

# The WORKERS' WORLD

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## MORE KANSAS "JUSTICE"

Another Crime Against the Workers in the Pieri-Bobba Case

The Workers' Defense Union, in a statement issued yesterday, appeals for bail in the case of Pietro Pieri, an Italian worker held in Kansas. Every effort to keep him jailed is being made by his capitalist foes, and the workers must rally to his aid. The statement reads:

"An outrageous piece of political blackguardism was staged by Fred Robertson, politician-prosecutor in Kansas admittedly an aspirant for the gubernatorial chair of that state. His success in keeping 35 men in foul jails without trial for almost two years does not satiate his appetite, whetted by a desire to ingratiate himself with corporate interests. He needs must retain an actual physical hold upon other unfortunate victims of organized capitalist hatred. Here is a sample of tactics:

"Pietro Pieri and R. J. Bobba were indicted on a charge of conspiring to assassinate President Wilson and former Secretary McAdoo, lodged by two degenerate white-slavers. The case is palpably a grotesque frame-up, but the defendants were jailed by the regular process of the law and bail to the amount of \$5,000 was set for each. The amount may have been thought prohibitive, but the Italian workers, aroused by the persecution of their fellows raised the bail for Bobba and he was duly released.

"With some effort \$5,000 was also raised for Pieri. The sum was deposited in a bank at Virginia, Minn., so that it might be speedily transferred to the attorneys. The bank officials maliciously or accidentally, informed the prosecutor that the money was in their custody, without letting the prisoner's friends know of the fact. This gave Mr. Robertson the opportunity to perpetrate his blackest trick.

"He rushed to the Federal judge, although it necessitated a precipitate trip to Oklahoma where His Honor was on a vacation. His Honor acceded to the District Attorney's plea and increased the bail to \$10,000 before Pieri's attorney could take a step to effect his client's release. When the attorney, upon learning of this despicable procedure, made inquiries at the Federal office he was informed by an Assistant that Pieri could not be released and would not be until a jury says so.

"Such shameful persecution of a worker who had incurred the dislike of the wielders of wealth by his brave efforts in behalf of justice for the toiler is a challenge to every forward-looking man and woman in America. We must prove that love of fairness is not yet dead here. The additional bail must be raised without delay—and Pieri set free pending action by the courts. Cash, Liberty bonds, or property in any amount is acceptable, and may be placed through the Workers' Defense Union, Room 405, 7 East 15th St., New York City.

## WAR ON LABOR RADICALS

Nation wide Campaign Started by the Bosses' Big Union

Baltimore, Aug. 23.—A nation-wide campaign was inaugurated today by the manufacturers' committee of the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association against extreme and radical forms of labor agitation which have for their platforms the government control, not only of railroads but of every form of industry.

The campaign of education is to be waged through individuals and plants which employ labor. A. S. Goldsborough, head of the Civic and Industrial Bureau, mailed to thousands of such men and corporations letters urging such action.

"It is imperative that the sound-thinking, earnestly patriotic citizenship of the country—be they employees or be they employers—should band together at once to educate the general masses into a full realization of the peril which confronts them," says the letter. "The prospect is too serious to wait for somebody to take the lead. You, or your organization, or both, should get busy without delay and handle this matter according to the dictates of sound common sense."



Shake Him Off!

## ORGANIZING THE COPS

Application for Charter soon to be made in New York

New York.—Capitalism is struck white with terror at the thought that the policemen, too, are organizing. Employers dread what may happen in case an organized "cop" is called upon to club down a fellow worker in a labor dispute.

In New York, the policemen perfected their organization quite recently. The names of the officials have not yet been made public, as the wrath of the police commissioner is feared while the organization is in its infancy. It is known, however, that officers have been elected, that counsel has been engaged, and that application will soon be made for a charter in the A. F. of L. So far no man on the force above the rank of sergeant has affiliated himself with the organization of the union, but a large majority of sergeants, detectives and patrolmen in Manhattan, Bronx and Brooklyn are identified with the movement.

It is reported that the demands of this new "trade" will include the abolishment of the present reserve system, the adoption of a straight eight-hour day and a minimum pay of \$1,500 a year for new men, with an increase of \$100 a year until a maximum of \$2,000 a year is reached.

The germ has spread over to Jersey City, N. J., so that Director Chas. F. X. O'Brien of the Department of Public Safety sent a letter to the chief of police in which he said:

"This movement is a violation of the rules of the department and I direct that you make an investigation and suspend and prefer charges against any man or men who may have been interested in its promotion. I am a strong advocate of organized labor, but I do not think that a movement of this character would benefit either organized labor or the community. The purpose of these men is to use organized labor for their own selfish interests. Proceed immediately to find out the true condition of the force, and report to me, that I may take such action as I may deem fit for the protection of the department. Discipline must be maintained."

On August 15, members of the Boston police force, disregarding a recent order of Police Commissioner Curtis forbidding their joining any organization outside the department except the associations of war veterans, organized a union under charter from the American Federation of Labor.

About 1,400 members of the force participated in the afternoon and evening meetings.

Between the capitalist and the communist systems of society lies the period of the revolutionary transformation of the one into the other. This corresponds to a political transition period, whose state can be nothing else but the Dictatorship of the Proletariat.—Karl Marx.

"How can we talk about making the world safe for democracy when our own capital is not safe for our own citizens?" enquires Dr. James E. Crowther.

## MOBILIZATION OF THE SOCIALIST-ZIONIST PARTY, "POALE ZION"

(From the "Izvestia" of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of the Soviets, May 24, 1919.)

To defend the interests of the revolution and to fight the counter-revolution, the pogrom sentiment and anti-semitism, the Bureau of the Central All-Ukrainian Committee of the "Poale Zion" has resolved to militarize the Party and to declare a mobilization of all comrades fit for military service.

To administer the military affairs of the party and to carry out the mobilization, the Central Committee has formed a Central Military Section attached to it, and the local organizations are to form local military sections.

The local military sections shall immediately proceed with the registration of the mobilized comrades and with their military training and shall report by telegraph to the Central Military Section the number mobilized and the progress of the mobilization.

From Klintzy, by order of the district mobilization committee of the Poale Zion Party, the second company of the members of the Party was sent to the front on May 10. A third company is being organized for despatch to the front. The entrainment will take place in the course of this week.

## TO PUBLISH REBEL SONGS

A Group of Radical Artists at Chicago Doing a Worth-while Work

Realizing the truth of the old adage, "I care not who makes the laws of a nation, if I may make its songs," a group of radical artists in Chicago have organized the "International Song Publishers," with headquarters at 204 North Clark Street, and are bringing out a series of workers' songs.

Two numbers have already appeared. The first of these is entitled, "Funeral Song of a Russian Revolutionist," and is a well-known Russian melody harmonized by Rudolph von Liebig, formerly of Christiana and London. The words are adapted from the Russian by Douglas Robson, a worker-poet of Chicago.

The second is original both in music and verse. It is called, "The Advancing Proletaire," and is the joint production of Liebig and Douglas. It is one of the most spirited songs existing in the world of labor music.

The Chicago group proposes to bring out at least one song per month. That there is a great dearth of worthwhile labor songs is generally conceded by radical musicians. Such workers' songs as exist are for the most part either adaptations of Sunday school songs, or else the tunes of patriotic and church airs are bodily taken over, while only the words are changed.

The movement of the Chicago artists is being watched with interest by directors of workers' singing societies. Already the chorus of the Rand School of Social Science, New York, has arranged to produce the Liebig-Douglas songs during its 1919-20 concert season.

## BOLSHEVIKS IN THE I. T. U.

Red Spots in the most Conservative Union at Seattle

"What has the government done for the two Roy girls?" was a question flung at one Army, a former labor bureau man who is now making a tour of the various Seattle unions talking against the One Big Union, praising Gompers and his lieutenants, and telling of what the government officials have done for little brother Labor during the recent unpleasantness. Several other questions were fired at the gentleman, but he stammered out that he was not prepared to answer.

And where was it that this occurred? Why, in the International Typographical Union meeting last week—in the conservative business institution that boasts of the fact that it has almost forgotten how to strike. As Army left the meeting he was heard to mutter:

"My God! Bolsheviki in the Typographical Union too!"

