

# The Wolverhampton Worker

The Organ of the Wolverhampton Trades and Labour Council.

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## THE WAR—AND AFTER.

By "QUI VIVE."

Everyone is reading about the war. Everyone is talking about the war. Everyone is thinking about the war. And so, I suppose, it is hardly necessary to apologise for writing about the war. Indeed, to write about anything other than the war at the present time would be sheer waste of time; for the probability is that if one attempted to write on any other subject it would simply lead up to, and finish with—the war.

Several features of the present war stand out prominently. The traditional pluck and heroism, for instance, has been manifest to-day amongst Britain's sons, just as it was in the days of yore. Truly they are proving worthy sons of worthy sires. The spirit of patriotism, too, is as keen to-day, when our young men are made to understand the exact position of affairs, as ever it was.

The call to arms has met with a magnificent response, not only here at home, but from the very outposts of the British Empire. England called, and her sons from far and near have nobly responded to the call. And when the war is over, has become just a memory—a vivid memory it may be—the deeds of valour, the acts of daring, the heroic exploits of our brave British sons will shine as priceless gems in an already rich setting.

### When the Last Shot is Fired.

It may be a long time before the last shot has been fired, and the last life laid down in connection with this hideous orgy, but the end will come sooner or later. And our gallant English lads will come marching back to the lively strains of music, and women will weep for very joy, and forget the days of weary waiting for news from the front as they welcome home these heroes, bronzed and tanned by sun and wind, and hardened and toughened by exposure and the hardship of battle.

Friend will welcome friend with hearty handshake. And some, alas! will weep in silence and in sadness for loved ones who will never return; women will listen, as in hushed whispers a returned comrade tells of the heroism, or it may be the last dying wish of husband or son as their life-blood slowly ebbed out on the battlefield. And our brave "Tommies" will sleep their long last sleep under foreign soil, and their bones will bleach under sunny skies, and

nothing, it may be, save a rude wooden cross will mark their last resting-place. But we will "note them in our book of memories," and their names will go down to posterity as they who fought to keep the name of Britain honoured and great and pure and unsullied.

And when this war is ended the workers must see to it that the widows and orphans of those who have lost their lives at the war are succoured and sustained, that soldiers permanently disabled shall be adequately provided for, and that no man having volunteered for active service shall suffer from unemployment on his return to civil life, and no maimed hero shall have to beg for a living.

### Shall War be Abolished?

But by far the most important question is: "Shall war be abolished?"

The present war we cannot prevent. Past wars we cannot help. But what of the future? It is a question for the democracies to answer. It is a question which they ought to answer in no uncertain voice.

Shall the little chaps that toddle about our feet be trained and drilled and developed physically so that a few decades hence they may make "targets" for foreign cannon? Will the nations, as a result of the present conflict, stand solid for the abolition of war, or will it mean a keener competition than ever in the mad race for armaments?

Shall man devise machines for dealing death on a still greater scale, more ingenious, yet more horrible inventions for the wholesale butchery of his fellow-creatures? Must this appeal to brute force, this relic of barbarism, continue despite all our boasted civilisation, or rather shall we say:

Nation with nation, land with land,  
Unarmed shall live as comrades free;  
In every heart and brain shall throb  
The pulse of one fraternity?

If the men of the various nations who have suffered, and fought, and starved, and bled; if the women of the nations who have suffered so much, and endured so much, and in some cases lost so much, are really in earnest in protesting that this war shall end war, then cliques, and war lordism, or even vested armamentism will be swept away by the power of the people.

## WOMEN AND RECRUITING.

By MARION PHILLIPS, D.Sc. (Econ.)  
(General Secretary, Women's Labour League.)

What should women do about recruiting? That is the question we cannot keep from asking at the present time. And it is hard indeed to answer.

Many of us try to reply that we hate the whole idea of war and that we cannot feel that it is right to send our sons and husbands to kill other women's sons and husbands or be killed by them. We abhor the destruction that war brings both upon those who take part in it and those whose homes it lays waste. We cannot think without shuddering of the poor homeless women and children of Belgium and Northern France and now of Austria and Eastern Germany. Wherever the troops come to pursue their work of killing, we know that homes will be lost and terrible suffering ensue for those so absurdly called the non-combatants of war.

Yet it is useless for us to talk to-day of non-resistance unless we face the possibility of withdrawing our Navy from the seas and of leaving the troops in France and Belgium—some of them our own troops—without further support.

Here is the situation in which a policy of armed peace for Europe has brought the nations. We are at war, and we cannot stop it until the nations are ready to make peace. But let us have no illusions about this peace. It will be useless to us if it is not made on a new basis. Let us determine to end this hideous state of an armed camp in Europe and let the close of this war be the signal for the real peace—the peace which is only possible in a United States of Europe, all accepting arbitration as the natural means of settling disputes and putting aside the arbitrament of war.

### To the Bitter End.

We cannot achieve such a peace unless we hold to the sacrifices we have already made of blood and treasure and are prepared to follow them up by making more; to make them good, indeed, by backing them up.

Such a peace cannot be realised unless we are prepared to see this war through to the bitter end. And that means that more men must go to France and enlistment must continue.

Yet there comes to many a woman a feeling of horror that she who cannot fight herself should lift her voice to urge others on to do so. True, and it is hard; but if we try our best to tell the truth about the cause, concealing nothing of the hideousness of war, but urging men to go forth determined to end it, we are but doing a kind of duty which a cruel civilisation has forced upon us.

We women have not to bear even a full half of responsibility for the world that has been built up about us. But we are bearing a heavy burden because the world is still only half-civilised. If we do not share the hardship of the trenches, it is women at least who are bearing the worst of the horrors of war in France and Belgium. And, indeed, the lot of anxious women left behind is not better than that of the men who, in a wonderful comradeship of danger, are doing the fighting.

### Nation Must Pay its Debt.

But one thing we should all fight to secure, and that is national recognition of those who defend national existence. The only justification for our fighting is that national existence demands it. Then the nation must pay its debt, so far as it can be paid in money, to the men who go to the war. But these men think not of themselves, but first of those for whom they have been the breadwinners. For these the nation must make honourable provision, not giving them the bitter bread of organised and patronising charity, but the maintenance due to them by those for whom their men folks give their lives. Every wife, child, or mother, brother, or sister, who has been depending on the soldier's earnings, would be protected from hardship by a reasonable weekly wage.

