THE BRITISH COLUMBIA FEDERATIONIST

INDUSTRIAL UNITY: STRENGTH — OFFICIAL PAPER: VANCOUVER TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL. — POLITICAL UNITY: VICTORY

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CLOSE UP THE RANKS!

ONCE again spring is at hand—that season of the year when the workers seek to renew their agreements with their employers or to make fresh ones. This year, however, it is the employers who are setting the pace, and the workers are being faced on evry hand with wage cuts.

From every part of the province word is daily received of the attitude of the employers towards the wage question. In every case they are seeking to cut wages. While the employers are mostly engaged in industrial occupations covering many trades and crafts, the method of procedure is to take one section of the industry and reduce the wages of the workers in that branch, the rest soon follow.

When the workers are organized on an industrial basis, as they are in the coal-mining industry, the employers are forced to deal with their employees as an industrial aggregation. But all industries are corelated, and the workers should show a united front on the question of wages. The different building trades should act together. A cut in one craft means the weakening of the position of the other crafts. The cutting of wages in an industry weakens the other industrial organization's efforts to resist a cut in wages.

The standard of living of the workers is being slowly but surely reduced. The workers are apathetic and are not offering that resistance which they should. There are too many divisions. Close up the ranks. Let all sections of the workers deal with the cutting of wages as a united force. The time for action is here. The apathy in the labor movement must be destroyed or the workers' standard of living will be reduced to the lowest subsistence level. A united front is necessary on the part of the workers, and craft and industrial divisions should be ignored as far as possible, to resist the wage-cutting policy of the employers.

UNEMPLOYMENT THE SUBJECT MONDAY

Second Gathering Will Have Much to Discuss

Conference Will Deal with Unemployed Women Problem

The second conference on unemployment will open on Monday next at 10 a.m. in the First Presbyterian Church, and it is expected that many organisations which were not represented at the last one will have representatives there.

Among other matters which the conference will deal with will be the correspondence exchanged between the committee of twenty-five and the government.

Following the last conference W. H. Cottrell, chairman of the committee, sent the following letter to Hon. James Murdock, Minister of Labor:

Vancouver, B. C.,
14th February, 1922.

The Hon. James Murdock,
Minister of Labor,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir,—

On account of the serious situation with regard to unemployment in Vancouver and surrounding districts, which has existed for some time, and the distress occasioned thereby, a conference was called on Monday, Feb. 6, of all trades unions. Returned soldier organizations and other public bodies in the district to review the question of relief necessary through unemployment, and consider what measures should be taken to deal effectively with such a serious situation.

The conference was held in the First Presbyterian Church, and 110 delegates were present.

Reports were received from those in close touch with the unemployed situation in the various districts and the measures taken to relieve the distress in each district were outlined to the conference.

It was apparent from the reports that there was no uniformity in the manner in which the situation was being dealt with by the different municipalities; that there was much for as to the manner in which the Federal Government was assisting in the relief measures; that many were not getting adequate relief, and that there was need in the face of such a serious situation that the Federal Government should assume control.

After considerable discussion the enclosed resolution was passed, the same to be forwarded to the Minister of Labor.

A permanent committee of 25 was elected to carry out the wishes of the conference and to call a further conference of the organizations to consider progress made.

It was further decided to call a mass meeting on Sunday, Feb. 26, to consider the unemployment situation.

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HULET M. WELLS AT THE ROYAL

Will Speak in Vancouver in Afternoon and New Westminster at Night

The local committee of the Friends of Soviet Russia have been fortunate in securing the services of Hulet M. Wells to speak on Sunday next. He is widely experienced in the working class movement in all its phases. He was for a considerable time a delegate to the Seattle Central Labor Council. For his activities in the working class movement, he was sent to goal by the ruling class of the United States. On his release, the workers of Seattle gave him a royal welcome.

When the call for delegates was sent out by the Red Trade Union International, Wells was chosen by the Seattle Central body to act as its representative. He has been in the heart of Soviet Russia. He has seen the suffering in the famine area, and will be able to give Vancouver workers a true insight into the conditions which now prevail, and the cause of them.

Wells is billed to speak at the Royal theatre on Sunday at 3 p.m., and at New Westminster in the Edison theatre on Sunday evening, at 8.30. All workers should endeavor to hear him.

BELA KUN CLEARED OF COWARDICE CHARGES

Investigation Committee Censures Those Making Charges

Unity Policy of Communists Accepted by Bulgarian Communists

(By Radio and [illegible] to The Federated [illegible]ss)

Moscow.—Bel[illegible]kun, former soviet premier [illegible]ungary, was cleared of charg[illegible] cowardice, treachery and [illegible]mplicity in murders of Com[illegible]ts in a report adopted by [illegible] executive committee of the [illegible]d International. At the sam[illegible]ting Delegate Thomann repo[illegible] on conditions in Austria [illegible] Delegate Kularev on Bulgaria.

Certain Hungarian Communists had made the charges against Bela Kun and the executive committee had appointed a subcommittee in January, 1922, to investigate. All documents and witnesses available were given consideration. The committee, Lunacharski, reporting, found "that the charges of political irresponsibility and even of political treachery were entirely false and untenable. This includes the suspicion thrown on the negotiations with the entente for the surrender of the soviet rule, as well as the myths concerning Bela Kun's alleged too hasty flight after the soviet dictatorship had collapsed.

"Accusations relating to bad judgment on the military situation at the close of the dictatorship and the charges of complicity in the murder of two alleged Communists sent by Rakovsky to Hungary are likewise unfounded. Misappropriations of public property for personal uses are also baseless.

"The subcommittee is of the opinion that the Hungarian com-

(Continued on page 2)

Prov Library Dec 22

PRESENT RELIEF TO CONTINUE

Alderman Pettipiece Only Member of Council to Vote for Change

A committee from the Vancouver Workers' Protective Association waited on the City Council on Tuesday with the object of having the present relief measures for the unemployed married men changed.

The committee asked that cash or checks be issued instead of the present doles from the relief office, and that the secretary of the organization be put on the payroll as is being done in South and North Vancouver.

The committee was granted the privilege of placing the views of the organization before the City Council, and J. R. Hawthorne was the first to speak. He opened by stating that it was evident that the City Council did not realize the manner in which the relief office was being conducted or the conditions that existed in the homes of the men on relief.

He quoted the prices of groceries as stated by the relief office, and showed that these prices, instead of being as stated wholesale prices, did not even compare favorably with the prices at the retail stores. One alderman asked Mr. Hawthorne, is there anything you get at the relief office that is satisfactory, and the answer was yes, sugar. Alderman Tracey asked the price of sugar at the relief office and when told he stated that he got sugar cheaper than the price quoted.

Alderman Pettipiece stated that he had been to the relief office and had seen a woman with a child who had told him that she had been there three hours waiting for relief. He asked if the city was making anything out of the groceries handed out to the unemployed, and was informed that nothing was being made. He suggested that if it would not cost the city any more that checks should be given to the unemployed.

Other representatives of the unemployed including Mr. Harrison, and Mr. Findlay addressed the council, but by the vote of the council it was decided to continue the present system. Alderman Pettipiece alone voting against it.

WANTS SIGN OF GOOD FAITH

Trades Congress Officials Seek Legislation from Government

Ottawa.—Headed by Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, a delegation of labor men presented a memorandum to the Federal Government containing the views of organized labor.

The principal feature of the labor programme was that the government was asked to pass legislation giving effect to the conventions of the International Labor conference. Canada, being a member of the League of Nations, it was contended that the Dominion should show its good faith by a recognition of those conventions.

Other things asked for were: Election day to be made a legal holiday; abolition of the deposit for political candidates; partial or total exclusion of Asiatics; recognition of the right of peaceful picketing; abolition of the senate; repeal of the order forbidding Canadian National Railway employees to become candidates for public office; the placing of a workers' representative on the board of management of the nationally owned railways; and the creation of an independent tariff commission.

In answer to a question from the premier, Moore stated that, in normal times, his organization represented a membership of about 220,000, but that at present the paid-up membership was about 176,000.

Dance Saturday.

Don't forget the dance on Saturday night in the Pender Hall, corner of Pender and Howe Streets. Good music, a fine floor and every accommodation. Admission, gents

Engineers Meetings.

The International Steam and Operating Engineers meet at 319 Pender St. West every Tuesday at 8 p.m. All Steam Engineers are urged to become members.

EVERY READER CAN HELP

Every reader of The Federationist can render valuable assistance by renewing their subscriptions as soon as they are due, and and by inducing another worker to subscribe. It does not take much effort to do this. Try it.

NO RELIEF IN NOVA SCOTIA

Provincial Gov't Will Not Accept Federal Aid

(By The Federated Press)

Halifax, N. S.—The Halifax unemployed endeavored to hold a parade with banners carrying mottoes such as "Give us this day our daily bread," and "Government says family of five needs twenty-one dollars and sixty cents a week. We get $0.00." The police forbade the parade. The unemployed telegraphed Ottawa and got a reply from James Murdock, Minister of Labor, stating that it was unnecessary for he unemployed to parade as the city and provincial authorities were no doubt aware of their needs.

The Nova Scotia government is practically the only provincial government in Canada, apart from Quebec, that has refused to join the Federal unemployed relief scheme, and has refused to allow the municipalities to fall in line with that scheme. The Dominion Government has agreed to pay one-third of the unemployed relief necessary providing the government of a province pays one-third and the municipality in which the unemployed live pay the other the other third. The unemployed of Nova Scotia therefore can get no relief, unless, they declare they are paupers and are put under the overseers of the poor, thus becoming disfranchised.

BUILDS STRONG LABOR PRESS

American Continent Now Has Valuable News Service

(By The Federated Press)

Chicago.—"No other country in the world today has so good a labor news service and labor press; it is the one field of labor organization in which we are not lagging," declares The Labor Herald, "a militant, constructive monthly trade union magazine" of which the first number is just out.

