

Freedom

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APRIL, 1918.

MONTHLY: ONE PENNY.

INCREASE IN PRICE.

Owing to the continued increase in wages and in cost of paper, our printers have increased their charges for the second time in six months. In these circumstances we are compelled to raise the price of "Freedom." Commencing with the May issue, the new prices will be 2d. per copy monthly; annual subscription, 2s. 6d.; wholesale price, 1s. 6d. per dozen (13), post free. This month "Freedom" is only four pages, but with the May issue it will become six pages monthly as before. We have also decided to raise the prices of most of our pamphlets, details of which will appear in the new List of Books and Pamphlets which we hope to publish shortly.

NOTES.

Japan Wants Russian Territory.

The past month has been chiefly remarkable for the organised press propaganda in favour of the invasion of Siberia by Japan. The whole campaign has been very carefully engineered by France, followed by Great Britain and Italy. Only America has stood aside, possibly fear of the rapid growth of the Japanese Empire restraining her from participation in the scheme. We know of no more sinister instance of the methods of capitalist Governments. Like carrion crows, they are ready and waiting to alight on Russia's prostrate body. At first very little attempt even at excuse was made, though we heard of the enormous war stores which were concentrated at Vladivostok, and which the Allies were determined to take by force, although no request for their return appears to have been made. Later we learnt that there were 94,000 German prisoners in Siberia east of Lake Baikal, and 60,000 west of that district; that they were being armed by the Bolsheviks presumably in order to fight with Russia and Germany against the Allies. Still later came reports of alleged massacres of Japanese in Siberia. But unfortunately for the Government in this country a large mass of Radical and Liberal opinion was disturbed at the suggested criminal invasion. It was seen that the Allies were hoping to achieve in the East that which the Germans had in the West. It was well known that not the mouldering war stores at Vladivostok was the ultimate objective, but the huge deposits of mineral ore situated in the Urals, and uncomfortable questions were asked in the House which ultimately forced the Government into adopting a more circumspect attitude.

Balfour's Hypocrisy.

Thus, on March 14, the House of Commons witnessed the edifying spectacle presented by Mr. Balfour in posing as the champion of revolutionary Russia. He deprecated any intent to plunder or dismember, but held out hands of friendship to defend. But as the *Manchester Guardian* pitilessly pointed out in its issue of March 15:

"You cannot invade a country because you love it. You cannot refuse to speak with a Government and treat its representatives as pariahs, as our wise Foreign Office has been doing, and at the same time render it effectual aid by arms or in any other way. . . . How are we, or Japan for us, to make war on the only existing Government in Russia, and at the same time not make war upon Russia? How are we to go to her with peace on our lips and a machine-gun in our hands, and not by the very act write ourselves down sheer hypocrites whose false pretence would cry to Heaven and resound through the earth, and put in the shade even the hypocrisies of Germany? Mr. Balfour does not tell us. Perhaps he cannot."

Instead we have the Allied Ministers' statement issued by the Foreign Office on March 18, in which the Russian situation is reviewed, and German aggression criticised. "Our own ends are very different," it declares, "we are fighting, and mean to continue fighting in order to finish once for all with this policy of plunder, and to establish in its place the peaceful reign of organised justice." Brave words for the capitalist representa-

tives to utter, but only further proof of the hypocrisy common to all imperialist Governments.

All Governments Predatory.

