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GOV'T CONTROL OF RAILWAYS BRINGS CHEER TO WALL STREET

Government ownership of the railroads has long been advocated by the Socialists as a means of relieving the public from the extortion of the railroads.

President Wilson has now taken over the control of the railroads, not to relieve the public, but to facilitate the carrying on of the war.

While the people are being asked to economize in every way, while they are being asked to forego meat and wheat, while they are being urged to bring out their petty savings to invest in liberty bonds, while they are paying war taxes and war prices that go to enrich food pirates and coal operators, the railroads are to be guaranteed the same dividends they paid during their most prosperous years.

On the other hand the great increase in the cost of living due to the war has caused the railroad workers to demand higher wages. The danger of a strike on the railroads was threatening the profits of the roads. Now the officers of the trainworkers have pledged the president not to strike, although they have not yet had any guarantees from the government that they will be paid a living wage.

The taking over of the roads by the government has been a great thing—for the railroads.

They were facing the possibility of being unable to float the bond issues necessary to make the needed improvements. Hale Holden, president of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad, for example said, "The president realizes the difficulties of the railroad heads in securing capital under present war conditions." Now the railroads have the guarantee of the government back of them and their bonds will sell readily.

What government ownership will mean for the railroads under the Wilson administration is ably outlined by Broaded Wall, financial expert of the New York American, Writing December 27th, he said:

The utmost despondency prevailed on the stock exchange yesterday. The prices recorded for some standard railroad stocks and bonds suggested the passing of dividends and even receiverships. Among the astonishing prices reported for instances was 62 1-2 for St. Paul preferred and 48 1-4 for Baltimore & Ohio preferred.

Action Causes Optimism.

The President's action is better than even the most optimistic dared hope for. He has not only assured the continuance of present dividends for the period of the war, but has insured the roads against any loss. The agreement to hand the properties back in at least as good condition as they are at present means that they will go back to the stockholders in much better condition, for the government will proceed immediately to expend a billion dollars for their improvement.

There is not a railroad in America but will have a comfortable surplus above all dividend requirements for the period of the war. The net earnings guaranteed them under the President's act are really bonanzas. Experts will of course have to figure out the exact percentage, but in round numbers Atchison, for instance, will be guaranteed double its dividends as will also New York Central, Baltimore & Ohio, which pays 5 per cent, will get a guarantee of about 6 per cent. Pennsylvania which pays 6 per cent will be guaranteed 8 1-2 per cent. Southern Pacific which pays 6 per cent, will get 10. Union Pacific paying 10, gets 12. Delaware and Hudson, paying 9, gets 12. Northern Pacific and Great Northern, paying 7 each, will be guaranteed 8 and 9 per cent, respectively.

The most astonishing result will be the saving of the St. Paul dividend both common and preferred.

The directors of the St. Paul were about to discontinue payment be-

STRIKE SPREADS TO SHIPYARDS

San Francisco, Jan. 1.—The industrial revolt of 15,000 iron workers in San Francisco has spread to the shipyards not engaged in government work which are all completely tied up.

A sudden tieup of all shipyards not engaged in actual government work took place yesterday. The Stone Yards in East Oakland are idle as are the Barnes and Tibbetts Yards. A number of carpenters, caulkers and ship joiners also walked out from the Hanlon Yards. The men are demanding the 10 per cent increase granted to those working on government jobs.

AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS VOTE DOWN PRUSSIANISM

The paid armies—the last stronghold of imperialism—are going back on their masters. After having been in the world-war three years, butchered in the Gallipoli and subjected to all of war's miseries and suffering in France, the Australian soldiers have overthrown the hopes of their government by voting down the infamous draft law.

Melbourne, Dec. 29.—Conscription received its greatest blow in the recent referendum vote taken on it throughout Australia when the soldiers turned it down overwhelmingly. Only 23,000 votes were cast in favor of Prussianism in Australia, while 32,000 were cast against. The total vote against conscription was in the neighborhood of 200,000 as compared with 50,000 in the previous conscription vote. It is expected that Premier Hughes will now resign after the final crushing blow against his pet pro-German policies and that a labor cabinet will really represent Australia's working class will assume power.

Socialists Form Branch At Military Cantonment

Baltimore, Jan. 2.—One of the privates in Camp Meade, Md., is Karl Hartig, former Socialist state secretary of Maryland. There are a large number of Socialists in the cantonment, and they have organized a Socialist branch.

cause at present the road earning anything on its stock. President Wilson's action will enable the company to continue regular dividends.

Advances of from 10 to 20 points may reasonably be expected today in some stocks.

This is what it means for the railroads: bigger dividends, advance in the value of stocks, guarantee against loss, an improvement in the condition of the properties.

On the other hand, government ownership under Wilson's administration will mean for the people, an increase in freight rates—probably of 15 per cent which will be tacked on to the price of everything that is shipped by freight. It means for the public increased rates for passengers—probably a three-cent rate. In addition to that it means that if there should be any deficit in railroad receipts, the people will be taxed to make up the railroads customary dividends.

No, there is nothing in common between president Wilson's brand of public ownership and that advocated by the Socialists. The Socialists would have the railroads operated without profits just as the post office is, for the benefit of the public. President Wilson proposes to operate them for the benefit of the owners, to protect them against any possible losses due to war conditions.

Bentall Motion For New Trial Denied

Judge Wilbur F. Booth in Federal court this week denied a motion for a new trial made by counsel for Jacob O. Bentall, Socialist nominee for governor of Minnesota in 1916, who was sentenced to one year in jail for obstructing the selective draft law. A seven days' stay was granted to enable Bentall's attorney to perfect an appeal of the circuit court of appeals.

Bentall will be tried in St. Paul next month on another indictment charging him with making seditious utterances.

Ladies Hat Workers Win Wage Increase

An agreement has just been signed by the Ladies' Hat Manufacturers' Protective association, and approved by the unions involved, which gives to 1,000 milliners and ladies' straw hat workers an increase of wages between 15 and 25 per cent and brings a 50-hour week in the hat shops.

PERSECUTE WORKERS

Kansas City, Jan. 2.—The U. S. District Attorney at Kansas City has advised the internment for the period of the war of six members of the I. W. W. who were active in the Butler County oil fields in organizing the wage slaves of that vicinity. The men are in jail awaiting trial before a federal grand jury which meets in April.

"Democracy does not come from without, it comes from within. Democracy cannot be established by gunfire, but by the force of reason."—Morris Hillquit.

MAYOR VAN LEAR DEFENDS RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH

Six Months Sentence For 'Frisco Speaker

San Francisco.—Alexander Horr was sentenced to six months for refusing to obey the orders of the police "to move on" when ordered to do so. Horr was arrested for attempting to speak on the steps of Dreamland Rink after the police had forbidden Scott Nearing to hold a meeting in the hall November 21. Horr's wife will be tried this week on the same charge. Horr's counsel filed notice of an appeal.

Boston, Mass.—School-teachers pay increased.

British Labor Demands Statement of War Aims

London, Jan. 1.—The British Labor Congress, probably the most radical labor movement at its last year's session condemned the government for refusing to permit the conference of Socialists at Stockholm, is in session here and it is expected to demand that the government define its peace terms.

Efforts of the "bitter enders," labor men who believe in the conquest of Germany, to hold back the congress from its intention to criticize Lord George's rejection of all definition of peace terms will fail, it is predicted here.

Lloyd George's vague statement of yesterday met with general dissatisfaction.

Arthur Henderson, secretary of the Independent Labor party, who last year resigned from the cabinet because of the refusal of the prime minister to permit the meeting at Stockholm of which the congress approved, has drawn up a resolution which will demand that England state its peace terms, and furthermore requests the calling immediately of a Socialist and labor congress to meet and discuss the terms of peace.

Speaking to a memorandum which discloses what the labor aims will be in this conference and which calls on the working people of all countries to continue efforts to end the war by working class combination. Henderson, leader of the Labor party in the House of Commons, said that the committee, reporting the memorandum, had regard for the imperative needs of humanity as a whole and the rights of all free people.

He said that the kaiser had no better friends than those who shout for war to the finish, and that it would pay the German imperial government to inspire such propaganda all over the world.

Settle the war as soon as possible for the sake of humanity, was the plea made by Henderson. The settlement must be based on terms of democracy and security for all and not dictated by annexist or imperialistic design, but in the interest of progressive democracy and world peace.

He pointed to the tremendous vitality of the Russian revolution as the one sign that the workers would come into power as a result of this war and declared that the voice of labor would be heard for the first time at the world peace conference.

No economic war after war and no hatred between workers of any nation, he urged.

PAY-TRIOTISM

That the New Staunton Coal Co., which ships most of its coal to St. Louis, paid 80 per cent in dividends during the first six months of last year, was revealed at Edwardsville, Ill.

