

THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

Socialism, Internationalism, Votes for All.

Vol. V.—No. 14

SATURDAY, JUNE 29th, 1918

Price Twopence.

FINLAND'S PLIGHT.

The following letter was addressed by Finns in Melbourne to the Australian Socialist Party, by the Finnish Society of Melbourne:—

DEAR COMRADES,—We beg to inform you that the Finnish Society of Melbourne have decided in their meeting, after discussion, about the most serious position which has taken place in Finland, a struggle of life and death, where thousands of innocent people are starving for want of bread. We feel that it is our duty to try and do our best, and help them as much as possible—the small nation who has taken the leading part in this world's great movement, and that is why we do not want to see the poor people being defeated by starvation, when every soul is in need, in this strenuous campaign.

We know how eagerly the capitalist class are wanting and fighting to the very utmost to crush the working class, and keep them from their rights and freedom; so that is why we ask you freedom-loving people to hear us.

Just a few points to clear the matter. What really has brought Finland to this exhaustive position, and what are the ideals. Even in the normal times Finland has never been able to produce enough food for its own use; millions of tons of rye have to be imported from Russia every year, and wheat and other grain produce again from Australia and America—as the country is poor, and claimed unsuitable, fit only for dairying and stock grazing, which has mostly kept the people alive this last couple of years. At the beginning of the war the industrial class was a bit better off, when the ammunition and war-works gave

employment to several thousands of workers, but since the Revolution broke out in Russia there has been no employment of any kind. All the exchange and commerce with other countries which Finland relies on has absolutely been stopped according to this cursed war. So it is clear enough what a struggle has taken place in the whole country, especially among the poorer class of people.

One of the biggest curses was at the beginning of this awful war; the Russian Government (then in power) sent one million Russian soldiers to Finland, several thousand to each town. Well, as we can imagine, what a tremendous quantity of food these soldiers used every day, and it was all found from the country. But this meant the shortening of the supplies from the mouths of the people. As a matter of fact, it forced the people to demonstrate against the way things were carried on; they could see where it would lead to.

The authorities promised Russia would provide Finland with food, but without result. So after all, they were told to get the food wherever they could. Russia could no longer supply them. Now again, after the Revolution, as we know, the big landlords refused to put enough crop in; last year's harvest was absolutely a failure, according to previous harvests during this war; for just the reason to beat the organised labour. Surely there is no honest, freedom-loving human being who wants to see this great movement being defeated after all the mournful sacrifice, where so many brave fellows have lost their very lives for the sake of the world, and that is why

we appeal to you people. (We know that you have been having strenuous campaigns and great things doing lately with large expenses.) It is our only hope to turn to you, friends and comrades, if we wish to help our fellow comrades. We might be able to save some of their lives, and help them to pull through this terrible struggle, which no pen can really describe.

Money is welcome from everywhere. They have collected here in Australia relief funds for many small nations—we are sorry to say that the suffering Finland, mostly in need, hasn't got a cent, which people for this last three years have been compelled to mix in their bread an island moss, sawdust, and bark from the trees, owing to the shortage of flour. Comrades and friends, we earnestly appeal to you once more. Do give us a helping hand for the nation in want. The relief funds in Victoria will be collected by "The Finnish Society of Melbourne." Similar funds have been opened also in Brisbane. All the collections will be forwarded to the "Central Trade Federation of Finland," in Helsingfors, Finland, Europe.—We are, yours truly,

O. E. SALONEN, *President.*
ELIAS MERIKANTO, *Vice-President.*
KARL V. SIMNIVER, *Secretary.*

Reuter's Agency has received the communication of a letter from a British source in Finland, dated the middle of May, stating that the country is on the verge of starvation. Children, suffering terribly from the results of the shortage, seemed to go to sleep at all hours of the day, while women were to be seen fainting in the streets.

THE NEW RUSSIA.

A Bolsheviki Ambassador explains a work accomplished.

The correspondent of *Avanti* at Berne interviewed the members of the new Russian legation in Switzerland, and among them the old Commissary of the people of Public Education, Lubarsky. *Le Populaire* of June 14th gives some extracts from his interesting report, in which he says that the revolutionary phase is now finished, and the work of reorganisation has begun. The greatest difficulties were caused by the sabotage of the higher employees, who refused all work but this difficulty is now at an end.

