

HENRY SIEGEL received deposits from 15,000 wage earners in New York, aggregating \$2,550,000, used the money in private business and dissipated practically all of it. He was tried, found guilty, and fined \$1,000. In addition he was sentenced to jail for ten months, but the jail sentence was set aside. Under the progressive democrat Wilson, therefore, it is only a misdemeanor to rob workers by wholesale.

APPEAL TO REASON—Greatest Socialist Newspaper in the World

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A. A. WAYLAND

W. H. WAYLAND
Publisher

Published Weekly

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W. H. WAYLAND
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No. 992 if No. 993 appears on your yellow address label your subscription expires next week—RENEW NOW!

Appeal to Reason

ROCKEFELLER INTERESTS have massed women and children in Colorado, have spurned a settlement proposed by the president, and now demand that he turn over the state once more to their private armies and keep investigators from telling what has been done. Yet the president can find no way to force them to terms. It shows that law in America is not for protection of the worker, but only to aid the exploiter.

APPEAL TO REASON—Largest circulation of any political paper

The Romance of Cotton Seed Which Is Chapter One of the Absorbing Tale, Entitled "Cutting the Cotton Pie"

BY JOHN KENNETH TURNER,
Field Correspondent Appeal to Reason.

OKLAHOMA CITY.—This is Chapter One of an absorbing tale, entitled "Cutting the Cotton Pie."

Chapter One itself will be known as "The Romance of Cotton Seed." It is not a new title. It has been used before.

Cotton seed was once supposed to be of no earthly value except to plant for next year's crop.

It was a nuisance. Only a handful was needed, comparatively speaking, to put in the ground. The rest of it had to be thrown somewhere. In weight the seed is two-thirds the cotton pick.

Years ago the states of the south found it necessary to pass laws to prevent cotton seed from being dumped in the rivers to the detriment of the public health.

Then somebody made the discovery that cattle enjoy the taste of cotton seed and fatten on it. Romantic Fact Number One.

But few cotton farmers raise cattle and most of the seed continued to be wasted. Then it was learned that the oil in the seed was palatable for human beings, nutritious, and formed a satisfactory substitute for olive oil and lard, and that it was a valuable ingredient in soap. Romantic Facts Numbers Two, Three and Four.

But the most romantic feature of all in the romance of cotton seed consists of the fortunes to be made out of it.

About the first thing I did on arriving in Oklahoma was to go through a cotton gin and an oil mill.

As most everybody knows, when cotton is picked from the boll the seed comes along, too. Before the fiber can be used for making cloth the seed must be removed. This was once done by hand. In those days cotton was too expensive for much use. But Eli Whitney's cotton gin, invented at the beginning of last century, took out the seed faster than 1,000 negroes working with both hands could do it. So was born Cotton.

The Cotton Gin and Oil Mill.

As we approached the gin, we saw a farm wagon piled high with a snowy white substance. These frequently come straight from the fields. The wagon is driven under a huge, vertical pipe and by suction the load is drawn into the gin, where it plays in and out among a multitude of little teeth, which saw the fiber away from the seed.

The product before it reaches the gin is known as seed cotton. The gin separates it into cotton seed and lint. The lint is pressed into a bale, while the seed goes on its romantic journey to the oil mill. The ginning and pressing of a 500 pound bale of cotton usually takes from 15 to 25 minutes.

We observed the various transformations enacted at the mill. First, the seed is delinted. It is a process more or less like that of ginning, which cleans away the short fibers that still cling to the seed. These short fibers roll up in cylindrical shapes of large volume and are known as linters. Linters go into quilts and shoddy cotton goods generally.

The seed then passes through a machine that strips off the hull, which goes on the market as cattle feed and is said to possess a greater food value than wheat bran.

Next the seed is steamed and crushed. Fountains of oil gush forth and the residue is an oil cake. In the crushing room negroes slopped about the wet and pasty floor, wielding shovels to fill the crushing machines, and removing the cakes after the oil had been squeezed out. These workmen, by the way, get \$1.75 for a twelve hour day.

Finally, the oil cakes are ground up into meal, or broken into smaller cakes, sacked, and sent to the cattle feed markets. The oil, which is more valuable, goes to the great concerns that refine and pack, and sell to the American public, salad oil, cottolene, lard compound, and other merchandise based on cotton seed oil.

Do you get the romance of it? Not yet. The romance is in the profits—and who pockets them?

The Products of the Mill.

In 1913, according to Bulletin No. 125 of the department of commerce, about three-fourths of the cotton seed produced went to the oil mills. The value of the oil mill products at the mills was as follows: Oil, \$53,320,000; cake and meal, \$52,790,000; hulls, \$12,230,000; linters, \$7,160,000—a total of \$155,500,000 for this by-product of cotton.

of seed bought, between 35 and 40 per cent, and an aggregate profit of \$36,283,973.22.

Thirty-six millions of pure cotton seed values of the crop of one year—1913—that the farmer did not get!

But this year the farmers are receiving but half the money for cotton seed that they were paid last year. Why?

Because of the war? Not at all. Very little of the cotton seed products of this country are exported. An item of chief importance is the oil that is sent to Italy, there to be labeled "Olive Oil," sent back and sold here at fancy prices as genuine imported olive oil.

Are you paying any less for this bogus imported olive oil than you paid last year? Any less for salad oil, cottolene, or compound lard?

The Cotton Farmer Gets Left.

At the present moment it looks as if somebody were going to annex an added profit of \$10 on every ton of cotton seed sold to the oil mills this year—and that particular somebody will not be the farmer.

As the seed crop is much larger, the crush should be greater. Suppose it to reach around 5,000,000 tons. That means \$50,000,000. Add \$36,000,000 and we have \$86,000,000—a net profit on cotton seed that somebody beside the farmer will collect on the 1914 crop, provided the prices of seed and of the finished product remain the same as today.

It may be pointed out that the oil mills will not get all this sum; that, for instance, the ginmer, who usually buys the seed from the farmer and passes it along to the oil mill, gets a cut out of it.

Very true, but usually the gin is owned by the oil mill, and the ginmer is but an oil mill employee—just as the oil mill is often owned by the refiner and packer, and the oil mill man the refiner and packer's employee.

It makes no difference to the farmer whether the oil man gets the whole sum, or whether it is divided among oil man, ginmer and packer. The fact remains that here is an \$86,000,000 slice of the cotton pie that the farmer does not get.

Why, I have asked, is the farmer given but \$10 for his seed this year, when last year he received \$20?

The price of lint has been cut in half, and the price of seed has been cut in half. But the seed product market is a thing distinct from the lint market. One does not depend upon the other and should not be affected by it.

There is a connection, however, and it is this: The break in cotton is forcing the grower to sell whatever he has at any price. The seed buyer has taken advantage of the defenseless condition of the grower to force him to accept half what his seed is worth.