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THE  
**Wolverhampton Worker.**

NOVEMBER, 1914.

### THE GREAT CAMPAIGN.

Will history repeat itself? From the expressions of responsible members of the Government we had been led to believe that this war, which was to be waged in the interests of the higher civilisation, would be different in every aspect from all other wars. The vast area over which conflict is being waged, the numbers of men engaged, the modern weapons, the fighting under water and in the air, all these certainly make all previous wars seem insignificant in comparison. Yet that is only the one side of warfare. It must be admitted that on the other side the Government have taken action in regulating the foodstuffs of the people and meeting the stress in various other directions, but on the whole the circumstances at home will still to a very large degree resemble those which appertained at the time of the Crimea, unless some prompt measures are taken by the Government. We refer to the treatment of dependents of soldiers and sailors, and of those who may come back from the front permanently maimed.

#### Inadequate Provision.

Apparently the Government are of the opinion that the matter can be indefinitely shelved. What we want, we are told, is more money and more men, and still more

may be perfectly true, but the obvious retort is that the men are there, and that they are coming to the colours in greater numbers than it is possible to deal with them. It seems to us that the idea is that if the clamour for recruits is kept up long enough and loud enough it will drown the demands of those who are trying to safeguard the rights of the recruits and get adequate treatment for soldiers and sailors' dependents. This method of shuffling with the question surely is neither dignified, just, nor honourable. The country certainly must have recruits, but it must also offer decent terms. What is it, after all, that we are asking? The widow of a soldier who is killed in battle, or who contracts a fatal disease while on active service, at present receives the miserable sum of 5s. as a pension, and men who have been disabled have been put off with a similar paltry amount. And there have been cases even in which soldiers returning from the front have found their homes ruined because the pay and the separation allowance paid to wives have been so disgracefully small.

#### The "Revised Scale."

The nation must mend its ways. If it is a noble thing for the men of the country to come forward valiantly in its defence, surely it is an ignoble thing for the nation to leave those near and dear to them to starvation and want. The Government have already made an admission in this direction. A great parade was made the other week of a revised scale of allowances. The whole country welcomed the statement, and it was regarded as an admission that the public conscience was awakening and pressing on the Government to its obvious duty. When the actual facts came to be analysed, however, it was found that the increase was nothing like what it was at first supposed to be. Out of the 12s. 6d. paid each week to the wife of a soldier, 3s. 6d. comes out of the soldier's pay; and of the 2s. 6d. per week per child, 7d. also is from the same source. What, therefore, is the position of the soldier with several children? We say that to make the soldier, who may be in a foreign country, provide so large a percentage out of his all too little allowance is not worthy the traditions of a great nation. We ask that the wives of soldiers and sailors on active service shall receive at least £1 a week, in addition to an adequate allowance for the children. Again, it cannot be said that to ask that a widow whose husband has given his life in his country's cause shall receive a pension of £1 a week is to aspire to the impossible.

#### Immediate Action Imperative.

Take the case of the disabled soldier. At present a man who has been disabled is entitled to from 1s. to 2s. 6d. per day, according to the extent of the injury sustained. Can it be denied that these provisions are totally inadequate? No one could with decency seek to defend them. That an enormously wealthy nation should have been content for so long to disgrace itself by such miserably inadequate provision is appalling. In the industrial field, if a man meets with disablement in private employment, the State, through the Employers' Liability Act, or at common law, compels the employer to adequately compensate the employee so disabled. Here we have a principle already established. We ask that it should be extended to include men who have been disabled in the service of the State. The State has no right to employ a man to keep it in existence by shedding his blood or losing his limbs and then put him off with less advantageous terms than it imposes on the private employer. The Government is already pledged to make provision on a new scale. We have waited long enough. Are the widows and orphans, the wives and mothers, to have their anxiety further prolonged? The public conscience is awakening, and it demands that the Government shall take action—NOW. History, in

## MR. WALKDEN AND THE WAR

ANOTHER LETTER FROM OUR  
PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE.

### GERMAN MILITARIST IDEAL

FELLOW WORKERS,

In my letter last month I endeavoured to describe the development of the really dangerous national position with which the Labour Party were faced during the fourth week of the war, and the circumstances which, in my opinion, fully justified them in uniting with the other political parties in a great campaign to assist Lord Kitchener in raising the necessary additional recruits to strengthen the British Army. Everything that has transpired since the Party made that decision has justified it still further and demonstrated the need of continued efforts to carry it into practical effect.



#### Militarist Ideal.

A study of the literature that expresses the ideals of the German Militarist Party leaves no doubt as to their desire for the complete conquest of Europe and the development of "world power" at the expense of their neighbours. They are frankly out "for the expansion of sovereignty and territory." They assert their "right to make war," "at the most favourable moment," regardless of any Treaty obligations. They have propagated and developed these ideas very actively during recent years, and have expressed their disappointment that a great war did not arise either from the Morocco incident of 1911 or the Balkan contests of 1913. Their most bitter complaints have been against the advocates of peace in their own country, and particularly against the Socialist and Trade Union organisations "with their ideals of international peace and solidarity." General Bernhardt, the most vigorous exponent of German Militarist policy, after railing against the influence of the Social Democratic Party, gives a solemn "warning against two tendencies: first, against the continual curtailment of the working hours of factory hands and artisans; and, secondly, against crediting sport with an exaggerated value for the national health." He likes to see workmen being drilled instead of playing games. He describes "the wish to shorten the working hours" as being "an immoral endeavour."

#### Free Press Disliked.

General Bernhardt is equally hostile to the idea of a free Press, and complains of "the warlike spirit being systematically undermined by the Press," which preaches "a feeble peace policy." He clamours for an official Imperial newspaper to advocate "the duties and aims of an Imperial policy," to "do everything to foster a military spirit," and to counteract the effect of papers which "follow International lines" and are "continually dwelling upon the necessity of upholding peace." Finally, he speaks contemptuously of Parliamentary Government, and insists that "the War Minister and the Head of the General Staff must be allowed a certain influence over policy." In short, Bernhardt desires complete military dictatorship rather than Democratic Government. And he is the acknowledged representative of Prussian Junkerdom. He welcomed all "new opportunities of creating friction with France," and added in regard to "English attempts" to promote friendship, "We may at most use them to delay the necessary and inevitable war until we may fairly imagine we have some prospect of success."

