

THESE ARE DAYS OF CRISES. WE MUST STAND TOGETHER FOR REAL DEMOCRACY. TAKE YOUR PLACE WITH THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE DETERMINED TO MAKE A WORLD FIT TO LIVE IN AFTER THE WAR. BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS. WE ARE GOING TO WIN TOGETHER.

OWNED AND
CONTROLLED BY THE
WORKING CLASS.

TRUTH

Permit No. 40.
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DULUTH, MINN., JAN. 18, 1918.

WHOLE NUMBER 31

BARS LET DOWN FOR CHEAP LABOR

SAN FRANCISCO.—The demand to remove the restrictions against the importation of Mexican labor was made today by the State Council of Defense of the federal government.

The demand followed a long conference between California growers and employment agents, who admitted that they could not fill a shortage in supply.

The growers, moreover, do not want to pay high rates, and by getting in Mexicans they believe that they will solve the problem.

There has been no answer received by the Council of Defense. All Mexicans coming into this country must pay an \$8.00 head tax and put up bonds for their return to \$500, according to the present regulations.

No Coolies Admitted.

This action was taken by the growers and labor agents in conjunction with the State Council of Defense when word was received late last night, positively that no coolie labor would be allowed in through Pacific ports, regardless of the situation.

It is hoped now that the government will not take the same view regarding the Mexican workers who may be brought in, according to the statement made by employers. The unions do not take kindly to the demand, declaring that there will be no shortage where wages are adjusted to meet the high costs of living.

Unions Oppose Coolies.

The unions have won out a strong victory in the declaration that no coolie labor will be allowed in Pacific ports, the statement referring more specifically to Chinese coolie labor, to import which there has been a great agitation upon the part of almost all capitalist interests throughout the Pacific coast and especially in California.

VOTE IS BEING TAKEN AND RETURNS ARE COMING IN

Vancouver, B. C., Jan.—The imprisonment of Duncan Kerr, a member of the Engineers' local, because of his refusal to become a conscript soldier, is now the subject of a referendum as to whether or not the majority of the organized labor are in favor of a general strike in protest. Bro. Kerr was sent to the penitentiary for two years for his failure to register under the provisions of the Military Service Act, otherwise "conscript."

Secretary Victor R. Midgley has sent to all unions the necessary ballot papers for carrying on the referendum on the subject, and a considerable number of unions have already made returns which show sentiment on the subject to be divided.

The language of the referendum ballot is as follows:

"Are you in favor of a general strike as a protest against the sentence of two years in the penitentiary given to Duncan Kerr, for his failure to register under the provisions of the Military Service Act?"

"If you are in favor of a general strike place X opposite Yes; if you are opposed place X opposite No."

JOIN THE SOCIALIST PARTY-YOUR PARTY

All our aims, ambitions and principles, our fears and our business are openly expressed in our meetings and in our papers. We are truly the only real democratic organization. We believe the majority should rule.

A monarchist believes the king should rule; an aristocrat thinks only the wise should dictate, a plutocrat thinks that the rich should rule; but we Socialists believe that the people—the workers, the toilers, the majority—should decide what the majority wants.

And we are in earnest. We will not excuse; we will not retreat, not one inch, and we are going to be heard.

Come in with you—you who are sympathizers and give us your support. We need you and you need us in this fight for the brotherhood of man in the battle for social democracy, social justice and the co-operative ownership and distribution of the means of life and the pursuit of happiness. Ours a just cause—the cause of the workers, the producers, those who toil and receive a "rake-off" while the plutocrats get the "lion's share."

Come in with us; be on the right side; be with your party—the Socialist Party.

The governing class calls us anarchists, pro-German and what not. But did you ever notice that any human ideal for the betterment of the race was within the law? Jesus Christ, a worker, a Socialist of his time, was put to death for not being "within the law." The signers of the Declaration of Independence were without the law—they were the anarchists of their time.

So be with us, I repeat, in this just cause. Our fight is not with the individual capitalist, but with the system that permits the exploitation of the workers. This is the supreme conflict of the ages, the slaves against the master. No more extracting toll from the workers for the masters' despotic ambition. No power shall blackmail everlasting peace with the bayonet and defy the world's will from behind a hedge of steel.

We resolve these things that opportunity shall be weighed on uncheating scales, that there shall be freedom of speech and freedom of press and assemblage, that persecution and barbarity be banished.

This is our cause—it's just. Who serves it serves humanity. Join your party—the Socialist Party.

TWO LABOR PAPERS HELD UP BY P. O.

New York, Jan.—The current issues of Nele Welt, Yiddish organ of the Jewish Socialist Federation of the Socialist Party, and Equality, official organ of the Ladies' Waist Makers' Union have been held up by the post office authorities in New York City, awaiting fuller instructions from Washington.

MRS. STOKES ASKS TO COME BACK TO SOCIALIST PARTY

New York City.—Rose Pastor Stokes, wife of J. G. Phelps Stokes, has asked to be readmitted to the Socialist party. She left the party with her husband last spring when the St. Louis platform in opposition to the war was overwhelmingly adopted by referendum of party members. Stokes has since identified himself with Gompers' American Alliance for Labor and Democracy, of which he is treasurer.

Mrs. Stokes was perfectly convinced last summer that the country was engaged in a glorious war for universal democracy, and in letters addressed to Socialist friends who reproached her for deserting the principles of the party she replied that she would never change her position and that the majority Socialists would agree with her sooner or later.

Disillusioned by War.

Now, in applying for readmittance to the Socialist party, she must bind herself to the St. Louis platform.

Pro-War Socialists Dwindle.

In 1915 Mrs. Stokes axited commitment by declaring that the agitation against submarine warfare was engineered by the munition makers and traders in war supplies for the allies. She stated that the real outcry was over loss of cargoes and war profits and that the outcry against loss of life was little more than a convenient pretext to cover more important thoughtless respect-able losses.

Mrs. Stokes' return to the recognized Socialist position on capitalism war reduces still further the little band of silk stocking "intellectuals" whose Socialist sense deserted them in the fever of war.

LABOR PARTY SUCCESSFUL IN WINNIPEG

Winnipeg, Jan.—At the municipal election in Winnipeg, Man., the labor party was pretty generally opposed by the fused old party machine, although quite a number of independents also ran. But the L. P. polled an increased vote despite the deal voting privileges of the property-owning class. A. W. Puttee, editor of the Labor Voice, was re-elected as one of the four city commissioners and a Socialist councilman also won out.

SEATTLE CITY TO SELL FISH

Mayor Gill has instructed Health Commissioner McBride to select a site for a fish market in Seattle which will sell salmon at 7 cents a pound.

The retail price now asked is 20 cents. Arrangements have been made with State Fish Commissioner L. H. Darwin to obtain the salmon from the state hatcheries at 5 1/2 cents a pound. There will be no red tape to the proposition and stalls will be provided in the Pike Place Market. The plan of retailing fish to the public at 300 per cent off usual retail prices originated in a conference between the mayor and Governor Lister.

PAPER SHOES FOUND IN ARMY

Camp Upton.—Paper shoes, bringing back the golden days of the Spanish war, have at last made their appearance. Two dozen pairs have been discovered here, and being sent to the war department in Washington for the purpose of helping an inquiry.

Who the profiteers are who are guilty of foisting this fraud upon the country has not been hinted at, but indignation is strong here, and officers are determined that there shall be no repetition of the Spanish war scandals, with all the attendant evils which resulted when the American army at that time became the dumping ground of the shoddy manufacturers.

MAKE RICH PAY FOR WAR, IS DEMAND OF BRITISH LABORITES

Party Would Completely Dislodge Investors and Nationalize Industry.

LONDON.—The Labor party of Great Britain has prepared its platform for after the war. The rich are to pay for the war by a direct tax on all incomes higher than necessary to maintain a family. Railroads are to remain in government hands and electric power plants and transportation are to be nationalized, as well as mines and other utilities and resources.

The most important aims stated in the report are:

1. Democratic control of industry.
2. Revolution in national finance.
3. Surplus wealth for the common good.

Right to Work.

Regarding demobilization and the discharge of 8,000,000 wage earners now paid from public funds, the report states that unemployment can be prevented only by deliberate national organization. To obviate unemployment, public works, such as rehousing of the population by the construction of a million new cottages involving an outlay of \$1,500,000,000 also the building of new schools, training and technical colleges should be undertaken.

The report further states that the Labor party stands unhesitatingly for national ownership and canals and their union with harbors, roads, posts and telegraphs and the great steamship lines, which could be owned, if not immediately directly managed in detail by the government in a united national service of communication and transport, to be worked exclusively for the common good.

Let Rich Pay Debt.