Public Administrator Sanders, of Madison county, filed in the Probate Court a petition for ancillary administration of the estate of Geo. Lincoln Sands of St. Louis. He alleges the estate received \$40,000 in dividends in the last six months on \$50,000 par value of stock in the coal company.

Sands was a railroad official and died as his home, 5194 Maple avenue, St. Louis, November 21, 1916, at the age of 71 years. His large estate, by his will was left to his widow.—New Times.

More treason! Someone has proposed a porkless congress to match the porkless Saturday.—Industrial Worker.

The Public Safety Commission in its ruthless campaign to crush out freedom of speech has met a checkmate in the Mayor of Minneapolis elected by the workers of this city last year.

Public Unsafety Commission Makes

New Definition of Vagrancy.

About the middle of the summer the Unsafety Commission conceived the idea that it would be a good thing to declare all members of the I. W. W. Vagrants and make them liable to punishment for vagrancy. The Industrial Workers of the World had carried on a strike very injurious to the Steel Trust the year before. They also made considerable trouble for the lumber companies last winter in requiring them to furnish good food and reasonably clean bed clothing and bunks in the camps. It would be a good stroke, thought the Public Unsafety Commission, if these troublesome individuals who insist on bathing facilities in lumber camps, could all be locked up as vagrants. So they got together and with their attorney Tiege of St. Paul, they drew up an ordinance which declares that anyone advocating sabotage, violence or crime as a means of obtaining political or industrial reforms, is a vagrant and subject to imprisonment and fine.

Cases Under This Ordinance Dismissed.

This ordinance they presented to the various city councils for passage. It was passed in Duluth and became the basis for a raid on the I. W. W. headquarters and the arrest of a large number of I. W. W. members. The cases were, however, subsequently dismissed as the prosecuting attorney evidently considered it impossible to secure a conviction under such a grossly unconstitutional law.

The ordinance was also passed in Two Harbors, in spite of vigorous opposition by the Socialist members of the council.

After the federal raids throughout the country and in Minneapolis, it was evidently thought to be an auspicious time to slip the thing over here. It was accordingly passed in the council December 14th with but little opposition except by the four Socialist councilmen. When it came to Mayor Van Lear for his signature he returned it unsigned declaring it to be not only unconstitutional, but "dangerous to the liberties and rights of the people of Minneapolis."

The statement with which the mayor returned the ordinance is as follows:

Dec. 22, 1917.
To the Honorable City Council,
Gentlemen:

"At a meeting of your honorable body held December 14, 1917, an ordinance was passed defining and punishing vagrancy. This ordinance is very broad in its definitions and I desire to call your attention to the fact that the City Charter of the City of Minneapolis gives your Honorable Body power to restrain and punish 'vagrants, meddants, street beggars and prostitutes.' The General Statutes of the State of Minnesota 1913, defines a vagrant as 'a person being an habitual drunkard; one who abandons or refuses to aid in the support of his family; a person who has contracted an infectious or other disease in the practice of drunkenness, or who habitually requires charitable aid to restore him to health; every male person who lives wholly or in part on the earnings of a prostitute; also a prostitute who shall be found wandering about the streets.' The State Law goes on at some length to define the term vagrancy.

"The Supreme Court of the State of Minnesota has ruled in two different cases that a city, under the power conferred by its charter, is limited and restricted in defining and restraining to such generally accepted terms and meaning as come within the scope of the law relating to vagrancy.

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National Socialist Party Issues Stirring Appeal for Million dollar Fund

THIS IS THE TIME FOR ACTION!

The present is no time for small things. No time for squabbling and dickerings about non-essentials. Our forces must be marshalled and our resources concentrated for a well organized drive against the enemy lines. The old parties are even now drawing together and talk of fusion between them is rife in the public press. It is our mission, our task and our duty to drive them together. The people are looking to us as the only political force left in American life capable of representing their interests. We are a factor, recognized and feared. We must make good. We dare not fail.

On November 6, 1917, Morris Hillquit polled 142,000 votes as the Socialist candidate for mayor of New York City. Seven comrades were elected to the New York City board of aldermen, eleven to the New York State Legislature and one municipal court judge. In the judicial election in Chicago, the republican and democratic parties were forced to combine. In spite of the combination, the Socialist candidate polled 85,000 out of a total of 249,000 votes cast and received more votes from the one county in which Chicago is located than were ever polled in the entire state of Illinois before.

The Opportunity of 1918.

Thus we may say that, almost over night, the Socialist Party became a factor in American politics. The congressional election of 1918 presents to us the opportunity of

becoming a decisive factor in American life. Not only in New York and Chicago but every place where an election was held last fall our vote doubled, tripled and, in some instances, quadrupled until it is safe to say that as many votes were polled in the few places where elections were held as were polled by Allan L. Benson, our presidential candidate in 1916. If we maintain the same ratio throughout the country in the congressional elections. We will roll up over Four Million Votes and send a good-sized fighting Socialist delegation into the next congress.

Realizing fully our opportunity, the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party, after carefully canvassing the situation, voted unanimously to launch a drive to raise a Million Dollar Campaign Fund to meet the conditions imposed upon us by the coming congressional elections. Oliver C. Wilson, State Secretary of the Socialist Party of Illinois, has been selected as financial director with Adolph Germer, J. Louis Engdahl, Otto F. Branstetter, Robert H. Howe, and Seymour Stedman as advisory committee.

The Plan of Action

Placing 100 organizers in the field to build up existing branches, organize new branches and plan local campaigns. Each branch to receive not less than three visits during the six months preceding election. All organizers to be paid from the campaign fund with their

services absolutely free to branches. Collections and book sales at meetings to go to the branch.

Placing of 192 campaign speakers in the field, four for each state, to include the candidates for the principal state offices or for congress. Every branch to receive from two to three meetings free. Speakers to be paid from the campaign fund with collections and book sales to the branch.

Publication and distribution of 5 series of leaflets, 10 millions leaflets to a series, 50 million in all, beginning in June and ending in October. Every branch to be furnished with all the leaflets of each series that it can distribute advantageously free of charge. The expense of publication and expressing to be paid from the campaign fund. Publication and distribution free to the branches of 10 million copies of a campaign book setting forth the issues involved in the campaign. A campaign book for the common people that deals with vital issues only and that has the punch.

Five million packages of literature to be mailed direct from the National Office to people in unorganized places where our literature cannot be distributed for lack of organization.

Intensive campaign and organization work in all those congressional districts where there is a chance to elect our candidate.

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SOCIALIST ALDERMEN SEATED IN NEW YORK TO WORK FOR MANY NEEDED REFORMS

The seven Socialist members of the new Board of Aldermen will go to office on Jan. 1 with a definite program and intention to work for socialistic measures which may be introduced in good faith by other members. The primary interest of the Socialist group, according to Algermon Lee, head of the Rand School of Social Science, who has been chosen Chairman of the delegation, is in the high cost of living and the school question. They will start a fight at once for a municipalization of the trade in milk,

and probably other articles of food, in coal, drugs, and in ice.

They will demand more school buildings and more teachers. They will favor municipal ownership of the surface car lines and of the electric lighting plants. If the scheme proposed for such a step should seem to be drawn with an eye to the interests of the city and not to afford undue profits to the private companies which would be bought out.

It is not the position of the Socialists that they must wait for the possibility of complete socialization

of the city government, or that they shall refuse to support measure of modified Socialism if the Tammany majority attempts to carry out the pre-election promises of municipal ownership.

"I knew that this program would cost money," said Mr. Lee.

"Whether public utilities could be purchased and private distributing companies in the milk and ice trades, for instance, could be bought out without going beyond the city's constitutional debt limit is hard to

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Socialist Aldermen Seated In New York To Work For Many Needed Reforms

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say. It might be necessary to try to get state legislation authorizing certain extensions, and it might not. In any event there would have to be bond issues and increased taxes; but I believe the program would be worth it to the people on a purely financial basis because of the decrease in the cost of living that it would bring about. In any event, we do not promise municipal ownership, more schools, and lower taxes at the same time.

Will Decide Each Case Separately

"It may be said that a delegation of seven members in a board of seventy-nine will not have much power. But we represent the Socialist vote, which was about one-fourth of the total cast in the city election. I think that fact will be born in mind by the leaders of other parties in considering the Socialist measures proposed, as well as the fact which is generally accepted that Tammany put its platform because the leaders foresaw the drift to socialism.

"We are going to start in with our own proposals for the realization of our program. We recognize that it is very possible, if not probable, that the same things will be proposed by other parties. Our attitude toward these measures will depend on our judgment of the individual case. Most certainly we are not going to refuse to support something that we regard as a proper step because it was proposed by somebody else, but we are going to scrutinize all other moves in the direction of municipal ownership, and shall make sure that they are workable schemes submitted in good faith. If they are put in by way of camouflage we feel pretty sure that the support of genuine measures of the same sort by a vigorous Socialist group will bring public opinion to demand genuine action.