I challenge any one to present any other basic cause for the disastrous fall in the price of seed than this—any other reason why the grower stands to lose \$50,000,000 more than usual on that commodity in 1914.

Some Will Make Great Fortunes.

While it is true that the south is on the verge of bankruptcy, and that the distress of the cotton grower has adversely affected many lines of business, everybody who has anything to do with cotton seed (except the farmer) is happy. "We figure on making a piece of money this year," I heard an independent ginmer confess yesterday in a hearing before the state corporation commission.

Even the independent ginmer, who lives in daily fear of being throttled by the oil mill trust, is getting rich off the distress of the farmer. He can beat the farmer down more easily, and his commissions on cotton seed are consequently greater. I heard of an independent ginmer today who bought seed from the farmer (today) at \$10 a ton and turned around and sold it immediately to an oil mill for \$15 a ton. The entire expense of his transaction consisted in loading the seed from his gin into cars, which cost him not to exceed forty cents.

The farmer had planted the cotton, taken care of it, paid rent and interest, paid for the picking, hauling and ginning, only to get \$10 a ton out of each ton of seed. The ginmer had held a conversation over the telephone, had ordered his negro laborers to load the seed in the cars, and had collected \$5 for the trick.

So far as the farmer is concerned, the price of seed is fixed by the ginmer. So far as the ginmer is concerned the price of seed is fixed by the oil mill. So far as the oil mill is concerned the price of seed is fixed by the packer and refiner.

It naturally follows that the packer and refiner takes the lion's share of the profit on cotton seed products. I have no idea what that profit is, but I have shown that the cut of the ginmer and oil mill man for 1913 was over \$36,000,000, and that the profit on the crude product for 1914, by the time it reaches the hands of the packer and refiner, will be vastly increased, and may reach \$36,000,000.

The number of active gins in the United States in 1913 was 24,749, the number of oil mills 870. The oil mills own lines of gins and the refiners and packers own lines of oil mills.

Lawless Tribute Takers Combine.

These three elements are banded together in a combination in restraint of trade. They put in operation many measures to prevent competitive buying.

The oil mill men meet and agree

upon what prices they shall pay. In order to enforce these prices, they refuse to buy seed directly from the farmer, but compel him to sell to the ginmer, in exchange for an agreement of the ginmer to sell only to certain mills not in the trust, are disciplined in various ways. The oil mills "whack up" the territory. Oklahoma farmers are left to Oklahoma mills and ginmers. In some cases, in order to prevent certain outside mills from invading this state, mills within the state have been known to deliver to them a certain number of tons per year at a given price.

The Romance of Cotton Seed! To our friends, the capitalists, the sum of romance is found in the clink of blood-dripping dollars wrung by force and fraud from the toilers of the world.

One of the oil mill millionaires of Oklahoma is W. K. Wooten, head of the Chickasha Cotton Oil Co. This company owns about 100 gins, many oil mills, and dominates the situation in the entire southwestern end of the state, taking tribute from tens of thousands of poor cotton growers.

Another is R. A. Vose, manager of the Bierce estate. Another is W. H. Coyle, whose center of operations is Guthrie. Another is J. J. Culbertson. All of these own oil mills and gins to feed them.

The well known multi-millionaire packers, Sulzburger & Sons Company, run a cotton oil refining and packing plant at Oklahoma City.

Other great cotton oil trust concerns are Proctor & Gamble, of Cincinnati; the Buckeye Mills; the Southern Cotton Oil Company of New York, owners of the Refuge Mills in Mississippi. Each of these is said to own many mills and a line of gins.

The largest of these concerns, of which I have heard—and I suppose it is the largest—is the American Cotton Oil Co. This is a holding company for 50 or 60 oil mills operating in many states of the south under the name of the Union Seed & Fertilizer Co. The selling end of this great trust is the N. K. Fairbanks Company, promoters of Fairbank's soap, and cottolene, which is cotton seed compound lard sold under a patented name.

Back of some of these vast concerns is said to be none other than John D. Rockefeller. What companies he controls, and how far he dominates the cotton seed business generally, I do not know. I have not been in the field long enough to produce information as to that.

Useless Resistance of Farmers.

Naturally, the farmers have not stood by and watched the cotton seed octopus grow and reach out its tentacles about them without a struggle. Here in Oklahoma at the beginning of statehood (seven years ago) there were hundreds of farmers' co-operative gins. But the farmers did not own the oil mills and the oil mills discriminated against the farmers' gins.

Oil mill gins cut the operating prices below cost in certain localities in order to put the farmers out of business. Independent ginners owning lines of gins did the same, operating in competitive territory at a loss and playing even by boosting prices in non-competitive territory. This is being done today with few co-operative gins that are left. While scores of ginners have been testifying before the state corporation commission that it would put them out of business to gin for \$3.50 a bale, and many have been charging from \$4 to \$5 a bale, these same men are ginning in certain places for as low as \$2 a bale, in order to put the farmers' gins out of business.

Another measure that has been resorted to in a number of instances, so it is claimed, in this war of the corporations upon the farmers, is the incendiary burning of co-operative gins. A farmer's gin that started business this season at Kingfisher, in competition with a gin belonging to one of the big oil mill companies, was almost immediately destroyed by fire. In this instance there is no evidence as to the origin of the fire, but a good deal of suspicion.

So the farmers' gins, nearly all of them, have been put out of business. The farmers have learned that they cannot long compete with the large corporations on the latter's own ground. The so-called independent gins have also been crowded to the wall, a vast majority of them. Many have passed into the possession of the oil mills, and a majority of those that remain are mortgaged to the oil mills.

Cotton seed is only a by-product of King Cotton. But when this particular slice of the cotton pie makes a difference of from \$36,000,000 to \$86,000,000 a year to the farmer the farmer is not going to be satisfied to lose it.

In addition to all this, there are a number of small pilfering operations carried on regularly by the ginmer at the expense of the farmer, such as the bagging and tie steal. The wrapping of the cotton bale is called the bagging and ties. This year the Oklahoma ginmer has been paying about 70 cents for his bagging and ties, and charging them up to the farmer at \$1.25.

Regulation Proves Ineffective.

The robbery of the farmer by the ginmer in this state is so obvious that the corporation commission, a body of democrats, has been forced to some feeble attempts at regulation. At a

hearing that I attended one of the members of this commission declared that at the present time the Oklahoma farmer is paying one-sixth the value of his cotton to have it ginned. This is an extreme statement, but I am told that in some instances it is true.

When the commissioner suggested a schedule of prices that did not suit the ginners, the latter threatened to take out their latest improvements in machinery and run the cotton through in a shape that would mean a loss of \$10 a bale to the farmer. The ginners procured a ruling that was satisfactory to them, and, because the hearing was held on such short notice, not a farmer was present to protest.