## LITTLE STORIES WE SHOULD KNOW.—No. 3.

(By James Waldo Fawcett.)

Bernard Shaw's mother was a very aristocratic old lady. She thought the word "radical" was synonymous with the word "ragamuffin," and all the conventional upper class references to "the great unwashed" made sweet and grateful music in her ears. She thought her talented son was a very strange person, knowing quite well that he preferred a dingy meeting hall in a London slum to a charming drawing room in Mayfair, a group of intelligent workers to a gang of silk-stocking respectable.

One day some years ago she was walking with Shaw in Regent Street when he noticed a handsome, well-dressed gentleman passing on the opposite pavement. "George," she said, "who is that man?" And Shaw replied that it was Cunningham Graham, the distinguished Socialist.

Poor soul! "Impossible!" she protested. "Why, that man's a gentleman!"

Of course, you can imagine what Shaw said and thought.

## SAID BY DEBS.

"It has never been fashionable, nor even respectable, to labor. From the days when slaves built the pyramids to the present era of capitalism, labor has been slavery and the working class has been the 'lower class.' The talk we hear from the lips of lily-fingered apologists and retainers about the 'dignity' of labor in a system in which labor is essentially slavish, is pure gammon. Not one of this gentry labor—except with his mouth. His palaver about the 'dignity' of labor has for its sole purpose the keeping of the sweated and despised laborer contented with his slavish lot.

"No one labors in the present system unless he is compelled to as the only means at his disposal to maintain his existence, and it is a blessed thing that this is true and, it were more blessed still if no one would labor at all until labor is redeemed from slavery, labor becomes work and is freely done by free men."

## ENDORSE ONE BIG UNION

Kansas City Painters Take the Lead in Pushing the Big Idea of Industrial Organization

The world-wide movement for One Big Union of the workers is beginning to find response in Kansas City and, despite the fact that the movement as a whole still suffers from short-sighted leadership and antiquated methods, there are sections, here and there, which show signs of the new spirit which is destined to conquer here as everywhere. The railroad unions are getting abreast of the times, as was evidenced by the recent "unauthorized" strike, and another bright spot is Painters Union No. 9, which, under the direction of a number of well-informed and class-conscious members, is moving steadily toward the correct principles of modern unionism.

At a recent meeting of the Painters, the Seattle plan for the reorganization of the A. F. of L. into twelve trade and industrial departments came up for discussion and, notwithstanding the presence of a General Organizer who argued against the resolution—according to the custom of the "big moguls" who look at things from the standpoint of the man on the job—the meeting endorsed the plan and decided to take steps to initiate a referendum in the Painters' International in favor of its adoption. While this proposed reorganization plan which originated in Seattle is somewhat defective in structure in that it provides for the re-grouping of the movement along trade lines instead of along strictly industrial lines, which is the correct sort of labor union structure, yet it means a big step ahead of the present inadequate and impotent system and is therefore to be commended.

The Painters have given evidence also of their spirit of solidarity for other workers by the adoption of a resolution pledging support to the persecuted Oil Workers which was reported in last week's issue and by the adoption of a resolution demanding

amnesty for political prisoners who are suffering now in our "Democratic" jails for their devotion to the cause of labor during the war. This action by the Painters will not be forgotten in the days to come when the labor struggle becomes more intense and all who stand for the cause of labor will be called upon to show the courage of their convictions.

The resolution reads as follows:

"Whereas, The signing of the peace treaty finds in American civil and military prisons, or under bail pending trial or appeal, over 1,000 men and women whose offense is essentially of a political rather than a criminal nature; and

Prosecuted for Opinions.

"Whereas, These men and women have been prosecuted or imprisoned primarily because in advocating their beliefs or voicing their dissent they have expressed or acted upon opinions which are contrary to war-time laws; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the members assembled in regular meeting of the Painters' Local Union No. 9 of Kansas City in the United States of a body of political offenders is contrary to the democratic idealism which inspired labor to fight 'on Flanders field' and violative of the traditions of freedom to which our government is dedicated; and be it further

"Resolved, That we accordingly urge upon the President of the United States and the Secretary of War, with all the earnestness at our command, the necessity of granting an immediate amnesty to all political and labor prisoners whose religious, political or economic beliefs formed the basis of their prosecution."

## Nationalization of Women

A nearly dead story has just been revived, it seems. It is the tale of the "Nationalization of Women" in Soviet Russia. Do you believe it?

The American State Department says:

"The rumor as to the nationalization of women is not true."

(Official statement by U. S. Department of State, February 28, 1919, based upon reports of Red Cross workers and others coming from Moscow; Standard Daily Trade Service, Vol. 7, March 1919, page 318.)

The Russian Soviet Government says:

"The calumny against Soviet Russia which has had the widest circulation—the baseless lie that women have been nationalized—is the most ridiculous and absurd of them all." (Official wireless from Moscow, "Manchester Guardian," May 5, 1919.)

Mr. Jerome Davis, who spent two and a half years in Russia as Secretary of the International Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association says:

"I am absolutely certain that leaders of the Central Soviet Government, such as Mr. Lenin and Mr. Chicherin, would be absolutely opposed to anything so preposterous as the nationalization of women. I am sure every American Red Cross and Y. M. C. A. worker who knew these two leaders, will agree with me in that statement. In all my stay in Russia, I never met any one connected with the Soviet Government, with whom I talked on the subject, who was not only violently opposed to any such immoral doctrine but who did not also think it was too ridiculous a suggestion even to discuss." ("Independent," March 15, 1919.)

Catherine Breshkovsky was asked by her biographer, Miss Alice Stone Blackwell, whether the story was true: "She denied that women have been 'nationalized' or made 'common property,' or that the Government puts any compulsion upon them in matters of sex. She said to me: 'Women have more freedom in Russia now than they ever had before.'" ("Nation," March 1, 1919.)

Mr. H. V. Keeling, an Englishman who left Russia last January after five years' residence says:

"There is altogether too much nonsense and untruth printed about Bolshevism and the Soviet Government. The absurd story about the nationalization of women, for instance. I never saw or heard anything of it in Russia, and it is supposed to have taken place long before I left. It simply couldn't be true. Women there have equal political rights in all respects with men, and other countries might well learn much from Russia with regard to the position and treatment of women." ("N. Y. Evening Post," April 12th, 1919.)

"The New Europe," which printed the story last year, has made the following retractions and apology:

"We desire to withdraw unreservedly the imputation and to express our regret for the mistake." ("New Europe," March 13, 1919.)

Do you still believe it? Then we shall not argue with you.

Anyone interested in the origin of this miserable lie should read the article by Mr. Jerome Davis, "More Light on Russia," in the "Independent," March 15, 1919, in which the fantastic rumor is traced to its source. The law of the Soviet Republic governing marriage was printed in the "International Relations Supplement" of the "Nation," Dec. 28, 1918.

You are horrified at our intending to do away with private property. But in your existing society, private property is already done away with for nine-tenths of the population; its existence for the few is solely due to its non-existence in the hands of those nine-tenths. You reproach us, therefore, with intending to do away with a form of property the necessary condition for whose existence is, the non-existence of any property for the immense majority of society.

In one word, you reproach us with intending to do away with your property. Precisely so; that is just what we intend.—The Communist Manifesto.



## Ammunition

By James Waldo Fawcett

THE NEW YORK EVENING SUN has a fit and proper spasm over the news that thousands of Greeks, Italians, Czechs, Slovaks, and Portuguese laborers who came to America "to do war work" are now returning home as rapidly as possible and taking their savings with them. The Sun calls these departing guests "birds of passage" and suggests that the Federal Government should start a propaganda to persuade them to remain in the land of the "free." The American working man, never represented in the Sun, which is a Munsey paper controlled by the United States Steel Corporation, will be almost glad to see the "foreigners" depart, there will be more work for those who remain, for those who make their homes in this country and are therefore to be expected to be more concerned about the country's welfare; it is almost hopeless to try to organize transients—they come to America to make money and want to leave as soon as possible, they are not so vitally concerned with our native problems as we are or ought to be. On the other hand, these returning prodigals may, in Italy for example, come into contact with the real germs of Bolshevism and be converted by their own friends and neighbors, by those who speak their own language and understand their own psychology. Let the American Socialist say to the foreign Socialist: "We could not touch the hearts of these men; see what you can do with them."

