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AMERICAN SOCIALIST

MARCH LEAFLET

Will Deal With
WAR CRISIS
Rush In Your
ORDERS NOW!

VOL. III. No. 32.

304

CHICAGO, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1917

25 CENTS FOR SIX MONTHS; 50 CENTS PER YEAR; \$1 PER YEAR OUTSIDE UNITED STATES

DOWN WITH WAR! LONG LIVE PEACE!

This anti-war proclamation to the workers of America has been adopted by the Socialist Party National Executive Committee:

BY A MERE executive decree, the President of our country has broken off diplomatic relations with the German Empire and placed the people of the United States in imminent danger of being actively drawn into the mad war of Europe.

During the last thirty months, the blackest months in the annals of human history, six million innocent men have been brutally and deliberately killed, and many more millions have been crippled and maimed for life. Whole countries have been devastated and the accumulated treasures of human industry and nature's generosity have been ruthlessly destroyed.

Europe is a dread house of mourning in which the disconsolate sobs of the widows and orphans at home mingle with the agonized groans of the wounded and dying on the battlefield.

In this savage carnival of wholesale and indiscriminate murder, there was but one powerful member of the family of nations that preserved an attitude of comparative sanity—the United States of America. Removed by the vast stretch of the Atlantic ocean from the scene of the inhuman conflict, safe in our economic self-sufficiency, and proud of our advanced and democratic institutions, we watched the self-destruction of our European brothers with bleeding hearts, eagerly waiting for the opportunity to bring them back to reason and peace, to life and happiness.

And suddenly with little notice or warning, without the sanction or consent of the people and without consultation with the people's chosen representatives in congress, we are practically ordered to join in the mad dance of death and destruction and

to swell the ghastly river of blood in Europe with the blood of thousands of American workers.

The Socialist Party of the United States speaking in behalf of hundreds of thousands of its adherents and in behalf of the working class of the country, enters a solemn protest against this wanton attempt to draw us into the European conflict.

We are opposed to wars between nations because war is a reversion to brutal barbarism. We are opposed to the present threatened war in particular because no great war has ever been waged with less justification and on more frivolous pretexts.

The policy of unrestricted and indiscriminate submarine warfare recently announced by the German Government is most ruthless and inhuman, but so is war as a whole and so are all methods applied by both sides.

War Is Murder!

War is the climax of utter lawlessness, and it is idle to prate about lawful or lawless methods of warfare.

The German submarine warfare does not threaten our national integrity or independence, not even our national dignity and honor. It was not aimed primarily at the United States and would not affect the American people. It would strike only those parasitic classes that have been making huge profits by manufacturing instruments of death or taking away our food and selling it at exorbitant prices to the fighting armies of Europe.

The workers of the United States have no reason and no desire to shed their blood for the protection and furtherance of the unholy profits of their masters and will not permit a lying

and venal press to stampede them into taking up arms to murder their brothers in Europe.

The six million men whose corpses are now rotting upon the battlefields of Europe were mostly workingmen. If the United States is drawn into war it will be the American workers whose lives will be sacrificed—an inglorious, senseless sacrifice on the altar of capitalist greed.

Workers Of America, Awake!

The hour is grave, the danger is imminent, silence would be fatal.

Gather The Masses In Meetings and Demonstrations!

Speak in unmistakable tones!

Let your voice of vehement and determined protest resound from one end of the country to the other.

Send telegrams or letters to President Wilson, to the United States Senators and Congressmen. Demand that the American citizen and American ships be forbidden to enter the war zone, except at their own risk. Insist that the nation shall not be plunged into war for the benefit of plundering capitalists.

Down With War!

Down with the inhuman social system that breeds wars!

Long Live Peace!

“Long live the International solidarity of the workers of all nations!”

To The People Of America!

NOTE.—That the opponents of a causeless war with Germany or any other nation are compelled to resort to paid advertisements to get their views before the public, is another proof of the unyielding prejudice and rabid hysteria of the war-promoting jingo press. The American Socialist herewith republishes the contents of a three-column advertisement that appeared in The Chicago Tribune Monday morning, Feb. 5. The statement is signed by Amos R. E. Pinchot, Randolph S. Bourne, Max Eastman, Paul U. Kellogg and Winthrop D. Lane, men identified with the American Union Against Militarism that has waged a relentless war against war and militarism. Their statement declares:

Shall we allow the United States to be dragged into the European quarrel on either side in this last desperate stage of the fighting?

We have not borne the brunt of the battle and we have no more the right than the desire to step in when the combatants are exhausted.

What we can achieve on that field will win nothing for humanity, and for us neither profit nor glory, for our adversaries have nothing that we want and their strength is already gone.

The outrage against international right offered by Germany is her final frantic stand in a blinding fight. And we have in this policy of the central empires simply an extreme example of the madness of war when it is fought to the last ditch.

The president and the congress of the United States ought to continue to bend every effort of their being to prevent this desperate fighting of the central empires from dragging us into that conflict.

They ought to use every ex-

pedient of diplomacy and economic pressure to bring the belligerents into a conference.

They ought to recognize that this is a crisis which affects the interests of every neutral nation.

They ought, therefore, not only to consult the neutral governments, but to act in this crisis conjointly with them as the spokesmen of mankind.

The congress ought to debate earnestly and with the utmost deliberation the question whether it would not be better for this country to adjust its commerce to any war zone declared by any of the belligerents in these last frantic days of the war than to be dragged dishonorably into the very conclusion of it because her own selfish interests are injured. No matter what disasters may fall upon our shipping in the war zone, they ought to debate that question at length before taking any belligerent action.

Any chance to win even military glory and honor for the republic in this war is long gone. We can only win the hatred of one group of belligerents and the jealousy and suspicion of the other. Our glory and our virtue lie in our having with independent and magnanimous courage withheld our hand from the quarrel of the world, and stood firmly for the ideals of friendship and civilized understanding. That way, and that way only, lies honor and greatness in the future for our republic.

Petition your President and your congressmen to employ every source of intelligence and resolution and patience, and all the time they may require, no matter what provocations arise, to keep this country from an ignominious eleventh hour participation in a struggle for mastery which is not her own.

And, at the last extreme moment, if it comes, demand that they submit to the people, in a referendum, the question whether we shall engage in war to protect our right to enter a war zone, or whether we shall withhold ourselves absolutely from this final disasterous and never-to-be-ended entanglement in the imperialistic politics of Europe.

Do You Want War?

By ADOLPH GERMER.

DO YOU want war? Do you want to see the flower of America's manhood sacrificed to satisfy the rapacity of a few industrial brigands? Will you permit a frenzied capitalist press to influence the people to a war madness so they will rush to the shambles to be slaughtered like so many sheep?

This will be our fate unless we assert ourselves and speak in words that cannot be misunderstood.

The treacherous daily press is teeming with falsehoods so foul that they reek to the heavens. Sensational news items appear that are inspired by the pirates that have looted the Nation and whose insatiable greed constantly yearns for more.

These are stirring times that try men's souls and in this crisis not a single soldier in this army for the common good should fail to do his duty.

The industrial pirates are determined to plunge this nation into the European conflict. Only the refusal of the workers to shoot and be shot will prevent it. If war comes the workers will be obliged to do the fighting, bleeding and dying. The "Patriots" of the Stock Exchange, the Board of Trade and Manufacturers' Association will stay where it is safe and comfortable and tell the "Brave Boys" in the trenches how patriotic they are.

During the past few days several samples of this patriotism have come under my observation. They prove beyond all question who is expected to go out and be crippled or killed.

We read where Harry Kimball, the head of the Remington Arms Company has joined the navy and that in the event of war, he would stay at home and manage the plant. And why should Harry Kimball go out on the firing line and get his hide punctured?

Patriotism in Chicago, among the Plunderbund, is at fever heat. Every mother's son of them will gladly "serve his country." But how? Read on! The Chicago Association of Commerce held a meeting and here is a story about it taken from the Chicago Daily News, the largest evening paper in the city:

"The Chicago Association of Commerce to a man today pledged its undying loyalty, its business and its life to the flag. Six hundred men shouted and applauded their approval when, in numerous speeches, reference to the Stars and Stripes was made. No less enthusiastic were they when called upon to signify their loyalty to the Cause which they cheered."

Among the speakers was the Rev. John Timothy Stone, a follower of "the man of sorrow" who taught, "thou shalt not kill." The Rev. Stone, among other things, said:

"God differentiates not between war and peace, but between right and wrong," and added, "America shall always be on the side of right with a willingness to die for it."

Isn't that glorious? But nowhere is it recorded that the Reverend rushed to the recruiting office to shoulder a gun and put himself up to be shot for his country.

Read on further. Here is some more evidence of patriotism that should send your blood curdling thru your veins and that should cause you to scramble to enlist.

John W. O'Leary, President of the Commerce Association, also spoke and delivered himself of a "Masterpiece":

"I would hesitate to remind the members of our association

of the need of patriotism, practiced as well as preached," said Mr. O'Leary. "If I were asked to express briefly the platform of the Association of Commerce I would say we stand for commercial integrity and civic loyalty, and no body of men standing for these qualities could be lacking in national patriotism."

"I hope and expect that if the test comes the men of commerce of Chicago will meet the demands made upon them with a spirit of patriotism and self sacrifice so powerful that its influence will spread over the entire nation."

"The demands upon us will be manifold. If armies are required we must be prepared to encourage those willing to bear arms. If taxes are placed upon us we must meet them, willingly, urging that they be not discriminatory. If the nation requires supplies we must be prepared to furnish them without abnormal profits and in the doing of these things consider it a privilege rather than a burden."

"In planning our part in our national program let us strive to combine the efficiency of the Germans, the persistency and energy of the British, the loyalty and serious devotion of the French, with the youth and wealth of the United States, and may this combination be our National Spirit."

Now, there you have it! Just think, these patriots are prepared to urge those who are willing to bear arms. John O'Leary, like Harry Kimball, knows it is safer to urge others to bear arms than it is for him to bear them and take a chance of getting them shot off.

And they are willing to pay the taxes levied upon them, but again they must do some urging and this time it is that the taxes be not discriminatory. Why, indeed, these patriots will pay the taxes and the next morning shoot up the prices of butter and eggs, flour and potatoes, etc.

Then the Association of Commerce will come to the Nation's rescue in another way. If supplies are needed they must be prepared to furnish them without abnormal profits. Mr. O'Leary admits that they will make a profit out of the Government, but because the men from the mines, mills, factories, railroads and farms are bleeding and dying in the trenches, we are assured that the patriotic Chicago Association of Commerce will not make their profits from the government abnormal.

According to Plutocracy's own confession, it pays them well to sing the "Star Spangled Banner," "America" and other national airs.