"The annual meeting of The Federated Press," the new monthy writes in an editorial, "brings forcefully to our attention the revolution that has been achieved in labor journalism in the United States.

"Four years ago this field was the most cheerless and disheartening prospect imaginable. It was a veritable chaos. There were hundreds of isolated little sheets, each with the underpaid and overworked editor trying to spin the material for his paper out of his own tired brain. There was the dry-as-dust and absurd A. F. of L. News Letter with its stupid and trivial items from two weeks to six months stale, not to mention the petrified trade journals, full of cheerless and uninteresting technical matter and 'women's pages' giving the latest dress patterns. All in all, it was a picture of isolation, stagnation, desolation and hopelessness.

"Into this chaos came the organizing spirit of an idea, the idea of a real labor news service, the idea of The Federated Press. There are thousands of things going on in the world, in which labor is vitally interested. The news is all available, given the organization to get it and distribute it.

"The Federated Press brought the organization into this neglected field. Under the influences of this new force our press has made strides forward which are really remarkable. Our journals have a new life and vitality. Compare the journals of today with those of four years ago, and get a measure of the progress made. This is another example of what a few live progressives can do, if they set to work in a sane, energetic, constructive manner."

The Labor Herald is the official organ of the Trade Union Educational league. William Z. Foster is the editor.

Quebec, Quebec.—J. T. Foster, former president of the Montreal Trades and Labor Congress of the American Federation of Labor, will represent the Montreal Policemen's union, and Joseph Quintal the city of Montreal, on a board of arbitration to adjust wages and hours. If they cannot agree on a chairman the provincial minister of public works and labor will appoint him.

FARMERS ORGAN EXPOSES BANKS

Bankers Contracted the Amount of Loans and Called in Notes

(By The Federated Press)

Toronto, Ont., Canada.—W. A. Hiatt, writing in the Toronto Sun, organ of the United Farmers of Ontario, is exposing the part played by the Canadian banks in reducing loans to bring about deflation of prices.

In Canada there are only 18 chartered banks with branch banks all over Canada. These 18 banks form a close corporation under the name of the Canadian Bankers' Association, which moves as one in any policy.

The Canadian banks put out bank notes against their paid-up capital reserve funds. In addition to this, during the winter months, they can put out 15 per cent. additional notes to take care of the Canadian harvest.

The bankers thought it was time to deflate prices of agricultural produce, wages and other commodities. Consequently, in the fall of 1921, they seriously contracted the amount of the loans to the public and called in a portion of their notes. The Dominion government, which also issues notes to pass as money, helped the bankers by calling in part of their notes. Farmers going to the banks to renew their loans were told that the banks did not have the funds to renew and the farmers must pay. The farmers were forced to throw their produce on the market in order to realize cash to pay their loans to the banks and to pay their debts.

A table published in the Sun shows the amount of loans, bank notes, and Dominion notes called in between October, 1920, and March, 1921, to exceed $307,000,000. So successful were the bankers in this deflation of prices that the price of wheat fell from $1.62 a bushel to 86 cents; oats from 53 cents to 37 cents per bushel; barley from 83 cents to 47 cents per debt, while 200,000 wage workers in Canada are unemployed.

Vienna (by mail).—Although work was resumed in virtually all the Czecho-Slovakian collieries Feb. 13, the aftermath of the coal strike is keenly felt by the labor movement. The extent of the miners' defeat is now tragically apparent. Their united front has been shattered, and the impending wage reductions are to be settled on a sectional—not national—basis.

It is certain that the agreement concluded will be rejected by the miners in many collieries, but it is equally sure that this divided resistance will prove futile. The defeat of the coal strike pressages a gigantic offensive by capital all along the line.

REACTIONARY FORCES SET BACK

Chita Government Demands That There Be No Interference

Washington.—Triumph of the army of the Far Eastern Republic over the Japanese-supported reactionary forces in the Maritime Province is announced in a cablegram received by the delegation of the Republic here. The Chita government has demanded that there be no interference by foreign powers with its succession to the authority recently held by this dissolved Merkulov "government" in Vladivostok.

"After the occupation of Khabarovsk," says the message, "soldiers of the Far Eastern Republic, pursuing the defeated army, advanced 200 versts south in the direction of Vladivostok, and have occupied Rosengartovk station on theUssuri railroad. There is great panic among the Merkulovites and preparations are being made for forwarding to Japan of state property.

"There are widely spread and persistent rumors in the Republic, emanating from Vladivostok, that some of the foreign consuls, deceived by the so-called Merkulov government, requested the Japanese government to furnish the Merkulov government with large quantities of arms for the defense of the city against the approaching troops of the Republic. The government of the Republic will categorically protest against any such atempt to interfere in its internal affairs, and against any attempt to artificially prolong the civil war."

London (by mail).—Thirty thousand men who came out in the recent German railway strike have been victimized, according to a Daily Herald dispatch from Berlin. The Federation of Labor, says the dispatch, at a special meeting, decided to inform the chancellor that new action—and a new strike—may be expected if the cabinet refuses to renounce this punishment.

"It may be more than a coincidence," comments the Daily Herald, "that before the strike the Stinnes party was insisting that it was necessary to dismiss 30,000 railway men in order to balance the railway budget. The strike is apparently being used as a pretext for carrying out the demands of Stinnes—behind which are the demands of the Entente."

MINERS TO RESIST BIG WAGE CUT

Miners in District 18 Get Notice of New Wage Scale for April 1

Reports from the Crows Nest Pass and Alberta mining districts would indicate that the miners in the East are not the only ones who are to have their wages cut.

Reports from Fernie are to the effect that the coal operators have posted notices of wage cuts commencing April 1, from 35 to 50 per cent.; in other words, to rates of pay at least as low as those paid during the year 1915.

Conferences held between the men's scale committee and the employers have failed to bring about any change in the attitude of the employers and latest reports are to the effect that the men throughout District 18 will cease work at the end of the month, and not return until their demands are met.

New York.—Louis P. Lochner, European director of The Federated Press, accompanied by his children, sailed for Bremen Saturday on board the steamship Hudson of the United States lines. Mr. Lochner expects to arrive in Berlin March 10th, where he will resume the European work of The Federated Press, establishing news connections on the continent.

Mr. Lochner will be The Federated Press representative at the Genoa Economic Congress now scheduled to be held April 10th.

CHINA FOR THE CHINESE NEW FORMULA

Arms Conference Work Is Being Undone by Chinese

Appeal to Foreign Powers Will Unite All Sections

By Laurence Todd
(Federated Press Staff Correspondent)

Washington.—"China for the Chinese" is the formula under which the work of the Hughes-Balfour-Kato arms conference in Washington is being undone by the South China government at Canton, through its present negotiations with the Manchu war-lord Chang-Esao-Lin, at Mukden. The same day's press cables which announced that the Peking Government has ceased to function, mention the journey of Dr. C. C. Wu, son and assistant to Foreign Minister Wu Ting Fang of the Canton government, to consult with Chang-Tsao-Lin at Mukden on the elimination of General Wu Pei Fu from the Chinese situation.

South Chinese spokesmen in Washington interpret this as evidence that Chang opened the negotiations with President Sun Yat Sen at the south, and that Chang is now ready to recognize Sun as the constitutional president of China. Sun is leading his troops northward to Hankow, while Chang is ready to move his well-trained army southward from Mukden to attack the armies of Wu Pei Fu from the opposite direction. Wu Pei Fu holds the central region, but has few reliable troops and fewer supplies. He is expected to appeal to the United States, Britain, Japan and France for recognition of the regime which he will install in Pekin. If he makes this appeal, the patriotic

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WOULD AMEND DEFENCE ACT

Australian Labor Party Adopts New Fighting Platform

By W. Francis Ahern
(Federated Press Staff Correspondent)

Sydney, N. S. W.—Drastic amendments to the Australian Defence Act are contained in the program of the Australian Labor Party which will be the fighting platform of the party at all future elections in that country.

The principal amendments demanded are as follows:

Deletion of all clauses relating to compusory training and service. Abolition of trial by court-martial when civil courts are available; any sentence imposed by court-martial to be subject to review by a civil court. No penalties to be imposed except in pursuance of explicit enactments by the National parliament.

Limitation of professional soldiers to necessary instruction and administrative and working staff. Abolition of military oath. Abolition of distinction between commissioned and non-commissioned officers. Recognition of the principle of election of qualified candidates as officers. The salute and other useless discipline to be abolished. No employment of or inerference by soldiers in industrial disputes. Punishment of parliamentary ministers and others responsible for a breach of this provision. Citizens on completion of training, to retain arms delivered to them during training. Defense acts to require annual renewal. No raising of forces for service outside the Australian continent or participation or promise of participation in any future war overseas, except by a decision of the people per medium of a referendum.

Dance Saturday.

Don't forget the dance on Saturday night in the Pender Hall, corner of Pender and Howe Streets. Good music, a fine floor and every accommodation. Admission, gents 50c., ladies 25c.

You may wish to help The Federationist. You can do so by renewing your subscription promptly and sending in the subscription of your friend or neighbor.

NANSEN INDICTS GOVERNMENTS OF EUROPE

Fear of Russia Determines Inhuman Policy of League of Nations

Explorer and Scholar Pays Tribute to Soviet Regime

By Felix Morley
(Federated Press Staff Correspondent)

London (by mail).—An indictment of the inhumanity of the governments of western Europe, and of the complete subordination of the League of Nations to that inhumanity, was made here by Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, the famous Norwegian explorer and scholar who is now high commissioner of the International Red Cross Famine Relief Work in Soviet Russia. News agencies will already have cabled to America some accounts of Dr. Nansen's description of conditions in the famine area, from which he has just returned. But they will not have carried the heart of his speech—the true reasons why the governments of western Europe have made no effort to check a disaster which threatens to destroy more lives than did the war itself.