#### When the War is Ended.

All the words I have quoted were written three years ago and this war has been precipitated in the hope of realising the ambitions they represent. If the war had been delayed, it might in course of time have become impossible instead of "inevitable," but the Militarist Party have won in the struggle for ascendancy in Germany, and the overthrow of that party is the only thing that can give hope to the friends of peace and industrial progress in Germany and elsewhere. I therefore feel that our own Labour Party, nationally and locally, has taken the right course in deciding to assist in resisting the German Army, and my foremost hope is that when the war is ended the old ideal of the "United States of Europe" will be realised in an international determination to prevent another war taking place. Well-informed business people will be in harmony with Labour men in desiring this result, as they must recognise that if Europe is to be maintained in its past condition as an armed camp, with the ever-present possibility of another outbreak of war, the United States of America will steadily acquire the best of the world's manufacture, trade, and commerce, and the dis-united States of Europe will sink individually and collectively. Being an optimist, I look forward to the day.

When the war drums throb no longer, and the battle flags are furled  
In the Parliament of man, the Federation of the world.

YOURS FRATEERNALLY,

*Al. Walkden*

## JOTTINGS.

A reader writes expressing "great gratification" that the WORKER continues to appear when, since the war began, a large number of papers devoted to the interests of various trades and other considerations have had to suspend publication.

He goes on to say that he always looks forward with keen anticipation to the contents of our "champion little journal," which he describes as "a gallant ally of *The Daily Citizen*," which is all the time nobly espousing the interests of the working classes, and especially so at this period of sore travail."

\* \* \* \* \*

The vexed question of the milk supply is once more exercising the minds of the inhabitants.

For some not altogether clear reason, the Wolverhampton and District Dairymen's Association have intimated that they have decided to give only one delivery a day instead of the accustomed two.

This is a serious matter for housewives, who realise that new milk, delivered twice daily, is of the utmost necessity where young families are concerned.

If the cows owned by our dairymen cannot produce milk of the standard required by the authorities, and an adequate quantity cannot be guaranteed to meet the needs of local consumers surely it would appear there is something radically amiss which warrants a purchase of fresh stock.

Obviously, this is another instance of the failure of private enterprise.

There are cows to be bought which are quite able to give a full supply of new milk of the requisite standard.

When private arrangements fail, public management should step in when the welfare of the people is at stake.

The scope of operations at the Municipal Farm should be immediately extended.

The needs of the Farm Bailiff have just been satisfied by the purchase of a motor car; will the needs of the public be met also?

The municipalisation of the milk supply is what is urgently necessary. Will the Council discharge their duties to the people whose interests they are elected to maintain?

\* \* \* \* \*

It is so delightfully easy to criticise others, but in the instance I am about to relate I think there is a certain amount of justification.

Not so many days since I cycled with a friend to a country place a few miles distant in order to seek an afternoon's disentanglement from office cares. In the middle of the afternoon we sauntered into the central thoroughfare of the little township, and soon our natural curiosity was aroused.

We were standing opposite the leading newspaper's establishment when a party of well-dressed young men steered right in front of us mounted on motor cycles.

As they dismounted they immediately attracted our attention. They were a company of "knuts," of the indubitable "filbert" type, and we became interested in them as they removed temporarily their golfing stock from their burdened shoulders.

It appeared that "the b-boys" had brought their day's golf to a sharper close than usual as they desired to obtain the first news published in the early evening papers regarding the progress of the war.

Having acquired copies of the eagerly-sought editions, they afterwards repaired to a fashionable hotel near by in as lively a spirit as they probably anticipate the arrival of the current *Photo-Bits*.

My friend turned to me and said: "This is the sort of thing that discourages recruiting among a section of the working classes who are given 'furiously to think.'"

I grasped his point in a moment. Here we had a number of sons of the gentry, with assured incomes and no domestic responsibilities, who were obstinately turning a deaf ear to the nation's call to arms in the hour of peril.

"Surely," my friend continued, "it is this class of people who stand to lose infinitely the more in the event of conquest of this country by a foreign Power. And yet," he proceeded, "it is such as the twenty-three shillings-a-week workers in the Black Country who are the more willing to respond to Kitchener's appeal."

However, it is a notorious fact that comparatively few of our young swells are enlisting in the Army and Navy outside of those who are qualified to buy commissions.

Even the caddies are putting them to shame, for a good proportion of those of eligible age in many parts of the country have gone to the front—in some cases, I believe, to the "beastly-awful" inconvenience of their aristocratic lordlings.

\* \* \* \* \*

The baiting of a Tottenhall clergyman by a section of his parishioners because he acknowledged the noble spirit of the Scriptural injunction by offering up a prayer for the people of Germany, is a further illustration of the despicable narrow-mindedness of some so-called Christians.

It is an example of patriotism gone mad, and I am sorry the rev. gentleman took the incident so much to heart as to cause him to hand in his resignation.

## CHILD WELFARE.

### A VISIT TO A BIRMINGHAM INFANT CONSULTATION.

By "LAUREL"

In the midst of a great industrial and commercial city, with its teeming thousands of population—there in Darwin Street Mission Room—we found the object of our quest, one of Birmingham's four Infant Consultations, under the Public Health Authority, all of which are situated in districts where the infant mortality has been very high. After receiving a hearty welcome from the nurses and lady doctor, we fixed our attention on the internal surroundings, and marvelled greatly at how an ordinary mission room could be transformed into a comfortable and suitable establishment. Screens were placed in various positions to serve the purpose of dividing off the space, and adorning these were picture placards giving pointed reasons why baby should be breast-fed, or where that is impossible, they showed the proper kind of feeding bottle to use, also why baby should have a cot to himself, there being a specimen of the celebrated "banana-crate cot" on view.

Near the entrance, too, was a table with a notice, "Things that are bad for baby," which included all sorts of "dummy pacifiers," "soothing syrups," "teething powders," and well-known advertised foods, which of necessity will require to remain unmentioned. On another table were samples of cosy garments for baby, which the mothers are allowed to take home if they desire to copy them, also tins of Glaxo (dried milk), as recommended by the lady doctor in cases where the mother is unable to breast-feed baby. Leaflets on "How to protect baby during hot weather," "Milk as a food," "The best foods to buy during the war" are also distributed.