If this country is plunged into war the workers will be expected to do the fighting. But when diplomatic relations were broken off with Germany, the army and navy heads held a conference and the heads of the largest Corporations were called in for consultation. Labor was entirely ignored. Labor is ignored until bullets fly and shells burst. In view of this serious situation, a heavy burden rests upon our shoulders. Are you equal to the task?

We must counteract the pernicious influence of the lying press. We must use the enemy's medium. We can puncture their army if we try.

We are going to continue our fight against militarism and war. To make it more effective we must have your cooperation and help. The response to our former appeals has been encouraging. But there are new fields to conquer. We must pursue and counteract this military hysteria wherever it goes. There are

thousands and millions of people who have not yet gone military mad. Give them a word of good cheer. Isn't there someone in whom you are sufficiently interested to get him to become a reader of The American Socialist? If you can't get him to subscribe, send in 25 cents for a six month's subscription for him. That's an effective way of getting him enlisted into an army that has loftier purpose than to engage in wholesale murder.

The crying need of the hour is several million readers of Socialist papers and a greater Party Organization. Take advantage of every moment and every opportunity to add a subscriber to our paper and a member to the Party. In that way you will throw on the searchlight and expose the military madmen whose patriotism is wedded to the dollar.

Sit Tight To The End.

By ALLAN L. BENSON.

The United States should keep out of war with Germany.

We should forget our technical rights under international law and remember our far more important right under common sense.

Why should we go to war to maintain the technical right of our rich gentlemen to reap enormous profits by shipping out of the country food that we need at home? The present high price of food is largely due to such exportation.

Are we so fond of buying flour at the rate of \$11 a barrel that we wish to go to war to keep prices where they are?

Should we go to war to keep munition exports going?

Mr. Schwab and other gentlemen think so. If so, let Mr. Schwab and the other gentlemen go to war by themselves.

The European war is in its last and most terrible stage. It must be expected that the ruling classes of the belligerent countries will fight most desperately to keep from going under. We must expect brutality of every kind that has within it the possibility of success.

The people of the United States cannot control the acts of the criminal ruling classes as yet. We can only regret their criminality and brutality.

Nothing but great harm can come to the working men and women in this country by plunging into the European inferno.

Having sat tight for two and one-half years, we can sit tight to the end.

WAR CRISIS! It Will Be Treated From Socialist Standpoint In The March Leaflet ORDER NOW! From National Office, Socialist P: 803 W. Madison Street, Chicago, DISTRIBUTE MILLIONS! Ten Cents Per Hundred 75 Cents Per Thousand

Act At Once!

The call of the National Executive Committee for anti-war mass meetings appeared in only part of last week's issue of The American Socialist. It was sent to all state secretaries by the National Office and reads as follows:

"The National Executive Committee requests that you immediately urge upon all locals to arrange mass meetings and demonstrations against plunging our nation into war. The situation is critical! Act at once! Have the meetings wire their protest to the President, Senators and Congressmen, and have them get all the publicity possible."

In response to this call every state secretary immediately corresponded with every local in his state and by the time this issue of The American Socialist was ready to go to press, hundreds of meetings were being planned, while not a few had already been held.

There are still thousands of cities having Socialist locals that have not been heard from. Let every Socialist local respond to this call—and respond immediately. ACT AT ONCE!

Anti-War Leaflet!

Just as we were going to press it was decided to issue the Anti-War Proclamation of the National Executive Committee, which appears on this page, as the next monthly party leaflet. The presses have already started and orders will be filled just as rapidly as they arrive.

Owing to the high price of paper, which makes the cost of bundle orders almost prohibitive, The American Socialist will not issue a Special Anti-War Edition. It urges all of its readers, however, to join in distributing our Anti-War Proclamation.

These leaflets are sold at cost price: 10 cents per 100; 75 cents per 1,000. Rush all orders immediately to the National Office, Socialist Party, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago.

NO AID TO SOCIALISM.

The Lambertson, Minn., Star hit the truth when it said:

"Van Lear, the Socialist mayor of Minneapolis, is frequently getting the spotlight of attention thru his campaigns against vice in that city. A Socialist does not, as some people suppose, need nor cater for the support of the rough and tough elements."

It has always been left to one of the old parties to enlist the aid of the denizens of the red light districts and cheap lodging house sections of our cities. Socialism finds no friendly feeling in the ignorance to be found in the slums.

It is the "reform" element in the old parties that often unites with the red light district, the lodging house element and the slum population to defeat Socialism in its upward struggle.

Socialism will abolish vice and poverty and build real homes for the wayward and the downtrodden of humanity.

It will benefit most those who oppose it the most.

MATERIAL FOR REFLECTION.

Those who have been jubilant in anticipation of the dissolution of the Socialist party because the vote declined at the election last November, are here given a little material for reflection. The drop in our vote made it clear to the members of the Socialist party that more members are needed and that there must be a greater activity. In response to our appeals for an emphasis on party organization, we quote the following figures:

Total Dues	Dues of Foreign Fed.	Y. P. S. L.
Nov. ... \$327.70	Nov. ... \$160.15	Nov. ... \$42.02
Dec. ... 3228.20	Dec. ... 1161.40	Dec. ... 73.64
Jan. ... 3792.85	Jan. ... 1475.90	Jan. ... 80.50

The war crisis makes a new demand upon us. We must continue this work of strengthening the party membership. Your splendid work during the past three months shows encouraging results. Keep right on the job. The future belongs to us.

EMPLOYERS ARE GLAD.

With dissenting votes cast by the two Socialist members only, the New York assembly under an emergency message from Gov. Whitman, passed the bill making immediately available \$1,000,000 for expenses of the national guard. New York should now be well equipped to break strikes. Employers are jubilant.

Well, the mercury is low enough.

The belligerents spell it; let us have a piece.

Don't lie down and look up. Get up and look ahead.

When we get down to business we shall get up in results.

Everybody seems ready for peace—except the nations that are at war.

No wonder that congress is averse to investigating itself. Think of the smell.

The railroads and factories have not yet conscripted at \$13 a month, Uncle Sam.

At last they have a lawyer to assist the chairman of the commission to investigate the leak and whitewash himself. The only fear is that they will get it on in streaks.

There is one advantage about having so many starving across the waters; it gives the papers a chance to talk of them when the suffering in America is mentioned.

While Wilson may have kept us out of war, he also kept us out of a chance to really do anything for ourselves by being so plausible that many near-Socialists voted for him.

If they will send American food to the belligerents, let it be sunk so that the war may be ended the sooner. And it is better to send the ammunition to the bottom of the sea than to have it used in killing workers.

The number of papers that have succumbed to the war being made on a free press by plutocracy is now about 1,200. Plutocracy must have an ignorant people if it would remain on the throne.

For some reason Governor Capper of Kansas is very eager to have the appointing of most of the state officials and a lot of "commissions". It may be that he feels it is the only way to keep Southeastern Kansas from going Socialist.

The \$150,000,000 to be sent Belgium sufferers by the benevolently inclined people of America will give Europe a little more real money which she can spend with the American Morgans for more ammunition. Great circulatory system these bankers have.

Samuel Gompers is right. Compulsory arbitration and compulsory military service are both involuntary servitude and therefore unconstitutional; but the workers voted for them, and what does the constitution do to it if it is in the way of plutocracy?

World Federation

By JOHN M. WORK.

OF ALL the croaking objections to a federated world, one of the silliest is the suggestion that it might involve our giving California back to Mexico and Porto Rico and the Philippines back to Spain.

If the people of California, by a referendum vote should decide that they want to go back to Mexico, for the Lord's sake let them go. But, just to state the proposition is to give away its absurdity. Never in the wide world would the people of that state vote to go back. In fact, it would not be going back. The present people of California are not the ones who occupied the territory that we stole from Mexico. And the present people of California, not the dead ones, are the ones who should decide the question.

SO, ALSO, with Porto Rico and the Philippines. If the people of those dependencies should vote to go back to Spain, by all means let them do so. But, there is no danger of their doing so. I feel quite sure that they would, if they had a chance, vote to be independent nations, neither going back to Spain nor staying with the United States. And this is as it should be.

If the proposal to federate the world, recognizing the principle that governments derive all their just powers from the consent of the governed, were adopted, it might indeed involve the great nations, including our own, giving up some of their stolen property.

This is one of the advantages of it. This is one of the arguments in favor of it, not against it.

The proposal has been branded as utopian. If it is utopian now, what was it when we Socialists began to advocate it years and years ago?

THE FACT is that the world has now arrived at the stage when the proposal is no longer utopian. It may have hard slogging. But its actual realization looms in sight just the same. It is going to be forced upon the world by conditions, in spite of all the silly and strenuous objections which intensely selfish and nationalistic traitors to the human race can devise.

President Wilson is anything but utopian. On the contrary, he is a pragmatist. He is an opportunist. He waits until a thing is ripe for realization before he favors it. Then he jumps in and lugs away the glory, while those who have advocated it for many years, and prepared the minds of the people for it, are left in the shade.

But, hang the glory. The realization is the thing. We want the realization. And we want it with a minimum of force back of it.

Honoring Useful Labor

By EDMUND R. BRUMBAUGH.

"Young men, don't be diggers of the world's ditches; don't be unskilled laborers." Thus did a minister of Omaha advise one day.

I heard him, and hence this article. It had to be written.

Not that I altogether disagreed with the minister. From a worldly, material standpoint the advice was good, tho' it stopped too soon; it should have been extended to include skilled labor, for to be even a skilled laborer is to put aside almost all hope of acquiring anything like a competence. It is really the part of wisdom to try to be a prosperous parasite, and instead of working, to work others.

From the standpoint of justice, however, it is altogether different: no Socialist could agree at all with the minister. The unskilled laborer has a perfect right to life and leisure and plenty so long as he does useful, necessary work. The man who digs a ditch is just as honorable as the man who paints a picture. To cut a cord of wood is just as honorable as to compose a cantata. Building houses is just as honorable as writing books—or short articles for Socialist papers. Mental labor is essential to civilization, and man could not be much above the brute without it, but manual labor is the foundation of life in all stages of social development, and it is a burning shame that poverty and misery have penalized it for so many centuries.

All useful labor—mental and manual—is honorable. If anybody should be pointed out for scorn, it is the parasite, whether he lives by begging or stealing or by plundering the people thru the intricate process of "legitimate business".

To belittle useful labor anywhere is wrong. To do so from the pulpit is cruellest injustice. It flies in the face of facts. It implants in the minds of many impossibly aspirations. And finally, it defames the memory of a carpenter and agitator, who was spiked to a cross at Golgotha because he dared speak for the freedom and betterment of body and soul and against the ruin which the rich and powerful had wrought.

CAUGHT IN THE ACT.

Miss Anna Morgan, daughter of the late J. Pierpont Morgan, recently shocked those who sat in at a National Civic Federation banquet by smoking cigarettes. Now comes Mrs. Nicholas Longworth's daughter, Teddy Roosevelt, and raises a big fuss in the Hotel Belvedere, at Baltimore, because she mislaid her cigar case. Luckily it was recovered. Now the world may go on again.