Happily for our revolutionary propaganda all the facts connected with the proposed invasion of Siberia only go to prove that the Bolsheviks were right when they contended that all the capitalist Governments now at war are equally predatory. They refused to differentiate between the mailed fist of Germany and the polite humbug of Britain. All the charges they brought against the Western Empires have been proved correct. But let history remember that it was Republican France that in 1906 loaned the Tsar the money wherewith to crush the revolution of that period—that the French financiers are now crying out for their pound of flesh. And now that Germany has forced the Russian people to repay the German loans, the Allies' financiers are anxious to grab as much territory in the Far East as possible. Warlike Japan has, of course, to be used for this purpose, and this autocratic Empire does not require to be coaxed. Expansion is her dominate creed, and she has long cast covetous eyes toward Vladivostok. Thus if the scheme of plunder matures, and Japan enters into possession, we may yet have the delectable spectacle of the thieves quarrelling among themselves over the division of the spoil. Once Japan sets foot in Siberia she will remain rooted there, and France and the Allies can cry their woes to the moon. But despite the whole ghastly business one ray of hope remains—the advocacy of this particular form of friendship to Russia has done far more to convince all thinking people of the impossibility of differentiating between the German rulers and the present Allied Governments. Criticism is rife, and one day the germ of revolt, having matured, will cause the people to settle accounts with the international gang of criminals that rules the world.

"Democratic Control."

There are still those among us innocent enough to believe that the democratic control of foreign policy can be achieved. The recent debate in the House brought forth various solutions for the solving of the problem. The point which seemed to escape all the speakers is, that as we continue to allow capitalist exploitation to exist, the foreign policy of any Government will be more or less secret. The spheres of influence which foreign commercial enterprise finds necessary will always have to be protected by treaties of a more or less secret character. The foreign policy of any Government then becomes a great game in which he who can cheat most successfully is always the greatest winner. The honourable members who honestly endeavour to tinker with our precious institutions, must really learn to save themselves the trouble. Whether a committee to deal with foreign policy is chosen or not, foreign policy must always remain the evil thing this war has proved it to be, until the system that bred it is swept away and replaced by an honest society founded on mutual well-being.

Hunger Strikes Infectious.

The hunger strikers in Ireland are still going strong, despite the subterfuge resorted to by the Dublin Castle administration. Since the death of Thomas Ashe forcible feeding has been stopped, and some of the strikers are in a perilous condition. Replying to a letter sent by the Lord Mayor of Dublin on the subject, Mr. Duke pointed out that the special privileges which the Executive agreed to give to political prisoners after the death of Thomas Ashe were only granted to prisoners who conformed to prison regulations, and that the hunger strike itself is a defiance of those regulations. The fact is that the strike has assumed alarming proportions, and has proved so successful that he finds it expedient to indirectly repudiate the Executive's pledge. As showing something of the tenacity of the Irish character, it should be noted that both political and criminal prisoners are resorting to it. One learns that the hunger strikers include a defaulter under the National Insurance Act, a burglar, and a thief. These facts, together with the unrest in County Clare and the South generally, go to prove how very much alive and virile the Irish are to-day.

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REVOLUTION OR WAR!

The war has reached its greatest ferocity in the battle now in progress on the Western Front. Since March 21, when the Germans attacked on a fifty-mile front, probably two million men have been engaged in this bloody struggle, which far surpasses in intensity anything that has happened previously. For months every effort has been made on both sides to pile up weapons of destruction in readiness for this battle, and Science, the hand-maiden of War, has worked feverishly in the damnable work. When the clash came, therefore, the slaughter was terrible. The casualties on both sides during the first week probably total half a million, and we are told that the battle may last for many days, as the Germans are staking everything on this fight. The blood of the manhood of Europe is being poured out like water, whilst the industry of many millions of workers is being devoted to the manufacture of material for the destruction of their fellows. In every belligerent country the rulers are demanding more men for the battlefield and more labour for the factories, and the hypnotised peoples are sullenly submitting. Starvation and hunger-typhus are taking toll of the populations of Central Europe, and unless sanity soon returns to the world whole races will be wiped out.