"Are the officials all converted to Bolshevism?" "Some of them undoubtedly are. The others work out of patriotism or for some other reason, but it is a fact that to-day they are returning to duty."

"Perhaps because of the high salaries?" "Ah! they do not get merely the general salary of 500 roubles a month, fixed at the beginning of the Bolsheviki Government which suffices for Lenin, the Commissaries of the People and others; the construction engineers and other technical employees receive more."

"A first concession?" "We could not do less. It is not opportunism, it is practical politics."

"Are the results that you obtain really good?" The newspapers continue to speak of the appalling disorganisation of the trains and of all the means of transport."

"In this field the evil was so vast, so deep that the world cannot see (some do not wish to see) the good result of our remedies. The disorganisation of the railways was frightful, but it begins to give place to a rigorous organisation, in which the

dictatorial régime instituted by the workers is most helpful. Frankly, I can assure you, Comrade, that our political adversaries themselves, even in fighting us unremittingly, must recognise the merits and successes of the Bolsheviki Government. Besides, the disorder was such that order cannot be hoped for within several months."

"But notwithstanding the reorganisation, the bread crisis continues to be terrible."

"Petrograd is the only town where things are, or rather were, very bad. But there also the situation is improving. The daily ration of bread of 50 grammes has been realised; and larger quantities of bread will certainly arrive in the future. There is bread in Siberia, there is bread in other parts of Russia, and the Ukraine will also give us some bread, even despite the treaty of alliance with Germany, in order to have machinery for agriculture, textiles, &c."

"And can Russia manufacture them?"

"Our factories which were making munitions are now making agricultural machinery. We neither lack labour nor raw materials. Again, recently, Norway wanted to obtain from us some industrial concessions for a period of thirty-five years, and you know that numerous demands for concessions have come to the Soviet Governments from the United States. All demands from foreigners have been and will be rejected."

The Executive Committee of Soviets consists of 75 per cent Bolsheviki, 20 per cent Socialist Revolutionaries of the left and 5 per cent Mensheviki, and others. The peasants and soldiers returned from the front, who are well organised, are Bolsheviki. Without doubt, the delegate of the Soviets does not deny all internal danger, but according to him the greatest dangers run

by the Russian Revolution come from the exterior enemies who also lend their aid to those inside, and against this eventuality, the only efficacious aid, in his opinion, must come from the foreign proletariat.

THE FORCES AGAINST THE SOVIETS.

The overthrow of the Bolsheviki in Siberia is widely announced and the early fall of the Soviet Government is confidently predicted. Philips Price, *The Manchester Guardian* correspondent, writing from Moscow on June 14th says that the anti-Bolsheviki Czech-Slovak forces are concentrated at two points, one in the region of Omsk, the other in the region of Samara. He says they have obtained Cossack support because "the basis of the Cossack movements is land" and "a fear of the tide of immigration of peasants from Muscovite Russia as a result of the calamitous economic state of the latter region has caused the Eastern Cossacks to unite to protect themselves." Further, the attempt of the Soviet Government to requisition grain in Cossack territories for the starving industrial districts of the north-west after the loss of the Ukraine has caused a reaction against Bolshevism. But the Bolsheviki are not yet defeated. The *Shanghai Daily News* correspondent at Harbin telegraphed on June 17th: "Colonel Semenov [the anti-Bolsheviki reactionary] has been forced to retreat hastily to Manchuria owing to three thousand Cossacks having gone over to the enemy after killing their officers, while the Red Guards threatened to outflank and cut off Colonel Semenov's force."

The *Times* Peking correspondent wired on June 20th that most of the Cossacks had deserted General Semenov. So information on the Bolsheviki position sways back and forth. The main sources of information being anti-Bolsheviki news must be received with reserve. *The Times* declares there is a Bolsheviki "Terror" organised against counter-revolutionaries. It reports that eighteen commissioners try counter-revolutionaries, who are only shot if the vote is unanimous.

whatever the final outcome of the war might be—that was their well-calculated policy... Between Japan and Germany there are no points of friction. It is therefore to be assumed that, if the result of the war proves favourable to us, this Power will be the first to stretch out to us the hand of peace.

The German newspaper with brutal frankness thus exposes the sordid, mercenary character of the whole business. Meanwhile our Russian comrades who are striving with wonderful courage and great success to establish Socialism are facing not merely German aggression but also the fact that the Allies may strike through war-like Japan!

IRELAND.

