KNOWLEDGE MUST PRECEDE ALL INTELLIGENT ACTION

ORGANISE

THE WORKER

EDUCATE

THE ORGAN OF WORKERS' COMMITTEES SCOTLAND

Edited by JOHN S. CLARKE

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AN APPEAL TO THE WORKERS OF BRITAIN.

The capitalist system, the system of production for the sake of profit, is hastening to its fall. The world war has destroyed the productive energies of Europe, wrecked the vital strength of the peoples, and burdened the States with enormour war debts. The world trade is hampered, the lack of raw material hinders the revival of industry, the fields yield but poor harvests. Money is depreciated, the fluctuations in the rate of exchange lame all international traffic. The exorbitant cost of living which still keeps rising reduces the middle classes to the level of the proletariat, famishes the masses, and forces the workers to defend their status of life in ever fiercer struggles against capitalism. The capitalistic class proves unable to build up again the system of production. Society sinks deeper and deeper into chaos. The continuation of the capitalistic system threatens humanity with destruction.

Hence the necessity arises for the working class to take into its own hands the management of production, and start it as production for the needs of the entire people, all capitalistic profit and all rent being abolished, as a process of labour efficiently organised and centrally regulated.

This is possible only when the proletariat first conquers the political power, and establishes its dictatorship over society, in order to break the resistance of the bourgeoisie against expropriation, the abolition of profit.

The glorious example of the Russian Soviet Republic where industrial workers and peasants have thrown off the yoke of the exploiters of all kinds, and conquered political power, shows the working of the other countries how the proletariat exercises its dictatorship by means of the Soviet system. The Soviet system, the system of proletarian democracy, consists in the representation, on the basis of their association in the work itself, of all those who work in the factory or the field.

Therefore we appeal to the workers of all countries to follow this example, and with the utmost energy to wage the war for their deliverance. They must attack and undermine capitalism, enfeebled already, and the bourgeois State-power by ceaseless mass-actions (demonstrations, strikes).

At the same time they must build up their own class organisations, their Soviets, as organs of the coming order of society. And when then at last the despotism of the bourgeoisie breaks down under their attacks, they must boldly seize the power and create the new world of Communism.

LI. G.: "Go and find out Who, What, and Where we are fighting, and how we can get out of it."

DEBATE at Edinburgh between Prof. SAROLEA and Wm. GALLACHER.

At a recent "Hands off Russia" meeting in Edinburgh, Professor Sarolea challenged anyone to oppose him in the contention that "Bolshevism is theoretically indefensible and in practice has proved a failure." The challenge was accepted, and the debate took place on Sunday night in Pringle's Picture Palace, Edinburgh. The hall, which accommodated about 1,500, was at an early hour filled to overflowing, and the chairman, Professor Sir Richard Lodge, had just commenced to introduce the debate when the hundreds outside broke down the barriers and flooded the meeting, filling every crevice.

Prof. Lodge introduced Prof. Sarolea and Prof. Gallacher (loud cheering), and said at least they would regard them both as professors to-night.

Prof. Sarolea considered that Mr Gallacher and he were rendering a service to the community in debating the subject, for it was time that the conspiracy of silence and the the conspiracy of lies about Russia should cease. There were two aspects of Bolshevism—the Bolshevism of high foreign policy, and the Bolshevism existing in Russia. It was with the latter he would deal.

If he had taken any side, it was against the Government intervention in Russia. Those who sand "Hands off Russia" had his entire sympathy. He believed that Russia must be allowed to achieve its own salvation. He was not going to deal with atrocities, because he believed atrocities were a side-issue. He was going to take his opponent's own cards, and discuss it in the name of Socialism. It, Bolshevism, is going to bring about a wave of reaction all over the world. Hungary was yesterday Bolshevist and is now reactionary. Hindenburg yesterday had started the Bolshevist movement in Berlin, and we will see the difference between White terrorism and Red terrorism. In the first place, you will admit that Socialism stands for the nationalisation of the means of production. The fact is to-day that Russia is now more individualistic and less communistic. The peasants have appropriated the land, and we have seen a large extension of private ownership of the land. We see happening in Russia to-day what happened in France in 1870. Russia is becoming a great land of peasant proprietorship. There is a bitter opposition between town and country. The Bolshevists have tried to protect themselves by sowing dissension between the poor peasant and the rich one, but what has happened to-day is the breakdown of the Bolshevist system because of the opposition of the peasant. They are sending out to the country machine guns and pamphlets. The peasants cannot read—and they fight the machine guns wiith scythes. In the second place, Socialism stands for the abolition of the Capitalist and the profiteer. Now, to-day in Russia profiteering and smuggling is more rampant than before the war, and in the near future we are going to see a very orgy of American capital in Russia, and in the near future Russia will be a paradise for the Capitalist and the concessionaire.

Again, Socialism stands for the intensification of production, but we know that under Bolshevism work is becoming not more productive but less productive.

He went on to say that Socialism also stood for government of the people for the people by the people, but that the Soviet Constitution, after giving over administration and power to the workers, by another section reserves power(to the Central Executive) to take any step to safeguard the Revolution. He pointed out that there were four classes for rationing, and that professors, for instance, would be in the third class, and receive no bread but a herring. Bolshevism stands for anarchy, corruption in high places, and immorality below. "Finally," he said, "Socialism stands for peace. Bolshevism was initiated in the name of peace and has resulted in a new form of militarism, and I put it to you that where peacefully Bolshevism had failed, militarily it had succeeded."

He declared that there was plenty of food in Russia and yet the people were dying of starvation, largely because the peasants will not part with the food because they distrust the Bolshevists. Intervention has not weakened the Bolshevists but strengthened them.

"It is one of the lessons of history that all Revolutions are run by small minorities, and the fact that the Bolshevists have survived does not in the least mean that they are a majority." The survival he proceeded to attribute to the long docility of the Russian and terrorism. Again it had survived largely because of the great ability of its leaders. "Lenin," he said, "is a man of great character and so is Trotsky." He concluded by saying that Bolshevism was a betrayal of Socialism and the Socialist cause, that the present state of Russia was starvation and chaos, and that the future situation would be a return to white terrorism in the form of a Russian Hindenburg, or a return to Tzarism.

Mr Gallacher, who was welcomed with a prolonged outburst of cheering, said that at the outset Prof. Sarolea commenced this debate with the admirable injunction that there should be no red herrings drawn across the trail, and then he had diligently proceeded to draw a red herring across the trail. "Prof. Sarolea says there are various aspects of Bolshevism in high places," said Mr Gallacher. "I tell him that what he calls Bolshevism in high places is British Imperialism, and he is trying to draw a red herring by confusing British and German Imperialism with Bolshevism. These have stood always for brutality, conquest, and rape. We will leave them out. We take it that Bolshevism means the Soviet form of Government, because the Bolsheviks were the only body who were prepared to come forward and head the Soviet form of Government. He says it is opposed to Socialism, and that there is a reaction all over Europe. I admit that. So long as Socialism is mere theorising you can speak Socialism in every part of the country, but once the Bolshevists started to put Socialism into practice, all the Capitalist Governments set out to crush it."