#### Happy Babies.

On our visit day there were 80 mothers attended with more than 80 babies, some of them bringing twins, and while they awaited their turn to see the doctor, one of the nurses had talks with them on health, training, infant feeding, and management. Each baby was undressed, weighed, and then examined by the doctor, who advised according to requirements, passed comments on improvement, or tenderly dealt with any sign of backwardness, and the mother was told when to come again. A record is kept of the weight and general condition of each child.

In addition to attendance at the consultations, the nurses also visit the babies where necessary in the homes. These visits are of immense value, not only in enabling instruction to be given to the mother regarding her own or her infant's health, but also in regard to sanitary conditions. All this is undoubtedly having the effect of reducing the infant mortality, which was 129 per 1,000 births during 1913.

We were informed that six additional Infant Consultations were to be opened in other wards next year. Dr. Robertson, Medical Officer of Health for Birmingham, is fully alive to the necessity of saving the child life of the city, and is anxious to use every means to prevent the unnecessary wastage of human life that exists to-day. There are 400 of these or similar centres all over the country, which are grappling with this great problem, and it is noteworthy that since definite effort has been made to reduce infant mortality the rate has fallen almost continuously. This is seen particularly in the figures for large towns in England and Wales.

#### What About Wolverhampton?

Our Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Malet, and his staff of health visitors, have done much good work to combat this evil, whilst labouring under great disadvantages, but if Wolverhampton is to take its place alongside other towns then something more will have to be done. The working women's organisations are deeply interested in this question, and since their joint demonstration at which the eminent authority, Dr. Moore, Medical Officer for Huddersfield, was the principal speaker, they have continued to press the matter. The Trades and Labour Council have also backed the women in their demand, and have requested the Health Authority to receive a deputation on the subject.

#### Object of Baby Clinics.

We ask for baby clinics, because we not only desire to reduce infant mortality, but also to deal with children up to five years of age. There is urgent necessity to help these little ones not yet at school to prevent their little ailments, to stop the spoiling of eyesight, the ruin of hearing, the development of those adenoids and enlarged tonsils that cause such havoc later on. We want to see that poor mothers have that skilled advice and treatment which the rich are able to obtain for the welfare of their children. By such advice and treatment the children will then be able to start school with a sound mind and body, and not as fit subjects for hospitals, doctors, and special schools.

#### Conclusive Evidence.

Dr. Spencer Badger, our School Medical Officer, shows in his report that there is an appalling amount of preventable disease amongst the entrants for school in this town. The establishment of school clinics have been sanctioned by our local Education Authority. Will our Public Health establish baby clinics and thus co-ordinate the work of prevention as well as cure? The cost to the town would not be great as the Government are giving grants in aid to Public Health Authorities for this work. These include half salaries of doctors and nurses appointed in connection with baby clinics. Since this terrible war has begun, we working mothers realise the awful wastage of life on the battlefields, and are more determined than ever to leave no stone unturned to aid in the preservation of life here at home, and to assist in building up a strong, healthy race in the interests of the nation and humanity.

Will the Local Authorities act now? Or will Wolverhampton lag behind?

## LOCAL NOTES AND COMMENTS.

By "THE CHIEL"

A chiel's amang ye takin' notes,  
An', faith, he'll prent' em.

—BURNS.

After all, the war is not an unmixed blessing. I am not going to attempt to mitigate the evils of war, the curse of militarism, the evil genius of the Kaiser, the sacrifice of lives, or the savagery of German war methods. After reciting that list, the instance I am about to mention seems insignificant, but when one comes to think about it it is by no means unimportant. I refer to the absence of municipal contests this November. It is the "privilege" of the householder to be able, once a year, to express his opinion, through the medium of the ballot box, on the government of the borough. To perform this interesting duty he has at hand all sorts of assistance and advice. There are, as a rule, quires of literature, eloquent appeals from the candidate, who informs the ladies and gentlemen resident in the particular ward that it is at the earnest request of a large number of ratepayers that he has unwillingly and modestly stepped forth from seclusion to the limelight of the hustings. He gives the impression that "he didn't want to do it," but now that he has done it, no other man has been, is, or ever will be one-quarter so qualified to carry out the onerous duties of representing the intelligent electors. His modesty has fallen away from him as a cloak, and he stands revealed as the champion of anybody and everybody against anything and everything. "I am a large ratepayer, I do not live in the ward, but I know all the requirements of those who do; I am an employer of labour, and as such am able to express intimately the needs of working people," and so on and so forth. The very walls join in the clamour for votes.

#### "Acting The Goat."

Then there are public meetings. Now is there an elector who really appreciates sitting in a schoolroom—in which probably there is a motto exhorting all and sundry to "Be Content,"—and listening to the droning voice of a windy chairman or the prosy platitudes of a candidate whose thoughts probably are far away and who wonders what in heaven's name has induced him to come out and act the goat in the manner he has been doing all through the contest—talking affably to anyone who looks a likely voter, kissing babies galore, sympathising with the wheezy housewife whose "bronchitis" always comes on at this time of the year, and whose "roomatiks" have been awful bad lately, patting mangy dogs and cats, and generally doing all sorts of things he would never have thought of doing at any other time. No doubt it is a sore trial, but if the particular candidate does not assiduously cultivate public sentiment in this manner he knows the probability is that "that Labour chap" will be exciting interest in schemes to provide houses for the people, to municipalise the milk supply, to inaugurate halfpenny tram fares, school clinics, or any of the hundred and one schemes necessary in an up-to-date community.

#### The Canvasser.

In the Litany said or sung in the Church of England Divine deliverance is asked from, among other things, lightning and tempest, plague, pestilence and famine, battle and murder, and sudden death. This is a very comprehensive list, but after careful reflection I have come to the conclusion that it ought to be revised to include election canvassers. I am occasionally prevailed upon to attend a public meeting, and sometimes my curiosity is sufficiently aroused to prompt me to wade through the mass of literature which litters my hall floor during election time. But my pet aversion is the canvasser. By nature a most unassuming and inoffensive man, of mild disposition, I verily believe a canvasser transforms me into a raging lion. I object to having to submit to being told things I already know, and other things which don't concern me in the least. I generally suffer the first canvasser who calls on me in patience, meekly resigning myself to my fate and replying to his catechism with polite forbearance. If a second canvasser calls that same evening I begin to see red, and I fancy he goes away with an uncomfortable feeling that he has not achieved his object. If a third were to call—well, I should advise him to recite (with feeling) that part of the Litany referring to sudden death.

