

AGITATE

EDUCATE

ORGANISE

THE

Nottingham Worker

WORKING FOR WORKING CLASS EMANCIPATION.

No. 6

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1920

CITY AND COUNTY

FORTNIGHTLY, THREE-HALFPENCE

AMALGAMATION AND THE SHOP STEWARDS' MOVEMENT.

There are many members of the various Unions who have thought that the present tendency towards amalgamation would result, first of all, in unity of forces, and later, in success in the fight against sectionalism for better social and economic conditions. Amalgamation will tend to promote unity of the officials of the Unions, by abolishing the many district executive committees which exist under the old order of sectionalism, with conflicting rules and regulations, and at the same time make possible a united expression of opinion of the rank and file. It seems, however, to be a growing opinion amongst the members of the Unions that the present position is one which will not give those results which the rank and file so much desired from amalgamation. Particularly is this the case with the Amalgamated Engineering Union, which was recently formed.

One of the most serious grievances of the members of the A.E.U. seems to be the failure of those responsible for the formation and constitution of the amalgamation to take full advantage of the great facilities which are to be found in the Shop Stewards' movement, which has been developed, chiefly in the Engineering industry, partly as a result of the advancing methods of production, and chiefly as a result of the failure of the old form of organisation outside the workshops, to meet the members' requirements. The Shop Stewards' movement is not only a time-saving machine, but is also the best possible means of negotiating with the employers or their representatives, because the Shop Stewards, by their constant presence at the point of production, are better able to understand the conditions under which the workers are working in any shop or district. It is a time-saving system, because, instead of having to wait a few days or a few weeks, as the case might be, for the matter to be dealt with by means of correspondence, or by deputations, the workers can deal with all shop grievances immediately and where they arise.

Another trouble which seems to be present in the Nottingham district amongst the members of the A.E.U., is the entire lack of financial support for the Stewards'

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movement. This, of course, is due to the absence of any real status of the shop stewards in the A.E.U. It is, however, only one of many difficulties which are being overcome by the newly-formed Nottingham District Engineering Shop Stewards' Council. This Council has already held several meetings, and from the discussions which have taken place, it is evident that the rank and file in the engineering industry realise the need of this movement, and are prepared to give it their financial and moral support.

From many shops, where A.E.U. members have held meetings, the stewards were instructed to vote for the rules and constitution, drawn up by the District Stewards' Council, which are to be issued to the members in the shops as soon as possible.

It has been thought that this Stewards' Council will be run in opposition to the official bodies of the Engineering Unions, but it has been pointed out by the stewards at the Council meetings that the aim of the Stewards' movement is to strengthen the position of the officials by rendering them every possible assistance, and at the same time to serve in the interests of the rank and file, who have agreed to contribute to the Stewards' movement in the shops. These two objects have been achieved already in several of the large engineering centres. In Coventry, for instance, where the Stewards' movement became very powerful, there was almost complete co-operation between the stewards and the Coventry Engineering Joint Committee, which was the recognised official body of all the Unions catering for workers engaged in the engineering industry. This official body had four representatives elected from the District Shop Stewards' Council, whose duties consisted of keeping the C.E.J.C. fully informed of what was taking place in the shops, and conveying information to the District Shop Stewards' Council on matters dealt with by the Coventry Engineering Joint Committee.

There are several branches of work connected with the building up of a strong organisation which the Nottingham Shop Stewards' Council have decided to take up. One is the education of the workers on such questions as the aims and methods of the Shop Stewards' movement and the management and control of the industry. This I shall deal with in the next issue.

H. KING, A.E.U.

DIRECT ACTION!

OYEZ! OYEZ!! OYEZ!!!

To the Trade Unionist and Labour sympathisers who voted Labour at the last General Election.

THIS IS TO GIVE NOTICE

Whereas you are organized for the purpose of securing a better England for the workers, and voted Labour with the same object in view, you still take the printing of your Union and other organisations to which you belong, to firms who only employ Trade Union Labour because they are compelled to do so, on and after this date you have no excuse for this inconsistency. Anything from a visiting card to a newspaper can be printed at this shop under good conditions—46-hour week, holidays without loss of pay. Profits devoted to issuing Trade Union and Labour newspapers and literature.

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Nottingham Branches—

Nottingham Central:—W. H. Neale, Office, 15 Byron Chambers, Nottm.

General Committee meet at Office, alternate Tue. days at 7.30 p.m.

Grocery Section meet at Labour Exchange, Stamford Street, 4th Wednesday at 7.15.

Dressmakers' Section meet at Office, alternate Tuesdays at 6.15.

Gents' Outfitting Section, Photographic Section, Boot and Shoe Trade Section, Hardware Section and Drapery Section—members advised of meetings.

Nottingham Castle:—(Drug and Fine Chemical Section) meet at Office, alternate Tues., at 5.45.

National Union of Railwaymen,

Nottingham No. 5 Branch, meet alternate Sundays, 11.30 a.m., I.L.P. Hall, Lister Gate. Sec., W. Darrah, 28 Rye Hill Cottages, Nottingham.

National Union of Railwaymen,

Nottingham No. 7 Branch, meets at Wellington Hotel, Station St., 7 p.m., Oct. 17 and 31. A. Harpham, Branch Sec., 63 Moreland St., Nottm.

Amalgamated Union of Co-operative and Commercial Employees (A.U.C.E.)

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National Union of Ex-Service Men.

Nottingham and District Branch. Affiliated to Nottingham Labour Party,
Meetings monthly at Labour Hall, 25 Lister Gate. Next meeting Sunday, Oct. 10, at 11 a.m. Nottm. Offices, Room No. 3, Pyatt's Chambers, Lister Gate.

Electrical Trades Union.

Meetings of the above Union are held every Monday, from 7.30 to 9.30, at the Newcastle Arms, Shrewsbury St., Nottm. For further particulars, apply to the Secretary, A. E. Hacking, 33, Goodliffe St., Hyson Green, Nottm.

INDEPENDENT ADULT WORKING CLASS EDUCATION.

"The broad fact remains that the educational system of this country rests upon a class basis. Until that basis is finally destroyed, the aspirations of Labour will remain unfulfilled."

The above is a quotation from an article, entitled "Education and your Child," by Arthur Greenwood, which appeared in the "Daily Herald" of 12th February, 1920.