It seems plain that regulation is not destined to militate in favor of the farmer to any great extent. Socialist farmers of this state are advocating as the only practicable ameliorative measure the state ownership of cotton gins and oil mills.

No constitutional amendment is necessary to bring this about, and it is understood that the Socialist group in the Oklahoma legislature—which convenes in January—will introduce bills providing that the state shall build gins and oil mills, and operate them at actual cost, in order that the farmer himself may retain one slice of the cotton pie that now goes to capitalists.

Mike---That's All

Mike lived in Chicago. That is, he existed in Chicago. He had a job with a big industrial plant and he and his wife appeared to be getting along all right. They thought anyone who tried could live in America. They welcomed the two babies that came, and imagined they would get through life in the worker's wonderful way—"somehow."

But the depression that came just when the war suggested that there ought to be a boom in America left Mike without a job. It was not long until every penny he possessed went for living. Two months later the grocer refused him further credit. Still there was no job in sight, in spite of the optimistic reports of Dunn and Bradstreet. But Mike never saw these reports. They were not for such as he, anyhow.

The wife left the children with her husband while she sought for work in order to keep starvation from the door. Then one day the police came and took Mike from his children, locking him up in jail. He was accused of a crime about which he had never heard. The wife and mother returned from work and found him gone, but where she did not know. The children were crying. It became necessary for her to remain at home to care for the babies.

They kept Mike in prison for six weeks, then turned him loose. There never had been any evidence against him. Mike returned home to find his dear ones actually starving, and not a bite in the house. He told the charity workers about it, and they brought around a basket of stuff some Good Fellow had provided for such cases in a land of plenty.

But Mike is still jobless. What do you suppose he is going to do this winter? If you can solve Mike's problem you will have gone a great way toward banishing the awful specter that haunts the consciousness of ten million men like Mike at this very moment.

BUSINESS AND THE SCHOOLS.

A recent publication of the United States bureau of education warns against the agitation for vocational training in the schools as a scheme promoted by the capitalists for the purpose of obtaining skilled workers at the expense of the government. The report says:

"The employers have a very definite program. They know what they want and are going to get it. Let us not delude ourselves by thinking they are actuated by philanthropy. It is simply good business. They want a crop of fresh, young labor furnished them every year that can make fewer mistakes and more profits."

That is as pointed as though it had been written by a Socialist. Yet it is from a government report. The report continues with the declaration that labor has been so classified that each worker does only a part of any branch of manufacture, and adds:

"The occupations, which, outside of agriculture, absorb the output of our schools are barren of any element to make them of present interest to the child or to offer any hope for the future. A vocational survey in New York City exhibits in one group 91 boys between 14 and 19 years of age with an analysis of the work they are doing. For only five of them is there any opportunity to advance or improve; 96 are in dead-end occupations."

"Business is now saying," the report continues, "that if we had the right kind of schools, child labor would become a blessing instead of an abuse of children." There you have the case in a nutshell. The masters demand that the state train child labor for them. The government itself says so.

That the learning of these partial trades does not make any worker indispensible is not in the interest of the toiler though it may mean greater "efficiency" for the employer, is asserted by the bureau of education. Education must not be for the benefit of the exploiters of labor, but for the benefit of the worker.

WAR is a furnace in which capitalism has plunged the working class, hoping that it will forge the fetters tighter. It may fuse the races into solidarity—and then!

THERE are so many spies among nations and in industry that the capitalist cry, "Have confidence," only prompts man to keep his hand on his pocket.

The "iron cross" is a double cross.

CONGRESS is a "closed shop" to the workers.

LABOR sweats that the idle may get life's sweets.

THIS is the period of war on earth, ill will among men.

WHILE it is hard to get rich, it is much harder if you don't.

YOU may beat the capitalist off your back with APPEAL clubs.

THE fear of want is the beginning of evil.—*Fairis, Stock and Home.*

THE French says truly: "No tree takes such deep root as prejudice."

The farmer digs dollars out of the mud with grief and sorrow, and sweat and blood. Takes half of his pitiful earnings or more. And pays the rack-rent landlord—what for?

You can't "right a wrong" even by slaughter. It remains a wrong still.

THE only show the worker has under capitalism is to make a show of himself.

THERE are two things in this world that could be well spared—epithets and epaulets.

The capitalist spellbinder has a message for the world—and it is marked "collect."

THE workers who voted for lawyer rule should not complain of the treatment of the judge.

THERE may be a square deal and not a square game. Capitalism is never a square game.

MONEY can't buy happiness, but it can keep out the cold and keep in the food, and that helps.

CAPITALISM revises it to read: "If I snite you on one cheek, the federal judge will see you don't strike."

WOMEN are not the only white slaves. Men also are bought and are slaves; right here in America.

THE wage worker can strike—but the federal court beats him. The oppressed farmer cannot even strike.

If boys may enlist in the army at 18, as provided by the Dick military law, why should they not be permitted to vote at 18?

CAPITALISM has made the newspapers beggars for business. They are unanimous in imploring, "Buy a bale of cotton and buy a battleship."

MR. ROCKEFELLER seems to have no friends left, except the judges and public officials. But they stand by him against the world.

THE press announces that John D., Jr., has been caught knitting. Why shouldn't he knit? His father before him was an expert with yarns.

THEY who are editing the papers from the war zone ought to be fired. There is much more interesting stuff to read than lies about the war.

PRESIDENT WILSON believes that war develops nobility. Possibly we are to have a nobility in America as a result of the war. How do you like the prospect?

It is announced that Rockefeller is to devote millions to relieve distress in Belgium. The millions he spends there have been secured through creating distress among the workers of his mines and other industries in America.

THE very first time the women in the emancipated states voted as wisely as the men did after decades of effort. With this beginning it will be only a short time until women will help to bring Socialism, the only protection to her home.

A HERD of several thousand horses in St. Louis is being kept to provide serum for use in the war. As the serum business makes the animals too sore for hauling purposes, we may look for a sharp fall in the price of canned beef when the war ends.

ROOSEVELT has certainly fallen in the estimation of the people when it becomes necessary for him, an ex-president, to cook up a story about a plot to capture New York City and hold it for ransom in order to get a front page position in the newspapers.

Said a bondholder of a handsome and breezy, With a grin that was gruesome and greasy, "I'm far too discerning To make dollars by earning. Doing the dolls is too easy."

A WASHINGTON wiseacre says we can beat the high cost of living by "buying not less than \$10 worth of groceries at a time." Hope H. Dubb will follow this intelligent advice next Saturday when he comes home with his \$7.14.

CAPITALISM fought the Oklahoma constitution on the ground that it was socialistic. They did not knock it completely out. And now the people of Oklahoma, more socialistic than their constitution, are going to use what they have to get more.