#### An Unnecessary Evil.

Though the practice of canvassing the electorate appears to be pretty firmly established, I am of opinion that it is altogether unnecessary. I believe that elections could be conducted successfully without the canvasser, and that there would be a better chance of a man being elected on the merits of the programme he puts before the electorate. Canvassing seems to me to introduce too much of a personal nature into contests, and at the same time I think it is very nearly a breach of the Ballot Act, while the opportunities it gives for bribery and corruption are unlimited. To those who may say "Why don't the Labour Party stop the practice themselves?" I give the obvious answer that for any one party to allow their opponents a clear field in this direction is to invite tactics they would then have no means of replying to, but I believe the Labour Party would quite agree to a "no canvassing" election if other parties were willing. For my own part, I would advocate it, and would even abolish other practices, to which I will refer some other time.

#### Labour Party's Admirable Example.

But this November we have been spared all these trials, and I think great credit is due to the Labour Party for being the prime movers in saving the public from all the worries incidental to municipal elections. With their thoughts concentrated on the terrible drama which is being enacted on the Continent, the public are in no

mood to be bothered with what certainly must be considered minor matters at the present time. It was undoubtedly a great sacrifice on the part of the Labour Party, who were quite justified in anticipating a substantial increase in their representation on this occasion. But all party considerations were put on one side in the face of grave national danger, and there have been no contests, the composition of the Council remaining "as you were." The personnel of the Town Council remains the same, with the exception that Mr. — Thompson takes the place of Mr. E. T. Brown resigned. It is also a matter for congratulation that both the Liberal and Conservative parties readily fell in with the Labour Party's suggestion to avoid contests, and to them also I am sure the thanks of the townspeople are tendered.

#### Recruiting.

The joint recruiting meeting held the other week was really an inspiring affair. It was a fine illustration of the unity of the country during this terrible time. On the platform was Mr. A. G. Walkden, and a strong Labour contingent, Conservative M.P.'s, a Liberal M.P., an ex-Liberal M.P., and all shades of opinion among the leading townspeople were represented. The speakers all dealt with the same appeal—men to volunteer to stem the onrush of Prussian militarism. Mr. Walkden dealt with the necessity for adequate provision for those left behind, and pensions for the widows of those brave soldiers who give their lives in the service of the country. Since then things have been moving. A recruiting committee has been appointed in the town, and Mr. Walkden, I believe, is actively associating himself with its work. I believe Mr. Walkden has been appointed on a sub-committee whose duties will be to organise a scheme. By the way, if I am not introducing politics into the subject, I must tell the following story. At the Drill Hall meeting a programme was supplied to the occupiers of seats on the platform giving the names of the speakers. Much amusement was derived from a typist's error by which Mr. Walkden was designated "M.P." Is this to be regarded as an unwitting prophecy? "Coming events —!"

#### The New Mayor.

November 9 will see the election of a new Mayor of the borough. Alderman A. B. Bantock, who succeeds Councillor Skidmore, will be no stranger to the duties of Chief Magistrate, he having previously occupied the mayoral chair two successive years. During that period he distinguished himself by the capable manner in which he presided over the deliberations of the Town Council. It is not every man who has so perfect a knowledge of the rules of debate that he can control an important gathering successfully and, though I suppose that generally I should disagree with Alderman Bantock on subjects under discussion, I am compelled to recognise real ability. A keen debater himself, Alderman Bantock is always willing to contest a point of order, and will certainly be an acquisition as the president of the Town Council meetings. Certain it is the next term of office promises to be a strenuous one for all connected with municipal work.

#### An Item for Your Diary.

I should like to draw the attention of my readers to an advertisement on page 4 announcing a whist drive and ball, organised by the Royal Caledonian Corks, Lodge 626, at the Baths Assembly Rooms, to take place on November 20. I enjoy nothing better than a few hands at whist, especially with the additional excitement of competing for a prize. When to that enjoyment is added the opportunity of "tripping the light fantastic toe" with the lady of my choice, the temptation is irresistible. In this case I shall hand over "the necessary" for two tickets (at one shilling each), and would advise my friends to do the same. That many will do so, I feel assured, when they are informed that the profits are to be given to the Prince of Wales's Fund for the relief of distress consequent on the war. But that is not all. When I mention the fact that Mr. J. Guy is in the position of "Minister for the Interior," the last word is said about the catering arrangements. So I advise all my friends to enter this interesting engagement in their diary.

## THE LAST WAR.

Now Time hath brought the burthen of his change  
Swift hurling us from day to night;  
And all familiar things grow blurred and strange,  
Fading like visions on our sight.

But through the darkness came the clarion voice  
Of England, whom the nations trust:  
My sons, my daughters, here we have no choice—  
Let us fight well, since fight we must.

England, we come, thy children in one band  
While earth is torn with sudden strife,  
Give thee sweet names—dear home, and Mother-land—  
Bring thee our sorrow and our life.

No cowards' hearts have we—who shall not  
bleach,  
But fight and die in freedom's name,  
And conquer as of old; so may we quench  
The brand of war, the lurid flame.

For we make war on War; and if no good  
From blood and tears may spring, our gain  
Is nothing worth; the nations' brotherhood  
Our prize, or victory were vain.

Surely from sore anguish must be born  
A new world when the night is past.  
Make ready, England, mother, for that morn—  
We wage a brave war—'tis the last!

—G. M. FAULDING.

## THE GOLD SUPPLY.

### HOW THE MONEY LORDS CONTROL THE COMMUNITY.

#### CO-OPERATIVE BANKING.

To what degree the public are robbed and pillaged and the urgent necessity for the putting into operation of some scheme whereby the great banking industry could be democratically controlled, were points that were clearly emphasised at the last meeting of the Wolverhampton Trades and Labour Council, when an interesting address on "Co-operative Banking" was given by Mr. Frederick Temple, of the National Co-operative Bank.

In his opening remarks Mr. Temple said that the subject of high finance and banking was a question of the very highest importance, affecting not only the interests of the members of the Trade Unions, but the interests of the democracy as a whole.

