realise that they will never get it from the Thomases of the Labour world. Cramp and Foot, who made revolutionary speeches, were obviously out of sympathy with the resolution, which we understand was forced upon the meeting by the refusal of Thomas to speak to any other. But is the N.U.R. a democratic body, or is it ruled by one man? Is it not strong enough to run an Albert Hall meeting according to the will and policy of the majority? And were it not better to refrain from holding an Albert Hall meeting at all, than to commit the Union to a reactionary policy in order to do so?

What was it Thomas had to say? Firstly, he wanted to hold the Allied Governments to President Wilson's peace terms. Secondly, he said that the railwaymen are asking him to sanction their refusal to carry members of the Seamen's and Firemen's Union, unless that union withdraws its refusal to carry Labour delegates who wish to discuss peace and to participate in Allied peace talks. Mr. Thomas added that he had been asked to sanction the boycott of newspapers that advocate the Seamen's boycott, and pointed out that this boycott by the railwaymen would be an effective weapon in the war between Capital and Labour.

"Why don't you do it? Why don't you do it?" cried the Albert Hall Red-Flaggers. But Mr. Thomas answers: "Oh, no! it would lead to chaos." Still he says that he and Henderson will agree to it, if the Labour movement as a whole tells them to, in the matter of sending Labour delegates to an Allied peace conference. Meanwhile, be it observed, the Allied terms are being arranged, and by the time the Labour Movement has decided to retaliate against the Seamen there will be nothing further to discuss!

Mr. Thomas further said that he wants the armistice to be such that the War could not be re-started. That means an armistice which will place the Allies in a position to take anything they may choose. After that what is the use of men like Thomas endeavouring to put a brake on Allied policy. Thomas and his kind usually agree with the Government in what it is doing to-day, pompously warning it that they may disagree to-morrow.

Oh! Socialist Red-Flaggers of the rank and file, when will you cease to cling to men who are not Socialists and to men who, if they are Socialists, have faith neither in you nor in the coming of Socialism in our time?

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

PEACE TERMS.

Branches should pass resolutions demanding immediate peace on the basis of no annexations, no indemnities, the right of the peoples to decide their own destinies; also facilities for holding an international Socialist and Labour Conference. See that all the other organisations you are connected with also adopt this policy!

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS EDUCATION.

This pamphlet by Eden and Cedar Paul reprinted from articles in THE DREADNOUGHT should be bought and sold to others by every W.S.F. member. Price 6d.

LABOUR AND THE COALITION.

The Times reports that there is a growing movement in Liberal and Tory circles to maintain the coalition Government after the war during the reconstruction period. If this is done it will but make plainer to the workers the fact that capitalism is the greatest enemy of the workers. It is said that the Labour Party is calling a conference to decide whether it will go to the country as part of the Coalition. The last Labour Party Conference decided to end the political truce as far as by-elections are concerned. This decision was precipitated by the fact that the local constituency organisations were fighting by-elections in defiance of the Executive. The logical development of the by-election resolution is to fight the Government at the General Election. To remain in the Coalition would be political suicide for the Labour Party. Nevertheless, Messrs. Clynes, Barnes and Roberts will doubtless advocate remaining in the Coalition, but we do not think that the conference will agree. Even Mr. Henderson is surely committed to independence of the Coalition as soon as the war ends!

HOUSING AND INFLUENZA.

Three hundred thousand new houses would not meet the legal requirements against over crowding, yet though there has been much talk of after-war housing reconstruction, the Local Government Board admits that only schemes for 8,720 new houses are definitely before the Board. The Times Medical correspondent is meanwhile warning the public that the insanitary house is the dangerous house for influenza, septic pneumonia, which has been following influenza, and for all diseases. The Times quotes a sanitary engineer, Mr. H. C. H. Shenton, who says that the sewers leading from a number of London houses are leaky and that the drinking water may be contaminated. In South Poplar during heavy rains sewage is known to flow from the main drain into the houses with hideous results.

AN ANSWER TO THE ECKINGTON BENCH.

A very big meeting for Creswell was held on a piece of co-operative ground on Saturday afternoon...

A CRITICISM.

The report of Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's trial and her article upon it seems to me so typical an example of the distortion which a one-sided view is apt to engender that it calls for comment.

Capitalism and capitalists have behaved foully, but it has not been only a sordid scramble between two rival groups of capitalists who were struggling to get control of the world's raw materials.

As thought precedes the written word so the written word usually precedes action, and if excess is its word in the former we are courting the danger of excess in the latter.

WALTHAMSTOW LEAGUE OF RIGHTS (FOR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS AND THEIR WIVES AND RELATIVES).

This League is arranging an Old Age Pensions Deputation to the House of Commons on Wednesday, November 13th, at 11.15 a.m. at the Strangers' entrance opposite St. Margaret's Church at 2.30 p.m.

JOHN MACLEAN.

Mrs. Agnes Maclean sends the following letter, which speaks louder than any comment of ours:—"I think it desirable to inform you that I was allowed to see my husband, John Maclean, for the

first time since his trial, in Peterhead Prison, Tuesday, 22nd inst., and he then stated to me that he has been hunger-striking, and has been confined since July. He found the food that was given him unsatisfactory, and refused to take it or the food (which he believed to be drugged), requesting to be transferred to Glasgow, where he could have food prepared by myself sent in.

He told me that he tried to resist the force of the feeding by mouth tube, but two warders held him down, and that these men never left him there night or day, till he was forced to give in. I was shocked beyond measure by these statements, and to me in presence of the prison doctor and two warders, and by the evidence of their truth supplied by his aged and haggard appearance.

One thing is clear—that he cannot much longer endure the torture of body and mind to which he is daily being subjected. The only alternative is a conflict between the Authorities and himself, either his death in prison, or his immediate release from prison. From the former I believe they do shrink, and every day brings it nearer.

FROM THE MOTHERS' TRENCH.

"Mrs. B.—has just come in and is terribly upset. Her man has come home from France. He has told her that he saw her son lying in a pool of blood and when the man came back her son was gone. She cannot get any news from the War Office. She came to ask if you would telephone. It is impossible to see poor Mrs. B.—I can't do anything for her."

Mrs. Bell, a sailor's widow of Dorking, who has four children under twelve years, complains that though her husband was entitled to 500 guineas on completion of twenty years' service, the Admiralty refused to pay her the money because her husband went down with his ship six days before the end of the term.

to care for her home and children. If the labourer wife wants to do that, and can earn enough to do her own keep and sufficient to induce another woman to work for her, she can do it to-day by entirely her own effort.

