

The WORKERS' WORLD

Official Organ Socialist Party of Kansas City
Endorsed by Local Omaha, Socialist Party

Vol. 1. No. 23.

KANSAS CITY, MO., FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 1919.

Application made for entry as Second Class
Matter at Post Office at Kansas City, Mo.

Price, 5 Cents

OPPOSE INTERVENTION

The Mexican Workers Protest Against
Invasion for U. S. Capitalists

Mexico City, August 20.—Yesterday the United States Army invaded Mexican territory on the pretext of chasing the bandits who held the two American aviation officers on ransom. Contrary to the capitalist press propaganda in the United States, the Mexican workingman is opposed to this unjustifiable aggression.

During the last weeks there has been a great agitation in our labor and socialist circles. Mexican labor is unanimous in believing that the best and most effective way to prevent the violation of Mexican sovereignty and a bloody and prolonged warfare, is to appeal to the class solidarity of the American proletariat. Cables and manifestos have been sent to the American socialist and labor element asking them to exert their influence in order to stop the intervention.

The attitude of the Mexican workingman against intervention is taking more and more vigorous form every day; they want to make the world know that they will not become easy victims of the plots of the international capitalists. They may not be contented with all the actions of the present government, but they are deadly opposed to being handed over once for all to powerful foreign exploiters.

PLACE RACE RIOT BLAME

The Bolsheviks are the Cause of it all
Says Congressman

Of course it is the "agitators" and "bolsheviks" who are responsible for the race riots. Capitalism has nothing to do with it—nothing whatever.

Representative James F. Byrnes of South Carolina on August 25 asserted on the floor of the House that the race antagonism which flared up in Washington and other sections of the country recently had its inspiration in incendiary utterances of negro leaders, circulated through negro publications. That settles the question, and all that it is necessary to do to restore "law and order" among the colored folk is to suppress radical negro journals. The capitalistic papers of the country have been at great pains to spread Mr. Byrnes' remarks broadcast.

Especially is it the "Messenger," published in New York by two prominent negro socialists, that is exciting the ire of the southern gentlemen. "It is evident that the I. W. W. is financing it in an effort to have the negro of America join it in their revolutionary plans," gasps Mr. Byrnes.

The "Crisis," too, though a moderate organ of negro opinion, is such a thorn in the flesh of Mr. Byrnes that he wants the Department of Justice to suppress it. His ban is further extended to the Boston "Guardian," another negro paper.

Meanwhile nobody in official life is apparently bothering to look into the economic injustices that have made for the unrest among our negro fellow citizens.

CLOTH WORKERS WIN.

Philadelphia.—After a short struggle, Cloth Workers' Union, Local 1, of the Amalgamated Textile Workers of America, on August 25 scored a big victory in establishing a minimum wage scale and better working conditions for weavers and spinners in the industry in Philadelphia. Recognition of the union and of the shop steward system were further concessions obtained.

STREET MEETINGS

Monday Night Sept. 8th at 12th & Oak

Subject:
"What Do We Mean by One Big Union?"
Speaker: Ella Reeves Bloor.

Tuesday Night, Sept. 9th at 18th & Vine

Subject: "What Is Socialism?"
Speaker: Ella Reeves Bloor.



Try The Big One!

A PROFITEERING COUP

British Parliament Puts Over Another
Deal On the Workers

London, August 25.—For cynical disregard of the people's will, the Government's sudden dissolution of the House of Commons Profiteering Committee would take a good deal of beating. The bill, which they professed to regard as a satisfactory substitute for a public inquiry, is so bad that it only secured a second reading because few members liked to appear to their constituents as voting against any measure to deal with the scandal.

But, as Mr. Clynes, sometime food controller, said in opposing it, the measure is a burlesque of legislation, which does not touch the big men at the top! and it will, in fact, merely enable people to spy upon their neighbors and penalize the small retailer for what in many cases are the sins of far more prominent people, whose dealings with our food supplies might have been examined if the commission had been allowed to do its work.

The fact is, of course, that the awkward situation created by the revelations of the Coal Commission has given a good many guilty persons "cold feet" concerning commissions of inquiry. When the complaint was made in the House, last week, that the Agricultural Commission (not allowed to sit in public) was actually inquiring into land tenure and national ownership, Mr. Lloyd-George was at great pains to declare instantly that such proceedings were "unauthorized" and would have no effect upon the Government! It is true that the "authorized" proceedings at the Coal Commission have had a little effect!

"Silly Season" Plot Seared.

For the first time, industrialism has supplied the journalist with a good subject for the "silly season." Since this is the first "silly season" that we have had for five years, it is perhaps appropriate that high authority should assist the holiday press to make a success of it.

So we have Scotland Yard working up a fine bolshevik plot—"stunt" which the "stunt" press only too gladly welcomes in the dead season and which they are admirably qualified, after years of practice in revealing the "hidden hand," to magnify into a vast conspiracy on the part of British workers to do—what? That is the weak spot in the plot scare. For, after all, to wish to change the form of government from a capitalist democracy to a socialist republic is nothing new or alarming in this country, where such doctrines have been preached for about half a century.

But that does not damp the enthusiasm of people who revelled all through the war in discovering a pro-German in every apostle of an unpopular cause. They can join heartily in hunting down an imaginary foreigner who comes over with handfuls of gold in order to finance "bolshevism" in this country, and they can add to the thrill by hinting at a "beautiful bolshevik woman" who seems also to be implicated in these dark and treasonable acts.

The real question is, not what the silly readers and writers of the silly season means by bolshevism and bolshevik agents, but what the government and police agents mean by these convenient expressions. And the inconvenient disclosures that are being made in the "Daily Herald" just now, concerning attempts to bribe the men in the workshops to act as spies on their fellow-workers in order to aid in the breaking of strikes, would seem to point to the real reason of the stories that are being circulated, at least with the connivance of the authorities, and apparently believed even by such people as those who ask questions in the House of Commons.

WANT JIM LARKIN BACK

Irish Labor Bodies Demand Safe
Passport for the Exiled Leader

By unanimous vote the Irish Labor Party and Trade Union Congress, assembled in convention at Drogheda during the second week of August, condemned the action of the British government in denying a passport to James Larkin, general secretary of the Irish Transport Workers, now exiled in America.

The congress further passed a resolution, by 131 votes to 50, according increased powers to the National Executive, to ensure joint action in industrial and political matters. Mr. O'Lehane (Drapers' Assistants), who proposed to amalgamate unions with the ultimate object of having a single all-inclusive Irish Workers' Union, one authority to be responsible for financing and controlling all the larger movements. Subject to this authority the workers would be organized into industrial sections, self-governing so far as the affairs of their own industries were concerned.

TROOPS ENFORCE QUIET.

Hammond, Ind.—All is quiet in Hammond, where the 2000 employees of the Standard Steel Car Co. have been on strike for several weeks. More than that, the plant is gradually resuming operations and engaging scabs.

This "victory" for the bosses has been achieved by the fact that eleven companies of Indiana state militia have been mobilized, four of which are camping inside the company's plant. Capitalist "law and order" once more reigns!

One professional and expert class after another is discovering its identity of interest with the workers and producers, as against those who live on unearned incomes and who control industry for profits rather than service.—George P. West.

AUTOCRACY WON'T GO

Organized Workers Practice a Little
Real Shop Democracy

Paterson, N. J., August 25.—The employees in Altshuler Bros' silk mill have just given another demonstration of what the workers can do if they stand together as a united shop and take matters into their own hands. The Altshuler shop is a 100 per cent. I. W. W. shop, having been finally organized after years of struggle by the workers, determined to clean up what had been a notorious open shop.

When a new superintendent came to the shop about a month ago, fresh from the army, he notified the workers that he intended to "put every man in his place and keep him there." But the Altshuler workers have not absorbed the military ideas of the new "democracy." They still have the old idea that a worker is not a mere beast of burden or part of some great machine, but that he is a human being, entitled to be treated as such.

So, when the new "super" started in to apply some of his military tactics, calling down one weaver who had the impudence to look at his watch and reminding him that the whistle would blow at the proper time to let the animals out, reprimanding another who dared to look out of the window, and threatening those who came in a minute or two late, trouble began to brew. It came to a head when the "super" tried to fire the sweeper, a negro who was a member of the union and whose particular offense was the reading of an I. W. W. circular during working hours.

