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# AMERICAN SOCIALIST

Readers For The American Socialist Now Means Party Members Later On

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304

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## CONSCRIPT LOOT OF BLOOD PROFITEERS! SOCIALIST DEMAND SWAYS CONGRESS!

**T**HE VERY DAY that Congress declared war against Germany the Socialist Party met in an emergency national convention at St. Louis to consider war problems and the position which the Socialist Party should take regarding them.

The method for raising the vast revenues necessary to prosecute the war was one of the most vital questions considered by the convention.

The convention believed that the capitalist class thru its capitalist congress would undertake to exempt the rich from adequate taxation and throw the war burdens upon the working people by taxing the necessities of life and by borrowing money from the money lords to be repaid with interest. Confronted with the war revenue problem, the Socialist convention adopted this declaration:

"We pledge ourselves to oppose with all our strength any attempt to raise money for payment of war expense by taxing the necessities of life or issuing bonds which will put the burden upon future generations.

"We demand that the capitalist class, which is responsible for the war, pay its cost.

"Let those who kindled the fire furnish the fuel."

This declaration was overwhelmingly approved by a referendum vote of the Socialist party membership. It thus became the Party's official declaration regarding the method by which it believed Congress should raise the revenue to prosecute the war against Germany.

The Socialist demand that wealth be conscripted to pay for the war received large support in the United States Senate during the past week.

The war revenue bill as reported to the Senate by the majority of the finance committee tiptoed up to taking a paltry 27 per cent of the war profits which the war profiteers have extracted from the people, but hesitated to go further for fear increased tax exactions would "disturb business." The bill left the profiteers 73 per cent of their war profits on top of the normal profits, which are exceedingly large.

As soon as the bill approved by the majority of the finance committee came before the Senate, Senators La Follette of Wisconsin, Gronna of North Dakota, and Thomas of Colorado, submitted a minority report which insisted that the major part of the funds required for war purposes should be secured thru the conscription of war profits.

The Socialist demand as interpreted by La Follette, Gronna and Thomas immediately rallied strong support in the Senate. Johnson of California, Hollis of New Hampshire and Townsend of Michigan, made strong speeches in its favor.

Senator La Follette, who prepared the minority report recommending conscripting at least 80 per cent of the war profits, made the keynote speech in support of making the rich pay for the war. He said:

### "Apply Conscription To Money", Urges La Follette

"Conscription is applied to men. Let it be applied to money. We owe it to the men marked for slaughter, to the homes already draped with the shadows of death, to take wealth as mercilessly by the power of taxation as we take men by the force of the draft.

"It is the history of all great wars that wealth has demanded the minimum of taxation and the maximum of loans, while the poorer classes have desired the maximum of taxation and the minimum of loans.

"The rich slackers prate of patriotism and democracy. Wealth is not volunteering its wealth to any extent, and the men who own it have been engaged for 20 years in destroying democracy from one end of the United States to the other.

"Wealth has never sacrificed itself on the altar of patriotism in this or any other war. On the contrary, it has shown itself eager to take advantage of the misfortunes which war always brings to the masses of the people."

La Follette was especially severe in his arraignment of the money capitalists for foisting heavy bond issues upon the people to raise war revenue.

"Every bond that is issued must sometime be redeemed with interest, out of the taxes that the people must pay," he said.

"Nothing is gained by borrowing except that the money for immediate use is obtained from those who have it to loan, to be repaid to them in the future with interest out of the taxes largely exacted from those who can ill afford to pay them.

### Shows Wealth Fattens On War Loans and War Contracts

"But wealth is ever potential in government. It fattens on war loans and war contracts and the speculation with which war times are rife.

"Hence wealth is always for war. And when it is successful, in bringing on a war it is often powerful enough with war ministers and congresses and parliaments to force war loans to the maximum, and by every precious device and argument force taxation to the minimum.

"Within 30 days from the date of the war declaration we had plunged into bond issues on an unheard of scale. Morgan came to town. The press urged, the administration recommended, and Congress authorized the issue of \$5,000,000,000 non-taxable government bonds and \$2,000,000,000 interest bearing treasury notes."

In ringing words the Senator from Wisconsin indicted the policy of the war revenue bill for limiting its tax levy on war profits to 27 per cent,

### Blood Profiteers Reaped \$730,983,235 Harvest During 1916; Outlook Even Better This Year

Figures shown are the net profits earned for the "blood profiteers" after deducting cost of materials, labor, depreciation, overhead, interest, reserve, amortization, and all other charges. All figures are official, having been taken from the companies' annual reports.

	1916	1915	1914	1913
American Can Co.	7,962,982	5,029,273	2,916,339	4,376,173
American Smelting and Refining	23,252,248	14,402,732	9,271,565	9,756,540
American Beet Sugar Company	2,445,189	1,424,654	452,074	881,055
American Hide and Leather	1,643,266	959,974	107,205	475,518
American Locomotive Company	14,769,429	*1,491,980	2,076,127	6,185,306
American Steel Foundries	3,418,577	*219,574	*231,481	1,033,592
American Woolen Company	5,863,819	4,080,865	2,788,602	*1,179,791
American Writing Paper Company	2,524,378	*126,956	*108,310	*229,190
ARMOUR & COMPANY	20,100,000	11,000,000	7,509,908	6,028,197
Atlas Powder Company	2,939,790	1,671,762	294,150	322,838
Baldwin Locomotive	5,982,517	2,827,816	350,230	4,017,800
BETHLEHEM STEEL CORP'TN	43,593,968	17,762,813	5,590,020	5,122,703
Barrat Co. (Amer. Coal Prod. Co.)	4,247,858	2,482,236	1,280,476	1,835,811
Brown Shoe Company	4,467,757	2,400,322	485,890	719,464
Central Leather Company	15,489,201	5,626,897	4,876,924	4,386,345
Colorado Fuel and Iron	2,201,171	*334,611	*905,968	1,727,192
Crucible Steel Company	13,223,655	3,073,750	1,015,039	4,905,886
Cuban-American Sugar Company	8,235,113	5,594,048	2,705,723	356,887
E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS				
POWDER CO.	82,107,693	57,257,308	4,831,793	4,582,075
General Chemical Company	12,286,826	5,958,746	2,857,898	2,809,442
Hercules Powder Company	16,658,873	4,886,102	1,247,255	1,017,212
International Agricultural Corp'n	1,279,832	*160,022	84,890	*161,493
International Nickel	11,748,279	5,598,072	4,792,665	5,009,120
Lackawanna Steel Company	12,218,234	2,409,108	*1,652,444	2,755,883
MORRIS & COMPANY (packers)	3,832,213	2,321,415	2,205,672	1,916,997
National Enameling & Stamping Co.	2,417,803	913,742	548,756	761,274
New York Air Brake Company	3,214,962	1,243,295	641,046	634,512
PHILIPS DODGE CORPORATION	21,974,263	9,720,475	6,664,839	7,907,710
Pittsburgh Steel Company	4,564,068	858,160	416,551	1,193,669
Railway Steel Spring Company	3,710,805	1,363,229	374,454	1,121,660
Republic Iron and Steel Company	14,789,163	3,515,819	1,028,748	3,101,300
Sloss-Sheffield Iron and Steel Co.	1,912,624	522,388	490,139	678,466
SWIFT & COMPANY	20,465,000	14,087,500	9,450,000	9,250,000
Texas Oil Company	13,898,861	6,393,327	6,185,974	6,663,123
U. S. STEEL CORPORATION	271,531,730	75,833,833	23,496,768	81,216,985
U. S. Cast Iron Pipe	1,308,641	*381,387	*59,868	564,427
United Fruit Company	11,943,151	5,900,522	2,264,911	5,315,631
U. S. Industrial Alcohol	4,884,587	2,172,013	653,264	652,358
U. S. Smelt, Refining & Mining Co.	8,898,464	6,592,324	2,265,641	3,585,588
Westinghouse Air-Brake Co.	9,396,103	1,575,839	3,482,994	5,255,259
Westinghouse Elec. & Man. Co.	9,656,749	2,009,744	4,058,809	3,164,032
WILSON & CO. (packers)	4,913,873	2,463,732	+1,511,528	1,361,245