The great tragedy is that the vast majority of those who are suffering on both sides believe they are suffering in the cause of liberty, having been hypnotised into that belief by the press, the politicians, and the pulpit. But it may be said without exaggeration that there is less liberty in the world now than ever. In every country at war the Governments have supreme power, and the people are treated as children. Although the manhood of the nation are asked to surrender their lives, they are not allowed to know for what they are fighting. Since the war began secret treaties have been made between the Allies by which they agreed to carve up parts of Africa, Asia Minor, Albania, and other territory without considering the "rights of small nationalities," which is supposed to be the Allies' great moral asset. Although the Bolsheviks have repudiated Russia's share in these treaties, we know that the other Allies have not done so. On the German side, the war which began with the plea that it was to save Germany from the "barbaric hordes" of Russia, has now become a war of conquest, the fate of the Baltic Provinces and of Roumania showing that the military party in Germany have control of political policy. In fact, at present Capitalism and Militarism are rampant everywhere, and the people, under the influence of fear, are veritable slaves to their rulers.

In these circumstances, for our rulers to talk of fighting for liberty is hypocritical. We know that the press of this country is held in a vice by the Press Bureau, which issues secret orders as to what may or may not be discussed. In France and in Italy the papers contain great blank spaces showing where the Censor has suppressed unpleasant facts or criticism; and in America, as we show in another column, the Pierpont Morgan and other corporations control the policy and news of the press. How is it possible for the people to know what they are fighting for when they cannot get the facts? And yet we are told now in England that the age limit for military service is to be raised to 50, and that women may be conscripted for land work and munitions. The workers are praised for their patriotism, but are not thought intelligent enough to know the truth. They are praised for their nerve and endurance on the field of battle, but must not know the casualties in France! They are asked to fight and starve to the bitter end, but are not to know what are the aims of the bitter end! We must not make peace when the Germans are "squealing for peace," as Lloyd George said; and now that they are fighting hard again, the same man says it is treason to talk of peace. When is the time to make peace?

We have come to the conclusion that the war is such a vast affair, and there are so many influences at work, that it has really got out of control of those who are supposed to be in charge. In all the belligerent countries the responsible politicians have made such foolish statements and promises to their people, which they know can never be realised, that they dare not make peace. There is only one thing that can stop the war in the near future, and that is the fear of revolution. The capitalists have seen what has happened in Russia, and they would soon find a way out of the present deadlock if Revolution raised its head in other countries. And signs of revolt are not lacking. Martial law is in force in all the industrial centres of Italy; in France a severe military discipline has to be enforced in munition areas; and now in Quebec riots against conscription have to be suppressed by machine guns. In Austria and in Germany there have been many signs of revolt, and the food shortage may at any time cause an outburst that even the autocratic Governments of those countries could not quell. We may be sure that all these fermentations are carefully noted by the capitalists and financial groups, and as soon as they find the workers turning against them instead of against each other, we may look for peace negotiations. The lesson for the revolutionist, therefore, is plain. His watchword must be "Revolution or War!" Whilst every military "victory" is a defeat for the workers on both sides, a revolutionary "victory" will bring them liberty.

MARTIAL LAW IN IRELAND.

The South and West of Ireland has recently seen a revival of the land agitation which was such a strong feature of Irish life in the "eighties." Cattle driving and land grabbing for tillage have been so rife that the Government have declared martial law over a large part of the West, County Clare being the storm centre. Parties of Sein Feiners have driven cattle off many farms and ploughed up the land for tillage. They say that whilst in England 3,000,000 acres of pasture land have been ploughed up so as to provide more food, in Ireland no change has taken place; so, on their own initiative they are doing what they consider is only a matter of self-protection. But at the bottom, of course, is the hereditary land hunger of the Irish people, which has never been satisfied in spite of Land Purchase Acts and other palliatives. The Revolution in Russia and the expropriation of the large landholders have also had their natural effect on the Irish rebels, for they think that what is possible in Russia is also possible in Ireland. But unfortunately for the Irish people, the conditions in the two countries are entirely different. In Russia, what Government exists is in favour of the expropriation of the landlords, whilst in Ireland the British Government will resist such action by every means in their power. As a matter of fact, since the Land Purchase Acts were passed many of the Irish peasants are tenants under the British Government.