Labor is strongly against railways being headed back to stockholders and demands that electrical enterprises must not be run by private capitalists, but exclusively with the object of supplying the kingdom with the cheapest possible power, light and heat.

Regarding the nationalization of mines, the labor party aims at a fixed minimum price for household coal for the whole kingdom. It is recommended also that localities should have facilities to prohibit the sale of liquor and to control licenses.

Regarding taxation, labor looks to direct taxation of incomes above the necessary cost of family maintenance, and looks for the payment of the national debt to the direct taxation of private fortunes.

LABOR'S SHARE IN INDUSTRY

A delegation of Chicago labor men has laid a complaint before the Secretary of War regarding conditions in the Union Stock Yards of Chicago, and it is stated that the Government's interest in the situation is most vital.

We quote the following from a report of conditions existing in the stock yards from the "Chicago Labor News."

"Men have been taken into dark rooms by the special police and thugs employed by Armour and Company, and there set upon and beaten into unconsciousness with slung shots, brass knuckles and other weapons commonly used by the gentry, and Mr. Brown, one of the department managers, is fully informed on these crimes and J. Ogden Armour is equally guilty."

One man who fell four stories through an open elevator shaft was left without medical attention from Saturday morning until Sunday afternoon, and later was told there was nothing the matter with him. When he asked for his pay he was sent to the Law Department.

REFUSE TO MEET WITH LABOR LEADERS AND COMMISSIONER

JOLT FROM THE SUPREME COURT

The United States supreme court has decided that it is unlawful for union men to solicit membership for their unions, which, perhaps, were it not for the "legal" atmosphere, might be taken as evidence that our supreme court is opposed to organized labor.

That august body of learned jurists might as well say to us that it is unlawful for a church member to draw the sinner within the fold, or for a lodge man to try to increase the membership of his favorite organization.

But of course the church and the lodge are not menaces to the industrial scheme like the employee who desires to notify his energies against the invasion of insatiable greed, and therefore the supreme court, the highest tribunal in the land, comes to the rescue of the down-trodden employer and makes harder the lot of the laborer.

The decision is in keeping with that of some of the inflated persons who make the utmost of the brief authority they possess to place their patriotism on public display, and it is not up to the standard we have the right to expect from the court of last resort.

The organization of labor and other protective union will go right along as they are going notwithstanding the supreme court's attempt to clog the machinery of progress. Such decisions, too may prove a high incentive to the formation of organizations that will not be so docile and law-abiding as that of the laborer. The labor union has become a fixed part of the industrial scheme of the nation and it cannot be displaced at this time, not even by the supreme court working in conjunction with the wily and unscrupulous employer.

There is no longer any doubt in the minds of intelligent workers that labor organizations are absolutely necessary under existing economic conditions.

The trouble is that the workers are not sufficiently alert in organizing and extending their organized influences.

They must have a complete consciousness of the fact that they need not look for any influence outside of organization.—Detroit Labor News.

DANBURY HATTERS STILL IN TROUBLE

Danbury, Mass., Jan.—It seems that the Danbury hatters are to have trouble forever. The manufacturers have combined to enforce the open shop and the United States Hat Co. made things so uncomfortable for the unionists that they quit. Then they were enjoined, they fought the case and now the restraining order against picketing has been made permanent. It is almost hopeless to appeal the case, for the state supreme court has ruled that where a unionist notifies his employer he will not work with a non-unionist that such action is a criminal offense under the general statutes.

Cannot Sam. Gompers help them?

EGGS WILL RETAIL AT \$1.25 A DOZEN POULTRY RAISERS SAY

Chicago.—Eggs will retail at \$1 and \$1.25 a dozen before spring, and no relief is in sight during the war, producers declared.

Poultry raisers, attending the 5th annual show of the Chicago Poultry Breeder's association, were unanimous in declaring the egg and chicken situation the most serious in history.

Will Not Play the Game Unless They Can Hold All the Cards and Deal Them to Suit Themselves

WAVE THE FLAG AND STARVE EMPLOYES

J. Ogden Armour and Louis F. Swift Chief Offenders, as It Is Understood That They Dictate Policy of Smaller Fry

If there were anything further needed to prove the absolute contempt in which J. Ogden Armour and Louis F. Swift and their patriotic (?) associates in the packing industry hold the United States Government and the general citizenship of the country, it was brought out Monday afternoon, when the packers refused to appear before United States Administrator J. E. Williams in joint conference with labor officials.

The high and mighty packers do not want a joint conference, but would like the administrator to first hold a conference with the labor officials and then come to them, but John Fitzpatrick and Frank P. Walsh seriously object to any such proceedings, and unless the packers change their position Mr. Williams will have no alternative but to render his decision on the arguments put forward by labor.

J. Ogden Armour is the man who has said to the United States Government, "You may have me, my plant and my employees." But from his past record, it is fair to presume that there was a mental reservation, and that reservation was that the government could have all of these things at J. Ogden's price.

Is Swift Pro-German?

Louis F. Swift is the man who only a few weeks ago did not know that there were any labor troubles in the stockyards, in spite of the fact that he has in his employ gunmen and sluggers to beat up any who wears a union button. He is also the man who will hire only Germans.

The other fellows who go to make up the "Big Five" don't cut very much figure, as Armour and Swift dictate the policies of the packing industry throughout the country.

President Fitzpatrick went on to state that before the war the packers had exploited every nationality under the sun, but since the war the workers of these various nationalities had become exhausted and they were now exploiting the colored man; that they refuse to allow these ignorant colored men to be represented by someone who can speak for them as a body, but that they desire that all their powerful organization and intelligence do business with their ignorant colored men as individuals, and that they wanted to break down and destroy all of the various organizations.

Can't Exist on Wage Paid.

He then pointed out that the average wage at the "Yards" was \$2.75 a day, and that their demand was for a wage of \$3.75, which, according to government statistics, is two hundred dollars a year less than the minimum which the average man

with a family of two can exist.

J. Ogden Armour is very much perturbed over remarks made by Francis J. Heney, attorney for the Federated Trade Commission, that is now conducting a series of inquiries into the entire packing business, and thinks that Mr. Heney is trying to affect the credit of the packers by fomenting public discontent, or in other words, showing them up before the public in their true light, as men who have stopped at nothing to add more dollars to their swollen bank accounts, and, while professing to be in the open, have placed every obstacle possible in the way of the government when it has tried to find out the truth regarding the manner in which the big packers have mulcted the public out of millions of dollars, forcing Labor at the same time to exist on a pittance which government statistics prove is beyond the ability of human beings to exist on.

RECRUITING SPIES

The private detective agencies make no secret of the fact that they are in the spy recruiting business.

Conscienceless employees need them more than ever now when the workers are in a position to demand that some of their rights be recognized. It is also very easy, at the present time, for an unscrupulous exploiter, to get rid of an intelligent protesting worker, once he has been located by a spy, by merely charging that he is pro-German or disloyal, no matter how loyal he may be to the interests of his class or pro-American in his sentiments.

That the detective agencies are busy recruiting spies to "listen in" on what the workers say while at their toil is seen by an "ad" that has just appeared in the Chicago Daily News as follows:

"DETECTIVE AGENCY OF NATIONAL prominence, desires the services of various mechanics, such as pattern makers, millwrights, moulders, machinists, boiler makers and common laborers; experience not essential; in letter state full qualifications, nationality, trade, whether union or non-union; also phone number.

Address K T 161, Daily News.

The fate of the spy in war time is well known. The spirit of American fair play demands that the spy be eliminated from American industry by lawful methods backed by government authority. He is dangerous to the development of our free institutions. He is out of place in a nation fighting for democracy.

ENTERTAINMENT

Woodman Hall

Sunday, Jan. 20 at 8 P. M.

Speech by Comr. Ellis B. Harris from Superior. Good program. Everybody welcome! Admission 10 & 25c.

DONT FORGET
to secure a Ticket to the
Benefit DANCE
for the MILWAUKEE LEADER
at TOWER HALL Superior, Wis.
THURSDAY EVENING, JAN. 31
ARCHAMBAULT 4 PIECE ORCHESTRA
Come and have an enjoyable time and give
your support in the struggle for the constitutional right of a free press.
Tickets \$1.00 Extra Lady free.



LEON TROTZKY SOCIALIST STATESMAN

In the office of a little Russian Socialist daily newspaper, the Novy Mir, in St. Mark's place, First avenue, New York City, Leon Bronstein—not Brounstein, as it has sometimes been printed—whose pen name of Leon Trotsky is now known to the whole world as that of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bolshevik Government of Russia, labored for two months last year as a member of the paper's small staff. The Novy Mir, whose second-class mailing privilege was recently suspended by the Post Office Department, occupies three rooms and a hallway in the dingy basement of an old-fashioned brownstone residence inhabited in its upper regions by a dentist, a physician and lodgers, says a writer in the New York Evening Post. Few, if any, of the persons living in the house knew, at the time, of the celebrity that their roof sheltered. He had been famous as a social revolutionist in six capitals of Europe—Petrograd, Vienna, Berlin, Paris, Madrid and London—but in New York he was unknown except to the Russian and fellow-Socialists of other nationalities who had heard him deliver burning speeches on the war.

