

International Notes

Italy

THE Italian frontier is closed on account of internal disturbances. The following report of the action of the new Executive Committee of the Italian Socialist Party throws some light on the matter:

At the first meeting of the new Executive Committee of the Italian Socialist Party, held at Milan in the office of the *Avanti*, the following declaration, presented by Lazzari, was adopted:

"Today, the forty-eighth anniversary of the proclamation of the Paris Commune, the Executive Committee, at the beginning of its work, declares:

(a) That it remembers how the third defeat of the French proletariat, in the short stirring space of half a century, has been gloriously vindicated by the Russian Soviet Revolution, marching firmly toward its own internal consolidation and the militant union of all the proletariat of Europe;

(b) Expresses the most fervent hopes of the Italian Socialist Party for the German and Austro-Hungarian revolutions, because it has entered with an ardor on the search for a true and real Socialist revolution;

(c) Denounces once again the illusions craftily disseminated in the Conference of Paris which, under the ingenuous mask of Wilsonian bourgeois ideology, is re-creating the Holy Alliance among the conquerors, to oppress not only politically but also economically the conquered populations, dumb victims of the mistakes and the rapacity of the bourgeoisie, captained by imperialistic militarism, and against the international proletariat;

(d) Sends its warm greetings to the Comrades recently liberated from prison and from internment, and restored to the civilian battalions of the Party with spirit more eager and determined;

(e) To our own member Arturo Vella and to all Comrades still in prison, sends the greetings of fraternal solidarity, in the certainty that the renewed action of the proletariat will achieve the speedy liberation of every victim of militarist-bourgeois persecution.

The order of the day also presented by Lazzari was approved as follows:

The Executive Committee noting with the greatest satisfaction the development and the progress of the organization of the Party, recommends to the sections to exercise the most rigid care in admitting former or new Comrades, holding incompatible the presence in the Party of anyone who has explicitly supported the war. (This refers to the Party's former resolution excluding all social-patriots).

The French and the Saar Miners

The following item is taken from *Soziale Praxis*:

"In the Saar mining district negotiations between the miner's organizations and the French military commander in regard to the introduction of an eight-hour day have been going on. The French commander has given a flat refusal to the demands of the miners. He justifies his refusal by a statement as to the coal famine that prevails in France just as in Germany; and also by an assertion that the French miners have to work ten hours. In reply to the plea that the eight-hour system is in force in the Palatinate, he replied that it would be abolished as soon as the French troops entered the district."

The Soviet Strike in Ireland

The general strike in Limerick is spreading over the whole south and west of Ireland. A Soviet of strikers is already in complete operation and is even issuing its own currency. It is recognized by all sections of the population in Limerick as the source of authority, except of course by the British military. The city is in a state of siege and is encompassed by foot and mounted troops, while machine guns and artillery have been mounted. No one is allowed to enter the city without a permit.

The bourgeois press credits the strike to Sinn Fein, but it is the Labor movement which is in con-

ing after the fake decree had been published in that city by a bourgeois newspaper:

Enemies!

You are defeated. You have reached such a low level that your cause is now desperate. You wish to continue living in idle luxury and have us work for you, and you find the revolution a menace to you. Enemies, you slander and misrepresent us when you say that we anarchists would use our liberty to enslave women.

You forge our name to this vile decree that your vile hands have written. For centuries and all over the world, anarchists were fighting against all decrees, all force and all oppression. We ourselves have used force and violence only against our oppressors. We want to live and let live, in perfect freedom. Is it conceivable that we would now issue such a monstrous and contradictory decree?

Think for yourselves! Is it likely that anarchists would advocate or even permit such degradation of women?

You think only to provoke trouble. You are only trying to deceive the ignorant people. Don't you suppose we have wives, mothers, sisters and daughters of our own?

You provocateurs apparently don't know our strength; but you shall know. Death for provocateurs. Death, no matter who they are. We will make you pay for your vile crime. Anybody found circulating such dirty propaganda will be put in the same class. Everybody, whether with us or not, who opposes such contemptible propaganda methods deserves commendation.

With all our soul we fight on for all that is best for Russia."

Resolution Passed by the Conference of the Labor Unions of the City of Vladivostok and Vicinity with Reference to the Recent City Election.