Five months ago the writer travelled on the same train with Dr. Nansen from Berlin to Brussels. The high commissioner, who was returning from Moscow after making his agreement with the soviet authorities in regard to the delivery of relief supplies, then estimated that the sum of $50,000,000, promptly given, would be adequate to stave off the disaster threatened by the famine. Only government action, he told me then, could raise such a sum with the speed necessary to make its application efficacious. It was to obtain these grants in time to avert the death by starvation of hundreds of thousands of helpless peasants that Dr. Nansen in September visited the capitals of western Europe and finally placed the situation before the council of the League of Nations at Geneva. In every case he was turned down.

The Reasons

The reasons of the various governments for refusing to extend assistance, as given by Dr. Nansen, were as follows: 1. Fear that such assistance would help to maintain the soviet system. 2. Belief that if help was extended it would be diverted by the soviet authorities for their own ends and would not reach the famine sufferers. 3. Contention that the economic state of the various countries was such that no government would be justified in imposing on its subjects the burden of extra taxation necessary for adequate relief.

The first of these arguments Dr. Nansen characterized as "an argu-

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WOMEN AID FEDERATIONIST

South Vancouver Auxiliary Holds Concert and Dance

A little help is worth a lot of sympathy, and the members of the Women's Auxiliary of the South Vancouver Protective Association demonstrated that they realize the truth in this statement by holding a Hard Times Concert and Dance last Saturday for the benefit of the Federationist.

The concert started promptly at eight o-clock, and dancing was indulged in from 9 to 12.

The feature of the evening was the parade of those in costume, and lots of fun was occasioned by this part of the programme.

In addition to making arrangements for the concert and dance the women workers did not neglect the inner man, and refreshments were on hand in abundance. So well did those present enjoy themselves that it was suggested by many that similar functions should be held every month, but as the winter draws near to a close, it is expected that other forms of entertainment will be sought.

Hand your neighbor this copy of The Federationist, and then call around next day for a subscription.

A MASS MEETING FOR WOMEN

FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE UNEMPLOYED WOMEN QUESTION

WILL BE HELD IN THE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, at 2:30 p.m.

ALL WOMEN INVITED TO ATTEND

Hear HULET M. WELLS

STRAIGHT from the HEART OF RUSSIA

Who was a delegate from the Seattle Central Labor Council to the R. T. U. I. at Moscow

—AT THE—

ROYAL THEATRE

Sunday, March 12th

At 3 p.m.

SUBJECT:

BOLSHEVISM AND THE FAMINE

SOCIETY FOR TECHNICAL AID TO SOVIET RUSSIA and UKRAINIAN EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

BASKET SOCIAL and DANCE

To Aid in Equipping the First Group of Workers Leaving British Columbia for Soviet Russia

CLINTON HALL, 2605 Pender Street East
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SATURDAY, MARCH 11th, 8 p.m.

GENTS 50c — Ladies with baskets free — LADIES 25c

THE B.C. FEDERATIONIST

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A. S. WELLS.....Manager

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Unity of Labor: The Hope of the World

FRIDAY.....March 10, 1922

Organization the Need of the Hour

PERIODS of depression always have their reflex action on the numerical strength of the industrial organizations. The payment of dues becomes a burden, and instead of the organizations being prepared to fight against the encroachments of the employers when the conditions are most favorable to wage reducing tactics, the working class organizations are the weakest and unable to put up that resistance which is so vital to the interests of the workers.

* * *

Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, when asked by the premier recently as to the numerical strength of the organization he represented, stated "In normal times it represented a membership of 220,000, but that at the present, the paid-up membership is about 176,000." To say the least, a considerable reduction.

* * *

The employers are never lacking in initiative whenever the opportunity of reducing wages arises. But the workers' organizations do not adapt themselves to the conditions as quickly as they should. High initiation fees, at a time when there are many workers unemployed, is not conducive to the building up of the industrial organizations. High dues are also a detriment. They pave the way to the depletion of the ranks of the organized workers in years of depression, and also retard the building up of the numerical strength of the unions.

* * *

The present wage slashing campaign can only be met by organized effort on the part of the workers. The members of the unions are vitally affected. Their position is weakened by the disorganization of the workers, and every measure should be taken to remove any obstacle to the building up of the industrial organizations of the workers.

* * *

A press dispatch from Victoria gives an indication of what can be done by real organization. The Civic Employees of Victoria have had their wages reduced. The teachers of that city have, however, been able to resist any cut in their salaries. Why? Let the press despatch tell its own story. After dealing with the reduction of the wages of the outside and other employees, whose wages are cut ten per cent., it says:

> "So far no headway has been made in the way of reducing teachers' salaries, because of the opposition from the Teachers' Federation."

* * *

The Lumber Workers' Industrial Union of Canada, at the annual convention recently held, decided to reinstate all its delinquent members on the payment of a nominal sum to cover reinstatement, and the first month's dues. This action has resulted in a great number of old members again becoming factors in the organization. If the Lumber Workers can make progress by this means, why not other unions? It is not dues the organizations were formed for, but the well-being of the members. The rank and file of the unions in this part of the country might well at this time take this matter under consideration. High dues and low wages may appear good to the officials, but low dues and resistance to the wage cutting tactics of the employers will materially benefit the rank and file.

Economic Conditions, Birth Rates and Psychology

BRITISH and European statesmen and other beneficiaries of the present system of society are very much concerned about the declining birth rate. Not, however, because of its effect on the welfare of the general public weal, or even the future of the human race, but because with a low birth rate, there is a decreasing amount of the most productive slaves, as the following passage from a press clipping will show:

> "The British birth rate began to fall in 1877, and has been falling ever since. In 1881 there were in Britain, per million of population, 135,551 children under five years, but by 1911 this figure had fallen to 106,857. And accompanying this decrease in the number of children were increases in the proportion of persons of all other ages. The first effect was advantageous, in that it increased the number of persons living at the economically efficient ages of 20 to 25 and 25 to 30, but this advantageous position was lost by 1911, when the age number had advanced from 30 to 35."

* * *

While the birth rate has been declining, the scientists have learned many things. For instance, in the United States, the psychological experts have discovered that the present methods of indiscriminate employment of men is wrong and wasteful. They claim, that by putting men to those jobs which they are most suited for, their productivity would be increased. To the end that psychology may be applied to every day business life a society has been formed in New York. The promoters of this organization say:

> "Psychology has evolved methods for selecting and putting individuals where they will be most useful and most happy, and on the economic side, they say, it is not unreasonable to assume that the production of national wealth would be doubled if everyone were allowed to do the work he can do best and were trained to do it in the best way. That would be a gain of $70,000,000,000 a year to the United States."

* * *

Psychology is the science which deals with mental phenomena. Mental phenomena, like a declining birth rate can be influenced by economic and material conditions. There is no doubt that the economic conditions have much to do with birth rates. They fall or rise as the economic conditions dictate. At the same time the mental phenomena of the workers is changed by changing economic conditions. Their misery and sufferings make them think differently to what they did five years ago. In fact, they have ideas of putting the capitalists to work and taking over the means of wealth production themselves. They even imagine that they could make a better job of controlling the wealth-producing machinery, including their life forces, than their masters ever did. While the workers may not be scientists, they may reach that stage where they imagine that no man should eat unless he works and performs some useful service to society. When they reach that stage, they too may study psychology, and place their one-time masters at what they are most fitted for, but they will certainly have a job on their hands to find what they can do the best, for they never performed any useful service in their lives.

Cascaden Gives Capitalist Sheet Some Comfort

DURING the week our attention was called to an issue of the Toronto Saturday Night, a publication issued in the good city, which caters to ruling class prejudices and all that those prejudices imply. The front page attracted our attention, because of a photo which appeared thereon, and the photo was one of the newly elected Pope. This photo appeared in the centre columns of the page, and about two inches above it we noticed the word "Red." The new Pope was, prior to his election, a Cardinal, and we thought that the word "red" might have something to do with his cardinal robes, but we read on and found that the Toronto Saturday Night had come to a realization of the fact that there is a "Red" movement in Canada.

* * *

As we continued reading, we were agreeably surprised to find that The Federationist came in for some criticism. Naturally this was not unpleasant to our taste, for condemnation from any capitalistic sheet is, from a working class viewpoint, praise. Later in the front page article referred to, we found that the Lumber Workers' Industrial Union of Canada came in for some criticism because that organization had decided to affiliate with the Red International of Trade Unions. This giving further assurance that the Lumber Workers had taken the right step.

* * *

The article, however, did not confine itself to criticism. It had a measure of praise for certain individuals. It commented on the appointment of Gordon Cascaden to attend the Moscow gathering of the Red International, and the fact that Carl Berg, of Edmonton, was responsible for the appointment. The article in question dealing with Cascaden's representation of the Lumber Workers reads as follows:

> "It will be news to many readers that Canada had a representative at Moscow, but it is comforting to know that Cascaden, whoever he is, showed some gleams of intelligence. He is accused of having voted against such "fundamental" principles as the "Dictatorship of the Proletariat," "recognition of the principles of the class struggle," and "united action with all revolutionary organisations of a given country for the purpose of offensive and defensive struggle with the bourgeoise."

* * *

Now, Cascaden's criticism of the Red International and his views are appearing in print, but the value of his views and observations can be judged by our readers when it is recognized that the Toronto Saturday Night finds comfort in them. We understand that to give comfort and aid to the enemy is treason—our readers can judge for themselves just what Berg and "his delegate" are to the working class movement. The Federationist feels proud to know that it is not classed in the same category as the individual judged by a capitalistic sheet to be intelligent. We are at least patriotic to the worker, even though we at times may blunder. At least our intentions are good, and we refuse to give aid and comfort even to the least of the capitalistic apologetic sheets.