GRAND TOTALS... \$730,983,235 287,922,069  
\*Deficit. \*\*Nineteen months. †Fifteen months.  
The profits during 1917 will surpass those of 1916.

leaving untouched enough billions of war profits to pay for the war from day to day, and then mulcting the working people, already sorely oppressed with the constantly increasing cost of living, with a \$400,000,000 tax on the necessities of life. He declared:

### Take All The War Profits And Peace Profits Remain

"It is monstrously unfair to tax the everyday necessities of the average man and woman to pay the expenses of the war, in addition to commanding their services, and the lives of many of them and their children, so long as the swollen and abnormal war profits are not taken—profits which the war has created and which will disappear as soon as the war ends.

"Every dollar of the war profits can be taken and still the enormous peace time profits of the great corporations will be untouched. Every stockholder will still receive his handsome peace time dividend, every officer his princely salary, if the war profits are all taken.

"Will anyone contend that the food and the medicine and the most absolute necessities of the poor shall be taxed as long as these enormous war profits remain as a source of revenue?"

Opposing the \$400,000,000 tax levied upon the necessities of life of the poor in the form of consumption taxes as absolutely unnecessary and a wrong to the working people, La Follette said:

"This war already has laid a tax of 50 to 100 per cent upon every man, woman and child in the higher cost of war prices for all the necessities of life. The poor and moderately well to do are paying war taxes

amounting to several times \$400,000,000 every month in the increase of prices of everything they buy, which has resulted from this war.

"It makes little difference to a man with an income of \$25,000 or \$50,000 a year or more whether the prices of the necessities of life are doubled or trebled, for but a small part of his income goes for the necessities of life. But it is very different with the man whose income is a thousand or two or three thousand dollars a year. In either case his income is substantially all expended for necessities according to his station in life.

"Double what he must pay for his necessities, with no corresponding increase in his earnings, whether wages or salary, and he cannot meet his expenses. In most cases he was not able to buy more food or clothing before the war than was necessary for himself and his family according to his position in life, but if the prices of necessities are doubled he cannot buy enough of even the plainest food and clothing, pay the rent and support his family in the station of life he occupied before.

"His whole manner of living is disorganized, his production decreased, and the government, in consequence, becomes the loser. Here is where the individual is called on for sacrifice, and it is precisely at this point that the government, not for philanthropic reasons, but to keep unimpaired its own strength and vigor, must see to it that the burden is made as light as possible.

"That is precisely what the majority bill does not do. I know of nothing that will more certainly destroy confidence in this war, in its aims and in its purposes, than to attempt to assess a large proportion of the cost upon those for whom the struggle is already too hard, while the possessors of surplus incomes and war profits escape by paying a tax so small as not to deprive them of a single luxury, much less a single comfort. So long as there is an income to be found in the country so large that it yields to its possessor a surplus over and above what he needs for the comfort or even luxuries of life for himself and family I am in favor of taking such proportion of that surplus income by taxation as the government needs for war purposes, and, if it needs it all, I am in favor of taking it all before we take one penny from the slender income of the man who receives only enough to provide himself and family with the bare necessities of life.

### Points Out How The Masses Pay Cost Of War

"So long as a man can be found who is making 'war profits'—that is, profits due to war in excess of normal profits, I am in favor of taking such portion of these profits by taxation as the government needs for war purposes, and if it needs them all I am in favor of taking them all before one penny is added by taxation to the burden of the man already staggering under the load of high prices caused by the war.

"This may not be a principle new in war finance, but it is the very one that the masses of the people should be asked to accept, and is much less than even-handed justice would demand for them.

"They pay the cost of war, tho not directly taxed a dollar for it. They pay it in increased prices and in excessive hours of labor.

"They pay it in service not only on the battlefields, but wherever men and women toil in the dreary occupations of life.

"More than all, they pay it with their blood and their lives, and, the greatest sacrifice of all—with the blood and the life of their loved ones. Surely, sir, it is not too much to ask that they be relieved of the burdens of war taxation until those who profit by the war and those who live in luxury and security in spite of the war have contributed a substantial portion of their surplus.

"That, sir, is what the minority of this committee demands. It is all that they demand. I am no prophet, but I am greatly mistaken if the people accept this majority bill.

"Consumption taxes upon the necessities of the people will be no longer tolerated in war. That primitive and savage form of taxation is as much out of date as are the primitive weapons of warfare."

EDITOR'S NOTE:—Extracts from speeches on the conscription of wealth by Senators Johnson, Hollis and Townsend will be found on Page Two. In next week's issue there will appear speeches by Senators Borah, Gore and Thomas. Order a bundle for distribution in your town. Prices \$1 per 100; \$10 per 1,000. Send all orders to The American Socialist, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.







