

What Saklatvala Symbolizes -

By William F. Dunne

ARTICLE V.

WHILE MacDonald was doing the dirty work for English imperialism in Bulgaria noted in the conclusion of the last article, the Tories were preparing quietly but effectively to discredit the Soviet Union among the British working class. It was in the name of social-pacifism, "Peace on earth, good will to men," that MacDonald carried on the plot with the bloody Zankov government against the workers' and peasants' government of Russia.

It was in the name of social-pacifism again that MacDonald denounced that masterpiece of capitalist trickery, the forged Zinoviev letter, "as a Bolshevik conspiracy" against the British working class, which was starving to death quietly. Just as the Tories had calculated, the labor party lost the election and, having eased the empire thru a severe international crisis, MacDonald was set aside to await a period when his services would be required again.

The world knows now that the Zinoviev letter was forged, the British trade union delegation to Soviet Russia satisfied itself that this was the case, but MacDonald to this day has said not one word to indicate that he knows it the case. In other words, he prefers to aid the British foreign office by his silence than to aid the workers' and peasants' government of Russia by telling the truth.

Saklatvala fought thru the labor party campaign in which the forged Zinoviev letter was an issue and he would have had some interesting things to say about it. No such firsthand testimony is wanted by either the British or American imperial governments.

MEANWHILE, the tory British government is getting ready for out-

right suppression of the working class. A dispatch to the New York Times of October 5, says in part under a London date line:

How a newspaper spoiled the game of the crown law officers in dealing with the "Reds," was revealed today by Sir William Joynson-Hicks, the home secretary, in a speech at Liverpool.

The utterances of Saklatvala and Tom Mann had been brot to his attention and he discussed them with the attorney general and public prosecutor. They decided that as the speakers were getting more violent each day, it would be better to wait a week or two till they had completed their series of speeches already announced. Then a certain newspaper published their plan and, said Sir William, "from that moment neither Mann nor Saklatvala opened his mouth in public."

Tom Mann and Saklatvala are Communists and it may be argued that such secret preparations apply only to acknowledged revolutionists. The MacDonald argument runs something along this line when he blames the Communists for the government's suppressive measures. But Sir William Joynson-Hicks knocks this socialist-pacifist argument for a row of Japanese ash cans. The dispatch continues:

Then the speaker took up a defense of blessings he bestowed on a society known as an organization for the maintenance of supplies. This society, with Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, the late ambassador to Paris, as president, and on the executive such men as Lord Jellicoe and Sir Francis Lloyd, the general commanding London during the war, has been formed to draw up lists of men ready to maintain pub-

lic supplies and necessities in case of such an emergency as a general strike. Sir William, writing to a correspondent who consulted him about it had stated that the government considered it its duty to maintain supplies at such a crisis and had made plans long since to do so, but could see no harm in such a private organization and would be glad to use its services.

IT must be remembered that this open announcement of the recruiting and endorsement of extra-legal anti-working class forces was made in Liverpool where a few days before 3,000 British fascisti had been sworn in by the chief constable of the city and the statement made publicly that this force would act in strikes and other emergencies "as a separate force under their own officers."

The British capitalist press is not a unit in support of this assault on the fabric of bourgeois democracy which had so successfully fooled the workers up to a short time ago. The London Daily News comments as follows on the strike breaking scheme of the home secretary:

We cannot conceive any enterprise likelier to provoke a breach of the peace or to incite the rapid development of class war. If a Liverpool watch committee enrolls the fascisti as police what is to prevent a labor watch committee from enrolling volunteers to form a labor defense corps, which labor politicians of advanced views regard as the only possible answer to self-constituted strike breaking organizations?

The Ulster volunteers created the Sinn Fein volunteers and the Sinn Fein volunteers produced the Irish revolution and dragged the name of Britain in the dust.

BUT the preparations for a mass murder of striking workers go forward merrily. The Liverpool conference of the labor party under the leadership of the MacDonaldites failed to take a militant stand against the legalization of British fascism altho the labor press declared it to be a paramount issue.

The Sunday Worker for September 27, makes the following detailed exposure of the government's plans:

It means that scabbing and blacklegging are to be publicly elevated to the dignity of a patriotic duty; that any sort of trade unionism, or labor politics, that moves an inch beyond lickspittle subservience to the boss is to be officially regarded and (with or without the constitution) treated as a crime. That any sort of savagery, brutality, and impudent insult from any and every sort of hooligan will be applauded as "patriotism" and "loyalty" provided it be directed against the best and bravest in the labor movement.

Maintenance of Famine.

It is, called "The Organization for the Maintenance of Supplies"—"O. M. S. for short."

While its nominal function is to maintain under government control essential public services of food, heat, light, transport, and sanitation in the event of a general strike, its real function is evident from the very qualification introduced.

It is to crush every workers' struggle that promises to reach success, and while filling the bellies of the bosses secure permanent famine and misery for the working mass.

A Military Force.

It will be a force raised, recruited,

and equipped to use force.

Its "Class A" (there are five classes) is to be recruited from men of military age, with military experience. It will be commanded by military men, and in addition to unspecified duties, this class will function to "protect men willing to work."

"It is intended at present to recruit up to 30,000 of this class in London alone."

Mussolini Out-Scabbed.

Other classes will run trains, trams, power stations, gas works, road vehicles, and messages. Women are to be roped in for clerical duties.

Flying squads of well-disciplined men will be organized to "take on duty at places where rough fighting is to be expected."

Its council (impudently described as non-political) consists of men of title, rank, and wealth, who not only never have, but are never likely to have, the smallest grain of sympathy for labor rightly struggling to be free.

And the whole scheme we are told "has the approval of the government."

SAKLATVALA, symbolizing both the British working class as a whole and its advance guard, the Communist Party of Great Britain cannot be permitted to expose with facts, figures and fiery eloquence such startling evidences of the desperation of the British rulers before American audiences of workers, citizens of a "friendly power."

Baldwin, Joynson-Hicks, Kellogg and Coolidge unite against Saklatvala and all he stands for.

(To be continued.)