At the time of the great railway strike which occurred two or three years ago, it was discovered that the railwaymen had 25 per cent. of their funds invested in railway securities, and this, coupled with the fact that the miners, with their funds amounting to nearly £3,000,000, were unable to get an advance from their bankers during their strike, was sufficient to show the urgent need for the taking of such steps as would prevent such an occurrence in the future. The time had come, he contended, for a careful examination of the whole subject, for the workers would, sooner or later, have to tackle the question and think it out for themselves.

#### "Juggling" with Figures.

The people who controlled the capitalist banking system to-day, Mr. Temple went on, controlled in consequence the supply of gold, and by this means were enabled to direct the course of the country's industries. Seeing that at the present time gold was the medium of exchange and the standard of value, no exchange of commodities could be effected in business without the inclusion in the transaction of the individual who controlled the gold supply. Thus, they had to pay toll to the capitalist classes who owned and controlled the gold for their own private purposes, and so long as they could control the gold supply, the capitalists would continue to exist and flourish.

The speaker then proceeded to show that, from calculations which he himself had made, and which he explained in detail to the audience, and also from the statements of eminent banking authorities, the somewhat surprising fact came to light that whereas, according to the financial statements exhibited by law in every bank, the aggregate total of the items designated "Cash in Hand and at the Bank of England" on the balance sheets in question amounted to £270,000,000. Actually the amount of gold in the possession of all the banks only reached the sum of £55,000,000. The reason for this was that the banks at various times paid gold into the Bank of England, who immediately paid the money out again to someone else, though all the time they treated the amount as part of their balance held on current account, and, as the other banks adopted the same practice a fixed amount of gold kept going round and round, and was counted over and over again on the financial statements of the banks.

The utter inability of the capitalist banks to fulfil their obligations to the public was demonstrated at the outbreak of the war which was now raging in Europe. At the beginning of August the banks were absolutely "held up," and if, by an accident of an accident, the bank holiday had not happened to fall on the day on which it did, and if by law the banks had had to reopen on that Monday, they would have been cleared out of their money altogether, for on the previous Saturday the Bank of England had only £9,000,000 in its reserve. However, the Government came to their assistance, and as they all knew, the banks closed for a few days, a Moratorium was granted to them, whilst currency notes were issued by the Treasury.

#### The Great Need.

Referring to the cheque system, which had developed in recent years to an enormous extent in this country, the speaker showed that, though interest was charged for a very large proportion of the money represented by these cheques, on the assumption that gold was employed, gold was not employed in the transactions at all.

Proceeding, Mr. Temple said he had shown how the private capitalists who controlled the banks imposed upon the community, and it was obvious to every thoughtful person, that a drastic change would have to be effected if it was desired that a better state of society should be realised. The great need, he said, was for the establishment and maintenance of a bank owned and controlled by the democracy. The democracy was just as strong as the plutocracy, only unfortunately, it did not realise the full extent of its power.

Mr. Temple then set forth the aims and objects of the National Co-operative Bank, which was, he said, opened on the 3rd July, last year, and at the present time was receiving a steady flow of accounts. He explained in detail the line upon which the bank intended to work, and showed that by clearing its own cheques, thereby rendering itself absolutely independent of the capitalist banking system, and further, by diverting the gold supply for the benefit of the people, the methods in connection with which he fully explained, the democracy, by making the fullest use of the Co-operative Bank, would have the money lords at their mercy. The culminating point would be that the Government would be compelled to become the sole banker of the people, the capitalist system could no longer be maintained, and the Co-operative Commonwealth would have begun.

**"A SHAMEFUL STORY."**

**AN EXPLANATION AND APOLOGY.**

In our last month's issue, under the above heading, we referred to the case of a Distress for Rent levied on a poor man named Preston, residing in Dale Street, by his landlord, a Mr. Sherwood, and incidentally stated that if a tenant could not pay 3s. 6d. a week it would be a serious matter for a man who owns "streets of houses."

Many of our readers have assumed that we referred to the representatives of the late Mr. W. G. Sherwood, or to members of his family, who are large property owners in the district, as being the owners of Preston's house. This, however, is not so, and we wish to state that the remarks in question had no application to the representatives or to the members of the family of the late Mr. W. G. Sherwood.

We regret the false impression created in the minds of some of our readers, and tender our sincere apologies to the representatives of the late Mr. W. G. Sherwood, and to the members of his family, for any annoyance or unpleasantness they may have felt in the matter.

**LOYAL CALEDONIAN CORKS,**  
 LODGE 626.  
 SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL  
**Whist Drive & Ball,**  
 Friday, November 20, 1914,  
**BATHS ASSEMBLY HALL.**  
 The Profits will be given to the PRINCE OF WALES' FUND.  
 Catering by Mr. J. GUY.  
**ADMISSION ONE SHILLING.**

**THE AWAKENING.**  
**HOW LABOUR ORGANISATIONS ARE WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE.**

From every quarter come reports which prove that the working-class organisations are alive to the needs of the situation.

In town after town conferences of all the forces of the movement—Labour, Socialist, and Trade Union—have been held, permanent committees appointed, and a general programme outlined.

Such questions as the proper feeding of the children, provision of work for the unemployed at Trade Union rates of wages, adequate maintenance of soldiers' and sailors' wives and families, and democratic control and distribution of food have been discussed, and plans made for bringing pressure to bear upon the authorities to deal with them.

In nearly every town and district working-class solidarity—as far as the organised workers are concerned—is in actual being.

It is for the workers' committee now to get as much support from the general mass of workers as they can.

One Trades Council—or rather one joint Labour Board—has induced all its delegates to bring along the names and addresses of all the members of their respective branches, so as to put the secretary immediately in touch with every organised worker in the locality. This Council has also appointed two sub-committees; one to collect every scrap of information about the Distress Committee, Borough Council, Board of Guardians, likely work in the neighbourhood, schemes of employment, amount of unemployment and distress, cases of employers discharging their men, etc.; while the other is to proceed with the organising of the unemployed. In order to have the greatest number of actual facts at its disposal this Council has managed to secure an office, which is open all day, and a register has been provided in which those needing work or relief can put their names and addresses. All those who can do public speaking—Trade Union, Labour, and Socialist—are to be supplied with all the available information, carefully classified, and a vigorous platform campaign is to be carried on when the organisation is complete. Full advantage is to be taken of the local press and all the other methods of publicity.

