

ENLIST FOR THE WAR AGAINST THE JINGOES

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AMERICAN SOCIALIST

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URGE CAUSE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE

By MEYER LONDON Socialist Congressman.

WRITTEN ESPECIALLY FOR THIS ISSUE.

WHAT IS THIS TALK of preparedness about? Against whom are we to prepare? Who are the heretofore unknown enemies? What are the heretofore unknown dangers? Cannot the people be taken into the confidence of those who have suddenly discovered that we are helpless?

Is it not still true that this country is invincible? Is it not true that there is no

power on earth which can undertake to hold an inch of ground of the United States?

Why should we become a menace to ourselves and to the rest of the world?

Does the war teach any new lesson? Have not the Socialists for years in all the parliaments of Europe been warning the world that the mad race for armaments would bring just this very conflict?

Is it not true that Europe has never been at peace, with explosives accumulated everywhere, and with millions of men on a war footing, ready and waiting for a signal?

Modern wars are so gigantic that standing

armies become insufficient in an early stage of the conflict, and the entire people must be called upon for sacrifices.

It was rather easy for the German Emperor to point to the presence of large and threatening armies to the east and west of him as a menace to Germany. It was not difficult for the French government to convince the French people that the presence of a large army to the east was a menace to France. The growing fleet of Germany was held out as a danger to the very life of England.

The growth of democracy has been rather slow, but enough progress has been made to compel the rulers of nations to argue to the

people that the war was a war of defense.

Every dreadnaught added to our navy will mean an increase of armaments on the part of our neighbors. An increase by them, a further increase by us. And so, indefinitely, until all the curses of militarism have been fastened on the people of the United States.

Nor should we satisfy ourselves with a mere negative opposition to the preparedness campaign. We should demand an investigation into the sources of the propaganda. We have heretofore understood that the navy of the United States is efficient and powerful enough to take care of any enemy.

We should demand the nationalization of the munitions-producing industries, and we

should use every influence as the greatest neutral and noncombatant nation to urge a settlement of the war upon a permanent and durable basis.

If, surrounded by a raging and furious mob, Liebknecht in Germany saw his duty clear before him, and pleaded against a continuance of the war; if, defying jeers and ridicule, Keir Hardie dared to ask questions and never ceased his efforts to stem the tide of death-bringing jingoism, how can the representatives of the American Socialist movement vindicate themselves before history, if they should fail, in and out of season, to URGE THE CAUSE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE?

Preparedness Spells Disaster for Labor; Fight It With All the Power that You Possess

By JAMES H. MAURER

Socialist Member Pennsylvania Legislature and President of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor.

WRITTEN ESPECIALLY FOR THIS ISSUE.

WHAT are the chief advocates of preparedness preparing to do?

In one breath they tell us how they hate militarism in Europe, and in the next breath, how we must be made to like it here in the United States; that militarism has proven a curse to the Europeans, and that, therefore, we must rush into the course to be saved.

A number of schemes for saving us have been proposed; the administration thinks it knows how, but Morgan's Navy League says it has a better plan, and the general staff of the army thinks that an army of 1,500,000 would do the trick. Senator Penrose of Pennsylvania, in a speech in San Francisco a few days ago, said he wanted not only a large army, but as many dreadnaughts as there are States. Ex-President Taft wants a navy equal to that of Germany, with adequate submarines and air-craft thrown in for good measure, and a regular army of about 500,000 men; while President Roosevelt wants all that anyone wants and then some.

AT THE BEGINNING of this clamor for preparedness, we were told it was for defense against invasion, and now we are told it is not only for defense against invasion, but defense for our possessions—the open door for American products; that the Stars and Stripes must be upheld wherever and whenever occasion demands, etc.

I repeat, what are the capitalists preparing to do? Do they intend to take advantage of the weakness of our European neighbors after the war? Or do they intend to be in a position to dictate, if possible, the policy under which the European nations shall conduct their affairs, or who shall have the world's markets? Do they fear that the Europeans may decide to continue the present policy of socialized industry? Our neighbors might decide that since the socializing of industry worked so successfully in times of war, that it would work still better in times of peace. Such arrangements would sound the death-knell of capitalism and the American capitalist surely wants "preparedness" to protect not only his own hide, but that of his capitalist brother of Europe. Or, do they fear the rumblings of discontent from the inside? Is it possible that they fear the collapse of capitalism unless the workers are forced into utter subjection? Or have the shrieks and groans of their starving, wounded and murdered victims of Ludlow, Calumet, Lawrence and every other industrial hell, caused them to tremble for their own safety? Do they fear an industrial crisis after the war, when the inflated stocks, that are now soaring skyward, will drop with a crash, carrying with them starvation, misery and death for the workers? Is it to meet such a situation that they want to prepare? Or, do they fear that some nation may call them to account for the part they are now playing so profitably, of supplying some of the warring nations with munitions of war?

Not being in personal touch with the Morgan and Rockefeller groups, I cannot say just what their plans are; but I do know, personally, some of the people who are clamoring for "preparedness" and have a fair knowledge of the history of those with whom I am not personally acquainted, and I know that their patriotism fairly reeks with the smell of profits; that they would no more shoulder a gun and fight for their country than would the devil bathe in holy water. Therefore, knowing these parasites, I know that they have some hellish scheme on foot that spells disaster for the working class.

EX-PRESIDENT TAFT, in a speech delivered before the National Security League of Chicago, in try-

ing to justify his position for "preparedness," first attempted to shield the broadclothed pirates who stole most of the money Uncle Sam spent in the past for "preparedness." He said the legislators were not to blame for the "pork-barrel" graft and put the blame on the selfishness of the lawmakers' constituents. In other words, he blames those who are robbed for being robbed, because they are selfish. Now, Mr. Taft is one of the little-big men whom I have met, once in Connecticut and about six months ago, when he came to the capitol of Pennsylvania to tell us lawmakers how to do things, and therefore I am not in the least surprised at his deductions of graft.

He further said that, while he did not defend graft, it is a part of the price we must pay for the experiment of popular government. "God knows" I am not even surprised at him saying this, because it may be part of their plan of "preparedness" to disfranchise us and give us a monarchy.

