

A New Holy Alliance

By SHACHTMAN.

THERE is no depth to the infamy of social-democracy. One day a nicely moustached prime minister strains to kiss the toes of his king, and the next day another minister joins in demanding the heads of all the Communists in the country.

Let us paint one more black stain in the already besmirched volumes of socialist history.

In Brussels, there was recently organized an "American-Belgian Friendship Union" under the presidency of the crown prince Leopold whose tender old grandfather used to carve rubber out of the sinews and ivory out of the bones of thousands of Negro slaves in the African Congo.

The composition of the committee is quite interesting. As honorary member there sits the meek servant of the lord, Cardinal Mercier, the uncanonized angel of death during the war to end all wars. In the active committee we find a pretty combination. There is the banker M. Franqui, as chairman; the leaders of the Catholic and liberal party's parliamentary fraction; M. Hymans, Belgian representative in the league of nations, and a number of others.

AMONG this collection, we have also our friends, Emil Vandervelde leader of the second, socialist international, his bosom companion Brunet, the president of the Belgian chamber, and the well-known pacifist, Lafontaine, seated cheek by jowl with bankers, servile priests, generals, and bourgeois politicians.

But there is still more. In the corresponding committee which function in the United States, we have Mr. John Pierpont Morgan, whose Washington office sent an enthusiastic message of greetings to the Brussels conference, signed by Calvin Coolidge.

It may be noted that Belgium owes the United States some billions of

dollars, and American capital already has a good wrestling hold on Belgian railways.

WHETHER or not these incidents mean the Dawesation—or Morganification of Belgium, remains to be seen. It is clearly an indication of the growing hold that American financial capital is obtaining in every country of Europe, to the growing distress of both England and France—not to speak of the workers who have already had their Dortmund disasters and Halle massacres as a first taste of the stabilization achieved by the American dollar.

But the picture of Vandervelde, betrayer of the workers during the war, and the one who pleaded so eloquently at the Berlin three-internationals' unity conference for guarantees from the Communists of their faith and sincerity in pleading for unity of the forces of the proletariat, — Vandervelde, serving as a naked arm for the spread of Morganatic alliances between European labor, industrial and financial resources and Morgan's capital, is one that will induce wretching with more speed and surety than an emetic.

THE earnest efforts of the Communists to achieve a united front may not have succeeded so well up to this time, and the socialists may well be proud thereof. They have achieved their united front. This latest example is of the standard type: From Morgan, Cardinal Mercier, and M. Hymans, to Lafontaine, Brunet and M. Vandervelde. A new holy alliance of imperialist capital, the league of nations, political touts, pacifism and the second international, crowded together under the shower of holy water poured by the infallible representative of the infallible representative of Jesus Christ, all of them chanting the sacred hymn:

One for all! All against the workers!