The writer of the article was dealing mainly with elementary education, and the charge he makes against this particular form of education can be quite easily proved. At the same time, the charge is true of education in general.

Education is in the hands of the master class. Economic power reflects itself not only in the political institutions, but also in the educational institutions, and this is a tremendous and powerful weapon in their hands. The control of the workers' minds is a powerful and important factor in their subjection.

The class character of the education in the elementary schools is apparent. The children of the working class are taught the virtues of obedience and subservience to authority, they are taught a slave morality, whilst on the other hand, the children of the master class are taught a master morality, e.g., they are "born to rule," they are superior in all respects to other children. Railwaymen had evidence of this slave teaching during the railway strike, when at certain schools (vide "Daily Herald") some of the teachers endeavoured to impress their pupils with capitalistic ideas and ethics by calling upon the railwaymen's children to stand up before all the class whilst they (the teachers) lectured the class on the unsocial actions of their parents.

The schools are used also as a means of inculcating patriotism and militarism. The British Empire on the map is shown by huge splashes of red ink, and the children are informed of the glorious advantages of being citizens of the Empire on which "the sun never sets." Their history books are chiefly accounts of the doings of kings, queens and military men, battles, etc. J. R. Green, the historian, calls this "drum and trumpet" history. Even such subjects as reading, writing and arithmetic were made compulsory as a consequence of the development of the capitalist mode of production, its complex character and the social relations following therefrom. The object of it all is to fit children into moulds shaped by a class-ridden society. Technical and secondary education is mainly concerned with making more efficient producers of surplus value. In this short article we are not so much concerned with these particular forms of education, and much as we would like to examine them more exhaustively, the editor has decreed that articles must be concise.

It is with adult working class education that we are concerned.

In this category are placed such subjects as Economics, History, Sociology and Philosophy, and the stricture of the

"Daily Herald" scribe regarding the class nature of education is more than ever applicable to these subjects.

What are "the aspirations of Labour?" Are they not for a higher standard of life for opportunities of greater physical, and psychical advancement? What are the problems that daily confront the working class? They are social and economic problems.

What, then, should be the object of independent working class education?

It should enable the working class to obtain a full and clear knowledge of the facts about society. The working class movement has its basis in the antagonism of interests existing between the capitalist class and the working class. The political and industrial organisation of the worker is an expression of this fact. The education must also be based on the same antagonism. Obviously, the State will not supply this education, neither will the educational institutions, financed and controlled by the people who are interested in defending and maintaining the existing order. When a new truth is discovered—especially in the realm of Social Science—the question of its general acceptance and recognition depends, not on its clearness or obscurity but on its relation to the interests of the class which is economically dominant.

An example in Economics will suffice to explain this. For the capitalist class to admit the truth of the Marxian law of value would be fatal. Value being embodied labour, all values being the product of labour, then labour is entitled to all it produces.

It is in facts about society that the ruling class are vitally interested in suppressing the truth. Their class position is endangered and hence their interpretation is necessarily biased, and more than that they must also be careful whom they select as teachers of these subjects.

This point was exemplified a short time ago by the "Saturday Review" (not workers' paper) on the appointment of Mr. R. H. Tawney as lecturer in Economics at Balliol College, Oxford. The "Review" said, "The politics of a Professor of Poetry, Greek, Latin, Law, Chemistry matters to no one but himself but History and Political Economy lie at the root of society." Mr. Tawney is no stretch of the imagination a Bolshevik. The working class having no vested interest in the existing order are able to accept any new truth that is discovered in relation to these questions. This, then, the object of the independent working class educational movement, viz.:—To supply knowledge of the facts relative to past and present society, and to equip the working class with an intellectual weapon that will assist them in the struggle for their emancipation from the curse of wage-slavery.

E. GROOMS,
C.L.C. Class

"In the highly developed industrial conditions of the United Kingdom," wrote the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, "Capital holds the key to the situation; and Labour with the ever-present dread of unemployment before it, is constantly endeavouring to safeguard itself against a reduction of wages or an eventual lock out."—Cale correspondent of "Morning Post," 5/22/20.

Please pass this paper on to a friend.

WHO IS ALLOWED TO VOTE IN SOVIET RUSSIA?

Lies—from the Chloroform Press.

Our bosses, the industrial and financial magnates, through their Press, are fond of telling us that we are the "best governed people in the world," and that true democracy exists only for us. They, out of pure kindness of heart, when elected to Parliament, exercise their directive ability on our behalf, and eliminate all thoughts of self-interest from their minds. At least, they would have us believe such fairy tales! To reverse the picture, they explain, that the Russian workers, under threats of imprisonment and death, are "forced" at election time to vote for the Bolsheviks only. According to the leader of the "kept journalists," Lenin & Co., to deprive certain sections of the people of the right to vote. This last accusation is admitted by all who have visited Soviet Russia. The facts are, that the late Russian masters are refused electoral rights unless they perform some useful work, for the benefit of society, the particular form of society which exists in Russia today, the Soviet System. For the great masses of the Russian workers, 99 per cent. whom we are told are in opposition to the present Government, there exists a purely democratic method of electing representatives to all institutions, from the local Soviets to the All-Russian Central Executive Committee.

Below is an extract from Part IV. of the Russian Soviet Constitution:—

Truth—Electoral Rights for all Workers.

The right to vote, and that of being elected to the Soviet, belongs to all citizens of the Russian Soviet Republic without distinction of sex, religion, or nationality, and any residential qualification, provided on the day of the election they have reached the age of eighteen and are in the following categories:—

- (a) All those who earn their living by productive work useful to society, and those who are engaged in domestic occupations which enable the former to follow their callings; workers and employees of all sorts and kinds, whether in industry, commerce or agriculture, etc., peasants and agricultural Cossacks who do not employ others for their private gain.
- (b) Soldiers in the Army and Navy of the Soviet Republic.
- (c) Citizens of the above categories who are incapacitated for work.

Note 1.—The Local Soviet may, after approval of the Central Power, lower the legal age fixed by this paragraph.

Note 2.—In addition to the Russian citizens mentioned in paragraph 20 of part II., chapter 5 (1) also enjoy electoral rights.*

Electoral Rights (For all Shirkers).

The following persons have neither the right to vote nor to be elected, even if they are within the above categories:

- (d) Those who employ others for the sake of profit.
- (e) Those who live on income not arising from their own work, interest on capital, industrial enterprises, or landed property, etc.
- (f) Private business men, agents, middlemen, etc.