Out of this nonscript cellar office has come the story of Trotsky, told by his fellow-countrymen and most intimate friend in America, Alexander Menshoy, a journalist and teacher in the public schools of Russia until he came here four years ago. Mr. Menshoy is the editor-in-chief of Novy Mir. In his slow, but excellent English, which he said he seldom had occasion to use in New York, he narrated the incidents of Trotsky's career, and described his experience in America.

Trotsky did his writing in Menshoy's sanctum, a room of about 6x10 feet, just of a size to hold two desks, two chairs and a fire-place, with a great litter of Socialist newspapers and magazines from all parts of the world scattered about. A plaque of Count Leo Tolstoy hangs above the fireplace. Over the editor's desk is a campaign picture of Morris Hillquit. On the top of his desk is a great disorder of newspapers, manuscript and letters from Russia. The air is heavy with Russian cigarette smoke. In a room to the rear linotype click and a press is heard running.

Humble Weekly Stipend.
Adjoining the editor's office is another small and dark room, in which the business ends of the paper are negotiated. It was in this atmosphere that Trotsky worked and drew his humble weekly stipend, so small as to be "hardly" worth mentioning, the editor said smilingly.

Trotsky lived in the Bronx with his wife and two boys, aged nine and twelve, who speak French and Russian, but no English. His living was a precarious one, and he had just enough money to feed his family and keep a shelter over them. Concerning his personal comfort, it is said he cared nothing; money had no meaning for him except as it procured necessities.

"Leon Trotsky, who was a native of the southern part of Russia, came here in the last of January of 1917," said Menshoy, "to find refuge. He was barred from France, where his paper had been

suppressed; he dared not enter his own country at the time, he had been deported from Spain, and a six months' prison sentence awaited him if he should enter upon German soil as he had been convicted of writing a book in which he attacked the German Government and militarism. England, like France, was hostile to him, as was Switzerland, where he had expected to go, so the only place left for him was America.

"In Paris he had been editor of the Russian Socialist daily, Our World. As a social revolutionist he took an editorial stand against the war. His paper was heavily censored by the authorities, and finally suppressed altogether. We used to receive copies of it here, in every issue big spots had been blotted out. In one issue everything had been obliterated except the title of the paper. It was suppressed a little more than a year ago through the influence of the Imperial Russian Government exerted at Paris.

Ordered to Frontier.
Trotsky was ordered deported and taken to the frontier. He had wished to go to Switzerland, but through the efforts of the British Government and the acquiescence of the French authorities he was prevented from doing so. This was at the end of November, 1916. He went to Spain, but after crossing the frontier was promptly arrested as the result of a telegram from the French authorities describing him as a dangerous anarchist. For a short time he was detained in prison at Cadix. His case attracted great attention throughout Spain. The Madrid Government decided to deport him by the first outbound vessel, no matter where bound, but a Socialist campaign of protest developed immediately in the Spanish newspapers.

"As a well-known character in the international Socialist movement, it was demanded that he be released from prison and the right granted to him to go wherever he wished. The campaign succeeded, and instead of putting him on the next ship, which chanced to be sailing for Cuba, he was released and ordered out of Spain. He had correspondence with Russian Socialists here and decided to come to the United States.

"He came at once to our office, and began work for us, writing general articles on Socialist subjects, conditions in Russia, and editorial matter. He wrote also of the war and the international situation, and his work attracted much attention from writers of note. He was never interfered with in New York. He also was a contributor to Zubunt, the Jewish Socialist magazine here, and the Jewish Daily Forward.

"Trotsky is a brilliant speaker, and has much personal magnetism. He is absolutely sincere and honest, and always carried conviction to his hearers. In overcrowded halls he addressed many meetings in New York, Philadelphia and other cities. He speaks Russian, of course, good German, excellent French, and a little English.

Back to Russia.
"When the Russian revolution began in March, Trotsky was one of the first of the political exiles from the land of the Czar in this country to undertake to return. He

felt he would be greatly needed at home, but it is unlikely that he had any idea he would be elevated to his present post in the government. With his family and seven other friends he started, funds for the trip being supplied to him by a group of Russian revolutionists in this city.

"Trotsky had been president of the Council of Workmen's Delegates—there were no soldiers in it then—in the revolution of 1905. He was arrested, and there was a big trial at Petrograd that drew the attention of all Russia to his case. With other delegates that were arrested, he was exiled for life to northern Siberia, a chilly and inhospitable place, I may assure you, where, like other political exiles, he was supplied with just sufficient money by the government to keep him from starving.

"After a little more than a year in Siberia he effected a most thrilling and sensational escape, his own story of which he has told in his book, or pamphlet rather, entitled 'There and Back.' He is one of the best known of the Russian pamphleteers. Afterward he led a Russian revolutionist's nomadic life for some years, always subsiding by his profession, that of a working newspaper man. He could not sit long in any one place, however. He lived in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and France, meantime writing constantly for Russian newspapers, and keeping in touch with his revolutionist friends. He was a regular contributor to Neue Zeit, a German Socialist magazine, published in Berlin, and also for the Arbeiter Zeitung, of Vienna, the official organ of the Austro-Hungarian Socialist-Democracy.

"He managed to return to Russia several times under assumed names to assist in revolutionary work and propaganda. There is a center of social democracy in Geneva and another in France. For both of these he worked, writing many booklets, which were distributed by the Socialists.

"In Vienna he had a paper of his own, published weekly in Russian. When the war began in the summer of 1914, he was in Vienna working on this paper. He was obliged to suspend his publication by order of the military authorities the day before Austria declared war on Serbia. At this time he was in close personal touch with Dr. Adler, the leader of the Social-Democrats of Austria. He was a close personal friend of Fritz Adler, the doctor's son, who assassinated Count Sturgis, the Austrian Premier, last year, Fritz Adler, who was a Socialist, scientist and gifted journalist, was condemned to death.

"Dr. Adler warned Trotsky to leave Vienna and the country or he would be interned for the period of the war by the military authorities, so Trotsky took his advice and went to Switzerland. Here he wrote a book called 'The War and the International' (referring to the international Socialist body), in which he took a stand against war and attacked the governments of all the warring countries, Germany and Austria being criticised in bitter terms.

"He maintained that there was no cause whatever for the workers of one country to war on the workers of another, and he especially attacked the Wilhelmstrasse, Government. His book was sent into Germany, where it was confiscated by the authorities. A trial was begun against the author, although he was far away from the scene of the trial, and he was sentenced to six months' imprisonment. If he ever returns to Germany he will probably have to serve the sentence.

"After his experience here and after he had sailed from New York with his friends to join the revolutionists in Russia last March, he was held up at Halifax at the instance of the British Government, searched and arrested. He was put in an internment camp outside of Halifax. The British Government knew his history pretty well, but he was held on the pretence that he was going back to Russia in the interests of Germany and the old Russian regime. We started here a campaign, and at Petrograd another one was begun by the Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates to have Trotsky released. M. Milyukoff, first Minister of Foreign Affairs after the revolution, cabled to Canada and demanded Trotsky's immediate release. He was released and allowed to proceed."

EDITOR SENTENCED.
Nome, Alaska, Jan. 16.—Bruce Rogers, Editor of the Daily Nome Industrial Workers, was found guilty yesterday of sedition for articles published in the paper criticizing the local Red Cross and contrasting its actions unfavorably with the work of the National Red Cross. The jury from the first was regarded as unfavorable.

Back to Russia.
"When the Russian revolution began in March, Trotsky was one of the first of the political exiles from the land of the Czar in this country to undertake to return. He

SOCIALISTS FILE 8-HOUR PETITION

Olympia, Jan.—The Socialist Party of Washington has filed its eight-hour petition with the Secretary of State, J. M. Salter and the other members of the State Executive Committee of the party filed the petition, which provides for eight hours as the limit of a day's work except upon farms and in times of extraordinary emergency, which time and a half is to be allowed. Penalty for violation of the statutes is fixed at from \$1 to \$100 for each day's violation.

The Socialist Party will have four months to procure the 37,761 signatures required for to place the measure on the ballot. It is time right now for every Socialist local in the state and every individual Socialist to begin active work on this measure, and especially in introducing it before their respective unions.

Doings of the Locals.