In the meantime, the Convention which was to bring peace to Ireland drags on. An early report is promised, but no agreement is expected. The great difficulty is how to divide the jobs and offices under Home Rule. At present, the great majority of these well-paid posts are given to Protestants, or Irish supporters of Dublin Castle rule. Under Home Rule, with a majority of Roman Catholic electors, the Irish Government would have to reward their supporters with the best paid jobs. Hence the hostility to Home Rule. If the rival parties could agree as to the division of the spoils of office, Home Rule could come about at once, as they each agree about maintaining the connection with England, and also—which is more important—agree in upholding capitalism. Irish peasants and workers have nothing to hope for from any possible Government in Ireland, and must use direct action in co-operation with the workers of other countries if they would be free from their oppressors.

SPANISH ANARCHISTS AND THE WAR.

Our Comrade V. Garcia writes to us denying the statements in a section of the press that Spanish Anarchists and Syndicalists are acting as German agents. Whilst it is possible that one or two men, owing to their ambition, or perhaps starvation, may have been tempted to play the German game, they do not represent the Anarchist movement in Spain, any more than the half-dozen who declared themselves pro-Allies, and for some time published two weekly papers. The Spanish Anarchists have opposed the war from the first day, and are as firmly against it now as ever. They are neither pro-German nor pro-Allies, says Garcia, but Pacifists and Anarchists.

BUILDING THE NEW RUSSIA.

How often have we been assured that Russia is ruined, and that only a strong centralised government, with a strong army at its back, can bring order out of chaos! Of course, we know that the writers mean that only in this way can capitalism be re-established and the people of Russia be exploited and made to pay the enormous debts inherited from Tsardom. But so far from Russia or the Russian people being ruined, at the present moment the great majority of the people are engaged in building a new and freer and more prosperous society than was ever dreamed possible by many of the old revolutionists.

The *Cambridge Magazine* (March 2) publishes extracts from an article by the Russian writer, Nikolai Rubakin, which appeared in the *Arbeiter Zeitung*, under the title, "The Social Birth Pains of Russia." Rubakin points out how Russia, which had the reputation of being the most benighted nation in Europe, has, in a few months, "moved by an honest and mighty idealism," practically carried out far-reaching reforms, at the hands of countless "most insignificant persons." He says:

"In revolutionary Russia of to-day a gigantic work, unprecedented in history, is being carried out: the reconstruction of the social, economic, political, private, religious, intellectual relations. Everything created by Russian history, established by Tsarism and the Russian Junkers under the benediction of the ignorant Russian priests, is being reconstructed. . . . And all this (is being done) during the war, during the revolution, and during the anarchy which has been called into being by the enemies of the new social order."

Innumerable Councils, Committees, and Commissions have sprung into being to deal with a variety of subjects, and have been introduced into the towns, villages, barracks, factories, and even into the schools—scholars' and parents' committees. There are now more than 900 Soldiers and Workers' Councils, and several thousand Peasant Councils. Agrarian Councils, which are chiefly composed of simple peasants, are working out new methods of agriculture, the peasants "showing themselves capable of grasping most complicated agrarian questions with extraordinary exactitude." But it is on the intellectual side that the greatest progress has been made. Schools are springing up everywhere, the old church schools being taken away from the control of the priests. We read:

"Not only in the great cities, but also in the provincial towns and even the villages the most varied courses of lectures and Peoples' Universities are being arranged, which are attended by great crowds of hearers, women as well as men. The war has given a great stimulus to the dissemination of books and particularly of newspapers. The women show a previously unexampled desire for knowledge of reading and writing. . . . Wounded soldiers who have returned from the front emerge as teachers of reading and writing, and thus contribute to the development of the masses. In this direction especial influence is exercised by refugees from the territories occupied by the enemy—Poles, and above all the Jews—two elements in the Tsarist Empire which enjoyed hitherto a relatively higher level of culture. Prisoners of war—towards whom the good-natured Russian population has always behaved reasonably—have also had a great influence on the intellectual development of wide circles of the Russian people. . . .

Up to 1911 the number of those who could neither read nor write . . . amounted to 61 per cent. of the population . . .