Keep Up The Fight

We have been very much encouraged by the offer of THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST in Chicago, by the fighting spirit of the comrades on "The Firing Line." Keep up the fight! Your paper was never in greater need of subscribers than now and every effort should be made to roll in the subs in greater numbers than ever. We are going to do our best to see that every subscriber gets every issue. Don't take subs, however, on the promise that every subscriber will get every issue of the paper. We have just received a letter from "Somewhere in Escanaba, Mich.," a sample of the many that come every day, as follows: "Now drop you these few lines to ask you what is the matter with the paper. I have not received last week's copy and want to know if we are going to receive it any more or not. I walk 2 1/2 miles every week to get it, as we think we cannot get along without it, as we want to know the truth about the news, and we know we get it when we get The American Socialist. I wanted to send another sub and renew our own paper, but will wait until I hear from you. Hoping you will have no further trouble and that we may always get The American Socialist, as long as we live, we remain,—" The writer evidently is not a Socialist. Like many other non-Socialists the writer has subscribed for The American Socialist to get the truth. It is more necessary than ever that the truth be spread broadcast over the land. With or without a second class mailing privilege, The American Socialist is going to do its part. Our power to do good increases with the size of our subscription list. What are you going to do today to increase the number of our subscribers? We are waiting for your answer!

From The Firing Line

"Just heard The American Socialist was suppressed but am risking the 50 cents anyway," is the note in which E. Everett, California, sends in his subscription. "W. Koepke, Iowa, sends in an even dozen, in celebration in his party week." "Put me on the list as soon as possible as I don't like to miss one issue of your wonderful paper," says Comrade McCormick, Ohio, who seems to know a good thing when he sees it. "Hope you continue the good work. I like your paper fine," is the word of encouragement dropped in by two new subs, by C. L. Haskins, Colorado. "I have been getting your paper from another reader and now want it regularly for myself," writes a new subscriber from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who knows the value of passing his paper on. Comrade A. W. Fowler, Illinois, sends in a list of 14 new ones without a word of comment except "I will send more soon." "For the enclosed amount send me The American Socialist very regularly," urges C. Zilius, Wisconsin. "I will SEND it regularly, if it doesn't get it regularly he will know who is responsible." Charles Pogorelec attended the annual convention of the Colorado State Federation of Labor and the Socialist Party, picking up 76 subscriptions to the greatest American labor paper—The American Socialist. "Our motto should be, A free press, free speech and the liberty of opinion," writes Comrade Masterson, Arkansas, in forwarding a list of five. "I am going to land a sub every chance I get," is the determined stand taken by Comrade L. M. Dennis, Idaho. Comrade Peter F. Redin, Washington, sends in a bunch of subs and writes: "As I understand it the Liberty Edition of The American Socialist has been denied the second class mailing privilege. If you have suspended, then hold this money until I see what can be done to satisfy the subscribers. Let me know if I may continue to take subs, or if I should stop for awhile until you have things straightened out." Keep right on getting the paper. The American Socialist has no intention of quitting. Keep right on getting the subs. Help wake up the Henry Dubbs. We'll get the paper to the subscribers even if we have to make the editor deliver the papers himself. "I send a copy of your paper the other day it was the Liberty Edition," writes a new subscriber from North Dakota. "I am sure that North Dakota will go Socialist at the next election." Civil War veteran sends in 10 cents, all he can spare to send a sub to The American Socialist. He says he is very much opposed to the present war. Comrade J. E. Edwards, Oklahoma, sends a bunch of new subs to help the paper renew. He hopes to make Socialists out of the new ones. Remember: Readers for The American Socialist NOW means members for the future. One of the new ones comes in from Big Lake, Washington. He says The American Socialist is just what he has been looking for. "I hope the paper will soon be out of its difficulties," writes the Zanenville, Ohio, local secretary, as he orders 100 copies per week for four weeks. Orders like that help us to forget our troubles. "I have been taking the paper for four or five months," writes an Illinois hustler. "After I have read it I pass it on to someone else to read. Now everyone is beginning to wake up," and so he is sending in a list of new subs, from democrats and republicans who want to get out of the Henry Dubbs class. "I understand you have lost your mailing privileges so if you can't deliver the paper regularly I shall offer no objection," says a new subscriber from Iowa.

TWO GREAT LEAFLETS!

Only a few left. No more will be printed. So hurry! THE HIGH COST OF LIVING By Scott Nearing THE RECENT ELECTION By John M. Work. 10c per 100 — 75c per 1,000 Rush in your orders to the National Office Socialist Party 803 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill. MAKE MORE SOCIALISTS John M. Work's pamphlet "WHERE YOU GET OFF" Will Help You Do It. 10c per copy — 75c per dozen \$4.50 per 100 Order now from the National Office Socialist Party 803 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

By taking over the fish business of the state California has made a big step in the advance toward absolute government control of the food supply.

Detroit, Mich., Socialists are planning a big picnic for Sunday, Sept. 9, at Campbell's Grove, to help raise funds to defend the comrades who have not yet been freed from the grip of the powers that be. T. H. Robertson heads the Socialist ticket in the municipal campaign now on at Canton, Ohio. There is one woman on the ticket, Mrs. Sarah K. Meredith, candidate for the board of education. Arthur J. Breckinridge for mayor and a complete city and county ticket in the field, is the start that the Birmingham, N. Y., Socialists have made to capture this part of the nation for Socialism this fall. Mrs. Kate Sadler, Socialist speaker, was released by the police after being arrested for alleged seditious utterances only because her audience demanded that either she be freed or that everybody in the audience be arrested.

Second class mailing privileges have been denied to the Obrana, "Defense," the weekly publication of the New York Bohemian Socialists. Another nail in the coffin of the national democratic party. The acquittal of five Socialists charged with "conspiracy" to obstruct registration by distributing copies of the Michigan Socialist is the first victory won by the Socialists of Michigan since the federal authorities declared war on the party. Outspoken opposition to the conscription law is voiced in a series of anti-draft meetings which are being held thruout Canada. The radical and independent element of the country is denouncing the proposed measure and urging all the radical elements of the country to oppose it to the end.

There are more than 15,000 copper miners out on strike in the city of Butte, Mont. These men have laid down their tools as a protest against the bad conditions prevailing in the mining camps and also against the ever rising cost of living. Despite the fact that the United States government refrained from taking any action against Alderman George Fischer, Jr., Socialist, for alleged disloyal utterances, the Kenosha, Wis., city council voted to have a formal complaint lodged against him.

Schenectady, N. Y., Socialists have nominated Herbert M. Merrill, former Socialist member of the state legislature, as their candidate for mayor. He is supported by a strong ticket and a united movement and the prospects are big for the return of Schenectady to the Socialist fold. Power fattens upon what it feeds on. . . . And it makes its advances so insidiously that all freedom of opinion is throttled by censors before the people realize that it has been assailed.—Louis F. Post, Assistant Secretary of Labor.

The Egyptian government has purchased the entire cotton seed crop which results in the Johnston, Pa., Democrat getting very excited and screaming at the top of his voice, "Socialism is flourishing on the Nile!" The capitalist press is beginning to see Socialism everywhere. Well, we don't blame it. We are having visions along that line ourselves.