But Mrs. McCracken may be, and probably thinking here only of the middle-class woman, so, is she pleading for the middle-class woman to practise a middle-class business profession like her husband, and to hire a plebeian woman to do her housework and wash the children? Or does she want to burden her husband with keeping a wife who in many cases will fancy she is ill because she has no responsible duties to occupy her? We are not much in sympathy with the typical husband in American business man, but we have often had compassion for him seeing him small, nervous and harassed, sleeplessly, anxiously hunting day and night for a solution to his big, over-extended, extravagant, idle wife, who sometimes insists that she have no children. Such husbands and wives are also found in this country; they are a product of the upper reaches of the capitalist system. Such wives imagine they are upholders of woman emancipation.

AN AUCTION MART EXPERIENCE. For four years people have been led to believe that household commodities are scarce and that they run from one shop to another for their purchases. There has been no boot polish in Sheffield for months, and yet, on my going to the Auction Mart, on Oct. 2nd, with the hope of giving my customers the choice of a tin of cheap boot polish, I was astonished to find a shock. I was surprised to find out that the Day & Martin was selling sixty thousand 2 1/2 lb. tins of boot polish packed in tins marked 1916. I bought 1916 bought Day & Martin's 3d. tins of polish at 2s. per dozen, less 5 per cent. On Oct. 2nd they were actually sold at auction for 6s. 6d. per dozen.

Is it not time the working class producer was asked himself where all this polish has gone during the interval, and why the Government allowed this firm to hoard it for two years, and to make hundreds of pounds of extra profit out of the people who are going without necessities? When will the people demand that a search be made of all the factories and stores that produce necessities? A. C. Ramsay.

JOHN MACLEAN. We now learn on good authority that since last July John Maclean has been on hunger strike and undergoing forcible feeding. Is this country to be the last in granting reprieves? Germany has shown the way by freeing Karl Liebknecht, whose popularity has been increased enormously by the unjust treatment meted out to him. When are we going to have our political prisoners freed? All sections of the community should protest against this.

JOHN MACLEAN. Forward donations to G. PARETAR (Hon. Treasurer), 10 Province Road, Southall.

WORKSHOP NOTES. By W. F. Watson.

DUNCAN GETS A DRESSING DOWN.

It is not generally known that C. Duncan, M.P., Secretary of the Workers' Union, is still an ordinary member of the Marylebone Branch of the A.S.E. The members of this branch had Duncan to justify his position as a member of the A.S.E. General Secretary of Workers' Union President of the Police Union. Being anxious to hear him. In true Parliamentary style, he studiously avoided the particular subject of the incoherent speech on Amalgamation referring to the Shop Stewards' movement.

On the latter alternative I insist—and I appeal to you—in common with other friends of my husband and of the work he has done for humanity—to do you can to help me to induce those who are keeping him in durance to set him free at once.

When actual instances were quoted, he wriggled out by saying the A.S.E. men had not consulted the Workers' Union on those occasions. Charlie was severely criticised in the discussion. We told him his outlook was narrow and mean and that he knew nothing about amalgamation and industrial organisation. We said that when the time comes for Duncan to choose whether he will definitely be on the side of the workers or the employers, we hope he will not choose the workers' side as we have no use for him because he has not sufficient ability. In his reply he advised us to go out and start a union of our own, he guaranteed we would not get 1,000 members: the fact that he had organised the W.U. was sufficient testimony for Charles Duncan. We don't think Duncan will go to Marylebone Branch again. And we hope not. If his is a sample of the intellect of the Labour Party, the powers defend us from a Labour Government.

LABOUR MOVEMENT IN GREECE.

Improvement in the methods of production in Greece during the last ten years has been the class conscience of the workers in the Balkans. The lessons of the Balkan wars have helped to make International Socialism welcome to the whole Labour Movement. Greece, as everywhere else, the world-war has changed the minds of the wage-earners from the days of their struggle. Up to the time of the present Government they were exceptions, under "arrivist" trade-union conditions, who adapted their policy to the prevailing conditions. During that unsettled period few Socialist organisations kept advancing the path of International Socialism, a true of which is the weekly Ergaticos Agon (Struggle) of Athens.

present Government, encouraged by the various trade unions into its own two reasons: firstly, the influence which Labour in the Allied countries have in the final settlement, especially in the self-determination of nationalities, and secondly, the success of the nationalist policy of the delegates of the organised workers of Greece were heard at the Inter-Allied Labour Conference. It was therefore raised to the organisation of the proletariat, but meanwhile every care was taken to place at the Government's service "our leaders," who, under false Socialist pretences, would see to it that the whole Labour movement should identify itself with the Government. The policy of thus regulating the shop would thrust into the background the

different kinds of S.S. and Workers' Committees, each representing a certain degree of consciousness determined by local or trade conditions all aiming at control of industry; but often working at variance with each other. Therefore a co-ordinating body is essential. It is said that the ideas are so conflicting that they cannot be blended and that the co-ordinating body must of necessity be of a compromising nature. I do not share that view. The co-ordinating body will have as its basic object organisation regardless of craft or sex, and bodies of a lesser degree of consciousness will be affiliated thereto. In the case of the B.S.P. and the Labour Party, we have a body with a high degree of consciousness linked up with a body with a lesser degree of consciousness. As a result the position of the B.S.P. is somewhat compromised. Will all S.S. and Workers' Committees wishing to participate in this movement please communicate with me.

AIRCRAFT WOMEN WORKERS VERY ACTIVE.

At a mass meeting of Women Workers held in Hendon on October 22nd, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—"That this meeting of Women Workers employed at the Aircraft Manufacturing Co., Hendon, requests the Executive Committee of the N.F.W.W. to take steps necessary for the systematic organisation of the women workers in the district and that representations be made to the Engineering Employers' Federation with a view to establishing all firms in the district on a Trade Union basis, and we further pledge ourselves to use all means in our power to secure that end, both in our own shop and throughout the district."