ALABAMA has recently convicted some members of a lynching party. This is, of course, the first time this has happened in the history of that glorious state, and it may be the last time. Missouri, like Arizona, has gone back to capital punishment, after a year or two of trial of the life sentence alternative, and the defenders of hanging say they were driven to act by the increasing numbers of unofficial hangings,—lynchings; a man would be put into prison following conviction for murder; the mob, knowing that the prisoner would not be executed, took the law into their own hands and strung him up and burned his corpse. If Alabama tries to punish lynchers, the blood-thirsty promoters of such entertainment may "get" the officers and judges instead. That would be an interesting variation of the now common rule.

THE ANTHRACITE Consumers League of Pennsylvania has notified Congress that the price of coal will go up unless the price of food comes down. The people who control the price of food say that the coal people who control the price of coal can "go to Hell." Between the two the people who control nothing whatever are squeezed and choked. A nice condition of affairs! And the joke of it all is that Congress can't do anything about it. Passing laws won't affect the situation for the better; the bosses will simply find new ways of getting their profits. The only answer is Socialism, and under Socialism neither the price of coal nor the price of food will be left in the hands of private individuals. The worker, the victim of all the plute gangs, has but one hope; the hope of realized Socialism. The capitalist has many hopes, the dearest of which is that the workers will stay as far away from Socialist doctrine as possible.

IT MUST be a charming job to be Premier of the British Empire. Lloyd-George must be a busy man, and a most unhappy man. In one day's news-papers we learn that policemen and other representatives of British might in Ireland are being assassinated by the dozens; that gun running is still a popular outdoor sport in Egypt, where a bigger and broader revolt is prepared to break in the very near future; that the natives of Afghanistan are on the war path, attacking and killing British officers and robbing British trade caravans; that India is restless and incurably pledged to independence; and that South Africa is far from being a peaceful section of the British map. Revolution on all sides—the inevitable result of empire-building. The British Empire will be destroyed from the inside, and England will once more take her proper place among the small nations of the world.

## BOOKS WORTH READING

"Six Red Months in Russia"  
"Ten Days That Shook the World"  
"The Proletarian Revolution in Russia"

September Liberator now on Sale  
**PROGRESSIVE NEWS CO.**  
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**THE RICH MAN AND YOU.**  
There's a diamond stud on the rich man's shirt,  
While yours is a button shy;  
Your shabby old shoes are covered with dirt,  
His oxfords dazzle the eye.  
The rich man's hand shows a diamond ring  
And never a stain or soil  
While your hand shows not a single thing  
But the blistered signs of toil.  
The rich man is clad in a broad-cloth suit;  
Your clothes are all thread-bare;  
He rides in an auto that sure is a beauty  
You walk most everywhere.  
The rich man is wearing a fine silk hat,  
Your old slouch cap's all in;  
The rich man is jolly and round and fat,  
You're scrawny and sad and thin.  
The rich man dines at a swell cafe,  
It's a cold lunch pail for you;  
He jingles the golden coin all day,  
Your nickles are scarce and few.  
You pay for the things the rich man buys,  
As stupid as some old mule;  
The rich man is reckoned astute and wise,  
While you are classed as a fool!

## Mark Twain on War

"There has never been a just one, never an honorable one—on the part of the instigator of the war, I can see a million years ahead, and this rule will never change in so many as half a dozen instances. The loud little handful—as usual—will shout for the war. The pulpit will—warily and cautiously—object—at first, the great, big dull bulk of the nation will rub its sleepy eyes and try to make out why there should be a war; and will say, earnestly and indignantly, 'It is unjust and dishonorable, and there is no necessity for it!' Then the handful will shout louder. A few fair men on the other side will argue and reason against the war with speech and pen, and at first will have a hearing and be applauded; but it will not last long; those others will outshout them, and presently the anti-war audiences will thin out and lose popularity. Before long you will see this curious thing: the speakers stoned from the platform, and free speech strangled by hordes of furious men who in their secret hearts are still one with those stoned speakers—as earlier—but do not dare to say so. And now the whole nation—pulpit and all—will take up the war cry, and shout itself hoarse, and mob any honest man who ventures to open his mouth; and presently such mouths will cease to open. Next the statesmen will invent cheap lies, putting the blame upon the nation that is attacked, and every man will be glad of those conscience-soothing falsities and will diligently study them and refuse to examine any refutation of them; and thus he will be and by convince himself that the war is just, and will thank God for the better sleep he enjoys after this process of grotesque self-deception."

## The Iron Heel of Germany

By Madeline Doty

A few hours after my arrival in Berlin I sought out my Communist friend. She had been a close friend of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg. She was with them a few hours before their death. She fought with them for the revolution.

My heart beat violently as I stood at her front door. Was she dead or alive, or in prison? There came the sound of a step, and I knew she was there. There was the same passionate personality, with burning eyes and massive head with its shock of gray hair, the same passionate friend that drew me to her. But in her face were lines of sorrow, in her manner a selflessness, and I knew she had gone through torture.

When we could speak, my first question was:

"Where is the revolution? What has happened?" and she bowed her head. "Temporarily it is dead," she said. "We have been hounded, imprisoned and killed until there are none left to fight. I have been in prison."

**The Capitalist Republic.**  
"But," I ventured, "the world talks of a Socialist republic in Germany. She smiled grimly. 'It is a lie,' she said. 'There isn't an atom of Socialism. The monarchy has gone, a republic has come; but it is a capitalist republic—a capitalist republic that is more deadly and relentless than the monarchy.'

"At first Scheidemann spoke with the Communists. In the early days we were all together. Scheidemann saw it was the way to win the people, and the people didn't understand. They thought Scheidemann stood for Socialism, and that Socialism had come when Scheidemann was elected. But from the first his power waned. He feared Liebknecht and Luxemburg, and murdered them. Then the capitalists took heart. They saw the bourgeoisie and the peasants were with them. They got behind Scheidemann. They offered him their strength. They made him their tool. They turned the revolution of the people into a capitalistic and militaristic republic."

That evening my friend and I walked the streets of Berlin. I saw the Kaiser's palace and adjacent buildings riddled with bullets. I saw the grim young soldiers with fixed bayonets guarding every public entrance. And we came up Unter den Linden to the Thiergarten and on beyond to the big open space in front of the Reichstag, and there in the stillness of the night my friend told me her story.

"The death of Liebknecht and Luxemburg enraged the people and made them more determined than ever. We couldn't hold them back.

**The New Tyranny.**  
"When Scheidemann and Noske saw they had accomplished nothing by their murders, they turned on the people. They gave up all pretense of Socialism, all pretense of decency.

They imprisoned and killed people without any trial. In the Kaiser's time there were at least trials; there was some attempt at justice. Now there is nothing. No one is safe.

"Noske has taken the old trained and drilled militarists, the old order with the old ideas, and equipped them with hand grenades. They go out joyfully to slaughter. There is hardly one of the well-known Communists who hasn't been imprisoned or killed.

"On March 28 soldiers came to my door. Eight of them seized me. So many men for one woman. They searched my flat, turned out all my papers, but found nothing. No evidence was found against me, but they carried me off to jail.

"I was treated like a beast. I was ill with bronchitis, but they made me take a hot bath and then put me in a cell with the windows wide open, and they gave me no covers. I couldn't eat any food. For seven days and nights I never slept a wink. I grew very ill. My daughter was allowed to see me. She is a doctor in a big hospital. Through her influence I was sent to a sanitarium, and after several weeks I was allowed to come home.

"But my prison commitment says I will be arrested if I speak publicly or take part in politics.

"At present it is useless. It is not the time. The leaders are in prison or dead and the people are not yet ready for communism. The peasants must first be converted. We are making no attempt to gain control. The government knows that, but it pretends we are. It stirs up riots among the people. It does this that it may slaughter and imprison us to the last man.

### The Two Armies.

"There are two armies forming: Noske's army, with the trained and drilled militarists, the Prussians, the White army; and the army of the workers, the Red army, miserable, half fed, but filled with mad rage. Just now Noske is strong. There may come even greater reaction. A monarch might be put on the throne. But not for long, the people are awake now. They will never submit again. They will go out in their blind rage to battle, women and children as well as men. There will be bloody slaughter. The people cannot be held in check. We who might have organized, quieted, and led them, are being killed. We are helpless. When there is a spontaneous uprising of the people, we cannot leave them to destruction, and we come forward then and speak for them, and try to help them. But soon there will be none of us left. The government is bringing chaos and destruction upon Germany."

