

ENGLAND SIGNS TRADE AGREEMENT WITH RUSSIA

At last the hand of Lloyd George has penned the signature of England to the Russian Trade Agreement. Long and stubborn has the opposition to this act raged. Many have been the hopes that Russia might again fall into the grip of the capitalist class. But Russia has faced all onslaughts of the allies. She has braved the storm of the counter revolutionaries. She has won in every fight.

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No. 12—WHOLE No. 195

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 1921

FIVE CENTS

AMERICA'S WORKERS ARISE TO SHOW THEIR MIGHT

Labor Stalwart Trounces Plute

Andrew Fursueth Debates Open Shop With Reactionary Corporation Lawyer.

(By The Federated Press)
NEW YORK, (N. Y. Bur.).—Andrew Fursueth, grizzled veteran of man's age-old struggle with sea and storm, and Walter Gordon Merritt, finished product of university and law school, debated "The Open Shop" before 2500 persons in the Lexington Theater here Sunday. It was an unusual audience, made up of labor unionists, silk-hatted employers, women workers and silk-gowned women who came in limousines. It was an odd debate, for the gaunt man

who spoke for labor took his hearers away back to the Roman dynasty and led them through the ages to the present, lighting the way with the Christian ideal which glowed in all his sentences; while the well-groomed earnest young man who spoke for the other side spent much time assuring his hearers that co-operation would solve labor's troubles.

Merritt, attorney for the employers in the Danbury Hatters' case and the Duplex Printing Press

(Continued on Page 3.)

Morgan Viewed With Suspicion

Allies Conducting Balloting In True Democratic Style as Economic Interests Play Game.

By PHILIP SALTER
PEKING, China.—The Consortium agreement is signed with formal pronouncement in the office of J. P. Morgan & Co. in New York, but there is no Consortium. The Chinese people view with suspicion the international bankers' pool and will have none of it.

Many factors contribute to this situation. One is that the Chinese have had much suspicion of international financing. They know that China always comes out the loser. There is a healthy distrust of the Western political banker, a distrust developed by their own experience and strengthened by their observation of his course in the undeveloped parts of Europe and Africa at this very time. China is hesitating to put its head in a noose, the strings of which are in the hands of British, French, Japanese and American financiers.

Another factor is the unwillingness of the corrupt Chinese officials to restrict their power to make loans wherever they can, even on terms sacrificing national sovereignty, and to use the loans to line their own pockets. The Consortium would restrict the Chinese government's borrowing power to the banking groups of the four countries and also supervise the expenditure of the loans.

In themselves neither of these two measures is undesirable. Supervision of foreign loan expenditure—if it could be a disinterested supervision—is to the best interests of China. The "if," however, is a huge, dubious if.

A third factor is the spirit of self-dependence among the Chinese business interests as a direct reaction to the Consortium. This is the most important factor. It has shown itself practically in the formation of an all-Chinese Consortium, a grouping of the biggest Chinese banks. They propose to make the loans to the government themselves. Such loans are to be for constructive purpose only and the lenders will see they are so used, but it would be supervision by the Chinese themselves, without any foreign pistol at Peking's head. One such loan has already been made for the purchase of railway materials.

There is much to be said both for and against the Consortium, but if it never does anything else for China besides having put China on the defensive and making it take measures in self-defense it will have conferred a great benefit on China. Fearing the danger of foreign control through the Consortium, the Chinese see the necessity of using their own resources for the national good. From that a whole train of advantages must follow.

SENATORS PROTEST RATIFICATION COLOMBIA TREATY AS THEY WITNESS HANDS OF IMPERIALISM BEHIND IT

By LAURENCE TODD.

WASHINGTON, — (Wm. Bur.)—President Harding's first proposal to Congress — the ratification of the Colombian treaty — has developed the fatal tinge of scandal.

Senator Borah calls attention to the fact that a long list of American oil corporations now hold concessions for petroleum in the new and fabulously rich Colombian oil fields, and asserts that many of these concessions are dependent upon the payment of \$25,000,000 by the United States to the government of Colombia, as stipulated in the pending treaty.