"We want the city to take over the trade in food, coal, ice, medicines, and sickroom supplies. Many of these, such as the milk and coal distribution, are already pretty well centralized in private hands. We do not propose confiscation. We should probably favor buying up the existing distributors at a fair valuation of the physical properties, and I don't think we should stand out against a certain additional sum by way of consolation to the men who are going out of business if this were found the most economical way to get the thing done. But this doesn't mean that we should favor a big price which would give unjust returns to the owners. In most of these businesses—milk especially—there is no great amount of fixed capital invested, and a fair physical valuation, with something additional, should not be a price that would bankrupt the city. If an economical price should not be agreed on the city should enter the field as a competitor, and because it would not be operating for profit it would quickly drive the private companies out of business.

Could Pay the Farmers More.

"The public would thus take on the function of middleman, and deal directly with the co-operative societies of farm producers in the milk business, which I take as an example. The possibility of doing away with the present enormous private profits would make it feasible to give the farmers more than they are getting now and reduce the cost to consumer. And I feel pretty sure that if the cities go to the farmers with a proposal of this sort, while the farmers as individuals might be inclined to look at their own immediate maximum profit first of all, the organizations of farmers would act in a liberal human spirit, and would have intelligence enough to realize that it was better for their own interests not to play the hog.

"This view is not based on theory alone. I have had some opportunity to make observations among farmers of the State, and I feel pretty sure that this is the attitude they would take. This belief is further supported by the experience of dealings between co-operative organizations of farmers and municipal distributing agencies in the Scandinavian countries, especially in Denmark.

"In the coal business, of course, we should be dealing with large and wealthy corporations, but the possibility of elimination of the middleman's profit ought to make it possible to reach a satisfactory agreement even there.

"As to the municipalization of traction lines and lighting systems, we are in favor of the idea and shall support honest attempts to bring it about. But we are certainly going to be on the lookout for schemes which have for their chief purpose the enrichment of the present traction trust by giving it a chance to unload unprofitable lines at a big price.

"With regard to the school system, we feel that the present overcrowding of the school buildings and the school teachers must be relieved. The best element among the teachers is not asking for more money, though they need it, just as everybody else needs it. The most solid protest from the teaching body has been against the increased hours of work; the teachers claim that if their hours are prolonged it merely means that they cannot do as good work as they are doing now. There is no point in increasing the quantity of teaching per teacher and decreasing the quality.

"The best Socialist opinion, and this is particularly true in America, favors the policy of proceeding step by step and getting what you can when you can. This is our policy. We are going to propose these measures. If anybody else proposes them we shall make sure that there is no joker in the move, and if there is none we shall presumably give it our support. The Socialist aldermen will follow the policy of Socialist congressmen and assemblymen in reporting from time to time to public meetings in their districts on the questions before them and their position on these questions."

MAYOR VAN LEAR DEFENDS RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH

(Continued From page 1)

"In the case decided by the Supreme Court known as 'The State vs. Bert Stone,' Page 482, Volume 96, Minnesota Reports, an appeal is taken from the judgment of the Municipal Court of the City of Minneapolis, adjudging defendant guilty of the offense of vagrancy as defined by an ordinance enacted by virtue of the power granted to the City Council to restrain and punish vagrants. It was held that the City Council may declare what acts shall constitute vagrancy, but such power must be confined within reasonable bounds and limited to the generally accepted meaning and scope of the law relating to the subject of vagrancy.

Punishes For Assumed Future Crime.

"I am of the opinion that vagrancy has been clearly defined by ordinances already passed and enforced for some years past, as well as by the State Laws which have been a guide in formulating ordinances relating to this subject. It is my opinion that this ordinance attempts to define as vagrancy many things which do not properly come within the definition of vagrancy. It exposes persons to punishment for offenses of which it must be assumed that at some future time they will become guilty, and altogether I consider the ordinance dangerous to the liberties and rights of the people of Minneapolis. This ordinance might be used by the great corporate interests to arrest and detain and suppress a speaker coming to our city to discuss great public questions.

"The present ordinance is already fully covered, insofar as it ought to be covered, in my opinion, either by state or federal laws or by city ordinances; and to attempt at this time to extend the definition of vagrancy, appears to me to be a dangerous precedent and not based upon good public policy.

"I therefore return the said ordinance without my official signature."

FIVE THOUSAND QUIT. WORK IN OHIO.

Hamilton, O., Jan. 2.—Over five thousand factory workers affiliated with the A. F. of L., went on strike today to compel by direct action the release of thirty of their fellow workers who were recently arrested for alleged rioting.

When the arrested men were arraigned this morning they pleaded not guilty and refused to seek bonds preferring imprisonment for the principle for which they were fighting than freedom. They are being held in jail. The strikers declare they will not return to work until the prisoners are released.

New York, N. Y.—The big restaurant strike may take in all the restaurants, according to the latest reports.

National Socialist Party Issues Stirring Call For Million Dollar Fund

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This is the plan of the campaign and the following cost estimate will convey an approximate idea of the amount of money required to carry it out.

100 organizers, six months service free to branches	\$200,000
192 campaign speakers, services free to branches	130,000
10 million copies of campaign booklets, free to branches	200,000
50 million campaign leaflets free to branches	50,000
5 million packages of literature mailed direct to voters	300,000
Intensive work in favorable congressional districts	50,000
Wages, circularization for funds, rent, light, telegrams, etc.	70,000
Total expense	\$1,000,000

The Issues Involved

We may all say that 1918 will see the turning point in the history of our movement as well as in the history of our country.

The paramount issues of the congressional campaign will be Universal Compulsory Military Training, the Conservation of Wealth, the Cost of Living and the attitude of the government toward labor as indicated in the recent decision of the Supreme Court in the miners case.

The great capitalist papers that denounced us as pro-German and disloyal in the elections of last fall are the same papers that are today working for the Compulsory Military Training that will result in the permanent Prussianization of this country and establish imperialism as a permanent policy of our government.

Only a Socialist vote of Four Million and a fighting Socialist delegation in the next congress will head off this program, stop the prosecution of Socialists, give a sane legal peace propaganda its day in court, drive back the forces that are working for the destruction of free speech, free press and peaceable assembly, restore the traditional American policy of anti-imperialism and non-militarism and put the nation on the road towards the arts of peace.

Conclusion.

We live in the most critical period of American history, for that matter of the history of the world. The hour is grave. Socialist sentiment must be crystallized now. The course of the nation for a long time to come will be determined by the congress that is elected in the fall of 1918.

The voice of Socialism must resound in thunder tones in that congress, and back of that voice must be a powerful party organization and the votes of Four Million American citizens.

This and this alone will make the American Socialist movement a powerful factor in American life. A factor in American life. A factor that will be heard and respected and to which the oppressed and downtrodden will turn with confidence and in one mighty army push on to the complete conquest of the government and the Socialist Republic.

For ages the workers have been oppressed and exploited. Slowly but surely they have fought their way upward and onward to greater and ever greater power. Slaves in the ancient world, serfs in the middle ages, outcasts and vagabonds in the infancy of the capitalist system, they have organized and fought their way upward until today they stand within striking distance of emancipation.

The Socialist movement is a part of this struggling mass of humanity. Now comes our greatest opportunity.

We stand where the roads fork. It is onward to Socialism or backward to Barbarism and new dark ages. In the years to come they will say that the American Socialist movement was made in 1918. International Socialism expects every American comrade to rally at once and to work unceasingly to make the most of our present opportunity.

Comrades! Forward! The immediate future waits upon us!

We must make the most of it!

N. Y. BUTCHERS TO AID PACKERS STRIKE

New York.—The district council of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen's union has appointed a committee of 10 men to call a sympathetic strike of 3,000 packing house employees here within a few days to help Local 22 of the organization, which is now in the second week of its strike in the wholesale meat markets of New York city. This action is taken against the Swift, Armour, Morris and Wilson packing interests, which are fighting the union.

John Kennedy, vice president of the Amalgamated, said today that when the packing house employed went out they would give an example to New York of how completely an industry could be paralyzed when men are well organized.

In view of the menace to the consumers if a strike has to be called, which will immediately cut off meat supplies from all butcher stores. John Mitchell, chairman of the states food commission, has appealed to President Lyman of the Armour interests here to avert a tieup.

Opens Fight For New Tax Legislation

Washington.—Senator La Follette devotes the leading editorial in La Follette's Magazine to the subject of war finance, sharply criticizing President Wilson for failing to redeem the implied pledge made in his April 2nd speech against "vast loans" with their "hardships and evils" and protesting vigorously against Secretary McAdoo's proposal that Congress avoid additional tax legislation at this time.