My friend ceased speaking, we turned and walked to her home. Underneath the trees in the Thiergarten ragged soldiers lurked. Crime is rife in Berlin. The next day we heard there had been two robberies and a murder in the very place where we had stood.

## "The New Moon," A Malicious Motion Picture Slander of the Women of Soviet Russia

By Mary E. Tichenor

Of the many lies put forth by the capitalist class flunkies regarding the nationalization of women in Russia, none are more contemptible, none show more clearly to what base methods these defamers of humanity will stoop, than the propaganda being spread through the motion picture industry.

The writer recently witnessed the production of a picture entitled "The New Moon," in which Norma Talmadge stars, and in which she deliberately defames her own sex by depicting alleged atrocities to which the women of Russia are said to be subjected since the overthrow of the old czarist regime. The picture purports to show how the women of the Saratoff district in Soviet Russia, by a decree of the Russian Soviet government, said decree only existing in the minds of capitalist editors—are placed at the disposal of the leaders of that government and the members of the Red Army to be outraged in any way their licentious natures desire. Norma Talmadge, if she has any intelligence whatever, knows that she is acting an infamous lie, and thereby places herself below the lowest scum of capitalist class society. If she is ignorant, and really believes that such conditions exist in Russia today, then she is not fit to be before the public; for the condition she depicts is a lie, put forth for the purpose of moulding public opinion, so as to discredit the first government to be established upon the earth whose sole purpose is to relieve the oppressed conditions of

the masses of men and women, not only of Soviet Russia but of the entire world.

If Norma Talmadge is so concerned about the alleged atrocities being perpetrated against women, why does she not look around her own country and depict, as she is most ably qualified to do, the degradation and despair to which the working women and girls of this country are forced to face? Why does she not look into the cotton mills of the south, where children are thrown into the daily struggle for existence, their souls and bodies to be ground into profits for the capitalist class whose virtues she so charmingly depicts in "The New Moon?" Why doesn't she look into the factories and stores of the industrial centers, where young girls are placed at the mercy of the base appetites of her class, the capitalist class? Why doesn't she see the horror of the capitalist system of exploitation that makes abnormal the desires which human flesh is heir to? If she has such a strong feeling for outraged womanhood, why doesn't she devote her talents seeking to abolish a social system that allows one class to live off the sweat and blood of another class, and if that class revolts uses every means at its disposal to quench the spirit of revolt. A class that resorts not only to lies, but bloodshed to perpetuate its own damnable lustful desires!

No, Norma Talmadge and the producer of that picture do not want to depict the horrors which capitalist class society produces, they want to

spread lies about the first working-class government which says, "The right to vote and to be elected to the Soviets is enjoyed by the following citizens, irrespective of religion, nationality, domicile, etc., of the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic, of both sexes, who shall have completed their eighteenth year by the day of election. All who have acquired the means of living through labor that is productive to society and also persons engaged in housekeeping which enables the former to do productive work, i. e., laborers and employers of all classes who are employed in industry, trade, agriculture, etc.; and peasants and Cossack agricultural laborers who employ no help for the making of profits." In other words, all in Russia, regardless of sex, who have reached the age of eighteen, doing useful and productive work not for profits, have a voice in the government of that country. It is probably, or even possible, that a government that gives to women the same voice in its governmental affairs that it does to men is using these women to satisfy its carnal cravings? In direct refutation of the lie that says the Bolsheviks degrades women the following proclamation was issued by the People's Commissary of Public Welfare of which a woman, Alexander Kollontay, is the head, regarding the mothers and children of Soviet Russia.

"Two million young lives every year have been sacrificed in Russia because of the darkness of the oppressed

people, because of the apathy of the Class State. Two million suffering mothers yearly have saturated Russian soil with tears, and covered with toil-worn hands the early graves of the innocent victims of the hideous social order. Human thought, which for centuries has sought a free path, has at last reached the bright age of workers' reforms, in which the mother will be safeguarded for the child, and the child for the mother. Among the conspicuous examples of their capacity, with a colossal death-rate and a horrible method of nursing the children—a method which was an insult to the sacred feelings of a helpless toiling mother, and which made of a mother-citizen a dull nursing animal. All these nightmare horrors have, fortunately, been swallowed up in the dark mists of the past since the victory of the Workers' and Peasants' Revolution.

"You, working-women, toiling mother-citizens, with your responsive hearts—you brave builders of a new social life—you ideal teachers, physicians, and nurses—all of you are called by new Soviet Russia to contribute your minds and feelings to help build the great structure of Social Welfare for future generations. All central and local institutions of the Commissariat of Public Welfare which serve the children, from the date of publication of this decree, are merged into one organization, and transferred to the supervision of the Department for Safeguarding Mothers and Children, so as to create an inseparable system, together with the institutions for the care of pregnant women, for the purpose of bringing up mentally and physically strong citizens. The Petrograd Maternity Home (formerly a private institution), with all its auxiliary branches, becomes a part of the system of 'Palaces for Safeguarding Motherhood and Infancy,' and is named, 'Palace of Infancy.' The Moscow Maternity Home becomes part of the Moscow Institute of Motherhood, and is named, 'The Moscow Institute of Infancy.'

"For the purpose of hastening the realization of the necessary reform for safeguarding childhood in Russia, a special committee has been organized in connection with the Department for Safeguarding Mothers and Children. This committee is composed of representatives of the Soviets of Workers, Soldiers and Peasants' Deputies, of workers' organizations, and of specialists in children's health and education. The following principles shall guide the work of this committee:

1. Safeguarding the mother for the child. The best milk for the child—the milk from its mother's breast.
2. Bringing up the child in the atmosphere of a widely developed Socialist community.
3. Creating for the child conditions which will lay a foundation for the development of its physical and mental strength, and for a bright understanding of life."

Is it likely that a government so concerned with the welfare of its children, whether they shall become mentally and physically strong citizens, concerned in offsetting the crimes committed against humanity by a deposed regime of heartless brutes, would degrade the women and future mothers of the race? However, capitalist society has never been known to be consistent and it is hardly to be expected that it will be so now when it sees its tyrannical thrones and swindling social systems falling to destruction, to be replaced by a system of justice and plenty for all who are willing to work and nothing for those who are not.

So go on with your lies, you paid bunkies of the capitalist class. You may shout to high heaven from pulpit, press and screen, but you cannot stem the advance of the common revolution. It comes from the country you so brazenly malign and is marching toward victory and its watchwords, Liberty, Equality and Justice, shall become a living reality.—The Melting Pot.

We are in a temper to reconstruct economic society as we were once in a temper to reconstruct political society.—Woodrow Wilson.

Don't ask for rights. Take them. An' don't let anny wan give them to ye. A right that is handed to ye f'r nawthin' has somethin' the matter with it. It's more than likely it's on'y a wrong turned inside out.—Mr. Dooley.

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## PUSHING THE WORLD

E. D. Wilcox comes to the bat again with three subs.

John Dequer says, "The Workers' World is good and getting better."

The picnic netted a profit of \$90.00 for the World.

Los Angeles sees the light. The International Book store of that city orders a weekly bundle of 15 copies.

Last Friday's mail brought a check for \$14 from Wesley Good, Secretary of the Socialist Local at St. Joseph, Mo.

The street meetings are revenue producers besides being of great educational value.

Tom Roberts never misses his weekly payment on the endowment fund.

Bessie Colleder of Detroit, sends a five spot to help the World along.

A sample copy brought a sub from R. Wright of Danbury, Ohio.

A ball will be given by the Jewish Soc. Branch on October 12 at 15th and Paseo, 20 per cent of proceeds to be divided as follows: 10 per cent for Workers' World; 5 per cent for Jewish War Sufferers; 5 per cent for Radical Workers Home. Admission 50 cents per couple.