"Why talk of righting a great wrong done to Colombia in the theft of Panama from that republic," runs his argument, "when in fact, we are permitting American oil companies to gamble with government money?"

Among the American concessionaires in Colombia, in which the Mellon group is heavily interested, while another is the Gulf Oil & Transport Co., which, with the Gulf Refining Co., is among the most notable of the Mellon enterprises. The Gulf Refining Co. and the Gulf Oil and Transport Co. have been active in the quarrel with the Mexican government over the title to oil lands in the Tampico field. Mellon, as Secretary of the Treasury, is in a position to influence the fate of both Colombia and Mexico.

Many of the liberal senators had intended to support the ratification of the treaty, solely as a

means of repairing the injustice done by Roosevelt to Colombia. They considered that the \$25,000,000 payment of damages for the loss of the Isthmus of Panama was small enough compensation for what the republic to the southward had suffered at the hands of the government in Washington. But the flood of light now cast upon the motives of former Senator Fall, Majority Leader Lodge, Attorney-General Daugherty and others of the Harding organization in suddenly discovering this wrong to Colombia has given them pause.

Colombia some time ago enacted a decree nationalizing her oil deposits. Fall, then in the Senate, offered an amendment to the treaty, binding the Colombian government not to nullify American oil concessions. This amendment was withdrawn after the Colombian Supreme Court declared the nationalization decree to be void. Borah now charges that the president of Colombia has told concessionholders that if the treaty and payment are not ratified his government will fall, and that the next administration will wipe out the concessions. Senators McCumber, Lodge and Brandegee, who were signers of a minority report against the treaty when President Wilson sought its ratification, are now counted among its advocates. Fall has become a member of the cabinet. Standard Oil and other oil lobbies in Washington are counting on the treaty's success.

Latin-American public opinion has for years been hostile to the government at Washington because of the wrong done to Colombia. Every liberal in Congress has wished that reparation might be made. Now that the time has come the liberal element discovers that by approving the treaty it is placing in the hands of the existing administration in Colombia a sum in damages, but at the same time it is putting upon the necks of the Colombian people a set of alien exploiters who will seek to have the American navy and army follow their pipe lines exactly as they have sought to have the navy and army follow in Mexico.

One thing is certain: Colombia will not long rejoice over her triumph if the treaty is ratified. Her surrender of her oil resources to Mellon, Standard Oil and Doherty and the lesser raiders will weaken the resistance of Mexico and will tend to destroy the unity of Latin-America in facing the encroachments of petroleum politics from beyond the Gulf.

Upon this fact the policy of liberals in Congress will turn. They are looking for a way to give justice to Colombia, not to hand her poisoned sweets. Their problem is to safeguard the people of Colombia against the designs of the gentlemen who now closely surround the President of the United States.

If they vote against the ratification of the treaty it will be with the distinct purpose of killing, at this time, the conspiracy of the oil combine to seize upon Colombia and virtually annex it to the other private holdings of Rockefeller, Mellon and their associates.

COAL OPERATORS EMPLOY GUNMEN TO SHOOT DOWN MEMBERS OF UNITED MINE WORKERS WHO STRIKE FOR CONDITIONS

WHEELING, W. Va. — The history of a tragedy every bit as appalling as Ireland's, but which receives little or no attention in the press that can find space to devote to faraway events is told in the West Virginia Federationist. The article in question recites how the mine operators at Willis Branch imported gunmen to start trouble and pave the way for the overthrow of the local of the United Mine Workers of America. As a result the miners are still out on strike after having resisted all attempts to break their spirits for the last 18 months. In that time many men have been killed by the thugs and many citizens in fear of their lives have evacuated their homes in the mining districts and now are living in tent colonies in the mountains.

On June 8, 1917, the United

Mine Workers organized a local union at Willis Branch. Shortly thereafter a 100 per cent organization was perfected which proved satisfactory to the coal company there and peace reigned until September 1, 1919. The manager of the company called the miners in meeting and served notice on them that all agreements were void on that date. He told them that the Willis Branch Coal Company would not do business with or recognize its employees collectively, but would deal with them individually from that time on.