- (d) Monks and priests of all religious denominations.
- (e) Late agents and employees of the old police, special constabulary, and secret service, and also members of the late ruling dynasty of Russia.
- (f) Persons legally recognised as mentally affected, maniacs and imbeciles.
- (g) Persons convicted of infamous or mercenary crimes during a period fixed by law or by the sentence of the court.

The Remedy—When British Workers Act.

Our duty, having gained power, will be to place in the "disqualified" section of the community, bosses of all kinds and their lackeys, journalists, priests and professors, blue blooded aristocrats and all their relations, cabinet ministers and labour "bleeders," in fact, all the scum of present day society together with their next of kin, the dregs of so-called civilisation, burglars, pimps and prostitutes. On that day will all the enormities of "democratic" government disappear, and the world be the cleaner and the brighter for their going. Forward! then, fellow workers, on to Communism.

B.B.

* Paragraph 20 (1) Part II., Chapter 5 (1) Constitution. In view of the solidarity of the workers of all nations, the Russian Soviet Republic extends all political rights enjoyed by Russian citizens to foreigners working within the territory of the Russian Republic, provided that they belong to the industrial or peasant class and do not live on the labour of others. It authorises the local Soviets to give such foreigners, without other formalities, the rights of Russian citizenship.

CAPITAL AND LABOUR.

When the Communist, in arguing with his fellow working men, tries to convince them of the desirability and the necessity of the working-class taking over and running industry for the benefit of the community, he is often met by this reply: "Ah, but labour cannot do without capital, and capital cannot do without labour!"

The Communist denies that the existence of the rack renter, the profit monger, and the interest hunting class have ever at any time benefited the worker, or that these gentry have at any time produced an atom of wealth. On the other hand, it is labour by its activity that creates the wealth out of which these classes live.

All that men require in order to live, declares the Communist, is the possession of physical and mental energy or the power to labour, and also free access to the materials supplied to us by nature.

All these natural materials and social implements such as the land, the mines, the factories, etc., by means of which we all live, are to-day owned by the capitalist landlord class.

What does this mean to the working class?

It means this. That whenever the Capitalists cannot realise their usual rate of profit, they close down "their" works until they can.

Meanwhile, the workers go on the streets unemployed, and still further intensify the struggle amongst themselves for jobs, and also between those already employed.

Many of the weavers that are unemployed at the present moment in Lanca-

shire are in need of the very products they have themselves produced in abundance. The unemployed bootmakers in Leicester and Northampton cannot find boots for their children. Why? Because industry does not exist to meet the needs and the wants of labour; but in order to get the highest profit for the owners of the machinery of wealth production, i.e., the Capitalist class. This class stands between us and our desires. They separate the labourer from the tool, the peasant from the land. Against our interests they own, control, and monopolise everything. Labour must own and control everything she produces. Then Labour will be free.

JOHN SIMMONDS.

THOSE TROUBLESOME MINERS AGAIN.

"The coal miners," writes a professor of medicine, in the "Daily Mail," suffer from far too many accidents, most of which could be prevented by better management of the pits. "They also suffer from nystagmus, an eye trouble brought about by the defective lighting of their work by the safety lamp, and this disease occasions, it is estimated, a loss to the country of a million pounds a year."

Our brilliant professor has a brain wave. Like the miserable lackey he is, he suggests to the coal owners that "the wise expenditure on the part of the management by whitening the walls with limewash would save the paying of compensation to the miners, who are rendered incapable of work by nystagmus."

Being a true nose-wiper to the capitalist class, he tells the miners "that they are exceptionally healthy men with good pay and food, and with good holidays" (like the mine owners). And the miners, says the professor, "are not like the cotton weavers and spinners and many other factory workers who only had 30 per cent. A men in the war." Factory workers, whose lives are spent piling up profit for their masters, please note the above admission, that 70 out of every 100 factory workers are medically unfit. And you, lucky miners, see to it that the learned professor sets to and whitewashes the mines as he suggests.

"Sir Marcus Samuel, on behalf of the Oil and Petroleum Syndicate, has handed Earl Haig a cheque for £66,810 for his Officers' Association."—"Glasgow Herald."

Over 100 ex-Service men in the Camberwell district of London alone are receiving cut-door relief.

Sir Robert Horne tells us the cost of a ton of coal is as follows: Miners' wages 24/3; timber, stores, and other costs, including management, offices, selling, and other expenses, 5/11; royalties, 8d.; Government charge under Finance Act, 4d.; owner's profit, 2/1.

Good! The selling price of coal covers the outlay on the first four items. The 2/1 is "pure bunce" for doing "nowt."

"Society is divided into two classes: The shearers and the shorn."—Talleyrand.

Don't be a shirker—Read the "Worker."

PUBLIC NOTICES.

ARNOLD LABOUR CLUB,
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NETHERFIELD LABOUR CLUB,
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Open Daily. Members Enrolled.

NETHERFIELD SOCIALIST SCHOOL,
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Come and assist us.

NATIONAL UNION OF EX-SERVICE MEN (Arnold Branch.)
James Cast, Secretary, 8, Morris St., Daybrook.
Meeting every Sunday, at 11 a.m., Labour Hall, High St., Arnold.

LABOUR PARTY, ROBIN HOOD WARD.
Arthur S. Cook, Secretary,
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THE COMMUNIST PARTY, Nottingham Branch.
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EDITORIAL.

All literary communications, which must be signed, should be sent to the Editor.

No payment will be made for MSS.

The Editor will be pleased to consider articles or paragraphs of general interest to the Labour movement. No manuscripts will be returned unless accompanied by stamped and addressed envelopes. News items concerning Labour and Trade Union activities will always be welcome. Care must be taken to verify all matter sent for publication; and correspondents should never lose sight of the fact that brevity is still the soul of wit. The name and address of the sender, not necessarily for publication, must be sent with all copy. Write on one side of the paper only, and address all communications to the Editor, THE NOTTINGHAM WORKER, William Morris Institute, 1, St. James Street, Nottingham.

ABOUT OURSELVES.

Fellow-workers! We are growing. We have previously stated that this paper is to be truly representative of the thoughts and aspirations of the working class, and that anything that is not so we shall attack fearlessly. Your support is needed, both with regard to finance and circulation. The literary contributions are written by working men for working men, to enable them by earnest co-operation to emancipate themselves. We trust to the merits of our paper to plead our cause.