Some time ago the war promoters invaded my home city, Reading, Pa., and a new organization, called "Preparedness for Defense," was born. A committee was appointed to arrange a mass meeting. One of the largest theaters in the city was engaged and provision made to secure two smaller ones on short notice, to take care of the overflow. Two Congressmen, an ex-Congressman and a brass band were engaged to arouse the patriotic spirit of the people. I went early to avoid the rush, but there was no rush, no overflow, not even enough to fill the lower floor seats. The speakers orated for two hours, and in substance said:

"We need a larger army and navy to protect our possessions. We demand the open door for American products. We must protect the power that will come our way after the European war, against the combined powers. We must get into the struggle for markets."

DOES THIS SOUND like preparedness against invasion, or like preparedness for aggression?

"But," said one of the speakers, Congressman Crago, "preparedness does not only mean billions for supply, but men who know how to use the supplies. Guns are all right if you have men to carry them, but are of no use if you do not have. We must therefore teach the young to be patriotic, to love and revere the colors, so that they will, unhesitatingly, shoulder the gun and follow the flag when called to do so."

He took care to say "so that THEY will carry the gun"; not "WE." I feel quite safe in saying that not one of the speakers or any of those actively interested in the meeting would shoulder a gun and follow the flag.

And, as to our possessions which need protection. At the time when the jingo press was clamoring for Mexican intervention I was approached by one of the street characters about town. The fellow was selling shoe strings for a living. He said, "Jim, things look pretty bad in Mexico, and I think it is time we go down there and settle things." I asked him in what way the situation in Mexico concerned him. He looked at me in surprise and said, "Why, we must protect our interests there." Now, here was a poor creature who did not possess the price of a burial lot, talking about protecting his interests in Mexico. This fellow has the kind of a psychologically developed brain that Crago and the rest of his kind want for all the workers. I say if there are possessions which need protection, let those who possess them protect them.

Looking at the question of preparedness from its different angles, as presented by its advocates, and comparing them with our international relations and the industrial situation in the United States, my conclusions are that the capitalists are using the slogan of invasion as a cloak to hide their real purpose. When the European powers were prepared for war, no one feared invasion. Now, when the European nations are torn to pieces and loaded down with debts running into many billions, its fighting population reduced by many millions and its citizens, in a great measure, reduced to women, children and cripples, we are told that there is danger of invasion. "But," say the skeptical, "what



Meyer London Takes His Seat in Congress Monday, December 4th.

about Japan?" The population of the United States is again as large as that of Japan; our navy appropriations are three times as large as those of Japan, and our army appropriations again as large. Besides, the only people who are talking about Japanese invasion are the war promoters of America and their jingo press.

IN MY MIND, preparedness means one of two things, or both: The American capitalists want to be in a position to dictate the commercial policy of the world; in other words, take advantage of the European nations now torn to pieces. On the other hand, the end of the war will work great changes in the industrial conditions here in the United States, and the capitalists want to be prepared to meet them.

The other day five men, representing fourteen billions of dollars, met in the Hotel Astor, New York City, to devise ways and means for the American industries to cope with what they termed "chaotic labor conditions" which they believed would prevail after the war. These men deplored labor's activity in politics and looked with dread upon the possibility of an amalgamation of the five railway brotherhoods. President Baer characterized the amalgamation as the most daring and gigantic thing ever attempted, pointing out how such an amalgamation might paralyze railway traffic and cause bankruptcy, or, at least, a great raise in railroad rates. To be sure, these gentlemen know why they want "preparedness."

Some people believe that, when the war ends, all those able to do so will come to America to escape the heavy taxes which the present war will make necessary. If so, a large army may be necessary to teach us how to starve without grumbling. On the other hand, it is possible that the reconstruction necessary in Europe will create a demand for labor that the workers will prefer staying there. This in time would mean a scarcity of labor here, and the law of supply and demand in the labor market would then begin to operate, for once, the other way, and this would mean higher wages and a higher standard of living for the workers and reduced profits for the shirkers.

Therefore a well-disciplined soldiery, in control of the masters, would prove a mighty handy weapon to keep the wages of the workers down and profits up.

Preparedness, to me, spells disaster for the working class. Therefore fight it with all the power you possess.

If this becomes a military despotism, you Congressmen who vote for it will be guilty both of treason and of the blood of the thousands who will be slaughtered because of it.

If this nation becomes a military state it will not be at demand of the people, but solely to satisfy the treacherous looters of America—Morgan and his crew—who, if justice prevailed, would have been hung a year ago for treason.

ORGANIZE FOR THE STRUGGLE

THIS issue of The American Socialist is called THE MEYER LONDON EDITION because it marks the entrance of Meyer London, the second Socialist Congressman, upon his duties at Washington, D. C., the nation's capital, at the most critical time in the country's history.

Meyer London, while the spokesman of the one million Socialist voters of the United States, will represent the entire working class, the class that labors and produces the necessities of life. Opposed to London will be the Democrats and Republicans representing the big business interests, of whom the most active in this Congress will be the representatives of the armament ring. This issue of The American Socialist therefore carries the Socialist message against militarism, war and private profits in the manufacture of the munitions of war.

This issue would not be complete without a plea to the one million voting Socialists to immediately join the dues-paying ranks of the Socialist Party and take an active part in the campaign now on to "ORGANIZE FOR 1916!" We must organize now for the struggle to win the workers of the nation for Socialism in 1916.

In this critical hour we urge all non-Socialists to study the principles of Socialism, to find out what the Socialist Party stands for, so that they may be the better able to decide the great problems that will be put before the voters for settlement in the national elections of 1916.

Greeting of the First Socialist Congressman to His Successor

By VICTOR L. BERGER, First Socialist Congressman.

WRITTEN ESPECIALLY FOR THIS ISSUE.

IN THE MIDST of the most frightful and fateful war the world has ever seen, and as a citizen of the only great civilized nation at peace today, the first Socialist to be elected to Congress sends his greeting to the Socialist taking his place.

