

CAPITALIST WAR SAY SOCIALISTS

Speakers on Phillips Square Against Canadians Taking Part in European Struggle

The world may be shipwrecked if the warring powers do not take over and change the system of government," said J. Gilbert, a socialist speaker at the socialist meeting which was in progress on Sunday evening in Phillips Square. "It is not that Austria is incensed with Serbia over the killing of the heir to the Austrian throne; that is not the cause of this war," he went on, "but it is because the capitalists of Austria and Germany want a larger market for their products and because they are opposed by the capitalists of France, Russia and England. Both the opposing forces in the war have the great problem before them, to keep their factories busy.

There is no capitalist in England, Germany, France or Austria," he continued, "who likes to see his factory idle. On the contrary he likes to employ thousands of working men if he can, because it is from the working classes that he gets his money. If he has got no orders conditions are against him. His capital is calling for interest to be paid on, the money that he has got from banks and so forth. The international working class, however, receive but a small portion of what they produce, and they being 90 per cent of the population, it is absolutely impossible for them to buy back what they have produced. The capitalist is compelled therefore, to find markets outside his own country. To do so he comes in conflict with other capitalists, who are already supplying these outside markets, and the consequence is a fight such as we have today. If the manufacturers cannot sell their products they will go into bankruptcy and the war is no remedy, whether Germany or Austria wins."

Jonathan Knight said "I appeal to the working class not to be led away by the drums and fife but to try and see what this war means, its widows, the hunger and suffering of the working class, in a cause in which the working class has no interest at all. Behind the bombast," he continued, "there is the capitalist who does not intend to go to fight himself but to send the workers. There is no more sad sight than to see working men and women suffering poverty in the midst of plenty and yet these are the conditions which face the working class in England, Germany, France and Austria.

"There is no need for anybody, no matter who he is, to leave this country to start fighting anybody else. 'Thou shalt not kill,' says the Bible, yet there are so-called followers of Christ, who are thirsting for the blood of their fellow workers and fellow men in the sight of God."

The chairman, in closing, announced a Jaures demonstration at which all the labor unions and socialists who were opposed to the war would be invited to attend.