The workers held a shop meeting and voted unanimously to stop the looms until the sweeper was reinstated and, at the same time, decided that, while they were out, they might as well make a clean job of it by demanding that the superintendent be dismissed for his autocratic methods. After a week's resistance, seeing that the workers stood together solidly, the boss gave in, agreed to take back the sweeper, and accepted the super's "resignation."

International Workers Defense League Wants Statement from Lenin

As Secretary of the International Workers' Defense League E. D. Nolan recently cabled to Premier Lenine assuring him that the great body of the rank and file of labor in America does recognize the Soviet Republic as the first Workers' Republic in the world's history, and that the Defense Forces are urging joint action of all Labor, Socialist and Liberal organizations in observing October 8th as a day of General Protest. If Lenine's reply is not censored, it is expected that a message to the working class of America will soon be received from him.

COPY OF CABLEGRAM TO LENINE.
"San Francisco, California,
August 22nd, 1919.

Nikolai Lenine, Premier,
Soviet Republic of Russia,
The Kremlin, Moscow, Russia.

Comrade:—

The International Workers' Defense League is an industrial organization with branches in all large cities and industrial centers on the American continent. It holds the respect and confidence of the progressive rank and file movement of labor for its militant defense of Mooney, of Labor and of political prisoners in general made by this organization.

We are placing before all labor organizations, Socialist organizations and liberal bodies of citizens the imperative need of joint action thru the medium of a General Day of Protest on October 8th, to compel American recognition of Soviet Government of Russia and to insist on immediate withdrawal of American troops from Siberia and the lifting of the blockade. Also that United States demand similar action of the Entente Allies.

We are urging the Labor and Socialist movement of England, France, Italy, Spain and Australia to join American Labor in this demand. Liberal papers and magazines of labor are doing all in their power to get united action for this program.

No matter what position a few reactionary officials of labor have taken,

the rank and file of America, in the forests, mines, mills and factories do recognize the Soviet Republic as the first Labor Republic in the world's history. We are convinced that the allied invasion and blockade has but one purpose and that is to punish the working people of Russia for having confiscated capital.

We request a message from you on the subject matter of this cablegram direct to this organization for transmission to the working people of America.

Fraternally,
INTERNATIONAL WORKERS'
DEFENSE LEAGUE,
E. D. NOLAN,
Secretary-Treasurer."

O. B. U. SPREADS IN MEXICO

Branches of I. W. W. Springing Up
Rapidly in the Land that
Wall Street Wants

Syndicalism is spreading all over the country. Branches of the I. W. W. are springing up rapidly and at this rate the O. B. U. will soon cover the republic.

Syndicalists are especially strong in Tampico, Salina Cruz, Veracruz and seaport towns. The "Grupo Cultural Racional," an anarchist organization in Aguascalientes, is very strong, and has a large library. It has published various pamphlets in Spanish. In Guadalajara a group of radical women are waging an aggressive anti-Catholic propaganda. Their organization is the "Centro Feminino Radical" and they publish a weekly, "El Iconoclasta."

DELEGATES REPORT.

Sunday afternoon at Bookbinders' Hall Wilcox and Kassner, Missouri Delegates to the National Convention, will make a report to the membership. Be sure and be there!

Mass Meeting

At

BOOKBINDERS' HALL
12th and Central

Sunday Night, 8 p. m.

Prostitutes' Symposium

(All Actual Conversations.)

"No, I don't like to make overalls in this factory and I ain't a goin' to much longer; I'm just workin' here long enough to get enough together to go up near Camp Funston. All my steadies were drafted and there ain't no good pickin' here any more; only old geezers and gee, they disgust me, they're so foolish. Sure, I'm young; nineteen last birthday. Ah gwan, you fool, workin' here nine hours a day for nine dollars a week and maybe as much as twelve if you sweat your life out and silk stockin's a dollar and a half a pair. I am not foolish to be spendin' my money on 'em. Didn't the woman the sisters sent me to wear 'em and her daughter, too? Yes, I did, her housework. I was fifteen when she got me out of the orphanage. She was lovely, she spoke so nice to me; said she was going to be a mother to me, never let me stay out late nights nor associate with bad girls nor nothin'. But she bought her daughter silk stockin's and she never did no work except when I went out every other Thursday and Sunday afternoons. The ten dollars a month she gave me wouldn't buy anything like her daughter wore and she never worked at all so I ran away. I didn't want to go back to the sisters so I went to another town. I've had some good times since then and I've had some terrible bad ones, too. Yes, I'm kinda delicate. Quit yer kiddin' about me bein' pretty. I was until I got this breakin' out. Funny these rich women don't get that, it was the husband of one that gave it to me. This cough bothers me some, too. Whaddye mean if I got what I produced? Oh, can that stuff, that's too much for my brain."

"Say, you're not used to running a machine, I can see that. Here, pull that lever and stop it, the crackers are all going crooked and the icing will all be smeary and they can't be sold. I was that way, too, when I first came here. Why did I choose this kind of work? Well, I wanted to finish high school in the day time so I took this because night work is hard to get. I came here right after school every day."

After I had my operation and the baby was taken away I wanted to start all over again. That man was a rascal, I loved him and I thought he did me but now I know that he didn't. Since I've come here, though, I've changed my plans, I can't stick it out. There's a nice fellow wants to help me, so I'm going to quit at the end of the week."

Love him? You goose, of course not, he's thirty-five and I'm eighteen. But look here, we get ten dollars a week for standing steadily at this whizzing deafening thing; I pay three for my room, seventy-five for car fare, seventy-five for laundry and—oh, shucks, what's the use, I must eat and I simply can't make five dollars and buy seven day's food and besides I'm tired."

"I was sixteen and hungry. Didn't I work? Of course, stood on my feet from eight to six in a department store for four dollars a week, that's long ago, I understand that they get as much as eight and even twelve now, but look at how living has gone up. Well, my four wouldn't stretch then no more than the eight will now. He was forty and wealthy and bought me plenty of food and pretty clothes. I was stupid. I thought maybe he might marry me some day but he left me very abruptly in the street one day and I watched and followed. A golden haired little girl, followed by a fashionably dressed woman ran up to him and greeted him with the name of Papa. After that I didn't care. Why should I go back to slaving for four dollars a week. Why shouldn't I continue to have good food and comfortable, pretty clothes like his wife? She didn't work and had plenty. I learned after that she had been his stenographer before she married him. Well, she scorns me but I'm honest while she's a hypocrite. I used her scheme and had plenty. I sold myself but many times."

Today you find me in police court, well, that's an old story, I'm forty now and I've had some mighty good times and some devilish hard ones; it isn't all cream and honey, this life. But pretty soon, I saw where most of them end up and I resolved to prepare for my old age. I've nearly enough stowed away to quit soon."

Have you enough stowed away for your old age? Well, now isn't that funny? You work and you get more than I ever got on a job. Socialism? Oh, you are one of them Anarchists? No, I wouldn't read your pamphlet, I never read. Is that so? There wouldn't be no prostitution, under Socialism? Well, if you'd had your Socialism when I was younger, maybe I'd looked into it a bit. It's too late now."

"Sure the hand ironing pays the

best, I get fourteen a week. Yes, I know a woman like me, fifty years old ought to be doing lighter work but I can't live on what they pay and none of the laundries pay any more than this one. I've hunted Omaha over and this is the best paying of all. You see, I've two children. One's a cripple and can't help at all and the other is married but her man earns barely enough to keep them agoing besides she has three children of her own, and I couldn't expect her to keep me and the boy, too. They do say as how his crippledness is caused by my working so hard before he was born, but then when I didn't work I didn't eat. Poor fellow, he's never had a square deal except the times when I sold myself. Yes, I did that but I'm no common prostitute. I've only sold myself to four men but now I'm too old for that sort of trade now and what is to become of us when I'm old or of Ralph when I die, I don't dare think."

No, I never did stop to figure the difference between what I get for my work and what the boss gets for it. Well, now that you ask, let's see, yesterday I did eighteen bundles, I don't know how much they weighed, they don't let us know that, the scales is away down there at the end, but I know they don't take anything for less than a dollar a bundle no matter how little it weighs and, of course, most of them weigh more than that. Well that's eighteen dollars at least for the boss and very likely much more. That leaves him fifteen easily and more. Well, what am I to do about it? I can't compel him to give me the difference. Do away with the bosses who take the difference between what I do and what he gets? Why, you're against the government, you're one of those agitators. I was contented until you came here."