This example might well be followed by every other Council.

"Organisation and Information" should be the watchwords. To make the organisation as perfect and all-embracing as possible in the first instance, and then to carefully collect information relating to the authorities, public work, unemployment, relief measures, so that strong, clear, and definite action can be taken, should be the settled policy of all.

Otherwise the chaos, distress, suffering, and general misery will be so great as to be overwhelming.

**DISTRESS AND RELIEF.**

**LOCAL AND NATIONAL ASPECT REVIEWED.**

The criticism in our last issue of the meagre scale of local relief usually granted in the most deserving and necessary cases, has assisted considerably in creating opinion on this very important subject. That distress arising from the war should be kept at the very lowest minimum is the desire of every true citizen, and prevention of distress by other methods is better than relief.

What, then, is the duty of those responsible for the administration of the National Relief Fund? As we understand it, the Local Government Board have laid it down that adequate provision should be made to prevent suffering to any individual through the war, and to eliminate the slightest taint of charity or degrading influence.

That this is not carried out in practice is probably due to the composition of many of the ward committees, and further, we know that in some wards the committees have only met once or twice. In many instances, too, considerable difficulty has been experienced by applicants in obtaining definite information as to whom to apply, and then, after exasperating delay, are either sent to someone else or delayed for a further period.

Fortunately, a few of the committees are sufficiently representative of working men and women as to prevent this dilly-dallying policy being general, but at the same time it is deplorable that these obstacles should be made to prevent just administration.

**Who Pays?**

It has even been suggested by at least one of the "high and mighty" that the National Fund should not be too liberally given in relief of distress—as it is "other people's money." Evidently the impression is intended to be given that only the rich and middle classes have contributed, but even a moment's consideration on this point should be enough to convince the most sceptical that in proportion to income the workers, by their weekly contributions, have already paid a very large share. In fact, the plain truth is that the rich and middle-class people have miserably failed to come "up to scratch."

Perhaps there is some expectation that Royalty will bait their hooks with some special honours, and then we may expect overflowing patriotism in this direction.

As to the present, however, in estimating the annual income of this country at 1,900 million pounds, we find that the three and a half millions subscribed to the National Relief Fund up to date represents about one per cent. of one-fifth of the total, and again we say it is the workers who are paying the greater amount in proportion.

**New Scale.**

The Government Committee have at last drafted the long-looked-for scale of relief, as follows:

	London.	Outside London.
One adult .....	10 0	8 0
Two adults .....	14 0	12 0
Each additional adult .....	4 6	4 0
Two adults and one child .....	15 6	13 0
Two adults and two children .....	17 0	15 0
Two adults and three children .....	18 6	16 6
Two adults and four children .....	20 0	18 0
One adult and one child .....	11 6	9 6
Each additional child .....	1 6	1 6
Maximum for one household .....	20 0	18 0

\* Less 6d. per week in respect of each child receiving meals at school.

In determining the amount of relief to be granted, all sources of income at present available to the household must be taken into consideration and must be deducted from the amount specified in the scale, but it is proposed that for this purpose income from savings (including sickness and unemployment benefit) should not be deducted except in so far as such income exceeds 5s. a week.

While we refrain from criticising the scale at this juncture, and admit it greatly exceeds the general scale paid in Wolverhampton, at the same time it does not fully comply with the scale submitted by the Trades and Labour Council. We understand, however, that the above Government Committee scale is under the consideration of the local Executive Committee; possibly we may yet be able to congratulate them upon its improvement.

**Women's Employment.**

On the decision of the Executive of the Relief Fund, a Women's Employment Sub-Committee has been formed with a strong representation of working women, and Mrs. J. L. Adamson has been appointed as hon. secretary, with a seat on the Executive. The registration of unemployed girls and women at the Town Hall has conclusively shown that definite steps will require to be taken to tackle and deal with this problem.

In the case of men, this question is, of course, under the control of the Distress Committee, except in so far as the ward committees may secure suitable employment.

**An Error.**

In this connection, we regret that in our issue of last month the statement was published that the St. George's Ward Committee had found situations for men at 2s. 6d. per day. We now learn that such is not the case. The committee have not found such work for any applicant, but it had been mentioned at one of the meetings of the committee that an offer of work for the sum mentioned had been made. Our statement was undoubtedly an error so far as the committee are concerned, and to them we express our regret.

**A GREAT VIOLINIST.**

**"CASEY" TO PAY A RETURN VISIT TO WOLVERHAMPTON.**

Music lovers will be interested to know that Wolverhampton is to have a return visit from Mr. Walter Hampson, better known, perhaps, as "Casey," the writer of those sparkling articles which appear week by week in the *Labour Leader*.

We may safely say that it comes within the lot of few to hear such a master violinist as "Casey." Apart from his splendid playing, he is a most instructive, humorous, and thoroughly enjoyable lecturer.

"Casey" has played from Britain to Brazil, Ireland to Iceland, and wherever he goes he receives the most appreciative notices from the Press, as for instance:—

Whether in his playing of the "Devil's Sonata," Sarasate's brilliant dances, "Scottish selections," or "Harp that Once," he was equally at home.—*Eastern Argus*, February 17, 1912, Tolcross Y.M.C.A., Glasgow.

"Casey" filled the Albert Hall, Portsmouth, last night, twelve hundred people were entranced.—*Southern Telegraph*.

His playing of Gounod's "Ave Maria" was worth going a long way to hear.—*South Shields*.

"Casey" will appear at the Labour Assembly Rooms, Queen Square, on Friday evening, November 20, and we are sure that those whose privilege it was to listen to this great musician on the occasion of his first visit will on no account miss such a great opportunity of further acquaintance with his wonderful skill. On the last occasion the Assembly Room was packed to the doors, and we advise everyone to be early if they desire to secure a seat.

**"THE PRINCIPLES OF SOCIALISM."**

**Interesting Pamphlet for Use of Study Circles.**

All Socialists interested in the various methods for the propagation of their creed through the instrumentality of study circles, etc., will find much that is interesting and educative in a small publication which we have received from the University Socialist Federation.