It is apparent from the editorial that Senator La Follette intends shortly to renew his fight for increased taxation of surplus incomes and war profits.

After pointing out that, according to the report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, the United States has added 7,925 new millionaires to its roll in 1916, an increase in one year of 34 per cent the senator says:

"Only think of it. There are almost exactly enough men in this 1916 crop of millionaires to make two entire regiments of infantry.

"It's a safe wager that these millionaires are all 'patriots' strong for 'democracy' strong for war, of course.

"Brave boys are they

"Gone at their country's call. "You must have 'seen it in the paper.' But you did not hold your paper right. In these brave days you should read your paper upside down to get the truth. No, no, these 'patriots' are not in the trenches of France,—not yet. They are strongly entrenched in Wall Street where they are fighting to make more millions. They are in Washington like wolves in full cry, hot after contracts.

"If the revenue bill of last session had taxed these millionaires, had taxed all wealth in the form of surplus incomes and war profits, fearlessly, honestly and patriotically, there would be no deficiency in the Treasury on the 30th day of next June."

Regarding the President's course on war taxation, Senator La Follette says:

"We surely had some warrant to hope for support from the President in our fight to make wealth bear its share of the burden of the war. We had cherished the memory of his words in that fateful war message of April 2nd when he said:

"It is our duty, I most respectfully urge, to protect our people so far as we may against the very serious hardships and evils which would be produced by vast loans.

"Nine months have passed since those words were spoken. They have been long and anxious months for the American people. In the meantime some further word from the President upon this vitally important subject would have been most opportune.

"Surely the call for him to speak has been most urgent.

"He has approved the largest bond authorizations in the world's history.

"He has witnessed the issue of bonds and then more bonds, as the basis for 'vast loans.' He has witnessed the 'very serious hardships and evils' resulting from the inflation produced by those loans.

"He has seen the purchasing power of the dollar steadily diminish under the influence of that inflation.

"He witnessed in silence the prolonged struggle in the Senate last session for a higher tax upon surplus incomes and upon the constantly increasing war profits. The war revenue bill passed. Wealth escaped with a gentle slap on the wrist. The profiteers slipped through with a thirty-three per cent tax on war profits while their English brothers pay a war profits tax of 80 to 86 per cent. We hoped for some word from the President in his first message on the convening of Congress but he was silent. And now comes the report of the Secretary of the Treasury arguing for further 'vast loans' and against touching war profits and surplus incomes at this time. But let it be understood right now that the fight for just and righteous taxation of wealth is to go on in Congress. So long as the war lasts, that will continue a vital issue.

"The poor can not escape sacrifice and wealth must not."

The answer to these questions rests with the boards of education, the members of which through their official position finally decide questions of school policy.

The field of thought must be transferred from the schools to those who direct them and we must ask ourselves, Who are the boards of education? The facts permit of only one answer.

A study of the occupation of members of Boards of Education in 104 of the largest American cities shows that of the 967 school board members 766, or more than three-fourths are business and professional men. The business men form the largest single group with 433 of the total number of board members. Of these business men, 144 were merchants, 78 were manufacturers, 104 were bankers, brokers, real estate and insurance men.

Among the 333 professional men 118 or more than one-third were doctors and dentists; 144 or about two fifths were lawyers. The total number of teachers among the professional men was 18. These were for the most part, college professors.

The board members with miscellaneous occupations include about one-fifth of the total board members. Of these 27 were retired business men, 48 were clerks and salesmen, 39 were mechanics and wage-earners, and 25 were foremen.

In the ordinary American industrial city, wage earners and clerks make up about five-sixths of the total number of gainfully occupied persons. Among all of the members of the boards of education in these 104 principal cities of the United States, four in each hundred are mechanics and five in each hundred are clerks and salesmen. Thus more than nine-tenths of the

But, gentlemen, your polished anarchy, your vandalism in christian costume, your butchery in the form of christian wars, is too late. Although your most brutal, most savage, most iron-handed and stone-hearted representative (Kaiser Wilhelm) precipitated this war about five years before the rest of you were ready for it, still it is too late by at least a half a century. The workers have learned, and the workers are learning.

Comrades, "go thou and do likewise." Teach the science as well as the farce of history, even as Sanford is doing.

Make a drive for study classes. Only a working class grounded in proletarian science can throw off the shackles of wage-slavery.

THE MARXIAN MESSENGER.

URUGUAY SOCIALISTS OPPOSE MILITARISM

Montevideo, Dec. 28.—Resolutions demanding compulsory international arbitration and the gradual diminution of armaments were adopted at the recent national convention of Uruguay, South America, Socialists. They also congratulated the Argentina Socialist party on the stand it had taken in the present crisis.

BUTTE MINERS WIN.

Butte, Mont.—By their strike, which was formally called off on December 18, the copper miners made a gain of one dollar a day, a weekly pay day, and a great modification of the notorious and infamous rustling card system. All the men return to work with a good aggressive organization which will be held in tact and built up for their future protection.

AS THE TWIG IS BENT

By SCOTT NEARING

The American Schools hold the key to the future of the democracy. For at least eight years the children of the United States are now required to attend schools which are being more and more highly organized under the direction of the boards of education and the school administrative officials. From all sides, comes the demand for efficiency and for "standardization." The schools are to be made alike,—they are to turn out a definite product.

What are the schools being made like?

What kind of a product are they to turn out?

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You Will Find It Here.

"The New Times" a Minneapolis Socialist paper seems to have all kinds of trouble. (We have plenty of our own for that matter.) When the paper was going to press on the 14th of last month the press stopped after 400 was printed. The reason was that the owner of the press demanded to be paid at once for all the bills that the New Times owed him. This was impossible for Comrade Georgian and court proceedings was started against him. The New Times have an idea that the State Safety Commission is back of the move by the owner of the Press. Wouldn't be a bit surprised. Comrade Georgian has been successful in securing a new place where he gets his valuable paper printed and we hope that he will not have any more trouble of the same kind as we like to receive his paper.

POSTOFFICE HAS LIST OF 200 NAUGHTY PAPERS

Washington, Jan. 2.—The post-office department investigation of disloyal and seditious expressions in newspapers and periodicals has led to the compilation of a list of 200 publications which may be denied the use of the mails.

For the most part these papers are printed in the English tongue. None is printed in German. The warnings of the government have been heeded carefully by the German papers in the United States, and the chief thorns in the department's side today are the papers printed in English, according to officials.

Olympia, Wn.—The Socialist Party is agitating for a state wide eight hour day.

board members in the cities under consideration fall outside of the class which makes up five-sixths of the population. Or, to put the matter somewhat differently, nine-tenths of the school board members of the large American cities are selected from one-sixth of the gainfully occupied population which is above the rank of wage-earner or clerk.

Five occupational groups include the bulk of board members—merchants; manufacturers; bankers, brokers and real estate men; doctors and lawyers—558 out of a total of 967 board members. Thus more than three-fifths of the total number of members are engaged in five groups of business or professional occupations.

American school-board members are primarily few women occupy positions on the school boards and a comparatively small number of men from the subordinate industrial positions—wage earners, clerks, foremen—are found among the board members. This type of board member is in the decided minority. The vast majority represent directly the business and professional interests of the community.

Reformers have been agitating earnestly for many years. They have talked in halls and on street corners. Wherever they could find an audience they have presented their case—occasionally. Meanwhile in season and out of season more than one-half million school teachers have been regularly presenting to some twenty million children a course of studies and a point of view which was decided upon by a group of professional and business men who represent the well-to-do part of American society. They are the owners of property. They have every reason to be satisfied with things as they are. They are not revolutionists, in most cases they are not even reformers. Many of them are stand-patters of the most absolute type.

The American children go to the schools. The schools are administered by the boards of education. The board of education are composed almost exclusively of business and professional people—the beneficiaries of the present system. Under these circumstances would you expect the school to teach liberty, justice and the love of truth or the conservation of the property values of the community? Even in American men cannot gather grapes of thorns or figs of thistles.

THE GLAD NEW TIME.

This is the season of the year when happiness reigns supreme, when mankind should be all aglow with the seasons greetings one to another, but what do we find, millions of people suffering from the lack of fuel and food due to the greed of those who care more for dividends than they do care for humanity. The suffering of the people is no concern of theirs. They are more interested in those who live in idleness and luxury, reaping where they have not sown, but sowing at the present time the seed of discontent among those who know their suffering is not necessary, but changes are already coming. In the glad new time the load of the oppressor shall be lifted from the backs of the poor. Think of a country like the United States, rich in resources, filled with men and women able to work and produce more commodities than any other country on the face of the earth, but in the wealthiest city in the country. One hundred and ten thousand of the million school children of New York city are underfed. Of the remaining children the condition is only possible.

