

The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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In consequence of today (Busstag) being a General Holiday, our next issue will appear on Friday morning.

THE TYRANNY OF LABOUR.

There is more than a grain of truth in the Socialists' boast, that the twentieth century belongs to Labour. "Socialism is the militarisation of industry," said a correspondent whose article we published yesterday. Ever since the introduction of elementary education there has been growing steadily a monster destined to prove merciless to the Frankenstein of civilisation. We wonder if the first advocates of education for the masses even dimly foresaw the inevitable consequences of their philanthropy. Since man is always short-sighted, we may take it that they did not. An uneducated Samson is comparatively harmless; keep him in close bondage and he serves as a useful slave. But teach him to think, and one day he will burst his bonds and probably impose them on his whilom master. The analogy is a fair one, applied to the present relations between capital and labour, or the classes and the masses. Fifty years ago, excepting for a few sporadic, unorganised outbursts—resembling the incoherent protest of a beast of burden—the "rights" of the working-man did not exist. He had no rights; his employer was on a superior plane, representing the supreme power to whom the worker looked for his daily bread. Oppression which today would cause a general strike throughout the civilised world passed then without complaint. The masses did not recognise that unity is strength; they were unconscious of their immense potentiality. A Rip van Winkle who had slumbered away that half century would have need to rub his eyes if he awoke in this year of grace. The respective positions have been almost completely reversed. The man has become the master, and the master the man. The tyranny of organised labour has been substituted for the oppression of capitalists. The reins of power have been taken over by the deity of Trades Unionism, Socialism, Democracy,—branches of the same system masquerading under different names. Within the space of a twelve-month we have had several startling demonstrations of this widespread power. A tyrannous petty official in the French Post Office indirectly threw into confusion the postal system of Europe. The discharge of an employé by a Stockholm manufacturer plunged Sweden into chaos for three weeks. And now America is threatened with a strike which, if it materialises, promises to take rank as the greatest labour dispute in history.

Some time ago it was reported that three officials of the American Labour Federation had been sentenced to terms of imprisonment for contempt of court. The contempt alleged was that the Federation ignored an injunction restraining it from "black-listing" a certain firm which refused to employ union workers. The punishment meted out was strictly merited, but it is extremely doubtful whether it will ever take

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effect. The Federation has passed a resolution affirming that, if Mr. Samuel Gompers (president of the Federation) is sent to prison, a general strike will be proclaimed throughout the United States. Will the Government be strong enough to resist this shameless exhibition of lawlessness and defy the champions of labour, or will they submit rather than run the risk of an industrial cataclysm whose effects would be infinitely more disastrous than the late financial panic? To submit would be to establish a highly dangerous precedent, according to which an influential labour leader might commit all sorts of crimes with immunity, and the union badge develop into a passport for the criminal. The danger, moreover, is increasing every day. The labour organisation is by no means complete; there are internal dissensions which divide the armies into factions, and the discipline essential to the smooth working of vast bodies is conspicuously lacking. If, then, this nucleus can enforce its will and defy the law, what must we expect when it is finally drilled into shape and brought up to a war footing? We know of no problem more urgently demanding elucidation than this. Neglected, it will prove pregnant in appalling possibilities. Reaction may serve as a check, but never as a specific. For every worker shot down or bayoneted to death, ten others will arise to take his place, and vengeance will be taken on the same disproportionate scale. The time is rapidly approaching when every individual citizen will be drawn into the problem. He must choose sides in the coming Armageddon,—ally himself with the capitalists or the disciplines of Demos. Before the shadow of that great war the puny struggles of armed nations will pale into insignificance. Millions will be reckoned as units, modern armies as regiments. The mind reels in endeavouring to picture the strife, but it is no use burying our heads in the sand. The world is threatened with a new tyrant, who must be fought with tooth and nail into a practical compromise. He is already too large to be completely crushed.

NEWS OF THE WORLD.

NEW YORK, Monday.—The Central Labour Federation has ordered its members throughout the country to stop work and join a general strike in case Mr. Samuel Gompers, the Federation president, is compelled to undergo the year of imprisonment to which he was sentenced for contempt of court, in connection with the Buck Stove Company case.

SYDNEY (N.S.W.), Tuesday.—At a conference yesterday between representatives of the striking miners and other disaffected labour bodies it was unanim-

ously decided to bring about by all legitimate means a meeting between the mine owners and their employes. Should this meeting prove futile, the miners' representatives will request the Government itself to take over the operation of the mines and allied industries. All employes in factories and mills have made preparations to join the strike if necessary.

BERLIN, Tuesday.—A particularly desperate case of attempted suicide is reported in this morning's papers. Yesterday, it appears, there were rumours that a murder had been committed in one of the largest Friedrichstadt hotels, owing to the appearance of police officials in the building. The true facts are as follows: Eight days ago a lawyer named Groski, from Cracow, engaged a room at the hotel. As no answer was heard yesterday morning after repeated knocking at the door, the management ordered a forcible entry to be made. Groski was nowhere to be seen, but the entire room was splashed with blood, and the natural inference was that a ghastly crime had been perpetrated. A brief investigation, however, showed that Groski had at first attempted to poison himself by taking sublimate; this failing he took a razor and inflicted no fewer than fifty wounds on his body, but still failed to accomplish his purpose. He then cleansed himself of blood, bound up his wounds, and made his way to a bath-house at Charlottenburg, where he tried to drown himself. In the nick of time he was found in the water by a bath attendant, who dragged him out unconscious but still living. The unfortunate man is now lying at one of the Westend hospitals.

BERLIN, Tuesday.—The violent gales which swept across the country during the weekend proved disastrous to a couple of flying machines stored at the Marsfeld aviation ground, near Belitz. Both machines—one a Schuwert aeroplane, the other a monoplane—were struck and badly damaged by fragments from the roof of the shed, which was demolished by the fierce wind.

CHERRY (Illinois), Tuesday.—The shaft of the St. Paul Coal Co.'s mine, which was closed up to extinguish the flames, was opened for a short time last evening and a rescue party descended some way down. They were unable to find any sign of the entombed miners, living or dead, and a fresh outbreak of fire caused them to retreat hurriedly. As the flames grew in intensity, it was found necessary to again close the shaft. There is now not the slightest hope of saving the men still in the pit, who number over 200.

CANEA (Crete), Tuesday.—A violent explosion which occurred last night in the vicinity of the Chamber of Deputies caused a great commotion in this city. The explosion was caused by a large number of bombs contained in a case and ignited by a time fuse. The actual damage done was very small.

PARIS, Tuesday.—The group of United Socialists have decided to refuse to pay some of the new taxes proposed by the Finance Minister, including the cabaret tax, the increased tax on liquors, and the increased tobacco imposts.

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