A new government is in power. A new Parliament has assembled. But there is little chance of anything but ruling-class decrees being enacted by the new legislators. They may be new, but their methods will conform to those who dictate the policies of ruling-class governments.

Those who imagine that economic revolutions can be brought about quickly and almost spontaneously may learn from the experiences of Soviet Russia, that the organization of the workers is not only essential while capitalism lasts, but that the workers' industrial organizations will be necessary during the period of transition from one economic form to another, after the political revolution has been accomplished, and that economic structures are not built in a day.

Sam Gompers has found the key to the present major immediate troubles. He says that they are economic, and then says that the root of the trouble is in the fact that factory wheels are idle, that human beings are in need. Being a labor leader, Sam should know. He should understand economic conditions, and while we hate to take issue with "the grand old fossil" of the American labor movement, we rise to suggest that men are idle because of the present economic conditions, which are a direct outcome of the present system of production, and that instead of the idle machinery and human beings in want being the cause of the immediate problems, the wheels of production are at a standstill because they cannot be operated profitably and therefore human want and misery result. Try again, Sam; you may yet see the only issue before the workers.

The German Government and the Trusts

By Paul Froelich (Berlin)

"The Lord wills it so! The German Government cries it, the Social Democrats and the Centre Party repeat it, and the Independent Socialists echo it—the Lord wills it so. And the Lord in this case is the Right Honourable David Lloyd George. He wills it and lo! it is done. Within the limits of human strength and endurance, of course, yet with a humble and hopeful mind withal.

Everything the Lord could possibly take exception to is being carefully avoided, for great is the fear of sinning. So great, in fact, that Herr Wirth, Chancellor of the German "Republic," so-called, felt himself moved to protest that "we shall not go to Genoa with a dagger tucked away in our sleeves." This lamb assures the world at large that he is no roaring and bloodthirsty lion, far from it! And nobody doubts it, for the poor soul has not even draped about him a lion's skin.

And yet there would have been ways and means if the power with which to do so and which was at its disposal was not its own. There is strength even in Germany's desperate situation. Not only because its clearance sale endangers the vital nerves of the great industrial powers, but also because it can have a natural ally for the mere asking.

How best to exploit two victims is the subject of the forthcoming discussions of the capitalist buccaneers at Genoa. If Germany alone were the pivot of the deliberations, the great powers would agree among themselves as they did in London, in Cannes and in Versailles when Germany was merely admitted to sign its own sentence. But Russia is after all a power with which it is necessary to negotiate on the price it is to pay for a few years' quiet and sustenance. With the conflicts among the Allies being what they are, Germany could undoubtedly cut a figure at Genoa if—it would unite itself politically with Russia. Instead of adopting this course, however, Germany is to continue in the role of lackey and parish which is, after all, but what the petty bourgeois in power (Social Democrats and Centre Party) deserve.

The impotence of the German Government in foreign politics is the result of its weakness within its own frontiers, a weakness that is reacting very dangerously upon domestic politics. The great bourgeoisie is busily and stubbornly exploiting this state of affairs for its own ends, attacking not merely the government, but the state itself.

The utter colapse of Germany's economic system has, apart from agriculture, which, though it is earning usurers' profits, has not strengthened its position from the viewpoint of political economy, only benefited the trust industries (coal, iron, chemicals and electricity) whose mushroom-like growth overshadows the sorry ruins. Their powerful position on the economic field will make itself felt in politics, at least as long as the other social factor of power, the working-class, remains crippled.

The overlords of the trusts, the Stinnes, Thyssen, Rathenau, Deutsch, etc., are more determinedly than ever professing that "l'etat c'est moi!" This course is contrary to the interests of the state. Trust capital is autocratic and a bitter antagonist of Democracy. But for historical reasons and for fear of the revolution at least a semblance of democracy must be retained. Hence trust capital aims at the destruction of the state, limiting its functions and undermining its power.

Both its personal interests and those of its class are the driving force behind trust capital whose onward march towards power was facilitated considerably by the nearly interrupted traditions handed down from the times of the last of the Hohenzollerns, and the confusion and weakness of a republican government. The campaign was launched by withholding taxes from the government which feat was achieved by fraud and sabotage. The National Emergency Levy, so widely heralded as a means by which the trusts would be deprived of 60 per cent of their accumulated capital, remained a phantom. Even the duties on income and capital for 1919 remain unpaid today. The financial status of the federal government, the various states and the communities is nearing a catastrophe.

In its embarrassment the government appealed for help to "Big Business." And this Shylock asked as its pound of flesh a part of the state, the railroads. The Social Democrats, as is their habit, cried "Never!" and—declared their willingness for a coalition with Shylock's party, the German People's Party. The ministers, too, cried "Never!" and—entered upon negotiations with the captains of industry.

The result? The railroads are still under state control it is true, but it is equally true that trust capital with its battering rams has torn a gap in the economic fortifications of the state. These fortifications comprise among other things the great number of municipal works (electricity, gas, water, etc., etc.). Even previous to the war trust capital paralleled these municipal works with gigantic enterprises of its own. Today bad finances and political weakness compel many communities to surrender their economic possessions to private ownership. Berlin, for instance, is, for want of capital, selling its coal mines for a song. The Social Democratic President of the Prussian Diet and Burgomaster of Hannover disposed of the jetties, piers, cranes, etc., of that city for a sum far below their real value. By getting rid of their last belongings the communities hope to avoid bankruptcy and become beggars, while the trusts cheaply secure both economic and political power.

It is becoming apparent that the endeavors to get possession of the jetties, etc., of Hannover was but the forerunner of an organized attempt on the part of the coal and iron industry to gain control of the German waterways, which scheme is secretly supported by the Prussian government. While this government denied to the members of the Diet all knowledge on the matter, it negotiated with the industry on the sale of the harbor facilities of Duisburg-Ruhrort, the greatest inland port in the world and the centre of the German waterways. He who controls this port, controls the river and canal system of the Elbe, the Rhine and the Danube. Its passing into private ownership has already affected the state-owned railways. In the course of the negotiations, now carried on quite openly, between the Prussian government and trust capital, the captain of industry Kloeckner chided the government representatives and mockingly advised them to get accustomed to the thought "that before long government ownership will have been abolished everywhere." That suffices to indicate the course they are steering.

The compromise regarding taxes arrived at between the parties in power and the German People's Party, representing trust capital, appears to be a contradiction of that party's policy. Under this agreement the capitalists are to subscribe towards a compulsory loan on which no interest is to be paid for the next three years. A searching inquiry reveals, however, that this compromise constitutes but added proof of the correctness of our argument. For that compulsory loan relieves the capitalists of the obligation to pay up the taxes on the National Emergency Levy not called in; it also exempts them from the duty to pay the large arrears of taxes on accumulated capital. It cannot be stated definitely which of the two alternatives is more favorable to the capitalists from a purely financial point of view. Nor is it to be expected that the compulsory loan will be realized before the end of this year, when the political situation in Germany might not be what it is now. Whether the compulsory loan will be still on the books at that time, is a very great question indeed. The third and decisive point in favor of our argument is the fact that in reaching the compromise on taxes the government and with it the Social Democrats have unconditionally surrendered to the representatives of industry, who, content with what they have, demand both personal and financial guarantees. They claim the more important ministeries and already today present the future minister of finance they futhermore demand that the railroads be surrendered to the control of the Stinnes group, that the eight-hour day be abolished, and anti-strike laws be passed, etc., etc.

And the meaning of all this? Limitation of the authority of the state, return to the theories of Manchester Liberalism, the principle that the state should not concern itself with things economic and should have no voice in commerce and industry. It is even worse than what Lassalle termed the "idea of a state of night watchmen." The trust magnates are little by little relieving the state of the duty of protecting their property, having already instituted in their factories an elaborate police and spy system of their own.

And why not? They have power to apply what they term "justice" notwithstanding all the beautifully phrased clauses in the Factory Councils Act.

The capitalists are in every respect emancipating themselves from the guardianship of the state; they take over most of its functions and are the most powerful factor in the camouflaged ruin that remains.

The ultimate aim of all these activities is the intensification of exploitation. The other half of the compromise on taxes was the capitalists' permission to legislate a fresh series of gigantic taxes under which half of the proletariat's meagre earnings will admittedly go to make up the budget. Meanwhile the financial status of the government has not improved, there still being a gigantic deficit in the state budget, not to speak of the reparations burden. The floating debt of the state continues to increase, a process accelerated by the activities of the paper money printing press, and the prices for foodstuffs are still soaring, while any resistance offered by the workers to this hunger policy is to be brutally suppressed. Thus German trust capital hopes to gain a new position of power in the world.

The responsibility for this state of affairs must be attributed to the petty-bourgeois cowardice and weakness of both Socialist parties who, having cleared the path for Stinnes and Co., are still working on their behalf by sabotaging every great wage dispute of the workers. It is the fate of the German proletariat that German labor has a petty-bourgeois leadership.

But in spite of this, however, the capitalists, Social Democrats and Independent Socialists alike are reckoning without their host—German labor, which though it appears today as a weak victim, is, nevertheless, the most powerful factor in Germany's social life. The policy aimed at by the Stinnes group will compel the German workers to assert themselves and to fight desperately for Germany's bare existence. And in this struggle German labor will become conscious of its power, a knowledge that will lead to victory.

Nansen Indicts the Governments of Europe

(Continued from page 1)

ment savage in its inhumanity." As for the second, he had obtained adequate guarantees from Moscow before he asked for a cent of money for relief purposes, and "from the very first moment the soviet authorities have done everything in their power to assist my work. Not a seal on a single package of food has been broken in transit." In the one case of a small consignment of food which was lost full payment was voluntarily made by the Russian government in English money. The answers to the argument that domestic need made it impossible to help Russia is, Dr. Nansen said, that that very need "makes it impossible not to help Russia." He pionted out that the total sum needed to save millions of Russians from starvation is approximately equal to the cost of a single modern battleship.

