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FAMINE AND FAMINE.

Current reports state there is a great famine impending in Russia due to crop failures. Undoubtedly there is a crop shortage in some regions and the effect will be felt over the entire country.

The capitalist press has seized upon this failure of nature to point out the lesson of the failure of Communism, or rather of the proletarian State working toward the establishment of Communism. Just another instance, say they, of the folly of overthrowing the capitalist system.

We are reminded that there are famines and famines. For some years a famine has been reaping its hundreds of thousands of victims in all parts of Europe. Untold numbers of babies have died for want of food, Starvation has stalked into every household of the workers, and remained to this day.

In the U. S. A. there are ten to fifteen million people enduring all the agony and suffering of a famine—yet there is no famine. On the contrary. There is so much food, clothing and other necessities that the factories have closed, the farmers are receiving low prices for their products, and a general curtailment of production is taking place—until the surplus is used up.

Who, in America, is worrying about these starving millions? No one. No governmental agency is taking any steps toward the alleviation of their sufferings. The government is not making any preparations to take care of these millions of men, women and children. They may starve and be damned for all the capitalists and the capitalists' government cares.

GET INSIDE A UNION.

A fisherman who would go fishing and sit upon the bank refusing to cast his line, expecting to go home with a full string would be accounted a foolish fisherman. Yet he is no more foolish than many thousands of trade unionists who desire that their revolutionary ideas should take hold in the unions, yet refuse to participate in them.

The time for this sort of folly is long past. Its practice has already worked incalculable injury to the revolutionary movement. Workers of revolutionary ideas must call a halt, must discard this erroneous idea and get into the organized movement where the workers carry on their economic struggle.

For radical and revolutionary workers to remain outside the unions is plainly to play into the hands of the enemy. It is just what they want. No revolutionists in the unions, means a bosses' controlled union: bosses' control of the organized working masses.

Revolutionists may well ponder this one paragraph of Lenin's: "To refuse to take part in the reactionary trade unions means to abandon the undeveloped or backward masses to the tender mercies of the reactionary leaders, the agents of the bourgeoisie, and to the 'aristocrats of labor', the capitalist minded workers."

Get into a union, you radical, there is a job awaiting you there.

Some Crimes of the American Legion.

By Arthur Warner in "The Nation".

The Legion and the Schools.

The Legion's drive on the schools is worth a word by itself because it is one of the recent and insidious methods by which the organization is trying to gain its ends.

In New York the delegates to the State convention last autumn adopted a resolution advocating the compulsory teaching of American history and civics in public and private schools, with a Legion committee to examine textbooks "to determine whether they are loyal."

The Itch for Office.

By its constitution the Legion seeks to prevent use of the organization as a means of gaining public office, yet the number of men who have employed it as a stepping-stone to political jobs is impressive.

According to a statement by the National Legislative Committee last autumn at least thirteen men elected to Congress at the November polls were members of the American Legion.

During the first half year of its existence money was shoveled lavishly on the fires of the American Legion Weekly. Expensive paper, many illustrations, and a colored cover were used. The money ran out in the winter of 1920, and a crash followed.

began with a drive against the "alien slacker"—the man who had taken out first papers toward naturalization but canceled them in order to avoid conscription—demanding that he be deported.

The American Legion certainly had an indirect responsibility for stirring up the passions that led to the tragedy in Centralia, Washington, on Armistice Day, 1919.

That "One Hundred Per Cent Americanism" too frequently is what I am and the fellow I don't like isn't.

That a lot of wise guys whose ancestors came over on the Mayflower had good, soft jobs in the S. O. S.

That this is a good time for universal tolerance, and that the promoters of hatred and war usually begin by promoting intolerance.

NEW YORK.—Senator Joseph I. France of Maryland, who recently was admitted to Russia to study conditions bearing on trade resumption, has completed his inquiry in Moscow, according to advices received here, and has gone to Petrograd.

Americanization.

It would seem that the attitude toward the alien taken by the American Legion Weekly would form about as impenetrable a barrier as possible for Americanization work.