—Mildred E. Kern.

Squibs

By John Dequer.

Prof.—Illustrate the difference between intellect and intelligence.

Student.—There is an intelligence bureau in the government but it lacks intellect.

Prof.—The phenomena of the human brain are but an evolution of the simple reactions observed in the unicell.

Student.—Then men are like bugs, only more buggy.

Those who understand the forces of their environment are thereby made more adaptable to changes in environmental conditions. Hence more progressive.

The mass of opinions held by mankind today are based upon belief instead of upon science, and are therefore often incorrect.

Is it necessary that Civilization endure? Ask the Indian.

Our progress in the social world has not kept pace with our progress in industry, for the simple reason that in industry we have reasoned from cause to effect, while in the social world we have tinkered with effects and ignored causes.

Knowledge is food for the intellect, and intelligence is the result. How then can we find intelligence in the working class when they get their knowledge from the Kansas City Post.

Have you trials and temptation, Have you sorrow any where; All because you do not carry Any brains beneath your hair?

Then subscribe for The Workers' World.

Protest!

We, the City Central Committee, in the name of the Socialist Party of San Francisco, protest against the invasion of Mexico by the United States; we denounce this Imperialistic act of American Plutocracy in attempting to take the Mexican Oil Wells as nothing short of robbery and an attempt at deliberate enslavement of the Mexican Proletariat; we recognize that the so-called holding for ransom of the American Flyers is a sham to make war on Mexico possible; we further state that the American and Mexican proletariat have no quarrel between each other, and we send them cordial greetings, and in the words of Marx and Engels call on "the workers of the world to unite, we have nothing to lose but our chains, we have a world to gain."

The City Central Committee, of San Francisco Socialist Party.
J. H. Harrison,
Secy., pro-tem.

Davis, Thorman, Morris, Mrs. Camp, Jaslow, Neal and Goldblatt are a few of the regulars who reported this week on the endowment fund.

HOW A REAL UNION WORKS

The Amalgamated Shop Committees

By Ben Gilow

(Note.—The writer does not intend this article as a blanket indorsement of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers. With certain features of the organization he is not in accord. But in this article are presented its most admirable features, which can serve as a model for the workers in many other industries in this country.)

One of the largest and most powerful labor organizations in the United States is the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. Several years ago, a few clothing workers in New York became disgusted with the reactionary tactics and corrupt leadership of the United Garment Workers—an A. F. of L. organization—and broke away, forming the Amalgamated. In its early days the new Union bitterly fought the scabbery of the United on one hand, and the brutality of the bosses on the other.

It grew rapidly. In a short time the Amalgamated accomplished a great deal. The conditions of the workers steadily improved. Sweatshop conditions were wiped out, and hours reduced.

The Amalgamated was the first Union in the country to declare for the Forty-four Hour Week. Forty thousand of its members struck for fourteen long weeks in order to get the Forty-four Hour Week. In all that two months and a half there was not a single desertion from the Union ranks.

How the Shops are Controlled. In the Amalgamated Clothing Workers the shops are controlled by the workers on the job, through Shop Committees.

Size. The Shop Committee is as large as the workers want it to be; sometimes three, sometimes four or five. Then there is a Shop Chairman, who is a member of the Committee. Election of Committee. The Committee and the Chairman are elected by the workers from their number.

Length of holding office. The Shop Committee holds office as long as the workers want them to serve. I have seen Shop Committees recalled and others elected three times in one month, because the workers in the shop didn't like the way they were handling affairs.

Pay. The Committee and Chairman get no pay. They work on the job with the rest of the workers and represent.

The duty of the Shop Chairman is to see that the Union rules are enforced, and to look after the interests of the workers in the shop. The Shop Committee guides the Chairman, and acts with him in shop affairs.

During the war, the cutting departments of several uniform shops were managed by the workers through their Shop Committee. There was neither foreman nor boss; their places were filled by the Chairman and the Committee, who directed all the work from the beginning to the end, thus demonstrating that organized workers have the ability to run industry themselves.

Whenever questions come up which cannot be settled by the Shop Committee and the Chairman to the satisfaction of the workers, a shop meeting is called in Union headquarters right after working hours. The only reason that the meeting is not held in the shop, is that the boss will always try to be on the job in his own place, to find out what the workers are thinking and planning.

The Union Hires the Workers. The Amalgamated maintains that the hiring of workers is the job of the Union. It holds that the labor power of the workers is the property of the workers' organization, and that the organization should dispose of that power to the workers' best advantage.

The majority of workers in industry must ask the boss for an opportunity to work. Generally, after making out the employment application—in which the worker must give his whole family and business history from birth—he interviews the boss, who finally decides whether to give him the job or not. The boss fixes the hours of work, the amount of wages, and the conditions as a whole. Not so with the members of the Amalgamated. The Union fills the jobs. When a job is open, a worker is sent to that job by the Union. Any member found soliciting a job from a boss is punished by the organization.

The worker who is to get the job is given a working card by the business agent. On the card appears only the worker's name, the Local he belongs to, the job he is to get and the amount of wages he is to receive. When the worker gets this card he goes to the shop, and hands the card to the Shop Chairman, who immediately puts him to work. No question about his experience; no question about his family; no question about recommendations. The only thing the boss gets about the worker is his name and address. After work-

ing two weeks on the job, the boss cannot fire the worker—because the Union holds that two weeks time is sufficient to prove whether or not the worker can handle the job.

All complaints in the shop must be made by the boss to the Shop-Chairman who, with the Shop Committee, has full charge of affairs. Being a committee of the workers, in most cases the Shop Committee takes the workers' side.

If The Boss Doesn't Like it.

The Shop Chairman and the Shop Committee have a good deal of initiative in their own shop. In most Unions the scale of wages represents the maximum amount of wages the worker gets. In the Amalgamated, it always represents the minimum; most workers get more than the scale, and none get less than the scale. This condition depends upon the initiative and intelligence of the Shop Chairman and Shop Committees. If a Shop Chairman or Shop Committee understands the labor market and the forces at work in the Labor movement, they can always take advantage of an opportunity to gain more for the workers of their particular shop.

Due to the effective organization of the shops as outlined above, the bosses during a strike face a well-disciplined army of workers, not a mob. The Shop Chairman and Shop Committees marshal the workers of their particular shops, see that picket duty is attended to, and stop work from being sent out of town.

The Power of the Amalgamated.

The power and strength of the Amalgamated lies in their Shop Chairmen and Shop Committees. If properly attended to by the workers the Shop Committee is one of the workers' most effective weapons against the capitalist class.

In the near future the workers of this country are going to come to grips with the master class for possession of industry. When a Workers' Government comes into power, will the workers be able to renew and efficiently run industry for the benefit of the working class? The answer lies in the effective organization of Shop Committees in all branches of industry—Committees composed of men who are intelligent and class-conscious.—The Voice of Labor.

LITTLE STORIES WE SHOULD KNOW.

NO. 4.

By James Waldo Fawcett.

The other day, I am told, there was a pageant in a New York City playground breathing space. Those who had the spectacle in charge are representative slummers, half-professional, half-amateur. This was one of the tricks: There were possibly a hundred children, gathered in from the lowest alleys and the filthiest slums, in the procession. It pleased their teachers to have them play at being vacation folk, aping the antics of summer resort and winter retreat. Consequently, these poor little animals, bred of the slum and cursed with its care, were dressed in white linen and duck and flannel and paraded about armed with tennis rackets and golf sticks and canoe paddles! Newport, Palm Beach, Bar Harbor, Old Point Comfort! Tennis rackets, if you please! Golf sticks! Canoe paddles! Why, nine of every ten of these children had never before seen these genteel playthings of the super-rich! And you may imagine how they handled them. In this alone they found their answer to the insult. As they marched in silent if unconscious protest those hundred or more slum babies so displayed their ignorance of the use and purpose of their borrowed panoply as to cause comment among even the most blind.

Caliban in the Coal Mines

(By Louis Untermeyer.)

God, we don't like to complain— We know that the mine is no lark— But—There's the pools from the rain; But—there's the cold and the dark.