### MEN AND MONEY.

The more compromise I read the more inveterate I become. The more reform I hear about the more revolt I listen for. I don't call the halves and quarters crooked or insincere. Neither do I call them wholes. When we claim little to begin with we get nothing to end with. When we claim everything to end with we get something to begin with. I'm never afraid people will claim too much. I always know they will claim too little. I never blame people for being too imperative. I always wonder that they are not more vehement. I'll take anything I can get. But I want all. I don't quibble with little capitalists. I want all capitalism to go. I want everybody to become indifferent about money. Only then will we have enough money. I want everybody to have enough money once for all so that everybody once for all can stop thinking about money.—Horace Traubel.

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## The People's Weekly Forum

A Socialist Paper  
Published by The Socialist Party  
of Kansas  
C. B. HARMAN, Editor  
Lawrence, Kansas



## Organization News

### NOTICE TO LEFT WING DELEGATES.

Dear Comrades:

On your arrival to Chicago you will undoubtedly be a stranger in the large city, and will not know where to go to meet your fellow Left Wing delegates, in order to know "Who is Who," and to find out the facts and real situation of the Party affairs in all quarters.

At a meeting of the Left Wing Organization Committee of Local Chicago a resolution was unanimously adopted that we invite all Left Wing delegates to meet at the Left Wing local office, the Clarion Book Shop, 204 North CLARK St., Chicago. This address is the first meeting place of all Left Wing delegates. Do not forget the place.

Yours for a good journey,

(Signed) Samuel F. Hankin,  
Secretary.  
Arthur Procter,  
William Smit.

### THE EMERGENCY CONVENTION.

When this appears, the emergency convention will be in full swing at Chicago and the fight of the factions will have come to a focus. Grave fears have been entertained for the future of the Socialist Party of America, and indeed the prospect is serious, but, after all, that organization is only a means to an end and of minor importance. Certainly, if it ceases to serve the purpose for which it was inaugurated, it is an incumbrance and deserves to go. I do not believe this point has been reached, up to this time, but that is rather aside from the question.

The organization of the Communist Party complicates the situation. It may be permanent; it may become an efficient instrument of the proletariat for accomplishing the revolution and for carrying on the social order into which the present one is already passing; but the actions and general make-up of certain promoters of the new party do not give good reason to think that this is the case. Because they have taken a name that appeals to us all may indicate shrewdness, but nothing else.

The organization of the Communist Party, furthermore, might be taken as evidence that the Left Wing does not know what it wants, and it lends color to the charge of the old N. E. C., that the Left Wing is inherently a destructive and not a constructive force in the revolutionary movement. "They fought the Socialist Party, and as soon as most of them were out of it, they proceeded to fight each other," shouts the conservative element gleefully and with considerable truth.

It is up to us, who favor the taking of a revolutionary attitude, to acquire the quality of self-control, if we do not have it now, to endeavor to compromise when essential principles are not at stake, to put aside animosities arising through personal dislikes and secret, selfish ambitions. Personal opinions are of vastly less importance than principles. Natural inclinations are not to be considered in the councils of the working class.

Given the will to do and the knowledge of how to do, and strict attention thereto, and the interests of the working class are safe against attack from without and within. Of this will and knowledge we must be sure.

The Socialists of Nebraska not only have a right to be interested, but should be interested in the conduct of their representatives at the convention. Plans cannot be given in detail; unlooked-for developments may justify important modifications. In behalf of the Nebraska delegation, however, I can assure the comrades that their confidence has not been misplaced, that its attitude will be consistent at all times with the revolutionary principles remaking all maps and remolding all destinies.—Edward Rutledge.

Shorty Buehler, the lightning calculator of the picnic committee has already closed up the accounts and turned in the surplus to the Workers' World. The report shows receipts of \$161.93 and expenses of \$69.93, leaving a net profit for the paper of \$92.00.

"Capitalist lies, invented by Press and Pictures" will be the subject of the open-air meeting on Friday evening at the "People's University," 12th and Oak Streets.

Mother Bloor will speak at the Square in Independence on Saturday afternoon at 2:30. The subject of the lecture will be "The High Cost of Living; its cause and cure." The subscribers of the World in the vicinity of Independence should pass the word around among their friends and neighbors.

The Workers' Educational League will hold a special meeting next Sunday evening at Bookbinders' Hall, 12th and Oak. Make it a point to be there

as matters of special importance will come up for discussion and action.

On Saturday evening Comrade Bloor went to Leavenworth, accompanied by a committee from the Socialist Party, where she held one of the most interesting meetings of the entire open-air season. Soldiers listened attentively. Farmers, lawyers and even the special policemen, besides the large number of working men who heard her had to admit as a soldier put it, "the lady sure told the truth."

Friday night's meeting at 12th and Oak brought out the largest crowd yet to hear the talk about "Soviet Russia." Comrade Bloor's graphic recital of the colossal achievements of the only real Democracy in the world and her bitter denunciation of the lies and slanders which are circulated by the Capitalist press, pulpits and motion pictures, were received with the warmest applause by the audience of workmen who made no secret of the fact that they are Pro-Bolshevik.

### NEBRASKA NOTES.

A class for the study of economics has been organized under the direction of Comrade John Davis. Already a number have joined, and others are planning to do so. The selection of "Wage, Labor and Capital," "Value, Price and Profit," and "Class Struggles in America" as textbooks shows the character of the instruction to be given and insures study along the lines laid down by Karl Marx and other authorities.

The class meets every Friday evening at Socialist Hall, Twenty-first and Cuming Streets. All are wanted who want to study and who are willing to co-operate with Comrade Davis and the class in bringing to light everything worth while in the subject to be studied.

None of us know so much that we cannot be benefited by the class. All of us are hazy on something that may be more clear after it has been discussed. To do things, we need to learn things, and to be sure of that which we already know. Here is an opportunity.

Word comes of the rapid organization in Omaha of cooks, waiters and waitresses in the Omaha Cooks' Association, an organization unaffiliated with the American Federation of Labor. Over 125 joined the union last week, according to Secretary William Mehrens, who is also a member of the Socialist Party.

Several of the Jewish comrades are attending the emergency convention.

## Mexico

Are we for war with Mexico? Not much.

Let American and other foreign capitalists liquidate their investments in Mexico as best they can. If they must lose, then let them lose.

These investments were not of our making. We were not consulted—our government was not consulted.

Our financiers unpatriotically invested good American money—not at home to benefit their country and our country, but in Mexico to enrich themselves.

We remember what Lincoln said about that other Mexican war.

Besides there is Cuba, Porto Rico, the Philippines, Hawaii—we have violated American ideals in our dealings with each and all of these. The people of these islands seem no longer to care for us.

Government by consent of the governed—that is the American way. We must live up to our ideals.

Theodore Roosevelt said that he "took the Panama Canal from Colombia and talked about it afterward." Now we are forced shamefully to admit this steal by paying Colombia \$25,000,000.

We have enough black pages in our history.

We want no long-spun theories as to why we should go to war with Mexico.

Let our financiers get out of Mexico. "But," they say, "we will lose our money and our property!"

Probably they will.

But what of it?

Will the American people not lose money if we go to war with Mexico?

There's got to be an end to this war business—somewhere—sometime.

It is easy for gentlemen sitting in swivel-chairs to agitate war, and then, when war comes, perch themselves safely in the rear and watch the hideous business—like sports around a cock-pit or a bullring.

We've had about enough of this business of war.—Soldiers-Sailors-Marines.

Sympathy with revolutions in foreign lands is commendable; but there is house-cleaning to be done at home.—The Public.

## Before the Dawn

By Edward Rutledge.

The night seems dark, Oppression's might has bound  
The sons of Freedom as with heavy chains;  
The truth, proclaimed unto the world, has found  
Naught but defilement by Greed's filthy stains.

Those who were quick to bid their kind be glad,  
The bowed and blind to stand erect and see  
A new world fine and strong as if it had  
Forever been and nothing else could be—

These have been spat upon and scorned and met  
With calculating malice fiends might feel;  
Scant be the signs of promise bright, and yet,  
The vision vast is sound and will be real.

The front of shining brass, but feet of clay,  
Belong to Mammon even in his pride;  
Just retribution is upon its way,  
And by tomorrow's dawn he shall have died.

The jailers and the dungeons and the locks  
Will pass away, a nightmare's brief alarm,  
The cold contempt that at our knowledge mocks  
Will be no more and no more do us harm.