Comrade Meyer London takes his seat in Congress at a momentous hour. May economic science, Socialist brotherhood and practical wisdom be his guiding stars.

In spite of machine guns, submarines and aeroplanes—the dominant factors making history today are economic in character. They are a part of the great capitalist transition taking place in the world.

ENGLAND, the country which first developed modern capitalism, defeated Spain in the 16th century, and Holland in the 17th century, and later on France in the 19th century. And now Great Britain is trying to crush the competition of Germany. It is idle to blame any man or any set of men in England so long as we still have capitalism.

Neither is Germany at fault, however. Germany has developed economically far enough to compete in the world's market. It is one of the world's great powers and is "rightfully seeking its place in the sun."

We still live in a capitalist era. But capitalism has evidently not quite overcome feudalism. And surely capitalism has not even become fully international. It is in the main international only as far as the close connection between British and American capitalists is concerned.

WHILE SOCIALISM is international, Socialism cannot become anti-national if Socialism is to fulfill its mission. In reality it never can become anti-national.

Therefore we cannot very well blame the Socialist parties of the various European nations for standing with the rest of their people in this world crisis. And least of all can we blame any Socialists for defending their homes and their wives and children whenever and wherever they were face to face with an invasion from countries that have barbaric military organizations or tribesmen as soldiers, as, for instance, Cosacks, Turkos, Sikhs, etc.

WE ALL HOPE that the time will come when all wars will be impossible. We all fight for a world that will be guided by brotherhood, good will and Socialism. Our Socialist Party will be one great force to bring about such a development.

Until such a day arrives, however—the day when philosophy and philosophers shall rule the world—hunger and love will continue to rule it. In other words, we must take care of the immediate interest of the population, and especially of the proletariat in the various countries, including our own. That is work which must be done every day and from day to day. And it is Socialist work of paramount importance.

Best wishes to our Socialist Congressman. And may economic science, Socialist brotherhood and practical wisdom guide him.

If this becomes a military republic it will end, as such things have always done, in a military despotism.

If this becomes a military nation it will be the fault of the so-called Christians. There are enough church members in America to put a short stop to preparations for war, if they would join in a demand to Congress that it be done.

MEYER LONDON IN CONGRESS

By EUGENE V. DEBS

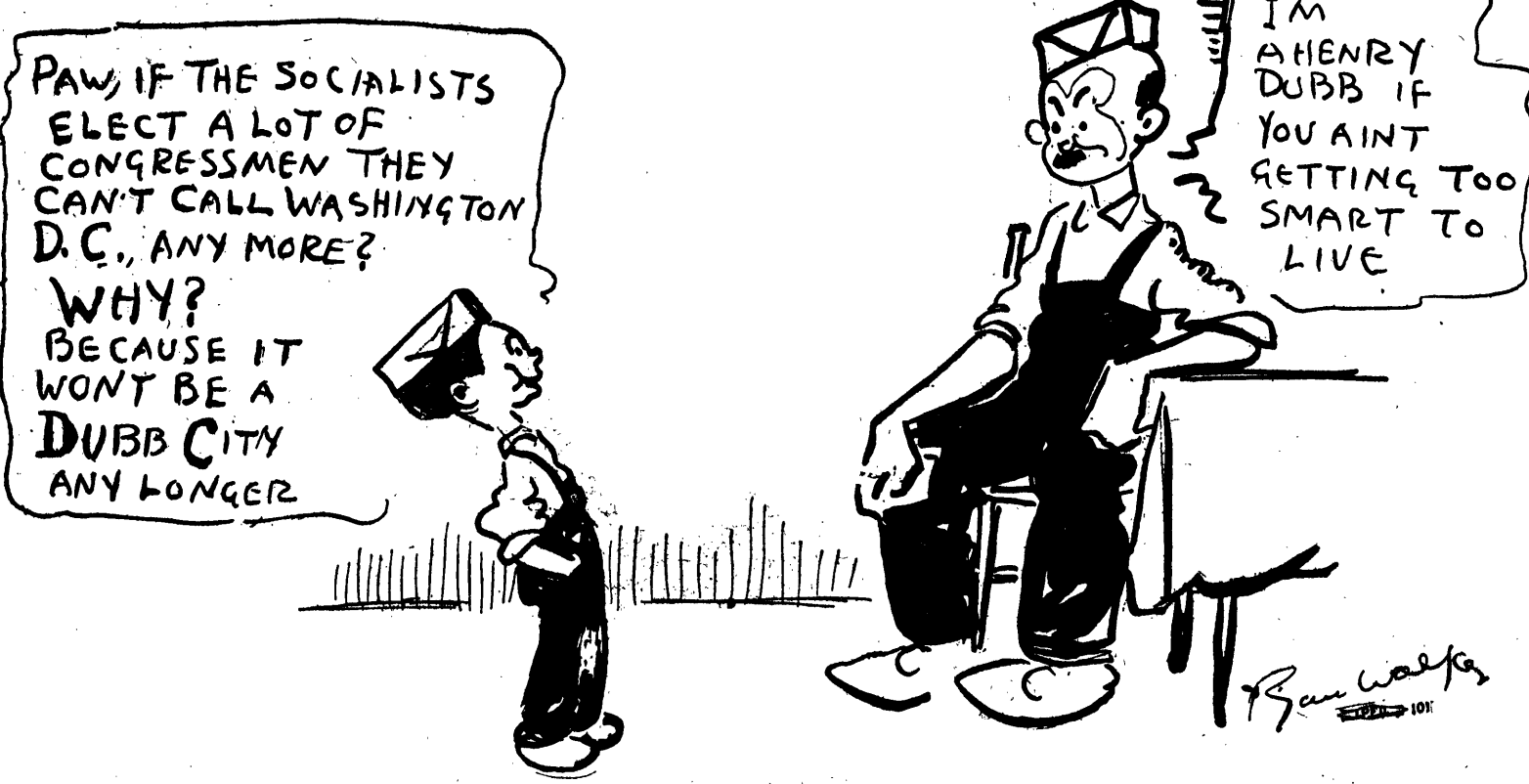
WRITTEN ESPECIALLY FOR THIS ISSUE.

