

The Saturday "News" Special Foreign Service.

Anarchistic Theories Are Put Into Practise

(Special Correspondence.)
RUSSELS. Sept. 28.—The first Belgian anarchist colony, was founded in April, 1907, at Stokel, a Brussels suburb on the borders of the forest of Soignes, by Emile Chapelier, a militant anarchist fresh from prison. The settlement was established in a half ruined hut standing on a piece of waste land rented from a Stokel farmer. Chapelier furnished the hut with a sofa, two rickety chairs, a table and a broken stove. The waste ground, which was to be the anarchist's farm, he stocked with a dog, a cat, and a chicken two days old. This simple installation made, and rent paid in advance, Chapelier found himself without fuel and without money. Braving the hardships of a fireless winter, he and his companion took up their residence by the bare fireside and issued an open invitation to Belgian anarchists to live with them and share their experiment.

In a fortnight recruits came, seven men, two women, and three children. Capital to the amount of \$70 was provided by sympathizers, and the settlers started to live by chicken farming. Liberty being the keynote of the colony, the voice of authority ceased at its gate. In it there were no fixed hours for the commencement or the cessation of work, no fixed days for rest or distraction, no difference drawn between men's work or women's work. "The most robust undertake the hardest work," Chapelier explained. "There is not one among us who would not blush to be like a hired, smoking his pipe, while the women toiled in the kitchen. For example, as far as possible the men wash the house, draw water from the well and carry heavy parcels to and from the shops. On the other hand the women occupy themselves with the chickens, the garden, etc. Enjoying the same advantages as the men, the women have practically the same liberties. The communism of production and consumption has the consequence that money has no longer any value among us, having no usage. It follows that love is not soiled by speculations on the questions of wages or fortune."

The founder of the settlement insists that none shirked work in it. Although, he admits, some were forgetful at times. The greatest difficulty which arose amongst the members was that of reminding those who "forgot" of work that had to be done without using words which sounded like orders. The anarchists explain they solve the problem of communal existence without conventional authority by "accepting the authority of impersonal reason."

THE COLONY PROSPERED.
 The colony at Stokel prospered. In a year, the value of its farm stock rose from nothing to \$400, and the colonists were able to support themselves and carry on an active propaganda. The number of the actual residents at Stokel did not increase, the emigration of some of the first members to America, and the withdrawal of others balancing the new comers, but the settlement steadily became a headquarters of anarchism to which members and neophytes flocked from all parts of Belgium for instruction. On Sundays from a hundred to a thousand people gathered at the Stokel cottage to listen to the anarchist teaching and partake of the anarchist soup. At last, the number of visitors became so great that the fears of the neighborhood were aroused—by the police, say the anarchists—and the farmer on whose land the settlement stood ordered his fire-breathing tenants to leave.

From Stokel the settlement moved to Boitfort, another suburb of Brussels situated on the outskirts of the forest of Soignes. There the anarchist printing press was set up, from which the numerous pamphlets and leaflets of the brotherhood are issued. This printing press is one of the growths of the colony. Money is wanting to fit it perfectly, but it is whispered that the money required will be forthcoming before many months or weeks have passed. A secret congress of anarchists disguised as "Red-Fishermen" was held in Brussels the day Prince Albert of Belgium returned from the Congo. At it, measures were concerted for the advancement of the anarchist cause with a vigor greater than has as yet been shown openly by Belgian anarchists.

IMMENSE "LITERARY" OUTPUT.
 In its present state, the trend of the anarchist colony does not make large profits, but it turns out an immense amount of anarchist literature consisting of controversial pamphlets, works on the history of the movement, plays conveying spectacular lessons of anarchism, educational works on anarchy, on esperanto, on the question of population, and on a dozen other questions, side-issues of anarchism, the considera-

tion of which prepares the mind for the reception of the daring tenets which the members of the Belgian anarchist brotherhood spread all over the country by word of mouth. Some members of "Experience" left it discouraged. They were ready for instant rebellion, and had expected an immediate revolution. Others were obliged to go from it to earn wages for their support. Nevertheless, its success cannot be denied.