The Socialists of Cleveland, Ohio, are proud of the fight they are making against autocracy and militarism, and are becoming the dominant political factor in this radical city. The trials of C. E. Ruthenberg, Alfred Wagenknecht, and Charles Baker, prominent Socialists, their conviction and the appeal taken to the supreme court have brought every active radical to the colors.

Seventy-three alleged anti-draft rioters from Seminole county were held to the federal grand jury in bonds aggregating almost half a million dollars at the completion of their preliminary hearings before United States Commissioner R. P. McMillen at McAlester, Oklahoma. Twenty-seven prisoners were liberated by the court but held on \$10,000 bonds as witnesses.

T. C. Southard, Socialist candidate for member of the city council at Columbus, Ohio, received more than 1,760 votes in the primary elections here, just falling short of being nominated. The big vote for Southard is an indication of the growth of the Socialist party. As compared with the results of elections in former years the entire Socialist vote shows a gain—a gain that is making Ohio Republicans and Democrats uneasy.

In England they used to fasten an iron collar around the slaves so as to identify them, but in Butte, Mont., they give the copper miners a card. It is not so cumbersome. This card is known as the rustling card, on it is written the pedigree of the miner. All his actions and records for the last five years are contained thereon, and woe to the miner who has rebelled against rotten mine conditions, he is blacklisted and cannot get a job in Butte and so another hobo is created. Declaring that the organized worker and the organized farmer must get together to solve the problem of high prices or be driven below the poverty line by food speculators middlemen and land monopolists, Arthur E. Holder, member of the Machinists' union, who has been appointed on the federal commission that will direct vocational training in states which receive federal aid for vocational schools, in an address before a meeting of the committee on the high cost of living, urged the workers in all fields to unite to control the machinery of production.

It's A Very Long Wait Before You Can Get Any Results From Washington, D. C.

By JULIAN PIERCE. (Staff Correspondent)

WASHINGTON.—The Post Office Department has refused to take prompt action on the application of The American Socialist to be readmitted to the mails as second class matter. Statements made by Acting Third Assistant Postmaster Gen. Barrows indicate that the administration is determined in its conspiracy to kill the Socialist movement by denying Socialist papers the right to be transmitted thru the mails. In the prosecution of this conspiracy Postmaster General Burleson and his officers are required to make use of every technicality of the postal laws to revoke the second class mailing privileges enjoyed by socialist papers and employ every possible species of legal sabotage to prevent the papers from again securing the use of the mails under the favorable postage rates accorded to second class matter. Prepare To Start Blacklist. The Burleson-Lamar combination has even gone so far in their abolition of the liberty of the press as to intimate that Socialist papers which contain matter construed by Solicitor Lamar as making it more difficult for the government to raise money for war purposes by the sale of bonds will be blacklisted and denied the benefits of the second class privilege. The postal law contains no time limit at the expiration of which the post office department is compelled to act on an application of the publishers of a paper that it be classified as mail matter of the second class. Daring the pendency of the application the publishers are required to make a deposit of one cent per copy. If the department finally grants the application, the publishers are given a rebate of the difference between the second class rate of one cent per pound and the third class rate of one cent per copy. If the application is not granted the department keeps the entire deposit. The department revoked The American Socialist's second class privilege on August 11. The paper immediately filed an application for a new permit with the Chicago post office which forwarded the application to Washington.

Believing that time enough had elapsed for the department to satisfy itself that the requirements of the postal law had been required with, The American Socialist's representative asked Acting Third Assistant Postmaster General Barrows if the application would be acted on immediately. "No Hurry In Washington. The application of The American Socialist to be admitted to the mails as the second class of mail matter will not be acted upon immediately," came Barrows' reply, "nor will the application be acted on in the immediate future."

"May we be informed regarding the cause of the delay?" asked The American Socialist's representative. "The application is in the hands of Solicitor Lamar," continued Barrows. "Solicitor Lamar will not only subject the current issue of The American Socialist to rigid scrutiny to determine whether it contains matter in violation of any of the provisions of the espionage law, but he will extend his scrutiny over a number of future issues. "There is nothing in the postal laws requiring prompt action on an application for the second class privilege," was asked. "Not a word," was the prompt response. "Solicitor Lamar can hold up the application for ten weeks if he so desires," was the next question. "Can Wait Ten Months" "Solicitor Lamar can hold up the application for ten weeks or for ten months if he so desires," came Barrows' retort. "The Socialist Party's deposit with the Chicago postmaster for the ten months at the third class rate would amount to \$27,000," continued the party's representative. "If the application is then denied, the post office department retains the \$27,000."

"Yes, sir," came Barrows' reply, with an inciseness which indicated an impression that Socialist money looks good to the Burleson administration. Barrows explained, further, that in his opinion the publication of articles in The American Socialist which in Lamar's opinion make it more difficult for the government to sell bonds to carry on the war would be regarded by Lamar as sufficient violation of the espionage law to warrant the department in denying the paper the second class privilege. "But it is the position of the Socialist Party," it was shown, "that the government should not raise money for payment of war expenses by issuing bonds, which will put the burden upon future generations. It

demands, on the other hand, that the government should make the rich pay for the war by heavy income taxes and the conscription of war profits. Are we to understand that the department holds that papers advocating the tax method in preference to the bonds method will be denied the second class mailing privilege?" The department has not promulgated such an order as yet," continued Barrows. "But speaking unofficially I would suggest the inadvisability of papers opposing the bonds method after Congress has enacted a law authorizing the sale of bonds. You can criticize a law before it is passed. But after Congress has passed a law, Americans stop their criticism and obey it."

The statement given by Acting Third Assistant Postmaster General Barrows, who is thoroughly conversant with Postmaster General Burleson's censorship policy, can have but one meaning. That meaning is that the democratic administration, unless checked in its madness by Federal

What Is Your Answer? Here Are Only A Few

From somewhere in Kenosha, Wis.—"I am sending \$2 as my bit in response to your call for help. I don't know what we would do without our paper now as we need it more and more every day. I admire its persistence and courage to make such a struggle for existence and wish it loads of luck."

From somewhere in Chicago.—"While I am opposed to the policy of The American Socialist in regard to the present status of the war, I take pleasure in handing you my check for \$5 to help our paper out of a hole."

From somewhere in Pittsburgh, Pa.—"Not having received my American Socialist I suppose that you are in trouble and are in need of funds. So I am enclosing \$1. I wish it was more. It would be if I could spare it. Will send \$1 per month until you get your mailing rights again. Am willing to do all I can to take the 'mock' out of democracy."