Now we may assume, according to information received, that only 40 per cent. of the adults, including women, will be unable to read or write. It is therefore not surprising if some newspapers have now got a circulation of a million. Books and pamphlets have also an immense sale. The Social Revolutionary party alone, according to its report, disseminated no less than four millions of its pamphlets in three months. . . .

The dam of Tsarism is broken down—and the intellectual life pours out like a cataract."

A quotation from an article in another issue of the *Arbeiter Zeitung* sums up the situation finely, and shows why the Revolution is hated by the capitalists of all countries:

"It is said that the Russian nation has been beaten in this war. It is true that peace will not enlarge but diminish Russian territory. . . . And yet in the course of this war the Russian people have conquered more, far more, than the most successful general could have conquered for them: their conquest is that of their own country, the fruitful soil of mighty Russia. For hundreds of years the Russian aristocracy has acquired land increasingly at the cost of the property of the peasants. . . . Now the Russian people take back that which has been stolen from them, the expropriators are expropriated."

RECONSTRUCTION: A CRITICISM.

We have received an interesting pamphlet entitled "Labour and the New Social Order." It is published by the Labour Party, and is a report on reconstruction after the war.

After having tried conclusions with its nicely balanced sentences and neatly turned phrases, we are bound to confess to a feeling of disappointment. For this pamphlet with a title of such enormous possibilities leaves us with an impression of its barrenness, its absolute failure to initiate. Imagination surely has not stirred the writers, and the chains of tradition and constitutionalism have fettered them. Of claims there are many and varied. The political creed of the Labour Party must naturally be elastic, for politicians live by compromise as a bankrupt lives on his debts.

Certainly an attempt has been made by the Labour Party to formulate something like a policy in advance of that offered by Radicalism or Liberalism, but always there is the impression that the workers by hand or brain for whom the political fishers of the Labour Party are angling must not be scared by any hint of revolution or violent change. Moderation in all things would seem to be the keynote, and when we consider the "Foreword" and its attack on capitalist civilisation, which it desires to supersede, we can only marvel at the singularly mild reforms advocated. Thus the destructive criticism levelled at capitalism is the best piece of writing in the whole pamphlet. The writers "agree in this estimate as to recognise, in the present world catastrophe, if not the death, in Europe, of civilisation itself, at any rate the culmination and collapse of a distinctive industrial civilisation, which the workers will not seek to reconstruct." It then goes on to say:

"What the war is consuming is not merely the security, the homes, the livelihood, and the lives of millions of innocent families, and an enormous proportion of all the accumulated wealth of the world, but also the very basis of the peculiar social order in which it has arisen. The individual system of capitalist production, based on the private ownership and competitive administration of land and capital, with its reckless 'profiteering' and wage-slavery; with its glorification of the unhampered struggle for the means of life and its hypocritical pretence of the 'survival of the fittest'; with the monstrous inequality of circumstances which it produces, and the degradation and brutalisation, both moral and spiritual, resulting therefrom, may, we hope, indeed have received a death-blow. With it must go the political system and ideas in which it naturally found expression. We, of the Labour Party, whether in opposition or in due time called upon to form an Administration, will certainly lend no hand to its revival. On the contrary, we shall do our utmost to see that it is buried with the millions whom it has done to death."

Such a heroic declaration is naturally enough very impressive, but its superficiality is revealed in the reference to an Administration which connotes a willingness on the part of the Labour Party to step into the shoes of the present Government, and thus take over the reins of government. So, in spite of fine words, we find on analysing the proposals set forth in the constructive policy, that the garment they seek to weave is merely a patchwork thing designed to more effectively cover up the deformed body of capitalism, and that it is, in point of fact, neither heroic nor even picturesque. If such a scheme were realisable it would tend to prolong the life of capitalism by making it more tolerable. As Kropotkin wrote of revolution that all that was wanting was "the boldness of initiative," so with the present authors, the sinister fascination of capitalism is upon them, and their eyes cannot grasp the vision of a new civilisation fashioned straight away by the workers themselves only after they have finished the demolition of capitalism which the war may have begun.