WHEN THE NEWS came that Meyer London had been elected to Congress to represent the impoverished working class of the East Side of New York City, I rejoiced in the victory mainly because of the personality of the candidate and the character of the man. I knew that London himself was the child of poverty, that he had shared in all the privations and sufferings of his poverty-stricken constituents, that he had for years stood by them in the courts and fought for them in their strikes, and that in Congress he would be, to the fullest extent of his ability and power, the staunch defender of their rights and interests.

In a few days more Congress will convene, and Meyer London will respond to the roll as the only Socialist, the only real representative of the working class in the legislative branch of our capitalist government. Comrade London is peculiarly fitted for the task, which will be anything but an easy one. First of all, he is absolutely loyal to the working class, tested in the heat of battle for years, and never found wanting. Next, he is a stirring speaker, clear of vision, cogent in argument, earnest and impressive in manner, with a ready command of his resources in debate, and, finally, he has the courage, the will, the determination, the fighting spirit of the proletarian revolutionist, and while always courteous in manner and observing all the amenities of decent intercourse with his fellows, he will not be found wanting when it comes to close quarters with the enemy.

To be a lone Socialist in Congress is a distinction, but not entirely an enviable one. While there is great opportunity to serve the Cause, there is also the equally great risk of being tricked or trapped into a blunder that may be irreparable injury. We can trust Meyer London to be on the alert and to do his best, and when the session is over I

TAKING THE DUBB CITY OUT OF "WASHINGTON, D. C." By Ryan Walker



do not in the least doubt he will be able to give a perfectly satisfactory account of himself and his stewardship.

Berger did effective work in Congress, and on several occasions demonstrated the value of even a single Socialist in that body of capitalist legislators and politicians. London will profit by Berger's experience, and not only add another chapter to the opening pages of working class representation in Congress, but make clear, by what can be done by a lone Socialist, the necessity of electing a score or more of Socialists to Congress in the elections next fall.

If this becomes a military nation it will inevitably mean a subversion of the republic.

If this becomes a military nation, President Wilson, a professing Christian and a so-called progressive, will be largely responsible for the consequent overthrow of American institutions.

If this becomes a military nation it will be because a treacherous Congress refused to let the people prepare for their own defense by every man carrying firearms, as provided for in the constitution, and instead armed a few of the people and made them controlled and officered by class interests.

If this becomes a military nation it will be because Congress acted without consulting the people. It is afraid to consult the people by putting "preparedness" to a vote. The fear means guilt.

If this becomes a military nation it will not be out of desire to protect the people who work in America, but to turn them into highwaymen for the benefit of capitalists who wish to loot Europe while she is weak after war.

Do you know that the Carnegie Steel Co. has drawn \$32,954,377 in armor plate contracts from the Federal government since 1887?

WE ARE FIGHTING FOR:

1. The abolition of the manufacture of arms and munitions for private profit.
 2. The prohibition of exportation of arms, war equipment and supplies from one country to another.
 3. Against an increase in existing armaments under any circumstances; against all appropriations for military and naval purposes.
 4. Disarmament—universal disarmament as speedily as possible.
- NOT ONE DOLLAR FOR MILITARISM AND MURDER!

Do you know that the present chief of ordnance, Brigadier General William Crozier, was formerly in partnership with the Bethlehem Iron Co., now the Bethlehem Steel Co., one of the firms composing the war trust?

Do you know that, while he was captain in the army, Crozier perfected what is known as the Buffington-Crozier disappearing gun carriage, and that, at the suggestion of the Bethlehem Co., the application for the patent was made by Crozier and General Buffington?

Do you know that in 1884 the two officers sold the patent to the Bethlehem Co., receiving \$10,000 cash and being promised royalties on all gun carriages sold to foreign nations until the sum reached \$40,000 to \$50,000?

Do you know that Crozier, while still a partner with the Bethlehem Co., was promoted to the office of chief of ordnance, in violation of the law, jumping over three grades in the army and 27 officers of greater age and longer service?

Do you know that Crozier's appointment was confirmed by the Senate in secret session in 1902, and that the war department has since installed \$9,000,000 worth of Buffington-Crozier carriages?

Do you know that the Bethlehem Steel Co. has drawn \$42,321,237 in armor plate contracts from the Federal government since 1887?

WHITHER?

By GEORGE ALLAN ENGLAND

WRITTEN ESPECIALLY FOR THIS ISSUE.

FAR up above the traffic-tides of Tremont street, Boston, you can see a huge United States shield, electrically lighted, flinging its colors across the night. This shield is affixed to a theater; its purpose is to advertise "The Battle Cry of Peace." A great sign, near by, quotes Roosevelt's approbation of the photo-play. All Boston is crowding to see the drama, a rabid scream for "preparedness." Thus goes the propaganda of the armament makers and the jingoes.

Only one small activity, this, compared with those today sweeping the land. War-plays and movies, magazine articles, daily press, university chair and pulpit, all are driving the nation on and on toward the precipice of militarism. More than that, the peace propaganda is already suffering persecution. Just now Jack London's remarks anent the true depravity of perfect soldiers have been slated for exclusion from the mails. My Boston Post this morning quotes a gentleman named Coburn as having stated that "the Prussianizing of American life is certainly well advanced," and counters with the editorial remark that London's exposure of the military psychology is "false, unpatriotic and cruel." A libel upon every individual of the magnificent body of men who make up our volunteer militia, as well as upon the regular army. Straws such as this readily determine the current of the wind. My guess is that we are now already feeling the preliminary zephyrs of a great militarist tempest. Whither will it drive us?

I HAVE ALREADY written a good deal on this subject. Whatever I may say will be largely repetition of facts well known to all Socialists and all other thinking men—if there are any, outside our ranks. The whole thing is perfectly obvious. Seizing upon the European butchery as an excuse, the armament makers, expansionists and militarists are determined to drive this country over the brink. E. E. Sonnenschein, Girard, Kan., for particulars. Start the 1916 campaign now.