In addition to demonstrating the fact that communal existence was possible to anarchists, the colony was established to show anarchists to the working classes of Belgium as men "without horns or cloven hoofs," to use Chapelier's phrase, who work honestly for their living and pay their way—a supreme virtue in the eyes of thrifty anarchists, will no longer permit them to be brutal. Clemency has not been won by any surrender on the anarchist's part. "We have changed nothing in our attitude," says Chapelier, "withdrawing none of our theories. We still believe that sooner or later a radical, forcible expropriation will take place. We do not think, and we do not pretend to think that by the multiplication of our brotherhood we can transform capitalist society into communist society."

CHAPELIER NOT AN ADVOCATE.
 Chapelier says he does not advocate the "propaganda of deed" at the moment, partly because of the difficulty of finding, in practice, of preventing such instruments as bombs from damaging people for whom they are not intended, and in a greater measure, because the propaganda of deed causes the best anarchists, the most determined and the most devoted to disappear—into prison, or into space.

There are a great number of anarchist groups attached to the Brussels center. Fifty such groups were represented at the conference held in August in Brussels. The groups of the nineties, Liege and Charleroi, are those most close in touch with the Brussels organization. These groups are now preparing a new war-plan which will be submitted to a special congress of the Revolutionary Anarchist Federation to be held here this month. "There are as many anarchists as socialists in Belgium," says Chapelier. He means that every Belgian who holds socialist principles from conviction is also an anarchist, and facts seem to bear him out. A congress of shop assistants was held the other day in Brussels. It was dominated by Chapelier. At it every subversive sentence he spoke was cheered to the echo. Where shop assistants venture, mechanics and laborers are already to be found. The teaching in the anarchist settle-

SUFFRAGETTES MILITANT IN AMERICA

Mrs. Perry Belmont Proposes to Fight for the Women of the United States in the Manner Now Being Pursued by the Women in England—The Story Told by Lady Mary to News Readers.

(Special Correspondence.)
LONDON, Sept. 26.—When Mrs. Perry Belmont takes up her work definitely in the cause of women's suffrage for American women, I hear on the best authority that she will adopt the attitude of the militant suffragist here. While in London last summer, she was, under an assumed name, one of the most active members of one of the fighting bodies. For the sake of experience, she worked early and late, going forth in the morning with others who were told off to watch for the prime minister or to interview the president of the board of trade. She made an admirable worker, being extraordinarily obedient and good-humored. Her excellent example and tact, I am informed, obtained a split in a certain suffragist camp. She was remarkably

prompt reply, "I selected Ireland for my holiday because for one thing the climate suits me and also because I shall be quieter there than elsewhere." Buckingham is a very nice place, it came into great prominence and used to be described at length in the newspapers when Lord Dudley took it whilst he was lord lieutenant of Ireland. Before it came into his possession it was like the great majority of free-lance country seats, hopelessly antiquated in its appointments. It did not even possess a bath-room. Lord and Lady Dudley spent quite a fortune on it. They introduced the "bath" arrangement now so fashionable in smart country establishments with a bathroom for each suite, an innovation which caused it to be said that they were about to start a hotel!

True to the characteristics of his race, General Welles considers that improvements made seven or eight

that she anticipates going, however. When the subject was first mooted, she announced that if she did go, she would stagger her audience as much by the beauty of her frock as by her wit. Some exquisite Irish lace and crochets being made for her by Miss Margaret Archdeacon, a lady who is an artist in this work. She is one of the few workers who deal directly with her purchasers, thus saving them the enormous percentage put on by the shops. The lace which Miss Archdeacon is finishing will shortly be despatched to Paris, where Mrs. West's new frocks are being made.

TOOK THE BEST CURE.
 "Lady Randy," as some of her friends persist in calling her much to her annoyance, is in splendid form just now and is looking her best. She has had two "cures" this season, one of course being the rest cure, which all the smart women who make a point of keeping

Fighting Vivisection is Endeavor of Mrs. Laffan

(Special Correspondence.)
LONDON, Sept. 25.—To be a popular novelist, poetess, song-writer, society woman and the wife of the rector of a busy London parish would seem to be enough for any woman, but Mrs. De Courcy Laffan has undertaken a great campaign in favor of animals and against vivisection, and to further it has hit on the picturesque idea of founding the "Brotherhood of Hero Dogs." Her plan in doing so is to bring home to the public the great devotion and love displayed by animals, in the hope that when people realize what noble qualities dogs possess they will shrink from the idea of treating them cruelly.