More than one half of the school children are underfed, going to school and trying to study with stomachs empty. How much can a child learn whose thoughts are on stomachs empty. How much can a the fangs of hunger and New York is not the only place where such conditions exist. It is every where, poverty, suffering and degradation, the direct result of the Capitalist system.

The freest government cannot long endure when the tendency of the law is to create a rapid accumulation of property in the hands of a few and to render the masses poor and dependent.—Daniel Webster.

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION IS FIRST REAL SOCIAL REVOLUTION THAT EVER HAPPENED

Noted Russian Socialist Teacher and Economist Explains That Present Uprising of Russian People Cannot Be Classed With the Series of Former Revolutions That Resulted in the Existing Order of Society. But Is the First Whose Aims Is To Sweep That Order Away.

By ALEXANDER TRACHTENBERG.

It is the proper thing today in America to refer to the situation in Russia as an infinite bedlam; a vast territory, with 180,000,000 human beings, possessed of the devil and given over to the unreasoning rule of hysteria and chaos. It is a place, we are told, which has suddenly become detached from the natural laws that govern the evolution of nations, a country where disorder seems to be looked upon as the supreme virtue, and where revolutions may henceforth be expected daily, not because of any particular political aim to be attained, but because of some evil impulse to revolute.

Russia is not that kind of a place. There never was such a place, and there never will be, and it will do no one any good to assume that there is.

Cause and effects still hold sway in Russia. None of the revolutions or the counter-revolutions which happened there are any less intelligible than our American Revolution or our Civil War. Americans, as a rule, do not grasp the meaning of these Russian uprisings—in the first place, because there has been such a successful effort to keep the explanation from them and in the second place because Americans are so commonly committed to the assumption that history is made by "great men."

A New Family of Revolutions.

When the Czar was overthrown, America applauded. One of this country's chief boasts was that she had no Czar and that act of revolution seemed neither anarchistic nor insane. But when Milukoff was unseated a few weeks later America gasped. America had never thought of unseating her Milukoffs, and the act could not be understood. For exactly the same reason the subsequent overthrow of Kerensky could not be understood for the same forces which placed Kerensky in command took that command away, and they are forces which have never functioned in history before.

The American idea of revolution is the American Revolution; or at best, the French Revolution—the political change which occurred in the transition from feudalism to capitalism.

These revolutions, however, were not of the same family of revolutions as the one in Russia which began with the unseating of the Czar. For although the working people did most of the fighting in these revolutions, they were not, strictly speaking working class revolutions.

If the Russian Revolution is to be understood, it must be classified not with the series of revolutions which resulted in the existing order of society but as the first of new series whose aim it is to sweep that order away.

Even when Americans began to accept Kerensky they did not appreciate this fundamental reason for his selection. The general explanation given for his support was that he was the "strong man" needed in the particular crisis which Russia faced. The interests which were supporting Kerensky in his controversies with the Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Deputies were never under this delusion. To them Kerensky was merely the choice of two evils, and they deserted him at the first faint chance to turn Russia over to more conservative rule. But the strong-man theory of history was so deeply rooted in the American mind that this conflict of economic interests could not be grasped. It was easier to look upon Kerensky as a "strong man" and Lenin as a "bad man," and let it go at that.

Then suddenly we became aware that the "bad man," the "German spy," had overthrown Kerensky. Just how he did it we never took the pains to ascertain; in something the same way perhaps, the villain usually does such things on Broadway, by telling dirty lies about the hero to all the "good" people in the company;—those good people, by the way, always being so dense and unsuspecting that they never fail to let him get away with it. Americans shuddered and wept while the melodrama went on, but they seemed to be convinced that it wasn't real and that the villain would be punished in the last act.

Such a view gets us nowhere. It explains nothing. It contradicts

every proved scientific principle. It is the diagnosis of the dark ages, the verdict of superstition, the ipse dixit of those who either cannot or will not look the facts squarely in the face.

The facts are not hard to understand. Under the Czar the masses of the Russian people had become more than anti-Czar. They had come to antagonize the whole system of exploitation, including the exploitation of the working class by those who happen to own the land and capital of the world. Their first elections showed that the Russian mind was overwhelmingly Socialist. They had their differences in regard to tactics, but they were one in their ultimate aims. The Social Revolutionists concerned themselves mostly with the problems of the peasants and the land problem. The Social Democratic Labor Party concerned itself mostly with the problems of the industrial workers. There was no fundamental opposition between the two, nor between the two factions of the latter party, the Mensheviks and the Bolsheviks.

New Russia vs. Old Diplomacy.

Bolshevik does not mean bad man. It designated that faction of the party which was seemingly most impatient to put through the whole

was more patient, more opportunistic, more practical, but not less radical, in their acceptance of the complete Socialist ideal. I was a Menshevik. Leon Trotsky was neither. He belonged to a small group whose aim it was to bring the two factions into harmony. Lenin was accepted leader of the Bolsheviks.

These revolutionary parties had one interest in common with the more progressive capitalists of Russia. That was the overthrow of the Czar. Beyond that their aims were different. The capitalists wanted freedom to extend business and trade. They didn't want to be hampered by stupid feudalism, but they were generally in favor of what is called an imperialistic program, and accepted the war as theirs.

The parties of the working classes had no interest in the imperialistic programme. They formed the rank and file of the soldiers, who had not even been consulted about the war and didn't know why it being fought. To them it was the Czar's war, and their only part in it was to fight or be shot. Now the Czar had been overthrown, and while they would fight a people's war, if necessary, they would have to know just what they were fighting for. So they organized their Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Deputies, who made demands upon the Provisional Government to demand from the Allies a statement of war aims and to initiate a movement for a general negotiative peace.

Milukoff and Prince Lvoff ignored these demands. It had been the intention of the workers and soldiers to let these gentlemen run the Government, only making sure that a Socialist, Kerensky, had charge of the Department of Justice, so that their political prisoners would be freed and their life and liberty secured. But Milukoff and Lvoff demonstrated that they had nothing in common with this voice of the masses, so the Council forced them to resign and placed the Socialist at the helm.

Upon Kerensky, then, there fell a burden which would tax the resources of a superman. Russia's worst enemy seemed to be German militarism; there must be no compromise with that. The United States had just entered the war "to make the world safe for democracy." That itself helped to stiffen up the Russian ranks. But how about the other countries? Was it certain that they did not have imperialistic or capitalistic designs? So the new Government, acting upon the mandate of the Council, appealed to all the Allies to restate their war aims—to come to a general agreement as to acceptable terms of peace.

The diplomats of the Allies denied their request. The United States then sent a "fraternal" commission to Russia. We sent Elihu Root.

Failing to get any statement of war aims from the diplomats, the Council called for an international Socialist conference in Stockholm. The Socialist of the world agreed. The Allied Governments dissented. The Government which sent Root to Russia was first to deny passports to the elected Socialist delegates.

Where Kerensky Failed.

The Stockholm conference was said to be a German trick. In Russia they don't believe that, and they don't believe that the capitalists of

England and America believed it. They think, rightly or wrongly, that international capitalism opposed such a conference, not for fear it would be a fizzle, but for fear it would be a success. They didn't want the Socialists to have the prestige of bringing about peace, was the Russian conclusion. Such prestige might lead to social revolution in other countries, including Germany, and they would rather have the Kaiser keep his throne than to have him lose it to the Socialists.

Suspicion of the aims of the Allied Governments grew apace. And the democratic countries upon whom the Russian revolutionists had banked the most were always the first to oppose their revolutionary moves.

Kerensky still trained with the Allied diplomats but no doubt was expressed as to his aims. He was a tried Socialist a tried revolutionist. If he had an ambition to be dictator, it was for no personal aggrandizement. Thus he seemed to retain the support of the Workers and Soldiers, while distinctly not carrying on their programme.

The Russian troops had been fraternizing with the Germans, trying to stir up revolution across the border. Kerensky put a stop to that and personally led the first offensive.

Just what reward did he receive? The Korniloff counter-revolution. Korniloff, who stood for capital punishment, the return of the hated discipline in the Russian Army and the abolition of the soldiers' committees! And the very day this counter-revolution was launched it was hailed by the press in England and America as the solution of the Russian problem.

Bolsheviks and Mensheviks united to put down the revolution. But with each new development which I have recounted the ranks of the Bolsheviks grew and the ranks of the Kerensky followers dwindled. Kerensky had worked like a superman to keep up the war until such time as New Russia could come to complete agreement with her allies. In the struggle, however, he had not only alienated most of the Russian rank and file, but he had proved too radical for the western diplomats to fasten to.