A mass meeting of Women Workers, convened by the Provisional Shop Stewards' Committee, was held at the Holborn Hall on Wednesday, Oct. 23rd. Jack Tanner was in the chair, and Comrades W. F. Watson, Mrs. J. Holloway and H. Joy addressed the meeting. A resolution was unanimously adopted demanding a minimum rate of 10d. per hour for all women on aircraft work and equal pay for women doing the same work as men. A further resolution was adopted urging the Provisional Shop Stewards' Committee to press the resolution through the Trade Union movement. Beyond a doubt the women workers are awakening and will be a live force in the industrial world. The men in the movement must render every possible assistance to the women in order to eliminate all tendencies towards sex antagonism.

It was finally agreed to accept the recommendation of the previous conference that a London and District Council of Shop Stewards and Workers' Committees be established. A further conference to draw up the basis and constitution will be held at Chandos Hall (if possible) on Saturday, November 16th. At present there are

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CENTRAL LONDON W.S.F. A LECTURE by SYLVIA PANKHURST, At Chandos Hall, 21a, Maiden Lane, Strand, On THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14th, at 7.30 p.m. Chair—DAVID RAMSAY. Tickets 6d. each. Questions and Discussion.

to Stewards' autonomy and bureaucracy. said that if the Pensions Ministry use of the machinery already there might be reason in the Bill, the meantime our right it had to claim more annexations. tion the Bill was read a amendments. right of the people. MS. national Federation of us that Mr. Bonar Wells' statement.

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REVOLUTION SPREADS TO THE CENTRAL EMPIRES.

The long-predicted Revolution in the Central Empires seems to be well launched. Three movements are there warring for supremacy: the Socialist movement of the workers, the capitalists, and those who are animated by purely racial sentiments; the two latter sections largely coalesce in opposition to the first.

BULGARIA.

In Bulgaria the Tsar Boris, who so recently succeeded his father Ferdinand, has abdicated. It is reported that a Republic has been established with a peasants' Government, under the leadership of Stambulinsky, who is backed by an army of 40,000 men. The Peasants' Party, of which Stambulinsky is a leader, in 1913 joined the Socialists in demanding an independent Confederation of Balkan Republics and the dismissal of the diplomatists in office during the Balkan War; but till fuller information comes through we should not yet come to power in Bulgaria. Nevertheless, we believe that they will shortly control Bulgaria as they now control Russia. We believe that the Bulgarian Government was brought to surrender to the Allies by fear of popular revolution. It seems that the revolution was but postponed.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

In Austria-Hungary the subject nationalities are claiming their independence. The Czecho-Poles have wiped out the frontier dividing them from Poland and have established a Polish Government in Galicia. The Italians in Austrian territory have proclaimed their unity with Italy, and some of the members by whom they were represented in the Austrian Parliament have actually gone to Switzerland to discuss the terms which are to be imposed upon Austria-Hungary by the Allies. The Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina announce that those provinces are now a part of Serbia. The Bohemians, the Croats, and the rest have taken up arms to secure independence. On the other hand, the German people of Austria (perhaps eventually to be joined to Germany) and have notified President Wilson of their existence as a separate state. The Italian-Austria, demanding admission, as such, to the Peace Conference. All the separate nationalities are setting up their governments, and these appear to be republican, with at least a pretence of ushering in a democratic era.

The racial upheaval is undoubtedly an enormous force in Austria, but the social upheaval affecting all races is much greater. Socialists and reformists are struggling for the supremacy of their ideals. The proceedings in German-Austria precisely echo those which took place in the early stages of the Russian Revolution. We hear of a Soldiers' and Officers' Council and a Workers' and Soldiers' Council; rivals, no doubt: the first reformist, with its roots in capitalism; the second Socialist and animated with the Bolshevik spirit.

The army seems to have seized the seats of Government, a Republic to have been proclaimed, and a National Council formed to draw up a republican constitution and to carry on the business of government meanwhile. The Emperor Charles was said to have fled; now it is announced that he

abdicates, not because the people dismiss him but because he refuses to accept the terms of the Allies. In the new National Government a Coalition Government is being set up, into which Victor Adler, the Majority Socialist leader, enters as Foreign Minister—an important post—and his colleague Renner joins as Minister of Social Affairs. Austrian Majority Socialists have been truer to Socialist principles than the Majority Parties of other countries. Nevertheless, they still, we think, belong to the old Liberal-Reformist school, which has no clear faith in the actual establishment of Socialism and cannot cut itself adrift from capitalist ways. In any case the real revolutionary Socialist will never enter a capitalist coalition. We know, quite surely, that this coalition will pass and other leaders of Adler—rejoiced from death some time ago—may come into prominence in the critical days ahead. It is reported that hitherto unknown Socialists are taking an active part in the struggle. The Times of November 4th reports:—

"As a result of the discussion representatives of the State Council yesterday visited various barracks in Vienna to negotiate with soldiers' representatives the formation of a National German Army. The German-Austrian State Council has issued a proclamation addressed to the soldiers at the front, saying that the National Assembly has taken over the Government and will immediately conclude peace. The proclamation appeals to them to maintain order and discipline and to prevent plundering and acts of violence. An orderly demobilisation, it adds, 'will immediately be begun.' A similar proclamation has been addressed to the garrison of Vienna.

"Dispatches from Vienna relate the following incidents: A procession of 400 soldiers from Grinzing was hospital proceeded on Thursday afternoon to the Parliament Buildings and communicated their desires and grievances to Herr Seitz, president of the State Council. Thence the procession went to the War Ministry, where it was dispersed by guards. Small crowds gathered before the War Ministry at 6 p.m.

"At the constituent meeting of the Soldiers' Council in Vienna a soldier suddenly rose to oppose the proposed formation of a National Guard, and proposed the establishment of a Red Guard. The soldier with his followers then formed a soldiers' council of their own, and the former left the hall as commander of the Red Guards amidst protests, the Nationalists remaining behind."

This reads like a page from the story of the Russian Revolution. There, too, the Bolsheviks, left the Coalition Assembly!

We watch with impatience and sympathy the swiftly-moving struggle.

In Hungary the same movements develop and rush on with even greater intensity. The Karolyi administration is useless from the Socialist point of view; but this stage will pass, as it passed in Russia. Karolyi is the Rodzianko of Austria; we must look for the Milyukoff, the Kerensky, and the Lenin! Karolyi has promised universal suffrage for all men over 24, for all soldiers, and for women who can read and write—in that he is a trifle more generous to women than the Lloyd George Government. He announces that his government will begin by restoring order. We know that it will fail!

REVOLUTION COMING IN GERMANY.