Yet, if a daughter of the working class had been caught smoking a cigar in public, she would have been thrown into jail immediately. Not only that, but the silk-stocking reformers would immediately start a crusade for uplifting the morals of the toiling masses and thus save them from going to the everlasting bow-wows.

There is never a moment for a Socialist to waste in vain regret or to tear to shreds what might have been. His duty always lies ahead; the only way to atone for the past is to work all the harder for the future.

We Have The Facts!

Let us have a little action NOW! The federal trade commission has evidence sufficient to fix the responsibility for the present high cost of paper, not on any shortage of materials, but on the manufacturers of paper.

The house of representatives at Washington, D. C., was told the other day that the commission in its forthcoming report will state that the cost per hundred pounds for the manufacture of paper in 1915 was \$1.63, whereas in 1916 it was but \$1.68 1/2 a hundred.

As against this comparatively small increase in cost, the commission also will find that the manufacturers have boosted the price to the consumer as high as 400 per cent, and not infrequently 100 and 200 per cent.

These facts ought to force the government to take over every paper mill in the land. It is authoritatively stated that the paper trust is secretly furnishing the big capitalist dailies with paper at the prices in effect before the war.

That is given as the reason for their silence in the present crisis.

Can the silence of congress be bought with the same gold?

AMERICA'S PROBLEM.

We have nothing but encouragement for the efforts of the editor of The Sun, of Springfield, Ohio, to solve what he calls "America's Problem". His intentions are good.

"Will you support family of nine in return for man's labor?" is the question this editor asks of his readers in a startling headline. Then he gives the story of the Lewis family, father, mother and seven children, nine all told, equipped to face the world with the wages the father receives working ten hours a day for the Kelly-Springfield Motor Truck Co., at 30 1/2 cents an hour.

Wonder who was the wit that put that 1/4 cent on the hours pay when, as Orville Lewis, the breadwinner, states, "I was better off at \$1.25 a day during the hard times in 1896."

The problem that puzzles Orville Lewis is not that of getting a job. He has a job, thank you, and works every muscle in his body every day to the snapping point. His problem is to meet the increasing cost of living with the wages he receives. He decided, after nerve-wrecking pondering, that it couldn't be done. So he presented an advertisement to The Sun reading as follows:

"Owing to the high cost of living I would like to get a position where I can make an honest living for myself and family. I am getting 30 1/2 cents an hour, but I would be glad to accept a job from anyone who will in return for my services properly feed and clothe myself and family, as I am going in the hole every day."

It was this advertisement that stirred the editor of The Sun to this utterance:

"The problem of America today is to control the rapidly accumulating wealth and to curb the power of those who possess it. The prosperity and the position of the United States has been made possible by its farmers, its skilled workers and its inventors. Now the country is confronted with the menace of an unfair distribution of wealth which will kill the initiative of the people and prevent them enjoying the liberty and happiness guaranteed by the constitution. Until the problem of controlling great wealth and securing a fairer distribution of the products is solved, the safety of the country is menaced and the primal duty of the state today is to find the solution to this paramount question."

The Sun's editor should read up on Socialist literature. The problem is not the control of but the ownership of wealth. Let the people own the wealth they produce and then Orville Lewis and the breadwinners of every other family in the land will not be compelled to worry about the high cost of living. There are enough toilers in the land to produce enough for all, not necessities alone but luxuries as well. The cost of living is high and increasing because the private owners of the necessities of life are making huge profits out of the needs of the people. There will never be a fair distribution of the products of labor until profits are abolished and the masses of the people become the owners and the distributors.

This is what the world gets for not turning to Socialism.

However you may play the game, when the cards are stacked, you will lose.

Freedom of the seas is good; but it is freedom for the exploiters. The president does not say one word about the freedom of the worker.

They said Lawson was a liar and now it is proved he was right. But they will hush the investigation of the leak, just the same.

Freedom of the seas is good; but it is treatment of a symptom. It is commercialism for profit that has ended freedom of the seas.

The man who, thru combination and manipulation, holds up a nation's food supply and starves children, deserves hanging. But he gets rich.

You who voted for the old parties are to be rewarded by having most of the public officials appointed, on the ground that democracy is a failure.

If they must fight, let them go to it without the assistance of America. Shut down on food and munitions shipments.

Let every American stay at home. The rich scoundrels have no right to endanger the whole country by going to Europe now.

Yes, the world is on fire. And newspapers that howl for preparedness are playing the part of incendiaries.

The congressman who gets inside dope on the government and uses his knowledge in order to speculate and make money is a traitor and should be executed. But he goes free and is honored.

The city and county manager plan might be all right—if the managers were not appointed and if they did not appoint their helpers. As it is, it is merely a return of the spoils system on a stupendous basis.

After the war free love will prevail in Europe. But the apologists for capitalism will excuse it on the ground that it is necessary to make more children in order that they may fight more wars.

The papers that are seeking to prevent a peace plan with freedom of the seas do not belong in America. But they have to do something to pay the paper trust for killing off their rivals and making it so they can raise the price of their sheets.

Now, since it has been proved that the Bethlehem steel corporation charged America nearly twice as much as it did Europe for its rotten product many country weeklies are printing plate matter praising the concern, merely because the plate is given them free.

The recall of officials as proposed under the short ballot proposition is a fake recall. It provides that the under officials may be recalled, not by the people, but by their superior officers who appointed them.

The killing off of papers because of the arbitrary rise in the price of print paper, and the combination the big dailies, with a raise in their price, is merely a way of taking readers matter from the hands of poor, and of keeping them in ignorance.

THE CALL OF THE WILD!

By JACK LONDON.

Copyright By Jack London.

(Continued from last week.)

SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS.—The wild runs for Alaska is on. Dogs are needed to haul the sleds over the northern snows. Buck, king among dogs, is stolen from his home in the Seward Clara Valley, in California, shipped to Seattle, beaten into submission and sold to Perrault, agent for the Canadian government. Then he is taken aboard the steamer bound for the Northland. As the boat arrives at its destination, he is brought on deck and experiences his first snow. Buck and his mate, who soon learns the law of club and fang. He is suddenly jerked from the heart of civilization into the heart of things primordial. Life becomes a struggle for life and mastery. The dominant primordially beast gradually asserts itself in Buck and his mate. The first kill in a death struggle with Spitz, the leader of the team. Now on with the story.

CHAPTER V.

The Toil Of Trace And Trail.

Thirty days from the time it left Dawson, the Salt Water Mail, with Buck and his mates at the fore, arrived at Skaguay. They were in a wretched state, worn out and worn down. Buck's one hundred and forty pounds had dwindled to one hundred and fifteen. The rest of his mates, Buck and his mate, had relatively lost more weight than he. Pike, the malingering, who, in his lifetime of deceit, had often successfully feigned a hurt leg, was now limping in earnest. Solleks was limping, and Dub was suffering from a wrenched shoulder-blade. They were all terribly footsore. No spring or rebound was left in them. Their feet felt heavily on the trail, jarring their bodies and doubling the fatigue of a day's travel. There was nothing the matter with their expert, dead-tiredness that comes thru brief and excessive effort, from which recovery is a matter of hours; but it was the dead-tiredness that comes thru the slow and prolonged strength drainage of months of toil. There was no power of recuperation left, no reserve strength to call upon. It had been all used, the last least bit of it. Every muscle, every fibre, every cell, was tired, dead tired. And there was reason for it. In less than five months they had travelled twenty-five hundred miles, during the last eighteen hundred of which they had but five days' rest. When they arrived at Skaguay they were apparently on their last legs. They could barely keep the traces taut, and on the down grades just managed to keep out of the way of the sled.

"Mush on, poor sore feet," the driver encouraged them as they tottered down the main street of Skaguay. "Dis is de las' den we get one long res'. Eh? For sure. One bully long res'."

Dogs And Dollars.

The drivers confidently expected a long stopover. "Themselves, they had covered twelve hundred miles with two days' rest, and in the nature of reason and common justice they deserved an interval of loafing. But so many were the men who had rushed into the Klondike, and so many were the sweethearts, wives, and kin that had not rushed in, that the congested mail was taking on Alpine proportions; also, there were official orders. Fresh batches of Hudson Bay dogs were to take the places of those unthrifts for the trail. The worthless ones were to be got rid of, and since dogs count for little against dollars, they were to be sold.

Three days passed, by which time Buck and his mates found how really tired and weak they were. Then, on the morning of the fourth day, two men from the States came along and bought them, harness and all, for a song. The men addressed each other as "Hal" and "Charles." Charles was a middle-aged, light-colored man, with weak eyes and a mustache and vigorously up, giving the lie to the limpy drooping lip it concealed. Hal was a youngster of nineteen or twenty, with a big Colt's revolver and a hunting-knife strapped about him on a belt that fairly bristled with cartridges. This belt was the most salient thing about him. It advertised his callowness as a callowness sheer and unutterable. Both men were manifestly of the class of such as they should adventure the North in part of the mystery of things that passes understanding.

Buck heard the chaffing, saw the money pass between the man and the Government agent, and knew that the Scotch half-breed and the mail-train drivers were passing out of his life on the heels of Perrault and Francois and the others who had gone before. When driven with his mates to the new owners, Buck saw a shipshod and stout man, such as they should adventure the North in part of the mystery of things that passes understanding. Buck heard the chaffing, saw the money pass between the man and the Government agent, and knew that the Scotch half-breed and the mail-train drivers were passing out of his life on the heels of Perrault and Francois and the others who had gone before. When driven with his mates to the new owners, Buck saw a shipshod and stout man, such as they should adventure the North in part of the mystery of things that passes understanding.

Kind-hearted citizens caught the dogs and gathered up the scattered belongings of the team. They gave advice. "Half the load and twice the dogs," they ever expected to reach Dawson, was what was said. Hal and his sister and brother-in-law listened unwillingly, pitched tent, and overhauled the outfit. Canned goods were turned out that made men laugh. For canned goods on the Long Trail is a thing to dream about. "Blankets for a hotel," quoth one of the men who laughed and helped. "Half as many is too much; get rid of them. Throw away that tent, and all those dishes, and what's going to wash them, anyway? Good Lord, do you think you're travelling on a Pullman?"

Superfluous Eliminated. And so it went, the inexorable elimination of the superfluous. Mercedes cried when her clothes-bags were dumped on the ground and ar-

any more cold weather," the man replied. She shook her head decidedly, and Charles and Hal put the last odds and ends on top of the mountainous load. "Think it'll ride?" one of the men asked.

"Why shouldn't it?" Charles demanded rather shortly. "Oh, that's all right, that's all right," the man hastened meekly to say. "I was just a wonderin', that is all. It seemed a mite top-heavy."

Charles turned his back and drew the lashings down as well as he could, which was not in the least well.