THE MINERS' STRUGGLE.

The past month has witnessed the greatest catastrophe for organised labour which has occurred in recent years. The concession made to the coal owners in dropping the demand of a reduction of 14/2 in the price of coal was the hoisting of the white flag by the miners' leaders, and consequently the betrayal of the rank and file. Smillie and Hodges are not solely responsible for this action. We do not doubt that they have surrendered under pressure from the more reactionary leaders, but their failing lies in just this fact. Sentimentality cuts no ice when faced by so critical a situation. These skirmishes in the class war are keenly watched by the rank and file of the T. U. movement, who are learning great lessons through these frequent defeats. The miners themselves at this moment are seeing the need for a more militant and clear-sighted policy. Their organisation is strong enough to call the tune to the Government, and once the first step has been taken other organisations will follow suit. A brain wave is not necessary to realise this.

Anyone to-day can, from past lessons, trace with a fair amount of accuracy the development of a coming strike. The ballot, the tending of a month's notice (in which the coalowners stack the railway sidings and the Yellow Press vilifies the miner in his industrial and domestic life) "haggling" between the leaders and the Government, a further week's truce, the alienation of certain sections of the workers from the miners' cause, the watering down of the strikers' demands, the disgust of the rank and file, further postponement, a half-victory-half-defeat conclusion, and a return to work only to find yourself "diddled" again. At the moment of going to press, such is the state of the present struggle that another "fizzle out" is imminent. These conditions must cease. With confidence we leave this issue to the miners themselves. Meanwhile the struggle is on, and should the position consolidate, we call upon all sections of the working class to back the miners in the fight. In all probability such a strike will be the turning of the corner on the road to emancipation for the workers of Great Britain. The coal boss already has this fear in his heart. Our job is to increase it.

WHO IS THE DUKE?

The Duke of Northumberland has had a lot to say lately about the miners. Who is he, anyway? He is not a statesman, nor a worker, nor an athlete, nor a soldier of any note, nor a philanthropist, nor a scientist, nor an actor, nor anything that signifies possession of outstanding virtue or ability; so why is his claptrap tolerated by the miners, whom he abuses? He is just a duke, who is paid four shillings a minute, night and day, year in, year out, because a few men with brains, and a few with money and foresight, and a large number with muscle and pluck, serve the community by getting coal from underneath some land which the Duke of Northumberland inherited from ancestors who stole it from the "common" people.

A. COMBIE.

FABIANISM IN RUSSIA.

A Moscow wireless message reports that the Petrograd authors, headed by Maxim Gorki, have met to celebrate the arrival in the city of Mr. H. G. Wells. Mr. Wells, in reply to the speeches, said: "We all understand the importance and greatness of Russia, and we do not doubt that she is on the eve of a noble future. But the Russian and the British characters are very different, and the two peoples cannot go quite the same way. Your road is towards Communism; ours is towards Collectivism."—"Daily Herald," 4/10/20.

"Land abandoned to the sun and the rain, does not, of itself, produce either wheat or wine. Minerals do not come forth, unaided, from the bowels of the earth. A bag of dollars shut up in a safe does not produce dollars, as a cow produces calves."—Enrico Ferri

War—the hell broth of nations.—Carlyle.

Patriotism is the last refuge of scoundrels.—Samuel Johnson.

MUNICIPAL FINANCE AND THE WORKER.

As we approach the Municipal elections in November there seems to rise up a national effort to stimulate the lower middle-class and the workers to press for reforms that shall stop the rates from rising, and to bring them down considerably. The great advance in local rates in many parts of the country—particulars of some have recently appeared in the London papers—are beginning, to create something like a panic among the suffering ratepayers. Various suggestions of how to lower rates were made at a conference of the London Labour Party. Those suggestions, briefly stated, are, "A more just system of rating property, the policy of a Capital Levy by Parliament, the proceeds lent to rating authorities free from interest and that empty property should bear a full rate assessment." As regards the Capital Levy advocated, there is much difference of opinion concerning its utility. Personally I am opposed to it, because I think very much better means could be applied to secure the object these people have in view.

Instead of tinkering with the minor points of a great problem, why does not the Labour Party concentrate their energies in advocating a reform that would strike at the root of present rating injustice? This could be done by a readjustment of our whole taxing and rating system. Both of these are devised by the capitalist class to wring the last penny from the workers by indirect means knowing full well they could not get them by direct means. Will it be contended that the lower middle class and the workers would not give their full support in advocating reform on the following lines? That every form of indirect taxation, including rates, should be abolished. That there should only be one tax, such tax being based on the nett income of each individual. That local rates should be merged in this one tax, and collected by the Inland Revenue authorities. That such tax should be based on a sliding scale, according to income, but should not begin to operate until the income is above rational living conditions. That would settle once and for all the rating problem, inasmuch as each person's income would have to be above rational living conditions (which could be agreed upon) before they could be called upon to contribute either to local rates or to national taxation.

Is that not much more simpler to understand, and much more effective, than the London Labour Party's programme. Also, if properly taken in hand and propagated, could we not soon get sufficient support to create a great panic in the capitalist system. I feel certain that the principle outlined above could be presented to any audience in language plain enough for them to fully grasp it, and to obtain their support. Having settled your rating problem, then we must have national banking. If a banker can liquidate the assets involved in a factory belonging to a private individual on purely book-keeping lines, why should not a municipality be empowered to do likewise on its realisable property. If it possessed that power then it could build houses, and carry out other reforms of a remunerative character, freed from the interest burdens which to-day is causing house famine, and is so crippling our own administration that our rates, under this system, must ever keep rising until the collapse comes.

GEORGE WATTS.

A MEDICAL REPORT.

Gentlemen,—I have the honour to report on a case that was submitted a few years ago to "The Social and Industrial Medical Board," for their expert opinion. Upon enquiry it was found that the patient had long suffered from a "Malignant Growth" with severe internal complications, and had hitherto been under the treatment of unqualified practitioners, and as the friends of the patient in question, feared a total collapse of their friend, they decided to consult the entire Staff of this Institution.

The specialists at once saw that the case was of a most dangerous character, and decided to give it their careful and undivided attention, and at once made a thorough diagnosis of the grave symptoms that had developed.

The medical experts saw at the very outset that it would be necessary to study the disease from all its aspects, and so trace the history of the complaint to its source, and discover the cause that was producing the undesired effect.