Mine Committeeman J. F. Williams retorted that saplings would be growing on the incline big enough to make sawlogs before the members of the local union would mine coal without recognition of their organization. For a

time all was quit. But when January 1, 1920, rolled around the company became especially anxious to start the mine.

A member of the coal company swore out a conspiracy warrant for six men, in which they were charged with conspiring together to destroy the hoisting engine. This charge was investigated by the grand jury of Fayette County and found to be without foundation. An effort was then made to have the State Police brought in, but Governor J. J. Cornwell refused the request.

On February 8, Baldwin-Felt detectives began to arrive in Willis Branch. Each was armed with two pistols and a high-power rifle. The common tactics used by the private guards to intimidate striking miners were at once put into

(Continued on Page 3.)

Germany Awaits Plebiscite Vote

Chinese Do Not Favor Entry of International Banking Pirates Into Far East.

(By The Federated Press)
BERLIN.—With the recovery of her industrial life at stake, Germany is watching with intense interest for the outcome of the plebiscite in Upper Silesia on March 20, which will determine whether her rich coal fields shall go to Poland or remain German. Five thousand square miles of rich mining territory yielding besides coal, zinc, iron and lead are at stake. The Germans are confident that the plebiscite will be overwhelmingly in their favor. In proof of this they point to the plebiscites in East and West Prussia, which returned votes of 97 and 92 per cent, respectively, in favor of remaining German, in spite of boasts by the Poles and French that there was a big Polish population in these districts anxious to return to Poland.

In case Silesia is voted to Poland, Germany's industrial life will receive a blow only less severe than the reparations terms. It is believed that in such an event, Germany will bring the question together with the reparations terms before the allies with the declaration that her productive powers are paralyzed by both.

It is charged that every possible obstacle to a fair vote has been put in the way of the German electorate by the Inter-Allied Com-

mission, which is dominated by France and Poland. Some of the Commission's regulations declared to be discriminatory follow:

Instead of requiring as proofs of identity the usual birth certificates, which are necessarily authentic, the commission suddenly announced that birth certificates were not necessary, that passes or hunting licenses were sufficient. The Germans point out that any pro-Polish head of a little border city could issue these passes and hunting licenses at will and thus increase the Polish vote.

All persons born in Upper Silesia before 1900, even though they are not now living in the province, are entitled to vote. But every such person must give the exact date on which he left the province, and furnish two witnesses living there now who know him personally, an almost impossible task for most of the Silesians. Since most of the emigres were of German blood, it is asserted that this one regulation will cost the Germans thousands of votes.

Application blanks for registration and given to the Polish and German societies for distribution were marked differently so that it was possible for the commission to know whether the applicant was liable to vote for Germany and Poland.

RACINE HIT BY SOUP LINE; BLAME RADICAL MEETINGS

RACINE, Wis. — Normalcy has hit Racine with a vengeance. Practically all of the factory workers of Racine are out of work. The J. I. Case tractor plant has closed down completely, thus throwing what few men were employed by the larger factories on the streets.

Thousands of unemployed workers through the downtown district as they have ceased walking from factory gate to factory gate in search of work. The Central Association, Racine's Associated Charities, has been relieved of the strain on its funds by donations from the old War Chest fund, which is controlled by the Committee of Fifteen.

A free soup kitchen and lounging room have been provided by the Racine Central Labor Council, the basement of the Labor Temple being used for this purpose. Donations of meat, bread, milk and vegetables are being made by local business men and farmers.

The Committee of Fifteen has

promised to use the \$100,000 balance of the War Chest fund for the unemployed if conditions do not improve by April 1. Local labor men say that they can see no chance of an improvement by that time.