THE state of Georgia has by law relieved the railroads of the state from making improvements of any kind. The killing of a few thousand citizens that may result will not count. The workers of Georgia have not been relieved of paying their mortgages until times get better.

Appeal Army Cheers Farmers' Fight

State Secretary Approves.

From J. Raphaelson, state secretary, Kentucky, Newport.

With pleasure I have read the APPEAL. "Proclamation Extraordinary" that it will enter a new field of propaganda and bring the message of Socialism to the men and women who till the soil and bring forth the life-giving blood of the nation. The necessity of bringing the message of Socialism to the farmers has been underestimated by the leading lights of the Socialist movement. In my opinion the cause is almost hopeless unless we can count on the support of the rural population who constitute one-half our population and a majority of the voting strength.

Appeals to Industrial Workers.

From Quintard Jones, Pittsburg, Pa.

I am a red card Socialist, living in the greatest industrial center, perhaps, of the United States, Pittsburg, Pa. I agree with your statement that the political results in industrial centers have not been encouraging and that Socialism must win the farmers before it can be realized and am glad to know that you are going to make a strenuous effort in that direction.

Program Can Be Put Through.

From M. L. Stamper, Springdale, Ark.

Your announcement to bring the farmers to Socialism is the climax of laudable zeal, and the program can be put through without a hitch.

Farmers Are Revolutionary.

From John C. Madden, Cincinnati, Ohio.

I see by the last issue of your paper that you have at last woken up to the fact that the American farmer can be converted to Socialism. The American farmer is the most revolutionary class we have in this country. This was shown over 20 years ago when in the short space of four years it was possible with no really compact organization to build up a voting strength of two million.

Has Two Good Reasons.

From Ben F. Thorns, Rocky Comfort, Mo.

I am much pleased with your "Proclamation Extraordinary" mainly for two reasons: First, having well understood the relative value and importance of the farmer and his power when collectively asserted, I have made Socialism and the farmer a thorough study and my propaganda has been almost exclusively among the farmers. Second, because capitalism bleeds the farmer more violently than any other class and deceives him with all sorts of plausible stories and fake reasoning.

Hope Is in the Farmer.

From Oles Stofor, Snyder, Okla.

I hasten to commend you for the stand you are taking to put Socialism among the farmers. In my opinion the farmer vote is our great hope.

Appeal's Move Is Timely.

From J. W. McClung, Cherry Valley, Ark.

I see in the wonderful APPEAL that you are now beginning to do the things that I have long been hoping you would do—spread the APPEAL.

over the southern cotton states where the farmers toil day after day hoping for better times which never come. The APPEAL will show his hope and give him strength; he knows something is wrong and now is the time to go to him with the APPEAL.

Pleased Old Warrior.

From H. S. Steval, Newton, Kan.

Just finished reading your "Proclamation Extraordinary" and I must heartily approve of it.

"Good Political Sense."

From A. D. Thomas, Lynchburg, Va.

I have just read the APPEAL's "Proclamation Extraordinary" and it contains more political sense than I have seen in any of its issues. The hope of Socialism lies in the country districts.

Farmers Are Ready.

From C. C. McMichael, Grand Cave, La.

I appreciate the way you have started to help the cotton farmer. I am sure the plan you have mapped out will do much for Socialism by the next presidential election. The farmers are in the right stage for Socialism.

Driven to Desperation.

After walking the streets of Seattle for many days in search of a master, Thomas Mentes, a young Greek, became a bandit. He was hungry and could find no work, so he held up a man. He did exactly what you would do under like circumstances if you had the courage.

It took 20 policemen to round him up and land him in jail. He now has plenty to eat. It would seem that the authorities of Seattle might provide an easier way for his jobless and hungry citizens to break into jail.

THE American Federation of Sex Hygiene estimates that there are 300,000 licensed immoral women in the United States, and one million outside the pale of society engaged in traffic of themselves. The total amount spent every year directly for immoral purposes it estimates at three billion dollars, which is the largest expenditure for any one item in all Uncle Sam's outlay. This traffic is maintained under capitalism, for profit alone. Why do not the custodians of morals say something about capitalism's breaking up the home and endangering morals?

AND now Rockefeller, weary of being Carnegie lauded and himself blamed, announces that he will give away millions to charity. The millions he accumulated through loot of American toilers, and now proposes to return than in part to others whom capitalism has made hopeless. At the same time his investments will operate as do Carnegie's bonds. More than he gives away will come back to him.

THE war mills are running at such a pace capitalism finds it impossible to keep the mills that make going at the same time. Further proof that capitalism is a failure.

The Appeal Is Marching to Victory

The farmer knows something is wrong—it needs no argument to convince him of this—but he is yet hazy as to the remedy. He dimly perceives that the men who control the finances of the country have got him "coming and going," so to speak. He sees that some power other than his own controls the market where he must sell the product of his labor and also the market where he must buy the things he needs.

All this the farmer already sees, but he does not yet appear to have grasped the remedy. He does not yet realize that within himself lies the power to change it all. As Socialists we know that Socialism is the only remedy. But the farmer does not yet know this, because heretofore we have directed the major part of our energy in pushing our propaganda in the industrial centers. We have neglected the farmer in our educational campaigns, although it is a fact easily proven that Socialism can never win without the farmer. And this is why the APPEAL for some time to come is going to direct its main batteries on the farmers, beginning with the almost starving cotton farmers of the Southland. John Kenneth Turner is on the job, gathering the facts, investigating conditions as they really are. He will get these facts at first hand and not from through the window of a Pullman car or from those who frequent the lobbies of the big hotels. He will go among the farmers, live with them, talk with them and get the truth. And the APPEAL will print these facts from week to week with the remedy set forth in simple language by the best writers we can secure.

And while the APPEAL is doing this it is up to every member of the APPEAL Army to join hands in spreading the message among the farmers.

Start now by contributing your mite towards the FARMERS' FIGHTING FUND. Give what you can—\$10, \$5 or \$1; it will all be used to put the names of farmers on the APPEAL list. We have the names. Let's see how fast we can get the APPEAL started to them. Unless you instruct otherwise we will use your contribution to pay for subscriptions of Oklahoma farmers. It is the APPEAL's plan to swing that state completely for Socialism—from governor down—in 1916. And the farmer vote will do it. Here's the blank—use it:

For Farmers' Fighting Fund

APPEAL TO REASON, Girard, Kansas.

I want to help bring Socialism to the Farmers and the Farmers to Socialism. Enclosed is \$_____ to pay for _____ forty-week subscriptions at 25 cents each to be sent to farmers of Oklahoma by the Appeal's Agitation League. I want to help carry Oklahoma for Socialism in 1916.

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Every nation of Europe that is now engaged in war has representatives in Crawford county, Kansas...

