
“Force and Violence!”

(An Editorial).

by Elmer T. Allison

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With an astonishing emulation and rapidity the capitalist nations of the world and the different states which made up the United States of America have for two years or more been passing laws against the use of “force and violence” by insurgent and dissatisfied elements of the population in seeking to bring about governmental changes.

Thousands have been arrested (unlawfully), followed by forcible deportation of hundreds. Thousands of private homes and workers’ halls have been forcibly entered and raided. Hundreds have been beaten and slugged by the strong-arm squad of a governmental department miscalled Department of Justice. Some have been murdered outright by the extreme cruelties and forcible measures used against them. Others have been driven insane.

All this was brought about by the use of force and violence. Unlawful and inhuman use of force and violence by the government. This fact is now being admitted by some departments of the government. But its admittance is but a reflex or a prevailing sentiment of the great mass of the people throughout the country. And in so far as accomplishing the ends sought — a mere mouse has been brought forth. No threatening movement of the masses, admitting that such existed, against constituted authority has been averted nor brought under authority. And it is safe to assert that none with courageous convictions will nor can be by these methods.

While the capitalist governments, state and national, have hypocritically waged a war against the use of force and violence, they have continuously practiced its use and have created the very sentiment they sought to prevent.

Casting a backward glance over events of the past five years, we see a world blackened and in ruins with ten million graves as a result of the application to the world’s problems of the use of force and violence by capitalistic agencies. After an orgy of such unprecedented slaughter, how hypocritical seem the protestations of Palmer and the henchmen of capitalism against the use of force and violence in the arena of socio-political affairs. Dripping with the blood of their fellow men, the capitalist conspirators profess their angelic, lily whiteness and proceed to accomplish more slaughter and violence if the profits of their masters are menaced.

Here are the latest figures upon the slaughter of Europe under the rule of make-believe advocates of “peace on earth, goodwill to man”:

Final War Figures.

The World War reduced the population of the earth 40,000,000. This is the estimate of the Society for the Study of the Social Consequences of the War, a Copenhagen organization. Its figures include war casualties, rise in deaths, and decline in births.

On this basis, Russia was the heaviest suf-

ferer, losing 13,000,000. Germany lost 6,300,000; Austria-Hungary, 5,800,000; France, 3,340,000; Italy, 2,280,000; Great Britain, 1,850,000; Serbia 1,650,000; Romania, 570,000; Belgium 375,000; Bulgaria, 275,000; America, 300,000.

The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace places the direct cost of this slaughter at \$186 billion and the indirect cost at \$151,612,542,560.

All the wars between Napoleon's time and the World War showed a loss of life on the battlefield of only 4,450,000. The known dead of the World War battles total 9,998,771 and the missing 2,991,800.

This is the result of capitalism's control of life's necessities; the result of the control of all men's needs by a parasitic few whose profits come first and the welfare of the masses last or not at all.

This fact is the problem of today. It is especially the problem of the great suffering masses who pay the terrific cost in blood and treasure. No worker can evade this issue. It will pursue him

relentlessly. Whether he recognizes it at present or not, ultimately it confronts him and demands his answer.

The world is moving swiftly toward the point where we must directly face the overthrow of the rule of capitalism, the profiteering rule of the parasites and substitute that of the masses, the producers. We are nearing that point even in America. Old methods of workers' organization, old political theories are being cast aside for new ones which have brought success to the workers in Europe. We must study the uses of these weapons under conditions prevailing here. Mass action, dictatorship of the proletariat, shop committees, these are tactics and organization methods we workers must learn the meaning and use of.

We must prepare the groundwork upon which we are to erect a society wherein the use of "force and violence" will eventually become unnecessary. The masses only can accomplish this task.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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