He went on to point out that when the Revolution broke out in 1917 there was no discipline in the army, and that it was utter nonsense to pretend that the Russians were prepared for submission by years of Tsarism. He showed how they had at first a political Government under Miliukoff, a minority which tried to use the Government just as the Tsar had done. Why did it not succeed? Because the soldiers and people cried out, "Give us bread and peace." It could not do these things and went down. Kerensky came in, and he could not do it, and another Government went down, and Kerensky had to form a third provisional Government. The third and fourth went down, and the people still cried for bread and peace. The Bolshevists pointed out that these people could never give them bread and peace, and said, "All power to the workers, all power to the people," and the people overthrew Kerensky, and since that time the Russian workers have been rebuilding Russia. It is not true that the workers are slacking. He then pointed out the numbers of Russian people who were killed and wounded, and the collapse generally of the internal organisation during the war. That there was a poor railway system, and it had crumbled so that there was practically no railway system when the Revolution broke out. They had all that to face. The Bolshevists when the Revolution carried them to power disbanded the army, made peace, and called on the workers of the world to do likewise. They appealed to Britain for transport material to carry food from one point of Russia to another, and the magnanimous British sent them poison gas and tanks. And yet it could be stated here that there was only one organisation and that was the army! Could anyone picture an organised army living on nothing? Before you can have a well organised army you must have a well organised production. It might be easy here with the advanced production, but there in Russia the fact that the Bolsheviks were able to develop a red army proves that there must have been a well organised movement outside. Mr Gallacher, in reply to Prof. Sarolea's remark about Russia being a great food producing country, said that the food was produced mostly in Ukraine and Siberia, and that the counter revolutionaries had made for these places. The blockade made it impossible to get transport material to carry the food, etc., in Russia. The starvation in Russia had been caused by the British blockade. Prof. Sarolea was wise to exercise that discreet silence about atrocities. Mr Lockhart and other foreign Government agents had plotted day after day in Moscow as to how they could keep food out of Petrograd. That was the sort of thing the Bolshevists had to contend with.

Coming to the peasants, Mr Gallacher said that as to Prof. Sarolea's point about there being more individual ownership of land since the Revolution, he freely admitted that. The churches had lost their land and the barons their land. That had been used for purposes of rent. Kerensky had promised the land to the peasants. He was a politician, and politicians promise anything. They promised, but the barons and churches held on to the land. The Bolsheviks would rather work the land communally, but **they gave** the land to the peasants. "Now watch how mp opponent mixed himself up on this matter. He says Bolshevism means individualism, and then he says Bolshevism has broken down because of individualism. Bolshevism, as I said, is Socialism, Bolshevism is Socialism applied." Prof. Sarolea said that intervention helped Bolshevism. I admit it. Wherever our allies, Kolichak, Denniken & Co. had gone they had taken the land from the peasants and given it back to the barons and churches." He went on to state that the Bolshevists had started demonstration farms all over the country, and were showing the peasants all the advantages to be gained from communal farming, and that the peasants were adopting that point of view daily. "We recognise," he summed up, "that the only cry that can save the people is the cry, 'All power to the workers,' and the workers will march forward to victory." Cheers were given for the Revolution and the speaker.

Questions were then taken, one lady asking if Bolshevism had done anything to raise the status of women, to which Mr Gallacher replied in the affirmative, adding that all the observers—who were not workers—had testified to the fact that prostitution had been banished from the streets of Petrograd and Moscow.

Prof. Sarolea in his second speech reiterated what he had said about the peasants, and again referred to the position of the intellectuals, saying that these had been largely instrumental in bringing about the 1905 Revolution, and also in this, and that the Bolshevists had either imprisoned them or driven them into exile. He said that the Bolsheviks had largely failed because they had despised the brain power. He instanced the case of his brother, who was a specialist in organising transport, and who, instead of having his knowledge taken advantage of by the Bolshevists, was cast into prison. He further stated his apprehensions that Bolshevism led to reaction, and cited Hindenburg and Germany to-day.

Mr Gallacher in reply quoted Prof. Goode, and gave details of what had ben done regarding the peasants and the soil. He also, in reference to Prof. Sarolea's antagonism to the red army, said that that red army would have been unnecessary if the workers of other countries had been as intelligent as the Russian workers. He allayed the Professor's fears by assuring him that Russia would be built as a Socialist republic. He added that, so far as concerned the intellectuals, the Bolshevists had not despised them, and that to-day thousands of these people had come over and were working enthusiastically for the Soviet Republic. He instanced Krassin, who was in charge of transport, and who was one of the greatest organisers in that line the world had seen, if one could judge from achievements. Tchicherin, who was one of the aristocracy, was working night and day practically for the Workers' Republic. They did not despise the intellectuals, but they did despise those who would live on the labour of others and give no service in return.

Prof. Sarolea briefly summed up, and the chairman, after a vote of thanks, moved by Mr Gallacher, closed the meeting.

A. W.

WORKERS and PEASANTS.

By Paul Faure

The question of propaganda among the rural population is an item on the agenda of every Socialist party.

Even before the war, we were convinced that our endeavours would be incomplete and fruitless were we to address ourselves exclusively to the workers in the large towns and the industrial centres. To-day this is a deeper truth than ever before. It is useless for us to repeat such obvious facts as that a revolutionary situation exists everywhere, that the Capitalist system is incapable of re-establishing and maintaining a staple order of things either within the State or without, that civilisation will never recover a solid basis from which to develop unless we inaugurate a universalised Socialist system. Our every endeavour will prove unavailing so long as the sons of the toil, or at least a great number of them, have not grasped the meaning and scope of our solutions.

One truth, which above all others we must force upon the attention of our fighters in every working class organisation whether industrial or political, is that no revolution will be successful without the co-operation of the rural population. The provisioning of the towns, so vital a question with any government, is impossible unless the land workers consent to give their political and social adhesion to the new order, and to co-operate with the labour of their hands.

The Russian revolution has survived because its leaders have been able and have known how to interest the millions of cultivators in its destinies. After being accused of impotence, of disorganisation, of wasteful anarchy, what a triumph for our Russian comrades to note that such a man as Lloyd George is obliged to recognise that the granaries of the Soviet republic are bursting with corn, that the economic collaboration of Bolshevic Russia is calculated to alleviate the acute famine raging in Central Europe, and that even the victorious nations will profit by the resumption of economic relations! When we said that the idea of a sanitary cordon or of barbed wire defences around Russia was a two-fold crime, in that such devices would tend to starve a nation of more than 100,000,000 inhabitants, and would, further, lead to higher cost of living among ourselves, we were told that we were a pack of short-sighted economists, if nothing worse. Events have proved us right. We may state, parenthetically, that the rulers of France, blinded by their reactionary hatred, will be the last to concede us our dues.

But to return to my subject. The Russian revolution has made good, has passed victoriously through the most terrible trials, because the peasant masses were won over to its support.

The Bavarian revolution was crushed because of the peasant opposition.

The German revolution remains, for the same reason, a note of interrogation. Quite recently Crispien, one of the leaders of the independent Socialists, confessed that the party whose influence was extensive in the towns, had practically no following in the country districts. It is not difficult to understand why the bourgeoisie holds so firmly to the peasantry. The bourgeoisie realise only too well that by organising and arming the peasants they are making willing recruits for the counter-revolutionary army.

The peasants are a danger. But they are also our hope. We can win over to our cause the dwellers in farm and village if we set to work methodically, and enter into our task with ardour and clear-sightedness. Wherever we have already laboured in this way the results have been good.

A few days ago there appeared, under the auspices of the Socialist Party, the first issue of a weekly magazine, "La Voix Paysanne," edited by Compere Morel. It is of supreme importance that every member of the party should become a subscriber to this little paper which will specialise upon the relationships between Socialism and the agrarian problem. All of us should read "La Voix Paysanne" whether we be country dwellers or town dwellers, whether we follow the plough or work in the factory. It is only by a clear understanding of the aspirations and the reciprocal needs of the land workers and the town workers that we can hope to blow away all the misunderstandings and lies which the bourgeoisie is so careful to foster. The bourgeoisie knows that dissentions between workers and peasants are the best means for securing a triumphant counter-revolution.

Let us examine these problems in our urban branches. Let us look at them from the practical every-day point of view. Thus shall we raise the level of our discussions on this question, and clear the air of those misconceptions which arise from theoretical study harvested from books and subsequently ill-digested.

Again I express the hope that all who can do so, and at least every group, will subscribe to "La Voix Paysanne."

(Translated from "Le Populaire" of Sunday, February 15, 1920, by Edin and Cedar Paul.)

The Class-Conscious Study of English Literature

By VALERIAN ROEL.