The Scandinavian Local reports a good attendance at its entertainment last Sunday night. The big Woodman Hall was well filled and several who came late had to stand. The program was very good and everybody enjoyed the evening. Little Miss Elizabeth Lichten gave two recitations that were especially well received and the Comrades from the Superior Scandinavian Local did good work in the play. Comrade Thompson was the speaker for the evening and as usual, he delivered a good lecture.

At its business meeting last Tuesday night election of officers took place. The following comrades were elected: Henry Johnson, chairman; Axel Westholm, Sec.; Arvid Ledin, Fin. Sec.; Victor Nordin, treas.; Joe Johnson, book agent; Jno. Easen, Axel Johnson and Martin Landin, trustees. Three new members were admitted and the reports for the year just ended were read and approved. The organization has never before been in such good shape as it is now and the future looks good for us. The local is now one of the strongest in the state, with a membership of 255 in good standing.

You Comrades of the English Local, don't you think it is time for you to start something. Remember it is election this year and it will require all hands to spread our propaganda before the people. Start the ball rolling and do your duty in the class struggle.

Superior locals report good meetings and new members are coming in every meeting. They have a very active Central Committee and they are certainly doing their bit to "make the world safe for democracy." You are urged to send in your report every week and if you elect couple members to take care of that part you will always find your news in this column. We hope to make the paper more of interest to some people by having those reports regularly.

From Meadowlands, Minn., comes good news. The Comrades up that way want to have a local organized and ask for assistance. You shall have it in the near future, Comrades. Jewish Local has decided to arrange entertainments for the benefit of the locals treasure. A committee has been appointed to take charge of same.

The Young Womens Hebrew Association (a radical organization, organized to help the poor in our rank) had the installation of their officers last Sunday evening at the Hebrew Institute. Officers reported of the splendid work done during 1917 and over money given to strikers and needy families. Short speeches were made by Comrade Litman and Jack Laden. Supper was served for 200 couples. All had a good time and enjoyed themselves.

The Comrades should remember to come to that auction sale at the Scandinavian Socialist Sewing Society is going to give at Woodman Hall Tuesday evening, January 29th. If you have anything you want to contribute, you are welcome. All the proceeds goes to this paper.

NOTICE.
We are sure that many of our readers here in town will be glad to hear that fellow worker Leo Laukki is going to deliver a lecture at the Work Peoples College, Smithville, Friday evening, January 18th and we wish that as many as possible would take the opportunity to hear this well known comrade. Take Morgan Park or New Duluth street car and tell the conductor to let you off at the College.

When Capital controls the press, Capital controls the people. When Labor controls the press the people will control capital.

PARTY GROWING IN NEW YORK

New York—Dues-paying membership of the Socialist party in New York City has increased from 8,000 last year to 18,000 at present. If Mr. and Mrs. Stokes, Walling, Russell, Slobodin and one or two others had stuck the membership would have been half a dozen more that it is.

In Hoboken, Bayonne and Guttenberg, N. J., the Socialists elected four Justices and a number of minor officials. Official reports of the elections in New Jersey, which were held the middle of November, show that everywhere the Socialist Party made big increases, ranging usually from 100 to 500 per cent.

Ohio Socialists have admitted 4,960 new members to the party since May 1, 1917. They are now planning to do their best to keep them in the party.

WHO IS THE BUNK PATRIOT?

Berton Braley
He is the corner grocer who drapes the flag all over the front of his shop and puts up his prices 50 per cent "on account of the war"; the restaurant keeper who serves Mr. Hoover's war rations at enhanced schedules; the business man who subscribes to two Liberty Bonds and gets it back immediately with 200 per cent added from the public he is supposed to serve; the landlord who sends out notices of increased rents on paper with an embossed flag in the corner.

He is the employer who talks about the "disloyal and unpatriotic workman" that strikes for another dollar a day to meet increased cost of living due to the activities of other bunk patriots, and in the next breath denounces the confiscatory and socialistic policy of taking 10 per cent of his extra war profit to carry on the war.

He is the banker, the financier, the money lender who cheers for our boys in khaki and carefree notes and mortgages on the families they have left behind.

He is any and every member of the tribe of "I'll-get-mine"—and when the real patriots who are suffering and sacrificing and toiling and fighting to win this war for democracy and decency find time to attend to him he's going to "get him" with compound interest and a bonus. When that glad period arrives the rest of us will be present to look approvingly and to yell:

"Hit him again, he has no friends!"

ITALIAN WORKERS CHEER BOLSHIEVSKI MISSION

Turin—Six thousand workers showed the wildest enthusiasm at Turin, Italy, when addressed by the members of the Bolshievski mission which the new Russian government had dispatched to pay respects to the Italian proletariat. An even more cordial reception was given the commission at the workers' congress in Milan. The thunderous applause of the thousands of workers in Lombardy was more eloquent than words in expressing the international feelings of those whose language differences made it difficult to otherwise demonstrate their fraternity.

NEWS FROM THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT.

The Lynglimt lodge of I. O. G. T. had arranged an entertainment last Saturday night at Foresters Hall for the benefit of the campaign fund for a dry Minnesota. An excellent program had been arranged and Hon. Mayor Magney made a short speech telling about his experience after Duluth went dry last July. He pointed out, that it is up to the dry people of Duluth to have the laws enforced and that the outsiders will point to Duluth and if they find any faults with the present dry administration it will harm the rest of the state.

MISSISSIPPI APPROVES.
Jackson, Miss., Jan.—Both houses of the State Legislature have ratified the dry amendment to the constitution. The ratification was one of the speediest pieces of legislation on record.

The charge of trespass on which Editor Morrison of The Rip Saw was arrested sometime ago came up for hearing last Monday forenoon on account of the illness the "star witness" against him, Chief McKercher, the case against him was postponed to the 23rd of this month. What is at the back of all this is a question that is passed around amongst a lot of people.

NEWSPAPERS MISREPRESENT STATEMENT

The capitalist press, in its efforts to stir up dissension in the Socialist Party utilizes every opportunity to distort statements of officials and so-called "leaders" of the party. Their latest effort was based on a statement issued by Mayor Hoan, of Milwaukee. Quoting a few disjointed sentences from Hoan's statement, the capitalist press sought to leave the impression that the Socialist Mayor of Milwaukee had become a war shouter.

Statement in Full.
How far this is from the truth can be judged by a reading of the complete statement as follows:

"Concerning the extensive publicity of which I have been lately so generously blessed, I desire to make this statement and to express the hope that the press will print all of it or none.

"With reference to the question put to me as to how I stand on the St. Louis convention majority report, I declined to answer the question up to now in the hope that I might first discuss my position with the platform committee of my party in case it selected me as a candidate for reelection.

Longs For Peace.
"Circumstances, however, have so shaped themselves during my illness as to make it my duty to answer now. I am a Socialist—my whole soul rebels at the thought of war and the horrors of it. I have been present to bid farewell to the boys, who have gone to war. I have tried to give them a word of cheer, but my heart bled for them and it has required all my efforts to keep the tears from my eyes on these occasions.

"My longing has been for peace, not for war. I hope, long and stand for immediate negotiations looking for a just and general peace. If it is some great offense to feel like this I plead guilty. Make the most of it.

For Minority Report.
"Notwithstanding the fact that I opposed this country's going to war and never have approved it, I voted against the St. Louis majority report and for the minority report. I found when it was adopted, that as mayor that there was not only no way of complying, but that it was impossible to obey some of its requirements and demands.

"I reported my conclusion to the Milwaukee county central committee, which agreed with me. I stated to them that there were two possible courses to pursue, namely, either to resign as mayor or to comply with the laws of the United States, its constitution and the government's request in connection with carrying on the war. I offered to comply with whichever of these two courses it might choose. It immediately agreed with me that I could not obey these requirements and demands of the St. Louis report and unanimously voted that I execute and carry out the laws of the United States, the constitution and every order and request of the government in connection with carrying on the war.

Offered to Resign.
"I was elected mayor as the candidate of the Socialist party; as such I have repeated my offer to it to resign in case that the proper governing body desires to change its stand.

"It may not be out of place for me to state that the Socialist party is not an organization of one man, but that every party member has a voice and vote in its deliberations. Neither can this party nor its public officials be privately, not to speak of publicly, bossed by individuals, however high the claim to the contrary. I have full faith that the party membership or the governing body will not change its decision and stand.

"(Signed.)

"DANIEL W. HOAN.

Victor Berger Discusses Statement.
Victor Berger, in an interview in the Milwaukee Leader, declared that Mayor Hoan had adopted the same general position as the St. Louis platform in saying that he was against the country entering the war and had never approved the national policy.

"The sole political issue in every election in every city of the United States today is the position of the Socialist party toward wars in general and especially toward this war," said Berger.

"But the party's position is not new. The platform adopted at the convention in St. Louis expresses nothing but the view held for the last 60 years by the Socialist parties in all countries of the civilized world. It is the international position.