Pays Tribute

High tribute was paid by Dr. Nansen to the various relief agencies, particularly to the soviet government which, he said, "has done all that any one government could do to meet the disaster." Pointing out that the famine will continue for months to come because the peasants have been forced to eat their seedwheat, he said that the soviets have succeeded "miraculously, in my opinion," in getting the winter sowing on the Volga carried through.

The area affected by the famine is somewhat greater than that of all France. It had a population of about 33,000,000 of whom it is estimated that about one million have already died from starvation and induced diseases, while 19,000,000 more are threatened with death during the next few months. In more than four years of scientifically organized destruction less than ten million lives were lost altogether as a result of the world war.

"By heroic efforts now," said Dr. Nansen, some ten million of those threatened lives might be saved. For the rest it is already too late. All the horses are dying and there is no means of reaching the desolate districts. The Volga provinces, once the granary of Europe, are being turned to vast stretches of lifeless desert."

"After a profound investigation," said the high commissioner, "I know that it is absolutely wrong to attribute the disaster to Bolshevism. The calamity is due to the civil wars which have prevented Russia recovering from the world war; to the seven years' blockade; to a small extent to the requisition system of the soviet authorities which, however, was abandoned before the present famine came in sight; and—so much the most important that all the rest might be eliminated—to the drought of 1921, the worst in history, one which would have shaken the strongest state to its foundations."

Bela Kun Cleared of Cowardice Charges

(Continued from Page 1)

rades preferring the charges should be decisively disciplined and informed that such accusations merely cause rejoicing among our enemies and severely damage the international working class."

A resolution accepting the committee's report and expressing sympathy with Bela Kun was adopted with one vote in opposition.

Kularev, for the Bulgarian Communist party, indorsed the unity policy of the Communist International, but declared the collapse of the Bulgarian Reformist Socialist Democratic party, after the general strike of 1919, had made the Communists the supreme worker party of Bulgaria, and unity was hardly an issue any more. Nevertheless the Bulgarian Communists, Kularev said, were willing to pursue the unity policy for the sake of world revolution.

Thomann for the Austrians warned against any limitation of the field of action of the Communist parties. He declared that the Austrian Social Democrats were again resorting to revolutionary phrases and increasing their influence among the workers in this way. This handicapped the Communists in Austria and the neighboring countries, he said.

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ASKS LIBERTY FOR ALIENS

Civil Liberties Union Would Free Alien Political Prisoners

Washington.—An appeal to the Department of Labor to allow alien political prisoners, released from Federal prisons, to be at liberty on bail pending their deportation was made by Roger N. Baldwin, director of the American Civil Liberties union, in a letter to E. J. Henning, assistant secretary of labor.

Bail has generally been allowed where politicals' sentences have expired, but it has been refused recently in cases where sentence was commuted. The case over which the issue has been drawn is that of James Mulrooney, an Australian convicted in the I. W. W. cases at Sacramento, in 1919. Mulrooney's term in Leavenworth expired Feb. 22, but the department has lodged him in jail in Kansas City, refusing to accept bail, although it admits that a long time must elapse before he can be deported.

The Civil Liberties union asks that all prisoners who are to be deported be given a chance to close up their private affairs before sailing, and that if the department fears that they will abuse this privilege before sailing it should put conditions in the bail bond, but should not deny them this liberty on mere presumption of bad faith.

Madison, Wis.—Governor Blaine of Wisconsin issued a proclamation setting aside the week of March 5 to 12 as a period of collection of food, medicine and clothing for relief of distress in Russia. The proclamation was issued through the American Committee for Russian relief.

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Lumber Workers' News and Views

BARNARD'S CAMP, ORFORD BAY

Some time ago a crew of men were sent up to this camp, but upon arrival there it was found impossible to log, owing to the amount of snow on the ground. About a week ago the men in camp held a meeting and discussed the question as to whether they would pay the company for their board while waiting for the camp to start operations. It was decided at the meeting that the company either make no charge for board, or else give the men a free pass back to town. A letter was drawn up to this effect, signed by 49 men and handed to the company's representative. No definite answer was given to the men until the arrival of the company manager, Barnard, from town. It was a pass back to town, including meals and berth on the boat.

A small steam tug was used to transport the men from camp to Churchhouse, but as the tug could not carry them all at once two trips were made, 25 men going down on the first trip. On the second trip only four men showed up, the other twenty men who had signed the letter to the company had evidently decided to take whatever the company wanted to hand them and therefore stayed on the job.

When the Cheakamus came into Churchhouse J. Lynch, the super., came in on a gas boat and informed some of the officials onboard the Cheakamus that they were to cancel the order for meals on the men's passes. In other words the men could starve until they reached town if they did not have the price to pay for their meals; and the most of them did starve, as being broke they could not pay for their meals on the boat.

Camp 6, C. P. R. Camps, Yalk

Conditions in this camp are rotten to say the least. It is all "jippo" in this camp, even the cook "jippoing." The camps are filthy and look as if they had not been scrubbed all winter.

Camp 17, Yahk

This camp is all "jippo." Twenty-eight men to each bunk house, double-deck bunks of the iron variety, pack your own blankets. The bunk houses are overcrowded and have not been scrubbed all winter and a lot of men in camp are sick. No pay day for three months and no sign of any. Why don't you fellows who are working there come to life and try to be men, for there are a good many workers who would like to get work but cannot on account of the fact that so many of you are "jippoing." Let us unite our forces and establish the eight hour day in the camps of this district. When you come to Cranbrook, come to the Lumber Workers' Hall and get your card fixed up and then go back on the job and get your fellow-worker to get his card fixed. We must do something or else our standard of living will be lowered below that of the Oriental. A call has been sent in from several camps for new cards and there seems to be a general revival of organization among the members of this district. Let us get organized by May Day and show our strength.

PRINCE GEORGE

Reports from Prince George indicates that there is a strike on at McArthur's camps. Full details cannot, however, be given, as while they have been mailed and notice to that effect has been received by wire, they have not yet arrived.

CARD SCALPING

Card scalping on the part of the Local Lumber Workers' District Secretary has always taken place. But a few cases of recent date have taken place, which are so barefaced, and are creating suspicion in the minds of the victims that publicity becomes a duty.

Some weeks ago the Industrial Lumbers Workers of Canada in Convention at Vancouver decided to suspend the Edmonton branch. The Edmonton branch always has been a one man organization where the one man carried on. A mail order organization and the membership seldom or ever meet all at one time. The fact that there are very few if any members in town at any time other than those whose duty it is to catch the unwary for dues in order that all may eat without too much physical energy expended, has made very little difficulty for this one man organization.

Workers come in town from camps and soon find themselves in the hall with a sign over the door, "Lumber Workers' Industrial Union of Canada." Those workers always part easily with their cash in exchange for smooth talk. But they too, read and while in town they meet with other workers and discuss the latest matters in the movement.

In the last few weeks men have come and gone, they found out that the most efficient man the lumber workers could send to Moscow was a journalist, who had no knowledge of organization, and knew nothing of the Lumber Workers' Union, save what he had read and heard about it. They too found that although Cascaden was supposed to have been sent with credentials from the Edmonton branch that on arriving in Moscow those credentials seem to have changed somewhat. Whether the change took place through carrying them about so long or just how it happened they do not know, but some of those men believe that those things need to be explained. Other things they want to know are: Why should Cascaden's report (I would sooner call it Cascaden's opinions about the other delegates) be of interest to the A. F. of L. officials here? Why should Cascaden's report be tolerated at the A. F. of L. Trades Council here?

And they want above all to know why are they not informed by the district secretary of the action taken at Vancouver, before they pay their dues, and why men who boast of the rank and file should take dues from this rank and file under pretence that they pay those dues to the Lumber Workers' Industrial Union of Canada. Fellow Lumber Workers be aware of the Card Scalpers.

Yours, J. LAKEMAN.

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China for the Chinese, New Formula

(Continued from page 1)

Chinese elements are expected to turn against him in his own territory, and to drive him to withdraw from public affairs.

"Dr. Sun will be installed as president of China at Pekin within 30 days," was predicted by the South Chinese here. "The spirit of what is now being reported from the north and south of our country is expressed in the phrase 'China for the Chinese.' It is an expression of realization that the powers will do nothing for China, that the Washington conference was a farce, and that the American and other governments knew, even before the conference, that the Pekin government had collapsed and was virtually a corpse during all the parleys here."

That the sensational change in Chinese political conditions thus disclosed will influence the senate's vote on the four-power pact is inevitable. The state department insisted that the Pekin government was the only stable element in China with which the powers could deal. Now the Canton government appears on the eve of sweeping into power over the whole of China. China is in process of turning out her pro-Japanese regime and installing a pro-Chinese government which has at all times repudiated the work of the Washington conference. The four-power pact and the Chinese treaties become an offense to the Chinese government.

The new alignment in China means the British will be challenged in their seizure of Tibet. They have marched into and garrisoned that vast territory, upon which they have not the slightest claim, without asking permission even of the weak politicians in Pekin. Sun Yat Sen is anti-British and anti-imperialist. He will take the first favorable moment to invite the British to get out of Tibet.

After the British will come the turn of the French on the Annam border, at the south.

Success of this revival of Chinese national self-assertion, through Sun, is dependent upon the good faith of General Chang-Tsao-Lin in the alliance now forming for the removal of General Wu Pei Fu.