The "Return to Nature" preached by Rousseau was set forward in many a piece: anti-militarism was hinted at, the worth of common sentiments and of common persons was emphasised. Undoubtedly the drame did much to further that general permeation of the community with revolutionary ideas that found its expression in action in the year 1789.

Among the English plays of this type none had greater influence than the bourgeois prose tragedy of LILLO entitled "The London Merchant, or George Barnwell," which, poor as it seems to-day, sent its audience into teaars and remained well known to theatrical audiences until well into the 19th century.

Lillo's work, however, did not appear until near the middle of the 18th century, and the French drame was not in full possession of the stage of Paris until 1750. To give an idea of the time we must return to the age of Anne (1700-1714) and treat of the writers who, more than any others, and themselves unconscious of the fact, laid the basis of our modern literature.

Among these not the least famous are ADDISON and STEELE, who between them conducted that most famous of periodicals, "The Spectator." Visualising an imaginary club, with members from almost every branch of civil life, from the country squire to the merchant and the town roue (the labourer of course was excluded, for literature had to move from the aristocratic to the bourgeois ere it could become proletarian), visualising this imaginary club Addison and Steele were enabled not only to satirise in a general way all the manifold follies and artificialities of their age but to express the spirit of a more enlightened humanitarian sentiment. To gain an insight into the details of a period, to be charmed by graceful, easy prose, to be amused with a quiet unobstrusive joke, and a quaint sally nothing can be found more delightful to read than the "Spectator" papers, especially those of Addison himself. The other works of these two writers are, however, almost negligible, Steele's comedy of "The Conscious Lovers" alone being valuable, both intrinsically for its merits and historically as a representative of the sentimental school.

The poet Pope has already been mentioned, but poetry was not the forte of the Age of Prose and Reason, and all that Pope's verses display is commonplace sentiment expressed with a lucidity which makes us admire his patience and industry, if not his genius. The other poetry of the period is negligible, although possibly a few pieces of the succeeding years may retain a flavour of beauty. Among these "The Country Churchyard" of GRAY will retain a high place, as will THOMSON'S "The Seasons" and one or two pieces of COWPER.

In prose the periodical and with it the essay have already been noticed. In drama the rise of sentiment has been indicated, but what really distinguishes the 18th century is the development of the novel.

Tales, of course, have been known from the most primitive times, and some fairy tales are the oldest pieces of literature which we possess. Greece with "The Golden Ass" of Apuleius (of which the story of Eros and Psyche well deserves reading) produced a continuous tale with a connected plot; but the novel as a form of literary art undoubtedly took its rise in this century under discussion. It probably owed a little to the lengthy "romances" of the French school of the De Scuderys, and still more to the tentative realistic experiments of Greece and of Nash in Elizabethan days; but fundamentally it stands as a thing artistically apart from all its predecessors, and, more peculiar still, within the space of a few years developed in almost every conceivable direction.

The marvellous energy of DANIEL DEFOE gave to the world the first sea-tale of adventure, "Robinson Crusoe," the first "picaresque" novel or novel of rascal life; the first ghost story, "The Apparition of Mr Veal"; and the first realistic diary, "The Diary of a Cavalier." His work is noticeable, not for fine style or for beautiful expression, but rather for a unique presentation of realistic detail which makes us unsure whether what he relates be fact or fiction. One of his political or religious pamphlets entitled "The Shortest Way with Dissenters" was so cleverly written that at first it was accepted by the High Church Party as the perfect expression of their views, and only later was it discovered to be a highly-charged and subtle satire directed against that very party itself. It cost its poor author, after the discovery of that fact, not a little punishment in the pillory.

(To be continued.)

A builder, when returning thanks to those who drank his health, modestly observed that he was "more fitted for the scaffold than public speaking."

GLASGOW COMMUNIST GROUP.

Headquarters: 13 Burnbank Gdns., Glasgow, W. Founded 1912. Fused with the Glasgow Anarchist Group, February, 1916. Now resumes its old title in order to assert the need for Communist unity. Stands on its original and unchanged program of agitation, education, and organisation towards Revolution. A definite anti-parliamentarian organisation.

The following Meetings will be addressed by

GUY A. ALDRED

Sunday, 21st March, at 6.45 p.m., in Hall, 9 Watson Street (Glasgow Cross).

Subject—
"WOMEN PIONEERS."

Wednesday, 24th March, at 8 p.m., in Labour Institute, Ewing Place, Parkhead.

Subject—
"OUR COMMUNIST PROGRAM."

Thursday, 25th March, at 8 p.m., in Hall, 9 Watson Street.

Subject—
"THE TRUTH ABOUT PAISLEY."

OPEN-AIR MEETING at Bath Street Corner, Tuesday, 23rd March, at 7.30 p.m. Speaker, Wm. C. M. M'Dougal. Subject, "The Vicious Circle."

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March 20, 1920.

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DIRECT ACTION.

"They can threaten,
They can bellow,
They can go investigate,
But the cost of living rises just the same.
They can fume and
They can holler,
They can go and legislate,
But the cost of living rises just the same.
They can talk of deportation for the hardy profiteers,
They can swank the silly public with their crocodilian tears,
They can wave their fists and orate for a half million years,
But the cost of living rises just the same.

It is the easiest thing in the world for the Capitalist press to scream lustily over the T.U. vote against "Direct Action," and to pretend that such a vote implies a "victory for constitutionalism" (as if the strike wasn't a constitutional weapon), meaning, of course, a victory for reaction. But it implies no such thing. The buttery-mouthed treachery of men like Clynes and Thomas carries a certain weight in a peaceful congress when discussion hinges upon a policy like Nationalisation—advocated as strenuously these days by Liberals of the A.G.G. type as at any time by I.L.Pers. and Fabians. But let the tumult arise on an immediate question involving the lowering of the standard of life and all the Clynes's and Thomas's might as well orate to a brick wall.

We agree with Tom Mann, whose comment on the vote was given to a "Daily News" represntative:—

"Those who find satisfaction in saying that this is a defeat for direct action are entirely welcome to such a view. Direct action in principle and policy will duly assert itself.

There should be, he said, no room left for any misunderstanding as to what the workmen want and mean to have. It is increased comfort."

It will "duly assert" itself, because by no other means can "increaased comfort" or the maintenance even of the existing standard of comfort be brought about. Take for example the wages question under modern conditions. The cost of living, as our readers must be aware, is up over 130 per cent. above pre-war level.

It is rising with greater rapidity to-day than during the war. The bread is to be increased to one shilling. This will hit everyone, particularly the poor and the working class. It is alleged that the increased cost of flour is due to the excessive rise in the world prices, the continued absence of Russian supplies, and the fear of a world shortage after the next harvest. These three reasons are advanced by the steady reliables of political economy and the experts in statesmanship. There is the cutting down of the subsidy to be considered also.

The excessive rise in world prices is directly due to the late criminal war.

The lack of Russian supplies is due to the odious and criminal treachery of the Churchillian war manaics who, by means of blockade and organised murder, have prevented the development of agriculture in Soviet Russia.

The shortage after next harvest is naturally due to the same cause.

In other words, Imperialism is responsible for the terrific increase in the cost of living, bread being only one item. The abolition of the subsidy, is for what? For purposes of retrenchment? For purely economic reasons? Not a bit of it. Churchill wants at least 125 millions for military upkeep; there are huge armies in Mesopotamia, Germany, and Ireland. There are little wars going on on the "widened frontiers" of India and Egypt, and these cannot be conducted without money. Whichever way you look the ghastly spectre of Imperialism stares you in the face, and to propitiate this fiendish idol the working class HAS TO STARVE.

For God's sake use whatever gumption Nature gave you, and ask yourselves if **political propaganda** can possibly have any effect on this state of affairs.

Every time the cost of living rises—wages are auotmatically **depressed.** It doesn't require an apprenticeship under Karl Marx to understand **that.** Smillie, Bevin, and others have been thundering against the "fodder basis" only recently. Now, the boss class is against it. The workers' representatives, though, demand that wages shall not be based on a minimum that just enables the worker to meet the cost of subsistence, but that they shall be higher in order to permit the worker to enjoy a measure of luxury and recreation.