The change will come—but not by craven peace,  
The brave will not be they that kneel and plead;  
Till we prevail, we workers must not cease  
To carry on our war in word and deed.

Before us are the foe in pomp arrayed,  
And lying lips and hate-filled hearts are there;  
They hope to see our resolution fade,  
Our burdens be too much for us to bear.

The stealthy prowler and the skulking thief,  
The erring one who plies her trade by night,  
The mean and low and vile beyond belief,  
Near saintly seem beside the foe we fight.

Their faults are great, but greater is their need,  
For liberty they would not sound a knell,  
They have not made the hearts of millions bleed,  
They have not turned the earth into a hell.

Let fear and scruples vanish with the weak  
And every movement be toward the goal;  
Let no one stop short of the boon we seek,  
And least of all for safety sell his soul.

The right is that which makes us wise and strong,  
The wrong is that which keeps us where we are:  
By this, our code, contend we hard and long,  
And by it is our banner carried far.

The night seems dark—for it is almost past,  
The gloom will go before the morning sun,  
The hope of hopes be realized at last,  
The faith be kept, the good fight fought and won.

## The Red Dawn

By John Dequer.

Yes, something good can come out of Nazareth. I know it, and before I get through with this little article you will cease being a Presbyterian and become an Economic Universalist.

I spoke at a Wobbly meeting last Sunday night and the chairman had the crowd singing that good old hymn "Solidarity." He had every member of the I. W. W. sing it and then every member of the Socialist Party. They each made a respectable showing and he then called on the Bolsheviks to sing it. The hall fairly resounded with enthusiastic voices. Bolshevism is the catalyzer that fuses all the radical elements into one. It is the great red dawn that illumines the political east and floods the world with the hope of Justice.

It not only forms a basis on which Wobbly and Left Winger meet—but it goes deeper and farther. I was at a Mooney meeting the other day where Mooney was mentioned but incidentally, while every allusion to the establishment of a Soviet System was applauded. Of course, I did not notice the conduct of such men as Gompers, Germer or Berger, as I had no time for little things. I was more interested in the spirit of the mass. The mass was with Mooney, with Debs, with all the boys now suffering under the iron heel of Democracy (for have we not made the world safe for Democracy?) but they were really united in their approval of the inauguration of that greater freedom.—Industrial Democracy, without which there can be no freedom but the freedom of the exploit. And where exploitation exists there can be no freedom even for the exploiter.

The people begin to feel that exploitation must be done away with if civilization is to be anything more than a tragic joke. What I observed at the Mooney meeting was also evident at the Sunday night meeting. So we see that the spirit of the Soviet is beginning to animate the A. F. of L. while it quickens into virile life the radical organizations all over the country.

At the close of the meeting, a Jewish worker spoke to me, and in the course of his conversation he said, "The World combined against the Jews; they destroyed their Government but not their institutions. Yet the Jews were but a handful in comparison with the hundred millions of Soviet-loyal Russians. They may therefore break the Soviet Government, but they can only scatter the Soviet Spirit." He is right. The Soviet spirit is imperishable; it is the life principle and cannot be killed. "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church"—and so it is in this instance: the more the Allied imperialists attack Russia, the more it will be defended—and the faster will its principles spread.

TO MARJORIE.—AUG. 14, 1919.  
The morn was cool; thin sheets of quiet rain,  
Bestirring budding life, came in the room  
Where you, my sweetheart, lay with ripened womb  
Serenely calm throughout your labor-pain.

And when you bore our daughter without stain  
Or mar or blemish—perfect little bloom—  
Forever banish from our lives was gloom:  
We knew the harmony of Love's refrain.

Two years have past—two golden happy years,  
And Marjorie, fair, tender scion, grows Apace.  
O Future, may there be no pause  
In her upspringing; may she have no fears  
To wage incessant war 'gainst Labor's foes  
And spread the propaganda of the Cause.

—RAYMOND I. MOORE.  
But if men would live up to reason's rules, they would not bow and scrape to wealthy fools.—Lucretius.

## Bread and Water

You were my precious war-dogs;  
And to serve my own ends,  
I once patronized you,  
As my brave "Hero-boys."

Well did you do your share;  
Even you did not grumble—  
The bitter life in bloody trenches  
Altho often starved, and frozen  
In camps here  
And also "Over There."

I called you my "crusaders—"  
You courageously faced the battle fields

Either to be killed,  
Or to kill men,  
With your own weapons,  
Who never did you any harm.  
And you did it all  
With the highest ideals  
To make My World  
"Safe for Democracy."

But to your misfortune,  
You, careless boys, broke My Laws.  
I have given you Justice  
Branding you for life  
As criminals.

You must spend your days,  
Within the bars  
Of my glorious prison cells,  
The citadel of Law and Order.

Also I have decreed—  
Must you work on rock-piles  
And shovel coal in burning sun;  
Must you toil  
From morning till night  
To earn your prison meals.

This is your due share—  
Punishment is meted out,  
With the spirit  
Of Justice and Benevolence.

Yet, dare you disobey my orders,  
Dare you ask for Freedom,  
Dare you demand Amnesty,  
Dare you ask for humane treatment!

The audacity—  
Asking for better food and less work!  
Dare you ignore  
My sacred discipline,  
Dare you show  
Your nasty Spirit of Revolt  
And refuse to work  
While in prison!

Now then, there is  
Stern and exacting Justice for you.  
You must stay locked up,  
Day and night, in dungeons.  
Sleep on bare cement floor.  
And the supreme reward is  
You will be fed.  
But once a day,  
Only on Bread and Water!

"My brave American heroes,"  
I have branded you  
As desperate criminals;  
So you must live on  
Crumbs of Bread  
And pints of Water.  
Remember, you are thankful  
For Bread and Water.

My Boys,  
Many of you volunteered,  
The others were conscripted  
For my war for Democracy.  
Now as the war is over,  
Comfort yourselves—  
That you will be fed  
With Bread and Water.

Boys, this is my solemn warning—  
At once quit your foolish striking.  
Go to your prison toils,  
Like obedient slaves.  
Never take chances in anything—  
You know—a nineteen year old boy  
Was shot dead the other day,  
Within My prison walls;  
There are already many wounded  
Lying in hospital;  
Fifteen hundred soldiers  
Are now at my beck and call.  
If you ever start anything,  
There will be some shooting—  
And then to be merciful to you,  
I shall lock you up in cells  
And serve you  
Bread and Water.

Bhabataran.

## Praise vs. Pork Chops

Editor Cease of the Railroad Trainman official magazine of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, declares that railroad employes are willing to trade words of praise received during the war for pork chops. He says:

"We have had our fill of generalities and kind words of what a mighty factor we were in winning the war. They pay for no pork chops. And, besides, we have a suspicion that they are all true. What we want now is time and one-half for overtime and a wage that will let us earn enough in six eight-hour days to live well and comfortably for seven 24-hour days. "We stand ready to swap all the nice things that may be said of us for the things we need."

It is not with armies but with ideas that we will conquer the world.—Nicolai Lenin.

## Working Class Ignorance

Here's a sample of working class ignorance in Omaha. The Alamito dairy drivers are striking for more pay. The price of milk has been raised twice within a very recent period but the pay of the drivers has remained stationary. A representative of the company stated to the writer that he bought all the milk for the company and paid the farmer 3½ cents a quart for it; the consumer pays 16 and 17 cents a quart, according to grade.

This same representative, formerly a driver but now a sucker for the bosses because he receives, according to his own word, \$200 a month, is scabbing; he is driving the wagon of a striking man. A lecture on his place in the working class movement made him merely uncomfortable but unconvicted. He was told by one of the customers, whom he attempted to serve that it was his kind that made revolutions and that the revolters would not wait to argue with him then because it would be too late but that he had better hide because he would be kicked out of the way underfoot as so much detriment in the way of an awakened proletariat.

The customer then went to several neighbors, explained the strike to them, showed the justice of it and asked them to buy from some other dairy during the strike as a protest. These women were all the wives of laboring men and the answer of one, the wife of a teamster who recently took part in a losing strike, is indicative of all of them. "I don't care about the strike, milk is milk to me, and I can't be bothered getting my milk somewhere else." This woman has no baby dependent upon any particular grade or brand, simply buys for household use, she continually grumbles about the difference between her husband's wages and the grocery bill and hounded him perpetually while he was on strike to get another job.