Couldn't Change Course.
"The Socialist party of America could not have changed its position and still have remained a part of the international movement.

Knowledge of Birth Control Is Forbidden

New York, Jan.—That particular section of the state penal code which prohibits the dissemination of information regarding the restriction of birth, commonly spoken of as birth control, and under which several notable convictions have been secured in the lower courts, principally that of Margaret Sanger, has been upheld by the New York State Court of Appeals.

Mrs. Sanger served thirty days in the workhouse on a charge of giving such birth control information, having been trapped by a woman detective who sought her advice, representing herself as the mother of a large family and unable to properly to support them. The cases attained considerable notoriety throughout the country and medical associations in the various states took the matter up from a professional point of view, the majority opposing the dissemination of such knowledge.

To Our "Hustlers"

Now is the time we need you all. The winter months are harder to get over than it has been in the past. We urge you to do your best to get subscriptions and also that you impress on all those you get, to support those who advertise in this paper. Renew at once if your subscription has run out so as not to lose any numbers.

Help make this paper a big one that the capitalist class will have to take notice. It will be an easy matter if you all dig in. A paper like Truth is needed very bad at this end of the Great Lakes and it is now up to you to support it.

EMPLOYERS DON'T LIKE I. W. W.

San Francisco.—At the meeting of the Pacific Federation of Employers just concluded, plans were perfected to co-operate with the government in suppressing the Industrial Workers of the World and other expressions of revolutionary working class activity. The Federation is composed of Employers' Associations of California, Oregon and Washington. Action with similar organizations is to be organized all over the country so that the capitalist government may have good help in their enormous mob of crushing out revolutionary sentiment.

"As to Mr. Hoan, of course, I would like to see him express himself more clearly and more definitely. Nevertheless, he says among other things: 'I hope, long and stand for immediate negotiations, looking for a just and general peace.' And he also said that he opposed this country going to war and never had approved it.

"This is virtually the position of the Socialist party as expressed in the platform adopted in St. Louis.

"The rest of Mr. Hoan's statement is all camouflage, evidently uttered for the benefit of The Milwaukee Journal and of the Loyalty Legion.

No Law Violations Asked.
"No Socialist has ever asked Mr. Hoan to violate any law of the United States, or of the state of Wisconsin, or any ordinance of the city of Milwaukee.

"The Socialist platform adopted in St. Louis does not ask anything of that sort. Mayor Hoan evidently has not read that platform carefully himself and got his information through the effusion of Gaylord, Simons and The Milwaukee Journal. "There is nothing treasonable, seditious or illegal in the platform adopted by the Socialists in St. Louis. If there were, the government would have made the most of it long time ago.

"As a matter of fact, that document was brought to the attention of a number of federal grand juries by the department of justice (so-called) but only a single instance could they make an indictment stuck. Then the trial was resulted in a verdict in favor of the defendants.

Journal Statement Outrue.
"The deplorable factor in the entire matter is that Mr. Hoan's statement gave The Milwaukee Journal a chance to have headlines across its entire page to the effect that Mayor Hoan and the Milwaukee county Socialist central committee agree that the St. Louis platform is contrary to the constitution and laws of the United States. As far as the central committee is concerned, that statement is a bare faced and contemptible lie.

"The central committee never has taken a stand against the St. Louis platform of the Socialist party. That platform was adopted in a national referendum of all party members by a majority of about 20 to 1. If the central committee had taken such a stand it would simply have read itself out of the party. And the central committee, of course, has never even dreamed of doing so."

NEWS FROM THE WORLD SOCIALIST MOVEMENT

CLEMENCEAU MAY FALL—NO SOCIALISTS

Paris, Jan.—Clemenceau's opposition to Socialists and their opposition to him and his administration is growing and is likely to cause his fall.

When he formed a cabinet without one Socialist, now so strong in France, his fall was rendered inevitable in the opinion of the best informed men in political circles here today. In the vote of confidence extended to him 63 Socialists voted against him and 25 voted for him, the bourgeois factions uniting with him.

Albert Thomas threw down the challenge for himself and his colleagues when he addressed Clemenceau from the floor, just before the vote as follows:

"Because we believe in national union, we shall perhaps act day by day against you. You have indicated that you fear you may be unable to justify fully the faith that public opinion has placed in you. Our special endeavor shall be to enlighten public opinion. We do not wish to collaborate with you, because there are men behind you who do not enjoy our confidence. We shall work for the triumph of justice and right, over the heads of governments if need be."

AUSTRIAN SOCIALIST

LEADER DIES IN VIENNA

Amsterdam—The death of Engelbert Dornauer, the Austrian Socialist leader, is announced in a dispatch from Vienna. He had been vice-president of the lower house of the Austrian diet since 1909.

UNSKILLED, UNORGANIZED LABOR SITUATION FULL OF DYNAMITE

Perhaps Government Can Imprison or Mobs Horsewhip All Toolers Who Sympathize With I. W. W. and Exploited Will Take It Lying Down—Then Again, Perhaps They Will Not.

Professional detectives and the well-meaning assistant prosecutors of the Department of Justice should not be given a free hand in handling the I. W. W. situation. There is evidence that they are ignorant of American sociology as were the advisers of Louis XVI of French sociology. And they are aided and abetted in their ignorance by an equally ignorant press, so that nothing but approving comment follows the most stupid and dangerous tactics.

The situation in this country with respect to unskilled and unorganized labor is full of dynamite. Every trade union leader knows it. The President knows it. It is the dynamite engendered by the existence of a large class conscious of injustice, burning with resentment, and wholly without organization through which to express itself. The I. W. W. does not represent it in any authorized way. But it seems nearer being its spokesman than any other organization.

Members of the I. W. W. or men who have been profoundly influenced by their unorganized labor force in the country. The I. W. W. is not an organization so much as it is a spirit and a vocabulary. And because no strike or audible protest follows the various assaults on I. W. W. leaders, let us not be too sure that their influence is negligible, that the department's policy and that of the mobs that get encouragement from this policy is not breeding a slow, dangerous, smoldering resentment.

An instant retaliation would be far less dangerous, much easier to handle, than a spirit, that may at some critical juncture in the future flare out in a strike of steel workers or slaughter-house workers or miners or oil refiners. No one knows about this. Perhaps the Government can imprison or mobs horsewhip every laborer in the country who sympathizes with the I. W. W., and our unorganized, unskilled, exploited wage workers will take it lying down. Perhaps they will not.

But the situation should not be handled by men who have never read, let alone pondered, the govern-

DEMAND FREE EXPRESSION

Russian delegates at the Brest-Litovsk peace negotiations with the Germans claimed the right to send any publications they desired to the Russian prisoners in Germany and to Socialists in the Central Empires. They also demanded unrestricted direct telegraphic communications with representatives of the Socialist parties in the enemy countries. The German delegates replied they were unauthorized to make any agreement on this point.

TUDOR, LABOR PARTY LEADER, TO BE NEW

AUSTRALIAN PREMIER Melbourne, Australia—Frank Gwynn Tudor, leader of the Labor party and a member of the house of representatives, will be the next prime minister of Australia. The Rt. Hon. William Morris Hughes tendered the resignation of the Nationalist government to the governor general this morning as a result of the defeat of the conscription proposals.

This was in accordance with the pledge given by Hughes that the Nationalists would refuse to govern the country if conscription were not granted.

The Labor party was successful in defeating conscription but is in the minority in parliament, and it is believed the Tudor ministry will be short-lived.

Tudor worked in England and America at the felt hat trade 1889 to 1894. He is a strong advocate of more extended trade relations between Australia and the United States.

ment reports that show that hardly more than half of the adult male wage earners in the United States earn enough in a year to support a family in decency and comfort. The I. W. W. leaders now in jail knew those reports by heart. They have passed them on to tens of thousands of men, and they have interpreted them with the aid of the writings of such men as Thorstein Veblen and Leo Tolstoy and Henry George. Their movements are interpreted sympathetically and accepted as an inevitable product of existing conditions by such first-hand observers as Dr. Carleton Parker, dean of the School of Business and professor of economics at the University of Washington, and the Rev. Dr. Sydney Strong of Seattle, a Congregational minister and a sociologist of character and standing.

There is in existence a printed report of the testimony given by Mr. Herbert Quick, now Federal Farm Loan Commissioner, in which the condition of millions of migratory farm laborers in this country is presented in words that make it perfectly clear why, in H. G. Wells' phrase, these men are among our "disaffected employees." Mr. Quick placed the blame largely upon a system of land tenure and land taxation that plays into the hands of monopolists and beneficiaries of privilege.