The Industrial Court, however, has laid down a principle which is even worse for the worker than the "fodder basis":—

"DURING THE WAR PERIOD, WHEN ORDINARY COMMERCIAL CONDITIONS WERE DISTURBED OR IN ABEYANCE, THE COST OF LIVING WAS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN DETERMINING WAGES. NOW THAT THE MARKETS ARE AGAIN OPEN IT APPEARS TO THE COURT THAT AL ALTERATION IN THE COST OF LIVING DOES NOT NECESSARILY WARRANT ANY CORRESPONDING ALTERATION IN WAGES.

THE REMUNERATION OF THE VARIOUS CLASSES OF WORKPEOPLE SHOULD IN ORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DEPEND ON THE VALUE OF THE WORK DONE, AND THE VALUE OF THE WORK DONE DEPENDS ON THE STATE OF THE MARKET AND THE DEMAND FOR THE PRODUCTS OF THE WORKSHOP."

Now, worker, the cost of living was ALWAYS an important factor in determining wages. It was undoubtedly burked by the boss class before the war, because the German menace did not terrify them into adopting any and every expedient that made for national security. Now that the menace is removed the worker can GO TO HELL in company with the "Broken Men" of 1920, who were "crusading heroes" in 1914-18.

It is a pretty picture of the ruthlessness, the rapacity, and the contemptible treaachery of the British ruling class.

It is also a justification for the policy of direct action. When the bread increase makes itself felt, the agitation for increased wages will extend like a pararie fire. The miners have opened the ball, the engineers are dissatisfied with the award—other trades are preparing. Let us, who are avowedly out to smash the damnable dynasty of Greed called Capitalaism, prepare also to harness the forces that discontent will soon bring into the field—and to direct the direct action to the one and only end we have in view.

"Direct action is dead and buried," said the "Daily Record" of last Thursday. If the Christian religion is true, so was Jesus Christ—**for three days.**

Organisation Notes.

SOCIAL COMMITTEES.

Some of the Social Committees are already opening out for summer propaganda. St. Rollox commences on Thursday first with an open-air meeting at the corner of St. James Road and Parliamentary Road. A meeting will also be held in Maryhill district at Raeberry Street on the Friday evening.

Other districts are urged to get busy. Comrades in Paisley who are desirous of seeing the Social Committee set on foot again are urged to communicate with 31 North Frederick Street.

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INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES.

Harland & Wolff's, Lancefield Street are going steadily ahead, and are meeting with fair success.

The Dalmuir Committee had to show its teeth in connection with the strike of timekeepers, which it did with success. The sooner the clerical workers realise the value of workshop organisation the better for all concerned.

The Glasgow Dockers are going steadily ahead, and are now in contact with the dockers in Greenock.

Active men in the shops where no committee is functioning are urged to make an effort to get something done. If you can't get a full Plant Committee, then get a Propaganda Committee started as soon as possible. If you want speakers at the workgates, then apply to the above office and we will do the needful.

The Shop Steward in Babcock's mentioned in last week's notes is exceeding wroth. No names were mentioned in our description of him, but he evidently recognised the description first thing, and is filling the air with lamentations about the "Worker." If he feels that we have done him an injustice, the columns of the "Worker" are open for a letter of reasonable length. The men in Babcock's are far from being annoyed at our remarks, which they recognise as being timely. If the Steward in question is anxious to dispel the suspicion with which he is regarded, let him take with him on his numerous visits to the manager some other representatives of the men in the plant. Until he does that he is under the suspicion of being used consciously or unconsciously as a tool of the management. We have in our eye individuals in other plants who are playing the same game. They had better mind their step or we will let the light of publicity beat about them, too. Meetinbs at Babcock's will be held every Monday in future. Look out for them.

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A central delegate meeting was held in the Templars Hall, 122 Ingram Street on Saturday, 13th March. The reports from the various committees already established were very encouraging.

It is requested that all secretaries of Social Committees **immediately** communicate with N. Baird, 188 Holm Street, Glasgow, stating what propaganda meetings they purpose holding. The information is required immediately so that speakers can be fixed to address these meetings Now, Comrades, **do not waste any further time.** A lot of hard work requires to be done, and that **at once.**

Further, Comrades, it is desirable that all Comrades in Industrial Committees should link up with the Social Committee set up in the district in which they reside; but if such Social Committee is not already set up in your district, then set about getting same established at once.

It is absolutely essential that this work be concentrated on NOW. Tumble into it, Comrades. **We know what we want, and mean to get there.**

N. BAIRD.

✣ ✣ ✣

BABCOCK'S AGAIN.

Our par. last week on Babcock & Wilcox has caused an extraordinary outburst of furious furiosity.

The manager called a meeting of the Shop Stewards, and the Shop Stewards, we are told, are going to pitch into the "Worker." Of course, we don't mean to say that the S.S. are acting on the managers' instructions. Not at all.

But we would suggest in all friendliness that the class war doesn't allow of such easy relations as appear to exist between the S.S. and their bosses in that well known home of industrial democracy, Babcock & Wilcox.

We know from personal experience that the General Manager is up too early to be caught napping. If there's friendly relations, he's getting the best of it all the time.

Don't expend energy hitting out at the "Worker." The "Worker" is out to build up the S.S. movement. Your business is to support the paper that will support you. Don't fight the "Worker." Get your sleeves up to the shoulder, and knock hell out of the boss.

THE BALLAD OF YE ANCIENT MARINERES,

Or, The Chant of a Chartless Crew.

It was my mother's religion!
It was my mother's religion!
It was my mother's religion!
And 'tis good enough for me!
—Torrey-Alexander Hymn.

This is the song of a guileless throng,
A lay of the undefiled!
The stonewall creed of a bulldog breed,
With souls uplifted—hearts that bleed,
Tongues that gabble and pens that "screed,"
And chivies that never smiled.

. . . . . .

FYTTE ONE.

We are the sons of eternal feud,
Men of immortal worth!
Stars of the highest magnitude!
Salt of the bloomin' earth!

Veterans still of the old brigade,
Facing whate'er befell,
As we marched on the edge of a razor's blade,
Over the mouth of hell.

Each of the company a true "I Am,"
With vision that never was blurred;
Washed in the blood of the Marxian lamb,
And reared on the milk of the word.

Without deceit from head to feet,
We trace descent from a clan
That settled somewhere in Tooley Street
(When nine of 'em made a man).

We've massacred fakirs, frauds, and freaks,
And guarded ourselves from scandal;
We've booted our "weaks" with righteous shrieks,
And leathered them "off the handle."

We smell 'em out as we smell the drains,
From the big 'un down to the wee 'un—
(We've got the nose, if we lack the brains,
Of a Marx or a Dan de Leon).

And then we flay 'em with crooked lies,
With trickery, quibbles, and twists—
And when we've exhausted our own supplies,
We borrow the Anarchists'.

Three-fourths of our life is spent in fear,
T'other fourth in suspicion;
And we only stick up for a new idea
If it strengthens the old position.

We've rounded many a Good Hope Cape
On the good ship, **Sack-the-Lot,**
And God help any who'd try to scrape
The barnacles off our bot.

FYTTE TWO.

But prithee hark till we tell to 'ye
The list of our woes immense,
For verily, friends, we are "all at sea"
In a multiple kind of sense.

Our spanker boom is under the sea,
The bowsprit's under a spell,
Our mizzen is troubled with housemaid's knee,
And our mainmast's "a' tae hell."

The bilge has flooded the glory-hole,
And rusted the steering gear;
The jib and the yole are "up the pole,"
And the cook's gone on the beer.

The spuds are rotten, the water's black,
And none of it fit to drink!
The weevils hack at the pre-war tack,
And the meat's beginning to stink.