The Karelian Workers' Commune

(By George Halonen)
(For the Federated Press)

Author's Note: As that autonomous territory of Soviet Russia, the Karelian Workers' Commune, is little known to the American workers, we shall endeavor to give a general presentation of this new-born workers' republic in the following articles. At the same time, this will afford a concrete example of the Soviet Government's policy with reference to nationalities and the manner in which the Russian workers have solved this problem.

In December, 1920, Soviet Russia voluntarily gave full economic and national autonomy to Karelia. This act is in accord with Section 11 of the Constitution of the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic, which guarantees self-determination to the various nationalities included in its vast domains. The autonomy granted to Karelia is much broader in scope than that given to other communes belonging to the Soviet Russian Federated Republic. The population enjoys complete national self-determination and the right of carrying on its own foreign trade.

Karelia proper comprises a territory about one-third as large as that of Finland and is situated between that country and Soviet Russia. As an autonomous territory, Karelia thus forms a so-called buffer state between the two. Despite its size, Karelia is very sparsely settled. According to census estimates taken in August, 1920, the population is only about 145,000, making the ratio of population to area about 1.4 persons to every square kilometer. Of the entire population, about 120,000 are Karelians.

According to the languages spoken in the country, the inhabitants are divided as follows: Russian, 51 per cent.; Karelin, 35 per cent.; Finnish, 13 per cent.; others, 1 per cent. The Karelin language is closely related to the Finnish and composed of numerous dialects, none of which have been developed into literary or grammatical form. As these dialects are so closely related to the Finnish, that language is used in schools, literature, and in the various offices. That the Russian language is proportionately so dominant, despite the reverse ratio as to population of the nationalities themselves, is due to the "Russianization" efforts of the old Czarist regime. According to the constitution of the Karelian Commune, the Finnish and Russian languages must be used simultaneously by all government departments, in bulletins, decrees, official reports, etc., to the public.

About 85 per cent. of the population are peasants and agricultural workers; 15 per cent. industrial workers and professionals.

Petrozavodsk, with a population of about 45,000, is the capital city of the commune. Here are located all the governmental offices and bureaus, and in the city is centered most of the cultural and industrial life of the country.

The highest governing authority in the Karelian Workers' Commune is the General Congress of Soviets, which meets twice a year—in January and September. Special sessions of congress may be held when necessary. Between the sessions of the congresses the executive committee of the Karelian Commune, which is elected in each congress, controls the entire governmental, social and economic life of the commune.

The governmental machinery is divided into the following departments: Executive, judicial, educational, social welfare, labor and peasant examination, intelligence (Cheka), health, financial, industrial and economic. This Soviet form of government was formed by the people themselves, and now, for the first time, they have an opportunity of governing themselves.

The chairman of the Karelian executive committee is the well-known Finnish revolutionist, Edvard Gylling. The office of the chairman is somewhat similar to that of president or prime minister in some other countries. Other members of the executive committee act as heads of the various governmental departments.

Karelia is known for its great natural resources. There are thousands of hectares of excellent swamp lands capable of producing rich crops under proper cultivation, and splendid forests that furnish innumerable varieties of game and whereby a valuable fur industry can be developed with comparatively small effort. Numerous varieties of fish may be had from the Karelian seashore and the thousands of lakes and rivers. The government is now centering special interest on the fishing industry in order to help the famine situation.

There are excellent waterfalls that can be harnessed and set to serve the needs of the people. It has been estimated that more than 1,000,000 horsepower can be generated and converted to use from these sources. Besides 10,000,000 hectares of timber lands there are millions of tons of iron ore, quartz, marble, copper, asbestos, anthracite, color earth, etc.

But every one of these resources require development. That is the immediate task of the Karelian Commune. Its aim is to convert these great resources of raw materials and power, and supply Karelia, Russia and other countries with their products.

For the present, Karelia is poverty stricken. Years of war have completely devastated the country. For three years the Finnish armies occupied the territory. English, and even American expeditions held control with a rule of blood and iron. Russian counter-revolutionary bands made destructive raids. All this completely paralyzed the machinery of production.

Then Karelians, Finns and Russians rose hand in hand to overthrow the common enemy—and won. Now, that the system of exploitation and robbery has been abolished, they are laying the foundations of a better society. They believe that in a few years they can show the world the greatness of the creative power of the revolution.

(The second article will describe the second general congress of the Karelian Commune).

Halifax, N. S., Canada.—The Nova Scotia legislature meets on March 2. The three labor men from Cape Breton will introduce an eight-hour day bill and other labor legislation. I. S. Henri of Montreal has been engaged to act as the secretary of the labor members.

Sacramento, Calif.—The Board of education of this city denied the request of H. J. Levitan to speak in the high school auditorium on behalf of relief for the starving children of Soviet Russia.

Where is the Union Button?

THOUSANDS OF MINERS MAY STAVRE

U. S. Steel Corporation Uses Its Power in West Virginia

Morgan Controlled Interests Oppose Miners' Union

(By the Federated Press)

Thirty-five thousand miners' families in West Virginia are on the verge of starvation because of the widespread unemployment in the coal fields—unemployment due, the miners and union officials charge, to the pressure exerted on the operators by the United States Steel Corporation. These thousands of miners and their hungry wives and children are not on strike.

In Mingo county 1100 miners are still locked out because they demand the right to organize.

The following article, the 4th of a series prepared by the American Civil Liberties Union, 138 West 13th St., New York City, depicts the manner in which the power of the Steel Trust is used—together with that of other entrenched interests—against the West Virginia miners.

"If the United States Steel Corporation toomorrow said: 'Let the unions in West Virginia be recognized,' they would be recognized, Samuel Untermyer, noted lawyer, and himself, perhaps, the largest individual stockholder in the Steel Corporation, told the United States Senate committee on education and Labor during its recent investigation into industrial conditions in the unorganized coal fields of that state.

Behind the so-called "open shop" drive in West Virginia, Untermyer declared, are the United States Steel Corporation, and the Pennsylvania Railroad, both "sponsored" by J. P. Morgan & Co. These corporations, he said, are attempting to put the coal industry of West Virginia on a "solid" non-union basis and use it as an entering wedge to smash unionism in the entire coal industry of America.

Tracing the ramifications of the J. P. Morgan concern through the innumerable corporations in which it holds stock or is represented in interlocking directorates, Untermyer showed the senators the mighty influence wielded by the Steel Corporation in the battle of the coal operators against the United Mine Workers' organizations in West Virginia.

"The Steel Corporation," he said, "does not need to own a very large part of the Pocahontas field (McDowell county) in order to control the labor situation there. That is not necessary at all. If they have got an interest in it their power is great enough for them to control their other ramifications.

The United States Steel Corporation, the committee was shown by the miners' officials, leases more than 62,000 acres of land in the Pocahontas coal field, just southwest of Mingo county. It owns 53,736 acres of vein area, and 32,662 acres of surface area in Logan and Mingo counties, where Don Chafin and his subsidized army of deputies, and the Baldwin-Felts detective organization administer the "law and order" in the small mining communities. It is these organizations which have offered violent resistance to the United Mine Workers' efforts to organize this territory.

In addition to these holdings of the Steel Trust in southern West Virginia, it owns, just southwest of Mingo in Kentucky, more than 108,000 acres of coal lands. On its Kentucky holdings the corporation has built what is probably the largest coal mining plant in the world. On this plant it expended in 1917 and 1918 more than $3,500,000.

The ally of the U. S. Steel Corporation in West Virginia, Untermyer pointed out, is the Pennsylvania Railroad. The Pennsylvania controls, through interlocking directorates and other "high finance" methods, including mortgages, bonds, stocks and holding and operating companies, the Norfolk & Western is the largest and most important coal-carrying road in the southern part of the state.

Through the Pocahontas Coal & Coke Company, the Pennsylvania and the Norfolk & Southern sublease to the United States Steel Corporation its holdings in McDowell county.

The Pocahontas Coal & Coke Co. owns in its own name 300,000 acres of coal land in the Pocahontas coal field, the richest coal producing section in the state.

Untermyer charged—and the charge remained undisputed—that J. P. Morgan & Company controlled both of these powerful agencies of industrial oppression; the United States Steel Corporation and the Pennsylvania Railroad.

The Steel Corporation, he added, is the largest operator in the State of West Virginia. Its subsidiary, the United States Coal & Coke Co., produced in 1920 more than 5,000,000 tons of coal. In McDowell county it operates eleven plants and employs 3883 men—or nearly twice as many as the next largest company in that field.

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- LONDON LETTER -

(By Evelyn Sharp, Federated Press Staff Writer)

LONDON (by mail).—The Minister of Labor announces that the situation of the workers is improving because there are fewer names on the "live" registers of the Labor Exchanges. But these are not a trustworthy indication of the state of unemployment, since a man will cease to make the wearysome, futile journey to the exchange when he runs out of benefits and can no longer claim unemployment pay.

Of greater significance is the temper of the unemployed as shown in organized visits to Boards of Guardians, up and down the country; in the demonstration that took place recently and the deputation which was refused audience with Sir Alfred Mond (Minister of Health) and in the conflict between the unemployed and the police which have ceased to be objects of pity and to have become a public nuisance, and Guardians and police authorities treat them accordingly. It will be interesting to see the effects of the addition to their ranks of the relatively well-fed (and therefore more aggressive) men and women thrown out of work when—if ever—the "cuts" proposed by the Geddes committee come into operation.

War has begun in the building trade. Two strikes against reductions of 2 pence an hour—announced in violation of the national agreement by the employers—were declared Feb. 11. A separate campaign is being waged against the masons, but the Federation of Building Trade Operatives will contend against any attempt to segregate any section of the workers.