"An' of course the dogs can hike along all day with that contraption behind them," affirmed a second of the men.

"Certainly," said Hal, with freezing politeness, taking hold of the rope-pole with one hand and swinging his whip from the other. "Mush!" he shouted. "Mush on there!"

The dogs sprang against the breast-bands, strained hard for a few moments, then relaxed. They were unable to move the sled.

"The lazy brutes, I'll show them," he cried, preparing to lash out at them with the whip.

"Oh, Hal, you mustn't," as she caught hold of the whip and wrenched it from him. "The poor dears! Now you must promise you won't be harsh with them for the rest of the trip, or I won't go a step."

"Precious lot you know about dogs," her brother sneered; "and I wish you'd leave me alone. They're lazy, I tell you, and you've got to whip them to get anything out of them. That's their way. You ask any one. Ask one of those men."

Mercedes looked at them imploringly, untold repugnance at sight of pain written in her pretty face.

"They're weak as water, if you want to know," came the reply from one of the men. "Plum tucked out, that's what's the matter. They need a rest."

"Rest be blanked," said Hal, with his beardless lips; and Mercedes said, "Oh!" in pain and sorrow at the oath. But she was a clannish creature, and rushed at once to the defense of her brother. "Never mind that man," she said pointedly. "You're driving our dogs and you do what you think best with them."

Again Hal's whip fell upon the dogs. They threw themselves against the breast-bands, dug their feet into the packed snow, got down low to it, and put forth all their strength. The sled held as tho' it were an anchor. After two efforts, they stood still, panting. The whip was whistling savagely, when once more Mercedes interfered. She dropped on her knees before Buck, with tears in her eyes, and put her arms around his neck.

"You poor, poor dears," she cried sympathetically, "why don't you pull hard?—then you wouldn't be whipped." Buck did not like her, but he was feeling too miserable to resist her, taking it as part of the day's miserable work.

One of the onlookers, who had been clenching his teeth to suppress hot speech, now spoke up:—

"It's not that I care a whoop what becomes of you, but for the dogs' sakes I just want to tell you, you can help them a mighty lot by breaking out that sled. The runners are froze fast. Throw your weight against the gee-pole, right and left, and break it out."

Sled Tips Over. A third time the attempt was made, but this time, following the advice, Hal broke out the runners which had been frozen to the snow. The overloaded and unwieldy sled forged ahead, Buck and his mates struggling frantically under the strain of eyes. A hundred yards ahead the path turned and sloped steeply into the main street. It would have required an experienced man to keep the topheavy sled upright, and Hal was not such a man. As they swung on the turn the sled went over, spilling half its load thru the loose lashings. The dogs never stopped. The lightened sled bounded on its side behind them.

They were angry because of the ill treatment they had received and the unjust load. Buck was raging. He broke into a run, the team following his lead. Hal cried "Whoa! whoa!" but they gave no heed. He tripped and was pulled off his feet. The capsized sled ground over him, and the dogs dashed on up the street, adding to the gaiety of Skaguay as they scattered the remainder of the outfit along its chief thoroughfare.

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article after article was thrown out. She cried in general, and she cried in particular over each discarded thing. She clasped hands about knees, rocking back and forth broken-heartedly. She averred she would not go an inch, not for a dozen Charleses. She appealed to everybody and to everything, finally wiping her eyes and proceeding to cast out even articles of apparel that were imperative necessities. And in her zeal, when she had finished with her own, she attacked the belongings of her men and went thru them like a tornado.

This accomplished, the outfit, tho' cut in half, was still a formidable bulk. Charles and Hal went out in the evening and bought six Outside dogs. These, added to the six of the original team, and Teek and Koono, the huskies obtained at the Rink Rapids on the record trip, brought the team up to fourteen. But the Outside dogs, tho' practically broken in since their landing, did not amount to much. There were short-haired pointers, one was a Newfoundland, and the other two were mongrels of indeterminate breed. They did not seem to know anything, these newcomers. Buck and his comrades looked upon them with disgust, and tho' he speedily taught them their places and what not to do, he could not teach them what to do. They did not take kindly to trace and trail.

With the exception of the two mongrels, they were bewildered and spirit-broken by the strange, savage environment in which they found themselves and by the ill treatment they had received. The two mongrels were without spirit at all; bones were the only things breakable about them.

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Hey-Day Now Here For The Jingoos And The War Gang

By LUCIEN SAINT.
(Special Correspondence.)
WASHINGTON.—Now is the hey-day for the jingoos and war gang. It is they who drove the President, a pacifist at heart, into the dangerous step of breaking off diplomatic relations with Germany, and it is they who will drive the President and the people into actual war unless the warring people rise up and by every means in their power strengthen the hands of the President.

The jingo newspapers want war and just as soon as they see that the President is temporizing, is trying to hold off war, is behaving as he did in the case of Mexico, then they will begin anew their insulting activities, their activities so menacing to the welfare of the citizens of the United States.

Much To Be Lost.
At the present moment it is not apparent that Germany has violated any item of international law, and the probabilities are that she will not violate any. She has much to lose from violations, and the American people have, perhaps, even more to lose from declaring war on Germany.

The President had NOT said that he intended to DECLARE war on Germany in case Germany killed Americans riding on ships. He said that in such an event he would ask the permission of Congress to use means to protect American lives. There is a vast difference between this kind of protection, which the President promises, and the indiscriminate orgy of slaughter which Roosevelt and the anti-German, war-loving crowd want.

It is all the difference between a policeman who escorts a woman thru a gang of thugs on the street and a policeman who goes out to shoot up strikers. The President's plan is merely to escort American ships with American naval vessels and to knock in the head, if necessary, any submarine which wants to sink these ships playing their legitimate course. That would not necessarily be war.

What Jingoos Want.
The kind of war that the jingoos want is different. They want our navy to sail and destroy the German navy; they want American armies landed on European soil for the purpose of joining the Russian, French and British armies in the carnival of slaughter.

As soon as the jingoos perceive the full and peaceful meaning of the President's plan, they will be at his heels, yapping and barking to drive him in-

to measures of aggression. The President—and I can state this upon the best possible authority—will fight for defense, not for aggression. This was his Mexican plan, a plan sadly messed up by the Regular army which wanted to get into Mexico and clean Mexico up. It is his plan today—to protect by a show of armed force and as peacefully as may be, the undoubted right in international law of Americans to travel on the high seas.

All the reactionary forces of the nation and representatives of all the allied powers are now in Washington utilizing every means at their command to drive the United States into this war.

Outstanding against full participation in the war are a few remaining pacifists and the Labor movement.

THE LABOR MOVEMENT CAN SAVE THE NATION FROM WAR.
It can save the country from war by using practical measures. Such as: Notifying every Congressman and Senator that war must be avoided by every means within human power.

Notifying every Congressman and Senator that the working people of his district have no quarrel with the working people of Germany or of any other nation.

Urging every Senator and Congressman to transmit these views, by the government cables, thru the State Department, to the working class organizations of Germany.

Watching the press and nailing the lies. Writing to the editors of the jingo papers, sending committees to wait on them, boycotting the jingoos, showing them that at a time like this only the truth, and that in her soberest garb must be printed.

Writing and writing to the White House saying that the sentiment of the people is NOT for war, is AGAINST more slaughter.

This correspondent does not enjoy the confidence of the President of the United States, but he can state, staking his reputation as a correspondent and the truth about the present situation and points the way to the best, if not the only means of avoiding war.

Time Is Critical.
It is a critical moment. The big capitalist papers, with one patriotic burr bury all the lies and political canards which are their daily menu, and cry "Support the President, no matter who he leads us." Blindly, without a word of protest, closing their brains, these journals would lead us into war. For the moment they forget the sacrifices of life and limb; the cost in taxes to the future generations; they ignore the dictates of humanity and Christianity in order to bring down war on a government which in the course of three years of war has incidentally if not accidentally caused the slaughter of less than 200 Americans—fewer than are killed in industry for profits in a single state in one year! Let not these blind lead us blindly.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPT.
Organization — Education — Solidarity.
WILLIAM F. KRUSE - - - Director
To reach the nation's youth with the message of Socialism and to bring them into the organized Socialist movement through Young People's Socialist Leagues.
Address all communications to: Socialist Party Young People's Dept., 403 W. Madison St., Chicago.

NATIONAL CHAMPS A STIMULUS.
The very first noticeable result of the National Championship Contest, aside from the fact that it has done a great deal of good work, is the large volume of press news that reaches this office, and also the exceptionally fine local publicity work done. Just as soon as the contest found out that publicity does count they went after it hot and heavy.

In this connection Trenton, N. J., was awarded 20 points for the half-dozen notices on the contest in each of the plute papers of the town, Omaha, Neb., was given one point for a front page notice of the league in "The Unionist" and another smaller notice in the local press. Jamestown, N. Y., was given 10 points for three columns of stuff, some of it front page, in the Five Rivers. All leagues are asked to bear in mind that only exceptional Press Agent work will be given credit of that kind, and that mere reading notices in Party papers will not get you anything. It must be exceptional, and the getting of it into the paper must represent present ability.

Help to the Socialist Party has also been stimulated. At the request of State Organizer Prof. George Fisher, the Chicago League are given 10 points for exceptional help in the Campaign Fair which the party ran in the city and State.

Five points were awarded to the Publicity Manager of the New Haven League for the fact that he had arranged for the contest to be put out. It is filled with high stuff and covers 14 pages.

A league was organized at Bridgeport, Conn., with members in the Five Rivers. Denver, Colo., ran its first dance and made a success of it. They are running a successful social, and an essay contest on Jack London.

Three leagues in Chicago, Ill., are arranging a big Symposium in which 90 per cent of the proceeds will go to the Five Rivers. New Britain, Conn., whose league is as new as its name, had a very interesting lecture-social at which 100 members were gained.

New Haven, Conn., has grown from five to fifty-seven members in good standing within five months. The contest has also included a debate on "Preparedness"; a lecture by J. Polsky, candidate for Mayor, a Mock Trial, and a Campaign Benefit Fair.

Reading has been run in a series of fine educational lectures every Sunday evening for the past three months. They report that large audiences have attended these lectures, and good results generally are obtained.

Washington, D. C., reports that a lecture by J. D. Bradley, President of the Secular League, on "Some Thoughts on the Great War," packed the hall to standing room only, and none of the left wing members were present for even the capitalist press of the capital gave extensive notice to it and the league backed up readily.