To take a few of the planks from the Labour Party's programme, and which are entitled, quaintly enough, "The Pillars of the House," for if these are the pillars they must have been surveyed through a glass darkly:

- (a) The Universal Enforcement of the National Minimum;
- (b) The Democratic Control of Industry;
- (c) The Revolution in National Finance; and
- (d) The Surplus Wealth for the Common Good.

From these four pillars the writers advance into all the bye-paths and labyrinths of the most orthodox, reformist character, such as "The legislative regulation of employment," "Immediate nationalisation," etc., etc. Proceeding to elaborate the whole scheme the authors disclose at every step the fact that their aim will be the maintenance of the sacred union with the capitalist government in order that these things might be obtained. Yet there is a conscious and pathetic note in their observation that "unfortunately, the present Government, like the Liberal and

Conservative Parties, so far refuses to speak on this important matter [the reduction of wages] with any clear voice." That damning sentence proves their political impotency.

The impossibility of squaring the circle of capitalism does not concern them; their chief anxiety appears in their desire to offer a sufficiently attractive programme to the mass of the workers, whilst still keeping on good terms with those who are responsible for the murdered millions. They have not yet realised the necessity for exterminating the poisonous thing that has cankered modern civilisation. No clean, healthy growth is possible while a thread of the old fungoid growth of capitalism persists. So the red herrings with which they seek to entice the workers will fail of their purpose. Between the Scylla and Charybdis of worker and capitalist their policy will be wrecked, and their labours prove barren. Their opportunism will only serve to postpone the revolution. The old saying concerning the road to hell being paved with good intentions is singularly apt when applied to the Labour Party's programme. It would inevitably rivet us more firmly than ever to State capitalism—our chains would merely have become gilded by legislative means.

Thus the promise contained in the opening paragraph does not bear fulfilment. Legislation, control, State aid, etc., are no sort of compensation for the freedom of which the very existence of capitalism deprives us. If practical things are to be attempted, then we must get rid of all concepts of the present economic and political forms. We must instead think in terms of individual initiative which must create new political vehicles which shall reflect a real revolutionary change in society, and not a make-believe one. We cannot afford to waste time parleying with those who have made capitalist exploitation possible, new ways and methods must be tried which shall best express our attempt at a free social life. The Labour Party claims to stand for Democratic Co-operation. The Anarchist Communist seeks expression in free association, about which we hope to write in our next issue.

M.B.H.

THE FENCE—(AFTER VIKTOR GOMULICKI).

Some distance beyond gleamed a yellow cornfield. A low fence separated it from the farm buildings and the small terrain in front of it. The fence formed a corner, and where the two sides met there was a broad gateway, the gate of which happened at this moment to be closed. We approached the fence. Annette had hardly had time to lean her parasol against it, when a door in the yellow house opened and a man standing on the threshold asked loudly:

"Where are you going? Where are you going? Do you want to leave the country?"

We understood. The fence, roughly constructed in rustic fashion, was something more than a mere partition between two meadows. This fence separated two nations, two countries, two civilisations. The rye growing beyond it was German rye; the insects, which like blue gems of light glittered amongst the ears of corn, were German. The wind even was German, as it was wafted beyond with the honeyed sweetness of the convolvulus.

Naturally Annette felt that she must forego adorning her garland with German flowers, and so informed the man in the doorway. He re-entered the house satisfied, but doubtless there were some dozen pairs of eyes, watchful if invisible, observing our movements. With a new feeling we looked round again.

"Why?" asked Annette, widely opening her eyes. "This ear of corn, springing from a seed blown here by the wind, is ours, but millions of its fellows are foreigners simply because they grow a step further beyond. Why?"

I endeavoured to explain that all this was quite natural, even necessary.

"For whom?"

In reply I could only shrug my shoulders.