Both fore and aft our creaking craft
Is wrestling with the croup;
The binnacle brass is bust abaft,
And the forepeak's pinched the poop.

But our cutest scout is on "look-out,"
The man at the wheel's a "goer"—
(He served without the shadow of doubt
His prentice days with—Noah.)

With a dour and dauntless fighting crew
(With craniums famed for—hair)
We'd nearly vanquish a **Grace-de-Dieu,**
Or cripple a **Temeraire.**

But where is the virtue in seamanship,
Or the skill of a Benjamin Bolt—
When the Right wing's suffering from the pip,
And the Left's began to moult?

When doubt exists of the course to ply
In the minds of a chartless crew,
Homesick for the port of B.S.I.
And W.I.I.U.?

But damn each sot with a unity plot
And a tactic up-to-date!
With a cargo hot of old dry-rot,
We'll smother the Ship of State.

If that should fail to shiver its planks,
And buckle its old crosstrees,
We'll soon make blanks in its lousy ranks
With the foot and mouth disease.

Then boarding their Lions, their Lizzies, and Hoods,
With cutlass and **blunderbus!**
We'll come back home and "deliver the goods"
(If there's anything left of us).

. . . . . .

And that's the tale and the dying wail
Of a company of fighting cocks,
On the final trip of a poor old ship
That'll soon be on the rocks.

J. S. C.

Mining Notes from Lanarkshire and Fifeshire.

SCOTTISH MINERS CHALLENGED.

The last Conciliation Board Agenda was:—

(1) Firemen's hours. (2) Sankey Award. (3) Bottomers' hours. (4) Rescue brigade. (5) Delivery of house coal. (6) Bad cleek. (7) Surface workers. (8) Contracting.

(1) Firemen's hours.—The firemen are at present working 8 hours per day. They claimed 7 hours similar to the miners. They claimed 8 hours before the war to be on the same footing as the miners, but the war suspended negotiations. Now the coalowners assert that the original claim was 8 hours, and nothing further can be conceded.

(2) Sankey Award.—The firemen claim that they are entitled to the Award of Justice Sankey, but the coalowners disagree and have turned down the claim.

(3) The bottomers also claimed a 7-hour day, but the coalowners object to less than 8, and the claim has been disregarded.

(4) The rescue brigade has registered a claim for an increase in wages, but without success.

(5) The delivery of house coal to workmen has been in dispute for some time, and better supplies were asked for, but without success.

(6) Bad cleek.—Here a claim was made for a guaranteed wage for miners, who through breakages in machinery had been unable to secure an output large enough to give them a day's wage, but here again no satisfaction was gained.

Claims were made on behalf of surface workers and on the abolition of contracting, but no success was achieved. It is to be recorded that no concession whatever was granted, and the reply now lies with the rank and file. What is our reply?

W. S.

Why Pay More?

At the time of writing a movement is on foot among the officials of the Fife, Kinross, and Clackmannan Miners' Association to try and persuade the rank and file to agree to the raising of the weekly contributions from 6d. to 1s. The proposal has already come before the branches by way of a sort of feeler, but in the very near future a ballot vote of the members of the Association is to be taken to decide the question. Various plausible reasons have been given out by the officials in support of this unnecessary change, such as the need for a large strike fund and other arguments based on the same point of view.

What the miners have to get firmly fixed in their minds before their union is any use to them is that no amount of money they are capable of accumulating will be any use to them if they neglect to organise on a proper basis.

No better argument can be put up against a Trade Union accumulating large sums of money than that contained in the pamphlet, "Direct Action," by W. Gallacher and J. R. Campbell. "Wheresoever thy treasure is there shall thy heart be also," and when a Trade Union has all its accumulated wealth invested in the Capitalist system, it is in anything but a favourable position for attacking Capitalism. How often during the war have the Trade Unionists held back in fear and trembling when they ought to have been going fearlessly forward, because, forsooth, the Government had threatened to confiscate their funds.

"Give me liberty, or give me death," the old negro slave is reported to have said, but the superior white wage slave says: "Take away my liberty, but save my superannuation. In order to avoid dangers of this kind we must arrange our finances to meet the expense of administration and nothing more."

It is to be hoped that the Fife, Kinross, and Clackmannan miners will turn this official proposal down, and in the meantime spend 3d. on the pamphlet quoted from so that they will be in a position to go into their branches and organise themselves on a class-conscious foundation.

R. D.

The foreman of a jury which had been considering its verdict was asked if the jury were all agreed, and replied: "Yes, we are all of one mind, temporarily insane."

British Culture and Revolution.

By Wm. Gallacher.

Time was, not so very long ago either, when German Culture was something to brag about. In fact anything German took the market. German toys, German pianos, German Theology and German professors were in demand everywhere in this country. When Lloyd George wanted to make a hit, he went to Germany and returned with labour exchanges and compulsory insurance. Never was there such a country as Germany, even our Sailor King, the warrior monarch who rode th e prancing war-horse over the blood-soaked battlefield, while bursting—now, did he ride that horse? or was he carried on a stretcher? I can,t remember. But never mind. What I was going to say was that even he, well, it's an old story and there's no use repeating it. Let the poor little fellow rest in peace.

As I was saying a few years ago, German stock was high. Nothing could touch it. To-day it's low, right away down at bottom it is, with all our highbrows telling us that German Culture was badly over-estimated, and that our home variety is of a far superior quality. I am disposed to agree with that veiw after a visit paid to Maryport recently.

Maryport is a thriving town in West Cumberland, and on the day that I arrived there I found a large crowd lining up each side of roadway. No, not to give me a civic welcome. No one paid the slightest attention to me. They were gathered there, the old and young, to receive into their midst a **Tank** which had been presented to their patriotic community. The Editor of the "West Cumberland News," a lofty-souled product of British Culture, is in love with it, says it is a female, and calls it a "dainty little feminine spitfire of some thirty tons."

In the evening I addressed a meeting in the Co-operative Hall, Maryport, and fearfully shocked this modern Eatonswillian with my language. Keep him out of Cumberland, he shrieks at the Labourites. Bring dear old Mr Adamson. He's all right; we like him. Give us Adamson, give us Tanks, but for God's sake don't give us any more Gallacher. Cos why? Cos he's got no Culture.

It takes the Tank-worshipper a column of his paper to demonstrate this, and here's the adjectives he uses in the process. Just get your eye glued to them and see if you recognise me. It's a wonderful string of literary pearls. I am the notorious firebrand from the Clyde, savage, violent, coarse, rude, venemous, ruthless, remorseless, relentless, perverse, abnormal, mischievious, wild, revolutionary, fierce, vindictive, destructive. Fancy getting hit with all that, and just for making a speech. The Lord knews what he would have said if I had blown up the Town Hall, or stolen his "dainty little feminine spitfire."

If ever I go back to Maryport, I'll take a detachment of the Red Army with me and look up that Editor.

In the meantime we may draw a moral from his hysterical raving. He plumps for Adamson, not because he's at all interested in the man. I don't suppose he knows Adamson personally, any more than he knows me. But he certainly does know that the policy Adamson stands for as Leader of the Labour Party offers no menace to the Capitalist system. Adamson and his gang stand for greater production and the rehabilitation of Capitalism. We of the workshop movement, on the other hand, are out to destroy Capitalism by building up an organisation in the industries that will give the workers full control.

What does it matter to you how many Labour men are sitting jabbering in the House of Commons? Of what use is all their posing and damned silly middle-class affectation? Is it doing you or your class any good to see there one-line agitators strutting around with their heads blown up like balloons? You know it isn't.

If you have no organisation in the shop you are at the mercy of the "gaffers" and the managers. You may be a loyal member of the I.L.P., B.S.P., or S.L.P. and pay your subscription regularly every week, but you're still a wage slave and subject to all the humiliations of your class, if the boss can deal with you as individuals instead of as an intelligent organised body.