"J. A." knew what he was doing when he located the APPEAL in Girard, the county seat of Crawford county...

Are You Doing Your Best? C. L. Panhallow lives in the state of Washington many miles from nowhere...

DR. DERNBURG ALSO SAYS that Germany must expand because she is choking to death...

If there be any seductive argument for a war of conquest it is this. Surely a vigorous people have a right to grow...

A Voice from the Battlefield. A copy of this wonderful plea for peace, by Allan L. Benson...

What is mainly wanted is that each man should have an assured chance to earn, and then an assurance of the just fruits of his labors...

Expansion and War

Written by Allan L. Benson for the Appeal to Reason

WE can understand bullets and we can understand shattered limbs; we can understand widows and we can understand orphans...

A few days ago I had the pleasure of hearing the case for Germany stated by Dr. Bernhard Dernburg...

Dr. Dernburg pictured the situation of Germany, hemmed in on the west by France, Belgium and Holland...

HERE WE HAVE an admirable illustration of what capitalistic nationalism means to the world. From our infancy we are taught to revere the nation into which we were born...

Remember what Dr. Dernburg said: Germany had but two ports; Germany could not export a pound of freight to Persia...

What, then, is the trouble? Just this: A little group of capitalists control the British government and make it what it is...

THEY ARE SELFISH capitalists, you may say. Granted; but that is not the point. The question is not so much what capitalists are but what every nation, under capitalism, is...

Every nation of Europe that is now engaged in war has representatives in Crawford county, Kansas. Here they are working in peace, side by side...

All of which is equally true of Germany's limited seaport facilities. Europe has many harbors. Plenty of these harbors are in reach of Germany...

There is no moral justification for any other sort of expansion except that which is conducted by train and ship. If people find it lonesome to live among foreigners or oppressive to live under foreign rule...

DR. DERNBURG ALSO SAYS that Germany must expand because she is choking to death; that the 40,000,000 Germans living elsewhere constitute a great loss to the nation...

If there be any seductive argument for a war of conquest it is this. Surely a vigorous people have a right to grow. But is it necessary for such people to expand in the ordinary capitalist sense of the word?

The Socialist of Melbourne, Australia, comes to the Appeal with more than four columns blurted out. The censored portion is in various articles, and the slugs bearing the message are turned upside down, printing black...

What is mainly wanted is that each man should have an assured chance to earn, and then an assurance of the just fruits of his labors. We must achieve these results yet; we can do it. Every new labor-saving invention is a new argument needed necessity for it...

to America or to go to Brazil or elsewhere has answered this question affirmatively. The ancestors of Americans gave the same answer when they left their native lands...

BUT WHILE IT IS EASY for a people to expand, it is always most difficult for a nation to do so. We should have had war with Great Britain if the American nation had attempted to follow the expansion of American people into British Columbia...

FOR PROOF OF THIS, let us go back to Dr. Dernburg. Why did he, as a great German banker and a member of the German ruling class, regret the absence from Germany of 40,000,000 Germans...

THIS IS BUT ONE other excuse for expansion by widening of boundary lines. That excuse is that Germans like to live under German institutions precisely as Americans prefer to live under American institutions...

There is but one legitimate way for a people to expand and that is by railway or steamship. Such expansion involves no bloodshed and injures nobody except the ruling class whom it deprives of soldiers...

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More Socialist Victories. Scranton, Cal.—The returns from 47 counties show the Socialist vote to be 50,799 and the total Socialist vote of the state is estimated at 63,000...

Scattering Returns. Florida, Bay county, 330. Texas—Throckmorton county, 110; Williams county, 174; Jones county, 179...

In the twentieth century war will be dead, the scaffold will be dead, national boundaries will be dead, only man will live.—Victor Hugo.

Engine Prices Down Again

The new price list of kerosene, gasoline, distillate, and gas engines, put out by Ed. H. Witte, of the Witte Iron Works, 2311 Oakland Ave., Kansas City, Mo., marks the lowest price yet made for high standard engines...



ED. H. WITTE

as he has been doing all year, to keep up with the orders, which are coming from all parts of the world. The WITTE factory is the only one which has come down through the whole history of the American gasoline industry...

There is but one legitimate way for a people to expand and that is by railway or steamship. Such expansion involves no bloodshed and injures nobody except the ruling class whom it deprives of soldiers...

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Sore Teeth Diseased Gums

I have perfected a wonderful, new, simple and painless method of treatment at home by which you can save the teeth nature gave you...

My Book Is All FREE

Write me today and learn all about this new and easy method that you can use at home...

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Reading, study or work is a pleasure when done under the soft, brilliant rays of the "Best Light"...

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EVERY READER OF THIS PAPER should send for our Free Catalog of Farm, Fruit and Lawn Fences...

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Service. We teach them and secure them GOOD PAYING SITUATIONS...

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A rare opportunity. Home sewing, plain cloth, etc. Any suitable article...

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A new Gas Mantle. Guaranteed. Not sold in stores. Write quick. TOKYO SALES COMPANY, CANTON, OHIO.

\$25.00 For a Name for This Pony. I will give \$25.00 FREE for the best name you can think of...

Railroad Style. Guaranteed. Only 98 cents. Write for details. R. E. CHAMBERS & CO., 538 So. Dearborn St., Chicago.

THE APPEAL'S EDITORIAL PAGE

THE European war should normally mean prosperity for the American farmers. It is because the masters of the markets realize the fact that they are laying their plans in advance to get the bulk of the prosperity for themselves. Let us consider the situation relative to cotton.

The last reported crop showed that America produced 14,411,000 bales as against 16,220,000 produced by all other countries. Most of the countries that produce cotton are engaged in war and cotton production will be curtailed there, if not practically ended. The destruction of war will be sufficient to make a healthy demand for cotton. Without the manipulation of cotton here, the farmer would receive high prices for his stock on hand. But the government has authorized a private pool, though the act is contrary to law, to enable the speculators to corner the crop at seven cents or less, knowing that the immediate needs of the tenant farmer will compel him to sell for what he can get. The cotton exchange, under the influence of this authorized speculation, has opened again, though speculation in trust securities is forbidden on account of their worthlessness and for the first time in history gambling in cotton is under way authorized and abetted by the government.

Then, take wheat. Russia produces 800,000,000 bushels; India, 350,000,000; Austria-Hungary, 225,000,000; Canada, 230,000,000; Germany, 170,000,000. This totals more than two-thirds of the wheat producing territory of the world. All these nations are involved in the war. It will inevitably mean a short wheat supply and high prices for America's 760,000,000 bushels, provided the farmer is not manipulated out of the gain he might make. But before the recent harvest the papers told of the abundance of the crops, and thus induced a lowering of the prices until millions of bushels were taken from the hands of the producers. To enable the speculators to get hold of what the farmer produces, the new currency system authorizes the holder of industrial stocks and bonds to cash out for government notes, while still holding their property and securing dividends on them; and this issue of a billion and a half of government notes to them will enable them to buy whatever they may please.