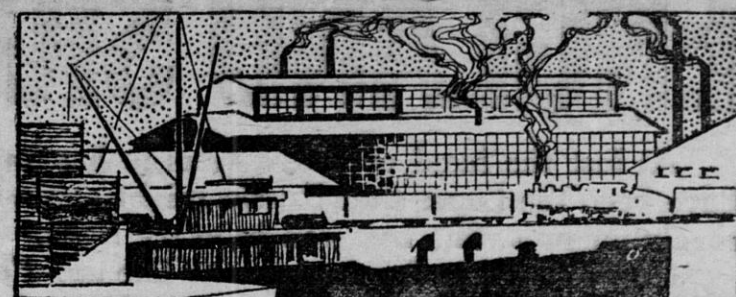
Unemployed mass meetings are being held in a theater every Tuesday. These meetings have been branded as "radical" by local politicians.

RESPIRE FOR REDS

CHICAGO.—The case of the 20 members of the Communist party, accused of sedition under the Illinois State sedition law, will come before the State Supreme Court, August 1. The appeal to the higher court was decided upon after Judge Oscar Hebel had reaffirmed the original sentences, which varied from five years, \$1000 fine and court costs to one year in the penitentiary, the fine and costs. Each was admitted to his former bail.



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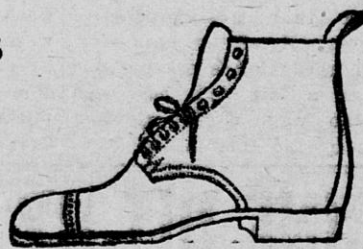
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LABOR STALWART

(Continued from page 1)

Company case, repeated over and over that he believed in labor unions. He was heckled frequently and usually made angry retorts.

The expression, "As I use the term 'open shop'"; the 'open shop' which I am defending," and other like ones occurred every few moments throughout Merritt's speech. Furuseth, on the other hand, defended the closed shop without qualification.

Merritt's most frequent references were to "society", and to "the people." Furuseth's were to men and women and children. Finally a man asked Merritt who composed the "society" which he said must solve the labor problem. Merritt hesitated a moment, then said there were 16,000,000 farmers in the United States, and he would trust them with the job.

"The 'open shop,'" Merritt began, "does not conflict with union recognition, with the right to organize, with collective bargaining, or with the trend toward industrial democracy. As I advocate it, all may grow and flourish under it. Opposition to the 'open shop' does not imply opposition to the union. The issue is whether America shall remain an 'open shop' country like Great Britain."

The unions, he said, ask much of society and offer no hostages in return. They claim the right, he asserted, to exemption from the laws of trade and commerce; to blockade the channels of trade to any merchandise to which they object; to paralyze transportation by railroad strikes, to freeze the people of the country by coal mine strikes; to leave the people defenseless by police strikes.

Furuseth's first words were: "The 'open shop'—there ain't no such critter. To debate such a term by itself is futile. I shall not try to do it except as a part in the bigger and more significant struggle of man through all history for the right to live decently."

Then he sketched the history of man's struggle for religious, political and industrial liberty. The labor struggle, Furuseth declared, is the Christian ideal seeking to enter the industrial field, but was being obstructed by the money power of the world.

"Freedom of the press, of speech and of assemblage were conferred by this 'third estate', the money power," he said, "when the money power needed the people. Now it has decided that it is in control and it thinks it can take away these rights."

"It may take some time, but some day the masters will realize that the labor power of man is the man himself, and all laws and decisions that treat it otherwise are anti-American. They speak of buying and selling labor power! They might as well speak of buying and selling God!"

America, he said, has tolerated the creation of a super-man—the great corporations—and it has been possible for the men who control them to get control of the country's natural resources and of the rights and liberties of the people, to destroy liberty, to control industrial rights, to control the press through advertising and stock ownership, to control the legal profession through fees and universities through endowments. Now, he asserted, they are seeking to prevent any general organization of labor.

"This super-man," he said, "dictates the kind of food your wives and children shall eat, when and how they shall live, when and how often you shall see them; it follows you to your union meetings through detectives; it follows you to the polls. The power of kings was nothing compared to it. And the so-called 'open shop' is an important part of it because it isolates the individual. It is a link in the chain by which the super-man is trying to impose its control. It is a fraud so cunning and plausible that it is a danger to human evolution and a hindrance to Christian living."

"One can respect and disagree with Gary, head of the Steel Trust, who is openly against unions; but the apologist of the so-called 'open shop', who seeks to put us to sleep in order to bind us is another thing."