Free Literature

The National Office has some thousands of copies of three pamphlets which it can furnish free to Locals or individuals who will distribute them. They are:

- The Gunmen of Industry
- The Bombshell That Henry Ford Fired
- Socialism the Lone Foe of War

These are 16-page pamphlets, and they are all good. Hundreds of thousands have been distributed, but there are still localities where they have not been used.

We will ship them to you by freight, prepaid, for 25 cents per 1,000, which will not pay freight charges, much less packing; 16,000 pages of propaganda for 25 cents.

SOCIALIST PARTY

803 W. MADISON, CHICAGO

ness" has NOT prevented but has induced war. There's money in this thing, for them; so down with old-age pensions, educational expansion, improvements of all kinds, and Hurrah for Moloch! Militarism, my quick Moloch! Militarism, Murder, Massacre, Millions—I think that sums it all up with neatness and dispatch.

Another point, well made by Hillquit in his recent speech here in Boston—the Masters already hear the ordering of the people, and know that, after the war, Revolution will be on the carpet, not only in Europe, but here also. "Preparedness" means a million bayonets directed at the workers' breasts—machine guns, too, and all the rest of it. Again, Hurrah for Mars!

WHITHER are we drifting? If we Socialists, backed by the working class, have power enough to stem the tide, we may yet get past the coming perilous times, into Socialism, without Red War, I am very much afraid. I haven't got that power, yet. If I were to speak my entire mind, I'd be forced to say I believe the Masters are going to put this villainy thru, and run the whole gamut of the Iron Heel Symphony—a Devil's Symphony, composed in hell and played on bleeding heart-strings, with the booming of artillery and the clattering of machine guns for bass and staccato effects. Still, I may be wrong; I sincerely hope so. We may yet be able to assert ourselves, despite the censor, the law, the press, the pulpit and the university, despite the powers of blood and steel, despite the greed of the now compound god, Mammon-Moloch. We may yet avert the impending catastrophe. If so, well and good. If not, then I should very much prefer to be a Fiji Islander, bowing down to wood and stone, than an American, forced to kowtow to Militarism. I have often thought, in fact, that in case America were really Prussianized by Capitalism, I would depart for some remote island and become a mild cannibal, or something. It would be so very much more comfortable and respectable than to remain a United States citizen, with the heel of Kruppism forever on my neck. Is it not so?

COMRADES, whither? It's up to us, up to each of us individually; up to all of us, in a mass. Am I doing my part to stay this madness and combat this sinister monster now striving?

The Jingoes want war. We do not. Get a movie or slide picture machine and spend the winter making War against War, and converts to Socialism at the same time. It's a good, profitable business as well. Write Dr. E. E. Sonnenschein, Girard, Kan., for particulars. Start the 1916 campaign now.

'Metropolitan' and War

By WILLIS ANDREWS

WRITTEN ESPECIALLY FOR THIS ISSUE.

THE Metropolitan Magazine seems to have lost its mental equilibrium, which may be attributed to its evil association with the erratic Theodore.

It takes the Socialists to task for their anti-military propaganda. It seems to think that the shedding of human blood is inseparable from human progress. While warfare may have been one of the necessary conditions to man's evolution from primitive savagery, it does not necessarily follow that civilization can only be maintained by a continuance of the practice of barbarism.

The power to reason is an attribute of man that chiefly distinguishes him from the brute creation. Of what avail is this faculty if it is not used to establish and maintain peaceful relations among the nations of the world?

Cites Civil War.

The Metropolitan seeks to demolish the whole Socialist position against war by citing the case of Lincoln and the abolition of chattel slavery by force of arms.

But the Metropolitan thus unwittingly betrays its blindness to the economic forces in society. For no better illustration can be made to prove the folly and waste of war than the recent unpleasantness between the North and the South. If the institution of chattel slavery had been left to peaceful agitation and discussion it would have been settled without the shedding of any blood.

Long, long ago the owners of slaves would have learned that it is much cheaper to hire a negro for a wage, with the privilege of discharging him at pleasure, than to buy him outright, with the added obligation to support him the remainder of his life.

Today not even a white man would buy the price of a black slave on the auction block under the same rules and conditions that obtained in the buying and selling of negroes.

Yet only half a century ago the country sacrificed the very flower of its manhood to abolish the relationship of master and slave—a relationship that would have been severed long ere this if left to the natural course of events.

Following a period of invention and the substitution of machinery for hand tools in the production of wealth, the factory system resulted in the creation of a large surplus of white labor. This in itself would have sounded the death-knell to chattel slavery by bringing cheap white labor into competition with slave labor.

Signs of Degeneracy.

Surely the Metropolitan is showing signs of degeneracy, for it once gave evidence of high ideals and a clear understanding of the problems that confront modern society.

Or, perhaps, the counting room is usurping the functions of the editorial sanctum.

Having been granted millions of acres of land in America, and having bought other millions for almost nothing, the capitalists now say that the workers must pay them perpetual tribute of rent on their land that was snatched from them.

L. B. Avery of Amerson, Pa., writes that "We elected William Crispell Supervisor of this township (Lake township in Luzerne county) last month. Albert Gieber and George Jenkins were elected inspector of election and assistant assessor. In the adjoining township of Dallas, E. W. Whispell was elected school director and J. D. Thompson, inspector in the North district. As this is a strictly agricultural section it shows that the farmers are beginning to think."

Engine Prices Reduced

The new price list of kerosene, gasoline and gas engines put out by Ed. H. Witte, of the Witte Engine Works, Kansas City, Mo., marks the lowest prices yet made for high standard engines. The new list quotes a 2 H.-P. engine at \$34.95; a 4 H.-P. at \$69.75; 6 H.-P., \$97.75; 8 H.-P., \$139.65; 12 H.-P. at \$197.00, and other sizes up to 22 H.-P. proportionately low. These are factory prices, direct to the user, as that is the only way Witte is now selling. Besides lowering prices, Witte's selling plan enables an engine-



ED. H. WITTE.

user to have the engine earn its own cost while it is being paid for. His kerosene engines have proven themselves especially desirable at his new prices.