Kerensky's despairing interview, given out a few days before the Bolshevik uprising, tells the story. It was a charge that the Allies had failed Russia, that Russia could do no more.

Council Represented Whole Nation. Now as to the Bolshevik uprising, what was it? Was it the case of a villain entering to bedevil the situation? Was it a case of sudden conversion of the masses to the economic theories of Lenin? It was neither.

From the time that Kerensky assumed command, the Council of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies was the real governing body of Russia. Kerensky ruled by permission of the Council. From that body alone he had his real credentials. The Constituent Assembly had not yet been elected and the organization of the Workers and Soldiers was the nation's only representative voice.

The Russian people wanted peace. They had not entered the war, as America did, by representative deliberation; but they did not want a separate peace. They wanted a general peace, and they wanted Russia to take the initiative in bringing it about. So far, however, the Russian Government had accomplished nothing to this end, and the representative of the Council of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies who was sent to France to participate in the Allied Conference was not permitted to take his seat! Supposed Kerensky Would Resign.

So Leon Trotsky introduced a resolution in the Petrograd Council urging upon the Government to take immediate, aggressive action toward bringing about a general peace.

This resolution was defeated in the Executive Committee of the Council. Trotsky carried it to the whole Council, comprising 2,000 members. There it was carried, and the Executive Committee, composed of Kerensky's main backers, automatically resigned. By due of election, a new committee favoring Lenin's and Trotsky's attitude toward peace installed.

It was assumed throughout Russia that this action was carried with it the downfall of the Kerensky Government. This Council was the recognized voice of the mass of the Russian people, and it was expected to exercise the powers it did exercise until the Constituent Assembly was duly installed. Kerensky, who had persistently postponed the calling of the Constituent Assembly, had never challenged the power of the Council. But he did not resign, and so another Provisional Government was installed. There was no war and comparatively little disorder.

It does not seem possible to me that extended civil war result from such a situation. As far as the Socialist factions led by Lenin and Kerensky are concerned, it is a battle of ideas and not a conflict of interests, while the parties who do represent interests in opposition to the working class are too small numerically to wage successful war.

The only fighting opposition so far has not come from any democratic groups. It has come from the Cossacks whose heritage it has always been to keep down the revolution.

If we look at Russia as a mob of 180,000,000 people at the mercy day by day of the particular bad man who makes the biggest noise, we can only arrive at confusion and despair. But if we conceive of this as not merely a political revolution, but as one hitting at the very structure of modern economic and social life and paving the way to a entirely new order, the events take their place in most logical sequence.

Separate Peace Not the Aim.

The Czar interposed his stupid tyranny and they deposed the Czar. The progressive capitalists sought to set up a limited monarchy in his place, and they overthrew the government which made the attempt. They put a man of their own in power, with quite definite instructions as to what he should do. He failed to do it and they deposed him. Now they have given the same instructions to another group of representatives, and to all appearances these instructions are being carried out.

But the will of the Russian people is not and never has been to make a separate peace. They have held the belief that a temporary armistice would make it possible. They do not believe the German people want to fight a Kaiser's war any more than they wished to fight for the Czar. And even while their representatives are in conference with the German envoys, they are bombarding Germany by air with appeals to rise against the Kaiser.

They hope sincerely that the Germans will do this, and it must be remembered that they know more about what is going on in Germany than any other nation on earth. All we are permitted to get here is the occasional despatch telling of mutiny in the German Navy or some overwhelming Socialist election like that in Leipzig, where the Independent Socialists, the Liebknecht group, polled 64 per cent, of the 78 per cent Socialist votes. But the Russians have been getting first-hand information. They have fraternized for months with the German troops, and they believe that the German people are ripe for revolution.

One thing is certain. The Russian people, represented by the Council of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies do not want a German peace. They said so to Milukoff. They said so to Kerensky. They have said so to Lenin, Trotsky has given this message to the world and was only voicing the consistently stated will of the Russian people when he announced that, if the German Government stands in the way of a democratic peace, as promulgated by the Revolutionary Democracy of Russia, the Russian people will prosecute the war against the Imperial Government as it prosecuted the revolution.—In New York World.

SOCIALIST LEADS IN WILWAUKEE PRIMARIES

Edmund T. Melms, county organizer of the Socialist party and candidate for the state senate in the Eighth senatorial district, led in the primaries held Tuesday to nominate candidates for a special election made necessary by a vacancy caused by the expulsion of Senator Frank Raques, Socialist, last spring.

SAME THOUGHT



Education Like "Truth" Insists On Being Heard

The "radical" sheets, whose editors have heretofore been continuously and unusually busy urging and prodding Henry to buy more of "my paper" and sell more of "my paper" are now becoming busy with advice to socialist soap-boxers to be careful "as to what they say," "at this particular time."

Now, we might ask the question "why?" But we won't. We haven't time. We might ask whether it is because a little carelessness on the part of the soap-boxer might interfere with those urgently desired "sales" of "my paper." When we see every column and every unsold advertising space finished off with: "Henry, you must sell more of 'my paper' if this old world is to be saved, and capitalism dethroned," it makes us terribly anxious to ask why the aforesaid owner of advertising spaces, is "just at this particular time," so anxiously solicitous as to the welfare of the soap-box worker.

When we remember that we never saw a paragraph in their papers, devoted to telling the "common" workers the method, the system, by which journalism, and all other intellectual work is done by those literary manufacturers of material which because of its beauty, its charm or its force, must be sold in ever increasing quantities, if the old world and democracy, etc., are to be saved, and who, on the side, have advertising space to sell, the value of which bears a geometrical ratio to the number of readers interested and entertained, it makes us hot under our proletarian collar. When we remember that we dug up like a dupe for a long time, anxiously watching to see "them" perform some spectacular feat which was eternally promised, and which would knock capitalism clear off the stage, and then recall that gradually we woke up to the cold fact that "we" must save ourselves by first learning that all the processes of industry and commerce must be managed by the workers, and that if the workers are ever to be fed, clothed, sheltered and educated in the right way, these same processes of industry and commerce must be managed intelligently, and that therefore, the workers themselves must be intelligent, and that to be really intelligent in the modern world, they must be educated, and that to be educated today means to be educated in the science, geology, physics, chemistry, astronomy, biology, and sociology, as well as mathematics, and art. It makes us intellectually angry to see the slush that is shoveled out to the worker every month in the shape of so-called radical literature, absolutely devoid of any reference to the methods by which these sciences are understood and mastered.

Those workers who see the light of "Truth" today must not only understand these sciences themselves; they must become teachers of these sciences, else we will never get this much needed education dispensed. No person can come up from babyhood and learn the sciences unless he has teachers. The masters won't teach us; they are using every artifice to prevent our learning; and when artifice won't work, they manufacture a war.

The sellers of advertising space won't teach us. First, they don't know how. Second, it never occurred to them. Third, people don't want to think. It is hard work, and work that they are not accustomed to. To put in educational work, would crowd out stuff that is more sensationally attractive, and that might diminish the number of sales, and therefore, the value of advertising lines. Wagenknecht's letter hits the point exactly. What makes "Truth" so attractive is the skill of the editors in balancing its more transient features with the application of fundamental principles, and in showing, withal, that only as the workers become trained in the knowledge of the sciences do they make an actual gain in their fight for freedom, conditioned as it is today by modern ideas, modern machinery, and modern methods.

MARY N. BLAISDELL.

ARKANSAS CITY, Kas.—A lost world, inhabited by birds with leather wings and teeth, and thousands of other strange and weird creatures, has been found in the Osage hills, in a wild and only partially explored section of northwestern Oklahoma. The tale of the

lost world was brought here by John Brune, a member of the Osage Indian tribe, who has a reputation as an explorer.

The story told by Brune is as strange as that related by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in "The Lost World", and it has the advantage of being possible of verification. Brune, himself, is now making plans to equip a large exploring party and next spring he will go again into the Osage hills determined to bring back concrete proof of his story.

The lost world, according to Brune, is located on a plateau about a mile high, the sides of which are so steep that it is impossible to climb them unassisted. He was alone when he found the plateau and was unable to scale the precipitous cliffs.

Kills Strange Bird. But what convinced him that animal life on the plateau was the same as that which existed several hundred years ago was the result of a hunting trip. Brune saw a bird, of strange appearance, and he shot it. He found that it had leather wings without feathers and that its mouth was furnished with a complete set of teeth. Although he did not know that the bird answers to the name of pterodactyl in science, he did realize that it was a strange species.

So steep were the cliffs leading up to the plateau on all sides that the animals on the summit were unable to descend and the men below were so far away that they could not distinguish their characteristics except that they were different from all animals known to humankind.