The position in the shipbuilding industry is still serious. The employers have now modified their demands and instead of asking for a direct cut of 26 shillings suggest 16 shillings now and 10 shillings after three months. But the men are not disposed to accept any cut at all. Last year they lost 17 shillings a week in wage reductions. The average wage on the Clyde is now down to 75 shillings. A cut of 26 shillings would further reduce them to 49 shillings—the equivalent of not more than 25 shillings pre-war. Such a cut would make the industry frankly a sweated one.

But the employers are quite frank in their attitude. The Federation of British Industries, probably the most powerful organization of "Big Business" in the country, issued last week a manifesto on the subject of Labor and Costs of Production. Its main conclusions were:

(1) Wages must come down.

(2) Workers must give a higher output and work longer hours.

(3) Reparation payments must be modified so as to make the least possible disturbance in the world's trade.

(4) Expenditure on armaments must be reduced.

"To secure a substantial reduction in prices we must effect a substantial reduction in wage costs. This can only be done either by reducing wages or by the working people giving greater output for the wages they receive" (but it will be noted that both ways are demanded).

The report then comments on "the unfortunate effect of the present system of unemployment benefit," and declares that these payments have a "demoralizing" effect on many of the workers.

"If price reductions are to be made without impairing the standard of living the workers must be prepared to give a higher output per head, and to extend the working hours. It may be necessary to go further and for the workers to be prepared to accept a money wage which may, until business revives, involve a lower standard of living than that which prevailed before the trade depression set in, or even than their pre-war standard. Further, if these reductions of wages are to be carried out it is desirable that the movement should be as widespread and as uniform as possible."

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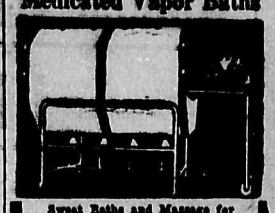

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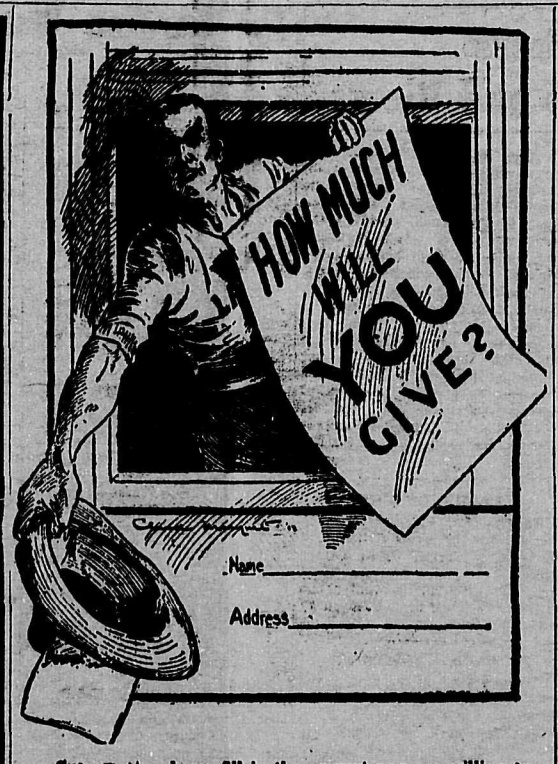

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Previously acknowledged	$875.31	Olai Olson	2.50
A. Friend	1.00		
E. Ahola	1.00		
H. Mynth	1.00		$880.81

The Evolution of Man

LAST Wednesday Dr. Curry stated that as the spring had arrived, and as they had travelled from the Solar nebulae to the Bourgeois Revolutions, he needed a rest, and this would be the last study for the season.

Being a member of the Workers Party, other meetings were called, and he expected to continue using his efforts as he had for the last 20 years, in the cause of Labor.

The speaker first showed the difference between philosophical and historical materialism.

The first being the idea that matter is the basis of all physical and mental phenomena; the second, called also economic determinism, means that history is a record of struggles for material things, the basis of our individual or social life, and that political, intellectual, moral or religious institutions and ideas, grow out of man's material needs and especially out of the mode of production prevailing in any given period. From there it is easily seen that the dominant class today, the capitalist, furnish the ideas of the community. Yet, because of the antagonism of interests between worker and capitalist, slave and master, and because of this law of "economic determinism" we see today two corresponding sets of ideas in conflict. One representing the conservative master class, the other representing the revolutionary slave class struggling to throw off their chains.

This economic and mental conflict was intense in Europe for several generations. Oliver Cromwell had, in the 17th century, represented the bourgeois revolt against Feudalism. He kicked over the House of Lords, cut the head off the King, and upset "law and order" in general, yet no doubt did it all in accordance with the "British Constitution."

Later, the rising capitalists felt their inferiority, and so took the Feudal lords in with them to help rule and keep the workers in their place. Today all the great British corporations have these noble relics of Feudalism attached to them as presidents or directors.

Something the same programme only with considerable more bloodshed took place in France, where the ideals were liberty, equality, fraternity of the eternal kind, only in France a more thorough cleaning up took place, and there were no "noble lords" or Feudal property left when the Reign of Terror was completed.

In America, the speaker showed, the conflict for "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" was in reality a clash over whether the coming capitalist rulers should be of the British or Colonial breed.

While the Civil War was, in spite of the school history and fourth of July declarations, not a war "to free the poor slave," but a fight over whether the Southern slave-holding States or the manufacturing and commercial interests of the north should control the national government.

The speaker showed that today another revolutionary era is here. In Russia, the relics of Feudalism, and what there was of capitalism, was thrown over, and the workers are in control.

The famine is today the ally of the capitalist governments. That is why millions in Russia are starving, and the world governments doing nothing. The capitalist states have already spent billions in assisting the many counter revolutionists to overthrow the Soviet state.

These millions starve in Russia, because there is not food, millions are hungry and homeless in America, while warehouses are bursting with food and clothing. The workers are today learning their lesson of master class "morals" by bitter experience. Tomorrow we hope they will do what their masters did to the Feudal rulers, and do it thoroughly.

This is not only necessary for the workers—the life of the race demands that what is socially produced must be socially owned, and that production be carried on for the use of the workers, not for the profit of the masters; and that the class struggle and human partsitism and slavery be once and forever abolished. Only then can true civilization and true progress be realized.

TO ALL READERS OF THE FEDERATIONIST

Agricultural group formed by the Vancouver branch of the Society for Technical Aid to Soviet Russia.

This group has informed you in several previous issues that they are receiving applications from persons wishing to join this group which is leaving for Soviet Russia in May, full particulars can be obtained as to admission as members from either of the undersigend secretaries.

Fellow workers, you are, or should be fully aware of the vital necessity of aiding Soviet Russia to reconstruct her broken down industries and agriculture. This ruin having been wrought by the inhuman blockade of the capitalist powers, therefore "The First Workers Republic" has appealed to the workers of this continent to form and equip groups of workers who are willing to go to aid in the reconstruction of Soviet Russia, and in answer to this appeal the Vancouver branch of the society for Technical Aid to Soviet Russia has organized an agricultural group who are willing to undergo any hardships which might ensue in the carrying out of their task.

This group must be equipped with tractor, ploughs, drills, harrows, mowers, binders, wagons, etc., which cost a large sum of money, therefore this group appeals to all readers of this paper and sympathizers of Soviet Russia to enclose $1 or more in an envelope with their name and address, demonstrate your solidarity by forwarding your contributions as soon as possible. To all persons subscribing not less than $2 a very appropriate "Roll of Honor" Card will be forwarded, duly signed and sealed with the seal of the society.

Forward all contributions or if you wish for particulars re joining group write to M. Piroshko or F. Allen, 771 Prior Street, Vancouver, B. C.

Washington.—Despite the refusal of the American State Department to recognize the new Baltic states, Lithuania has secured an invitation from the Italian government to take part in the Genoa conference. This adds to the list of governments approved by Britain and the continental powers but ignored by Washington, that will sit down at the conference table in Genoa next month regardless of the attitude of the American administration.

Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, Canada. —It is the general opinion that the lawyers of this county will not prosecute the Maritime Labor Herald editor and publishers for seditious libel. Several thousands of miners, in their locals, passed resolutions upholding the Herald and declared that it was doing the public a service in publishing the article commenting on the courts.

EVERY READER CAN HELP

Every reader of The Federationist can render valuable assistance by renewing their subscriptions as soon as they are due, and and by inducing another worker to subscribe. It does not take much effort to do this. Try it.

NEVER SAW SUCH TRAGIC SIGHTS AS ON VOLGA

Representative of English Relief Commission Shocked

Famine Sufferers Face Untold Misery and Privation

"The famine conditions on the Volga," said Dr. Nansen, in a recent interview, "surpass all our pessimistic anticipations. It is sufficient to say that Dr. Farrar (the representative of the English Relief Commission) who accompanied me thither, and who has had experience of famine in India, Africa and Asia, had never before witnessed such a terrible nightmare or such tragic sights as those he saw in the Volga area."

Together they had visited a number of feeding centres, children's homes, hospitals, and a large number of villages. Dr. Nassen discovered that the majority of peasants leave their huts only to go for water, and they live on what is left of the straw collected in the autumn. This they grind in stone mortars together with sunflower seeds, bark and clay, and then mix with flour made of the bones of dead animals. There are practically no domestic animals left in the villages. A few households have one horse left, but these are so weak that they cannot keep on their legs. In the Saratov Provinces, which has no forests, there are not even roots, which serve in parts of the Samara province as an important substitute for food.

In the German Volga Commune conditions are very bad. In many cottages corpses oif people who had died of hunger are to be found. They lie unburied for days, because the other members of the family are too weak to go out to report or bury them. In a number of huts whole families are on the point of death, among them strewn the corpses of those who had already died of hunger.

In the Buzuluk District, the famine conditions are more terrible than in other parts of the famine area. In spite of the considerable relief work that is being done, the number of people suffering is so great that it will be impossible to save even half of the children of the district from death by starvation.