Witte's big factory has had to be doubled in manufacturing capacity, to keep up with the heavy increase in orders, which come from every section of the country. An interesting fact that may not be generally known about Witte, is that his factory is the only one in America that has come down through the whole history of the gasoline engine business, under the management of the man who started it, with his first engine made with his own hands. In the past twenty-nine years WITTE engines have undergone every trial and stood every test that could be devised, whether with kerosene, gasoline, gas, distillate, naphtha, solar oil, toppings or other fuels of high or low grades. The largely increased sales of each succeeding year prove the high quality of WITTE engines, especially when it is considered that the increase is largely due to the orders that come from and through the users of these engines. As Witte's catalog shows, his engines are simple in construction and easily understood. The catalog itself is easy to read, and with the many pictures and drawings, make it easy to understand what is needed to make a good engine. The catalog also explains the 60 days' free trial sales plan, with the five-year guarantee. To get one of these catalogs—probably the finest one in the engine business—it is only necessary to write Witte at his factory address, 3260 Oakland Ave., Kansas City, Mo., or at 3290 Empire Building, Pittsburgh, Pa., asking for one to be sent free.

Get on the Firing Line — STUDY LAW — Fight for Your Class

Power is coming into the hands of the workers. Thousands of public offices in the United States require lawyers to fill them. A course in law will fit you to render this service to your class. We need everywhere working class lawyers in active practice. Think how Darrow, Sheppard, LeSueur, London and many other brilliant defenders of labor have fought for working class justice.

Every reading, earnest, thinking worker can now learn law. You do not need a college education or even a high school education. Can you read and write the English language understandingly? That is education



EUGENE V. DEBS, Chancellor

"The days before us invite to action as never before." Take up the weapon—the Master Weapon of all—THE LAW.

The Strike Is Crushed By Law

The Capitalist Courts Have Declared:

Eight-hour law illegal.—Ohio.

Protection of labor illegal.—Colorado.

The closed shop illegal.—Federal Court.

Effort to unionize unlawful.—Pennsylvania.

Boycott unlawful.—Federal Court.

Strike unlawful.—Illinois.



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Strike—or Bleed

By GEORGE R. KIRKPATRICK

WRITTEN ESPECIALLY FOR THIS ISSUE.
ROUSE, ye sons and daughters of toil, O, you who are awake, rouse those who are asleep surrounded by Greed, devouring Greed—ever ready to betray Labor and turn loose the dogs of war. In the red glare of the war flames now leaping up from hell and lapping the sky learn and learn well that the heart of Greed is flint. Learn this: After fattening for ten thousand years on the body of Labor the Ruling Class are willing to set civilization on fire if necessary to hold their place on the back of Labor.

The awful war now raging in the world, the Hate that now slays Kindness, the blood now spurting from millions of wounds, the tears now scalding the cheeks of the Mother of Europe, the vast insane waste and ruin and agony, the wide-gaping hell now devouring Human Happiness, the imbecile "statesmanship" that now, December, 1915, thru crazed greed and insane pride and power-lust, resorts to war and orders the working class to hold aloft their own heads on their own bayonets—all this, yes, all this could have been prevented, quietly, quickly, peacefully and surely prevented by means of National and International General Strike.

Federated federations of labor, by general strike, can silence every cannon in the world and melt every battleship that now proudly swims the sea, and recast them all into perfect instruments of Peace, Progress and Prosperity.

Federated federations of labor, by general strike, can uncrown every strutting imperial pirate in Europe and push every royal family of parasites on earth from the back of Labor and force them to produce or go naked, force them to produce or starve.

Federated federations of labor, by general strike, can drive the gunmen of capitalism out of business and make another Ludlow impossible.

Federated federations of labor, by general strike, can still every telegraph instrument, every capitalist printing press, and silence every chattering hireling, every scribbling jingo, every morally ulcerated human thing cringing with flattery to the lust of the god of war and the capitalist class.

Federated federations of labor, by general strike, at the ballot box, can unhorse every cunning capitalist lickspittle on the bench and in the legislative halls whose business is to betray labor and whose fees from capitalism,



Is This Your Brand of "Preparedness Patriotism"?

stained with blood and tears, are paid for annual legislative and judicial crucifixions of the sons and daughters of labor.

Educated—mark you—educated federated federations of labor, knowing the cause and the cure of the supreme wrong in the world—can silence the god of war, can hush the boasting voices of kings, and of the brutal barons of industry—can inaugurate industrial Justice against the stern will of the combined blood-sucking tyrants of the whole world.

When war's declared, strike! strike! strike! YE MILLIONS, FOLD YOUR ARMS!

Down with war! And down with the capitalist system in whose festering soul the present awful war was conceived and from whose polluted body the class war is steadily spawned.

International cheers for International Labor! Organize now, or agonize later. When the war drums boom we must strike or bleed.

DUTY OF THE WORKING CLASS TODAY

By ADOLPH GERMER

WRITTEN ESPECIALLY FOR THIS ISSUE.

THE PARAMOUNT DUTY of the American working class today is to counteract the pernicious doctrine of pro-Militarism that is spread thruout the land. No trick is left untried, no opportunity overlooked to blind the people with the nightmare of invasion in order that the vested interests can put over their armament steal.

The schools, churches, civic and fraternal organizations, theaters, movies—in short, everything where people congregate, are invaded, and the murder mania is spread. We felt perfectly safe until the war broke out in Europe. Since that time the press and every other agency at the command of the armament ring have pounced upon us until we can see nothing but an invasion by bleeding and crippled nations.

The campaign to increase the army and navy appropriations serves a double purpose. So long as our vision is focused upon an alleged foe abroad, the foe at home—the kings of industry—can carry on their work of exploitation and robbery without detection and interference. They can continue to murder our sisters and brothers in mills, shops, factories, mines, railroads, etc., thru failure to comply with protective labor laws and augment their fortunes and keep them in idleness while we are looking abroad.

The other purpose the campaign serves is to swell the fortunes of those who traffic in military supplies. That the dealers in military materials are the chief supporters of "preparedness" is well known.