Letters have been sent to all the officers elected to represent the league on the National Championship Contest. These letters include the monthly contest question. All other leagues have also been urged to get into the contest and fully to back up the contest. Letters have been sent to the secretaries of the leagues, and they are urged to get into the contest, and to get into the contest, and to get into the contest.

folks heard about it and they got a hustle on. They worked harder in that election than they had for years and years, certainly much harder than they wanted to. But there was no use, you might as well set a steamroller to run a race with a 200 h.p. Blitzen-Benz. The kids worked on five meetings and made good, and when the time came to watch the polls they had a sympathizer on guard in every polling place and they worked their heads off canvassing the outside, getting out voters, and working like a gang of seasoned politicians. When our man was elected everybody thought it must have been an accident, but it wasn't, it was just work. They had made a plan of work for themselves, these Yipsels, and had carried it thru. There was a stake involved, the honor of the league first and a good feed second. The local paid up, of course, and charged it to the "Propaganda Fund"; every man-jack thought it was the best money ever spent, for more than half of the sympathizers that the Yipsels had persuaded to watch the polls joined the party at the next meeting and there have been some coming ever since.

The league made good too. It got every son and daughter of socialist folks in that town within a month, and when the party on the head of its victory got a fine new headquarters you can bet that the Y. P. S. L. was not forgotten in the arrangements. This gave it standing and pretty soon its membership and activity was greater than ever and work on public questions as well as those of the league kept everybody busy.

So remember, you organization theorists, to work the workers you must first provide work for workers.

"Stand Pat"—Or Quit

By EDMUND R. BRUMBAUGH.
On the same day on which the breaking off of diplomatic relations with Germany was reported, the legislative Committee of Local Omaha, Socialist Party, met and acting for the said organization, adopted resolutions concluding thus: "That we extend our fraternal greetings to the working class and the Socialists of all the belligerent nations, that we vigorously protest against the action taken by the government of the United States, and call upon all loyal comrades in this infamous cause. We bear arms in this infamous cause."

At this writing it is impossible to tell what is going to happen. Before this appears in print, war may be declared, or the cloud may have entirely disappeared. Whatever happens, however, whether the crisis comes or not, the Socialists of the United States should get ready to meet it.

I believe that the Socialists of Omaha have set an example which should be followed by Socialists everywhere.

Socialists should always speak against war, but never more so than when war is impending. Of course it takes courage to fly in the face of a hostile, stupid, misguided, and public opinion, but sometimes this is necessary in order to be true to one's self, to principles professed and to the cause of mankind. It might be better politics to pander to popular prejudice. We Socialists would be called wise if we called wise all that the ruling class calls wise. But "what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" And what does it profit a movement to be triumphant if its triumph has come thru treason to truth?

Nothing whatever.
The sequel to deception is destruction. Fraud and failure go hand in hand.
Let us not lead ourselves into destruction. If failure is to be our lot, which I am not yet ready to admit, let it be from forces apart from us and against which we are unable to contend.
Now is a time for us to "stand pat"—or quit.

Anti-War Notes.

State Secretary A. Wagenknecht, of Ohio, is sending out a call, "Action for Peace" to all the public Socialist locals in the state. One of the first protest mass meetings in the state was held in Cleveland, Feb. 8. Other meetings all over the state were to follow.

State Secretary John C. Kennedy, of Illinois, sent a copy of the National Executive Committee's Anti-War Proclamation to every local in the state calling on them to hold protest meetings immediately.

The Socialist party is by no means crushed to death in Greece. It has issued a manifesto calling upon the workers to be in readiness for a general election that may be ordered almost any day. The program demands a vindication of constitutional institutions and urges the repudiation of the personal parties of the King of Greece and the would-be usurper, Venizelos.

True To Our Class.

By WILLIAM F. KRUSE,
National Secretary Y. P. S. L.

The principles of the Young People's Socialist League demand one thing above all others—they demand loyalty to the working class. Nothing else matters but the best interests of the workers. Any public question that comes up is judged by this standard and by it alone.

Any war except a war against the oppression of a master class is hurtful to the workers. There is no condition except a struggle for emancipation that will ever justify one worker's spilling another's blood. In war the workers do the bleeding and suffering and dying. After the war they do all of the paying. They pay in blood, they pay in grief, and they pay in sweet-stained gold. They never benefit from war.

On the other hand their oppressors gratify all their ambitions thru the blood of the toilers. They make vast fortunes out of war. They have medals pinned on gaudy uniforms, they get their names into the papers they WIN—no matter which way the result ultimately goes—the masters win, the workers lose. Kings want to write their names in blood on the pages of history; newspaper owners want material for "extras"; politicians want to boost their stock in trade and flatter their sense of self-importance; munitions manufacturers want to increase their swollen hoards of gold—the masters would plume themselves, so the workers are ordered out to die!

We, members of the Young People's Socialist League, have nothing to do with this. Our interests are the interests of the working class, let us ever remain true to them. In Germany, Italy, Russia, yes, and in neutral Switzerland and Sweden, our leaders have faced persecution and imprisonment for the sake of their principles. They have stood against war even when the labor leaders and Socialist leaders of the older generation surrendered to the war god. The young Socialists have never compromised. They have been true, no matter what the cost. Our comrades across the sea have done this, we can do no less.

The working class of this country has nothing to gain by entering this world war on any side. We are not interested in the ambitions of the Kaiser, nor of those of George and the Tsar. We are interested only in the aspiration of humanity for freedom—freedom from a profiteer's exploitation and freedom from war. The poor workers in foreign uniforms are not our enemies. The rich Americans who own the mills and mines and factories, who force little children to work long hours in their mills, whose starvation wages grind young girls into the mire of the streets, whose exploitation by virtue of their parasitic ownership of the means of life puts a crushing weight on all who must work for a living—these are our enemies.

No true member of the Y. P. S. L. will give anything out of his heartiest opposition to dragging this country into any war. There are great influences now bent on bringing us into it, and perhaps the only way in which Socialists appear in print they will have succeeded. No matter what happens the Y. P. S. L. is opposed to war and to any of its machinery. We will oppose with whatever strength we can muster any attempt to introduce military training into the schools. We will not allow our members to take part in it. We will oppose military conscription under any conditions. We, members of the working class, did not ask for war. We have no wish to be plunged into this Hell. The master class wants war, the master class declares war, well, when the call is issued for cannon fodder to feed this maw of Hell, brought on the Hell, go to feed that which their greed has created.

COLLEGE LEAGUE IN WAR ON FORCED MILITARY TRAINING.
The Collegiate Anti-Militarist League, representatives of which recently appeared in opposition to the Chamberlain Military Training Bill in Washington, and which has requested President Wilson the honor of escorting him in the inaugural parade, is urging college men thruout the country to send to its New York headquarters petitions against compulsory military training as a menace to individual and social development and a potential force for the enthronement of military ideals and militaristic institutions.

AGITATE FOR PEACE.
Peace agitation continues in England despite the efforts being made to suppress it. A whirlwind rush by soldiers defeated an attempt last week to hold a peace meeting at Walthamstow, on the outskirts of London. James Ramsay MacDonald, a Labor member of Parliament, and Mrs. Philip Snowden, wife of a pacifist member of Parliament, were hustled off the platform by the soldiers, who, after clearing the hall of all pacifists, turned the affair into a meeting to push the war to a relentless end.

Leon Trotsky, a widely known Russian Socialist, who has suffered somewhat more of persecution because of his political views than the average man, has arrived in New York with his wife and two sons and will probably make his future home here. He was promptly arrested and held for a few days prior to adjournment of the Legislature. Trotsky was twice sent to Siberia and served four years in that land of prisons. Shortly before the war broke out he had gone to Berlin and was expelled when hostilities began. Then Trotsky proceeded to Paris, where he started a Russian organ, but was later ordered from France at the request of the Russian Ambassador. Trotsky was driven over the border into Spain, in which country he was promptly arrested and thrown into jail. Later he was permitted to board a ship with his family and sail for New York, where he will print a paper.

An Idea To Help Keep Socialism On The Map

WASHINGTON.—Women with banners stand daily at the gates to the White House. The banners bear inscriptions asking the President to give the women the vote—their political liberty.

The president could not grant the women the vote, even if he would. It would require a two-thirds majority of Congress. But if the President desired ardently that the women should have the vote, he could throw the great weight of his great office into the scales—and they would get it sooner than if he remained aloof and seemingly indifferent.

The women picketing the White House are a great aid for suffrage. "I wonder," mused a Washington Socialist the other day as he walked by the White House where the patient women stood, "if we could gain anything by placing pickets at the White House. They might arrest us, but then we could point to the law signed by Wilson which permits peaceful picketing. We could write on our banners, day after day the immediate political demands of the working class of the United States—red letters across a white field. Think what we could say to the President, to the voters in the National Capitol and, probably, to the people of the country thru the press."

The idea has something in it. It would unquestionably be effective propaganda. It would reveal to those in power the strength and determination of those who desire to share in the world's wealth. It would help to keep Socialism on the map.

CONSIDERATION FOR LABOR.

The reform policy of the new Mexican administration has gone forward so rapidly that the United States is expected soon to restore full diplomatic relations with its southern neighbor. Especially with consideration to labor the new government has shown itself decidedly progressive. Various public playgrounds for the athletic training of the young have been opened in Mexico City, the unions have been granted a minimum wage of one per day in Vera Cruz, and an extensive system of pensions for aged railroad employees. Under this system engineers are to receive per day \$2.62; conductors, \$2.50; inspectors, \$2.20; firemen, \$1.16; brakemen, 75c; coal passers, 62c; laborers, 25c.

Gen. Eduardo Hay, president of the National Agrarian Commission, has ordered the local land distributing commissioners to use all possible dispatch in restoring the community lands to all applicants from whom they were illegally taken. This land is to be used without the payment of rental but cannot be sold. The rate of exchange has been lowered from \$2.00 Mexican to \$1.00 U. S. where it has been since the Diaz regime to \$1.80 to \$1.00.

The Labor unions of Mexico City, on Jan. 7th, commemorated with appropriate ceremonies the assassination at Diaz orders of strikers in various industrial centers in the State of Vera Cruz.

It is reported that the proposed new national constitution of Mexico contains several "radical" provisions that have been protested against by the United States. Among them is the right of the Chief Executive to summarily banish obnoxious foreigners, and a provision to compel foreign concessionaires to make use of their "rights" within one year or forfeit them. Another thing that our State Department does not like is a provision that forbids all exemption from taxation. The provision is so worded that it may be applied retro-actively, and should it be so applied it would hit poor Willie Hearst's pocketbook a rude wallop. The people are going right on and it would seem that their heroic struggle for liberty will not be in vain.

FIGHTING FOR THE BOYS.

Business interests in Illinois are getting behind a measure introduced in the state legislature providing for compulsory military training in the public schools.

While the school boys are being trained as gun-toters the jingoos are fastening their tentacles stronger than ever upon the Chicago high school boys. In order to equip the military training course approved by the board of education, a requisition has been made upon the war department for the following:

Three thousand 30-caliber Krag rifles.
Two hundred 22-caliber practice rifles.
Three thousand bayonets, scabbards, etc.
Three thousand shelter halves—pup tents and poles.
Three thousand canteens, cups, knives and forks.
Three thousand haversacks.
Fifteen hundred and forty cavalry sabers for the leaders.