Local Elizabeth, N. J., sends in \$2 and offers to distribute The American Socialist until our mailing privilege is restored. One of our Missouri comrades sends in \$1 and pays his respects to Ex-Governor Dockery who is now third assistant post master general of the United States, who has in charge the granting and taking away of second class mailing privileges. Our comrade writes that Dockery had him "fired" from his job because he was a red card Socialist and says, "If Dockery is that narrow it doesn't look as if there is much hope for The American Socialist." This same comrade hopes our application for a second class mailing privilege will be turned down because, "it will do more to build up the organization of the party than can be done in any other way for years."

"I want to have The American Socialist," is the message that accompanies \$2 from "Somewhere in Ohio." Our comrade writes, "I will pay first class rates on every sub that I have sent in myself before I will see it dropped."

"I am glad to do this to push the Cause," accompanies a contribution from "Somewhere in Illinois."

"Keep the fires of democracy burning. There are millions behind you," writes a Chicago comrade, who sends in \$1 on the Free Press Defense Fund and orders a bunch of sub cards. "Hold the fort for we are coming," says a Civil War veteran, "Somewhere in Michigan," as he sends in a list of contributions from among his comrades.

"Make it a daily paper—that is the way to pay this bill of irony," is the suggestion that accompanies \$2 from "Somewhere in Southern Illinois."

One comrade "Somewhere in Massachusetts" saw our Free Press Defense Fund Appeal in The New York Call and rushes in with \$1. "You can have more if necessary," writes a comrade in sending in \$5 from "Somewhere in Pennsylvania."

"I hope every reader will do something for The American Socialist," says an Illinois comrade sending in \$1. "Best I can do at present," is the message that accompanies \$1 from "Somewhere in Steubenville, Ohio."

"I want The American Socialist," writes Comrade Scott Wilkins, Ohio, sending in \$1. He writes that he was mobbed at a County Fair, kicked, knocked down and driven from the grounds by a gang of 15 soldiers. From somewhere in Indiana—"I am sending \$3 for the 'Hurry-up Fund' to help get the new second

class mailing privilege for The American Socialist. From somewhere in Ohio:—I just received a copy of The Eye-Opener and it just made my blood boil to the tune of \$1 in response to the call for funds. I read in the Eye-Opener of the rotten-egged suffragists. This crowd of supposed loyal Americans never had brains enough to even know they were rotten-egging each other mothers; and the officials whose duty it is to protect the people are no better, and have less sense. From somewhere in Illinois:—"I received the Eye-Opener today. I am glad to learn that you are making every possible effort to secure another second class mailing permit for The American Socialist. Find enclosed \$1. I will send more later."

From somewhere in Indiana:—There comes \$1 from three comrades who write they hope we'll win out against the autocratic ruling of the post office department. They say, "We miss the paper."

From somewhere in Louisiana:—Three comrades and a friend send in \$6.75 and ask, "What is the matter? Did the post authorities suppress our paper again? We have not seen a copy in two weeks. We are sending in our contributions just the same."

Use the blank at the bottom of this page!

How Britain Tortures Conscientious Objectors Nothing rallied the masses in this country in support of the war more than the stories of revolting cruelties perpetrated by the invading Germans in France and Belgium. That those barbarities were carried out under the deliberate orders of German officers was advanced as crowning proof that the Germans were a nation of brutes, blonde beasts, Huns. But the treatment meted out to conscientious objectors in this country shows that the brutality denounced with such unctious wrath in the Prussian is not absent from British militarism. Of the various refinements of brutality to which we have called attention in these columns from time to time, the most revolting is that which Mr. T. E. Harvey raised in the House of Commons last Wednesday. It is the case of James Brightmore, who, after having been eight months in prison, was returned to the army, and on still refusing to serve, was sentenced to 28 days' confinement and placed in a pit ten feet deep, the bottom of which was filled with water. For eleven days and nights this lad stood ankle deep in mud, with the sun beating down on him and nothing to look at but the brutal walls. Sheer brutal torture. Could Prussianism surpass it? Mr. Macpherson admitted the facts and expressed his deep regret. He places the blame on the brigadier general and the officer commanding the battalion. But as the Manchester Guardian points out, if the government really desired to put a stop to the torture of conscientious objectors it could very easily do so. We are inevitably led to the conclusion that torture is part of the settled policy of the war office to break the spirit of these young men, and the carrying out of such policy, naturally results in such atrocities as that revealed in the case of James Brightmore.

Time and again instances of cruelty have been brought to the notice of the war office. Promises have been made to prevent them, but they keep on recurring. Is it not about time organized labor took up the case of these victims of British militarism and put forward a determined demand for their immediate release?—The Call (London) organ of the British Socialist party.

The Socialist Aim

By MORRIS HILLQUIT.

Not so long ago, Mr. David M. Parry, one-time president of the National Manufacturers' Association, wrote a novel entitled "The Scarlet Empire" and mainly centering around a description of "the Socialist state" as the author conceived it. It was a horrible state. Governmental regulation was the rule in all private and public pursuits of the citizens. The government fixed the occupation of each person, prepared a uniform menu for all inhabitants from day to day, prescribed the fashion, cut and pattern of their dress, and regulated their routine of daily life, their religion, marriages and amusements. It was a reign of relentless tyranny, a life of insufferable uniformity and monotony. Mr. Parry had set himself the task of conjuring up a picture of an order of society even more oppressive than our present regime, and he almost succeeded.

Satire On Socialist Critics. The book was intended as a satire on the Socialist ideal. If the genial author could only appreciate what a delightful satire he had unconsciously produced on the mental caliber of a certain class of critics of the Socialist philosophy!

Public ownership does not necessarily mean government ownership, and government ownership does not imply centralized administration. In the practical application of the Socialist scheme of industrial organization, it is quite conceivable that certain industries would be operated by the national government. Railroad systems, telegraph and telephone lines are inherently national in their functions, and many other industries are already organized on a country-wide scale and adjusted to centralized operations. To the latter class belong all great trustified industries. On the other hand, other important industries are purely local in their character, and can best be administered by local governmental agencies. Street railways, water and gas works, for instance, must logically come within the purview of municipal governments and numerous smaller industries may be conducted by local co-operative groups under appropriate rules and regulations.