WE ARE TOLD that "preparedness preserves peace." If that be so, Europe would not now be bleeding. Every nation in Europe has from year to year been strengthening the armaments, all under the mantle of "preparedness means peace."

"The Battle Cry of Peace," "Neill of the Navy," "Guarding Old Glory" and other similar pictures thrown on the screen have had their damaging effect upon an unsuspecting public.

The vision has been clouded until, as a nation, we are almost as ready to plunge into a whirlpool of blood as the workers across the seas.

Every atom of our energy should be put forth to frustrate the use of hundreds of millions of dollars of the people's money to strengthen the means of destruction of property, the product of labor, and the murder of human beings—while millions of our comrades are jobless, hungry, ill-clad and unshoused.

BUT WHAT WILL LABOR DO about this situation? Labor can either do nothing and let the profit-patriots get away with the loot, or labor can deluge Congress and the President with letters and resolutions from every section of the country, protesting against the plunderbund ramming its greed right arm into the pork barrel up to the shoulder. Congressman Meyer London will be materially helped in his fight against the armament pirate if protests are sent in by those who will have to do the shooting and be shot in the event the policy of "preparedness" turns this nation into a slaughterhouse.

Let the word go out that we will not be blinded by the deluding cry for "preparedness to preserve peace," nursed by those who grow rich thereby!

WAR'S GLEANING

By GEORGE ALLAN ENGLAND

WRITTEN ESPECIALLY FOR THIS ISSUE.

O Father, old Father,
And art thou blind, for tears?
Crouched there beside thy childless hearth,
Dost count the vanished years?
Years all for naught! He lieth cold,
On lips the blood-fleck'd foam;

But bankers count new bonds, fresh gold,
And win huge fortunes home!
O Father, gray Father,
Why should the hot tears come?

O Mother, old Mother,
Why this white head, bowed low?
Why, thru thy fingers gnarled and worn,
These bitter tears, and slow?
He nevermore shall circle thee
With loving arm, again;

But lo! thy king, in majesty,
Surveys his widening reign!
O Mother, wan Mother,
What shouldst thou know of pain?

O Maiden, young Maiden,
What time that vacant eye?
Why pales that cheek, which burned with pride
As streamed the war-flags by?
Rotting in noisome trench he lies,
Who else had wedded thee;

But the Imperial Eagle flies
From mountain-peak to sea!
O Maiden, pale Maiden,
Up! Hail thy victory!

MAKE EVERY SOCIALIST VOTER AN AMERICAN SOCIALIST READER

INTO THE TRENCHES.

Nothing has ever aroused the fighting spirit of Socialists more than the dastardly schemes of the armament ring to turn the United States into a military nation. The money behind the "preparedness" or "war" propaganda that is now flooding the nation comes out of the profits of the munition makers.

Now is the time for all Socialists to get into the trenches in the war against the militarists. The big work this week is the distribution of this issue, the MEYER LONDON EDITION of THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST. Order a bundle, and while you are distributing it among your fellow-men you can get new subs for your paper at the same time. There are three ways to circulate this issue. See the order blank on PAGE TWO.

ROLL OF HONOR

BEN LEVINE, Mass., writes: "I am going to do my share for Socialism and peace. I am going to get subs for THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST, let the people read it and know the truth."

FLORA M. BEALS, La., hits the jingoes with a club of six new subs to THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST.

GRACE A. FELLOWS, N. H., comes in with a list of seven.

WILLIAM J. McDONALD, Pa., sends in a list of eight new subs, and the militarists see their ranks thin a little more.

The Finnish Socialist Local at Mullan, Idaho, orders 200 copies of the MEYER LONDON EDITION.

L. KRACHT, Charleston, S. C., orders 200 copies of the MEYER LONDON EDITION, and the fight to win the South for peace is on.

C. BOLING, St. Louis, Mo., takes 400 copies, and R. E. CECIL, Detroit, Mich., 500 copies of the MEYER LONDON EDITION. They make war munitions and Socialists in Pittsburgh.

Five hundred copies of the MEYER LONDON EDITION go to S. C. SPOTZ at De Kalb, Ill.

Order a bundle of the MEYER LONDON EDITION and distribute it yourself; or pay for a bundle and have it distributed by THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST's volunteers. Or, send in a list of names and we will send papers to them at the rate of three-fourths of a cent a copy.

Don't forget to read the "ad" in another column telling about our two Christmas offerings.

CAN'T BE SILENCED.

The German Socialist daily, Vorwarts, which resumed publication a week ago after having been suspended by the government for a frank peace plea which it published, has renewed its demand for peace in strong language. Action against the Vorwarts on the part of the authorities is improbable in view of the fact that several other papers are being permitted to discuss the same subject. The Vorwarts says: "The real cause of the high cost of living is the long duration of the war. Every successive week of the war makes the economic situation of the poorer classes more intolerable. The best safeguard in the future against the increases of prices would be the speedy termination of the war."

MEYER LONDON ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR WORK IN CONGRESS

A comprehensive unemployment insurance act, based on the law now in operation in England, will be the keystone of the Socialist program for the coming session of Congress.

Meyer London, elected from the New York East Side, and the only Socialist member of the next House of Representatives, outlined the Party program.

It includes, besides the unemployment insurance measures, the following:

Introduction of a bill authorizing the government to fix maximum prices or necessities to prevent exploitation of the poor.

Support of woman suffrage, child labor legislation and all laws aimed at bettering conditions of workers.

Opposition to President Wilson's "preparedness" program.

Opposition to any attempt by the Republicans to revise the tariff upward.

"The unemployment insurance" bill I shall introduce will include provisions for old-age and sickness pensions. It will not proceed on the theory that the country owes every man a living, tho that may be my personal theory, but on the principle that the country owes every man a living while he is looking for a job.

A law giving the government power to control the prices of necessities I regard as an effective means of checking the increase in the cost of living.

"America is supplying belligerent nations with food, diminishing her own supplies, and causing increased prices to her own people. It is time the government stepped in."

President Wilson's preparedness program attracted the fire of the East Side Congressman.