Just a suggestion of the way in which I. W. W.'s are produced is found in experience of harvest hands with our railroads and local authorities. At the beginning of the harvest, the word goes out to trainmen that "hoboes" are to be unmolested. They go into the harvest without funds, and their labor is a vital community need. After the crops are harvested, the attitude of the town authorities and railroad officials suddenly changes. The harvest hands straightaway become "bums." They are arrested, thrown into jail and fined. They are kicked off railroad trains unless they pay fare or its equivalent. This is a situation described minutely enough in government reports, and it is only one of a hundred true stories that help to explain the I. W. W.

But to assault the I. W. W. as a whole is to assault the only spokesmen and to suppress the only articulation possessed by a class of wage workers on which several of our most vital basic industries are utterly dependent—a class numbering many millions of men. Why this class is represented by men who repudiate patriotism, religion and government is a long story. It is well told by Dr. Parker in the current Atlantic. It involves the shortcomings of the trade union movement as well as the growth of conditions that leave large bodies of workers with no gratitude to established insti-

tutions, because those institutions have done nothing for them except to cut them off from about everything that makes life on this earth worth while.

But, someone will say, surely the responsible Federal authorities know what they are doing. They must have evidence. Among those arrested with the others for seditious conspiracy was Arturo Giovannitti, one of the leaders in the Lawrence strike of nearly six years ago. He is an Italian whose international ideals had not succeeded in smothering his nationalist sentiment. He is a poet of distinction. His work has been highly praised by the London Times and published in the Atlantic Monthly. For the past year he has been writing plays and poems and living quietly in New York. Five years ago he translated a work on sabotage. For this he has received no royalties, nor has he owned or circulated so much as one copy of the volume. Yet he is seized and taken to the Tombs and must now submit to removal to Chicago and trial there in an atmosphere poisoned by prejudice.

As for the charge, freely given to the press at Washington, that proof has been found that the organization was being financed by German money, not a line of evidence has since been produced to substantiate these vague sensational intimations supposedly given out by Mr. Gregory's assistants and spread in flaming headlines on the first page of every newspaper in the country. On the contrary, the indictment as published contains no charge that German money played a part in the organization's activities.

William D. Haywood, general secretary of the I. W. W., is a descendant of men who fought in the Revolution and the Civil War. The real crime of Haywood and most of the rest was the conducting of an aggressive propaganda and strike program on behalf of laborers who are interested solely in obtaining better conditions of life and labor. But that feeling has been manipulated and organized by men whose economic interests, whose right to exploit their fellows without let or hindrance, have been interfered with, and properly, by I. W. W. agitation.

In so far as the I. W. W. stands as spokesmen and representatives of the most exploited class of American labor, they must be handled by men who are something more than outraged patriots, with a patriotism that coincides with a belief in their right to exploit others. No one knows to what degree they do so stand, and least of all the detective and prosecutors of the Department of Justice. These assume too readily that they can dispose of the whole problem by putting a few men in jail.

Either President Wilson himself or the Department of Justice as his agency should be represented at the forthcoming trials, and by men who are able to distinguish between an I. W. W. injury to the national cause and an I. W. W. injury to industrial conditions that no government can afford to sanction. In the interest of safety it would be well to assume that millions of laborers are watching these cases, and that an ounce of understanding now may be worth a pound of martial law in some critical juncture of the future.—The Public.

The Week in Washington

By ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE, JR., Washington, Jan.—General Crowder suggested in his report to Secretary Baker that we may come to industrial conscription in this country if the war goes on. He does not think it is likely but it clearly is possible and he thinks we ought to submit cheerfully if it comes:

"It is conceivable that our national necessities may require a direct draft of labor. Repugnant as this may seem to some of our ingrained peace-time ideas, there can be little doubt of the authority of the government to adopt such a measure. * * * Unless we are to confess a national inefficiency, shameful before the nations of the world, we shall solve these problems of man power without controversy."

And speaking of the desperate way in which the various industries try to save their labor supply from being drained into the National Army, General Crowder complains, in the quaint language of the bureaucrat:

"The direct draft on labor supply is the draft of the army. Every other responsible activity sees that draft in horrific perspective. Adjustments are demanded and always at the expense of the army. Actuated by none but the most patriotic impulses, representatives of different interests * * * have come forward with arguments for the absolute exemption of their class from draft—arguments, which in their respective field, are almost unanswerable but which, in the broad view of the national nec-

essity, would (if all were acceded to) result in a Palladian army composed of vagrants and the sons of the idle rich, inadequate in numbers and contemptible in personnel. Against such blunders this office must stand forth without compromise."

However it is some comfort to realize that, let Crowder's views on industrial conscription be what they may, the Secretary of Labor has come out emphatically against it.

Senator La Follette has just received a fearful slap on the wrist. He has been expelled from the most fashionable club in Madison, Wisconsin, the social stronghold of the banking and financial leadership of the Wisconsin state capitol. Perhaps the most interesting thing about it—next to the generous publicity furnished by the press—was the abruptness of it and the story of what lay behind.

The Senator's expulsion was accomplished December 28 at an "emergency" meeting of the board of directors of the club, called so hurriedly that several directors were unable to attend. The by-laws of the club provide that before a member can be dropped he must be given ten days in which to defend himself. But the by-laws were promptly amended to permit the board instantly to expel the senator.

Why the rush?

Because La Follette's Magazine had reached the streets of Madison the day before, Dec. 27th, with an editorial by the senator serving notice that he intended to re-open the fight for the taxation of war profits and citing as a conspicuous—though by no means exceptional—beneficiary of the present atrocious war revenue system, the war profits enjoyed by the Gisholt Machine Company of Madison.

That was the intolerable offense against "patriotism" which the senator had committed.—Intolerable, that is, to the president of the company and his colleagues, the "directors" of the club. To have the people informed that the company had no net profits in 1913; none again in 1914, \$1,130,000 in 1915 and \$2,373,000 in 1916,—that was to show up all too plainly the connection between the conspicuous patriotism of the president of the Gisholt Machine company and his purse. Said the senator editorially:

"The Gisholt Machine company is probably as patriotic as any of our war profiteers. Its president is on the Dane County Defense Council. He has been active in raising funds to conduct the war by the sale of Liberty Bonds, but he is opposed to any increased tax on war profits or excess profits. He is severely critical of anyone who differs with him on war policies. And yet while thousands upon thousands of his fellow citizens are making extreme sacrifices, his sacrifice and that of his company are a tremendous net gain to both him and his company as a result of the war."

"The war demands sacrifice, and sacrifice should be universal. No one should escape. The poor can not escape and wealth must not."

The president of the company was not present at the meeting of the board of directors of the Madison club at which the by-laws were amended and the senator expelled with public defamation of his character. He was not present, no, but his banker was! So, also, were the president of the local street car company, the head of the local trust company, a reactionary state politician and several lawyers identified with the vested interests of Wisconsin. In motives and in manners, gentlemen all!

This morning the report of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics reached my desk and, turning its leaves, I found myself absorbed presently in a long account of recent conference in Chicago on "war time housing of munition workers." It was all very sociological and useful, but my perverse memory lets go nearly everything except the suggestion of Richard Henry Dana, Jr. of New York City, and architect, who, speaking on the problem of erecting cheap homes for working people, says that "the land should be sought in an unfashionable part of town, next to the cemetery or the railway."

"Next to the cemetery or the railway!" Can you beat that for grim unconscious humor? What do you suppose is the idea? Of course the mortality rate of munition workers has been extremely high as everybody knows, but this suggestion that their homes be built adjacent to the—well, the idea is what you might call perfect,—of its kind.

The newspapers are taking a lot of comfort this week out of the defeat of the socialist candidate for

state senator from a certain district in Milwaukee at the special election there. The democratic and republican parties combined behind one candidate and "put him over" with a majority of 212 over the socialist who ran on the St. Louis platform of the party. What the newspapers have carefully concealed, however, is the fact that while two years ago the combined votes of the old line parties exceeded the socialist vote by 2,235, this year on the issue of the war the socialist candidate cut the excess down to 212. If the war profiteers can find any particular comfort in that, then my hat is off to their mental dexterity!

GERMAN SOCIALIST DEMANDS DEATH OF PRUSSIANISM

NOTE.—Another appeal to the German people to overthrow Kaiserism, purporting to have been written by Siegfried Balder, a German, and circulated in Germany through the efforts of German republicans in Switzerland, has just come into the possession of the committee on public information at Washington. It is as follows:

By SIEGFRIED BALDER.

How long will you still wait, how many men must still find a bloody grave, how many more nations must array themselves against you, before you change your pirate law for one that accords with the conscience and the sense of justice of civilized humanity?

What is this government to which you so trustfully confide every thing, give everything, wealth, honor, happiness and life?