You have a big fight before you if you are ever going to win your emancipation—a hard, stubborn fight against a class that will stick at nothing to retain their power and privilege. Do you think Adamson, Clynes, or Henderson and the sorry crowd they represent will do that fighting for you? Has it not been demonstrated to you time and time again that these men have made an alliance with you enemies, and that your cause has been deserted long ago? Instead of delegating power to these men, who only use it to betray you, retain your power and fight the boss direct. Direct Action means something more than going on strike. It means taking the alnd and the industries by your own power, instead of pleading and begging on political cheap-jacks to get them for you.

Direct Action means organisation in the workshop and mine that will give the workers all power in the industry and organisation outside of the workshop, that will give them full control of lhe social and distributive machinery.

If you are satisfied with wage slavery and the wretched conditions it imposes on you, stick to Adamson and the Labour Party.

If you are dissatisfied with your lot, but too timid to do any fighting for yourself, keep your hopes fixed on the Labour Party and you'll always have something to grumble about.

But if you have the spirit of a Revolutionary, if you have the courage of a man or woman determined to be free, then you will get into the fight that really matters, the fight to build up an industrial army that will sweep Capitalism out of existence and end forever the criminal exploitation of the toiling masses of the country.

—✣—

Engineers and Payment by Results.

By WM. M'LAINE.

I have been asked several times recently what I think of the "Payment by Results" proposals now before the Engineering Unions. Within the next few weeks the engineering workers will have to give a decision on this matter, and their decision will settle, for a time at anyrate, a workshop question of very great importance. Those who, like the present writer, have served on District Committees, ,etc., will know how much of the time of these bodies is taken up by piecework squabblings, and how new proposals can never get a decent chance of being discussed because of the intermittent round of levying witnesses and fining defendants that have broken some piecework agreement or other.

The 1897 lockout resulted, amongst other things, in forcing "terms of agreement" upon the engineers that included the acceptance of the Premium Bonus system. That system has been used for the purpose of fleecing the workers from that date until a year or so ago, when by an enormous majority it was resolved that the "terms" should be scrapped. It is still in operation in many places, but no new applications of it are supposed to be allowed.

In their anxiety to secure increased production, and to open what Brownlie and others would call "the gate to more" (for the employers), the Engineering Employers' Federation are pressing for a complete acceptance of their scheme.

The ordinary piecework method of working has its drawbacks, but it is understandable. Its principle is that the more a worker does the more he receives. We have all had experience of how the principle works out in practice. It results in the long run in a worker increasing his output and then having his price dropped because he is making too much money. If he refuses to accept a lower price, some one else will, and the newcomer is informed that the output from the machine is what the last worker did, with this difference—that he has to turn out that much work **before** he makes any bonus, and therefore must work harder still.

In some factories the pleasant practice is followed of allowing workers to get into debt. I have known men to go behind to the extent of several pounds on "bad jobs," then when they have managed to get hold of a "good job" they have worked like hell to pay off their debt. I have known men to pay the charge hand money in order to get "good jobs," and have known others to keep the foreman in beer and tobacco for the same purpose.

But the system has other evils—perhaps even worse than these. Most shops have not a full complement of tools and guages, and it often happens that a man has to borrow a tool from another worker. Imagine the feelings of a man who is "in debt" and is asked to lend a tool to someone else. "Not ——— likely," he at once replies. What is the result? Bad blood and strife between the workers.

So bad has this feeling become that in some districts "individual piecework" is frowned upon, and shops are encouraged to apply the "collective" system. With this method it matters not who gets the "good jobs," because all the balances are pooled and each worker, whether on day work or piece, gets the same. But even here trouble creeps in, because the workers themselves tend to keep an eye on each other. If a man goes easy and loses his balance on the "individual" system no one loses but himself, but on the "collective" everyone is interested in keeping his neighbour up to the mark.

The Premium Bonus system is even worse than the piecework one. With its formulae and its complications it becomes almost impossible for a worker to know how much he has earned, and it favours swindling. Take the Rowan System, for example. With this method, **no matter how hard a man works he cannot get double time. If he does ten times as much work** he will receive ordinary rates plus nine-tenths of that rate. If he does twenty times as much, he gets ordinary rate plus nineteen-twentieths of it. Never double time—unless he does the work in no time at all. That is the delightful method most in favour in these days.

There was a time when the average worker could "use his head" a little in this business. He could often so arrange his speeds and his feeds that he could get better terms than the job really demanded. It meant lying and dishonesty, it is true, but the workshop is not a Sunday School, is it?

Now things are in many places rather different. Planning departments are being set up, in which the work is first laid out and tried. It is definitely ascertained what time the job **can** be done in, and it is useless for the worker to deny the truth of accomplished facts.

For all these reasons, and for many more that space will not permit me to go into, I wish all engineering comrades **to turn down** the present proposals. Whatever your views on Trade Union methods may be, go to your branch on the night when the vote is taken and **vote against it.** Persuade others who will not see this to do the same. The carpenters and joiners have given a good lead in this matter by refusing any "payment by results" system.

The whole business of piecework and bonus is full of rottenness. Workshop differences are made acute by it, Trade Union meetings discuss very little else, and it poisons the wells of working class solidarity. You have a good chance before you. Be certain to use it.

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Two English tourists in Ireland, after chatting awhile with an inhabitant, thought to take a rise out of him by saying, "Do you know, Pat, that the Devil is dead?"

Hello! Are You There?

Do you want Capitalism to live for ever? If not, what are you doing to hasten Socialism?

Are you battering at the present system and at those who uphold this system, or are you merely trying to flatten every Comrade who happens to differ with you on some unimportant and petty detail of policy and tactics?

If you are, then you are neither a Revolutionist nor a man—you are only a silly fool. If you want to crack YOUR egg on the narrow end, do it—but let the other chap crack his on the broad end if he wants to. If somebody else prefers to suck it—let him.

You'll all get the contents if you break the shell one way or the other. You'll never break the damned shell as long as you snarl at one another over nothing.

And if you keep at it much longer you'll find the egg rotten one day. This country wants Soviets. Do you think Soviets are a good thing?

If you do, then get on the job and make some.

If a pal wants to help you make 'em, don't chase him because he's got a "parliamentary kink." He'll get over it some day—so will you.

Don't bring a howitzer along to kill a flea with—keep it for the big job. Capitalism is the common enemy. Never mind what the great Comrade Somebody said in 1875. He's dead. But Capitalism is still alive and kicking. And kicking "something hellish."

Soviets are one of the necessities of the Revolution.

Soviets means—Committees at the point of production, and at the point of residence. Whatever else you believe to be necessary at least believe THAT.

And believing it—stop yapping like toy terriers and make a start. This isn't a poem in free verse, good people, it's a piece of palpable wisdom.

CORRESPONDENCE

WHAT DOES SHETTLESTON SAY?

(To the Editor of "The Worker.")

Dear Comrade,—Kindly permit me, through your columns, to inform any comrades in the movement who may be surprised or disappointed at my non-appearance at the public debate between Arthur M'Manus and myself, advertised in "The Worker" of 6th March, that I was not a party to any arrangements made to hold a debate on 8th March in the Camlachie Institute.

I accepted the challenge to debate, and waited patiently on Comrade M'Manus giving his consent, but the only further developments I was made aware of was a note received by me on Monday night (1st March) telling me that all the arrangements were made, and that I was expected to appear at the Camlachie Institute on the following Monday at 7.30 p.m. I, of course, immediately declined until a mutual agreement on all the arrangements had been reached. Since then I have received no communication from the challengers.—Yours fraternally,

JOHN M'LURE.

P.S.—I have, while penning the above, received a note which, I trust, will pave the way for the debate being satisfactorily organised at an early date.—J. M'L.

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(To the Editor of "The Worker.")

Dear Comrade,—In view of the fact that I, on behalf of my colleagues, have asked the Scottish Workers' Committee to refrain from sending their speaakers to certain branches of the I.L.P., I desire to state our position with regard to the present dispute between these branches and ourselves, especially as a great deal of misapprehension seems to exist in connection with the matter.