Soon after the first enquiry had been completed, it was obvious that it was not a case for medical treatment in a therapeutic sense, although one or two of the lesser qualified staff suggested giving the patient a course of treatment, largely using "Dr. Bottomlie's Patent Wind Pills," but after further examination it was found the patient had inhaled so much gas, that any treatment of the kind suggested would undoubtedly cause "aggravated flatulency;" and again a most exhaustive diagnosis was made, so deep did the staff probe, in ascertaining the cause, that mention may be here made of the extraordinary depths to which the eminent expert, Robert Smiley, M.D., went (the degree here attached, is not of the common order, but was taken with honours at the "University of Natural Science," and means "Miners' Detective," the worthy doctor having discovered in the bowels of the earth, many of the microbes which greatly aggravated the disease suffered by the patient). So after due consideration, and mature deliberation, it was decided that there was no other way of saving the patient's life except by an operation. The Surgical Staff duly co-operated with the Medical in this matter, and came to the conclusion, that considering the long suffering and the present weak condition of the patient, a course of proper food diet must first be administered, preparatory to a trial operation. Here the Staff met with many difficulties owing to the inexperience and exaggerated humanitarian ideas of the male nurses in attendance. Often when the doctors had ordered a certain class of medicine to be given, these nurses fearing it might leave a "nasty taste" in the patient's mouth, gave undue quantities of "sweet-stuff"—for the doctors only to find that the work of one day was largely undone by this practice, on the next day.

Early in the month of August, it was considered the patient was in a fit state to stand a minor operation, for it was found that the "Malignant Growth" proper, had fastened itself so much on the vital parts of the body that the patient is not yet fit to stand the "grand operation," so it was decided to remove one of the cancerous growths, which would enable the doctors to get at the seat of the complaint much easier, and so be able to guarantee a perfect restoration to health.

The operation in question was performed with such dexterity and skill, that the

patient was not aware it had taken place until it was over.

Upon examining the extracted growth, it was found to be what is known to the Medical Profession as "Millitarious Warous Obnoxious," and so marked were the characteristics, that the experts, without microscopic examination, at once classified it as generating from the "Bacillus Churchillian" of Malboroughian origin.

We are pleased to state, that the patient feels considerable relief, and no doubt will soon be able to undergo further removal of these cancerous growths.

It is only natural that the experts and staff are delighted with the success of their first real "Constructive Operation," and the only shadow of regret that has been cast upon their exuberance, is, that those beloved experts that have passed into the "great beyond" were not with them, to share in the universal thanks that have been showered upon them.—I have the honour, gentlemen, to remain, yours obediently.

F. R. MELTON, B.S.c.,
one of the Operating Staff of
the "I.L.P." Laboratory,
Nottingham.

P

A Miner's Reply.

- X Work.
- Y Hard Work.
- Z B—Slavery.

A Twist Revealed.

D.A.T.U.M., which being interpreted, reads: DAM T.U. — Damn Trades Unionism.

To Ensure Old Age Pensions.

Eat potato parings.
Leave the inside to the Boss.
(Re headline "Nottingham Evening Post,"
2/10/20.)

What the Eye Never Saw.

Has Haden Guest?

A Terrible Sight. Another Outline of History, Part XXV.

That Stockhill Site.
H. G. Wells in Moscow.
(See "Press, Platform & Pulpit.")
"ASKUS."

BLIND WORKERS CONFER.

The blind workers of the country have shown their determination to keep abreast with the times. The recent Annual Conference of the National League of the Blind unanimously demanded that one-third of the representation on all blind institutions should be full members of the National League. They also demanded representation on the departmental committee appointed by the Government to enquire into the causation and prevention of blindness. Their claim for representation had been refused by the Government on the ground that the subject was purely medical, but a strong exception was taken to this attitude, as no matter concerned them more closely. The Conference declared against the system of piecemeal and demanded its complete abolition wherever it was in operation.

FEED THE BRUTES.

Eat Potato Parings.

How to Add Five Years to Your Life.

Through neglecting to eat potato and apple parings regularly the majority of the people are shortening their lives by at least five years, is the opinion of Dr. S. R. Boynton, of Bellingham (Washington).

Addressing the Society of Physical Theraputists, Dr. Boynton (according to the "Chicago Tribune") said the peelings were essential to diet, and that numerous tests had proved that their consumption was conducive to long life.

"Scour milk oatmeal I recommend," added the speaker, "but the parings of potatoes and apples counteract the effects on the system of over-strenuousness and are generally beneficial in prolonging life." —"Nottingham Evening Post," 2, 10, 20.

GUNS FOR COAL CENTRES?

Several lorry loads of rifles and Hotchkiss guns (writes a Midland correspondent) have been shifted from Chilwell ammunition dump to Beeston station, Notts. There they were loaded into horse vans and transported to different industrial centres, including Sheffield and Wakefield.—"Daily Herald," Sept., 1920.

IS WAR HOLY?

Lord Wolseley published a hand-book some years ago strictly for soldiers. It is called "The Soldier's Pocket-Book," and it is used to this day in the British Army. In that book Wolseley summed up the character of General Staffs the world over: "The soldier must be taught to believe that his duties are the noblest which fall to a man's lot. He must be taught to despise all those of civil life. Soldiers, like missionaries, must be fanatics."

The announcement by officials of the Pennsylvania Railroad System that 12,000 employees are to be paid off, will bring to the Labour slacker's mind the fact that conditions are rapidly shaping themselves so that it will soon be impossible for him to obtain high wages for half-hearted and slovenly under-production. Several large manufacturing firms have, within the last few months paid off a considerable percentage of their undesirable workmen, with the result that their output per man has increased surprisingly. In several cases the total output is equal to that when they had 15 to 20 per cent. more men.—Article, entitled "Setting Down to Work," by E. V. n "American Machinist," Sept 25/20.

The late Rev. E. H. Bennett, of Cheltenham, ignored the Biblical injunction to lay no treasure up on earth. When he left to talk to Jesus, he left behind £16,770.

"Manchester certainly needs a hard winter to bring the engineers, printers, gas-workers, transport men, tram drivers, and a score of other sections of industry to a condition approximating sanity." —"Manchester Man" in the "Share Market Review," Sept. 11/20.

THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT AND POLITICS.