The bulk of the profit from the sale of farm products, then, will go not to the farmers, but to the speculators, and that by design and connivance of the government itself. It is time for American farmers to rebel and take things into their own hands.

It would be possible for them to end speculation of all kinds; to have markets supplied them at cost; to sell almost directly to the consumer and buy almost directly from the actual producer of machinery and such things as they must purchase; thus increasing their income many fold while at the same time benefiting the producer of manufactured goods with greater returns. All this could be done through a scientific adjustment of industry that would cut out the riders and tribute takers from industry. That scientific adjustment is Socialism. There is every reason why the farmer should turn to it.

"IS the low price of cotton the result of the European war or the democratic tariff?" asks E. F. Stanton, Oklahoma. It is the result of American capitalists taking advantage of conditions created by the European war to rob the cotton farmer of the product of his labor. The government, controlled absolutely by the money kings of America, refuses to do anything for the cotton farmer.

President Wilson and his democratic congress does not hesitate a minute about coming to the aid of the bankers in putting over their steal by lending the bankers government money at three per cent but refuses to loan it to the cotton farmer and leaves him to the mercy of the money trust. It is all a gigantic plan of the capitalists to steal the cotton from the men who produced it and when they are in full possession of their loot then watch cotton prices soar. It's the same old game that the capitalists have been playing on the farmers for years and which they will continue to play until the farmers of this country wake up and take over the control of government into their own hands.

NEVER before in the history of this great land of the free were there so many people trying to break into jail. Almost every issue of every daily paper in the country contains an account of some poor unfortunate victim of the profit system trying to steal into jail where he knows there is warmth and three meals a day. John Kline of Riverside, Cal., aged 63, is one of this growing army. Tired of roaming around, hungry and jobless, Kline burned down a vacant house so he would be arrested. He then hunted up a deputy sheriff and gave himself up. Kline threatens if turned loose to commit more serious violations of the law. Do you blame him? Great country! Great system! Where the only route to warmth and food for an honest workingman is through a jail door as a criminal! Are you not proud of it and yourself for supporting it?

THERE IS STRANGE WORK in progress in Colorado. The president is asked to withdraw the troops in order that the gunmen of the mine owners may again assume charge of the situation. At the same time Governor Ammons wires the president that he objects to an investigation of conditions by the industrial commission. Looks as though he is afraid the truth will so arouse the people of Colorado as to prevent him pulling off the massacre of miners that he clearly has in mind. That such a massacre is under contemplation is plain from the report of the

legislative committee to the governor, just issued. This committee suggests:

"We recommend that you issue a proclamation to the effect that every person within the state is commanded to obey the law and to refrain from all incendiary utterances; for each and every one to do his part that peace and prosperity may again be ours. In the proclamation, call the attention of the people to article 11, section 1, of the constitution, which reads as follows: 'Section 1. Persons subject to service—the militia of the state shall consist of all able-bodied male residents of the state between the ages of 18 and 45 years; except such persons as may be exempted by the laws of the United States, or of the state.'

"Make it clear that each able-bodied man between the ages of 18 and 45 is, in fact, a member of the militia, and that if it becomes necessary he will be called into active service. Make it thoroughly understood that if it again becomes necessary to use the state troops, they must be respected, to the end that the rights of every law-abiding citizen will be protected."

Even the suppression of free speech by military rule is urged, through making it appear that every man is already a partisan for the mine owners by virtue of the Dick military law that makes him a member of the state militia. This is an interpretation that goes beyond anything the APPEAL ever expected. Because you are likely to be called into service you must not even criticize your possible commander in chief, for his work in abetting the alien robbers of the people of your state.

Wilson knows that the massacre is under contemplation. Yet he refuses to seize the mines as a public necessity. He is in effect a fellow conspirator, against labor and life, with John D. Rockefeller and Governor Ammons. Russia knows no more infamous condition.

TODAY thousands are almost barefoot and shivering from lack of sufficient clothes because shoes and clothes are made for profit and not for use. With warehouses full of shoes and clothes why should anyone lack these necessities of life? Ask your friend who defends capitalism to explain this to you. With plenty of raw material, with plenty of willing hands ready to make up such raw material into the things all need, with plenty of tools and machinery to work with, honestly, now, as a sane thinking man, can't you see the absolutely ridiculousness of anybody being in want? It is just as sensible for a man to allow himself to starve in his own home with plenty of food in the house as it is for any part of the people of this nation to starve or go hungry with plenty of food in the nation for all.

UNCLE SAM is going into business and is likely to spoil the profits of the little dealer. It is in the canal zone. You see, your uncle has announced that "foodstuffs and the general variety of merchandise handled by the commissary department of the Panama canal may be purchased by ships" from him. This department is also furnishing, right now, most of the food and wearing apparel for about 50,000 people resident in the canal zone, beside offering to sell to ships that may pass through the newly opened waterway.

A correspondent for a capitalist paper says of Uncle Sam's store: "Prices are generally lower than the retail prices in the United States." Sure thing, you know. Those who had hoped to locate along the canal and exploit denizens and chance visitors are keenly disappointed. A correspondent for a capitalist paper declares:

Business men in Colon and Panama have come to the conclusion that their only occupation here will be to watch canal officials do the business and take in the money. Some are already laying plans to remove to a locality where there is no government competition, while others, who have been in business lately at a loss, fear that their only means of livelihood hereafter will be to get jobs as clerks on the canal.

They still tell you that the government can't do business legally and couldn't decrease the cost of living even if it did. But at Panama they are disproving both statements. They are not doing as well as they might, because the government fears the effect of cutting out all profit, but they are doing something.

Why do you suppose they are not doing something here in your neighborhood?

NO DOUBT the Belgians are in a pitiable condition. But the much advertised efforts to aid them are at bottom thoroughly disreputable. It is not meant that the common people who contribute to the funds for relief of the Belgians are not perfectly sincere in their desire to aid, or that they are not actuated by the highest motives. But they are being worked, shamelessly worked. In the first place the Belgians are in the condition they find themselves because of commercial war. The beneficiaries of that war are appealing to you to subscribe to the relief of these, their victims; and behind the relief they have the hidden purpose of inducing you to rehabilitate themselves before a people they have swindled and in whose eyes they are discredited. They sold watered stocks to European capitalists—paper that was based on nothing and that was worth nothing. The European investors, when they found it out, sought to make American capitalists buy back the fake securities. It was such an appalling proposition that the stock exchange was closed in order to keep the world from discovering just how worthless were the papers that had been unloaded on Europe. As it was, they had to dig up several million dollars in gold with which to partly square the fraud—and New York capitalists induced capitalists in other sections of the country to contribute most of the money to save America from a possible attack. They thought the actual swindle had been squared. But they are discredited in Europe. They, therefore, wish to show what "good fellows" they are by coming to the relief of Belgium. Yet, with their usual impudence, they ask the people to buy their rehabilitation, instead of giving all themselves, out of what they have taken from American workers and farmers. It is not charity they want, but justification for swindling European capitalists.