For some considerable time there has been a feeling of great dissatisfaction amongst certain I.L.P. propagandists on account of the tactics adopted by a number of branches in the running of their propaganda meetings during the winter season. It has been customary for us to be bombarded with requests to speak for these branches during the summer, while during the winter season we have been politely ignored, with the result that he had to carry on all our propaganda during the winter outside of Glasgow and especially in places which involved a long car journey from the city, such as Airdrie, Coatbridge, Johnstone, Dumbarton, Alexandria, Shaw, Hamilton, Larkhall, etc. Our attitude is that all speakers should do their fair share of country work during summer and winter, whereas at the present time many of the speakers who are starring in the city halls during the winter are conspicuously absent from the street corner soap-box in summer. We, therefore—twenty-five in number—declared a boycott against the following branches:—Rutherglen, Cambuslang, Bridgeton, Maryhill, College, Cowcaddens, Govan Central, Govan South, Partick, Shettleston, Tollcross, and Blantyre, the great majority of which, it will be noted, are within the Glasgow I.L.P. Federation. The next development was a request by the Federation that we should accept the principle of allocation of dates for the Glasgow area for summer, by means of which we would hand over our available dates to the Federation, which, in turn, would distribute our services to the different branches in the area as it thought fit and proper. We agreed at once to accept this scheme, but on condition that it would apply to winter propaganda as well, and we stated our case fully and frankly through a deputation which interviewed the Federation a few weeks ago. After leaving the deputation the Federation by a majority decided to refer the question to the whole of its branches, and it will likely be some time, therefore, before the result of the referendum is known. Until the result is declared, however, we will maintain our present attitude, not only because of our personal point of view, but also because we realise that the hard-working country branches are entitled to a fair share of what are termed popular "draws" amongst the propagandists, especially as they have to face a heavy expenditure both summer and winter in running propaganda.

We sincerely trust that this letter will have the effect of making the affected branches seriously consider the position so that an early settlement may be reached.—Yours fraternally,

JOSEPH B. PAYNE.

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W. GALLACHER AND THE B.S.P.

(To the Editor of "The Worker.")

Dear Editor,—Comrade Gallacher writes to the "Call" to complain that I published a letter of his reporting on the position of the movement in Scotland. He is under the impression that I did so because he was chosen by the E.C. of the B.S.P. to represent it in a debate. As a matter of fact I did not know that this was the case till I saw it in Comrade Gallacher's letter.

As for the letter in question, as Comrade Gallacher says it was not a private letter, and I was under the impression that is expressed views that Comrade Gallacher was anxious to make publicly known in the movement. It was a report which I understand will presently be published, along with otther reports, by those to whom it was sent, and I was under the impression that I was only anticipating that report.

I regret having published the letter, since Comrade Gallacher objects to my having done so, though I think that it was a valuable contribution to the important questions at present being debated in the movement. It seems to me that a free and open discussion of the principles and tactics of the movement is essential.—Yours for Communism,

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

RETURN FROM CAPTIVITY.

After the longest exile they return,
Men who have hung their harps on willow trees
Of many lands, and wept in dark sojourn
Beside all waters, flowing to the seas;
Their feet are crowding down the sacred road,
Prophets in rags, starved seers and minstrels dumb,
Marked by their toil, scarred by the throng and load,
They lift their eyes unto the hills and come!
The Joppa gate swings wide, they shall go in,
Before their sight the Temple walls shall rise,
Nor hammer stroke be heard for the glad din
Of hearts and praises lifting to the skies.
How old a dream strikes root upon this day,
They only know who face the East to pray!

— Hortense Flexner, in "The Liberator."

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.Read "DIRECT ACTION." Price 3d..

✣ ✣ ✣

"Ye don't tell me!" said Pat in mock surprise.

"Yes, the Old Boy has gone at last."

Pat said nothing further, but fished a few odd coins from his pocket and handed the Englishmen a penny each.

"What's this for?" they asked.

"Sure," said Pat, "it's a custhom of the country. We always help the orphans!"

DEMONSTRATION.

Great Unemployed Demonstration on the Glasgow Green, Nelson's Monument, on Sunday 21st, at 3 o'clock. Delegates will be present from the Edinburgh Committee, and report progress in that district. Unemployed, come in your thousands! Let the powers that be know your demands! Prominent speakers will attend.—J. HENDRY, P. FERRIE.

NOTICE.

IN THE PRESS! WILL BE READY SHORTLY!

Complete Code of Laws of the Russian Republic, dealing with Civil Conditions and Relationships, Marriage, Family and Guardianship. Authorised Version direct from Russia. A most important work.

The Secretary, Socialist Information and Research Bureau (Scotland), 196 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow.

MAY-DAY COMMITTEE.

REPORT OF MEETING, GLASGOW AND DISTRICT MAY-DAY COMMITTEE.

At the usual Meeting of Delegates, held on Saturday, 13th March, Mr Laurie Anderson in the Chair, the Secretary reported that the Affiliated Societies up to the present numbered 233, and that he expected before the next Meeting to break last year's record. The Committee agreed to have two Musical Evenings—one in the Winter Gardens, Glasgow Green, on Saturday, 1st May, and the other in the St. Andrews Halls on Sunday, 2nd May. It was agreed to have the same number of Platforms as at last year's Demonstration. Also that those Societies which have not yet affiliated might do so at once. Full information from the Secretary, John M'Dougall, 239 Crookston, Street, Glasgow, S.S.

THE STORY OF ROBERT BURNS.

By John S. Clarke.

A wonderfully condensed summary of the career and work of Scotland's peasant and genius.

Splendid Propaganda.—Now on Sale.

Price Threepence. 2/6 per dozen.

.Read "DIRECT ACTION." Price 3d..

Publishers—Scottish Workers' Committee.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF EX-SERVICE MEN

EX-SERVICE MEN.

N.E.C. meeting held on Wednesday night in the Head Office, 98 Bishop Street. Attendance good. Reports from branches very encouraging. Organisation discussed. Comrade M'Clymont of Darvel was appointed organiser for Dumbartonshire. The National Organiser reported good progress. A new branch was opened in the Vale of Leven. Cowcaddens would meet shortly to elect officials. Reorganisation meeting will be held in St. Rollox as soon as a suntable hall can be secured. It is expected to open a dependants' branch in Maryhill during the incoming week. By the time these notes appear in print Partick branch will be a reality. Comrade M'Clymont of Darvel is getting down to it, and it is hoped he will rope in Hurlford and Galston. Comrade Mackie expects to have a branch going in Dumbarton shortly.

As is well known, grave discontent exists among the disabled men re the treatment meted out to them by the Medical Boards and Medical Referees. The International Union has forwarded the following resolution to the Grand Council of Ex-Service Men, and also to the Ministry of Pensions:—"That we, the Ex-Service Men of Glasgow, demand the alteration of the existing system of Medical Boards and Medical Referees, and further we demand the immediate withdrawal of circulars 201, 202, 203, and 204; also the scrap is payable. "All intelligent men recognise that the ping of the degrading system that compels disabled men to go begging to a Magistrate or police to get their signature before treatment allowance present system is obsolete and expensive, as witness the following cost of upkeep, Adelphi Hotel. There are 45 doctors sit from 10 till 12 noon, 45 from 2 till 4 p.m., making a total of 90 doctors for the day. The fees per day are £162, per week £972, per year £50,544 for doctors only, not counting clerical fees or upkeep of building. Three doctors sit on each board. Two doctors receive £1 16s 6d each for two hours, and the third, the chairman, £2 1s 6d—total for each Board for two hours, £3 18s. They only examine eight men. The most of these doctors are panel doctors. One has 3,000 panel patients, and is also a casualty surgeon in one of the police divisions. Over and above the lot there are 40 Medical Referees in Glasgow, who cost approximately about £20,000 per year.