How can we make men see and do the best when their ignorant wives at home are millstones around their necks. No woman can afford to be so ignorant and we cannot afford to neglect such ignorance. Neither can we fail to use this as an opportunity to show that under Socialism there would be no string of profit takers between the farmer and the consumer to make such a difference as 3½ cents and 17 cents a quart for milk. Here is the secret of the high cost of living.  
Mildred E. Kern.

### INTERNATIONALISM.

"National hatred is quite a peculiar thing. You will always find it strongest and fiercest in the lowest stages of culture. But there is always a stage where it entirely disappears, where one stands to some extent above the nations, and sympathizes with the weal or woe of a neighbor people as with that of one's own."—Goethe.

To attain Success for the Working Class Necessitates an Organization!

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# Editorial Page of the Workers' World

## The Workers' World.

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Kansas City, Mo., Friday August 29, 1919.

### WILSON'S FOUR CENTS.

Let us hope that the same unkind fate that befell the fourteen points of our White House word juggler will also befall this latest proposal of a four cent raise for the railroad workers. If the recent revolt of the shopmen is a fair sign of their temper, they will not hesitate long in casting this four cent proposition aside without consideration. Having demonstrated by the mere beginning of a strike that they possess the power to compel the adjournment of all other business while their demands are before the house, the organized railroad workers are not going to be put aside with fair words and four cents. Big increases will be needed to satisfy them for the time. Besides that they require a share in the control of the industry. Hot air will no longer suffice—they want the goods.

The railroad men are beginning to overcome that foolish modesty that has so long enslaved them and others of their class. Extreme as their present demands appear to those who think it is the destiny of the workers to slave and breed and die, they are but a fair beginning of the demands that are soon to come. All of the products of labor belong to the workers and the control of those products, also, as well as all the industrial and political processes involved in the making and control of them. To demand the whole works would be a fair demand. To ask for less is a confession of weakness only, not proof that less is going to satisfy them for long. This weakness will be overcome by more intensive organization and by the development of the class spirit. These requirements are being realized by the discontent which arises from the manifest incompetence of capitalist management of Society and the spread of the idea, aided by the example of Russia, that the workers are qualified to rule.

The working class moves forward at an ever increasing pace. Wilson's effort to halt the march with his four penny proposition will have about as much effect as his fourteen points at the peace table. That is to say, nothing.

### WHY WE ARE POOR.

The principal topic of discussion both on the part of the capitalist press and the worker is the high cost of living but there is this difference in the motive of each; the controllers of that daily press that for years has fooled many of us into believing that it honestly and genuinely championed "the poor working man" KNOW what causes the high cost of living and the workers, except in a very small minority, do not.

The ignorance of the working class is appalling—the worker creates, produces and distributes but ask any worker at random what the value of the article which he creates is and see how little he knows about it. He may be able to tell you the PRICE for which his employer sells it or what it would cost that same worker to buy it in the open market but when you tell him that value and price bear no relation to each other he is all at sea and duds you some kind of crank who wants to bother him or, worse yet, you may be one of those horrid Socialists that the boss and his newspaper and his Sunday school teacher have warned him against.

He doesn't seem to know that his schools and churches and newspapers are dominated and owned by those who wax fat off of his labor and see to it that no such thing as value is ever taught in his school. He doesn't know that he is taught only such

history and economics as will train his mind to be a worker, a producer and an obedient one at that; in fact obedience is the first and principal thing that is taught to him. Obedience is all right in its place but to whom or what shall the worker be obedient? Whom shall he accept for his master? If he shows an inclination to wander from the path of obedience selected for him and a tendency to obey an humanitarian impulse crops out he is immediately told that such ideas lead to restlessness and discontent and anarchy and even Socialism and that he is in a dangerous frame of mind. Yes, dangerous; but only to his master, but they don't tell him that part. He is taught to produce for the profiteer and never to question the why of such things as the difference in the cost of production of the necessities of life and the selling price; he is not told that profit is the root of all the economic and moral evils that befall him. He is not taught any working class history.

The working class has been and is yet too stupid to know much about the value of an article, its price and the profit entailed. Most of them believe that we need all three of these when just a little, oh how little, thought will convince him that we need only the first. His indifference is costing him dearly.

We are not poor because milk and meat and shoes and car fare and rent goes up in price; we are poor because we don't know the difference between value, price and profit. We are poor because we are content to work twice as long each day as we need to produce four times as much goods as can be used immediately so that the boss may glut the market, pit the workers against each other for jobs and then sell back to them the very necessities, which they created, at an enormous advance in price, NOT VALUE, so that with the profit he may winter at Palm Beach and summer at the Great Lakes and own a string of motor cars and a staff of house servants and erect a statue in the park or give fifty dollars to the free ice fund. He toils not, neither does he spin. And why should he? He has plenty of dubs whose brains are so ossified that they think he is a benefactor to allow them to create valuable articles for him to which he attaches a price and pockets the profit. No wonder he turns machine guns on them when they strike and ask for just a little more of what they created, or shorter hours. He KNOWS that they DON'T KNOW any real reason for their demands except that they are hungry or tired. How dare any slave who willingly stultified his brain enough to consent to work for just enough to eat and sufficient to keep from being arrested for indecent exposure, suddenly put on airs and want as much as his master? We shoot dogs when they go mad, don't we? Even though that dog was formerly docile and obedient, when it reaches the point where it gets beyond our control and is dangerous to our well being we shoot it. Well, why shouldn't a factory owner shoot his slaves when they become dangerous to his well being? You wouldn't expect him to go to work, would you? And you would not expect him to give you the value of what you created, would you? If he did that then he and his family would have to eat steak and onions for supper instead of chicken and frogs legs and his wife might actually have to make her bed herself and his daughter could not give any more dog parties and monkey dinners; in fact, you would ask him to forego his motor cars and have only one and that you also should have one.

If you became so enlightened as to ask him this much by that time you would be using your brains enough to TELL him that he who does not work shall not eat and that you really don't need him nor his machinery any more for the machinery is to be owned by the community—by the workers, if you please, for this is what gives him the power over you. HE OWNS THE MACHINERY OF PRODUCTION. And he does so because the workers who built that machinery, instead of building it for themselves were born slaves and didn't know that they could become free men. But a wise man sometimes changes his mind and a fool never and you may possibly change your mind about believing that you need the boss to portion out jobs or that any thing should be sold at a profit. Be careful, however, about such ideas, because they are socialistic, the socialist philosophy of Karl Marx is purely a communistic one and teaches that what is socially used should and must be socially owned. Not for the benefit of

the few and certainly NOT FOR PROFIT, but only for use.

It is the profit system that keeps us poor and ignorant and sick and stunted. The boss, too, could become really human under a communistic system. That system we cannot have until the workers become class conscious. Conscious that they belong to the class that produces the wealth of the world and that they hand it over to the class that does not produce but uses its brains to concoct false arguments for the workers undoing. The worker who does not see that there is nothing in common between the employer and the employee is a traitor to his class. The employer sees to it that he remains thus by dividing him on national, religious and political antagonisms. If you are a producer or a distributor or a wage earner in any line, you belong to the working class and the sooner you realize it the better.

—Mildred E. Kern.

### PATCHWORK.

(By Scott Nearing.)

The Democratic Administration at Washington has jumped upon the High Cost of Living with both feet. The Democratic leaders have discovered that high prices "are the talk of every domestic circle and of every group of casual acquaintances even." The situation called for action, hence the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Justice, and finally the President, have turned their undivided attention to the problem of bringing prices down.

The experience of the Democratic Party with this issue has been unfortunate. The Campaign Book of 1912, when Mr. Wilson was first elected to the Presidency, promised an immediate reduction in the cost of living. A Democratic Congress passed tariff, monetary and industrial reform legislation, such as Mr. Wilson demanded. After six years of experience with Democratic remedies for high living costs, the country finds that prices have increased a little less than one hundred per cent.

Why? The answer is immediately given—"The War."

Is that the real reason? If it were, why should prices have risen rapidly between 1896 and 1901 or between 1905 and 1910? That was before the war, yet the issue was attracting universal attention then as it is today.