Few women writers have wielded a more prolific pen than Mrs. Laffan. She began writing when quite a young woman when she was in New Brunswick, Canada, with her first husband, the

to bring him straight to her house. As soon as she saw her master, the dog leaped straight into his arms, clung to him, whined, kissed him and played her affection in every possible way, and a few minutes later she died. "I am quite certain," said Mrs. Laffan, "that Nellie died of joy at finding her master again, and the joy occurred to me then that if it were known of the intelligence and devotion of these dumb friends of ours, it would be an end of the terrible evil to which they are often exposed. I determined there and then that I would do all in my power to make him every instance of heroism that came to my notice."

MANY WANT TO HELP.
 Mrs. Laffan's idea "taught" and by every post now she receives offers for admission to the brotherhood. Every claim is thoroughly sifted and it is promptly substantiated. Mrs. Laffan studied the dog "Nellie" and "Lives." Whenever it is possible a public presentation is arranged for Nellie. Nellie, the blind man's dog, was the first member. Then came Robert, a fox terrier who saved his master's life by waking him up when he was in danger of suffocation by gas. The third member was "Clio," a little which all her life displayed a taste aversion to the water, but when her little mistress fell into the sea, she dashed up through the waves and dragged the child out but was so badly burnt that she died.

The only member admitted after death, is Nellie, the founder, is to be excepted, says Mrs. Laffan, who lost his own life to saving that of a child. His master's house was on fire and all had got out safely but a baby who slept in one of the upper rooms. Soot dashed up through the chimney and dragged the child out but was so badly burnt that she died.

The brotherhood has now numbered from the public authorities. A few months ago the mayor of one of the London boroughs presented a collar to a new member in the test hall, and the latest member has just received his collar at the hands of the mayor of Swindon in the principal park of the town. Swindon is a great railway town. It is a big question and it contains the car and engine sheds of the Great Western railway. Avid dog-lovers and the local hospital is always full. Bruce, the dog, has just been publicly honored, known to every traveler who passes through Swindon. He parades in and down the platforms with a red velvet box fastened around his neck and he has been the passenger for the length of the hospital. In about a year he has collected more than a thousand dollars. His collar is slightly different from the worn by his fellow members, but the inscription it bears is "I used to be sick."

Thousands of the inhabitants of Swindon attended the ceremony and cheered the mayor when he placed the new collar round Bruce's neck.

DOG AT CHARITY MEET.
 The honorary president of the brotherhood is Mrs. Laffan's dog, Bruce, who is a perfectly trained Pointer. He is one of the cleverest dogs in London. He is much in demand at all sorts of charity entertainments, where he trots around with his collecting bag and seldom fails to collect a few pennies whom he tackles to drop in a row for him.

All the proceeds of Mrs. Laffan's musical and literary work is devoted to her work for animals and the poor. Her home is a perfectly happy one, and she has a number of dogs and there are scores of old people in the narrow streets surrounding it who look to her bounty for their daily bread. This is one of the oldest churches in the city. It is situated beside the Mansion House, the official residence of the lord mayor, and is attended by the lord mayor and his household, so that the church is not a shrewd place for many of the "livings" in the city.

BECAME KEENLY INTERESTED.
 Ever since she was a girl Mrs. Laffan has had a keen interest in what is more has understood them. A few years ago her attention was attracted to the campaign against needless vivisection, and she became keenly interested in it, but it was only two years ago that it occurred to her to found the Brotherhood of Hero Dogs. About that time she noticed a decent looking blind man with one arm, who used to stand outside St. Martin's church at Charing Cross, accompanied by a little dog. Something about the man's military bearing attracted her and as the wife of an old army man she felt impelled to speak to him. She helped him and soon became his friend and during her conversation with him she was much impressed by the love he displayed for the little dog, "Nellie," which was his guide and constant companion.