The conference of the Labor Unions of the City of Vladivostok and Vicinity, upon considering the subject of the (City) elections, and realizing that at the present moment, when the reactionary forces have reached their fullest display, and when Siberia and the Far East had been divided up between domineering little kings and invaders, and participation in the Institutions created by these "Bosses" would be a complete repudiation of working class politics; that the complete annihilation of the liberties conquered by the Great Revolution of February and October, deprives the working class of every opportunity to conduct a systematic campaign;

That the candidates nominated by the Working Class in the Duma, (City Council), if elected would unquestionably be refused admission to their offices;

That the entire policy of the various governments is directed to the humiliation and enslavement of the working class, as is apparent from the new election law;

That any work in the Institutions which at present are carrying out the political and economic function of the Dictatorship, would be not only a repudiation of the Class Ideals of the Working Class, but would be a complete acknowledgement and recognition of the Dictatorship;

That the Duma (City Council), in view of the present conditions, would find itself powerless to levy any taxes on the propertied classes, and would find itself forced to increase the burdens upon the poorest part of the population;

That after the publication of the list (of candidates of the Labor Union) the various officials in power stubbornly refused permission, not only to issue a daily paper, but even a pre-election bulletin for the purpose of conducting campaign propaganda;

That under the pretense of various technical errors and formalities, more than one-half of the candidates nominated by the Central Bureau of the Labor Unions were eliminated from the ticket through formalities and technicalities created by these same officials;

That officials of the militia invaded a meeting of the conference of the Central Bureau of the Unions, interfering with the work, and because of that number of candidates have as protest, declined to be nominated;

And that because of all enumerated reasons, the attitude of the workers at this time, because of the oppressive political conditions, should be clearly one of boycott;

The conference, therefore, decided to withdraw ticket Number Eight (Labor Union Ticket), as a protest against the police persecution and raids, and as a demand for the restoration of all democratic liberties; Calling upon the workers to boycott the elections in an organized way, it declares that the elections will be participated in only by an insignificant part of the population, and that the Duma created in such a manner will be clearly a one-sided one, and unrepresentative of the mass of the population;

The conference further demands that new elections be ordered under conditions whereby the working class will have an opportunity clearly and definitely to state its demands, and to obtain a representation in accordance with its numbers;

It is further resolved that this resolution be published and be brought to the attention of the Command of the Foreign Powers.

(Signed) ALEXANDER MOROSOV, Chairman.
H. _____
Secretary of Central Bureau of Trade Unions.

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Below is a Reprint of a Circular Distributed Among British Soldiers in Russia by the Russian Soviet Government at Moscow. It Will be of Interest to American Workers.

Quit Fighting, British Soldiers, and Join Your Russian Comrades!

English Prisoner from Archangel Front Writes to His Brother Scots

"Is it right for working people of one country to kill working people of another?"

The Allied troops, invading Russia, have so often been told that if they are taken prisoner they will be tortured and killed by the bolsheviks, that it is interesting to see what in fact happens when an English soldier falls into the hands of the Russian workmen's and peasants' army. Here is the letter of a private of the Royal Scots taken prisoner last month near Archangel.

To the Men of the Royal Scots

Koutlas, Monday, Oct. 14, 1918.

"I wonder if you all know the kind of men you are fighting. I do. You are fighting an army of working-men, and there are no officers amongst them. Everybody is the same. They ask, why do we fight them. Well, that is more than I can say; in fact, I don't know why we have come to fight them, and another thing that counts is, they don't want to fight us. They are not fighting their own class, the working class, but the capitalists of Russia and all countries. Since I have been a prisoner I have been treated as one of themselves, and given me plenty to eat and drink. I have also seen one of our men that lies in the hospital wounded. He tells me that he has been well treated and looked after as a friend, a working man, and not a soldier.

"Now I ask you this question; is it right, that the working class of one country should come and fight the working class of another country? We are not at war with Russia, and the Russians are not at war with us, but with the capitalists of all the countries, the people whom we work for and keep in plenty, while we, the working class, merely exist. If the working class knew why they are fighting and for who they would refuse to fight any longer. Think things over and ask yourselves, is it worth while killing each other to please other people, who care not what happens, as long as their pockets are being filled at our expense. From what I have seen the Russians are a good people and they are fighting for a good cause, a cause that every country in the world should follow.

"PRIVATE LAPHAM, 10TH ROYAL SCOTS."

trol of the situation, and sympathetic action is daily expected by the workers of the north and east, much unrest being manifested in Belfast and throughout the textile centers of Ulster.

Russia

In view of the fact that the editors of *The New Europe*, the first paper to print the alleged Soviet decree on the nationalization of women have solemnly withdrawn the charge and apologized for its error it is interesting to read the following translation of the Anarchists' denial of their part in the affair, posted on the walls of Saratov the morn-