The Democratic Administration is face to face with an economic problem, not a question of war and peace. The League of Nations will not be able to reduce prices.

Under the present economic system, the man who works receives, in wages or salary, only a part of what he creates in product. The remainder goes, in the form of rent, interest and dividends to the capitalist. Therefore the worker must find the cost of living high. The more capitalists he supports upon the product of his labor, the higher will the cost of living be for him. The Income Tax figures for the latest year, 1917, show \$4,469,901,354 paid to less than five per cent of the adult population, as rent, interest and dividends. While this charge remains on industry, the cost of living to the plain man will be high.

An examination of the figures covering the increases in prices during recent years will show that it is not the products of the great trusts that have increased most rapidly in price. Food products have led all of the others in the rapidity of their rise, and if there is one field where the process of supply and demand is still free it is agriculture.

The most essential fact about the present situation is that the workers of the United States are carrying on their backs an immensely heavy load of economic parasites. The cost of keeping these parasites alive and happy is charged directly against the products created by those who work. No attack on the High Cost of Living that ignores this essential fact has a ghost of a chance to achieve more than the most superficial and insignificant results.

The Democratic Administration is trying to put new cloth upon an old, threadbare garment. The result is bound to be patchwork.

The disclosures of the cruelties and brutalities of the prison camps in France puts a little crimp into the talk about the "spiritualizing effects of war."

## VIEWS, REVIEWS AND INTERVIEWS.

By Ralph Cheyney

"But that morning shall break  
When the Sleeper in thy fires awakens,  
But that morning shall break  
When thy giant slaves rises and deals  
with thee. . . .  
With a shrug of his shoulders, those  
flies, his masters, shall drop,  
With a stroke of his terrible fist he  
shall clean out the mills,  
He shall seize the machines, bestriding  
the engines that rode him. . . .  
When that morning breaks  
The Sun of Labor in splendor  
Shall illumine a new world,  
When that morning breaks  
This Giant shall call to the Giants  
And the Nations be one. . . .  
When that morning of glory breaks  
The Earth's hosts arisen  
Shall be streaming with light. . . .  
Song shall burst from their lips,  
And flame out of darkness. . . .  
Song shall leap from their lips,  
And the glory  
Be given to Man for his marring, his  
making, his death or his life."

So ends the dramatic and dynamic, vivid and vigorous chant, "The Fires of Pittsburgh" from James Oppenheim's latest book of poetry, "The Solitary," published by Benjamin Huebsch, N. Y. C., (\$1.25). This is a distinct advance over Oppenheim's previous books of poetry, profound and poignant, prophetic and psychologically sound, as they were. It is, furthermore, an advance in two directions. (I don't see how a person or a book can advance in two directions at once; but I am too tired at present to worry about figures of speech.) It is at once more spirited and more beautiful, and it is this without losing any of the social vision or pungency or personal appeal that are so characteristic of "Songs for the New Age," "War and Laughter," and "The Book of Self." Aikens has accused Oppenheim of being engrossed in purely personal problems and being interested in propaganda rather than poetry, yet in this book there is more sheer impersonal beauty than there is in all that Aiken or almost any other contemporary poet has ever written. There are many passages that actually suggest Bodenheim and others that are reminiscent of Carl Sandburg yet one could not accuse Oppenheim of plagiarism.

Alter Brody's "Family Album" and Jean Starr Untermeyer's "Growing Pains" and Lola Ridge's "Ghetto" are other books of poetry of social significance and veritable beauty recently published by Mr. Huebsch, who is a real radical and a publisher to whom all radicals should be grateful for giving us books that help toward the enlightenment and liberation of Labor. According to my effort-saving custom, I shall quote bits of this book of Oppenheim's instead of commenting upon it further. Here is part of the end of a splendid, stirring psalm entitled, "Song of the Uprising":

"We raise a torch of Revolution . . .  
We bring forth the people out of their  
darkness . . .  
And the nations out of their wrath . . .  
We behold the Earth in parturition . . .  
We see the Mother in birth-throes . . .  
We greet the child with calls of welcome  
and the sound of cities of  
joy . . .  
O, blow you bugles, with triumph,  
O, shout you peoples, with victory . . .  
Hurl down the mighty from their  
seats,  
And raise yourselves to freedom . . ."

One of the finest and freshest poems in this volume, the rhapsodic tribute to Debs, was given in full in this journal a few weeks ago. Here is a picture a la Bodenheim from "Nocturn":

"The city holds up her chimneys like  
rain-barrels to catch moonlight,  
The ocean drinks silver  
To bathe in a pale tinge of green her  
ships and fishes,  
A woman leans from a window  
And is a silver shower  
On my heart beneath."

Here is one from "Summer Night" which strongly suggests Sandburg:

"Down South's singing: Darkies,  
Roll dem cotton bales . . ."  
"Tennessee's ketching de Memphis  
blues . . ."  
"And a moon on the Mississippi  
Is as sheer love-mad  
As a moon on Lake Michigan . . ."  
Lincoln Park is silver-washed with  
lake ripples:  
Every dark spot is a nest for two cool,  
aching bodies . . .  
(I remember you Chicago girl,  
And the blue electric lights on your  
blue eyes . . .)

### "AMERICANA"

(Compiled by E. R. Bloor.)

"Whoever would overturn the liberty of the Nation must begin by subduing freedom of speech."

Frank R. Shilladay, Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored Race was mobbed, and severely, in a Southern town where he went to inquire why they were lynching men just because they happened to have black skins.

### "DO YOU KNOW?"

An investigation into the sale of liquor in Kansas City by Government officials disclosed the fact that twenty-five immoral houses were known to be in open operation in the district east of Main Street, south of Independence Avenue, north of Twelfth Street, and east as far as Brooklyn Avenue.—K. C. Star.

### "SELF DETERMINATION."

Washington, Aug. 21.—The movement for the independence of the Philippines is dead as far as the present Congress is concerned.—K. C. Star.

### SOLVING THE H C OF L.

J. Z. MILLER, JR., governor of the Federal Reserve Bank—The cost of high living, rather than the high cost of living, is largely responsible for the present situation. When extravagance ceases, conditions will improve.

D. M. PINKERTON, president of the Gate City National Bank—Too much war, causing a scarcity of men and material and broadening the demands of those remaining at home.

WILLIAM HUTTIG, president of the National Reserve Bank—Conditions are excellent. Let prices remain as they are and all will be prosperous and happy.

Wonderful wisdom for the workers who pay Beef Trust prices for meat, eggs and oleo. "When extravagance ceases, conditions will improve." Here's another gem:

JUDGE RALPH S. LATSHAW, criminal court—Post-war conditions are the chief causes for present day prices. Business has been pent up, and the "war-is-over" spirit has released it. Consequently the unheard-of costs of commodities.

### Song of the Soviets

(By Harry Tichenor.)

We are singing all around the world,  
In chorus glad and strong;  
We bring clear tidings to the slaves;  
We sing the Commune Song—  
The Song of Labor, Love and Peace;  
The Song of Home, Sweet Home;  
9. Workers World Bill Bertram  
The Song that wipes the tears away  
And banishes the gloom!

No longer shall the land be cursed  
By profiteering brutes;  
The working class shall take the earth  
And gather all its fruits;  
The robber class shall pass away,  
And all their idols fall;  
The workers' world shall win the  
day—  
Shall hear the Commune call!

No wolf of want shall haunt the home  
In the coming Commune Land,  
And caste and war shall be no more  
When we clasp the Soviet hand.  
For mother's sake and baby's sake,  
For love of old and young;  
The Song we sing is the sweetest song  
That the lowly ever sung!

Come with us, brothers, heed the call  
And haste the day along;  
Sing with us all around the world  
The Soviets' Commune Song!  
The Song of Labor, Love and Peace,  
The Song of Home, Sweet Home;  
The Song that wipes the tears away  
And banishes the gloom!

In France, we have, at this moment,  
a dictatorship of the past. We proclaim to the world that we will put in place of the dictatorship of the deputies of a dead age, the dictatorship of the oppressed masses.—Charles Rap-  
port.

The exercise of equity for one day is equal to sixty years spent in prayer.  
—Arabian proverb, sixteenth century.