Still with our thoughts on these matters, we looked up to the skies, seeking also their frontier line. But the skies were one and indivisible. We looked at the sun. The sun, also, was one and indivisible. At the same moment a butterfly, poised on the fence near us, stretched out its multicoloured wings with their glittering silver beneath, rose quickly and crossed over to the German side. It glided over the ears of corn, greeting butterfly and butterfly, and then glided gracefully back. And presently some swallows, sensing the approach of a thunderstorm, began to swoop afar and beyond, crossing and recrossing the frontier fence without a qualm.

"See!" cried Annette with childlike triumph, "The swallows and the butterflies do not admit the 'necessity' of which you so wisely speak."

These thoughtless words saddened me.

"Ah, Annette, Annette," I said reproachfully, "have you forgotten that man is a wiser creature than the thoughtless swallows and the capricious butterflies?"

THEIR MASTERS' VOICE.

Our daily papers frequently print extracts from the American press to show how heartily that country is in favour of the continued prosecution of the war "to save the world for democracy." It may interest English readers to know whose voice it really is they are listening to. The following charges made by Congressman Calloway were published in the *Congressional Record* of February 9, 1917:

"In March, 1915, the J. P. Morgan interests, the steel, shipbuilding and powder interests, and their subsidiary organisations, got together twelve men high up in the newspaper world and employed them to select the most influential newspapers in the United States and a sufficient number of them to control generally the policy of the daily press of the United States. These twelve men worked the problem out by selecting 179 newspapers, and then began, by an elimination process, to retain only those necessary for the purpose of controlling the general policy of the daily press throughout the country. They found it was only necessary to purchase the control of 25 of the greatest papers. The 25 papers were agreed upon; emissaries were sent to purchase the policy, national and international, of these papers; an agreement was reached; the policy of the paper was bought, to be paid for by the month; an editor was furnished for each paper to properly supervise and edit information regarding the questions of preparedness, militarism, financial policies and other things of national and international nature considered vital to the interests of the purchaser. This contract is in existence at the present time.

This policy also included the suppression of everything in opposition to the wishes of the interests served. The effectiveness of this scheme has been conclusively demonstrated by the character of stuff carried in the daily press throughout the country since March, 1915. They have resorted to anything necessary to commercialise public sentiment.

Their stock argument is that it is 'patriotism.' They are playing on every prejudice and passion of the American people.

So in future when we read in our jingo press extracts from American papers we shall know that they should be headed: "What Pierpont Morgan Says." Four hours after Great Britain declared war in 1914, the Navy cut the German cable to America. Since then the American people have been fed on news censored by the British Government. Now Pierpont Morgan and Co. join in the game, and all news, home and foreign, is deliberately distorted or suppressed to serve the interests of capitalism—that is, to "save the world for plutocracy."

NOTES OF THE MOVEMENT.

COWDENBEATH.—The Group have again to report a successful series of meetings during the past month, a marked feature being the informal but animated discussion which follows each lecture. Our Comrade J. Birrell, of Burntisland, who addressed the first meeting, contended that the holding of unorthodox views on who should own the means of life involved the holding of unorthodox views on other social problems; and that marriage forms, religious beliefs, and reliance on Law and State must change as man progresses to Communism. The speaker at our next meeting was Freda Cohen, of Glasgow, who dealt with "Woman's Place in the Class Struggle." Her survey of the past proved the necessity for individual freedom in sexual and social matters. Women must join with men in the struggle, otherwise there could be no emancipation. The following week our Comrade R. S. Wood, Kingseat, spoke on "The Origin and Nature of Life," and gave the scientific "knock-out blow" to the Biblical myth. The other lecturer during the month was our Comrade D. Kennedy, of Glasgow, who also spoke to the local Socialist Sunday School on "How the Earth Came." His power of conveying the meaning of scientific terms to an ordinary audience by means of homely illustrations is a great asset in a propagandist, and it would certainly be beneficial to the spread of Anarchist principles if other speakers copied his example.

Our Literature Depot is now opened in High Street, Cowdenbeath; all interested are invited to inspect our stock. A.S.

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