The return of Arthur Griffith, the imprisoned Sinn Fein candidate, for East Galway by a large majority shows the state of feeling in Ireland. Lord Curzon's statement shows that the Government has given way to the Unionists by again withdrawing the promise of Home Rule and to the hostility of the Irish people by dropping conscription. The Unionist and Sinn Fein forces, which together dominate the situation, are, however, still striving towards a climax. Lord Wimborne's declaration that neither he nor, as far as he knew, any member of the Irish Executive had any knowledge of the German plot and that he would like to know more of it is an indication that the Government is not too confident of its position in that matter. His complaint that all Irish offices have been filled with non-Catholic anti-Nationalists is ominous, as is the declaration of martial law in Tralee.

THE JAPANESE MENACE.

The *Times* of May 30th published a letter from its Peking correspondent, which throws an unpleasant sidelight on the Chinese civil war. According to this letter the Northern Army is for antireactionary, the Southern for a more democratic government. Allied capital and influence, according to *The Times*, is backing the Northern Army. It appears that because Tuan-Chi-Jui was prepared to bring China into the war, "The Allies made promises and gave loans to Tuan without assurances that he would proceed on constitutional lines. The foreign support and the loans enabled him to do as he chose." And this is done in the name of a war for freedom!

It now transpires that since Tuan-Chi-Jui came into power the resources of China have been heavily mortgaged for the upkeep of military operations.

The telegraphs have been pledged to a Japanese syndicate; the opium traffic has been revived; a secret treaty has given Japan a large measure of control over China's military forces; a Japanese has been nominated Financial Adviser; Japanese have been given control of the State banks, of the currency, and of innumerable national resources. Even the Peking correspondent of *The Times* is now urging the Allies to save China from "the military party, which is making ducks and drakes of the revenues and resources of the country to no profitable end whatever." *The Manchester Guardian* says: "It is melancholy to recall, however, that it was precisely with the blessing of the Allied Governments that the military party came into office."

This plainly shows us how little morality is to be

found in the international dealings of present-day capitalist Governments. But there is more to follow. After many months of agitation it now seems to be finally decided that Japan will invade Russia, ostensibly to counteract "German influence," and it is said that the Japanese Government is making even greater preparations for this effort than when it victoriously fought the Russian Czar. President Wilson is now said to have withdrawn his objections to the invasion. The comments on the situation of *Germania*, the organ of the German centre party, further illuminate the situation:—

"When Japan, who owes us a great deal, has nevertheless joined our enemies, the reason for it is to be sought not least in her shrewd policy. She wanted a free hand in the Far East without having to stake on the card the strength which she urgently needs for the future. She has actually succeeded in attaining, without fighting, as an ally of the Entente, what she could have attained as our ally only at the cost of very considerable sacrifices, namely, the domination over China and the paramountcy in the eastern parts of Siberia. The Japanese had realised that, if the war ended unfavourably for us, they, as our allies, would have to risk a good deal, and that, on the contrary, as our enemy they had nothing to fear from us even if the Entente were beaten by us. As for employing their strength to any appreciable extent in the European theatres of war, they had never thought of doing that in any circumstances. Their alliance with our enemies, therefore, could only bring them advantages

W.S.F. LONDON MEETINGS.

OUT DOOR.

FRIDAY, JUNE 28th.
Grundy Street, Poplar.—11.30 A.M., Miss Price.
Dock Gates, Poplar.—7.30 P.M., Mrs. Walker, Miss Smyth.

SATURDAY, JUNE 29th.
Great Push for Peace, Socialism and Votes for All in the Kentish Town District. Meet 44, Malden Road, Kentish Town, at 2.45 and 5.30 P.M.; meetings at 3 and 6 P.M. Speakers: Mrs. Cole, Miss Price, Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Gossling.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30th.
Osborn Street, Whitechapel.—11.45 A.M., Miss Price.
Mile End Waste.—5 P.M., Mrs. Walker.

TUESDAY, JULY 2nd.
Hague Street, Bethnal Green.—11.30 A.M., Miss Price.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3rd.
Grundy Street, Poplar.—7 P.M., Mr. A. A. Watts and others.

FRIDAY, JULY 5th.
Queen's Crescent, Kentish Town.—8.30 P.M., Miss Price.

SATURDAY, JULY 6th.
Great Push in Waterloo Road.

INDOOR.