At its head are an emperor and a few dozen princes whom you do not select but whom the caprice of circumstances—or, if you prefer the expression, "God's grace"—has made the first-born of an empress or a princess. They may be wise or foolish, strong or weak, ambitious or indolent, moral or vicious; in any case, they compare unfavorably with ordinary citizens. For they are educated in an atmosphere of artificial importance, every one whom they meet is servile to them and alters them, money is at their disposal from childhood to satisfy their every whim. Consequently they never learn from experience their own spiritual and moral errors; they never acquire wisdom as do other men from their own mistakes and failures.

They have no sympathy or understanding of the conditions under which ordinary mortals live. Their judgment, their conception of life, their standards of right and wrong, are therefore artificial, distorted, and incomplete. All this is rendered worse by hereditary handicaps, for they are generally descended on both sides from a similarly abnormal and degenerated stock.

In case of other civilized nations that have monarchical form of government, such as England and Italy, this defect is remedied by the fact that the actual government, the ministers and officials, are selected by the people of the representatives, to whom they are responsible. They must resign their offices as soon as they lose public confidence. Therefore one often reads in parliamentary proceedings abroad that a ministry or a minister asks for a vote of confidence, that it is taken, and that it is adopted or rejected by such and such a majority.

But in Germany the emperor—and in the federated states the hereditary ruler—chooses the cabinet. Even by a unanimous vote of lack of confidence the reikstag could not put out of office an imperial chancellor, or a minister, or a secretary; neither could it by a unanimous vote of confidence keep any of these officials in office against the emperor's will.

Since the emperor is entirely independent of popular will in choosing his officials and advisers, he naturally selects men who are personally agreeable to himself, and especially men from the circle that surrounds him. "Tell me with whom you associate and I tell you who you are." For example, if he desires to declare war, he chooses from the 20,000,000 men of Germany one who is ready to sign the declaration. For a declaration of war only one signature besides his own is necessary, the signature of the imperial chancellor, and not, as in other states, the concurrence of the whole cabinet.

How many strategic errors—to say nothing of those in economic and political matters—have the German people already had to endure without even knowing that they had been committed! Get rid of this blind faith in authority! You must

think for yourselves and not let the government think for you.

Descended From Robber Barons. Your princes, and above all the Hohenzollerns, are descended from the most successful robber barons of the middle ages.

Those days have long passed by, but you still have men of the predatory type at your head, as sole dispensers of war and peace.

In order to force you to give soldiers, they have for a long time, and unhappily with remarkable success, cultivated in you a sentiment which I can only designate as a hallucination of persecution—a fear that your neighbors are planning to attack you. And incredible as it may be it is nevertheless true, that you have been driven by this fear to attack your neighbors! How often have I heard this cruel obsession thus expressed: We must go to war or our enemies within two years at most will attack us.

Masters Want To Change.

Your master, the emperor, the princes of the federated states, and their court of officers and junkers, have no desire to amend constitutions and laws that benefit themselves at the cost of the welfare of the German nation.

But you tremble at the thought of constitutional reform and fear a revolution! But the honest citizen has not the slightest thing to fear in a revolution. A revolution is not anarchy.

Our purpose is not to destroy, but to construct; and in this you should help us.—Eye Opener.

INDIANS ARE RE- SISTING DRAFT

Oklahoma City, Jan.—The Superintendent of the Indian Agency of Blaine county finds it very difficult to treat with many Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians who disclaim citizenship. They are offering resistance to the draft by refusing to declare themselves American citizens in the answers to the questionnaire submitted them.

To the question: "Are you an American citizen?" they almost always reply in the negative, the number of No's received being quite general.

The Superintendent reports that the Indians claim that they have always been treated as incompetents and refused the regular civil rights which citizens possess, for that reason they do not wish to stultify themselves by claiming what they have no right to claim.

AUSTRIAN WORKERS FORM SECRET UNIONS

Advices from Austria says Max S. Hayes, indicate that the trade union movement has almost entirely disappeared in many places and the country over, barely one-third of the membership is now accounted for. Repressive measure taken by the royal and imperial governments to stifle labor is blamed for this condition.

However, it is indicated that the workers have adopted secret organizations, strictly oath-bound which are bound to have very important influence especially after the war. Hayes says that there is good reason to think that this secret organization will strike a very effective blow to recover lost ground with interest. This sensational news points a strong moral to those interests which think that they are solving the labor question by crushing out of existence any form of labor organization.

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EDITORIAL



ON THE SUPPRESSION OF KNOWLEDGE

Diffusion of knowledge is the reverse of search for knowledge. Any man has an unquestioned right to diffuse or seek knowledge, just as he has a right to use his powers of reason. It is utterly impossible for diffusers of knowledge to accept ideas as they hand them out, but the seekers accept them in so far as they see them as truths. Jailing an orator or stifling a publication is not only an offense against each of these diffusers of knowledge, but also an offense against those who seek for knowledge, from these sources. It is a grave double offense, and its commitment by a government betrays its autocratic nature.

Knowledge can be divided into two classes: That which is for the betterment of humanity, and that which is detrimental to humanity. No two persons will agree fully as to what is good and what is detrimental, for their respective judgments are arrived at through their respective experiences, and these will differ in the degree that the existing social order flourishes with incongruities. The government that does nothing to eliminate those incongruities that divide the people on the question of what is right and what is wrong should experience the constructive qualities of a proletarian revolution.

In this age of meandering means and phoney phrases even the term "pacifist" is exploited to serve said meandering means. There is but one pacifist and he is not a coward nor a bloody fighter. He is the bravest of the brave and the wisest of the wise. The man with his gun will always have his war, but the pacifist, armed with the book of knowledge, will bring lasting peace—peace that need not be violated by war.

And incidentally, is the interim between wars actually peaceful in its character, when the people are mangled in debt and mourning for many of their loved ones, and when re-construction must take place of construction? It is indeed a shiftless method of going after peace.

That man who said: God is no respecter of persons," simply deified natural law. But deifying natural law will give it no properties.

Present-day churches score this age as being one of gross materialism, and cite socialism as a product thereof. The trouble with the present day churches is that, in trying to attain a super-spiritual attitude they completely lose out with the meaning of life and nature. They were certainly the originators of "Spiritualism vs. Materialism"—an empty, useless argument. Socialism represents the happy combination of spiritualism and materialism. On this physical clod earth mankind cannot thrive on one and exclude the other, but each must serve the needs of man.

OSHKOSH GOES INTO BUSINESS.

On the eighth of January this year the City of Oshkosh, Wis., held a special election to vote on two propositions. One was this: "Shall a municipal fuel plant be established?" The other was similar to ice. "Shall a municipal ice plant be established?" On the fuel question 2468 votes were cast, of which 1846 were yes, and 622 were no—nearly three to one yes. On the ice question 2,303 votes were cast, of which 1,577 were yes, and 726 were no—a good margin over two to one. Therefore the municipality is to engage in both lines of business. The vote was only about half of the total registration of the city, but it is not claimed that a larger vote would have materially changed the percentage of strength as shown. The Oshkosh Northwestern says:

"The decision reached leaves no room for a quibble over the actual wish and will of the public, and even had the vote been of normal proportions the result probably would have been the same. Not a few citizens are ready to predict failure for this experiment, but if their misgivings prove to be unfounded it will be cause for congratulations all around. The success of this plan, moreover, will give considerable advertisement to the city of Oshkosh, while other places will watch the outcome of this undertaking with a good deal of interest. Should the Oshkosh plan prove to be a success in fact, it is likely that other cities will be ready to adopt it for the benefit of their own residents."

The Northwestern says the city will lose no time in carrying out the wishes of the voters, and it quotes Mayor Mulva and members of the city council to that effect. Councilman Lampert was the most specific in his expression, although in full harmony with the others. He is quoted as saying:

"The city will now go into ice and fuel business and I believe the enterprise can be made successful and self supporting as has been the case with municipal ownership of the waterworks. The people have expressed themselves in favor of the municipal ice and fuel plants and there is nothing for the city officials to do but carry out their wishes to the fullest extent possible. I guess they have been so pleased with the way the city has conducted sales of fish, beans and potatoes that they believe the city can handle the fuel and ice business all right too. My opinion is that the city should go ahead at once to engage in the ice business. It will have to get its stock of ice without delay. I imagine the city cannot do much in the way of handling fuel until next fall."

How about Duluth. Could not the same thing be done here? We only ask if some of the city commissioners still remember their election promises?

THIS YEAR FOR SOCIALISM.

The year just closed has been full of trial and tribulations for the Socialist Party. The New Year bids fair to bring us the reward that our persistency merits.

At no time in the history of our movement were we opposed by such powerful forces. We successfully withstood the attacks of the hostile elements outside the party, as well as those who were within, who tried to betray our movement and deliver us to the worst enemies of Democracy.