For some time past in this city, a few peurile individuals who style themselves "Co-operators" and "Members," have been bewailing the fact that the local Co-operative Society is entering the political arena, and oh! most wickedly reserving a sum each quarter for "political" purposes, which, corrected, should read: "class" purposes. The correspondence columns of the town "rags" has at various times contained lame laments from these high soulful and wondrous wise fifty-years-behind-the-clock individuals, who, in their infantile prattling, imagine that like the solar system, social institutions must remain unchanged and unaffected by changing economic conditions. The social conditions and status of any body of people is a reflex of their economic conditions. The Co-operative movement as a social institution is forced to change, to conform to changing economic conditions, i.e., the means of production and distribution. The process of economic evolution will not permit them to remain fixed. The development and improvement of the means of production and distribution produce economic changes; new ideas, theories and discoveries emanate from material conditions, and such conditions act upon individuals. It is not the idea of one man or a few men that the Co-operative movement is entering the political arena. Over the breadth of the country the idea has been forced into the minds of thousands of the most class-conscious co-operators independently and apart from each other. Capitalism and its executive committee—the Government—is trying to smash the Co-operative movement. They realise, if the workers do not, the danger to themselves. They realise that, on the breakdown of the present economic system of the means of production and distribution, Co-operation is the machinery at hand to replace the old putrid system of social and economic injustice.

The Co-operative movement, with its factories and workshops and distributive agencies organised and extended to the fullest possible limit, could replace the present system, successfully, when the breakdown of the capitalist system becomes international.

As in Russia, so in this country. Without the Co-operative Societies the revolution in Russia could not have been accomplished. (This from Lenin himself.) The capitalists and the Government know this, and realise the danger. They are class conscious if the workers are not. They see in Co-operation the germ of a new social order, in which they would be compelled to work or starve. Hence the capitalist government's attack on co-operation. The attack has produced the men best able to marshal the facts and express the idea in the interests of all true co-operators. Quite naturally they have chosen the Labour and Socialist organisations, not as party organisations, but class organisations to fight that monster of death, famine and pestilence—capitalism—on the economic field. Predatory capitalism, representing militarism, autocracy and plutocracy, is the monster responsible for the world's misery. All the wars of the last two centuries have been commercial wars solely for the private gain of a parcel of parasites. These followers of Mammon have strewn the earth for centuries past with death, disease and misery, and have even adopted Christianity as their cloak. They sometimes give to

the poor because it's "lending to the Lord" and they hope for a big, big, dividend. They expect a full-sized Heavenly palace in exchange for what they are pleased to call "charity." They have the colossal impudence to think they can beat the God of the Jews in a trading transaction. In all its various phases and disguises this multi-headed monster, Capitalism, has led us to a state of society the "Combine of Modern Saints" calls civilisation. Its real name is organised misery. Taking a survey of the state of the world, of any country in the world, of this very Christian England, can we not appeal to outraged humanity to understand logically the direct cause of all this misery and stamp it out of our midst? What matters it, if these blue-blooded aristocrats were compelled to inhabit some island thousands of miles away, far from the scene of their exploitations? A society cleansed from their moral taint is surely something to be ardently desired!

The economic interpretation of present-day history is lost on many people. They connect it all with a Divine origin, and so pass over the present chaos as an act of God interpreted in the Revelation of St. John the Divine.

Those so-called co-operators who can only think within their own limits, and who hide behind noms-de-plume, will no doubt be shocked at the possibilities and the coming function of co-operation. In their child-like innocence they hope to become capitalists themselves in a decaying social order. They regard co-operation only as a means of drawing "Dixie." Mere money; only a medium of exchange adopted by capitalist society, for which men commit murder, and women sell their bodies. The dynamic force that holds them to the movement is materialism; which measures human value only on sordid terms of £ s. d. Heaven help us if that is the only ideal that co-operation means! Turning to hard, cold facts, do these people think it is by mere chance that eighteen Co-operative Creameries were destroyed by the forces of the Crown in Ireland? This and other sabotage by other means reveals the class consciousness of the capitalists. Read the signs and understand the economic interpretation of present-day history. Then if they still think we should not assume the offensive, let them go to the opposite camp in their more familiar environment. Dividend! What an ideal!

A. COMRIE.

THE SCANDINAVIAN ELECTIONS.

At the Swedish elections the Social Democrats (Branting's party), formerly 87, now number 82; while the Left Socialists (the party affiliated to the Third), who formerly held 10 seats, have lost 4. This still leaves the Social Democrats the strongest single party with a total of 82 against the Conservative 67.

At the Danish elections the Socialists have recovered from their slump last July that resulted from the general strike, and polled 390,144 votes. This is only less than the Liberals, who have polled 410,461 votes. It is expected that this will mean a gain of six seats to the Socialists, making a total of 48.

In the preface to "Leaves of Grass," Walt Whitman, speaking of professional politicians, said: "The swarms of cringers, dough-faces, lice of politics, planners of sly innovations for their own preferment."

INDUSTRIAL HISTORY.**Essay 1.****Man and the Universe.**

In studying this subject it is somewhat perplexing to know where to commence our study. We must first of all bear in mind that there are two periods of history, unrecorded and recorded history. I have decided that it will not be out of place to make a brief review of the industrial history of the human race as far back as we can obtain any knowledge of what transpired before history came to be recorded. In fact, it would be of great assistance to the student if he had taken a course of study on the subject of "The Materialistic Conception of History" before commencing a course on this subject.

According to scientific investigation the earth's existence is divided into four periods. The first, the Primary Period being that when the earth developed from a vast nebulae. The Secondary Period in which vegetation originated and the first form of life developed in the nature of huge reptiles and birds. The third period, called the Tertiary Period in which animals of the mammal type made their appearance, and plant life approximated to our modern flora. The fourth period, the Quaternary Period, in the early portion of which the whole of the northern hemisphere was supposed to have been in an arctic condition, being covered with great sheets of ice. This is called the glacial system. The latter part of the Quaternary Period being called the human or present system.

The precise antiquity of man is still uncertain, but it is conjectured that he made his home in Europe after the close of the glacial system, sharing a precarious existence with the mammoth, cave bear, and rhinoceros.

Man then developed through the paleolithic and neolithic ages of stone implements to the bronze and iron ages, in the last of which we live. It will, perhaps, be interesting to note here that out of the 72,000,000 years which it is estimated by the scientists that our planet has been in existence, human life has only existed for 100,000 years.

Nature's Book of History.