God, You don't know what it is— You, in Your well-lighted sky, Watching the meteors whiz; Warm, with the sun always by.

God, if You had but the moon Stuck in Your cap for a lamp, Even You'd tire of it soon, Down in the dark and the damp.

Nothing but blackness above, And nothing that moves but the cars— God, if You wish for our love, Fling us a handful of stars!

"The invasion of Russia is the greatest frame-up against labor (the Russians call it a Frame-ooop) the world has ever known.

Bob Minor on Russia

"The Bolsheviks pulled the biggest labor strike in human history. The armies in Russia are International Strike Breakers."

"The Red Guard killed 4,500 royalist profiteers. The White Guard killed 70,000 labor men and women. The press failed to mention the latter, but played the Red Guard killings up as 'Red Terror.'"

"The Soviet gave women full suffrage before congress."

"Kolchak is a savage. He does not have the word 'republican' in his vocabulary."

The farmer who is ready to shoulder a gun to fight Socialism for fear it will take his little farm away from him, is usually as meek as a kitten when the banker or some loan shark takes it away from him. There are a lot of funny people in this old world! —Brisbane Worker.

What the Left Wants

In the controversy that has been raging between the Left Wing and the Right Wing in the Socialist Party, the spokesmen of the Right Wing have seriously misrepresented the program of the Left. In order that the party members may not be deceived by these misrepresentations, we wish to outline briefly what the Left Wing is trying to do:

The main features of the Left Wing program are:

1. The adoption of a party platform devoid of vote-catching reforms—a platform based purely on a statement of the fundamental principles of revolutionary socialism.
2. Acceptance of the principle of mass-action.
3. Affiliation with the Communist International composed of the Bolsheviks of Russia, the Spartacists of Germany and the revolutionary proletarian groups in other European countries.

The Left Wing takes the position that a revolution is coming in the United States. The question of WHEN it is coming is only of incidental interest. The essential point is that it is COMING. The Left Wing contends that it is the business of the Socialist Party to prepare itself to control the revolution when it comes, and so to educate the workers in the meantime that the revolution will not fall because of the absence of a well-organized, class-conscious proletariat.

In order to do this it is essential that the program of the party be built squarely upon a revolutionary basis.

This does not imply an abandonment of political action. But it does mean that elections will be utilized mainly as a means of propaganda. We have learned that the Socialist Party, as at present organized, may be successful at the polls at the expense of the Socialist Movement. The Left Wing maintains that the capturing of isolated political offices is of no substantial value to the Socialist Movement while the vote-catching devices that must be used in capturing those offices serve to divert attention from the main issue.

The Right Wing has been particularly wild in discussing the question of mass-action. It is intimated that mass-action involves wholesale blood-letting and violent anarchy. This is absolutely false. It should be plain to any ordinary mind that mass-action means simply action in mass. Any action, whether political or industrial, that is characterized by solidarity, is mass-action. And the sole object of advocating mass-action is to promote class-conscious solidarity among the workers. The Left Wing stresses mass-action because it is the only kind of action that can get results.

The Left Wing finally insists that the socialist of America should be linked up with the New Communist International, which is composed of only those elements that are revolutionary in character and that have always based their program on the principle of the class-struggle.

The Left invites careful consideration of its program, confident that such investigation will convince party members that the position of the Left Wing is sound and scientific.

ALEC WATKINS,
ALANSON SESSIONS.

PUSHING THE WORLD

The World enters Tucson, Arizona, this week with a sub from F. S. Lowe.

C. E. Styles, of Kingsville, Texas, says, "Send us a weekly bundle, we like it fine."

J. J. Herman is waking up the people around Independence with the World and the "Crimes of the Bolsheviks." He has disposed of about 100 copies and orders 100 more.

1,000 extra copies were distributed free at the Labor Day picnic and paid for by the Poale-Zion local.

Comrade Eva Tzirulnekov sends in \$5.50 from New York.

Herman Schanz is high man on subs this week with five, nosing out Sam Rosenzweig who brought in four.

There is mail at the World office for Harry Lux. Where is he?

Five subs came in from Nebraska this week in response to the letter of the State Secretary. We expect more to follow.

W. T. Talley, of Bristol, Va., says: "Send me the paper—the name sounds good." He saw it mentioned in the Ohio Socialist.

Nathan O'Dess just got back from the seat of war in France and Joe Ripley has returned from Red Seattle. They both get into the war at home by subscribing to the World.

The boys who have been taking bundles of the World down into the shops and yards know why the railroad men wanted a "red" woman to speak to them on Labor Day. Do you take the paper into your shop?

BOOKS WORTH READING

"Six Red Months in Russia"
"Ten Days That Shook the World"
"The Proletarian Revolution in Russia"

September Liberator now on Sale
PROGRESSIVE NEWS CO.
405 East 12th St.

American Auction Co.

1420 Grand Avenue
Has a Large Stock of
SECOND HAND
and NEW FURNITURE
Special Reduction to those who bring this ad.
Also buy all kinds of Furniture
Home Main 1351

I believe in a SQUARE DEAL TO EVERYBODY on earth, that is WHY I PATRONIZE this paper

Harry Chilton
Groceries and Meats

902 S. W. Boulevard
528 S. W. Boulevard, Rosedale
Kinney Heights, Rosedale

The People's Weekly Forum

A Socialist Paper
Published by The Socialist Party of Kansas
C. B. HARMAN, Editor
Lawrence, Kansas

Bell Phone Grand 1747 J

OTTO ZULAUF

Cleaning, Pressing and Repairing

EXPERIENCE COUNTS!

919 West 17th St.

Kansas City, Mo.

The A. F. of L.

Official reports to the Atlantic City convention showed that the A. F. of L. is composed as follows: 51 departments, 111 national and international union, 46 state federations, 816 city central bodies, 573 local department councils, 884 local trade and federal labor unions, 33,852 local unions, with a total membership of 3,260,068. This would probably be reduced much below three million by elimination of those who held from two to seven cards in different unions.

At the convention there were 102 National and International unions represented by 312 delegates with a voting power of 31,829. Of this delegation 65 were officials of the different national or international unions and they held between them 28,000 of the votes. The total votes at the convention were 32,159, the 330 votes being from 31 states, 144 central, 86 trade and federal unions, and 4 fraternal bodies. More than one third of the delegates to the Atlantic City convention were themselves employers of labor. The paid officials absolutely dominated the convention and the A. F. of L. is so arranged that they always will dominate unless dislodged by a sudden and overwhelming revolution within the ranks, or the withdrawal of per capita, both of which possibilities are remote.

Steady now, boys! Throw out the anchor! Pull hard on the oars! Take that rag out of the hole in the stern to plug up the hole in the bow! Don't rock the boat! We're off on the good ship Craft Unionism for the port of Nobody Knows Where!—The Forge.

Opposes Plumb Plan

While American business men are in consternation over the possibility that American labor may unite behind the Plumb plan, which to them, appears to be the acme of radicalism, workers on the other side of the water are viewing the project as a "step in the wrong direction."

The New York Globe for August 23 brings the following copyrighted dispatch from Paul Scott Mowrer, its Paris correspondent:

"Paris, Aug. 22.—Leaders of the French general labor confederation with whom I have talked are opposed Gal. 6 Workers World Bill Bertram to the nationalization of railways and mines, not because they feel it is too radical a step, but because it is a step in the wrong direction. Their programme is 'socialization,' which they say is something quite different.

"Under socialization they believe public utilities and natural resources would be administered not by the capitalists, state or work people alone, but by members of all the classes concerned, for the general good of the community. On the initiative of the French delegates the recent International Trades Union Congress in Amsterdam adopted socialization as the basis of its action despite the violent opposition of Samuel Gompers and the other American delegates.

"Commenting on the American project for the nationalization of railways, Alphonse Merheim, one of the leaders of French labor, said to me today:

"Nationalization does nobody any good. It simply pits one labor union against another, each group pursuing its own welfare instead of the general good. The profit-sharing feature of the American project seems to be especially unfortunate. The railways should be run for everybody, and there should be no profits. The employees should be given fair living wages and a certain amount of the proceeds should be devoted constantly to the upkeep and improvement of the lines, but beyond this the aim should be to reduce rates in the interest of the whole community. Profit-sharing plans tend to lead all the employees to demand that all the proceeds should be distributed as profits with the result that the lines would rapidly deteriorate through lack of proper upkeep."