In his first rebuttal, Merritt repeated his assertion that "I don't stand here speaking for any group, class or association. I don't believe in conflict, but in co-operation. I realize that a large part of the responsibility rests as a crushing burden on the shoulders of the employers. But a national 'closed shop' is unchristian and unbrotherly."

In his concluding speech Furuseth told of his own and others' experience trying to get work in so-called "open shop", when they were assured the shops were "open", but denied employment if they belonged to a union. "That," he said, "is the 'open shop' as it exists. "There is a great difference," he said, "between the 'open shop' my opponent believes in and the 'open shop' in fact."

The "safety valve" campaigns of the railroads and the great industrial corporations, Furuseth said, were not undertaken until after workmen's compensation laws were enacted, despite their protests, and then only because their pocketbooks were touched. Then he turned to Merritt.

"Yo talk of liberty!" he exclaimed. "Liberty! You and yours denied it me and mine. You and yours have shackled me and mine, and now I come, knowing I have been shackled, and somebody says, Don't get excited. We are simply defending liberty."

"There is no more danger in industrial democracy than there is in political democracy or in religious freedom; but if you succeed in stopping the sweep of human evolution in this field the result will be destruction and confusion. If the government persists in putting itself, the employee and the employer through such legislation as the Kansas 'Industrial Court' law it will wipe out the trade union organization and you will have in fact the 'one big union.'"

"There is great danger in such things, for the greatest danger is fear—fear test the workers get more out of life on the industrial plane—and out of fear comes hate, and out of hate comes legislation, and out of legislation comes bondage. You may trust some of the business men to find a reason for what they want to do, and you may trust some lawyers to find a philosophy to fit in with it."

MEXICO'S PRESIDENT

(Continued from Page Four)

class mailing privileges were denied "La Lucha", forced the government to yield under threats of a general strike and by the pressure of Radical officials.

Now representatives of that same proletariat, aided by those same Radical officials, had forced the President of the Republic to abandon his shameful resolution to maul and jail thousands of marching strikers.

Moments later Salcedo, Martinez and Cortez were in the long procession of 15,000 marching men and making frequent and fiery speeches to the strikers, while Gasca, back in the offices of the Governor of the Federal District of the Republic of Mexico, was reiterating to the police heads the emphatic order to leave the parades alone.

The next move is to be made on the chessboard but be that move what it may, men like Gasca and Salcedo have furnished added proof that Lenin was right.

A revolutionist in office under a bourgeois government can effectively serve the working class. A coward or traitor is a coward or a traitor whether in office or out of office.

It would be well for Communism if men like Gasca and Salcedo could occupy official posts in the bourgeois governments of every country and rob those governments of some of their venom.

COAL OPERATORS

(Continued from page 1)

effect. They began to hold up miners as they passed along the public road and on the railroad tracks. Trouble was inevitable. The miners, as their only means of protection, went about armed.

Seeing danger ahead, O. A. Peters, secretary of the Wierwood local, and W. C. Romine, secretary of the Willis Branch local, drew up petitions to Henry McGraw, sheriff of Fayette County, and Governor Cornwell of West Virginia, inquiring as to the authority for these guards at Willis Branch. Five hundred citizens of the mining town petitioned that these hirelings be removed and that if protection were needed, legal officers be stationed there.

The sheriff and governor replied that the guards were not clothed with authority of any kind, but that, unfortunately, there was no law on the statutes whereby they could be removed.

As time passed the company was able to import a few strike-breakers.

The mining camp of Wierwood shows signs of battle and the homes of farmers in the vicinity the shots having been fired from

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—but that's impossible; so enough under this head.

machine guns stationed at a line of trenches overlooking the company store. On the evening of August 8 the home of A. C. Romine of Cirtsville was attacked by a band of thugs. They were driven off after a fierce fight in which several hundred shots were exchanged. Then the raiders returned with reinforcement at 1 o'clock in the morning and again opened fire on the house. Help came from neighbors and the guards were forced to retreat over the hills.