In Germany, too, the revolution is undoubtedly drawing nearer. The South German States are seized with the fear of the Allied invasion which is likely to be made through Austrian territory now that Austria has concluded an armistice; and leaders are being distributed in Bavaria urging that a separate peace should be made by a new "Peoples' Government." A Socialist Republic is demanded.

Arthur Ransome reports from Stockholm that Scheidemann and his fellow Majority Socialists are discredited and that the coalition of which they are a part will be short-lived. Also that leaflets calling for an amnesty and for the establishment of Soviets, of like tendency to the leaflets which were used by the Bolsheviks prior to their triumph, are being distributed in Berlin; and of course, it is said, and perhaps with truth, that the Russians are helping in this propaganda. No foreign effort can produce a revolution however, it can only come to birth as a native product.

Meanwhile the demands that the Kaiser shall abdicate are not allayed by his proclamation promising to co-operate in the democratisation of Germany, and the question is to be decided at a

meeting of the Reichstag parties. How are we mighty fallen! But Germany is indeed wonderful in her elasticity! Scheidemann presses for abdication. A proclamation by the Majority Socialists urges the workers not to respond, summons to leave work during the next few days. It is the beginning of the Revolution. As it is in Russia so it is in Germany!

THE ARMISTICE TERMS.

Meanwhile armistice terms are said to have been offered to Germany, but the terms are not closed and apparently the German reply has not been made. Harsh and humiliating terms were announced, but the British Government repudiate them. Has it made Germany any worse, and, if so, could he say what those steps is it delaying in order first to win a special victory? Meanwhile the casualty lists are mounting steadily and the poor fellows on the fronts are suffering injuries that can never be redressed.

The Austrian armistice has been concluded at the time of going to press the terms are announced.

The terms of the Turkish armistice are, however announced; at least, in part, for there have been rumours of a secret understanding which has been denied by Lord Robert Cecil. The main points of the published terms are that the Turkish army is to be demobilised "except such troops as are required for the surveillance of the frontiers and maintenance of internal order"; Turkish ships are to be interned at such Turkish ports as the Allies direct. The Allies are to occupy "any strategic points in the event of any situation arising which threatens the security of the Allies." The Allies are to use any ports they please; to control wireless telegraph and cable stations; "Turkish Government messages excepted"; to have facilities for coal, oil, fuel, &c., which are not to be exported. Allied control officers to be placed on railways.

All these provisions can be enforced as the Allies please, but they are set forth with a suggestion of consideration towards the Turks which failed to see in the conditions imposed on Bulgaria.

TRANSCAUCASIA?

Turkey is to evacuate Persia; that is not a part of Transcaucasia has been evacuated; remainder to be evacuated if required by the Allies, after they have studied the situation there.

How is this? Transcaucasia belongs to Russia. Surely Turkey should be asked to withdraw there some mystery here. Is Turkey to Transcaucasia or to help in fighting the Bolsheviks? The Allies are to occupy Batoum and Baku—both Russian ports on the Caucasus. This is ominous. An article in the Times speaks of the ease with which the Allies will be able to get from the Bosphorus—which will also occupy—Odessa, another important Russian port and a distance by sea of 340 miles. The surrender of Turkey is doubtfully a menace to the Bolsheviks.

For the rest the following paragraph from Manchester Guardian is illuminating:—"Commenting on the Turkish armistice, the papers say that the rich and rich friends will be exploited, with the help of friendly peoples, the economic and political protectorate of the Powers.—Exchange."

SUBJECT NATIONS SOLD!

The Manchester Guardian makes some striking allegations in regard to bargaining in Turkey. It says:—"The Allies began their operations against Turkey by secretly selling the oppressed peoples as if they were cattle. Have we closed and sealed our eyes against the Turks by again secretly selling oppressed peoples as if they were cattle?"

In regard to the armistice the writer of Manchester Guardian London letter says:—"The negotiations were conducted with British Vice-Admiral at Mudros through the mediation of General Townsend, and there is no belief that the final agreement did not receive the enthusiastic approval of all the Allied Governments. "One effect of the agreement is to put a force and a British authority first into Constantinople and the Straits and in supreme control over places of such strategic and political importance. Had the occupation come from the land instead of from the sea, the first forces to arrive would have been a part of the Allied Balkan army. The supreme authority would have been French. It is not an altogether negligible feature of the armistice."

Continued on page 1114.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY.

THE WAR ENDING.

for the ending of the War: the stronger coalition has, as usual, vanquished the weaker, and long purse has won, as it always does. We are surprised, as we expected this result from the War was declared. As the War began so it ended, so far as the capitalist politicians in power are concerned. Sir R. Cooper asked in the House of Commons if Mr. Bonar Law intended to take steps to secure that any agreement for peace should in general principles be in accordance with the wishes of the majority of the members of this House, and, if so, could he say what those steps would be. Mr. Bonar Law answered:—"The Government must, I think, be the interpreter of the views of the House and the nation on this matter."

Mr. Cooper.—Is it a fact that the country will be committed to a secret peace agreement? Mr. Bonar Law.—I do not know what my hon. friend means. I do not suppose he means that the terms of peace should be put as a referendum, and if so, how of no other way in which the country could be consulted except by its Government. Mr. Cooper.—I am sure, gentlemen, of the Government, and, if you dare, let D.O.R.A. be set aside on all the facts made public. We eagerly desire an opportunity; do you?

A Social Democratic member of the Danish Rigsdag said that the article in the Constitution giving the King the right to declare war should be changed. The Minister of State replied that the King would propose the change.

POST OFFICE WOMEN.

Post Office rates of pay are by no means generous. The maximum wage of women telegraphists, counter clerks and telephonists has hitherto been 28s. a week before the war only just over one telephonist in a hundred was receiving so much. An increase of 1s. a week for telephonists and 1s. a week for telegraphists counter clerks has just been granted.

All these provisions can be enforced as the Allies please, but they are set forth with a suggestion of consideration towards the Turks which failed to see in the conditions imposed on Bulgaria.

SOCIALIST CONGRESS IN AUSTRIA.

The Austrian Social Democratic Party will hold its next Congress from October 31st to November 3rd, in the Populaire.

URGENT WORK.

Paul Graber, a Socialist and anti-militarist member of the Swiss National Council, publishes an article under the above title in the Populaire de Paris. He urges all Socialists to work for a speedy peace with regard to Russia he says: "We must act and act by this circumstance [the Central Powers being confronted with difficulties at home and abroad] only because thus we should work for peace also for the good of the Soviet Republic."