IF WE MUST DIE.
If we must die let it not be like hogs,
Hunted and penned in an inglorious spot,
While round us bark the mad and hungry dogs,
Making their mock at our accursed lot.
If we must die, oh, let us nobly die,
So that our precious blood may not be shed
In vain; then even the monsters we defy
Shall be constrained to honor us,
though dead!
Oh, kinsmen! We must meet the common foe;
Though far outnumbered, let us still be brave,
And for their thousand blows deal one death-blow!
What though before us lies the open grave?
Like men we'll face the murderous, cowardly pack,
Pressed to the wall, dying, but—fighting back!

W. A. D.

THE STRAIGHT ROAD.

By Paul Hanna.

They got y', kid; they got y'—just like I said they would.

You tried to walk the narrow path, You tried, and got an awful laugh; And laughs are all y' did get, kid—they got y' good!

They never knew the little kid—the kid I used to know;

The little bare-legged girl back home,

The little kid that played alone— They don't know half the things I know kid, ain't it so?

They got y', kid they got y'—you know they got y' right;

They waited till they saw y' limp, Then introduced y' to the pimp— Ah; you were down then, kid, and couldn't fight!

I guess y' know what some don't know, and others know damn well—

That sweatshops don't grow angels' wings

That workin' girls is easy things, And poverty's the straightest road t' Hell!

Socialist Propaganda

The fact that vast quantities of food are held in cold storage by big corporations has nothing at all to do with the poverty of the masses. We are fighting, not for cheap food, but for control of the food producing industries. We are fighting, now to lower the prices of the commodities which we need to live; we are fighting for a system which will enable the producer of commodities to receive the FULL social value of the products of his labor. Understand this right. The fight of the revolutionary Socialist is not for cheap prices, or higher wages, but for the abolition of the entire wages-system. We are not robbed by profiteers, we ARE robbed by the system of selling our labor power upon a competitive market, where our wages are determined by the lowest standard of living the wage-earner can be forced to accept.

This condition of affairs cannot be remedied by legislative reform, hence all energies wasted upon such legislative reform are wasted energies. This condition can be remedied only by a social revolution. If that statement is true, then the ONLY propaganda worth while will be such propaganda as will enable the worker better to understand his class position, thus making him more ready and willing to work and fight for the abolition of the wages-system.—W. E. Reynolds in "Ohio Socialist."

The Break Complete

That the break between the "lefts" and the "rights" of the socialist movement of Germany is complete, is the opinion of Abraham Cahan, editor of the Jewish Daily Forward, who cabled his paper under date of August 20 as follows:

"In the four days since I am here I have had conversations with representatives of both socialist parties. The break between them is complete and there is no hope that they will ever unite.

"The socialist movement is nearly evenly divided between the two parties. The independents, however, are stronger in Berlin, Leipzig and other big cities.

"The independent socialists have forty daily papers. Their main organ, Die Freiheit, which is published in Berlin, has a circulation of 200,000. This is the largest a socialist paper has ever had in Germany."

"Job Consciousness"

Bosses realize readily why men strike for better conditions on his job. They can even get the sense of a sympathetic strike to enforce better conditions on "other jobs." But a Protest Strike for men who are not on any "job." (and in prison besides) is difficult even for some workers, as well as bosses, to understand.

A strike to free members of their class is a political strike or protest. It is not for industrial or "job" purposes so far as bosses can see. But Mooney and Billings were organizing Labor "on the job." Labor must protect the members of its own class—must become "class conscious" or else let victims of the struggle rot in prison.

People can exist and continue in their own mode of life until we discover that there is gold in their country, or some other great industrial opportunity, and then we immediately discover that they need civilizing by the white race.—Rev. J. E. Crowther.

We revolutionists—if we amount to a damn—must expect to be tempered in the crucible of persecution. In fact, we can say with truth that to the extent we are not persecuted, we are not revolutionary.—Alanson Sessions.

John Reed on Bolshevism

Bolshevism is the Social Revolution to which Socialists have looked forward for more than half a century. It is the inevitable struggle which must accompany the transition of society from Capitalism to Socialism. It is the final battle of the workers of the world for power to end forever the tyranny of classrule, and the misery of exploitation.

History is a chronicle of the slavery of the working class in many forms—chattel slavery, serfdom, wage slavery. At various periods one group of exploiters has wrested the power from another—kings from priests, barons from kings, merchants from barons, plutocrats from them all; but always the workers have toiled, and always the product of their labor has been taken from them.

Many attempts have been made by the workers to overthrow their exploiters, and to enjoy the fruits of their labor, in the words of Jim Ball "without money and without price." Every attempt up to now has been crushed in blood and fire—the slave insurrections of Rome, the Communist risings in the Middle Ages, the Paris Commune of 1871, and the Russian Revolution of 1905.

In Socialism the working class for the first time based its aspiration to freedom on scientific fact. Bolshevism is Socialism put into practice. Today the workers are becoming conscious of their power and ability to win the world for Labor. They always had the power, and sometimes the wish. But they lacked the will and the knowledge of the way. Bolshevism is the will and the way.

The word "Bolshevism," which can be freely translated as "program of the majority," originated at a convention of the Russian Social Democratic Party in 1903, which split into two factions—the majority (bolshinstvo) adopting the principles which, after the actual experiences of the Revolution of 1905, developed into what we now call Bolshevism. The main idea of the Bolsheviki at that time was that the present is a revolutionary period—a period when the struggle of the working class turns into open revolution; that the power of the Army of Capitalism lies in the fact that its organization is centralized, and commanded by a General Staff—and that in order to overthrow Capitalism, the Army of the Working class must also be centrally organized, with its General Staff. The Staff of the Army of Capitalism is directed by capitalists, in the interest of the few. The Staff of the Working Class fights under the direction and in the interests of the many—the workers.

In this Convention the minority (menshinstvo)—afterward known as Mensheviki—held that the working class as yet had neither the knowledge of how to overthrow Capitalism, nor the ability to create a new social order; and that therefore Social Revolution was impossible for a long time to come. Moreover, they believed that Socialism was to be achieved by "education" and "democratic" political action.

Bolshevism is practical. It does not assume that the capital class is going to be legislated out of power without a fight. Power is based on private ownership. In order to secure power the workers must control capitalist property, and abolish ownership. This they can only do by the Dictatorship of the Proletariat.

Today the workers of all countries are resolving to make an end to Capitalism. Bolshevism asserts that it is the Socialists, the trained revolutionary thinkers, who must point out the way, and lead the workers along it.

As Lenin says, "If Socialism can only be realized when the intellectual development of all the people permits it, then we shall not see Socialism for at least five hundred years. . . . The Socialist political party—this is the vanguard of the working class; it must not allow itself to be halted by the lack of education of the mass average, but it must be the masses using the Soviets as organs of revolutionary initiative. . . ."

The Soviets are representative bodies of the vast majority of the organized working class. Without the unhesitating support of this vast majority, revolutionary leaders could accomplish nothing. Bolshevism in Russia conquered only because the people were ready to follow it. Bolshevism is established today in Russia because it is supported by the greater part of the Russian people.

If this were not so, the Bolsheviki would have ceased to lead the Russian Revolution long ago. Their power is based upon the Soviets for whom all persons who live by working may cast their votes—and the delegates to which are subject to instant recall. Local Soviets meet frequently, and may be summoned in extra session on short notice by a minority, for the voters, peasants or workers, are always gathered together in the fields

and factories. The All-Russian Congress of Soviets, consisting of over 2,500 members, meets every three months, at which time the Government automatically resigns and a new Government is elected, responsible to the Congress and its Central Executive Committee. And between times any or all members of the Government may be easily recalled from office.

The Socialist Commonwealth is not born without fearful birth-pangs—the Proletarian Dictatorship. Russia today is not a Socialist Commonwealth—nor does it pretend to be. There is a Proletarian Dictatorship, engaged in conducting the final struggle of the working class against the capitalist class—not, however, its own capitalist class for that has been conquered, but International Capitalism. Until International Capitalism is overthrown, Proletarian Dictatorship will not, cannot end.