In a concise, excellent manner the writer of this pamphlet, Mr. G. D. H. Cole, (also author of "The World of Labour," etc.) sets forth, under various headings, a syllabus intended for study circles respecting the principles of Socialism which we have no hesitation in saying could not be bettered so far as a broad survey of Socialism and the Socialist movement are concerned.

Useful hints regarding the running of Socialist study circles are given in the introduction, and this information, together with an excellent bibliography, to which we would draw special attention, makes the whole a very instructive pamphlet to all Socialists.

Secretaries of organisations interested in the study of Socialism may obtain specimen copies of the syllabus by applying to the Rev. D. Bruce-Walker, B.A., the Vicarage, Ham, Surrey, while further copies may be had from him at the published price of 1d. each, or 13 for 9d., exclusive of postage.

**GARDENING NOTES.**

**Timely Hints for Lovers of the Soil.**

Generally prune plants and transplant all you can. Divide the roots of such perennials as require it. Dig in manure around your artichokes, rhubarb, currant-bushes, and raspberries. Cut away the canes of the latter which have fruited during the current season, if the operation was not performed, as it ought to have been, as soon as the crop was gathered. Plant cuttings of gooseberries and currants. Clear away the yellow and rotting leaves from the lower part of the stems of broccoli, savoy, and other winter greens. Look to your earthed-up celery, and finish off whatever remains. As far as present crops permit, prepare ground for planting or sowing in early spring such things as carrots, onions, and parsnips, when you can lay the earth in ridges to expose it to the action of frost.

**THE FLOWER GARDEN.**—Plant everything hardy; roses, flowering shrubs, flowering trees, herbaceous perennials, and whatever will stand the winter. Take up dahlia roots and house them secure from frosts.

C.W.H.

**PITHY PARS.**

"It is not enough to be industrious. What are you industrious about?"

Democracy is the rule of all by all under the leadership of the best and wisest—*Mazzini*.

Once a man gets a glimpse into a larger world he will never remain contented in a smaller one.

"The children of the working people have always been poor because the world has never been just."—*Debs*.

There is more poverty in New York city than any other spot in America. There are also more millionaires, over 1,000 of them.

**£1 A WEEK**

**FOR DEPENDENTS OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.**

**A GREAT CAMPAIGN.**

Lord Kitchener continues to appeal for recruits. The great war is proceeding slowly, and it is becoming evident as the weeks pass by that success will depend on the numbers that can be placed in the field. The frenzied manner in which Germany is pouring huge numbers of men into the conflict and hurling them at points which she wishes to carry necessitates the employment by the Allies of correspondingly large—and even greater—numbers to drive back the enemy. Hundreds of thousands have responded to the call, and it is evident that hundreds of thousands more will be required.

We do not think the people regard these appeals for men lightly, or that they are inclined to underestimate the national peril. We believe that many of those men who have not yet responded are quite as eager to take their places in the trenches as those brave soldiers who have been bearing the brunt since hostilities commenced. Many of these men are married; many, though unmarried, have dependents to consider. Given an adequate guarantee that their dependents will be looked after we believe that the response to the appeal will meet all requirements, and that many who are now prevented from answering the country's call will take their places with those who are already training.

But this is not the main point of view from which this appeal is made. While it certainly would act as a stimulus to recruiting, we regard the treatment of soldiers and sailors' dependents, and the permanently maimed, from the more important standpoint of justice and humanity.

**The Campaign.**

We are glad to note the strong lead *The Daily Citizen* has given the country on this question. For some weeks past they have been carrying on what is termed a "£1 a Week Campaign." The leading Labour newspaper asks the Government to institute a new scale of pensions for the dependents of soldiers and sailors killed in the war, maintenance for dependents of those engaged in fighting, and for those who may be permanently maimed. The suggested scale is as follows:

- £1 a week for the widow of every soldier and sailor killed.
- £1 a week for the mother dependent on every soldier and sailor killed.
- £1 a week for the wife of every soldier and sailor engaged in fighting.
- £1 a week for every soldier and sailor permanently maimed by fighting.
- 5/- a week for every child dependent on soldiers or sailors fighting or killed.

Is it too much to ask that the wives and mothers shall be properly cared for while their loved ones are away fighting our battles? Can it be said that the sum of £1 a week is too much for those who have sacrificed their all? Two pictures of war present themselves. They are worthy of more than a passing reflection.

**War's Two Pictures.**

One picture you see every morning as you read your newspaper over a comfortable breakfast table. It is a full-coloured picture, alive with gallant deeds, the exploits of heroes. It is the picture of the shock of great battles, of great dashing charges, of belching guns, of great-hearted things that are being done amid the scream of shells and the hanging smoke of cleaning offices while the war. It is a picture that makes you catch your breath and brings a proud moisture to your eye. And you continue to eat your breakfast in security.

There is another picture; it is not so pleasant. It is a picture of maimed men. They hobble on crutches, clasp and a ribbon. The broken, twisted figure is a picture of white-faced black-dressed women and pinched, frail, hungry little children. And the one is cleaning offices while the others left at home peer wistfully into empty cupboards. There was a day when from the War Office or the Admiralty came a little printed note, "regretting to state—" And afterwards there came 5s. a week for the woman and 1s. each for the children. Then came the charing...

These things have been grossly mismanaged in the past. In the twentieth century, in the greatest war the world has ever seen, shall it be said that this great nation allowed its maimed sons to

**Parade Their Miseries**

in the streets dependent on elusive charity? Are we going to allow the wives and mothers of our heroes to end their days in the direst poverty, at the mercy of the Poor Law? We believe better of our people, and that when the public conscience is awakened this thing will be done. But that conscience has to be awakened first, and we confidently rely on all who read this appeal to bring pressure to bear in every conceivable direction.

After all it is not a great deal to ask. The entire cost will be as a drop in the ocean as compared with the stupendous sums which will have to be expended in carrying on the war.

The Government have not yet made any statement. Make your demand felt through your Trade Union, your co-operative societies, your institutes, and your religious organisations.

And above all, show your appreciation of the brave fight *The Daily Citizen* is making in this direction by making it your daily newspaper.

Printed for the Wolverhampton Trades and Labour Council by the National Labour Press, at 30, Blackfriars Street, Manchester, and Published by C. W. Hill at 35, Queen Square, Wolverhampton.

Noted for **PURITY, BRILLIANCY,** **FRANK MYATT'S ALES** **On DRAUGHT and**