We don't for one moment suggest that the medical profession is overpaid. We quite recognise the fact that they earn as much at their practice, but we do assert that the present system is wasteful, and full return is not secured for the money expended. We also emphatically assert that the men who appear before these so-called Medical Boards do not receive justice. I challenge any member of the medical profession to state on his word of honour that it is possible to diagnose any man's disability on seeing him for the first time, and then only having a short examination. These Boards are not known in Glasgow as Medical Boards, but as reducing Boards, and these doctors by aiding and abetting the Ministry of Pensions is perpetuating the injustice are prostituting a noble profession.

The following resolution was sent on to Congress from Bristol. The N.E.C. has instructed me to insert it in "Worker" for the benefit of the members as a whole:—"That we advocate a policy of all in badged or not, and that we cater for all 'workers' whether they have served or not." This you will see is a very advanced policy inasmuch as we will constitute an organisation that will combine the function of a Trades Union with that of an Ex-Service Men's movement. This is how we are doing it, and I sincerely hope the N.E.C. will adopt this policy as it means power, and that is the primary essentian required at the present moment. We have an ex-service man as president, a civilian as vice-president, gen. secy. ex-service man, assistant secy. a civilian, treas. outside the movement, finance committee two of each, chairman as elected, branch committee same, politiial committee same, industrial committee as far as possible representative of Trades Unions, pension committee composed of ex-service men with a civilian chairman. All these committees are interdependent on each other, and no one committe has power to vote definitely for expending moneys without the co-operation of another committee. For example, if the Propaganda Committee wanted to get some literature printed, they could not expend money without the co-operation of the Industrial or Political Committee, whichever is affected. The whole of these committees combined form an Executive Council. When one committee wants to draw money for some purpose or other, the chairman of that committee must give his signature, backed by signature of the chairman of the interlocking committee. These signatures must be given to the gen. secy. when the cheque is issued. It must bear the signature of the gen. secy and the treas. or president. Before considering the above it was decided to take the opinion of the Workers' Committee, and a copy of the resolution is being forwarded on for their consideration.

BRANCH REPORTS.

Anderston and Central.—Usual weekly meeting was held in I.L.P. Rooms. There was a gratifying attendance of members. Comrade Lindsay gave report of N.E.C. and branch executive meetings. Both reports were adopted. Final arrangements were made for demonstration. Propaganda Committee was appointed to arrange outdoor meetings during the summer. Comrade Lindsay was appointed convener. Five new members were enrolled.

South Side.—Meeting held in the new hall, 12 South Portland Street, near Suspension Bridge, on Thursday last. Record attendance of members. Report from N.E.C. was read and adopted. It was decided to turn out in full strength at the demonstration. The Secy. states that he would like to remind the members that the branch meetings don't start till 7.30. Complaints are being received regarding the crowds congregating in the vicinity and obstructing the traffic. Three new members joined. Membership has trebled itself within the last few weeks.

Cowcaddens.—Meeting will be held on Sunday first in the hall, 124 New City Road, corner of Rosehall Street, at 12.30 p.m. All ex-service men, widows and adult dependants of Cowcaddens and district are invited to attend. Speakers, Comrade Cheyne and the Nat. Organiser.

Clydebank.—The branch meeting took place as usual in M'Kim's Restaurant on Thursday evening. Dance Committee gave report, and intimated that it was a great success. Halls Committee reported that they had been successful in securing accommodation in the Lorne Restaurant, 108 Glasgow Road. Meetings will be held every Thursday at 8 p.m.

Milngavie.—The members have had a very busy week, and a successful one. The campaign against the L.W.P.C. has had some effect. It has been the means of holding a public protest meeting. Four Labour representatives were nominated and two ex-service men. Weekly dance a great success. A large dance will be held on Friday, 2nd April. Members of outside branches wishing tickets had better hurry up. The Nat. President, Comrade Cormley, addressed the branch on Sunday last, and gave a spirited address on "Future Wars." It was agreed that members attend the demonstration in full strength.

Vale of Leven.—Successful meeting held in the Co-operative Hall, Alexandria, on Thursday last. Our National Organiser and Comrade Dr. Esterman addressed the meeting. The response was very gratifying, as 20 new members were enrolled Comrade J. Graham, 61 Milton St., Alexandria, was appointed Secy. All ex-service men, widows and adult dependants are requested to get in touch with the Secy. at once.

Maryhill.—Usual weekly meeting held in I.L.P. Rooms, Wyndford Street, on Monday at 8 p.m. Dance Committee reported good progress. Propaganda Committee same. Successful outdoor meetings are being held throughout the district. Arrangements for large indoor meeting are well advanced. Due notice will be given later.

Darvel.—Usual weekly meeting held on Sunday. There was a fair turnout of members. Business was got through quicnly. Meeting was then thrown open for discussion, which was very interesting. Aff. fees were ordered to be forwarded on, and the name of Comrade M'Clymont as N.E.C. speaber. Committee was appointed to carry through large dance, to be held on the 26th of this month. Success is already assured.

Partick.—A branch is in course of formation in Partick and district. Intending members are advised to get in touch with Comrade F. Weir, c/o Anderson, 4 Crawford Street, Partick, or Comrade D. Docherty, 80 Anderson Street, Partick. Full details will appear in the local press.

London (Eastern District).—This district is taking up the release of naval and military prisoners in earnest, and intend to keep the agitation going until the object is attained. Comrade Blyth reports that he has every reason to be pleased with the progress in London. A large meeting was held in Victoria Park. Speakers—Comrades Ginsburg, Organiser for London, and Blyth, Secy. of the eastern district. Large crowds are attending the meetings, and the prospects seem bright. The plain clothes constables are again getting the wind up.

Several branch reports have not yet come to hand.

J. COX, Nat. Secy.
Head Office: 98 Bishop Street, Anderston.

Lectures every Sunday
IN THE
PANOPTICON, 115 Trongate
Sunday, 21st March, at 7
Speaker:
LAWRENCE ANDERSON
Reader ... ...RONALD M'CALL
Soloist ... ... LOUIS SHINWELL

Doors Open at 6 p.m.
Songs. Questions. Discussions.
Silver Collection.

ANDERSTON B.S.P.

"Follow knowledge wherever it leads." Our Speakers "point out the way" at the B.S.P. Hall, 569 Argyle Street, at 6.30 p.m.

Sunday First—
PATRICK FITZPATRICK.
Subject—"The Drift of Revolution."
Next Week—
A MUSICAL EVENING.
The "Lyric" (Socialist) Choir.

A Hindu baker in Bombay who catered for the English community advertised himself as "a first class British loafer."

A GREAT PUBLIC DEBATE
will take place at the
Louvre Picture Palace, Parkhead Cross, on
Sunday, 21st March,
between
E. W. CANT
(National Organiser, British Socialist Party) and
GUY A. ALDRED
(Representing the Shettleston S.L.P. and the Glasgow Anarchist Group)
on the subject
"SHOULD A REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST USE THE PARLIAMENTARY MACHINE?"
Cant affirms. Aldred denies.

Chair will be taken at 2.30 p.m.

Questions allowed to both Speakers. Silver Collection. It is requested that Comrades endeavour to give a minimum of 6d as the expenses are heavy. Be early to secure a seat.

SOCIALIST LABOUR PARTY,
Glasgow Central Branch, 50 Renfrew Street.

SUNDAY EVENING LECTURES.
An Address will be delivered by
COMRADE A. CRAIG
entitled
"HISTORY AND THE WORKERS"
On Sunday, 21st March, at 7 p.m.
Doors open at 6.30. Discussion and Questions.

Next Week—JOE MACDONALD,
of Bridgeton.

SOCIAL COMMITTEES.
CENTRAL DELEGATE MEETING.

The usual Fortnightly Meeting will be held in the Templars' Hall, 122 Ingram Street, Glasgow, on Saturday, 27th March, at 3.30 p.m. All Delegates requested to be in attendance.

N. BAIRD, Secy.

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