As it is, however, the Russian Soviet Republic, hampered by the lack of education of a people for centuries plunged by tyranny in darkness, and engaged in defending itself against the world, has already accomplished miracles in organizing industry, agriculture, and education—only hinting at the mighty achievements of the new order, when the removal of capitalist obstruction finally frees the creative genius of the workers.

When the working class, the basic stratum of society, heaves its giant shoulders the entire superstructure of Capitalism cracks and falls in ruins.

Before our eyes nation after nation is drawn into the headlong current of Social Revolution, with Bolshevism at the helm.

Bolshevism is Socialism arrived at the point of social revolution—the dictatorship of the proletariat foretold by Karl Marx.

The object of proletarian dictatorship is to seize the power of the capitalist class and transfer it to the workers. It has no other purpose.

The methods and expedients it must use vary according to conditions. In Russia today, half the strength of the proletarian dictatorship is employed in defending itself against the assaults of International Capitalism. But both in its external and internal policies, the Russian Soviet Government is supported by the great majority of the people—peasants as well as industrial workers.

Co-operative Theatres

One of the most important developments of the strike of the Actors' Equity Association is the opening of a number of co-operatively owned and operated theatres in New York City. Since August 18, the striking actors have nightly given an all-star performance at the Lexington theatre, leased and operated by themselves. A crowded house greets each performance, and large collections are taken up at the end of the performances to help the striking Theatians.

The success of this first undertaking has been so marked that the Actors' Equity has appointed a committee for looking into the possibilities of a national chain of co-operative theatres, owned and managed by the actors themselves for their mutual benefit. Besides the Lexington, Thomashefsky's theatre has been taken over, as have also three other downtown theatres, and Convention Hall, Saratoga, N. Y., has been engaged for a "one-night stand." Also the Academy of Music, Brooklyn, and the Auditorium Theatre, Chicago, have been leased by the strikers.

Only two of the large play houses in New York City are running their nightly programs. All the others are dark, for the stage hands and musicians refuse to work in houses in which scab actors are employed.

There was some speculation as to the stand that Samuel Gompers would take upon his return from Europe. But his endorsement of the strike has shown the producers that the whole strength of the A. F. of L. will be put behind their demands for fair pay.

How terrified the producers are, is apparent from the fact that George M. Cohan, manager and actor, has started a rival organization, called the Actor's Fidelity League, in the hope of thus breaking the strike. The contract he and his organization offer to managers includes practically all the demands of the Actors' Equity except the crucial one of recognition of the actors' union.

MONARCHISM DEAD.

BERLIN, August 22.—I spoke to people of all classes about the present government and of the possibility of a monarchial coup.

These monarchists expect to gain much because of the split in the ranks of the workers and the bitter struggle between the two socialist parties. The middle class republicans are also expectant, hoping to smuggle in a bourgeois cabinet.

THE SLEEPING FOUR.

A delightful story went the rounds of Paris official circles during the week of August 3rd. It runs as follows:

At a meeting of the Inter-Allied Committee last week there was a question what time they would resume in the afternoon. Signor Tittoni did not want it too early, because he liked to have his siesta early in the afternoon. Mr. Lansing did not want it too late, for he wanted to have his drive in the Bois and then his siesta before dinner. M. Clemenceau then summed up. "The meeting will be at three," he said. "Signor Tittoni can sleep before it, Mr. Lansing can sleep after it, and Mr. Balfour and I can sleep during it."

Military Atrocities

While England and Canada have liberated their Conscientious Objectors, the United States, still living in the darkest ages, is ill treating hers afresh.

On August 18, over 100 of the absolutist "C. O.'s" were ordered to do military work by Col. Byram, Commandant at Fort Douglas, Utah. They had been working ever since they arrived at the Fort, looking after themselves and their quarters, but as absolutists they could do no more. They have proven the sincerity of their conscientious objections to such work through a year of torture and suffering, so that the authorities knew before giving the order that the boys must refuse.

No attention was paid to their protest, and upon their refusing to do military work, they were put in a compound on bread and water (murderers get better treatment). The commandant threatens to hold them thus indefinitely, not allowing them to write or see people, even after their sentences have expired. Three of the boys were to have been released on the 20th, but they are held with the rest. Some of these boys are in very poor physical condition, due to their ill treatment by the military, and this bread and water diet places their lives in jeopardy.

And all this goes on in a nation whose constitution guarantees freedom of conscience!

Beating It For Home

New York.—Foreign workers in the United States are flocking back to Europe in such enormous numbers that a whole section of New York is being turned into a hotel and lodging house district to accommodate these transients.

Little has been said about this fact in the capitalist press of New York, which is trying carefully to conceal that there is labor unrest abroad in the land. Knowledge of this transformation of a resident district into a lodging house quarter comes through a confidential circular sent out by the Chelsea Neighborhood Association, addressed "To Every Chelsea Resident and Property Owner." From the tenor of the letter it is apparent, however, that only the property owners are really meant. Says the letter in part:

"You have undoubtedly noted the steady invasion of your neighborhood by undesirable foreigners. This is due to the acquiring of Chelsea houses, especially between 20th and 24th Streets, from 8th to 10th Avenues, for the purpose of turning them into hotels and lodging houses for undesirable foreigners on their way back to Europe.

"THE HOUSES ARE A MENACE TO YOU. Unless this is immediately stopped Chelsea will no longer be desirable for better class residents.

"Property will depreciate in value, exactly as occurred in Harlem upon the invasion of that district by negroes.

"WILL YOU ACT? Join with your neighbors to halt the further acquiring of property by undesirable foreigners."

The Chelsea district is close to the piers of the great transatlantic liners, so that it furnishes excellent sites for rooming quarters to house workers on their way back to Europe.

The Chelsea district has some 180,000 residents of whom 120,000 are workers. There are, however, only 10,000 property owners in this section. Upon them devolves the duty of making the district safe for "better class residents," and to keep out "undesirable foreigners."

One reason for the opposition of the Chelsea Association is said to be the fact that this section of the west side is rapidly coming to rival the East Side as the center of radical agitation. As Oscar W. Earhorn, Republican leader of the district, recently put it:

"Many of the foreigners are avowed Bolshevists and are leaving this country to spread Bolshevism throughout other countries and to discredit this country."

British Spy Law

That the British espionage act, popularly known as "D. O. R. A." (Defense of Realm Act) is having the inevitable result of driving propaganda underground, is illustrated by the fact that a revolutionary pamphlet bearing the imprint, "The New Press, Princess Street, Edinburgh," is being distributed in such vast quantities in the working class districts of Nottingham that an interpellation was recently made concerning it in the house of Commons.

Investigations made by the secret service brought no further evidence than that the address is a bogus one, and that the pamphlet declares there is no more use of parliament and that the people must prepare for a revolution.

As usual, the charge is made that Russian bolshevik money is behind the scheme. Meanwhile the underground pamphlet circulates merrily.

Cap Makers Winning

St. Louis.—The cap makers have won their first important victory. Eight manufacturers have conceded all the demands of the union and their workers have returned to work. The demands were for a 44-hour week, recognition of the union, and a considerable increase in pay.

The manufacturers have evidently lost all hope of breaking the strike, but in their madness of despair they employ all means, fair or foul, just to spite the union. The working girls are being persecuted and terrified by hired thugs; and the police instead of affording protection, make scores of unprovoked arrests among the girls. The mayor has finally promised, however, to look into the situation.

In an open letter addressed to the Manufacturers Association the president of the union, Saritzky, accuses the bosses of using un-American methods: while they themselves are well organized, they refuse their workers the right to organize and to do collective bargaining.

Public opinion is against the manufacturers and sympathy towards the strikers is on the increase. Ladman, one of the largest manufacturers, tried to have his St. Louis work done in his Chicago factory, but the union has called out his Chicago workers also.

WIVES SUPPORT POLICE STRIKE.

London.—At a Birmingham demonstration during the recent police strike, wives of the strikers paraded the streets carrying sandwich-board posters on which were such mottoes as "Withdraw the Police Bill," "Trade Unionism must not be crushed," "We Wives Support our men," "The Police are Out for Liberty," "Trade Unionists must Support Police."

A thousand organized workers supported the police at an open air meeting in the same city, and announced the decision of the Birmingham Trades & Labor Council to recommend all trade unions to down tools unless the police bill were withdrawn and the dismissed police strikers reinstated.

STREET LITTERED DURING STRIKE.