At the beginning of the strike Maynor's Branch of Paint Creek had 14 families living peaceably in it. Today all but five have deserted it. Women and children lived in a state of continual excitement and fear.

August 28 a clash between miners and guards lasted 4 hours and 10 minutes and was of such magnitude that the sheriff and governor decided the Baldwin-Feltz guards must leave. An agreement was reached by officials of the mine workers and the sheriff whereby the former agreed to use their influence to maintain law and order if the latter would see that the thugs were sent away and kept away.

The company then proceeded to organize another army of guards. This force was recruited from ex-policemen of small towns. One Sunday in November there was a fight in the stockaded mining camp between the guards and the strikebreakers whom they were supposed to be protecting. Shortly after trouble broke out anew and the contingent began using the machine guns from the same trenches used by the Baldwin thugs.

Threats made against the life of Henry Lafferty, a miner, were carried out. He was murdered in front of the post office at Willis Branch on the night of February 18, 1921. Resentment finally ran so high that the guards and strikebreakers packed their belongings and left, the citizens hope for good. The strike is still on.

PAYING WITH BLOOD

Berlin.—More than 10,000 of the Russian soldiers who fought in France for the Allies in the world war are still being held there by the French Government, despite repeated demands for their repatriation made by the Soviet authorities, according to an article in the Paris Humanite quoted from in yesterday's Rote Fahne. Of these, 1,500 are held in Margeilles, 6,000 in Verdun, 2,050 in Northern France and 120 in Lorraine. These figures do not include the numerous Russians turned over to the big French farmers for exploitation in the fields. Humanite concludes its article by saying:

"The have been made to pay with their blood and sufferings the interest on the cursed debts contracted by Czarism. They don't ask the French proletariat to escort them to the point of embarkation with red flags. In Allied France they have become accustomed to being escorted by negroes, with fixed bayonets."

ADVANCING PROLETARIAT. GREEN BAY, Wis.—Between 400 and 500 employees of the Northern Paper Mills have struck work in accordance with a vote taken in protest against a 20 per cent reduction in wages which went into effect March 1.

NEXT SUNDAY

at Workers Hall A most interesting lecture on economic organization and the power of the workers will be delivered by

MARTIN CARLSON

Come and hear this splendid speaker. Admission free till 8. Thereafter 15 and 25 cents.

IN THE REALMS OF LABOR

By SPARTACUS

The disease to cut wages of the workers of this city, is now nation wide.

We, who belong to the left in the labor movement predicted this attack upon the welfare of our workingclass during the time when our traders of the A. F. of L. and some of our so called "Parlor Bolsheviks" were sitting in the "peace council" together with our "Parlor Patriots," and one dollar a year(?) gentlemen. At that time we were regarded as enemies of the workers and were outlawed, while they were hailed as the true (?) traders.

Now we are looking to them for leadership. We patiently wait to see what action they are going to take to counteract the attempts to reduce the standard of living of the workers. The Steel Trust, Copper Trust, Oil Trust, Meat Trust, Railroad Industry, and Textile industry have already announced a reduction in wages. In some of these, a reduction in wages has been put into effect. Will they—as in the past sell the interests of the working class for a doughnut or will they issue a ringing appeal to the workers of the country to resist with all possible means the wage cut remains to be seen.

Exchange Is Crumbling.

The Builders Exchange is beginning to loose a number of members. The Iron Range contractors who fell in line with the Minnesota Building Employers Association to reduce the wages, have now broken away from the rest and agreed to return to the former scale. On account of that 18 members of the Sheet Metal Workers on the Range cities and the tile setters went back to work.

In the city several contractors signed up with the Sheet Metal Workers and the members went back to work. Officials of the union are very optimistic over the situation, expecting that more contractors are going to break away from the Exchange and settle with the union whereupon union men will go to work immediately.

All efforts of the Exchange to secure strike breakers has so far met with failure. A total of four willing tools have been imported to the city to take the places of the

NEXT TUESDAY

March 29th, 1921
at Workers Hall
FLOYD RAMP



See Editorial Page.
8 o'clock sharp. Admission free

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