ANNIVERSARY OF THE RUSSIAN SOVIET REPUBLIC.

The Special Correspondent of the Populaire de Paris writes from Zurich that the Russian Soviet Republic is preparing to celebrate its first anniversary on November 6th, the date when the Kerensky Government was thrown over. The organization of the first Society of Plastic Arts. The celebration is set for several days. On the first day of the celebration a monument to Socialism is to be unveiled. The Red Square [Petrograd] a stone will be put in honour the memory of those who died for Socialism. At the same time a large work is to be exhibited entitled, 'A Year of the Dictatorship of the proletariat.' Comrades Bukharin, Kamensky and Trotsky are to edit the work. It will contain articles by Lenin, Bella Kun, Radek, Professor Scher, Stalin, and others.

SERBIAN SOCIALISTS AND THE WAR.

Comrade Doushen Popovich, Secretary of the Serbian Socialist Party, publishes a long article in the Populaire de Paris. He says that right from the beginning of the world-war all sections of the Serbian Labour movement took up a hostile attitude towards the war because the thought that by trying to bring about peace they were best serving the international. "But what about our country having been attacked?" says Popovich. "Well, we have not overlooked this fact. But there are two means of dealing one's fatherland. One is to vote the war and to finance the war. The result is that the capitalists joined their bourgeoisie and destroyed the

KNIGHTS OF THE NEW CRUSADE.

Bottomley: "An indemnity of £10,000,000,000. Germany has a large number of lusty fellows who can work for us in the time to come. [These "lusty fellows" sent a donation to East End dockers on strike against Lord Devonport and the Port of London authority.] I regret the German taint in our Court, our Privy Council and Government departments. It is only fair to the King to say that His Majesty is doing his best to obliterate it."

Lord Bessford: "Let this nation invite the American nation to help us to command and police the seas. [What about world dominion?] The whole of the German fleet should be... sunk."

Havelock Wilson: "We must take the mercantile marine of Germany."

VOICE CATCHING IN EAST FIFE.

"We have also a new and to some extent an incalculable element—the ladies, who, I hope, in the spirit of magnanimity which is characteristic of their sex, will let bygones be bygones, and allow me to tender, with diffidence, but still with hope, the hand of welcome." Mr. ASQUITH, November 2nd, 1918.

NORTHCLEIFE IN PARIS.

Henderson and Huysmans have failed to get to Paris, but Northcliffe is there!

ANOTHER LIE NAILED!

It was widely reported that Marie Spiridonova had been shot by the Bolsheviks. Mr. Lockhart, who has been acting British Consul-General in Moscow reports that he met her in prison!

CARING FOR THE SOLDIERS' CHILDREN.

The National News has organised a boot fund for soldiers' children. It publishes extracts from the letters of soldiers' wives:—"My children have to go without food so that I can buy them second-hand boots, and then they only last a week or so."—(Betinal Green.) "Four of my children are away from school because they have no boots."—(S. Wales.)

THE INTERNATIONAL.

International, which can operate only if all the affiliated parties adopt a common course of action... Fortunately Socialism is not dead. At the time when Socialism seemed to fare badly, when the Workers' International appeared to be but a vision—the Russian Revolution broke loose that which is a magnificent affirmation of the Internationalist faith of Socialism.

We Serbian Socialists want to see every people freed but it must be the work of the peoples themselves, that is to say a consequence of the revolutionary action of the international proletariat. The War will not achieve anything in that direction. This is why we sympathise with those who oppose the War everywhere. This is why we greeted the Russian Revolution which was a revolution against the War and in favour of peace. The Russian Revolution has become the rallying point for all those Socialists who strive after a new International. This is why we approved of the Stockholm Conference. This is why we are ready to support every political movement which will strive for peace for the nations. We understand that Comrade Popovich lies dangerously ill at a London hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery so that he may help with the work of building up the Third International. A. S.

REAL WAGES AND NOMINAL WAGES.

6, Sackville Street, Reading.

DEAR EDITOR.—I cannot understand why Socialists should encourage strikes for increases of money wages to meet the extra cost of living. It has been shown that only powerful Labour organisations can succeed in obtaining them; and that only at the expense of those who do not get an advance. There is only one way to benefit the workers as a whole; that is to lower the price of commodities. I believe the Government could do that by firm dealing with the profiteers. Possibly peace alone can satisfactorily ease the situation. If the War is to go on, suffering is inevitable. All that can be demanded is that the suffering be made as equal as possible.

I cannot understand why Labour should not have made a detailed list of things that should go to make a satisfactory peace. The Labour War Aims Manifesto contains only generalities, and although Henderson has protested against a sliding scale Peace nothing has been done to prevent it.

But surely it is the duty of the Government which insists on fighting the war to a finish to provide the soldiers' wives and widows with the wherewithal to buy their children's boots! Why does not The National News ask Mr. Lloyd George to attend to the matter?

POST OFFICE PETTINESS.

As the War Office increases the separation allowance of soldiers' wives and relatives, the Postmaster-General deducts a like sum from the balance of wages, which is paid by the Post Office to the dependents of postal employees in the Army. Thus what is given by one Government department is taken away by another. Disabled men who are postal workers have the amount of their pension deducted from their wages during any illness caused by their disability and occurring within one month of resuming work. Such chequering meannesses by a Government department with unlimited money to spend, illustrate the need for the control of industry by the workers concerned.

BELGIAN PROFITEERS.

When it became known that the Germans have agreed to evacuate Belgium profiteers unloaded such enormous hoards of stores of meat, butter, and fats that the stuff was sold at pre-war rates. The Belgian people have been suffering from tubercular glands and other ills for lack of these very things!

WORTH IT!

A. J. Marriott of Reading writes: "I read the report of Miss Pankhurst's case in The Daily Telegraph and resolved to send a £1 for your funds, as I considered the repetition of the facts brought out in Miss Pankhurst's case, in a paper with such an enormous circulation as The Telegraph, well worth the £50 fine. The thing that astonishes me about our tyrants is that the lesson from Russia has no effect on them."

Victory now appears in sight for the Allies. But if we allow our Imperialists and militarists their own free will to increase our future responsibilities Conspiration will be forced on us for ever of necessity. —J. J. MARRIOTT.