"The President's program gives me a headache," said London. "I concede that under present-day conditions it may be advisable for this country to keep itself in a position to meet unjust attacks by foreign countries. But I shall not support any measure that will cause other countries, our neighbors, to fear we are preparing to attack them."

THE EVOLUTION OF BANKING BY ROBERT H. HOWE

Do you know that "money" and "currency" are not synonymous terms?

Have you been looking for a book explaining the influence of financial matters on your life? THE EVOLUTION OF BANKING was written by a Socialist, and explains the money system, banks, credits, etc., from the Socialist viewpoint.

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WHICH WAY?

By A. M. SIMONS

WRITTEN ESPECIALLY FOR THIS ISSUE.

THE next few months will decide for this nation whether it plunges back into militarism and reaction or moves forward toward Socialism. One Socialist in Congress can do more to effect this decision. A million Socialists behind him in deadly earnest could do a great deal.

This is what we need most right now—fighting Socialists. Several thousand Socialists have grown tired of merely sending in checks into offices. We once thought each new office gained by a Socialist was a long step toward Socialism. In some cases we found it was only swapping labels on politicians and political machines.

The mass that had not become Socialists to get an office, either for themselves or for someone else, but to get Socialism, grew disgusted.

That disgust reached a climax when the war showed that some politicians had collected votes and power from the workers under the splendid mask of Socialism, only to use them in the service of imperialism and capitalism.

THE TEST that is confronting us will show whether that is the kind of a movement we have here. This movement can be met only by a mass movement of protest thruout the nation, not by squabbling over jobs for politicians. Moreover, the politicians will go hunting for votes regardless of principles.

The blood-lust has already captured some American Socialists. Some picture a murderously efficient imperialism threatening what measure of liberty the centuries have brought us. These would have us adopt that imperialism as a weapon against the thing they fear. There are others who have not scrupled to seek to use the Socialist Party to serve the purposes of a European imperialism to which their minds still owe allegiance.

Many more see in this world-shaking upheaval only an opportunity to balance differences and sidestep issues and play-off prejudices for their own political profit. Unless the Socialist Party can strike straight thru to the Socialist goal and fling all these into the ditch, it will land in the ditch itself.

Capitalism knows exactly what it wants. It wants a big standing army, billions for the armament trust, fanatical class patriotism, and, by means of these things, security against a peaceful working class revolt. Once the standing army called for by Wilson's "preparedness" program exists, that revolt can never be peaceable. After that, nothing is ahead but an ever-increasing militarism with the bloody clash of nations and classes at the end of the road.

THE TIME has passed to howl about the horrors of war. If the reality spread before the world every day only lures on, no theoretical argument will check the delusion.

We are at the fork of the roads. In one direction is a world in arms and at war until it is bedstruck by a single monster. The other road leads to world-wide revolution. It is our work to organize that revolution. If

we leave that phrase a phrase, as we have done hitherto, and refuse to translate our faith into facts, then we will soon be pushed aside and history will insert a footnote to say that when the day and the hour came for which the Socialists of America had been waiting, they were found merely sending in checks into offices. This day and hour will not come again until civilization has run thru many cycles. This year in the United States we will make a choice such as comes to a world but once in many generations.

Our immediate dividing point will probably come on this question of "preparedness"—a fine, euphonious word for militarism. If Wilson's program is defeated, even the enemies of the industrial program of Socialism will be forced to turn to us as the only defense against aggression, for it is we who are the only ones who will not be blind to the fact that, granting capitalism, this nation might easily become the prey of those who set this war in motion.

A nation disarmed must be a nation urging the world to move toward Socialism. It must be an international outpost from which to start an international revolution.

THIS IS THE PROGRAM of which Congressman London must be the mouthpiece. It is a program that must be carried out by the thousands of Socialists who are still so blind to the fact that, granting capitalism, this nation might easily become the prey of those who set this war in motion.

Organize for revolution. This must be our watchword. We accepted this position when the Socialist Party endorsed the conference of revolutionaries Socialists at Zimmerwald. We then faced ourselves alongside that swiftly growing body of Socialists that still stand for the working class of

the world instead of for any king, kaiser or capitalist class.

We can and must insist that political exigency, vote collecting, office seeking and nationalist prejudices shall not be used in this country, as they were in Europe, to excuse a compact with everything the Socialist movement was created to fight.

Learn to take your eyes off present achievements and take heart and inspiration from the future.

It is a better beginning than you think.

Learn to take your eyes off present achievements and take heart and inspiration from the future. One Congressman will mean two. Two will mean more. More will mean many.

IT SEEMS DIFFICULT now to elect just one. But we workers are only playing at the game; we are just practicing, as it were. The workers as a class simply have not tried. They have wasted their efforts for the enemies of their class. They are just beginning to feel their power, as this election shows.

The feel of power is always good; and the feel of power will eventually become a habit to the workers. We know the workers' have the power, but the mass do not realize it, and therefore do not use it.

The world is learning today by bloody, fearful lessons that it is not money that counts. A nation can live and prosper altho it has nothing but its own brawny arms and its natural resources. Thus we are learning our own worth as a class, in the general scheme of things. We are beginning to feel our power.

The road to enlightenment is also the road to power. During the past year we have learned much. This may not seem true to you, O doubting brother! Perhaps you feel that the world is slipping backward into barbarism. Be patient and you shall see.

HAVE COURAGE. We know that we are steadily marching to our great goal. He who knows that the dawn always follows the blackest night can easily be courageous in his hope of the coming day. His knowledge is the basis of his courage.

We can rejoice in the election of Meyer London, because it is a proof of our power, an earnest of the future.

At a conference held at Lund, Sweden, by the delegates of the most important metal workers' organizations of Sweden, a resolution was approved concerning the policy of the "interventionists," and calling upon the executive of the labor movement to be on guard and to oppose every attempt to throw the working class into the international war.

LEARN YOUR POWER

By WALTER LANFERSIEK

WRITTEN ESPECIALLY FOR THIS ISSUE.

YES, IT IS TRUE that we have but one Socialist in Congress.

It is a better beginning than you think.

Learn to take your eyes off present achievements and take heart and inspiration from the future.

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