It is not only from official notices of strikes and from figures compiled in the ministry of labor that one can gauge how wide-spread is social unrest in the British Isles. Sometimes little side-lights tell a more picturesque story than published facts.

Thus, the streets of the Kensington and Paddington sections of London afford ample testimony to the fact that the municipal officers of all grades are on strike. Paper and other kinds of more objectionable rubbish litter the public thoroughfares.

In Kensington, the sweeping of roads, the lighting of street lamps, and the removal of house refuse has to be suspended.

The MODERNIST

A Monthly Magazine of Arts & Letters
Edited By

JAMES WALDO FAWCETT

The MODERNIST ASSOCIATION
PUBLISHERS

GRAHAM AVERY, Treasurer

25 East 14th St., New York City

15 cents per copy \$1.50 per year

CALLS MADE FREE CONSULTATION

I SPECIALIZE

In Electro Magnetic Sweat Baths and Chiropractic Adjustments in Nervous, Spine and Chronic Diseases. The baths take out the poisons. The adjustments take away nerve pressure and nature's cures.

Dr. A. Roshong

CHIROPRACTOR

Hours 2 to 6 and by Appointment
Bell Phone Main 4719

Hotel Dayton 1015 Cherry St
Kansas City, Mo.

Editorial Page of the Workers' World

The Workers' World.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL LEAGUE, INCORPORATED.
P. O. Box 697, Office Room 2 Schutte Bldg. 1209
Grand Ave., Kansas City, Mo.
Home Phone Main 8666.

JAMES P. CANNON - - - Managing Editor
Associate Editors:
JOHN DEQUER, RALPH CHEYNEY,
HARRY SALPETER, ALANSON SESSIONS,
JAMES WALDO FAWCETT.
Cartoonist:
GEO. W. PARDEY.

We use the International Labor News Service.
EDITORS: Scott Scaring, Alexander Trachtenberg, Louis P. Lochner

Subscription Price: One year, \$2; Six months, \$1;
Single Copies, 5 cents per Copy. Advertising
Rates on Application.

The Editorial Board is not Responsible for Opinions
Expressed in Signed Articles.



Kansas City, Mo., Friday September 5, 1919.

"HONEST INVESTMENTS."

In the course of his speech at the Labor Day picnic Frank Walsh dropped a remark that is open to several interpretations. "If the Plumb plan is not adopted now," he said, "inside of five years the owners will be begging for the Plumb plan to save their honest investment." We have no doubt as to the substantial accuracy of this statement, except that five months is more apt to be the length of time elapsing before the capitalists seek refuge from the cyclone of working-class wrath in the cave of half measures.

Mr. Walsh's masterly analysis of the railroad problem and his exhaustive explanation of the inner workings of the financial piracy of the upper class gave evidence of such a knowledge of the utter fraudulency of their claims as to make one wonder what he means by their "honest investments." That he is familiar with Socialist economics is evidenced by his statement that "capital is the surplus product of labor and nothing else." If their capital is the surplus product of labor, since when did it become the "honest investment" of those who have appropriated that surplus by force and fraud? Mr. Walsh has dug up more facts to prove that force and fraud than any other man in this country and he surely cannot be deceived.

He explained that a part of the millions piled up by the railroad magnates came from secret and illegal rebates to corporations which they owned and controlled through dummy directors. Surely this does not represent honest investment. And that other part of their wealth, represented by the value of land which they got for nothing in the first place does not belong by right to them. We have Mr. Walsh's word as a single-taxer for that. What, then, did he mean by his reference to their "honest investment?" Perhaps, like his statement that we have political democracy in this country, he meant it for a joke.

"The Forge," a paper published by the Workers, Soldiers and Sailors Council of Seattle saves us a little work by printing the following paragraph which coincides exactly with our idea:

The railroad problem in the end can be settled only as a part of the labor problem as a whole, only as a part of the whole social problem, instituting production for use instead of for profit, by making every able-bodied person a producer, by coordinating the mental and manual work necessary to society, and by giving to all the full product of their toil.

The Union men who wore Gompers buttons in the Labor Day parade must have thought they were going to march backward.

A stranger in our fair city who looked over the list of peanut politicians and labor hating bosses on the program for Labor Day at Fairmount Park turned to a friend and asked: "What is this—a celebration of the Employers Association?"

If the shopmen didn't get their raise, they at least got a first class "statement" from the president which they can turn in on the grocery bill.

Why is it that "the red woman" whom the leaders fear so much always gets the most applause from the rank and file? Are they getting red blood in their veins?

THE OLD GAME.

We are all familiar with the old game of the crook who yells "stop thief" at an innocent man so as to better cover up his own escape. We have a modern adaption of this dodge in the effort of the defenders and beneficiaries of the crooked system of capitalism to throw the blame for present conditions onto the workers who, they say, are not producing enough! This is like advising a man in a leaky boat to bale out the water faster, but common sense in a case of that kind might impel him to plug up the leak. The workers know they are in a hell of a boat but they haven't yet located the leak. Therefore, it may be worth while to point it out.

The workers of previous generations in this country, using hand tools, made a living for themselves which, while scanty enough, enabled them to keep going from day to day and to reproduce their kind. The workers of the present day, using machinery which multiplies their efficiency many times, get no better living and have no more security than those who went before them. It may be argued that we have some advantages such as better educational facilities than preceding generations, but no one can seriously claim that our status has been substantially altered for the better. On the whole we are in statu quo, which Champ Clark defined as "a hell of a fix." The workers of yesterday slaved and bred and died; the workers of today slave and breed and are at least half dead.

Still we produce more—many times more! If the exponents of "increased production" are right, why are we not many times better off? The answer is so simple that the average college professor cannot understand it. Increased production hasn't benefitted us for the simple reason that we don't get what we produce. We are feeding too many parasites and starving ourselves. If we eliminated the parasites altogether we could have more and work less. But if everybody had to work, it would be socialism; wouldn't it? Yes but are you more afraid of socialism than you are of starvation?

ARTISTS AND WORKERS.

The Actors' strike in New York marks the beginning of what we hope will be a nation-wide campaign to interest artists and certain other professional workers in the labor movement and convince them of their identity of interest with the manual workers. There are vast possibilities in such a movement that should not be overlooked. One of the most subtle and effective methods of moulding public opinion is through the stage and a class conscious organization of actors and other workers in the theatrical field could exert a determining influence on the character of the propaganda disseminated there.

The capitalist class of America is using the motion picture drama most persistently and effectively just now to poison the minds of the American workers against Soviet Russia. Did it ever occur to you that the people who produce these plays and the men who operate the machines in the motion picture houses could stop this kind of work if they had the will? Just suppose they were made to realize that by permitting lies to be depicted on the screen about their class they were injuring themselves and putting barriers in the way of their own freedom. If they realized it, they could stop it easily. The artists could band together in a union and make a rule to never take part in a play calculated to injure the cause of labor. Then the operators could establish a censorship on the ground that a state of war existed between their class and the other class and refuse to pass anything for the benefit of of the enemy.

The printing trades might take up with the idea and put the same rule into practice. This has been done in isolated cases and might be made general with the proper effort. The telegraphers, for instance, in Winnipeg refused to send out any dispatches about the strike which did not bear the O. K. of the strike committee.

Capitalism is a system which not only enslaves the manual workers, but commercializes and degrades the arts and professions as well. It is propped up and supported by lies which the artists and workers themselves distribute. If they should decide to stop the lies capitalism wouldn't last very long.

FAKE SOCIALISM.

The spectacle of socialists being carried off their feet by proposed reforms which sound radical and mean nothing calls very forcibly to mind the woeful need for sound socialist teaching within the ranks. That our own members should show signs of muddle-headedness is not surprising when we consider the brand of propaganda that has been carried on by the vote-hunting Socialist Party. If Victor Berger's old age pensions and Morris Hillquit's Municipal milk stations are Socialism, the party member is not to be censured for considering such make-shifts as the Plumb plan in the same light.

The answer, of course, is that none of these or similar measures are Socialism. They are not even steps to Socialism, as their ultimate effect would be to bolster up the present system and enable it to better resist the shock of a real working class revolt. We need not necessarily oppose these reform measures but we must emphatically dispute the claim that they offer a solution of working class problems or that they are even progressive steps toward a solution. There is no salvation for the workers short of revolution and it is the duty of the party to keep that fact always in the foreground.