So Brune decided to return to civilization and get an outfit which would enable him and his friends to return to the Osage hills, scale the cliffs of the mysterious plateau, and see at first hand the mysteries of the existing there.

The plateau is completely isolated from surrounding country. But Brune says that with the aid of ropes and plenty of men he believes the cliffs can be scaled. Heavy rifles will be carried by the men making up the party in the expectation that they may meet with some of the great animals described in books devoted to prehistoric animal life.

Plans Expedition.

Brune only talks of his experience to those who are intimate with him. He fears he will not be believed because of the strangeness of his story. But he swears he tells the truth and he is determined to prove to the most cynical that the lost world really exists. He is determined to bring back to civilization specimens of strange animal life, carcasses and skins.

It is probable that several scientists will join the Brune expedition. The fact that he has lived in the Osage hills since he was a boy and hunted among them for many years, will enable Brune to pilot the expedition to the mysterious plateaus without trouble and to maintain it there while he and his companions are making their explorations.

Do You Recognize Him?

C. Osborne Ward: The Ancient little reason and a large egoism, we have what the present labor movement calls a "boss." He is endowed with those attributes which our modern authorities on moral philosophy denominate cupidity and irascibility.

"Given the right of proprietorship wrung through superiority in physical power from his tribe, and he unhesitatingly uses them as slaves. The first impulse, that of cupidity, makes him a tyrant and the second, that of irascibility, fills him with cruel ferocity."

"Now with animal prowess, a Lowly."

GROWING.

The Socialist Party since its last convention in Duluth 1916 has increased one hundred per cent, state secretary Sugerman said when he visited this city on January 2nd. He stated that "word" come from all parts of the state and that elections are now being conducted for election of delegates and expect every local to be represented at the convention. Every local in Duluth will send delegates and about 15 are going from here together with the St. Louis county delegates. The convention will be held in St. Paul, Feb. 23, 24-25th.

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EDITORIAL



AUTOCRAT OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT RAGES AT "SELFISHNESS" OF UNIONS

"The labor unions are selfish," says Postmaster Bursleson. "That is the trouble with them,—the time of their conventions and the space in their journals is devoted almost entirely to selfish interests." He then proceeds to lecture the unions on the duty of unselfishness. He points out that their officers present "imaginary grievances, distorting the facts."

These are the answers which Mr. Bursleson makes, in his annual report, to the pleas of the postal clerks for a living wage. They have sent to Mr. Bursleson petition after petition, which have been received. Officers of unions who published grievances have been summarily discharged. The unions charge that he gives no sick leave, no extra pay for night work, and that he has sought to prevent them from presenting their grievances to Congress through any channel but himself. They say that their wages have not been raised for ten years.

To this Mr. Bursleson's answer is that they are getting three times the pay of soldiers and ought to be satisfied. He fails to add that the soldier gets board and room and clothes and medical attention in addition to his pay. He goes on to say that the postal employees since their affiliation with the American Federation of Labor, "Have become bold," and that they may even strike, some time in the future. According to him, a few did strike in one instance, by "tendering their resignations and leaving the service in a body." This he regards as a revolutionary menace to our government, and he adds that he had the offenders prosecuted in the courts.

The postal clerks have not at present a legal right to strike. But they have had, since 1912, a legal right to organize, and to present their grievances to Congress, and to affiliate with other organizations, so long as this did not involve the right to strike. Mr. Bursleson comes to the conclusion that his whole trouble with his employees is due to "too much unionism." He therefore recommends that the act permitting employees to organize and present grievances to Congress be repealed.

Mr. Bursleson is a valuable man. He would do very nicely to put in a government museum as one of the 57 varieties of ancient autocrats. But he is out of place as head of the largest single business in the country, and still more out of place as Thought-Controller and Censor of Letters. What political exigency wished him on to Mr. Wilson anyway?—Seattle Call.

INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE

Labor conscription is in the air. Under a plea of military necessity the "War Babies" through some of the blatant daily newspapers that prostitute patriotism by making it a commercial asset are openly urging the enactment of laws empowering the government to draft men for employment in the shipyards, munition factories and steel mills.

The real truth is this. A large number of concerns that have government contracts, would have the government guarantee them an ample supply of labor that would insure them fat profits. They delude themselves into the belief that strikes would be suppressed with an iron hand under a system of compulsory industrial service.

Compulsory service is slavery. That the government by the employer does not change the fact that the "War Babies" will grow fat of such a system or make the condition more tolerable. The workers will not submit to involuntary servitude.

Congress refused to conscript wealth—even surplus wealth and labor will refuse to be conscripted for the benefit of the few.

After being informed that the government had intervened between the railroad magnates and the public to run the roads, Mr. McGonagle of the Duluth Missaba & Northern was reported saying that he was satisfied.

Why shouldn't he? Dividends will be paid as usual and that's all he and his class are interested in.

The governments proposition as it now stands is nothing more than extension of a helping hand to the railroad kings in their inability to perform their function during war-conditions was cause enough for the government to confiscate the roads.

Our railroad magnates with the democratic administration are good pay-triots. Those gentlemen who "kept us out of war" will allow anything and everything for their country except that which might interfere in robbing the people.

ANARCHISM EXALTED?

No people ever went to war with another people. Governments have gone to war with one another.—Pres. Wilson, Jan. 31, 1916.

And then come to think about it, could man actually be any worse off today if he had made governments his playthings rather than submitting to the reverse status? Do think it over, please!

CONGRESSMEN SKURRY FOR SHELTER; AMEND TAX EXEMPTION IN BILL

The infamous revenue bill which the present House of Representatives and Senate passed in October, exempting themselves and other "high" government officials from excess profits tax of 8 per cent on professional incomes and salaries, after compelling everybody else to pay the same, may justly be compared with the notorious "salary grab act" which was passed by the 42nd Congress on the day before its adjournment, on March 3, 1873. Like their predecessors of fifty years ago, the present gang in Congress were just as anxious to tax the people and avoid taxing themselves. It is an historical fact that there was such a howl raised against the congressmen of '73 that the first thing they did after meeting again in the 43rd Congress was to repeal the "grab law," which was retroactive; and many of the Congressmen at the time, in order to "save their face"—politically—restored the extra salary into the United States treasury.

"Patriotic" Congressmen Try to Save Political Necks.

The present "patriotic" Congressmen have done practically the same thing. They found after going home on their vacation, around election time, that their act was so outrageous and their inconsistency so glaring in the eyes of the public; that in order to "save their political necks," they must do as their predecessors did, and in December of this year voted to abolish the exemption, and apply the tax (which is branded by such papers as the New York Sun as "outrageous" and "an atrocity") on themselves, the Supreme Court, the President and other government officials, as well as on their outraged constituents. We do not believe that the present Congressmen as a class are one whit better, or more honest and conscientious than were the salary grabbers of '73. This is the gang of "stay-at-home patriots" who voted, first for war, next for the draft, and finally for a tax law so cleverly worded that it exempted themselves and other "high" government officials.

These Are Crowd You Elected "To Keep us Out of War."

These are the patriots who have plunged this country into a foreign war; and who stand ready to make the poor, who can't afford it, to bear a far larger proportion of the expenses than the rich, who can afford it. These are the crowd who yell "treason" and "Pro-German" at Socialists and others who do not agree with the war politicians and war profiteers. These "statesmen" will be up for re-election, and will be out begging for your votes to "save the country from the awful, treasonable Socialists." This is the bunch of scheming patriots that you elected last election "to keep us out of war." Next fall they will want your votes "to keep us in the war." If you like such "statesmanship," continue to vote for them.—The Citizen.

T. R. (Terrible Rage), the arch-enemy of race-suicide, is the arch-advocate of its most efficient form—war. Death with his valet, the sword, is the sole conqueror of every war.

Representatives of the American people should make sure that it is not blind patriotism to which they appeal in times of stress, for the blind stumble and fall.

Sin, created by God-fearing men, will be destroyed only by God-fearless men.

Truly history repeats itself, and by so doing offers chances for man to advance. But does not advance if he applies precedent to the repetitions each time. Precedent is so often the tool of the ignorant and cowardly.

The man who said "Man is a fool," earned his exemption from the title. Let us all strive to be silver-tongued. It will help immensely.

You squirm in the degree that you are pinched; you're pinched in the degree that you have knowledge of it. Get knowledge, comrades, feel the hurt, and then strike!