The history of the world is the history of the human mind. The documents which afford us knowledge of prehistoric man, his culture and history, lie buried deep down in the geological strata of our planet. The traces and relics that have been discovered have enabled the scientists and geologists to determine with a certain amount of ambiguity the progress of man from the most primitive stage of his existence, the paleolithic, or earlier stone age, to the present epoch.

By excavations in France, Germany, and other Central European countries, they have found, buried deep in the bowels of the earth, the bones of men lying with the skeletons of animals which could only have existed in a climate of an arctic nature, proving the existence of human beings in the drift, or later, glacial period. At that stage of history man must have depended solely on killing the wild animals for food and clothing, and have found protection from the weather in the caves.

We find much more reliable evidence of man's progress in the neolithic, or later stone age period. In higher strata of the earth they find traces of man's industrial development in rough stone tools and charcoal, indicating that primitive man had found means of making fire.

The discovery of bone needles and fine awls, also traces of binding material, probably made of reindeer sinews, indicate that man had next learnt how to make clothing by sewing the skins of animals. Proof of man's progress in fashioning tools is provided by the discovery of flint instruments in the shape of knives, axes, and arrowheads, smoothed and finished as if they had been ground in some manner.

In the caves of the Perigord, in France, some remarkable examples of early art have been found in the sketches of reindeer, mammoth, bison, horses, and other domestic animals, scratched on stones, bones, and pieces of reindeer horn, showing that primitive man had not confined the whole of his energy to the struggle for food, but had also found time to engage in artistic pursuits.

The next stage in man's development appears to be that he commenced to build dwellings of wood and stone, instead of inhabiting caves or other places naturally protected from the weather. He is also supposed to have learnt to grow wheat, barley, and flax, making a coarse textile material from the latter. The two cereals had probably been imported from Mesopotamia, where, along with other leguminous plants, they grew wild. There is every indication that at this stage many animals had become domesticated, such as the dog, cow, horse, sheep, goat, and pig.

By the discovery of Danish kitchen middens, we find that man next devised instruments for spinning and weaving, mat and basket-making, and also made various kinds of earthenware pots for cooking and preserving food.

These primitive people must have lived on a communistic basis, as the erection of the huge stone buildings, and the planning and erection of the lake dwellings, traces of which still remain in some parts of Europe, could not have been carried out without the co-operation of a whole tribe.

We now find, by the same means, i.e., geological and archaeological investigation, that industry was transcending from the stone age to the metal age. In various parts of the world, notably in Western Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, and parts of America, traces have been found that man had begun to fashion tools out of virgin copper. On the site of the pile-dwellings of Western Switzerland were found copper daggers, chisels, small awls, some of which were fastened to their handles by copper rivets; hatchets, with their edge flattened out and broadened, showing that while primitive man had not advanced to the stage of smelting copper from the ore, they had begun to use the metal in its natural state. Further investigations go to show that this copper period was followed immediately by the bronze period. This is proved not merely by the discovery of the actual improved tools made of bronze, but also by the improvement in the later type of lake-dwelling, the whole structure, and especially the piles on which they were constructed, being much more perfectly finished. Man must at this period have invented some process of smelting in order to have made this alloy of copper and tin.

We can now understand a gradual development from the bronze period to the iron period, the period in which we live. It is worthy of note that just as the copper and bronze tools were similar in form to the flint tools in use at the transition period, so the iron tools correspond to the bronze tools of the most improved type.

One place has been found, and most completely investigated by the method of

paleontological research, assisted by archaeological and historical science, where, in overlying geological strata, the evidence has been found of a progressive development of culture from the end of the Stone Age to the days of Græco-Roman history. This place, the hill of Troy, gives us a complete chronological connection between the neolithic period and the metal period, a complete link connecting the prehistoric to the historic period. Here lie seven or eight towns, each in successive strata, one on top of the other. In the lowest stratum, the tools and relics found clearly belonged to the later Stone Age. High up, in another stratum, is found the remains of a second town, with massive stone walls and magnificent gates. The implements found in this second town are made partly of stone and partly of bronze. The third, fourth, and fifth towns show very little improvement in their culture on the second town. The remains of the sixth town show clear signs of a renaissance, the architecture being a distinct advance on the previous towns. Pottery also makes its appearance, some of which was painted in beautiful shining colours. The state of the seventh and eighth towns indicate that this period of development was broken by the migration of barbaric people from the north. Not till the great men of Rome began to interest themselves in the place did new life blossom on Troy's ruins.

Thus geological and archaeological research relates history. Pre-history is now concluded, and gives place to recorded history.

G. GROOMS,
Stapleford C.L.C. Class.

SOME COAL PROFITS.

Fernhill Collieries (South Wales) for the year ending June 30th report a profit of £49,277 against £30,386 for the previous year. Last year they paid a dividend of 20 per cent. free of income tax. This year it is 20 per cent. subject to income tax, which at first sight seems a decrease until one learns that in March last the ordinary shareholders received a bonus of 150 per cent. (one and a half shares for one) in the form of 8 per cent. preference shares which also enjoy a further participation in the profits.

New Monckton Collieries (Yorkshire).—For the year ending 30th June last the profit was £52,695 as against £48,294 for the previous year. Dividend 10 per cent. free of income tax. In 1916 shareholders received one bonus share credited with 10s. paid for each share held by them, so that a 10 per cent. dividend now is equal to 15 per cent. free of income tax.

The International Coal Co. (South Wales) report a profit for year ending June 30th, 1920, of £27,144, as against £13,597 last year. In 1914 the dividend was 5 per cent., and subsequent dividends have been 12½, 15, 15, 10 12½, and 20 per cent. respectively. The report states:—"The directors consider this an opportune time to increase the authorised capital of the company from 85,000 £1 shares to 200,000 £1 shares, and to capitalise reserve funds so as to enable fully paid bonus shares to be issued to existing shareholders as part of such additional capital on the basis of one share for every share now held."

Workers of the world, unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains. You have a world to gain.—Karl Marx.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Why does the British capitalist class, along with their pals, wish to destroy the Russian Workers' Soviet Republic?

* * *

The answer is found in Chicherin's reply to Mr. Balfour. Because—"the luxurious dwellings of the aristocracy have been converted into great popular clubs, in which the working community enjoys life, listens to music, sees good plays, attends scientific lectures, or simply spends its free time in friendly intercourse." Further, "because the houses of the rich have been given to the poor, and those who formerly roamed in slums now enjoy the benefits of good housing."