This false teaching of social reform under the name of Socialism has brought our party to the rocks and has paralyzed it in this present opportunity to take hold of the discontent of the masses and harness it to the revolutionary vehicle. The fight waged by the Left Wing to compel the party cast reformism aside has come to a head at the convention in Chicago this week. What a fitting climax it is for the reform element, defeated by the membership, to call on the capitalist police force to throw out the Left Wing delegates! What better illustration does anyone need of their utterly reactionary and anti-socialist character, and what further proof of the duty of real socialists to separate from them once and for all?

STATE POWER.

"The most important problem in every revolution is the problem of state power. In whose hands is this power—that is decisive in all things," says Lenin. Here we have in a few words the Bolshevik denial of the Syndicalist proposition that the revolutionary struggle is solely for the control of the industries, "ignoring the political state," as The New Solidarity puts it. But the political state does not ignore the attempts of the workers to seize the industries, as more than a thousand labor prisoners in American jails can testify.

We learn from the revolution in action that the struggle for control of the land and the instruments of production goes hand in hand with the struggle for state power and the success of the one depends absolutely upon the other. The political state under capitalism uses the jails and other instruments of oppression against those who attempt to organize the workers in the industries; the political state under working class rule uses these instruments against those who interfere with that process. The One Big Union magazine a while back asked the question: "What have the Bolsheviks done that we should jump out of our tracks and follow them?" Well, for one thing, they settled several theoretical questions by submitting theories to the acid test of practical application. For that reason we do not find it difficult to jump out of our tracks when they show us others that lead straighter to the goal.

We certainly had a thrill when the "Do You Know" ads came out with the information that Kansas City ranks fifth in bank clearings. It makes us feel so much richer.

The "loyal employees" of the Street Car Company who signed the statement against the union must have felt like the sick man who said: "shoot me quick and put me out of my misery".

From all indications the coming winter is going to see a great revival of business—especially the soup house business.

Every profit taker is a profiteer.

President Wilson is going to take a trip across the country. Perhaps he is hunting for his fourteen points.

VIEWS, REVIEWS AND INTERVIEWS.

By Ralph Cheyney

Love.
I scatter my small wealth of love to all
Who rouse in me a sympathetic thrill;
Yet though a spendthrift of affection,
still
My treasury, I find, does not grow
small.
I spend my coin of love, nor would
I recall
One penny of it back into the till;
But back flows finer metals yet, to fill
My coffers. Tell me, how does this
befall?
How is it that love always is less
gross
And gains a greater energy when
spent
Without restraint, all freely, lavishly?
A new economy of gain and loss
Perhaps may be evolved from such
comment
On Love's political economy.

This is another poem of Earl Browder's that I have dug up from my letter file. Do you not agree with me that he has rare poetic talent and still rarer social and spiritual vision? Do you not agree that a social system that imprisons such a man as Earl Browder is damnable and ought to be destroyed? Do you not feel that a world that can find no better use for its Browders than to shut them up behind stone walls and iron bars is a pretty poor place to bring a child into? If you do you may be interested in these verses of mine, poor in technique though they be. They have appeared before, two in the Birth Control Review and one in the Call.

In The Maternity Ward.
The silence sheer of night was, shivering,
split by sharpest darts of ice
That shuddered thru my breast; while
in my bowels found a lodging-
place
All God's great loneliness before He
formed and tossed the golden
dice
And generated life thru all the aching
vast of empty space—

I suffered sorely at the shrieks unique,
so strangely strong and shrill
Oh, wife, who fought for Life with
Death, lips bitten but with
heart of mirth!—
We wished our love to bear wee
clinging fruit to live when we
lie still;
But shame on Science that so little
does to stay the pangs of birth!

Lullaby!
The rain's soft lisp, the breeze's cool
caress,
The courtesying trees in rustling, rain-
rinsed dress,
Your mother, washing the dishes
ringed with blue,
And daddy, here, who's holding and
rocking you,
All join, my baby, in urging you to
sleep;
All dread disturbance far away they'll
keep.

Oh, God, I wish we could!—And when
I think
Of the bitter, burning brew that you
must drink,
The hunger, thirst, and boredom that
are life,
The squalor, sorrow, suffering, and
sordid strife.
I wonder if true Love we would obey
We would not let you. . . Oh, I can-
not say—
But not for us another baby's face
Until the world's a very different
place!

Children To Come.
Oh, hush, for a moment's space and,
listening, stand aside
From the frenzied battle for bread
and the crushing burden of
fears
Take heart in the breathless race from
the wolf with jaws stretched
wide,
For, hark, there's a lilt ahead in the
litany of the years:

"Oh, healthy, happy, hearty, singing,
bringing strength and courage
new,
The perfect fruit of perfect love, we,
wanted, needed, come to you
Now, Nature's lavish nuptial hand, by
Science stayed, to Man gives
heed;
And strong young bodies, brave young
spirits answer wholly to your
need."

I recently ran across a poem of Ernest Howard Crosby's, written at the time of the Spanish-American war, that is particularly apt now that Wall

Street is starting to embroil us in a war with Mexico:

Who are you at Washington who pre-
sume to declare me the enemy
of anybody or to declare any
nation my enemy?
However great you may be, I alto-
gether deny your authority to
sow enmity and hatred in my
soul.
I refuse to accept your ready-made
enemies, and, if I did accept
them, I should feel bound to
love them, and, loving them,
would you have me cove them
with bombshells and bayonets?
When I want enemies, I reserve the
right to manufacture them for
myself.

If I am ever scoundrel enough to wish
to kill, I will do my own killing
on my own account and not hide
myself behind your license.
Before God your commissions and
warrants and enlistment rolls,
relieving men of conscience and
independence and manhood are
not worth the paper they are
written on.
Away with all your superstitions of a
statecraft worse than priest-
craft!
Hypnotize fools and cowards if you
will, but for my part, I choose
to be a man.

"AMERICANA"

"For evil men to accomplish their purpose it is only necessary that good men do nothing."

The race riots in Chicago have sim-
mered down somewhat, and the most
outstanding fact in recent news items
is the indictment of some three dozen
Negroes for various crimes and misde-
meanors connected with the rioting.
No whites have been indicted, and
the Grand Jury quite properly pro-
tests against such unmistakable evi-
dence of discrimination. If the spirit
that was responsible for the inception
of the riots is carried over into the
legal aftermath, what hope has Chi-
cago of a just solution of the ques-
tion?

The attention of the American
people can no longer be held fixedly
on European politics or even the
League of Governments. Our own do-
mestic problems of high prices,
strikes, and increasing discontent are
too acute. The American is now in
the position of the proverbial sinner
trying to fasten his mind on theology
while suffering acute pangs of hunger.
And as a remedy for the complex and
deep-lying maladjustments of our eco-
nomic order, we are to witness Con-
gressional action and government
prosecutions, taking months of time
and using up a good deal of money,
and all for little result if any. The
trouble lies much deeper in our sys-
tem than any court or any government
of the orthodox variety is willing to
go.

President Wilson's Trip.

We thought it was to solve the
pressing problems of H C L and Labor
Unrest!

But—Read the following!
Friends Believe Trip Will Strengthen
His Position.

Washington, D. C., Aug. 31.—(Spe-
cial.)—Talk about President Wilson
as a possible third term candidate is a
topic of lively interest in Washington
as a result of his forthcoming tour of
the west, beginning next Wednesday.
The trip is likely to have a far-
reaching effect on the next presiden-
tial campaign, the first primaries of
which are only seven months distant.
In all probability it will develop some-
thing definite as to the Democratic
program.

In consequence, all the potential
possibilities for the Democratic nomi-
nation have their ears and eyes wide
open for the first inkling as to the
president's intentions. They believe
that, somehow, somewhere, along the
line, Mr. Wilson will let his political
thoughts be known, so that the ball
can be set rolling in preparation for
the primaries.

The railroad administration is silent
on the amount to be spent for the
coming trip of President Wilson, and
White House officials are equally re-
tacent, but it is known that the figure
will approximate \$14,000 or a little
more than half of the annual allow-
ance.

Government is not reason, it is not
eloquence—it is force! Like fire it is
a dangerous servant and a fearful
master; never for a moment should it
be left to irresponsible action.—Geo.
Washington.