"Wonderful good fortune enabled the island power to conduct a magnificent struggle for the mastery of the seas under such favourable circumstances, that England seemed at first to be defending the European balance of power, and subsequently to be fighting on behalf of the general freedom of the nations."—Trotzschke, 'History of Germany in the Nineteenth Century.' The quotation refers to the days when Lord Palmerstone was Foreign Secretary.

Gratefully Acknowledged

GENERAL FUND.—Countess of Warwick, £25; sale of tickets per Miss Casey, £10 11s. 7d.; Irene, per Mrs. Drake (20s. weekly), £4; Mrs. Marshall, 2s. 6d. COLLECTIONS: Mrs. Walker, £4 2s.; Miss Price, £2 8s. 4d.; Poplar Club, 6s. COCKNEY FAIR.—Dr. E. Bramley Moore, £1; Mrs. F. E. Rowe, £1; W. Carter, Esq., 10s.; Mr. C. Clarke, 10s.; Miss Violet Canston, 5s.; Mr. H. Morris, 5s.; Miss Lillie Perkins, 2s. SOCIAL WORK.—Poplar Garden Fete Committee, £10; Mr. and Mrs. Sudd Brown (20s. weekly), £8; per Miss Udney, £5 17s.; Profit on Nursery Social, £4 14s. 8d.; per Mrs. W. Sinclair, £3; Nurse Hebbes (10s. weekly), £2; Mrs. Baillie-Weaver (monthly), £2; Mrs. Boswell (monthly), £2; Misses Gulland (monthly), £1 15s.; Mrs. Richmond (10s. fortnightly), £1; per Miss J. E. Weir (monthly), £1; Contessa Isolani (monthly), £1; Mrs. Ayrton, £1; Mrs. E. A. Fielder, 17s. 9d.; London Fields Adult School, 13s.; Miss Burgess (sale of clothes), 12s.; Mr. A. Potter, 7s.; Misses Barrowman (monthly), 5s.; Miss J. T. Drevry, 5s.; Mary F. Melling, 5s.; Miss W. Turner (monthly), 4s. 6d.; H. M. Gunn, 2s. 6d.; D. Wilkie, Esq. (monthly), 2s. 6d.; Miss Symonds (quarterly), 2s. 6d.; S. M. Dodington, 2s. COLLECTIONS: L.S.A. 'Toolroom', £4 18s. 0d.; Misses E. Lagding and J. Watts (Greens Yard), £1 11s. 10d.

Friends are asked to send all orders for the "Dreadnought" to 152, Fleet Street, E.C. 4; otherwise prompt attention cannot be guaranteed.

to the Secretary of the Ministry and Bureau... said that if the Pensions Ministry use of the machinery already... here might be reason in the Bill, the meantime our right had to claim more... innations, demerits, the Bill was read a... right of the peoples' MS. us that Mr. Bonar... to grant facilities... statement...

the money will be collected. Please do your part... JOHN MACLEAN. We now learn on good authority that since July John Maclean has been on hunger strike... undergoing forcible feeding. Is this country... be the last in granting reprieves. Germany... shown the way by freeing Karl Liebknecht, w... popularity has been increased enormously by... unjust treatment meted out to him. When... go, to have our political prisoners... All... ions of the... Best...

LEA JEY'S LTD. WHOLESALE AGENTS. City Agent for 'Workers' Dreadnought'. 9 and 10, ST. EUSTACE AVENUE, E.C.4. (Late City, Don't miss it, Future no. Publish: C. Price 10s. 6d.)

REVOLUTION SPREADS TO THE CENTRAL EMPIRES—(Continued from Page 1112).

"But I find a strong belief that, side by side with the military arrangements, certain political assurances were given to the Turks. Their exact nature is not revealed, but I should guess that they were something of this kind: The preservation of Turkish rule over Armenia, and the maintenance of perhaps nominal Turkish sovereignty over Palestine, Syria, and Arabia. Obviously pledges of such a character would be fatal to Armenian national hopes and gravely injurious to those of the Jews and Arabs. It should also be recalled that, in the secret treaty concluded in 1915, France was promised a large slice of Armenia. That would be an additional reason for the rumour that France is far from pleased with what has just been done.

"If these speculations are correct there would be the further temptation to compensate France at the expense of the Jews in Palestine and the Arabs in Syria."

Oh, for the end of this sorry bargaining; and of the capitalist system to which it belongs!

JAPAN'S SHARE OF THE SPOILS.

The Japanese view on the position, as expressed by Marquis Okuma, is also illuminating:—

He says it is impossible to declare what will be the terms that Japan will demand at the peace conference. In view of the fact that Japan holds a very important position in the Far East, our claims must be settled in a way satisfactory to Japan at all costs.

1. Though we have a voice in questions affecting the Western front, the Balkans and the African Colonies, these do not direct the relations of Japan, and we ought to support England, France, and America in these questions.

2. Questions relating to the future of Germany and Russia should be decided in concert with the Allies with a view to the future perpetuation of the world peace.

3. Questions of an indemnity should be decided by a conference of the Allies.

4. The disposition of Samoa should be left to Great Britain and the United States for the purpose of abolishing the German base in the Pacific.

5. Australia will hold New Guinea.

6. The Marshall, Caroline, and Ladrones Islands, which the Japanese occupy, are valuable to Japan, but dangerous in the hands of Germany. As there is no reason why they should be given to a third Power, Japan must continue in possession of them.

7. The telegraph connecting Tsingtau and the South Seas, now in control of the Japanese Navy, will be transferred to Japan. The Tsinan Railway should also be held by the Japanese, Germany purchasing it from the owners.

8. Japan should confer with the Allies regarding the maintenance of order in Siberia. In reference to questions of concessions and other interests in these regions, no Power should be allowed to have a paramount voice.

9. In the relations of China with other Powers, the principles of the open door and equal opportunity should be maintained as heretofore.

In view of all this Lord Northcliffe's statement that Germany will lose her Colonies and has forfeited the "right to help Russia." Northcliffe would have a "boa-constrictor" help a lamb, we suppose! Northcliffe is said to be quite unofficial, but he is Minister of Information and appears to do anything he pleases with the War Cabinet.

The hypocrisy of the high falutin' talk of self-determination of peoples, in which the mighty now indulge, is exposed by the Russian Minister Tchicherin, who was interned for a time here in London. He says:—

"As a condition for an armistice, during which peace negotiations shall be begun, you have in your Note to Germany demanded the evacuation of the occupied territories. We are ready, Herr President, to conclude an armistice on this condition, and request you to inform us when you intend to withdraw your troops from Murmansk, Archangel, and Siberia."—Router.