AMERICAN SOCIALIST
Official Organ of the Socialist Party of the United States.
J. L. ENGDALL - - - - - Editor
Entered as second-class matter, July 21, 1914, at the post-office at Chicago, Ill., under the Act of March 3, 1879.
Published every Saturday by the Socialist Party National Office, 803 West Madison St., Chicago, Ill.
BUNDLE RATES.—Bundle Rates One Year to one Address: 4 copies, \$1; 8 copies, \$2; 10 copies, \$2.50; 25 copies, \$6.25; 50 copies, \$12.50; 100 copies, \$25.00; Bundle Rates of any length, \$100, \$5; \$500, \$25.00; \$1,000, 100, 50 cents.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1917.

Scholarship Contest News

Name	Address	Points
M. K. Friedman	Kokomo, Ind.	665
Conrad L. Friberg	Chicago, Ill.	60
Mae Garber	Greenburg, Pa.	30
Miss E. W., Holyoke	Mass.	30
P. E. Tomlinson	Winona, Minn.	20
John C. Knowlton	Mason City, Ia.	12
R. H. Lane	Aurora, N. C.	8
Geo. Tigara	Knoxville, Tenn.	2
Robert H. Wilson	Brattleboro, Vt.	
Wm. Heino	Wilkeson, Wash.	
J. N. Carter	Omaha, Neb.	
L. M. Osborne	Alliance, O.	
Max Cervise	Irwin, Pa.	
Miss Selma E. Kajander	Butte, Mont.	
Harold F. D. A. Jackson	Los Angeles, Cal.	
Ernest Leo	Seattle, Wash.	
Marion L. Lehman	N. Glendale, Cal.	
Chas. Delinsek	Mullan, Idaho	
Conrad L. Friberg	Chicago, Ill.	
B. J. S., Gary	Ind.	
Maurice Levine	St. Paul, Minn.	
Ida Bienstock	Hartford, Conn.	
L. Van den Bergh	Minneapolis, Minn.	
Mrs. H. J. Grigsby	Great Falls, Mont.	
Abraham H. Fein	Bronx, N. Y. City, N. Y.	
Mrs. C. Sachse	Youngstown, O.	
Tony Morrello	Youngstown, O.	
I. V. Yingt	Kenosha, Wis.	
August Schell	Greenwich, Conn.	

Going Up!

We see two important advances made in the contest this week—Morris Friedman, the leader, increases his total by 20 points, and reports that he is going strong.

But Comrade L. Friberg, jumps all the way from 19th place where he was last week to second place with 60 points! He is now a "runner-up" and promises further progress.

There is really no reason why every contestant should not be going ahead just as fast. The American Socialist wants to see them get ahead, we want to see half a dozen live-wire comrades represent us at the school. The Socialist Party today needs trained workers and leaders. The best place to get that training is in our Socialist University—The Rand School.

If you want to see the Socialist movement, that is the place to get your training. It has trained others to succeed, it can certainly do the same for you. Out of a list of 59 former full time students, 52 are now active in the movement. Eight are national speakers and organizers, eight are employed on the Party press, seventeen are party officials, and seven are prominent union officials. This is the result of Rand School training.

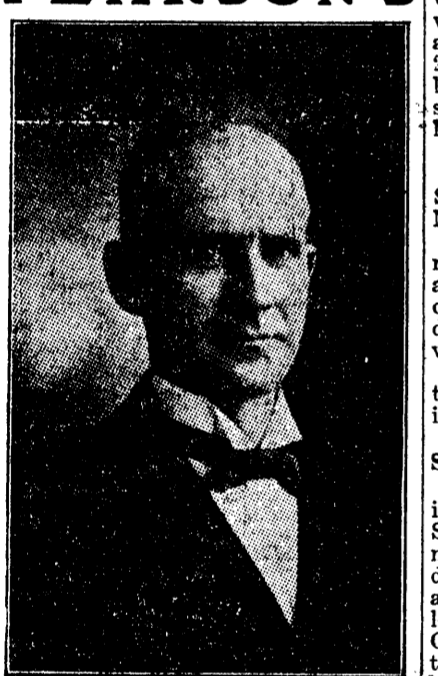
It is easy to win a scholarship if an earnest effort is made. Look what the leader, Comrade Friedman, has done. Anyone can do as well and better, too, for Kokomo, Ind., or the whole state for that matter, is not an ideal ground for socialism. There are larger cities—socialist cities—that are not doing as well. Any contestant can get the help of his comrades in this work. We will send him lists of subscription and renewals sent in will count just as well as new subs. We will be glad to help along in every possible way, because we want to see success attend your work—we want to see the best possible kind of comrade hustlers attend the school at the expense of this paper.

HIGH COST OF LIVING ON THE CAN L ZONE.

W. J. Donaldson, Bellaire, Texas, who was for seven years a foreman on the Panama Canal, has written a pamphlet on The Subsistence Department of the Panama Canal, and The High Cost of Living.

Every one should read this booklet which is a strong practical argument for Socialism and a warning to the student of economics. It is a valuable addition to the household and the student of economics. Sent for 10 cents and postage from National Office, Socialist Party, 803 W. Madison St.

DEBS TO WRITE FOR PEARSON'S



First article March number (on sale February 10th).
Subject—Personal reminiscences of JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY
PEARSON'S invited Debs to become a contributor as follows: "We want to introduce you to our readers in a series of personal reminiscences after which you may choose your own subjects."

DEBS' second article will be ROBERT INGERSOLL.

THE NEW PEARSON'S PEARSON'S is conducted and managed by radicals. Those who feared that the introduction of a new editor would bring a change of policy have been agreeably surprised.

FRANK HARRIS THE EDITOR
Robert Blatchford (author of Merrie England) once said of Harris to a friend: "There goes the greatest living writer."

OUR LABOR SERIES

Three months ago PEARSON'S engaged A. M. Simons to write the history in series of the American Labor Movement. Three articles have appeared and have attracted wide attention:
The Printers in December.
The Cigar Makers in January.
The Miners in February.
The telegraphers will come in March; other trades from month to month.
We have arranged for a special dubbing rate of PEARSON'S good for 30 days only. If your subscription to this paper has not expired, we will set your subscription ahead. Make your remittance direct to this office and your subscription will be promptly forwarded to PEARSON'S. THE SUBSCRIPTION PRICE OF PEARSON'S MAGAZINE IS \$1.50 PER YEAR.
SUBSCRIPTION PRICE OF THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST IS 50C PER YEAR.

Special 30-Day Offer Both for \$1.50

Send all orders to:
THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST,
803 W. Madison St.,
Chicago, Ill.

London Shows All Taxes Are Levied On Producers

Representative Meyer London recently took part in the discussion on the revenue bill in congress, and said he would vote against it, because it is for the purpose of paying the "preparationness" bills. He also gave the Socialist view on taxation. He said in part:

"All taxes, whether they are called income taxes or whether they are imposed by a protective tariff, are paid by the men and women who work. No matter who sends the tax to the tax collector, the taxes are paid by the people who contribute useful service for the life of the community. Therefore, all this talk of the Republicans to the effect that if a high protective tariff were imposed the people would not be taxed is just as indefensible and absurd as the argument of the Democrats that, because they are imposing the taxes upon the rich, the poor people will not be called upon ultimately to pay them."

Impossible To Burden Rich. This argument was especially timely, as the so-called "progressives," in trying to find a justification for levying more taxes upon the people, pride themselves on their ingenuity of devising a scheme whereby the burden will be put only upon the rich.

London, for the sake of emphasis, repeated: "The taxes are not paid by the rich. They are paid by the man who works for a living. I know my voice is like a voice of one crying in the wilderness, but when you read the headlines of this bill, the title of it, 'A Bill to Provide Increased Revenue to Defray the Expenses for the Army and Navy and the Extensions of Fortifications,' I cannot get myself to vote for it."

No Remedy For H. C. of L. London also told them that neither the Republicans nor the Democrats have any remedy to offer for the high cost of living. Neither one of the parties know how to tackle this most important question of the day.

He said: "The high cost of living will not be reduced as long as a minority of the people have it within their power to tax the great masses by charging prices, by owning the means of production and transportation."

"As long as a minority of the people control the means of production and distribution, they will charge such prices as they can get out of the masses of the people."

London was listened to with undivided attention by both sides of the House. His speech reached the climax when at the top of his voice he cried: "The people ask for bread, shoes, clothing and shelter, and you give them cannon, fortifications and artillery!"

He said he is opposed to the bill because every man, woman and child will be taxed \$10 a year to pay for the preparationness which there is no earthly use for. He accused both parties alike for this preparationness, which is "reckless, unreasonable and criminal."

He called upon congressmen to devote the last days of this Congress to take up the high cost of living, to legislate for the people instead of legislating to create an aristocracy of munition interests."

The applause of both sides of the House was loud and prolonged. If this revenue bill will be defeated a great deal of the credit will, undoubtedly, be due to that brilliant speech of the only Socialist in Congress.

What About It?

From The New York Call. In New Jersey a mother is charged with having killed her baby girl because she had more children than she could care for—and another on the way.

In Brooklyn a father, a widower, shot his three children and himself because he could not properly care for the children.

The former Mrs. Astor reports that it is costing \$86,034 a year to support the Astor baby.

The price of grade B milk, used by the common people, has gone up another cent.

The steel trust cuts a melon of \$105,968,347, which is the profit secured by the trust in three months.

Congress is toying with a \$600,000,000 pork barrel.

The Bethlehem Steel company is asking the government \$500 per shell for big gun ammunition.

The government reports that the cost of living is rising steadily.

There are 15,000 executions per year on New York's East Side.

These are matters of the news of the day. These things are before the people today.

What are you going to do about it?

Encouraged by the fact that last November 260,000 men and women of California voted for the Great Admiration amendment to the State Constitution to destroy land monopoly, the Single Taxers have decided to renew the fight and press it to a successful conclusion in the State election next year. Initiative petitions are out bearing the title: "To secure to every adult the power to own his own home and direct his own life and work; to abolish land monopoly, wage slavery, disemployment and pauperism, by applying the Golden Rule at the base of life."

The amendment to the State Constitution proposes: "On and after Jan. 1, 1920, all public revenues, State, county, municipal and district, shall be raised by taxation of the value of land irrespective of improvements thereon, and no other tax shall be levied. The intent of this amendment is to prevent the holding of land out of use for speculation and to apply the land values which the community creates to community purposes." It is quite certain that the Socialist, union labor and other progressive elements will all support the Great Adventure.

IN THE WORLD OF LABOR.

By Max S. Hayes.