MONDAY, JULY 1st.
44, Malden Road, Kentish Town (St. Pancras W.S.F.).—2.30 P.M., Business Meeting.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3rd.
Islington and Holloway Branch Liberty Club and Institute, 318, Green Lanes, Finsbury Park.—8 P.M., Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.

TUESDAY, JULY 2nd.
Walthamstow League of Rights, William Morris Hall, Somers Road.—2.30 P.M., Miss Horsfall.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30th.
Kingsley Hall, Bow.—8.15 P.M., Speaker, Subject:

SUNDAY, JULY 7th.
Mrs. Furniss (Woman's Labour League), 'The Problem of Housing from the Christian Point of View.'

DREADNOUGHT FUND.

Twenty-nine Socialist and Progressive members of the 2nd Southern Co. N.C.C. Portsmouth, have sent 12s. 6d. as a slight expression of thanks for the DREADNOUGHT's efforts on behalf of their N.C.C. comrades in France.

POPULAR HOUSING CAMPAIGN.

The effect of the deputation sent by the Poplar Local Labour Party to urge that the persons rendered homeless by air raids should be accommodated in good houses standing empty, whether inside or outside the borough, was most disappointing. The point was unfortunately not made clear by the spokeswoman, and the Borough Councillors proceeded to disgrace themselves by recrimination, in which the welfare of the people was entirely forgotten. Whether people are "pacifists making money out of the war" or "lingoes," "making money out of the war and trying to prolong it," is really of minor interest. Gentlemen of the Council you should endeavour to forget your own insignificant personalities and concentrate your attention on the work which you have been elected to perform.

FREE WORLD CRUSADE,

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ALEXANDER HUNTER.

A GERMAN SOLDIER'S PEACE POEM.

A GERMAN SOLDIER'S PEACE POEM.
A poem, of which the following is a translation which appears in the June issue of *Flying*, was found on the dead body of a German soldier. The British authorities reproduced the letter in facsimile and threw it from aeroplanes into the German lines. Some of the copies were blown into the British lines and a British soldier who caught one sent it to *Flying*. The editor of *Flying* writes: "Its value for propaganda purposes is a matter of opinion. The sentiment is of the class that Americans describe as "mush." We disagree with the editor of *Flying*. This German soldier voices our own view:—

I was a soldier, but only by compulsion;
When they enlist me a feeling of revulsion
Obsessed me, as away from those who cared
They drove me to the barracks like the common
herd.
Yes, from the homestead and those I loved so
dearly
I had to vanish, and now I feel sincerely
The pangs of longing for the home I blessed
And anger's passion surges in my breast.

INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION
(continued from page 1028).

average size. Such diverse views are advanced... Parliament has not the information... Statutory figures are in the highest degree inelastic, and can only be changed by further legislation; and meanwhile irreparable damage might be done... The Trade Boards might ask power to be given to them to set rates that they would rise gradually, and allow the trades time to adapt themselves to the new conditions. That is the principle on which we have worked in our trade union experience... We have generally been able to compromise and make arrangements whereby the advances, mutually agreed upon, were brought into operation by degrees... I want to see the whole of our industries covered by joint industrial councils or wages boards... I feel that both of them are essential to the maintenance of harmony in industry... Obviously, the Trade Boards and Industrial Councils are intended to maintain and preserve from danger the capitalist system of industry. What we desire, on the other hand, is to overthrow the system!

The majority of the present Trade Union leaders appear already to have committed themselves to these Boards and Councils. They have evidently enjoyed their association with Government Departments and private employers in war-work and they desire to continue the partnership. The longer the partnership is maintained the further the Trade Union leaders drift and will drift from communion with the workers in the industries—the producers who maintain all the rest.

To achieve the socialisation of industry, in face of the joint forces of Governments and employers and old-fashioned Trade Union leaders, the workers must build up their own rank and file organisations, in which the officials must remain workers in the shops, appointed merely as delegates always subject to recall and acting only under instructions. The organisation of the Workers' Committee in the workshop, as differentiated from the residential branch, becomes the more imperative, because the Whitley Industrial Councils include workshop bodies and undoubtedly a more intimate and practically useful appeal is made by a body formed of those who work together, and thus able to deal effectively with each workshop incident as it arises, as well as with questions affecting the entire district or the industry as a whole. Old-fashioned trade unionism, both by its faulty structure and indefinite spirit will be beaten in the struggle against the Whitley Councils.