Reason for This Charity Movement

HO, MR. FARMER, take courage! After trying you up to the transportation trust, after capitalizing their junk to include all the property you possess, and demanding tribute from you on your own property, the masters of the railroads are going to help you. They say so themselves. Indeed, they are already helping you. Hadn't you discovered it? Then listen: The Railway Development Association recently held a national convention in Chicago. It is composed of railway managers all over America. They talked strongly of the "back-to-the-farm" movement—they have land to sell. They discussed the "farm-to-the-table" position—but they expect to haul the stuff from the farm to the table. H. B. Fullerton, of the Long Island road, told how he had already helped the agriculturalist—

W. H. WAYLAND, Publisher.
LOUIS KOPELIS, Editor.
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Contributing Staff—John Kenneth Turner, Upton Sinclair, George Allan England, George R. Kirkpatrick and P. H. Skinner.
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AND now the railroads want the government to go into partnership with them; that is, they want the government to take all the risks while they take the profits.

A LATE statement of the public debt, dated September 30, 1914, places the total at \$2,809,262,118. The total amount of money in circulation at the same date was \$1,416,671,169. Uncle Sam is bankrupt. In reality he is in the hands of receivers, the trust bankers.

THE convention of American mayors declared unanimously in favor of municipally owned water, light and transportation. It is the only way, they say, to curb the rapacity of private interests. Why not end the rapacity of private interests by socializing all industries that are socially operated?

THE postoffice department is circularizing postmasters, asking them to co-operate in a "farm to flat" system of marketing through the parcel post, cutting out the middleman. If that would help the farmer and worker, it would also help the railroad by increasing its business. Why not take over the railroad as a war measure, and save excessive transportation rates?

THE stock market is to be opened for the sale of bonds, in order to admit of new stock watering. At the same time, dealing will be prohibited at prices below a minimum demanded by a board of control. They are taking these arbitrary means of seeking to uphold their dishonest paper. But it is dangerous business. Some day there will be a break, and everything is likely to go to smash in an instant. Capitalism is treading on extremely thin ice.

THE Union Pacific railroad is owing the government a debt on borrowed money to the amount of \$1,600,000. Interest on this debt has not been paid for so long that it amounts to \$1,018,779, of nearly the principal. This appears from the statement of the public debt issued by the treasury department September 30, 1914. The government would be justified under existing law in foreclosing on the road because of failure to pay interest. Why is it not done, Mr. Wilson?

DURING the fiscal year ending July 1, 1914, according to the government report, the total operating revenues of all the railroads of the United States were \$2,991,391,325. The operating expenses during the same time were \$2,155,134,734. This leaves a net operating revenue of \$834,256,590. This approximates a billion dollars' profit out of about three billion dollars' worth of business, which ought to satisfy any reasonable exploiter. As for the people, they should be willing to save this billion to themselves, in decreased rates for travel and freight.

Comradeship and Christmas

"We are comrades" is the most beautiful phrase in the Socialist movement. Comradeship is what gives us the strength to continue our tireless fight for the right. Without the aid and understanding of our comrades in this great cause, the staunchest fighters would oft get discouraged. Let us then cherish this spirit of comradeship. Let us remember it this coming Christmas. Let the Socialists everywhere present their comrades in the trenches with a gift that truly expresses the soul and spirit of the American Socialist movement. What is this gift? It is the STORY OF THE APPEAL from the pen of George Allan England. The "Story of the APPEAL" is the embodiment and personification of the militant Socialists of this country. It is the story of the greatest Socialist paper in the world for the last 29 years. It is just off the press and ready for shipment. This book contains 367 pages and six pages of illustrations. Beautifully bound in red cloth and the price is only \$1, postage prepaid. The "Story of the APPEAL" is the ideal Christmas gift for Socialists—and do your Christmas shopping early!

HO, MR. FARMER, take courage! After trying you up to the transportation trust, after capitalizing their junk to include all the property you possess, and demanding tribute from you on your own property, the masters of the railroads are going to help you. They say so themselves. Indeed, they are already helping you. Hadn't you discovered it? Then listen: The Railway Development Association recently held a national convention in Chicago. It is composed of railway managers all over America. They talked strongly of the "back-to-the-farm" movement—they have land to sell. They discussed the "farm-to-the-table" position—but they expect to haul the stuff from the farm to the table.

H. B. Fullerton, of the Long Island road, told how he had already helped the agriculturalist—

and incidentally explained that the farmer had hitherto been robbed. According to Mr. F. his railroad is now delivering to customers in New York City "hamper at \$1.50," on which the customer "saves from 75 cents to \$3 on each hamper." The farmer gets all of 98 cents, whereas at one time he got only eight cents on goods that sold in New York for \$3. It will be seen that even now the express company receives 77 cents on goods that pays the farmer only 98 cents, which explains why the railroad company is willing to absorb the business of the retailer. Mr. F. confesses his purpose when he says: "The whole plan grew out of a desire on the part of the railroad to increase its tonnage."

The scheme of the railroads is made clear in these words: "In time all food speculators will be done away with by just such direct methods between the consumer and the producer. The railroads will furnish their agents with lists of reliable farmers on their routes, and the agents will receive orders from the consumers and forward them to the farmers."

You may think the movement does not amount to much. M. V. Richards of the Southern Railway Company reports: "In the year 1913, 2,400 farmers raised their crops under our supervision. In these demonstrations 38,755 acres were planted cotton, 15,755 acres to corn and 4,384 to miscellaneous crops." Here are two experiments in widely separate territory, and the railroads of the nation are openly considering taking control of farming. It is the establishment of the feudalism for which they had previously arranged. After they shall have put the middleman out of business, it will be very easy, controlling all things themselves, to collect any tribute they may desire. Their demand for an authorized raise in carrying rates at this very time indicates what they would do if they had the power.

The question is, would you farmers and you "consumers" in the city, prefer to tie all things up to the transportation trust, to taking transportation into your own hands and so manage it as to cut out all profits to any middleman, including the railroad owners?

E. E. SHIRLEY, a druggist of Gage, Okla., wrote a letter to Henry J. Allen, "progressive" editor of the *Wichita (Kan.) Beacon*, a paper that is raising dollar subscriptions for the aid of Belgium, sending him 50 cents with which to start a fund to aid the helpless cotton victims of the south and urging: "We have in our town 1,000 people, among whom are widows and orphans, who are now on the very verge of want, and God only knows how they will get through the winter. I am confident you will find the same state of affairs in every town in the radius of your circulation. I suggest that you extend your strong right arm for their relief and inaugurate a movement to collect only 50 cents from each person to create a fund to furnish only coal, bread and meat to the widows and orphans in Oklahoma and Kansas, and when the winter is over, then send the residue to Belgium. I herewith enclose my check for 50 cents for the above purpose only."