It is even conceivable that some callings may continue to be exercised in a purely individual way under a Socialist regime. There is no reason why the state should interfere with individual pursuits of arts and handicraft or with the farmer personally cultivating his farm. What Socialism opposes is industrial exploitation of one man by another; what it advocates is social and democratic production rationally organized and conducted. Explains "The Government." A very illuminating analogy of such a scheme of organization is offered by the political framework of the government of the United States. Our laws are made and administered by the "government," but does that mean that the political administration of the country in all its divisions and subdivisions is lodged in the hands of one central authority? By no means. We have our federal statutes, our state laws, municipal ordinances and rules and regulations of subordinate local bodies, such as health boards, fire and police departments, etc. Each class of laws operates within its own proper sphere, and is administered by executive bodies or individuals elected or appointed and classified and graded according to their functions and places in the general administrative scheme. The political functions of the country are not exercised by a power above the people and independent of them, nor are they regulated in all particulars and at all times by the direct action of all the people. Our government is neither a bureaucracy nor a system of mob rule. In its purest form it is a rational democracy, which allows its affairs to be administered by appropriate general and local agencies, deriving their powers from the people and exercising them in conformity with their will.

Our official government furthermore is supplemented by a number of voluntary "quasi-official" institutions, philanthropic, educational, political, etc., whose powers and functions are as a rule regulated by law. We do not allow such voluntary institutions to exercise vital political powers affecting the rights of the citizens, but we do not interfere with their self-imposed social talks so long as they only concern those who choose to come within the sphere of their operations. The Socialists demand that our industrial affairs be reorganized on practically the same general principles as our political system. It is quite conceivable and even probable that our present machinery of government, devised for purely political purposes, would prove inadequate for the discharge of large economic functions. In that case it would either gradually modify its forms to meet the requirements of the new tasks or be supplemented by a co-ordinate system of industrial administration.

"But then the industries of the country would be controlled by the politicians and infested with graft and corruption," objects the ever ready critic. The Socialists see no ground for such apprehension. The "professional politician," in the opprobrious sense of the term, as we know him to-day, is a person who seeks private economic advantages in public life, and uses his political office or influence for the promotion of his own pecuniary profits or those of certain business interests behind him. Graft and corruption are the

only logical methods and the principal stock in trade of such "statemen."

Hit Politics For Profit. Socialized industries would exclude all large private business interests, and thus strike at the very root of professional politics for private gain and the main fountain-head of wholesale graft and corruption.

The Socialist program is thus primarily one of economic reform. It is not directly concerned with religious or domestic institutions, moral conceptions or intellectual problems. It does not "threaten the home" or "attack religion," and is not hostile to true modern culture. It advocates a definite plan of industrial reorganization and is chargeable with all that is fairly inferable from that plan, but no more.

Socialism has for that reason sometimes been characterized as a grossly materialistic movement. It is anything but that. The Socialists appreciate very keenly all efficient political, social and moral reforms. But they expect such reforms to follow economic improvements as the effect follows the cause.

The common ownership of the sources and instruments of wealth production would necessarily mean a more equitable distribution of wealth among the people and greater economic security of all human beings. It would thus do away with the mad competitive struggle for individual gain, and would remove the principal cause of civic and political corruption, crime, vice, brutality and ignorance. Just because the Socialist movement is based on a solid and sound economic foundation, it holds out a true social ideal.

August 13 marked the forty-sixth birthday of Dr. Karl Liebknecht, the Socialist member of the Reichstag, whose unswerving loyalty to his principles is responsible for his present imprisonment in Germany, an experience which is not new to him. The first important occasion on which he went to jail was when he published his book, MILITARISM which the German government suppressed. An authorized translation of that work is announced for early publication by B. W. Huebsch. Nothing reveals so clearly and distinctly the implications of military rule and a large standing army as this volume, one of the greatest pleas for democracy that has come out of Germany.

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To Help Stick In The Fight And Win!

The American Socialist, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago, Illinois. Enclosed please find \$..... as my response to your appeal for hurry-up action in the present crisis. I want to see The American Socialist get back its second class mailing privilege as quickly as possible. With best wishes, Name: Address: City: State:



"There is but one use for law, but one excuse for government—the preservation of liberty; to give to each man his own, to secure to the farmer what he produces from the soil, to the mechanic what he invents and makes, to the artist what he creates, to the thinker the right to express his thought. Liberty is the breath of progress."  
—ROBERT INGERSOLL.

## Let Us Make A Constitution To Provide Industrial Democracy

A Possible Plan Of Action For The People's Council Suggested By Irwin St. John Tucker.

FROM many governmental sources we have been informed lately, that the provisions of the constitution are inapplicable to the present.

"What is the constitution in case of war?" is the question, open or implied, that meets our arguments for free press, free speech, free assemblage, free petition, legislative authority, and so on, while Socialists and radicals have been rushing manfully to the defense of that same constitution which for many years they have been criticizing as out of date and insufficient.

This seems inconsistent. More than that, it seems a throwing away of the biggest chance we have ever had. We have been clamoring for a new order, a new system, a new deal. The Constitution has stood in the way. Now comes executive authority and declares by manifold acts that the Constitution is inoperative.

Instead of breaking out into wailing and lamentations we should throw our hats into the air and yell with glee. "The Old Constitution is scrapped! All right—let us make a new one!"

THE OUTLOOK for August 22, points out that the Constitution itself, in Article V, provides for the assembling of a national constitutional convention, to frame a New Constitution, at any time the people or two-thirds of the states decide it to be necessary. The Constitution reads thus:

"The Congress, whenever two-thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, or on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states. SHALL CALL A CONVENTION FOR PROPOSING AMENDMENTS, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three-fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress."

Here lies the way for the Social Revolution to take effect. There is widespread unrest and dissatisfaction over the misfits in our industrial fabric. Our system of government, admirably adapted as it may have been to a nation of three million farmers scattered along the Atlantic seaboard, does not meet the needs, or anywhere near meet the needs, of a nation of one hundred million people, largely industrial city dwellers, inhabiting a continent.

Just consider, at the time this constitution was framed, there was no city larger than 8,000 population on this continent. Practically the whole population were farmers; such industries as existed outside of the plantations were carried on in homes. There were no railroads, telegraphs or telephone connections; no great interstate highways except the Boston post road; gas, electricity and steam were unknown; no factories in our modern sense scarred the earth and darkened the heavens.

It is all but impossible for us to imagine what the conditions were under which our forefathers lived when this constitution was framed. It was far more impossible for them to imagine the conditions under which we are living today. Wise, prudent, sagacious as they were, no human being could possibly have imagined the present civilization, had his experience been limited to the conditions which prevailed in the United States of America in 1787.

Why continue trying to fit the clothes of a child on an adult's body? Why not have a grown-up suit of clothes?

The People's Council is to meet in Minneapolis on September 1. The biggest task it could possibly set itself; the worthiest of the endeavors of such a group of men and women; the greatest possible contribution to the cause of democracy in this country and peace throughout the world, would be for the People's Council of America to inaugurate a nationwide campaign in each of the states, for the summoning by Congress of a Constitutional Convention to make a new Constitution for the United States of America.