Not less than 500 truckloads are required in the Volga area to provide a bare pound of food per day per person. In addition, medical stores, drugs and fodder are needed. The Volga district requires 170,000,000 poods (3,600,000 tons) of food for human consumption. The district, although formerly the granary of Russia, has produced only 46,000,000 poods this year, leaving a deficit of 124,000,000 poods (2,132,000 tons) which must be provided elsewhere.

What country can better provide it than America, with her huge surplus of grain?

Soviet Russia needs three things besides the food above enumerated. She needs: (1) more than 55,000,000 poods (about 900,000 tons) of seed. This seed must be procured for the spring sowing, so that no delay is possible; (2) equipment (cattle, horses, machinery); (3) a large number of tractors and ploughs. The famine has decimated the cattle and horses in the famine district. If substitutes are not provided at once, spring ploughing cannot be done and the population will face another year of famine.

What country can better provide these things than America, with her large supply of seed, machinery and particularly tractors and ploughs?

Some further details of the horrors of the famine are coming to light. Typhus is raging the district, owing to the vile food that the people are consuming. Cats, dogs, mice, even corpses stolen at night from the houses, represent a good part of their food. The hospitals have not sufficient supplies of medicines. More than 60 per cent of the people are suffering from an eye disease; at Tschebos-cari, 90 per cent of the infants have died. In the same district there are more than 108,000 children suffering the worst privations. Mothers are strangling their children, in order not to have to see them slowly die of hunger. What must the suffering of these people be when impelled to such acts?

The Odessa Relief Committee on the way to Ufa with a train of 23 cars of food, had to remove so many corpses from the rails that the train was much delayed. The mortality from starvation is reaching fearful proportions. The cemeteries are crowded with unburied bodies. In the Kirgish Soviet Republic the mortality has increased 34 per cent. In Zarizsyn, more than half the population is starving. People are dying by the hundreds in this district alone. In Saporosthi the inhabitants have become absolutely apathetic to the question of life or death. In the villages and towns people wander about, skeltons eating the soil and drinking polluted water, clad in rags. Need more be said? No greater horror be pictured?

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ALL UNEMPLOYED WORKERS INVITED

LETTERS TO THE FED.

[The opinions and ideas expressed by correspondents are not necessarily endorsed by The Federationist, and no responsibility for the views expressed is accepted by the management.]

A Sun's Editorial

Editor B. C. Federationist—Dear Sir: I have recently arrived in this city from Regina on a business trip and was much surprised on reading an article in the Sun's Sunday edition of this city, claiming 3 workers were wanted for the Province of Saskatchewan this spring.

I would like to state right here that not only is this misleading, the same is absolutely untrue.

As a 20 years resident, I claim to know something of the conditions prevailing in this province, which were never worse.

Regina, Moosejaw, Medicine Hat, in fact all cities and towns are full of idle men, many thousands of whom are eagerly waiting for the spring to open up, with the anticipation of getting work.

We have our own unemployed problem, same as you have here in British Columbia, and which is daily becoming more acute, and there will be many on the streets who will fail to get work in the Province of Saskatchewan this spring. Trusting, sir, you will pardon this early publication, as a warning to any one who thinks of coming to this province looking for work.

Yours very truly,

G. H. ELPHINSTONE,
Quill Lake, Sask.

Patronize Fed. advertisers.

Unemployment the Subject Monday

(Continued from page 1)

I may say that the next conference has been arranged for March 13. On behalf of the conference, I would request an early reply to this letter, and would appreciate the very fullest information as to the measures at present being taken, and also with regard to any proposed measures, to relieve the prevailing distress through unemployment.

Yours sincerely,
W. H. COTTRELL,
Chairman, Joint Conference.
(MRS.) E. BOOTH,
Secretary.

The following wire was received in reply:

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 20, 1922.

W. H. COTTRELL,
7306 Main St., Vancouver, B. C.

Your letter of Feb. Fourteenth with attached resolution referring to unemployment situation Vancouver and surrounding districts received. This department must expect and insist on municipal and provincial authorities taking the first steps incident to inaugurating and maintaining action necessary in relieving unemployment conditions or in extending relief assistance where employment cannot be secured. It is reasonable to assume that you and your associates with municipal and provincial authorities would resent the assumption of home rule assistance or control in matters effecting the welfare or rights of your citizens generally and we must therefore hold that it is consistent to expect that assistance begins at home and the timely supervision over assistance to secure employment or assistance in extending relief should commence and be maintained at home. I shall be glad to learn from municipal and provincial authorities if in any consistent way we can strengthen their position or uphold their hands in dealing with the present very serious condition of unemployment and I send this by wire in order that you may be promptly advised of our position.

JAMES MURDOCK,
Minister of Labor.

After the unemployed demonstration held on Sunday, February the 26th, Mrs. E. Booth, secretary of the committee, forwarded the following letter to the Premier:

March 4th.

Hon. W. L. McKenzie King,
Premier of Canada,
House of Commons,
Sir:— Ottawa, Ont.

At a mass meeting held in Vancouver last Sunday, at which between 5,000 and 6,000 citizens were present, for the purpose of discussing the unemployed situation in Vancouver and vicinity, the following resolution was passed:

"Whereas the unemployed situation is of a national character, and is one that cannot be handled satisfactorily by municipal bodies, and whereas, the extremely low scale of relief now being given is tending to lower the standard of living of the entire wage working population; be it resolved, that we call upon the Federal Government to assume the management of the unemployment situation on a national scale, and that the basis of relief be work at trade union rates or full maintenance on the scale laid down in the Labor Gazette."

I have been instructed by the committee, which was appointed by the unemployed conference held here on February 6th, to forward this resolution to you and to urge you, as the Premier of Canada, to take this matter into consideration and to give that attention to this question which the needs of the people at this time demand.

I remain,
MRS. E. BOOTH.

To date no reply has been received from the Premier.

As the unemployed women have suffered so far in silence and no effort has been made to organize the unemployed females, it is expected that the conference will deal with this aspect of the unemployed problem and seek to secure adequate relief for the unemployed women and girls.

Since the last conference, the committee of twenty-five has collected much data with respect to the number of unemployed in the district, and also as to the measures of relief adopted by the various municipalities and it is expected that some general plan will be outlined for the care of the unemployed with a recognition of the permanency of the unemployed problem.

ARE BRUTALLY TREATED IN JAIL

Indian Non-Co-operators Held in Solitary Confinement

Labor Troubles Accompany Political Crisis in India

(By the Fed. Press)

Bombay (via London).—The Ali brothers and their comrades, the imprisoned Non-Co-operation leaders, are being brutally treated in Karachi jail. Since Jan. 30 they have been confined in solitary cells as punishment for refusing to take bad food supplied. Both Mohammed Ali and Shanket Ali are in failing health. Cell life means absoute seclusion and no interviews are allowed to friends or legal advisers.

Recently ordered to strip when being searched the brothers refused and were ordered solitary confinement for one month. Hearing of this 20,000 Karachi citizens marched to the prison and demanded to see the prisoners. The Ali brothers were brought on the balcony, from which they addressed the crowd, which then quietly dispersed.

These revelations are causing great excitement in India. A mass meeting of Bombay Moslems has declared that unless the treatment of the prisoners changes for the better the Moslem community will call upon the Central Khalifat committee to devise means of immediate non-violent reprisals.

Labor troubles accompany the political crisis in India. A central fact in the situation is the bitter poverty of the workers, and numerous strikes are expected in the near future. On the East Indian railway the strike is spreading, and troops are being sent to protect strikebreakers. In the Punjab the railway men have sent in a higher-wage ultimatum.

A crop of strikes in Bombay has led to the Economic Labor Federation's taking matters in hand. In one cotton mill the federation formed the first women's trade union in India, and fought the strike to a successful finish. Intervening in a strike of scavengers, who asked an increase to 40 shillings a month from their present wage of 35 shillings, the federation obtained the appointment of a municipal corporation committee to investigate the conditons of these men, the poorest of the poor.

Sydney, N. S. W.—The New South Wales labor government intends to amend the taxation laws of the country by lightening the taxation imposed on persons with an income of $75 per week and under, and increasing the amount of tax on those with incomes above that amount. Workers will benefit largely as a result of the new proposals which will become law next May.

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Teaching Diet by Mail Is a Proven Success.

MILLIONS now Living WILL soon DIE

IN THE FAMINE STRICKEN AREA OF SOVIET RUSSIA UNLESS YOU COME TO THEIR AID NOW

1,000,000 have succumbed in three weeks, the death rate being 50,000 per week.

DON'T DISCUSS! DO SOMETHING!

Dr. Nansen, the famous Arctic explorer who has experienced the rigors of the frozen north, which entails hunger and cold, said before a conference of the League of Nations:

> "Every month lost in discussion makes that fight more terrible. Was a man ever faced by a task more urgent, more terrible than mine? I ask for the help of every member of this great conference. I ask every man and woman, I care not whether they represent governments, employers, or workers, to free their minds of every political consideration; I ask them in the name of human charity to think of the women and children on the frozen Volga; I ask them, when they go from here to their homes, to appeal to the trade unions, to appeal to their co-operative societies, to appeal to their parliaments, to appeal to the great masses of the people, to take a part in the work of helping Russia."

The Friends of Soviet Russia, headquarters New York, are conducting a campaign for the relief of the famine sufferers in Russia, and call upon all organisations in British Columbia, to assist in this work, by organising committees to collect food, medicine, clothes, soap and money.

This does not mean that you have to wait until someone calls upon you. Send what you can to the secretary of the local branch, Mrs. C. Sutherland, 804 Pender St. West, Vancouver, B. C.

Don't throw away any old clothes, if you cannot use them; the sufferers in Soviet Russia will welcome them. Full information on the activities of the Friends of Soviet Russia can be had from the local secretary.