

# Official Hypocrisy

By ISRAEL AMTER

The difference between a monarchy and a republic, we have always been given to understand, is that the monarchical system is expressive of the will of a single God-ordained individual, while the republic expresses the will of the "people."

True, many a monarchy is more liberal than a republic; true, again, many a republic uses more lying and subterfuge, in order to blind the people.

Some constitutional monarchies are more like tyrannies. On the other hand, in those countries of Europe in which the Socialists have great in-

fluence, or dominant power, they have become masters of hypocrisy and violence as well. Germany, star of the Social-Democrats, Lithuania, Poland, with the brave Socialist Pilsudski at its head, Sweden with the Socialist Premier Branting, Holland, home of Troelstra, Belgium, where Vandervelde piles his trade—all of these countries are applying most oppressive measures against the work-

ers—in particular against the Communists and radicals.

America, to be sure, where the "people" rule, is free from such oppression! Here we are frank and outspoken. Men are honest—the government is "our" government, subject to "our" will, expressing "our" wishes.

Masters in hypocrisy, in times such as we are passing thru, when workers do not know from one day to the other what their status is, one wonders at the brazenness of our officials.

Thus, Secretary of Labor Davis, the millionaire running the department of labor, informed the Maintenance of Way Employees and Railway Shopmen that President Har-

ling "believes that the railroad worker is of such importance in the na-

tion of wages for 400,000 maintenance of way men!

The men are now earning between 23 and 35 cents an hour!

President Grable of the Maintenance of Way Men, demanded 40 cents an hour minimum, merely as a living wage. The government Rail-

way Board holds them to 23 to 35 cents an hour, as a "saving wage" and in order to "make employment so attractive that strikes will be im-

possible!"

"There is everywhere a disposition to scrutinize, to question, to examine minutely into social and economic institutions, to interrogate methods of human integration and procedure which have been so long accepted as to have seemed axiomatic. We shall gain nothing by charging that this spirit proceeds from malice and testifies a disordered state of mind."

Thus, the president of the United States to the president of the American Bankers' Association.

In the meantime, scores of radicals and revolutionists, who have dared to inquire into the nature of our institutions and to explain to the work-

ers of this country the results of their inquiries, are rotting in the prisons and federal penitentiaries, tortured by the employes of Mr. Harding's administration. In the mean-

time, Mr. Daugherty, the President's Attorney General, breaks up meetings of peaceful workers, raids conventions of militant trade unionists, uses a posse to arrest a group of Communists, and everywhere is tracking down revolutionists, who make it their business to "question, to examine minutely into social and economic institutions" and pronounce them what they are: institutions in the hands of the capitalists for suppressing the working class.

Men have such ideas not "from malice" nor does it testify a disordered state of mind, altho prison wardens apply every form of torture and torment in order to drive their radical prisoners mad. Despite the Presidents' pathos, government agen-

cies, the press, the schools and church are proclaiming the malice of the revolutionists and their "sinister efforts to change conditions."

More than one million workers—miners, shopmen and textile workers—questioned the righteousness of American conditions. They condemned the misery that they were degraded to. Their question took the form of a strike which the government used every "blind effort to obstruct," Altho the President should have been "too old and ought to be too wise to resort to such tactics now," he followed the methods of his predecessors and sent troops into the strike regions to make the work-

ers understand that "to inquire minutely into social and economic institutions," is a crime in America. Federal troops were sent to Mingo County to aid the governor of West Virginia in denying miners a bat-

tle State protection against the "gangs and mine guards in the employ of the coal magnates. Troops were sent into 15 States during the coal strike, to prevent the miners from realizing a "sincere wish to improve conditions," conditions which denied them work and brought starvation to tens of thousands. Troops were sent to Pawtucket Valley, Rhode Island, where the textile workers bravely fought against industrial slavery. Troops were sent to Newport, Ky., where steel workers demanded a living wage. Just as the Socialist Ebert did in Germany, when the railroad workers demanded living conditions; just as Lloyd George did in England when the miners demanded full-time work and a living wage; just as Wilson did, when the miners threatened a strike to obtain

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## Wisdom of the Poor Fish

By ART YOUNG

The Poor Fish Says:

It's all right to organize, but not to belong to the unions. He says he would approve of unions if they would only stop antagonizing the best people.