Fundamental in this instrument should be a provision absolutely prohibiting the recurrence of such a condition as we have faced during the present few months in relation to coal and steel, copper, lead and zinc when a small group of impudent traitors, holding in their private possession a supreme necessity of public life, defied and flouted the government and the people. Some of the outstanding provisions in the Constitution of the Industrial Democracy should be as follows:

"THE LAND OF THE UNITED STATES AND ALL ITS NATURAL RESOURCES BELONG INALIENABLY TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

"USE AND OCCUPANCY SHALL BE THE SOLE TITLE TO LAND; AND SUCH TITLE SHALL BE INDEFEASIBLE.

"MINERAL WEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE BORDERS OF ANY STATE SHALL BE HELD IN TRUST FOR THE PEOPLE OF THAT STATE. ALL PROFITS CLEARED IN THE OPERATION OF SUCH RESOURCES SHALL BE DIVIDED BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF THAT STATE, AND DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO PUBLIC EDUCATION, SECONDLY, TO DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE; THIRDLY, TO OLD AGE, UNEMPLOYMENT, SICKNESS AND ACCIDENT PENSIONS, and similar public necessities; and the residue shall be used for the defraying of taxes.

"Publicly necessary interstate means of transportation and communication shall be owned by the people of the union. Publicly necessary means of transportation and communication within the borders of any state shall be owned by the people of that state. Public utilities within the borders of a county shall be owned by the people of that county, and such public utilities as are entirely within the borders of a municipality shall be owned by the people of said municipality.

"In the conduct and operation of any public utility, all workers actually employed in said industry shall be entitled to the franchise concerning the officials, conditions and conduct of the industry, in like manner as if they were stockholders.

"Each national industry shall elect delegates proportionate to the number of workers to a National Industrial Congress who shall govern the national public utilities in trust for the whole people.

"Each state industry shall elect delegates to a State Industrial Congress, which shall govern the public industries of the state in trust for the people of the state, and similar methods shall be fol-

lowed, in all lesser industries, which are necessary to the existence or welfare of a smaller community.

"All officers of the President's Cabinet, of interstate commissions and of other bodies of national importance shall be responsible to Congress. Cabinet officers shall be required to attend weekly the sessions of both houses sitting jointly, in order to answer questions, make explanations, and receive suggestions from the legislative body. A vote of no-confidence passed on any Cabinet officer shall be equivalent to dismissal from office; but shall not be construed as impeachment or disqualification from subsequent holding of the same or any other office. Officials of the Interstate Commerce Commission or any other national body shall likewise be responsible to the political congress.

"Women shall be granted the suffrage on equal terms with men in every state of the union.

"The right of inheritance shall not extend beyond land personally occupied and objects personally made by the testator.

"Courts shall have no power to declare unconstitutional a law passed by legislatures either national or state, and signed by the executive, except that a Federal Court may declare a state law in conflict."

HERE is a program and a platform worthy the supreme energies of the People's Council. It follows the present manifest tendency of evolution. It puts into effect most of the recommendations of the Industrial Relations Commission. It offers the solution of our industrial ills. Of course other planks must be discussed and added. But the main thing is this:

If the People's Council scatters to the several states to start active agitation for the election of delegates to the state legislatures on the platform of a New Federal Constitution, the same to provide for Industrial Democracy, it will have taken up a task worthy of its mettle.

The time is ripe, and the people are ready for it. Within the past four years ninety-nine amendments to the Constitution have been proposed on the floor of Congress. The old instrument is evidently out of date.

LET US MAKE A NEW CONSTITUTION!

Two Canadian firms, handling over half the bacon exported from Canada made profits last year amounting to 5.05 and 5.35 cents per pound respectively on 140,000,000 pounds exported, whereas the profits for the year 1913 were 3.6 and 1.2 cents. That's a fairly good hold up.

### Ain't It Fierce?

By JOHN M. WORK.

THE jingoes are hunting for a slogan. Worse than that. They are waiting for a slogan.

And I don't blame them. They have a nice big war and no fetching slogan. That is, no slogan that fetches the enthusiasm of the people. As one of them says, "Make the world safe for democracy" lacks "kick."

I might add that it also lacks truth. But that makes no difference to the jingoes.

It reminds me of an incident Jane Addams tells about.

The little folks at Hull House wrote a play and staged it all by themselves. When the curtain went up on the first act, George Washington and a captain stalked upon a stage. George said, "Captain, ain't it fierce that we ain't got no flag to fight this here revolution?" The captain, having no suggestions to offer, replied, "Yes, general, ain't it fierce?" And the curtain went down. At the opening of the second act, Washington and a colonel entered and George said, "Colonel, ain't it fierce that we ain't got no flag to fight this here revolution?" The helpless colonel answered, "Yes, general, ain't it fierce?" Again the curtain went down. When it came up for the third act, Betsy Ross was sitting on the stage with a baby in her arms. George Washington came in and said, "Betsy, ain't it fierce that we ain't got no flag to fight this here revolution?" Betsy replied, "Yes, general, you hold the baby and I'll make one!"

Ain't it fierce to have a nice big war and no slogan to fight it with?

It is plain that I shall have to come to the rescue, like Betsy. You hold the baby, jingoes, and I'll make one. I'm long on slogans.

Down with democracy, up with autocracy! Remember the price of coal!

He kept us out of potatoes! These are you, jingoes. Take your choice. If none of these are suitable, I have lots more in my nut.

### A Little Confusing

The Pekin (China) Gazette, accuses the Allies as being responsible for the attempt to abolish the Republic and establish an Emperor in China.

"A great struggle has been going on between autocracy and democracy in China for three and a half months," says the Gazette, "and in this instance the Allies have been on the side of the autocratic forces, because one man rule is infinitely more agreeable to traditional diplomacy than any well balanced constitutionalism. The monarchist plotters secured the allies support by calling loudly for war with Germany." This is quoted from the Literary Digest.

The more we read definitions of the peculiar brand of democracy for which we are fighting, the more puzzled we get. In order to establish the Belgian king on his throne, take the Berlin to Bagdad railroad away from the people who built it, keep Persia, Ireland, Egypt and India from rebelling, and wrest the Austrians away from alliance with their neighbor power, we embark upon a war for democracy fought with conscripts and suppress the press in our own land.

Help! We feel dizzy.

The U. S. senate has decided to call upon the 48 states of the nation to settle the question whether the nation shall prohibit the liquor traffic. Now let the senate submit to the states the question of abolishing the profit system.

The Socialist party organ at Vienna, the Arbeiter Zeitung, argues not only that the German campaign of submarine ruthlessness will not hasten the end of the war, but was not undertaken to that end, but to give the Germans a shipping advantage in the after-the-war competition.