* * *

From the report of the directors of the Motor Owners' Petrol Combine we learn that their properties in the oilfields of Eastern Galicia have been sold to a French group of financiers.

* * *

What's the idea of the Earl of Carrick and Co. selling these oilfields to another section of the "Petrol gang"?

* * *

Listen! When the Bolshies are likely to capture the firm, and you can't have a war because Labour says No! sell out to a friend, and let him fight for "his interests," and, incidentally, for your own. See the game!

* * *

Hundreds of starving and homeless beggars are dying in the streets of Bombay, and a Mr. Manley, Deputy Commissioner of Police to the Bombay Improvement Trust, wants permission to erect temporary houses to ease this appalling situation.

* * *

No wonder the Hindoos have declared a boycott on everything British, including the glorious Government which rules them! We might learn something ourselves—in time.

* * *

Troops are being hastened to Mesopotamia in huge numbers, to teach the Arabs to mind our affairs instead of their own, from which the following interesting question arises.

* * *

How many innocent Arab tribesmen, in their peaceful villages, and British Tommies fighting for their bosses' commercial supremacy, will be killed? And when they are dead, how many of their widows will receive a pension of £25,000 from a grateful Government?

"DEMOCRACY" IN AMERICA.

The Government of the United States has recently been engaged in lecturing the Russian Soviet Republic at length upon the principles of democracy and popular elections. The Government of the United States would do well to look nearer home. The New York State Assembly has once again expelled its duly elected Socialist members for the crime of being Socialists. The five Socialist members were originally expelled last spring by an overwhelming vote. New elections were held on Sept. 10. The obstinate electors once again chose the five Socialists as their representatives. The New York State Assembly, not to be outdone by such pigheaded manifestations of the popular will, has expelled three of the five over again, with the result that the other two have very naturally and creditably resigned.

THE RED T.U. INTERNATIONAL.

The foundation of a "Red" International Trade Union Council at Moscow, in opposition to the Amsterdam Federation, is a step which has long been foreshadowed, and is now definitely attempted. The principles of the new organisation have been published in the Italian "Battaglie Sindacale," organ of the Italian Confederation of Labour, and run as follows:—

1. "Any attempt likely to lead to the withdrawal of the Left Wing elements from the existing Trade Union organisations is to be condemned. The Left Wing elements should, on the contrary, aim with all their energy at eliminating from the direction of the Trade Union movement the opportunists who collaborated in the war, and who continue to serve the interests of capitalist imperialism by participating in the dupery of the League of Nations.

2. "Regular propaganda work should be arranged within the Trade Union organisations of all the world, so as to create in each a Communist nucleus which will strive unceasingly to bring about the triumph of the Communist programme.

3. "A Committee of Action and international struggle should be created, in order to transform the Trade Union movement in the way described. This Committee will function as a Provisional International Council of Labour Unions in agreement with the Executive Committee of the Third International under the conditions fixed by the Congress. This Council will contain representation of all affiliated Labour organisations. A representative of the International Trade Union Council will sit on the Executive of the Third International, and vice versa."

PIECE-WORK IN INDIA.

An important debate on the question of piece-work as a source of industrial unrest among the workers of India occupied the Imperial Council of India last week. The matter was raised by one of the non-official members, Mr. G. S. Khaparde, in a resolution asking for the appointment of a committee to enquire into the causes of the troublesome recent strikes in the Government presses at Calcutta, Delhi, and Simla. Mr. Khaparde stated that the piece-work system was among the most acute grievances responsible for the strikes, and it should be abolished, as it imposed an undue strain upon the workers. A spokesman of the European non-official members declared, on the other hand, that the piece-work system should be retained, on the ground that the relative inefficiency of Indian labour required this stimulus.

The system was also defended by the Government, on whose behalf Sir Thomas Holland stated that piece-work was the only possible system, that the revised rates were extremely generous, and that the trouble was due to irresponsible politicians who encouraged the strikers by raising such questions. He promised that when the men returned to work and gave the new rates a fair trial he would welcome the appointment of such a committee as was suggested, but the effect of setting it up at that moment could only be a prolongation of the strike. The resolution was then defeated by 39 votes to 12.

TRADE UNION CONTROL IN ITALY.

The agreement embodying the principle of Trade Union control in industry, forced upon the employers by the Italian Premier, has been practically accepted by the workers, who are evacuating the factories they seized. Speaking in the Senate in reply to a number of questions on the subject, Giolitti declared that every statesman must bear in mind that the whole world is confronted with a fundamental social transformation. The advent of a fourth estate began in the latter part of last century, and any attempt to check its course was doomed to failure. It was the duty of the Government to maintain vigilant neutrality in industrial disputes, and he had recommended the employers in the metal industry not to declare a lock-out; if they did, they could not look for help to the forces of the State. To have prevented the occupation of the factories by force would have meant that all the available troops would have had to be sent to over 600 factories, and a serious struggle would have followed. What the Government contemplated was an industrial transformation which would enable the workers to become acquainted with the conditions of manufacture, and thus be in a position to decide the justice or otherwise of their claims. The agreement would place the worker in the position of a partner, and not that of an adversary of the manufacturer. He pointed out that the principle of workers' control was admitted by employers in March, 1919, and in December of the same year the Chamber had adopted a resolution in favour of co-operative labour and control of factories.

LABOUR IN HUNGARY.

The Commission of Enquiry sent by the International Labour Office of the League of Nations to investigate social and economic conditions in Hungary has completed its enquiries. The delegation was appointed at the suggestion of the Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, who promised that it should be brought into touch not only with the Government but with the working-class leaders, and be given every opportunity of examining the facts of the present situation. The delegation was instructed to enquire into the regulation and organisation of Labour, and devoted much time to the study of such questions as the liberty afforded to workers' organisations, the standard of wages, hours of work, industrial insurance, and the like.

In the consultations with representatives of the workers care was taken to have an interpreter who possessed the confidence of the working-class organisations. Consultations were held with all the big combinations of employers and workpeople, and special attention was given to the conditions in mining and agricultural districts. A mass of information has been collected which will enable the delegation to present an exhaustive report to the Governing Body of the International Labour Office at its meeting in October.

DENTISTRY

STANFORTH & GRIFFIN,
234a & 236a Alfreton Road, and
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