THE STRUGGLE impending to foist a State Constabulary on the working people of New York, which it is intended should have more powers than the police in cities, is reaching an interesting stage. It is charged that the National Security League and the new National Industrial Conference Board are behind the scheme, and that handsome women lobbyists have been pressed into service to use their blandishments on certain kinds of legislators. Indeed, it is claimed that women have been employed for many months circulating petitions in backwoods towns urging the Legislature to enact a State constabulary ostensibly to protect rural communities.

THE BUILDING trades of Germany have been harder hit by the war than any other industry. The Building Trades Union includes substantially all crafts, and the total membership three years ago was 310,444. The first year of the war the union lost 4 per cent of its members, in 1915 over 20 per cent, and, while figures for 1916 are not yet complete, it appears that the once powerful union has dropped to a membership of about 81,000. The organization has also spent over \$1,000,000 since the war began to relieve the distressed members and their families. It is indeed proving a costly war for those who had no hand in creating it.

STILL ANOTHER daily labor paper is to be started in Australia—this time at Melbourne. The organized workers are laughing at the lost influence of the old capitalist dailies, all of which were solidly lined up for conscription in the recent national referendum, while the laborites had the backing of but a few weaklings. But the latter had more actual power and became more widely read than the strongest corporation sheets. Naturally the plutocrats are feeling the effects of their coercive policies in increasing ratio.

THE LONDON Times prints a letter from a soldier at the front. "Everybody," he writes, "is beginning to have a purpose in life. The wheel cannot move back again. Everybody who has been out here, whether he wanted to or not, has been obliged to think. He has got some definite ideas on certain principles of life and has made for himself, unconsciously, perhaps, a certain code of morals which he will follow. Let not all this be in vain. Let the public mind at home be opened and prepared for the soldiers when they come home. After this life, will they be contented to return to the slums again? O, no."

OH, YES, the railway magnates obey the laws—when they feel like it, which feeling is gradually becoming less in evidence each year. An increase of more than 25 per cent in the number of instances in which employees in railway train service worked longer than 16 consecutive hours—the limit provided by Federal law—during the past fiscal year over the preceding year, has been reported by the Interstate Commerce Commission. During the year 73,731 railway employees were on duty longer than 16 consecutive hours, against 53,894 last year. Instances of excess of nine consecutive hours totaled 15,907, as against 11,510 last year.

IN THE referendum vote on conscription, which was defeated by the Labor party in Australia, the soldiers in the trenches of Europe were also sent ballots and given the right to vote their preference. They voted not by an overwhelming majority—106,000 to 40,000 against compulsory military service. The scheme was defeated without counting the soldier vote. Peter Larkin (brother of Jim Larkin, the Irish revolutionist), now in this country, and a number of other anti-war agitators have been arrested in Australia by the militarists on charges of treason in revenge for their fight against the warmongers.

THE WORKING people of Japan seem to be organizing in earnest. From almost nothing three or four years ago (when the unions that existed were virtually stamped out by the hostile politicians in control of the government) the labor movement has reached a growth of about 3,000 members per month and has now reached upward of 50,000. Mr. Suzuki, who represented the Japanese workers at the last two A. F. of L. conventions, is credited with being the chief spokesman of the new organization.

FROM Pittsburgh comes the information that the iron and steel barons of that section have opposed locating the big government armor plant there because it will operate on an eight-hour basis, which fact is regarded as a menace to the long-hour slave-driving systems that prevail in the mills operated by the Steel Trust and other concerns.

THE LABOR Publicity Organization has been started in New York by delegates from unions in that city and surrounding states for the purpose of backing labor papers and starting such publications where needed. Details are to be worked out by a committee during the next few months.

THE representatives of the miners, railway employes and dock workers of Great Britain—known as the (Triple Alliance)—held a conference in London and protested against the importation of colored labor by government of private concerns.

A new Socialist school has been opened in San Francisco. It is known as the Jack London Memorial Library and School of Social Science. The teachers are Max Bedacht, Cameron King, Ethel Cotton and Robert Minor.

In Case Of War.

By JOSEPH E. COHEN.

IT MAY be that, in spite of what the wise heads in America can do, we shall soon mix in the European war. So long as we are not thrown into the bloody encounter, we raise our voice in unending protest.

This is not now and never has been a people's fight. It is now and has been from the start nothing more than a quarrel among the European governments for industrial and commercial power and place. It will remain that kind of a war whether or not the United States enters into it.

To enter this war reason must be thrown to the winds. For consider, here is Germany (for whatever lack of reason) actually challenging the United States to fight or permit even its passenger vessels to be made contraband and prohibited from crossing the ocean. And here are our pro-English patriots clamoring for war with Germany, which is apparently just what Germany wants.

Germany is willing to have us go to war, because it feels it can use its submarines more successfully in stopping the shipment of food stuffs, clothing, munitions and other supplies to the Allies. And the pro-Allies Americans are willing to play right into Germany's hands in order to have war.

Reason has been thrown to the winds in this war. In no case are a people of any nation fighting for democracy and freedom against those who keep them down and oppress them. This is a quarrel among the ruling classes and their governments. And the people of all nations are paying the cost.

Meeting The Cost. It is true that this war is so appalling that the capitalist classes are bound to pay a large slice of the bill, and their government may be put to it to drag themselves out of the financial hole. But the case is not nearly so serious as is often imagined.

Here is something by way of illustration: Sidney Webb and Arnold Freeman have recently issued a little pamphlet called "Great Britain after the War." It is an attempt to make a survey of all the factors, human and material, now involved and out of which the future empire is to be built.

They figure it out that if the war ends in 1917 Great Britain's debt will be about four billion pounds sterling (about \$21,000,000,000). Taking account of all governmental items, such as interest on the debt, sinking fund to meet it, war pensions, possible expense of further preparedness, and all non-military expenditures increased considerably, the annual cost of running the government will be about 550,000,000 pounds sterling. How far this sum falls short of being colossal may be judged from the fact that the budget for 1916—17 is 502,000,000 pounds.

From the above it can be seen how little there need be of increased productivity in Great Britain to cover the new obligations.

Reduced To Bondage. On the other hand the "Munitions of War Acts" of 1915 and 1916 prevent workmen from striking, from leaving their employment without the permission of their employers, and from disobeying any rules made by the employers for the shops. That is to say, the workers of England have been reduced to bondage, as have the workers in the other countries at war.

If war comes to America, it is because our ruling class has gone out to meet it and make it.

From the very beginning the business crowd has manufactured public sentiment in the direction of their own interests.

While England and Germany alike have played havoc with American rights on the sea, England's invasions have been glossed over while Germany's have been exaggerated. And this because the Allies' loans had to be floated, and our plutocrats could sell their goods to one side only.

If war comes, it comes because the war profits of the capitalist are threatened by Germany's sea policy—profits which would stick to the pockets of the captains of industry instead of bringing prosperity to the workers.

If War Comes! If war comes to America, the most important thing to do will

be to keep the workers' standard of living, maintain the rights won in time of peace, and do what is in our power to shift the weight upon the capitalist class who have all to gain by the calamity.

If war comes, it is because war is bound to come so long as men's lives are cheap when business bargains are to be struck,—because plutocratic supremacy is of greater importance than the welfare of humanity.

If war comes, it comes because capitalism is war. Should war come, and should it be only a more bitter moment in the struggle for markets, merchandise and money, let those who stand to win such fortunes throw themselves into the furnace.

If war comes, then upon those who call it into being rests the fearful responsibility. The working people have no share in that responsibility.

It remains the responsibility of the working people to look past such war to the coming of peace, wherein the common humanity of all nations may join hands in a universal brotherhood.

The ruling class makes war. The working class alone can bring peace!

Our Supreme Court

From The Los Angeles Record. It was a week ago today that we said some things that were on our heart and mind about the supreme court of this nation.

Since then we have had considerable peevish complaint from various stand-pat sources.

Reading these communications we gather that we must be wearing a red shirt, waving a red flag, and carrying a life membership card in the royal and roistering order of the I. W. W. because we dared criticize the highest court in the nation.

While we are at it we might remark that everything we said before goes, and for good measure we add a few more specific charges against this forlorn-sentenced batch of be-gowned reactionaries.

Why not abolish congress and take the veto power from the president? Our government would be much simplified, and the change would be inconsequential.

Why pretend any longer that the people or their elected legislators make the laws? They don't. The most that can be said for them is that they propose laws. And it is a slow and painful process that results in such proposals.

Nine old gentlemen appointed for life by the president of the United States and confirmed by the senate are the real law-making body of this "republic." The United States supreme court says what shall and what shall not be law.

It requires a specific case to show clearly to what we have arrived. This case is furnished by the so-called eight-hour law—the Adamson act passed by congress last summer declaring eight hours to be the basic working day for railroad employes, and setting January 1 for the act to take effect.

January 1 has come and gone; but the act has not gone into effect.

Why not? Is there anything more congress or the president can do to make the people's will a law? No. The proposal passed all the legislative hurdles. It was duly presented as a bill. It was considered in committee, argued in both houses of congress, received a majority vote, was engrossed, and signed by the president.

But it is not a law.

Some railroad lawyers started a case out in Missouri and the decision of a local judge has been appealed to the supreme court. That body has not considered the appeal.

But what has all this to do with the eight-hour law passed by congress?

When congress passed the tax requiring a penny stamp on a telegram did telegraph users inquire whether the case had gone to the supreme court? When the interstate commerce commission ruled that the railroads might add 5 per cent to freight rates, did they wait until a test case had gone to the supreme court before they began levying the added tax on the shipper and consumer?

They did not. Is there then one kind of a law for workmen and another kind for owners? If the law favors the investing class is it presumed to be good law and to require no o. k. from the supreme court; while if the law favors workmen it is presumed to be bad law and may be regarded as NOT LAW until the supreme court has endorsed it?

Presumably. Why all this flummery of an opinion by a Kansas judge which is not really an opinion, but is a perfunctory ruling intended to "expedite" the question to the supreme court? Is there any power, or any law that the rich must obey equally with the poor?

While the supreme court is about it, suppose these black-gowned oracles answer the above inquiries.

WEALTHY ESCAPE TRENCHES.

Signor Ferri, the Socialist leader in the Italian Parliament, threw a bomb last week when he charged that 90 per cent of the fighting on the war front is done by the peasants and city workmen. He showed that the wealthy have successfully worked all sorts of schemes, from forging alliances to bribery to keep out of the trenches. Ferri's charges created a sensation and up to the present the government has not replied to them and probably won't.

Some Food Prices.

By WALTER HUGGINS.

DID you say corned beef and cabbage? You will not get this dish except at first class hotels, and then seldom, and when you order baked beans at the restaurant every-one slants around to see what rich guy has come in.

Potatoes 75 cents a peck! Flour \$10 a barrel, and other daily necessities as high in proportion. What is the wage worker going to do about it? Not what he is going to say about it. He has been saying something all the time. Now it is time he did something. The writer having been connected with the wholesale grocery and produce business for upwards of thirty years presents some prices of staple foods that existed for years. Of course, wages have gone up in the same time, perhaps thirty per cent, but much of the food stuffs several hundred per cent.