JOIN THE MILLION DOLLAR FUND BOOSTER

In time it is hoped to have a list of thousands of names including all the Boosters for the Million Dollar Fund

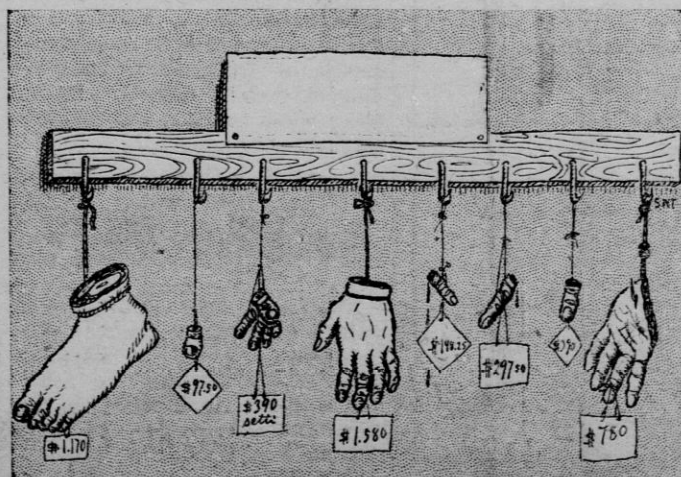
You have read the statement on Page One should decide what you can do NOW to help promote this big effort.

We want to hear from every one of you immediately. There is no time to lose. If you have any suggestions let us have them.

You who have read the statement should decide NOW what you can do NOW to help promote this big effort

Send all communications to Oliver C. Wilson, Director Million Dollar Fund, National Socialist Party, 830 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

EVERY THING GONE UP. HOW ABOUT THIS?



THE LAST KICK

By J. O. BENTALL

When we run out of meat out on the farm we sometimes catch a rooster and chop his head off.

The poor animal kicks and flops all he can for a while. Then he quiets down and is apparently gone. But presently he begins to shiver and flops his wings again. A stretch. A kick. He is dead.

We pick his feathers, clean him up, throw away the useless parts. Then we roast him and eat him.

Well, the world is running out of meat and we are going to get the old meat and we are going to get the old rooster that has grown so fat during the last hundred years. That Old Rooster is Capitalism.

It has eaten and scratched and crowded around and bossed the whole yard long enough. In fact it is getting to be a general nuisance.

It is too fat to scratch for its own feed and too mean to let the rest of us scratch for ours so we better relieve it of its burden and be done.

For some time now labor has arched its neck and begun to walk around with considerable pluck in demanding its rights. It has inflated to the old rooster that the yard is not all his and that he must not arrogate to himself the whole hen house altogether.

Labor has organized and planned to get its own. No question about that.

Of course that has made capitalism strut about with much importance and added dignity.

And it appears that just now labor is destined to get a severe jolt. The old rooster has been boss so long that all the rest of the birds feel worried and submit to all kinds of lordly insults.

May be Capitalism has run far. It has monopolized the mines and all the steel industries. It has copped the coal fields and all the fuel supply. It has swiped the foodstuff and all the eatables—the clothing and all the housing material. It has taken every known element of the people's substance and robbed the world of its last kennel of livelihood.

Capitalism has gone into the big and quite serious game of killing.

In its madness to subdue labor and get the yard all to itself again it stops at nothing.

It does not realize that already the ax is put to its proud neck and that a gaping head is falling off the block.

The wings flop—it kicks—its last kick. Only another shivering death kick and capitalism will be gone—dead—dead forever.

And labor will have the world to itself to use and enjoy.

Labor will sow the grain and reap the harvests.

Labor will plant the gardens and gather the fruit.

Labor will dig the iron ore and smelt it and mold it into blessed usefulness.

Labor will lead the flocks and store the meats—will spin the wool and make fluffy garments of comfort—will fell the trees and build houses to dwell in.

Labor will produce the comforts and enjoy them. It will bring forth the luxuries and live in them.

Labor will plant the gardens and breathe the sweet perfumes of the flowerbeds.

Labor will shoo away all poverty, all crime, all distress, all hardship, all worry, all wrong, all injustice, all tyranny, all slavery, all superstition, all ignorance, all oppression, all fear—all the horrors of a living death.

Labor will not fill the sea with untold treasure as capitalism does. Labor will not strew the earth with corpses as capitalism does. Labor will not destroy life and squander property as capitalism does.

Labor will live and sing and love.

And the world will be a good place to live in—when the old rooster is dead.

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Lenine--The Statesman

(From Public Ownership)

At last the world witnesses the ascendancy of a real statesman—Nicolai Ilitch Oulianoff, known to the world as Nicolai Lenine, Premier of the world's first Industrial Democracy, mighty Russia!

A meteor across the political sky as Lenine appears to the uninformed, this doughty champion of real democracy has long been known in the Socialist movement as orator, author and Marxian economist.

As early as 1897 Lenine, then a resident of St. Petersburg, was at the very front of the Socialist movement, being honored by the exploiters with the appellation "dangerous nihilist." The appearance of a radical article in a Russian journal, treating boldly of the economic development of Russia, served as an excuse for the Czar's agents to arrest its author, and he was sent on the long and bitter journey to Siberia, without even the formality of a trial. Despite the hardships of prison camp, Lenine wrote his scholarly work on "The Development of Capitalism in Russia."

After four years of suffering, the astute Lenine managed to outwit his keepers and escaped from Siberia, making his way to western Europe, where he remained in exile, part of the time in France and some of the time in Switzerland. In the latter republic, Lenine gained fame as one of the editors of the Iskra (Spark), central organ of the Russian Social Democratic Labor Party. In 1902 a split took place in the party, Lenine resigning from the editorial staff of the paper. The schism was the result of a bitter controversy on questions of tactics, rather than a fight over principles.

Lenine was strongly opposed to any compromise tactics, or dallying with governmental officials. He was open and above-board in opposition to the government and against any and all who were willing to support the government. He was not a "patriot," judging him from ruling-class standards. He despised the Russian autocracy, heading a radical group known as "Porashenzi," who were anti-patriots, hoping for the defeat of the "Little Father's" army in the great conflict. Only after such a defeat, he declared, could the democratization of Russia be effected.

It was in this sense only that Lenine could be called pro-German. He was pro-anything that would lead to the overthrow of the Russian autocracy. Now that the insane Czar and his sooth-sayers are relegated to the farm, Lenine is a patriot to the limit, as well as, an internationalist, ready to fight for the world as the workers' country and defend their homes from capitalist aggression.

In 1905 when the first revolutionary outbreak occurred, bringing with it some measure of freedom and amnesty to political exiles, Lenine promptly returned to St. Petersburg, and was made editor of the Socialist daily, The New Life. Later came the reaction and Lenine was obliged to flee the country.

Lenine is well known to European Socialists as a member of the International Socialist Bureau, and as a permanent delegate to the International Socialist congresses.

Among his published works is an excellent Russian translation of Webb's "History of Trade Unions." From the foregoing brief sketch, it may be seen that the Premier of free Russia is no upstart demagogue or politician, but a tried and true soldier in the fight for worldwide Industrial Democracy.

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DOINGS OF THE LOCALS.

The new years celebration at the Woodman Hall had certainly drawn a good crowd. It was announced to begin at 8:30, but before that time it was all sold out, and several hundred was turned away. The chairman for the evening, Comrade Hilmer Johnson said a few words of welcome and recitations followed. Comrade Reynolds was the speaker for the evening and made a fine speech. A three-act Swedish play, dealing with the conditions on a big farm and the way the workers are handled was well received. The program was good all the way and the committee had everything well arranged for. The chairman has asked to use these lines to express his thanks to everybody who helped to make the entertainment a success.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS

Subscriptions are coming in fine but we urge the comrades to do all they can to sell those cards that were sent them and do not forget to send the money. Make all money orders or checks payable to the Truth and not to any private individual. It is up to the readers to give us support. Don't forget to send postage if you can afford. Also watch your number and find out how you stand. There will be several who run out this week and if you don't renew soon you will lose a few issues.

PICKETING UPHELD.

Salem, Ore., Jan. 2.—Portland's anti-picketing ordinance was declared unconstitutional by the supreme court yesterday, and Earl Hall serving a jail sentence for violating the ordinance has been ordered released.

It is expected that the court's ruling will have an immense influence in deciding such laws in the future, and labor forces even in the reactionary state of Washington are preparing a fight on the constitutionality of the law.

Superior Scandinavian Socialist Local held a very successful new years celebration at the Terminal Hall.

The chairman of the meeting outlined briefly the growth of the local the last year. From being only a few members the first of 1917 it now has nearly 100 members and new ones are coming in every meeting.

On the program were several interesting recitations by Mrs. Arvie Queber and others. A dramatic love sketch taken from Swedish was cleverly presented and well received by all present. O. E. Thompson of Duluth delivered a brief address taking for his text "The Ignorance of the Race." He held the close attention of the audience, as he brought to light many points of interest to the workers and the socialist movement. After the program luncheon was served. Later the merry makers amused themselves by dancing until the small hours in the morning.

There were nearly 300 present or as many as the hall could hold.

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