Verily the year 1918 promises to be a year for Socialism. The broadening of the government's functions, involving the control of the basic industries, proves beyond question the utter fallacy of private capitalism. If government control of industries is advantageous as a war measure we should not stop short of the full public ownership and democratic management as a permanent peace measure.

The pooling of railroads, coal mines, packing houses etc. is a move that brings us nearer to our goal.

We can hasten the advent of Socialism. The opportunity presents itself every day of the year. Not a day passes but what some event can be capitalized and turned into new recruits.

The expose of the munitions ring, the recent revelations in the packing houses, showing the food monopoly and juggling of stocks, netting millions of dollars for the Armour's and other packers, the graft and corruption in capitalist party politics, are events that will add strength to our movement.

The one outstanding feature on the political horizon is the proposed fusion of the capitalist parties. Feelers are sent out to men active in their respective parties. One of these feelers was addressed to the writer. It is proposed that we forget the class struggle and embrace the reactionaries that formerly put us in the "undesirable" class. This is a clear recognition of our growing strength.

While people are not saying much, they are doing some hard thinking. This was proven beyond doubt in the elections held in several Eastern states, last November. They will do more thinking in the future, as the burden gets heavier on the masses.

This favorable situation must be adequately met by us. The National Executive Committee took the first step at its last meeting. Every atom of strength must be marshalled to carry out the program.

In former campaigns our funds were limited. Of course, our activities were limited by lack of funds. During 1918 we must extend our activities. Naturally more funds are needed.

The National Executive Committee set the mark at One Million Dollars. This sum, stupendous as it seems, is not too much for 100,000 people to raise.

We have reached a place when no undertaking is too big for us. The kindergarten days are gone.

It is necessary that every member resolve to do two things. One is to get new members in the party and prepare our organization for the supreme effort of 1918 and the other is to help raise the one million dollar fund.

The need of the hour demands that we make good. You are called upon to do your "bit." The watchword is "Forward. March! To congress in November, 1918!"

THE CRIMINAL FAILURE OF CAPITALISM

Every day's batch of news adds to the list of crimes to be charged up to the brutalities of capitalism. The insistence on profits by the great corporations which control the food and fuel supplies of the country while thousands of human beings suffer and die for the want of these imperative necessities, is criminal in the eyes of just law.

Sixteen people, weak from under-nourishment, died from cold in one day in New York City recently.

Pottsville, Pa., built over the richest anthracite coal deposits in the world, was suffering from fuel famine while the railroad yards in Palo Alto and St. Claire nearby suburbs, were crowded with trainloads of coal destined for other points.

The poor of the larger cities, driven to the use of kerosene for cooking and heating found that the insatiable Standard Oil Trust had advanced the price of its product five cents a gallon in as many days.

Food prices continue outrageously high, while government and corporation reports a short time ago indicated 80 per cent, more food in storage than a year ago.

People returning from Canada insist that both coal and sugar are plentiful across the border. Railroad men say sidetracks along the coal-carrying roads contain many trainloads of coal. As a result of the traffic in these two prime necessities multimillionaires are graduated into billionaires and millionaires in multimillionaires.

The explanation in part for the continued high prices of fuel and food is found in the composition of the advisory committees of the Council of National Defense at Washington. The question, why the committee on "Oil," for example, does not prevent the advance in kerosene when the people most need it, can be answered by the news that the chairman of this committee to run the oil business "in the interest of the people," is the president of the Standard Oil Company, Mr. Bedford, and the secretary gives his address as 26 Broadway, the address of the Standard Oil Company. The other nine members of the committee on "Oil" are prominent oil men representing the industry throughout the country. Other committees are similarly constituted. Does any intelligent person need to wonder why prices remain high? These big business men put profits above human life and officialdom at Washington bends the knee of these profiteers.

Socialism would put an end to this criminal profiteering. Goods would be provided for use instead of primarily for profit. Distribution would be set free from the delay incident to private ownership and inevitable and selfish bartering and the common welfare be the supreme object. The death grapple for bread would cease and strife between classes would end for class distinction itself would be abolished.

Chief Justice gave the decision for the Supreme Court. It is the same Edward D. White who was declared by the New York World in 1894 as unfit to be a Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court. Of course now the World has changed its mind on that subject.

Socialists have always argued that the Supreme Court, as every other governmental agency, exists primarily for the purpose of protecting the class interests of capitalism. Every decision of importance since the existence of the court proves that contention admirably.

The United States Supreme Court has declared that Conscription is Constitutional. Another argument for the abolition of the Supreme Court.

Motherhood

We have had the pleasure and the privilege the last few days of reading our daily papers, the various opinions on the subject of motherhood and as yet little or nothing has been said that has brought to light any of the fundamental principles dealing with such an important subject. To be sure the highest accomplishment of a woman is motherhood. But what has been done in the past and what will society do in the future towards inducing our young women and girls to fulfill not only the desires of society as a whole but also the heartiest wishes and desires of every good woman and girl of today, to attain that supreme accomplishment Motherhood.

Prayers, good words, good wishes, hopes, sympathy and phraseology will be of little or no avail. Action, justice and accomplishment are the one and only things, that will bring the desired result.

Do your part towards changing conditions and environments of our society to such an extent so as to enable the great masses, the workers, to live a living and enjoy the blessing of a happy matrimony and with assurance, that the blessed children, the pride and sunshine of the home, may grow up to womanhood and manhood under the proper environments. And as the time passes the old folks can grow old and gray together with the conviction that the conditions and environments have been made such, that the old folks can pass to the great beyond knowing that their children can go through life with the opportunity to attain the standard, that the old folks had hoped of them.

When the masses, the workers, the great majority of the American public have become familiar with the proper kind of education, then they will soon come to the realization, that the real cause and the fact of the matter is, that if the young men and women are not all attaining that supreme accomplishment—Fatherhood and Motherhood—it is not so much to be blamed to the individual but largely due to the conditions and environments under which we live.

O. E. THOMPSON.

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WORKERS MOBBED

Jone, Wash.—A mob organized by local employers and stirred by a skillful agitation to violence entered local hotels where members of the I. W. W. were staying and seizing them beat them up in disgraceful fashion, some of the men being knocked senseless by these brutes. The members of the I. W. W. were unarmed, they were not engaged in any unlawful activity when the employing interests aided and abetted by local officials organized their clubbing gang and after subjecting the workers to fearful abuse drove them out of town. One of the members of the I. W. W., Roy Brown was first clubbed senseless and then thrown into jail with no charge placed against him.

BIG REDUCTION SALE ON WOOL & FLANNEL, SHIRTS & UNDERWEAR
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FROM THE WEST COAST

The raid on the Pigott Printing Co. plant (the concern that prints the Seattle Daily Call) which was made by sailors in U. S. uniforms, commanded by couple men dressed in grey, is certainly making it hot for those organizations who are supposed to be back of it. So far no arrests have been made and most likely will not be made, but it has proved to be an "eye opener" for many a sleeping Henry Dubb. The Seattle Typographical Union No. 202, on January 6th adopted a resolution against the action of the sailors and called on the mayor to see to that persons guilty of the crime should be punished. A copy of the resolution was also sent to the Commandant at the U. S. Navy Yard at Bremerton, Wash. and to all Seattle newspapers.

From all parts of the country comes reports of raids made on I. W. W. Halls and other radical society's places. The list of fellow workers now in jail is growing every day.

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PAY-TRIOTS

New York.—Louis Davidson, proprietor of a cloth shrinking and finishing works in this city, was arrested on a charge of embezzling government property. The arrest was made in connection with the disappearance of 350 bolts of olive drab uniform cloth valued at \$50,000 which for several months had puzzled the quartermaster's department of the army.

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A fall in prices.

The first month of the year develops many "sales" in spite of the soaring prices.

The object of selling things far below market values is, of course, to keep the stock in good shape and free from odds and ends, which make the Buyer's life a burden.

If you read this before Saturday night, hurry to the Columbia's big Shirt Sale.

Many \$1.25 to \$2.00 Shirts go this week at 98 cents and all our fine Manhattan Shirts at big reductions.

A Ladies' Shoe Sale is on, where mainly small sizes are offered at \$2.85

Men's Overcoats—many of them at reduced prices. The biggest lines are at present those selling at \$14.85 and \$16.85

All Boys' Overcoats were reduced this week from 15 to 33 per cent of the regular prices.

Then there is a new sale of Knee Pant Suits at \$2.38, \$3.38 and \$4.90. The latter with two pair of pants.

Boy's Underwear at 19c, 39c, 59c and 89c.

Boys' Mackinaws in patterns not longer obtainable at \$4.85.

Many other small bargains are on the counters in the Columbia Children's Department.

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