Did Henry Allen, the progressive, start the fund? Certainly not. The reason he did not he assigns to Mr. Shirley in returning his check as follows: "The feeling that would follow a statement that 1,000 people in Gage, Okla., were on the verge of want would cause the utmost depression. Here we have organized funds, both official and charitable, to take care of cases that are actually in need. In Wichita, which is a town of 60,000 people, we do not allow anyone to suffer, and the comforts, at least the necessities of life, are provided through our city poor fund, our county poor fund, or the organized fund of the association of charities."

What fakery it all is! With ten millions right now almost on the verge of starvation here in the United States, to hear a man expatiate about how all are provided for, and call that progressivism, is enough to disgust any thinking man with modern cant that calls itself civilization.

SOME ONE writes wishing to know if Socialists demand that all shall receive equal wages under Socialism. Socialists demand equal opportunity for all and for every day of the year. Socialists, and nobody else for that matter, have the power—or can they ever acquire such power—to make men equal in ability, but Socialists in the majority and in control of the machinery of government can and will give all men an equal chance to apply such ability as they may have and be secure in receiving the full benefits of their own ability and labor. Today when the average man is fortunate enough to get a chance to apply his ability and labor he receives but a small part of the benefits—the opportunity for him to apply his ability and labor is privately owned and the private owner demands his toil and gets it.

ARTHUR JAMES TODD of the department of sociology, university of Pennsylvania, declares there are "from ten to twenty million people in the United States almost constantly down to the poverty line, many of them constantly below it;" that "twenty per cent of the American people are in real distress and thirty per cent are below a physical efficiency minimum." Do you believe that the farmers of America are not able to raise food enough to keep all the people well supplied? Do you believe the artisans of America are not able to make enough things of every kind to supply the need of all? Do you believe the railroads of America are not able to carry the food and goods where they are needed? If America is able to supply all her needs, then poverty must be an artificial condition fastened on us by a vicious system. You cannot escape the conclusion.

MILLIONS of workingmen in Europe are now getting the full product of their labor. But their job is killing each other.

WHILE THE WAR in Europe shows no marked change as to results, the entrance of Turkey into the struggle gives promise of bringing all of Mohammedanism into it—and Portugal has now joined the allies. News slips through the censors to the effect that 84,000 persons are out of employment in Berlin, and that the danger of revolt is so great it is necessary, even with war at both borders of Germany, to keep soldiers in mass in the nation's capital. In Petrograd there is open revolt, even in the duma, with the strongest possible measures of repression. Young China is massing in great force, and the emperor is in dread of the re-establishment of the republic. Soldiers along the line of battle in France jest and sing together in lulls of the fighting, giving evidence of a new feeling among those who actually do the fighting.

Developments In This Busy Old World

With the opening of the regional banks there is an effort to stimulate industry through artificialities. Optimism is urged as a cure-all. There can be no question but that exports are large and many orders for manufactured goods are being received from Europe. Under ordinary conditions this ought to mean flush capitalist times. But the masters are more arrogant and impudent than ever, and may defeat the revival of business by demanding prohibitive raises in rates for themselves while seeking to beat labor to the lowest point of subjection. The railroads have taken the five per cent raise in rates accorded them to mean five cents on the hundred pound shipment, which is equivalent in many cases to a twenty per cent raise, and are enforcing their own interpretation of the ruling.

The cotton pool is complete, and stock gambling is to be resumed under protection of the government. In the meantime a new thing has developed in the south, with all the impractical but spectacular aspect of the old Ku Klux and Night Riding movements. The dispossessed, men who have not the horses to do night riding with, the proletarians of the tillers of the soil, have gone "possum hunting." Seems innocent enough, doesn't it? But they tell of mysterious fires in the property of the most oppressive of the landlords and bankers. Of course, it has nothing to do with "possum hunting," but the coincidence is strange.

The masters are in the saddle and are riding hard. Wilson sends troops to Arkansas to whip the striking miners into line. He refuses to seize the Colorado mines and run them in the interest of all. He authorizes the cotton pool that will enable the speculators to get the cotton crop of the south for almost nothing and sell it with millions of profit. The courts are deciding again and again for the master class, in the most high handed manner they have ever exhibited. Newspapers are openly urging a big army and navy. It is certain that it will be impossible to prevent the shipping of food to Europe now.

Meantime every indication is that the coming congress will be the most reactionary that was ever known. In all probability two billion dollars will be spent by it. The bars will be let down. The APPEAL and the people in general have been very liberal with the president, giving him credit for good intentions. It now looks as though that liberality will be spurned and he will become what he is in process of becoming, more reactionary than Taft was, going from office probably the worst hated man who ever occupied the chair.

In with all this there is a marked change in the feeling of the American people. Socialism has really advanced. The growing arrogance of the masters will cause it to advance with still greater rapidity. The people are ready today to take the railroads. Just as revolt is beginning in Europe, where militarism is rampant, so it is flaming in America, and the masters are fanning the fires. There is every reason for encouragement.

ANOTHER scientist has discovered that criminality is caused by defective human beings. He would end it by segregating the defectives and preventing them from breeding. At the same time he would leave intact the system that makes defectives at both ends of the teeter board, and thus perpetuates the condition that brutalizes the world. Great is the logic that upholds the robbery of the workers!

THERE IS a movement on in half a dozen states to bring to America the ruined Belgians, and settle them on land in America. James J. Hill favors the plan—but he has land to sell. The *Los Angeles Times* advocates it—but Gen. Otis proposes a "state mortgage fund" to enable them to borrow money from the bankers, secured by the state. Otis estimates that "these emigrants" can be depended on to produce 25 per cent of the total necessary investment per annum, until they have paid out. And then? Well, it is all an "investment." They are better truck farmers than the Japanese. They will not only produce more per acre from the land, thus aiding the shippers, but they will also produce more from which they can be exploited. The philanthropy of the masters, when analyzed, spells only exploitation. It is rank hypocrisy.

And while it is proposed to bring the Belgians here, when they are in such a pitiable condition they will be willing to accept almost anything that is offered, they who are already here raising cotton are actually being starved to death through the manipulations of the same vampires that propose to make more money from the need of the Belgians. While it is represented that there is much unoccupied land in America that should be developed—so much that it is necessary to import aliens to work it—two million Americans are tramping the roads, unable to find work and utterly shut from hope of getting to the land. This is what they call "business." This is our very practical capitalist system.