One day she missed the man from his accustomed post, and on making inquiries discovered that he had been taken to the hospital with pneumonia. Going to his lodgings she found the dog grieving for her absent master, and took her home. Nellie refused to eat or sleep. She lay in front of the fire for weeks showing as plainly as if she were human that she missed the only creature she loved, and when the time came for the man to leave the hospital Mrs. Laffan sent a carriage

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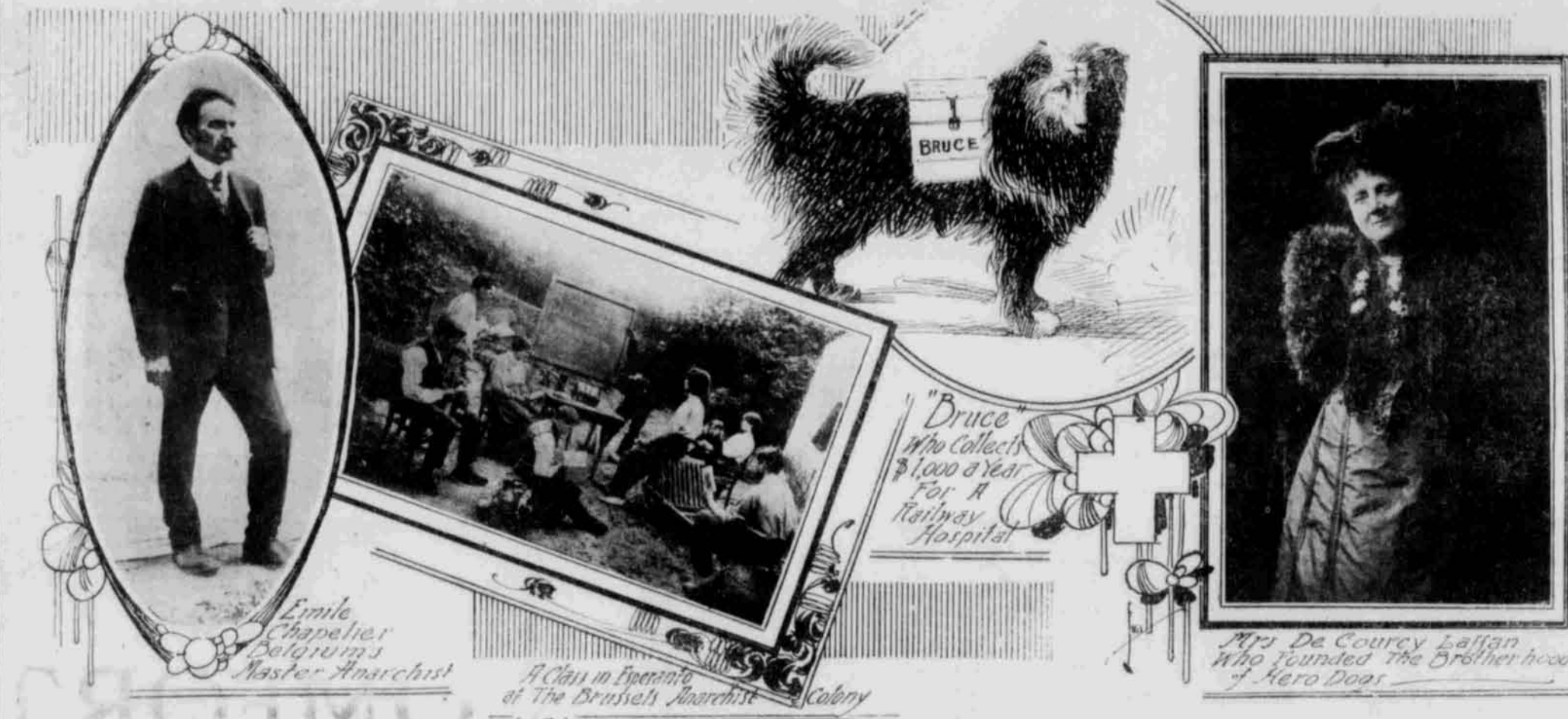
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