The Peoples' Revolutions in Bulgaria, Austria-Hungary, and Germany are coming to the aid of the Peoples' Revolution in Russia. From the first the Bolsheviks have called to the toiling masses of Europe to come to their aid, to join them in building a new world. In spite of the long and perilous waiting they have surely believed that their call would be answered. The answer comes and Labour wakes at last—after the long, long years of waiting in which even the pioneers have known despair.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

DEPUTATION TO HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On October 15th and 17th deputations numbering about 200 soldiers and sailors' wives and widows and mothers attended the House of Commons from Scotland, from Wimbledon, organised spontaneously by the women themselves, and from London W.S.F. Branches, organised by Miss Price. The Wimbledon women summarised up their complaints and demands as follows:—

1. While the Government allows profiteering, the Army allowances is insufficient to properly feed, clothe, and house our children and ourselves.

2. The paid Secretary and Officials of the Wimbledon War Relief Committee are unable to distribute adequately.

3. No steps have been taken to stop libellous statements in the Press as to the moral conduct of the wives of men on active service, classing us with the few who, to supplement the insufficient pay, have "gone on the streets."

4. The British Military Authorities have been allowed to establish brothels in France for the use of our men there.

5. Women contracting a certain disease have been sent to prison with hard labour, while no action whatever has been taken with regard to men.

We therefore demand:—

(i.) Allowances for wives, widows, and mothers to be doubled, dating from July 1st, and to be child put on an equal rate of 10s. per child.

(ii.) That each soldier and sailor in H.M. Forces receive 6s. per day.

(iii.) That an efficient Minister of Food be appointed and the recent increases in the prices of commodities and of three months' leave be instituted so that men on active service can visit their home, and thus prevent the country from being devoured by disease as must inevitably follow under present conditions, and that

(iv.) That a definite system of three months' leave be instituted so that men on active service can visit their home, and thus prevent the country from being devoured by disease as must inevitably follow under present conditions, and that

6. Equal treatment be extended to both men and women in cases of venereal disease. Next week we shall publish an account of the deputation by one of the Wimbledon women. Miss Price reports that the women showed "splendid spirit and power to express themselves. At one time some of them were even talking between themselves of rushing into the House itself. But Members of Parliament do not yet take the matter seriously "it seems to be necessary to go in stronger force."

WHAT A SOLDIER'S WIFE THINKS OF IT.

On October 15th and 17th about two hundred soldiers' and sailors' wives and mothers from Wimbledon, Merton, and Raynes Park went on a deputation to the House of Commons, and were greeted with enthusiasm all the way by wounded Cornies, bus conductors, male and female, and police. We were all admitted to the outer lobby, and no doubt it seemed strange to those who are accustomed to the place to see little children running round and round the posts and throwing halfpennies on the floor to hear the pretty noise they made, while their mothers, with anxious and alert faces, enlisted the help of any and every member who came into the lobby.

Most if not all of us were new to the job but we fell into it wonderfully. We waited a long time for some of the members of Parliament, some were not present. Our own member, Sir Stuart Coates, did not come out and also Mr. Clynes. We were very anxious to see the latter gentleman and got round one or two good-natured Members to see what they could do to bring him out to us, with the result that Mr. Clynes is prepared to receive a "small" deputation early next week, if we will let him know the matter on which we wish to see him—as if there could be any question about it. The Committee against the extension of the military service, beyond the outbreak of the war, was not allowed. Such Members have only to stay in their castle to avoid answering awkward questions, and this is the House of representation for the country!

One gentleman said the dependents were getting quite sufficient to live on. He was promptly invited to take on the catering, but he didn't catch on. A woman with a baby in her arms showed him the shoes worn by the child, and he commenced looking around for a way of escape, and, finding none, exclaimed that he was not a Member, when he was allowed to take cover.

On both afternoons the Scotch Members looked after their people finely, and on Thursday afternoon I understand the women were taken to the Strangers' Gallery, where they heard their question discussed. Had we known the result we should have taken up our quarters in the House for the night as a protest against the inefficient and expensive method of administration adopted by the Government. The Relief Committees and the Civil Liabilities are expensive and inefficient, and with a very few exceptions it is the biggest liar not found out who gets the money. A fairer and better way would be for all

the money will be collected. Please do your part.

JOHN MACLEAN.

We now learn on good authority that since last July John Maclean has been on hunger strike, and undergoing forcible feeding. Is this country, and to be the last in granting reprieves. Germany has shown the way by freeing Karl Liebknecht, whose popularity has been increased enormously by the unjust treatment meted out to him. When we go to have our political prisoners resolutely and

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WORKERS' SOCIALIST FEDERATION.

LONDON MEETINGS. OUT DOOR.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8th. Queen's Crescent, Kentish Town.—5.30 P.M. Miss Price.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9th. Great Push in Tottenham for Peace, Socialism and Votes for All.—Meet at 3 P.M. at corner of High Road and West Green Road. Speakers: Mrs. Cole, Miss Price, Mrs. Walker, Mr. Moscovitch, and others.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10th. Osborn Street, Whitechapel.—11.45 A.M., Mrs. Walker. "Salmon and Ball"—11.45 A.M., Miss Price.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15th. White Cross Street, City Road.—12.30 P.M., Miss Price.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16th. Great Push in Poplar and Canning Town. Indoor. 400, Old Ford Road.—4.7 P.M., Irish at Home (see Advert.)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11th. 44, Malden Road, St. Pancras W.S.F.—2.30 P.M., Business Meeting.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12th. 400, Old Ford Road.—3 P.M., Miss Price.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13th. 44, Malden Road, St. Pancras W.S.F.—7 P.M., Miss Horfall, "Life in an English Colliery Village in the Twentieth Century."

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14th. 76, Whitechapel Road.—8 P.M., Mr. G. A. K. Luhani (C.C.L.), "Freedom." Chair: Mr. Moscovitch. Discussion.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15th. 400, Old Ford Road.—8 P.M., General Members' Meeting (London Section).