Long, Long Ago.

I have often sold one hundred heads of cabbage for fifty cents the lot, much larger in size than what I saw retailed for fifty-five cents each at a grocery yesterday. Many cabbages have been sold in Chicago this week, the larger size, for seventy-five and eighty-five cents per head.

I have often sold navy beans, \$1.25 per bushel, now selling \$7; potatoes 25c per bushel, now \$2.50; turnips, carrots, parsnips, onions, 20c per bushel, now selling for \$1; apples, 35c, now selling \$1.50; ripe tomatoes 12 1/2c, now selling for \$1; string beans 25c, now \$1.50; cucumbers 15c, now \$1; pickles 25c per bushel, now \$1.50; celery 7c per dozen, now 30c; green corn, 20c per sack, now \$1.25; beef loins, No. 3 grade, 6c per pound, now 16c; beef ribs, No. 3 grade, 5c per pound, now selling 14c. This number 3 grade is the best quality sold in most working class districts and in many other districts for that matter. Pork loins, best, 5c per pound, now selling 18c; pork sausage, best, 5c per pound, now 14c; salt pork 6 1/2c, now selling 20c; bacon 7 1/2c, now selling 28c; pure lard, 4 1/2c, now selling 18c; chickens 5c per pound. Dressed hogs 4c per pound. Whole dressed sheep 7c each.

I could mention prices even lower than these that occurred at frequent intervals, but these were market prices for years in the season when they were marked.

These were the days of the big bushel, the down weight, when skimping was unknown and unnecessary. A whole beef liver could be purchased for 5c, now a slice costs the same.

Only Way Out.

And wages they say have gone up about thirty per cent.

Again we repeat, "What are you workers going to DO about it?" One thing to do at once, is to study Socialism. It's the only way out.

The prices quoted are wholesale and you would have to add 25 per cent to get the retail price.

I See Be Th' Papers.

The Coast Fortifications Bill has been passed by the Senate and carries an appropriation of \$51,993,593. A good deal more than half of that is to be spent this year so not even a large Socialist representation elected next Fall could stop it.

The Inland Steel Company reports that its net profits for 1916 were \$10,826,236, a return of 105.25 per cent on its total capitalization. Had Congress taken over the industry last year it would in one year have made enough to pay for the whole works and have enough left over to buy Congress a drink. The 1916 profits are almost seven million dollars higher than those of a year ago.

W. F. O'Connor, local food supervisor for the Dominion of Canada, has reported that some coal dealers in Toronto are charging \$30 a ton for coal when delivered in small quantities.

The President of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company, of New York City, recently invited his victims to write letters advising him of their opinion of the service and how it might be improved. It is said that the response has been entirely beyond his expectation, but he has decided not to publish any of the letters received! As the late Post would say, "There's a reason." Some opinion we know of would set fire to that mail box.

Arthur Watson, of the Pentecostal Mission at Toronto, Canada, has been found guilty of "dissuading citizens from performing a public duty." His sermons did not suit the jingoes as well as the blood and fire spouting in other steeples. When you want to quote the scriptures in Canada you should first consult the Chief of Munitions.

Meyer London, Socialist Congressman from New York, has been invited to attend a conference of the "independent" members of the House. Whatever may be said of the others, the people may be quite sure that London is entirely "independent" of the influence of any of our "friends" of the master class.

The labor organizations of North Monmouth, England, have thrown overboard their so-called "political truce" declared at the beginning of the war and will run Thomas Griffiths, organizer for the Steel Smelters' Union, against the present incumbent, Reginald McKenna.

Such large numbers of Negroes have gone North that the industrial captains of the slowly advancing South are growing alarmed. They see their fingers in the workers' hands and intend to continue to accept their conditions. Better schooling and housing, and higher wages are being offered as a direct result of the "walk-out."

Chicago Labor Protests Against War On Germany

Taking its stand in the front rank of the American workers' war on war, the Chicago Federation of Labor at its regular meeting last Sunday voiced a unanimous protest against possible war with Germany.

A resolution addressed to President Wilson and the senators and congressmen from Illinois was passed by acclamation. It reads:

The Chicago Federation of Labor protests against this country taking part in the European war and demands that all American citizens be prevented from entering the war zone.

Barney Berlyn, on behalf of the Socialist Party, announced that the Socialists of the city would hold a large mass meeting as soon as preparations could be carried out, to protest against war with Germany. He invited the members of organized labor to attend this meeting.

"Want Every Union Man."

"We want every union man in Chicago present," said Berlyn. "We wish to make conclusively evident that the working men of the United States have no quarrel with the working men of other nations. We wish to demonstrate our set purpose not to sacrifice our lives, our wives, and our children to the self-seeking capitalists who are now endeavoring to plunge us into the horrors of war."

"We want to preface the mass meeting by a gigantic parade of the workers of the city which will prove to the capitalist class that we do not want war and will do all in our power to keep the nation from entering a conflict, all the burdens and sorrows of which will fall upon the laboring people."

"We are going to demand that the nation remain at peace. If our voices are strong enough we may not have to fight."

"Lost Patriotism at San Juan."

William Sims, a Negro, of the Flat Janitor's union, a veteran of the Spanish American campaign in Cuba, said: "I lost all my patriotism at San Juan hill. If every workman will do his duty to himself, his wife and children, he will remain peacefully at his work. If the authorities try to force him into the army he will say: 'Shoot me on the spot. I will not enlist.' This is a common-sense way of showing the capitalists that we will not permit ourselves to be made cannon fodder for their interests."

President John Fitzpatrick said that the attitude of the Chicago federation should be in accord with that taken by the American Federation of Labor at its annual convention two years ago.

"The American federation," said Mr. Fitzpatrick, "went on record then that labor would not support congress in any steps which would involve this country in the European struggle. The laboring people of America are opposed to all war."

Mary O'Reilly, a prominent Socialist member of the federation executive board and of the Chicago Teachers' Federation, said a telegram should be sent to the president reminding him that he was elected on the slogan: "Thank God for Wilson; he has kept us out of war."

American Workers Urge Germans To Prevent War

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, according to Associated Press reports received in Chicago, has appealed to the secretary of the German federation to use his influence and that of his organization to prevent war with the United States.

A cablegram, addressed by Gompers to Secretary Legien of the German federation at Berlin, was made public together with a statement given by the president of the American federation credit for preventing war between the United States and Mexico last June.

It was stated in labor circles that Gompers, having appealed to the German labor group to exert its influence with the Berlin government, will himself bring strong pressure to bear on President Wilson.

During the row with Carranza last summer, which resulted in the calling out of the national guard, Mr. Gompers saw the president and made strong representations against war. Mr. Gompers in turn addressed a telegram to Gen. Carranza urging him to comply with the demand in order to avoid war.

YOU WANT TO SEE a final report on the Dime Fund, don't you? This cannot be done until all outstanding banks are in. Return yours today and ask hat friend of yours to return his.

MILITIA REJECTS OATH.

Battery C, National Guard battery of the United States, will be dissolved and mustered out within the immediate future, says the Gazette, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. This was decided practically beyond all question of doubt when by heavy vote the artillerymen decided against retention of the battery under existing conditions, which includes subscribing to the new federal oath, which provides for six years' service, three years active and three years on the reserve list, subject to any contingency.

Tackle a big job in a big way and stick to it without finching if you aspire to develop the spirit and stature of a man.

The Road To Power.

MANY thousands of Kautsky's great book, "The Road to Power," have been sold. The original price was 25c per copy. We bought a lot at a cheap price and can let you have them at 10 cents each. This is a classic and should be read by every Socialist. Order now—Socialist Party, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago.

Prosperity.

From "Benson's" Monthly. The New York Times, in its annual financial review, said that "last year was the best the United States ever had," meaning thereby that business broke all records. Indeed, the Times said that the country had "almost too much prosperity."

If there are no classes in this country, these statements apply to you and your fellow workers as much as they do to the gentlemen in Wall Street.

If these statements do not fit your case—if there are classes in this country—your class is getting the worst of it.

Did you vote for or against your class last November? If you voted against your class, it is strange that Wall street wallows in wealth while you struggle hard for a mere living?

What is Mr. Wilson doing to improve your condition? What would Mr. Hughes have done? Congress and the President could reduce the high cost of living. A dozen bills have been introduced in Congress looking toward that end. Have you heard the President raise his voice in the matter?

Nor will Congress do anything. To introduce bills that are never passed is one of the best little tricks in Washington. The bills please the people and do not hurt the rich gentlemen who do not object a bit to the high cost of living, because they get the money.

Socialists At Work

NOTE.—What are the Socialists doing in your city county or state? The editor of this column wants to know. Send in the news about your activities. Please mail specially to local secretaries, state secretaries and other officials of the party. Send all communications to the Editor, "Socialists At Work" Column, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

AID FOR WISCONSIN CITIES.

Wisconsin cities will be enabled to engage in any business they see fit, if a bill introduced by Assemblyman Gilbert H. Poor, Socialist, becomes the law. The bill provides that cities may become indebted 30 per cent of their valuation, in addition to the 5 per cent now permitted, for the purpose of engaging in revenue producing industries. The greatest handicap, which cities now have, in taking over public utilities, or entering any business, which private corporations now control is the restriction in the debt limit.

FOR STATE PRINTING PLANT.

Assemblyman H. O. Kent, Socialist, introduced two bills in the Wisconsin legislature, affecting state printing, one calling for an eight-hour day in all establishments doing printing for the state and the other providing establishment for a state printing plant. Both bills were introduced two years ago and were defeated only after a bitter struggle in which The Madison Democrat Printing company, which has the bulk of the state printing, was most active.

PURE ICE AT COST.

While the rest of the country will be growing at local Ice Trusts again next summer and swelter in the heat, the people of Two Harbors, Minn., will receive ice manufactured from pure water in a city-owned plant at slightly more than cost of production. That is what the Socialist administration of Two Harbors has decided upon, and, while a few plutes growl that the innovation discourages private enterprise, destroys incentive and may break up profiteering homes, the rest of the people are satisfied.

AID DOMESTIC WORKERS.

A bill relating to hours of labor of persons in domestic work and providing a penalty has been introduced in the Wisconsin legislature by Assemblyman H. O. Kent, Socialist, Milwaukee. The measure, if passed, will empower the state industrial commission to fix a reasonable time for work of persons engaged in household work or domestic work.

Paragraphs

By EUGENE V. DEBS. From The Rip-Saw.

To organize along industrial lines upon the basis of the class struggle the workers assuredly lay the solid foundation of the industrial commonwealth.

The high cost of living is the price the working class have to pay for the privilege of voting the capitalist class ticket on election day.

Give us Socialists, real Socialists, to plant upon the firing line and we shall not want for results on election day or any other day of the year.

The national election