Publicity, Official and Officialous. Coming into existence, as it did, when propaganda had been raised to the nth degree, it is natural that the American Legion should have centered much of its attention upon publicity.

Along with, and doubtless growing out of the pursuit of the "red," began the hounding of the alien, in which the Weekly led the pack. Considering that America is the immigrant, that our accumulated industrial prosperity and our present standard of living is the direct creation of the foreign-born, this manifestation, which spread like a yellow fog over the country and is not yet dissipated, is one of the most cruel and surprising drifts of popular hysteria in our history.

QUACKERY VS. SCIENCE

By TOM CLIFFORD.

The Harding administration, through Director General Jones of the U. S. Employment Service, has handed out to the ignorant and perplexed public six causes for the industrial depression. Here is the dope:

ONE: Unsatisfactory transportation, with freight rates in many instances prohibitive.

TWO: Lack of a normal foreign market.

THREE: Low prices of farm produce.

FOUR: Stagnation in iron and steel.

FIVE: High costs of construction.

SIX: General dullness in the retail trade.

Only one of the causes mentioned is fundamental. The others are merely incidental concomitants that inevitably result when the basic support of the capitalist structure is impaired.

Mr. Jones may have acquired sufficient knowledge of economics to be aware of this fact, but it is more probable that he is simply an ignoramus. However, in either case, he is a fool or a knave.

Up to recent years the blame for panics was laid at the door of the speculators in Wall Street. It was contended that the captains of finance drew too largely upon the bank reserves throughout the nation, and that this caused a contraction of the circulating medium, preventing the operators of industries securing the loans necessary in the conduct of their business, which forced them to close their plants.

How the System Works. Here is the way the crazy profit system works: A comparatively few men own the great industries of the country. They hire millions of work-

ers to produce the wealth, and they pay these workers in wages but a fraction of the product—about one-fourth. Consequently the workers are able to buy back but a fraction of the product. It very naturally follows that in time there must accumulate an immense surplus product.

The capitalists set the price of what the farmer sells and what he buys, thus robbing him in both operations and cutting down his purchasing power to the minimum, and he is constantly an unwitting factor in the creation of a surplus which, under the capitalist order of industry, must inevitably produce periods of industrial depression.

The capitalists and their parasites—lawyers, commercial men, insurance and real estate dealers, etc.—comprising but one-tenth of society, are unable to consume this surplus.

The foreign markets having been almost completely closed to American products, and all other industrially developed nations competing for whatever trade exists, the ruling class of America have no outlet for their surplus.

The goods pile up in the warehouses and the marts of trade. The factories curtail production and discharge their workmen. These workers, having their wages cut off, are unable to pay their bills at the retail stores. The merchants are therefore compelled to ask the wholesalers to be easy with them.

My object in writing this article is not so much to hold Mr. Jones up to criticism (although, as a preliminary, I had to get that off my chest), but to counteract the influence of his pernicious propaganda by enlightening the workers relative to real cause of our industrial woes, which is essential to that unity of action necessary in the solution of our great social problem.

The first recorded "panic" was that of 1815 in England. In 1818 occurred the first American panic. The present industrial depression is the seventh in a series of almost regularly recurring periods—1818, 1837, 1857, 1873, 1893, 1907 and 1920.

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Millions of workers looking for jobs—seeking opportunity to apply their brains and brawn to the machinery of production, but denied that opportunity because they had produced TOO MUCH—millions in want in the midst of plenty! What a spectacle! What a parody on our much vaunted civilization.

What is the remedy? The collective ownership and democratic management of the means of life—the whole value of the product will then go to the millions who do the necessary mental and manual work instead of three-fourths to the useless few.

When the working class get sense enough to inaugurate such an era the problem of the ages will have been solved.



THE "THINKER" He is a Workingman just beginning to Realize that he has Voted himself and his Children into Slavery, and is wondering how he can fight his way Out WITHOUT A GUN! WHAT DO YOU THINK?