IRISH AT HOME

Sunday, November 10th. 400, Old Ford Road.—4.7 P.M. Short speeches by Miss Dorothy Matthews, Mrs. Metge, Mr. J. Connell (author of 'The Red Flag'), Mr. Pergus Carey, and others. Mrs. Walker in the chair. A musical programme will be provided by Mrs. Clara Cole, the Misses Freeman, Miss Nin Nevine, Miss Price, and others. Refreshments at popular prices. Collection.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12th. Walthamstow League of Rights, William Morris Hall, Somers Road.—7 P.M., Miss Sylvia Pankhurst. Chair: Miss Horfall.

COCKNEY FAIR.

The preparations for the Cockney Fair are going forward, but materials for making up, are urgently needed, blouse lengths, pieces for dressing jackets, &c., or any smaller odds and ends may be sent to Mrs. Fowler Shone, 104, Rodenhurst Road, Clapham Park, S.W., who is forming a work party. Also old, black cashmere stockings (footless) are needed by the Hon. Fair Secretary, Lydia Jewson, 54, St. Charles Square, Ladbroke Grove, W.; also clothing, materials to make-up, books, groceries, fancy goods, pottery, cakes and plum puddings, farm produce, flowers and plants, fruit and vegetables, toys, tobacco, &c.

MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Those whose subscriptions are in arrear should send them to their Branch Secretary, or to Miss Norah Smyth, 400, Old Ford Road, if they are headquarters members. Every member who has not already done so should send the 1s. per annum to the headquarters fund the establishment of which was resolved on at the last annual Conference.

On Thursday we had a really delightful evening when Eva Gore-Booth gave a reading from her poems. Miss Gore-Booth found us insatiable for things Irish, especially for those exquisite verses commemorating Easter Week and the death of Roger Casement. It is good to know that in these days when Socialists like Silas Wegg have a knack of dropping into "poetry" that there is one real poet on our side.

On Thursday, November 14th, Sylvia Pankhurst is lecturing for the branch at Chandos Hall at 7.30 P.M. David Ramsay of the Workers Committee Movement will be in the chair and J. Ferguson of the Stepney Herald League will give a recitation. Tickets 6d. each may be had from 29b, Lincoln's Inn Fields or at the door.

IRISH PRISONERS.

MAUD GONNE MACBRIDE.

Mme. Gonno MacBride's friends are in great anxiety about her health. An eminent specialist, called in by her son, has given a most alarming report. She has been in prison now since May and is said to have developed tuberculosis. Germany has set free her political prisoners, is it not time for us to have an amnesty at all events for the untried? If that is too much to ask, surely the Empire would survive the shock, if one woman in consumption were to be set free to try that open air treatment that is impossible under prison conditions. Her husband was shot after the rebellion of 1916. Do the authorities really wish an internment order to work out as a death sentence?

The news has come of Mme. Gonno's release, but in a strangely qualified form. She is released temporarily, to be under the charge of Dr. Tunnicliffe at Miss Allen's Convalescent Home, 55, Welbeck Street. Mr. Sughan MacBride asking for the meaning of the word "temporary" was told by the official that she had to stay one week in the nursing-home, he could not say what would happen then.

Meanwhile out of the 111 political prisoners suffering from influenza in Belfast Jail, 12 of the very worst cases have been removed to the Mater Hospital. The condition in Belfast Jail will be familiar to readers of THE DREADNOUGHT. Two nurses who visited the prisoners spoke strongly of the insufficient covering and discomfort of the plank beds for the patients. In all 600 political arrests have been made in Ireland since last May. And THE WESTMINSTER GAZETTE says that Mr. Healy's explanation of his reason for resigning in favour of a Sinn Fein appears to the plain British mind about as inadequate as it can be. What a wonderful thing it must be to have a plain British mind!

The newspapers are surprised that the loss of the Leinster has not stirred up those feelings of hatred and longing for vengeance in Ireland, that are so useful for recruiting purposes. Perhaps the reason of the lamentable absence among Irish people of these Christian virtues, is to be found in the fact that the Leinster was persistently refused an escort by the Powers that be. My last two journeys on the Leinster were in a way memorable. The first of these, in May, 1916, on the sad day of Connolly's death. How beautiful everything looked, and peaceful too, in the early morning coming into Dublin Bay, to the city of tears and lamentations and still smoking ruins, when that terrible act of atrocity had just been perpetrated. The next time was a contrast. The voyage home with a returning ex-

convict. How well I remember the kindness and friendliness of the crew, and the welcome of delightful stewardess friends. Thinking over these things, if one hates anything and is angry with anything it is with the idiotic brutality of war, and Empire, and the many atrocious deeds these evil dreams are responsible for; whether the murder of Connolly, or the sinking of the Leinster. That is, perhaps, not the frame of mind in which one would be likely to join up voluntarily.

The Irish Trade Union Party decided, at their Congress at the Dublin Mansion House, that the International demanded deeds not Words. They protested against the presence of those who represented the interests of international capital, and who had tried to prevent the working classes of the world meeting at the time of the Peace Conference. And then they did the deed. They resolved by a majority of 99 to 10 to demand the withdrawal of the delegates of the Sailors and Firemen's Union. Mr. Dillon may take heart, he has surely no need to worry about the want of international sympathy and activity in the new Ireland he deplors. Sometimes one wonders is it only one's national vanity that makes one dream that, in that dim future when conscription and militarism are forgotten nightmares, and the world belongs to the workers, some Irish International Socialist will write a special Irish chapter in his great book on 'The History of the Liberation of Humanity through the Struggles of Small Nationalities.' And will not that chapter be called 'How Ireland saved Europe'? This is no wild boast. Ireland is a small oppressed country, doubtless unimportant and negligible to the rulers of great empires, but she is holding the last post against triumphant militarism. EVA GORE-BOOTH.

SOCIALISM IN FRANCE.

L'Humanite, the organ of the Socialist Party has now resumed its socialist activities. In a leading article, Marcel Cachin openly blames the seamen and Mr. Havlock Wilson for refusing to take Henderson and Huysmans to France, and accuses the seamen of acting according to instructions from other quarters! Why should other quarters? instruct the seamen to do this or that? and on account of Henderson and Huysmans, too! If it were John McLean now I could understand!

Two thousand men and women are imprisoned in England for political offences. In France there are far more. Le Populaire and nearly all the Socialist publications have started a campaign for their release. W. RUNAN.

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"THE WORKERS' COMMITTEE" By J. T. MURPHY. A pamphlet explaining the Shop Stewards' Movement. Adopted by National Workers' Committee as the alternative to Whitley Report Proposals. Price 2d.

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