The Columbus, Ohio, Journal, uses up some space telling about U. S. Senator Harding's views that the present political situation shows a tendency toward social democracy. The senator's apprehensions are by no means fanciful," says The Journal. "We have in these columns given repeatedly expressions of similar ideas." The drift toward Socialism is getting so pronounced that anyone, even a daily newspaper editor or a college professor, can see it.



No! We Are Not Yet Ready For This Graveyard!

## AMERICAN SOCIALIST

Official Organ of the Socialist Party of the United States.

J. L. ENGDALH..... Editor

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1917.

### Big Newspaper Scores Censorship

From the New York Evening Post.

A strong protest should be lodged against the abuse by Post Office officials of their wide powers under the Espionage bill to forbid the free use of mails to various publications. Up to date, this indirect form of suppression has not been used against any large or powerful members of the press, but only against small and feeble periodicals. The ground for withholding the privilege of the mails was that the suppressed publications printed articles calculated to discourage recruiting. This is an indictment of very broad scope and endless elasticity. It is an indictment typical of the bureaucratic frame of mind, leaving plenty of room for bureaucratic discretion, a discretion which has been carefully exercised in favor of the big sinner. There are a number of the great dailies, backed by influence and power, which have freely and openly said things much more discouraging to recruiting than the worst that has appeared in the pages of the suppressed periodicals. Perhaps, in time, this indirect censorship thru the Post Office will feel itself strong enough to attack bigger game. That is a good reason why right-thinking men should join now in nipping the tendency in the bud.

"We are fighting to win," says the Sigourney, Iowa, Herald. "We demand nothing of Germany except the rights of a free people to be respected upon the seas. Every civilized nation protested, but none dared to fight except Uncle Sam."

Having entered the fight, Uncle Sam, as the first step in this warfare for the rights of commerce proceeds to deny to Sweden, Denmark, Holland and Norway the rights he is fighting for, for himself. It is a complicated business, this, enforcing the rights of neutrals by denying the rights of all other neutrals.

NOW IS THE TIME for all socialists to put in their best bids for education and organization. Preval upon that socialist neighbor to join the Socialist Party. Set a good example for other Socialists by doing something worth while yourself.

The Organized Farmer figures out that the Liberty Loan was a failure because the 2,000,000 individuals who subscribed for it probably represent the 2 per cent of the population who own 60 per cent of the wealth. It shows that the 98 per cent who own 40 per cent of the wealth of the land were not back of the loan.

"Business as Usual," is the slogan of the exploiters. J. Ogden Armour voices it in the N. Y. Times. Sure, don't let a little thing like war, ten million lives, and a violation of the United States Constitution bother you. The workers will have to pay the price anyhow, why worry?

Charges that the British ambassador, Buchanan, at Petrograd, has been using his influence to restore the old Russian regime are contained in an article in Socialist prime minister Kerensky's paper, the "Dien". It is stated that Kerensky called Buchanan on the carpet and told him to stop his efforts to restore the czar to this throne.

Edwin Blank, a Socialist, has refused to accept the invitation of the Lima, Ohio, Trades and Labor Council to represent it on the Allen County Copyright Board because he "would not assist in forcing members of the working class into a war to further the interests of the capitalist class, and in which war I could not conscientiously participate." He gives seven other reasons just as good.

"It is our duty and our right to carry forward our campaign for freedom thru organization. We shall not halt or falter," declares the United Mine Workers' Journal, organ of the coal miners, in replying to the haughty coal barons on President Wilson's coal production committee, who would have organized labor cease all activities during the present war.

As the war mania grows stronger life becomes cheaper in these United States. "Shoot anyone who refuses to leave the trains," were the orders given to a militiaman stationed at the railroad bridge at Covington, Ky. This order had hardly been put into force when a militiaman's bullet claimed its first innocent victim. This brand of murder will assert itself more and more as Prussianism tightens its grip on the nation.

The New Republic joins its protest against the denial of passports to the Socialist delegates to Stockholm as follows: "Our action in refusing passports and threatening criminal action against American citizens who attend the conference will suggest to the Russian delegates that our government stands for a policy of war to the extreme and that is why it is averse to having peace declared."

## A Socialist

By ELLA WHEELER WILCOX.

Who is a Socialist? It is a man who strives to formulate or aid a plan to better earth's conditions. It is he who, having ears to hear and eyes to see, is neither deaf nor blind when might, roughshod, treads down the privileges and right which God Means for all men, the privilege to toil, to breathe pure air; to till the fertile soil—The right to live, to love, to woo, to wed And earn for hungry mouths their meed of bread, The Socialist is he who claims no more Than his own share from generous nature's store.

But that he asks, and asks, too that no other Shall claim the share of any weaker brother, And brand him beggar in his own domain To glut a mad, inordinate lust for gain. The Socialist is one who holds the best Of all God's gifts is toil, the second best, He asks that all men learn the sweets of labor And that no idler fatten on his neighbor That all men be allowed their share of leisure, Nor thousands slave that one may seek his pleasure, Who on the Golden Rule shall dare insist— Behold in him the modern Socialist.

All war and no play makes Jack a dead boy.

Where there is war there can be no real liberty.

The League of Democracy with offices at 120 Boylston St., Boston, Mass., Robert W. Dunn, executive secretary, has sent a protest to Postmaster General Burleson, Solicitor of the Postoffice Department William H. Lamar, and Attorney General Gregory, against the ruthless suppression of the outspoken press in this country.

Fred G. Smith, Minneapolis, Minn., in addressing the National Association of Real Estate Boards in session at Milwaukee, Wis., on "A Practical Housing Law" pointed out that the Socialists were conspicuous among the few people who are vitally and intensely interested in the problem of housing. He pointed out that the Socialists are pushing housing legislation in many states.

"It is not improbable, much as the Socialists dislike war, that the war will really bring about the trying out of Socialistic ideals in many particulars by the governments of the world to a greater extent than would have been probable in a century of peace," says the Forum, of Fargo, N. D.

One of the reasons for the sudden precipitation of the war was the steady gain of power by Socialists in all the countries of the world. Ten years more and Socialism would have come about peacefully, without the terrific waste of life and wealth that the war has brought about. We were not quite soon enough and strong enough—and the war is the price we pay for your stupidity.

## A Hint To You Hustlers!

One of the big reasons for the great victory at Dayton, Ohio, was the fact that Dayton comrades distributed 5,000 copies each month of the National Socialist Party's series of monthly leaflets. They have been at it since last January. It isn't too late for you to start in your town NOW! For full information write to Organization Department, National Socialist Party, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill. Help put your town on the Socialist map, SOON!