The new Trade Boards Bill will undoubtedly pass in some form or other. The Whitley Industrial Councils will be set up in many trades. The Boards will make insignificant alterations; the Councils will accomplish very little because the employers' representatives will not agree to any but minor alterations. The great fights, the momentous changes will be made by the power of the workers organised independently of these bodies. Those who desire the establishment of the Industrial Socialist Commonwealth in our time, will concentrate on organising the workers' rank and file committees and in spreading the propaganda of Socialism amongst the workers. Serious Socialists have no time to spare for building up compromise bodies.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

THE INTERNATIONAL.

TROELSTRA'S PASSPORT.

The British Labour Party invited Troelstra, the Dutch Socialist, to its Conference. His passport has been refused. What pressure has the Labour Party employed to secure the passport? What protest will it make?

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

The Austrian peace and food strikes grow in frequency and accompanying violence. It appears that two movements are convulsing the country, the workers' struggle for emancipation and the racial antagonisms between Germans, Poles and the smaller nationalities. The Jewish Correspondence Bureau at the Hague reports also the fomenting of an anti-Semitic movement and says speeches at the German National Congress in Vienna in which the Burgomaster and Members of Parliament blamed the Jews

for the food shortage, were greeted with cries of "Pogrom." Since the racial feuds do not strike at capitalistic supremacy they are able to secure wealthy influential backing as well as receiving allied support. The Italians have held conferences with the Southern Slavs; Professor Mazaryk, the Bohemian, has been powerfully helped in his anti-Austrian campaign in Britain and America. Nevertheless, in spite of any efforts which may be made to side-track the Social Revolution by racial feuds, the workers' movement has undoubtedly grown to formidable proportions. The *Arbeiter Zeitung* of June reports a manifesto issued by an Imperial Conference of the German-speaking Socialists which, whilst stating that "the excited masses would like to hear only one call—the call to a rising," advises them not to strike now as the present position is unfavourable. These are the counsels of the moderates. That they feel it

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

FAMILY LIMITATION DOCTRINE. Post free, 14d. Malthusian League, 48, Broadway, Westminster.

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

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INTERNATIONAL YOUNG AGE PENSIONS
Dear Friends of Humanity,—In order to relieve the terrible poverty and suffering that is devastating Europe, let us endeavour to place the children and all those who are helpless in comparative safety by securing SEVEN SHILLINGS A WEEK each for them from the state, that we may be free to work for other reforms. At present, whilst they are exposed to cold, poverty and hunger, we can think of nothing else. To a week would ENABLE FAMILIES TO MOVE AT ONCE INTO BETTER HOUSES, and to obtain better milk and food. This would stimulate local trade and reduce expenses of WORK-HOUSES, HOSPITALS, PRISONS and LUNATIC ASYLUMS, and do away with all poor rates to such an extent as to be A GREAT SAVING to the taxpayers, and would enable sensible girls to marry where they would otherwise not dare to do so, and to bring up healthy happy children to become stalwart citizens and parents in their turn, besides relieving untold pain and suffering, and being an estimable benefit to the State.

The fact of a married man becoming automatically POORER at the birth of each child constitutes a cruel wrong to all children, and until each child has 7s. a week in its own individual right, as an infant citizen, suffering, war, disease, and poverty can never be abolished. Let us all demand this from our different Governments now, before it may be too late.

S. MACKENZIE KENNEDY. [Advt.]

necessary to give them is significant. The following resolution mutilated by the censor was passed by the conference:—

The peace treaties of Brest and Bucharest contradict the principles of a peace by understanding, without annexations and indemnities. (Several lines excised by the censorship.) The conference therefore protests against the contents of these peace treaties, and demands that they should be submitted to the Reichsrath for examination and acceptance before they are ratified.

The conference calls upon the Governments of the Central Powers to offer to the Governments of the enemy countries a general peace on the following basis:—

1. The establishment of an alliance of nations of all countries which should carry through a general disarmament and settle all disputes between nations by arbitration courts.

2. Renunciation of all annexations and indemnities, in the west and south as well as in the east and south-east.

3. The border nations separated from Russia to be given complete right of self-determination. The rest is blank.

The Austrian Parliament cannot meet as the Cabinet is without a majority. The Emperor hesitates to accept the Premier's resignation. Austria seems to be on the verge of revolutionary happenings. A general strike has broken out in Hungary. Is Austria-Hungary about to follow the lead of Russia?

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