

X RAYS

By JOHN M. WORK.

THE Roosevelt volcano has had another eruption. Fire and smoke and great gawbs of molten matter were belched forth and the inhabitants for miles around were scared to death.

Joking aside, Mr. Roosevelt's recent speech was heralded as probably the greatest effort of his life. It is safe to assume that he gave it studied preparation. Therefore, if there is any valid argument in support of his views, he would have been likely to make use of it in that speech.

"THIS great struggle is fundamentally a struggle for the fundamentals of civilization and democracy."

This statement is the direct opposite of the truth. It is altogether possible that some of the effects of the war will be advantageous to democracy. But, if so, it will be merely incidental. It will be against the desire of those who have forced the war upon us against our will.

The object of the war is commercial supremacy. It is a dollar war, pure and simple. But a war cannot be made popular by calling it a dollar war. In order to make it popular, it is necessary to make a hypocritical pretense that there is a great principle back of it.

I hope the war may put an end to kaiserism, but that is not the object. I am glad the war put an end to czarism, at least temporarily and I hope permanently, but that was not the object on either side. It was one of the unforeseen incidental effects.

What is more important, however, is the fact that any democracy worthy of the name must include industrial democracy. None of the nations involved in the war have even political democracy, much less industrial democracy.

On the contrary, they are strenuously opposed to it. They oppose Socialism at every turn. The same is true of all of our allies.

Furthermore, none of them have even political democracy. Concerning England, not to mention her treatment of Ireland, or any of the other minus features, just before the war broke out England was forcibly feeding suffrage women, with the utmost diendishness and brutality, because they wanted popular government in England.

And how about the United States? Do we have popular government in this country? We have the shadow of political democracy, but not its reality. We have one man rule and secret diplomacy in our foreign relations.

Does this look like political democracy? Each of these items needs an entire article devoted to it. I will probably take up some of them in future articles.

"A GOOD rule to remember is never to hit if it is possible to avoid it; but above all things never hit soft."

It takes it for granted that it was not possible for us to avoid hitting. At another point he speaks about Americans having been killed, on the high seas, but says nothing about the commercial greed of our capitalists, which caused it.

Our children will have to read the history of what we have done during this war. Unfortunately, yes. I do not know of any way in which we can prevent it. I am in favor of putting it in the hands of our children.

But, let us hope that the histories will also contain an account of the fact that the Socialists took a courageous stand against warring for commercial supremacy. Let them know that we Socialists stood for genuine democracy, both political and industrial.

Hyndman Writes On Need For British Republic

EDITOR'S NOTE.—The Russian revolution and the prospect of the immediate establishment of a Russian republic, has given rise to an enthusiastic discussion of a republican form of Government in England.

"Why not a United States of Great Britain and the Colonies?" "Why not a British Republic?"

Our Royal Family has never been anything more than a convenient semi-monarchical compromise with men and women of German origin, continuously fortified by German intermarriage. The drawbacks to the whole arrangement have, thruout, been many and great: the advantages, nowadays, are very difficult to describe.

No Enthusiasm For Monarchy. Happily, it would be very easy to establish a British Republic, if the present Royalties were handsomely dealt with. There is no enthusiasm whatever for Monarchy as Monarchy in the United Kingdom to-day: there will probably be less than no enthusiasm to-morrow.

But this is no mere theoretic statement. Nothing short of a Republic of a completely democratic character can give a safe and constitutional outlet to the economic and social demands of our people: can effectively organize the Federated Labor and Socialist Commonwealths of Great Britain and the Colonies; can beneficially relieve these United Commonwealths from the incubus of Indian misrule; or can bring us into line with our real Allies in foreign affairs—the Sister Republics of other countries.

Sunday night saw our young comrades, a hundred strong, taking complete charge of the detail work at the two big meetings held in the Odeon Theatre. They served as ushers, for every seat in the house was sold in advance, and took up a collection, pledge cards and applications for membership. Just about in the middle of things they all marched, arm in arm, down the centre aisle of the big house and let loose their Yipsel yells. The girls were dressed in costumes of all nations, and on the whole, they were the hit of the show.

Wants Democratic Republic. I advocate the immediate recognition of a democratic, not a plutocratic, Republic of Great Britain, as an indispensable step towards our national emancipation. Monarchy, aristocracy, plutocracy, if maintained in the coming time, must lead to sheer anarchy. The wholesale imbecility and worse displayed by ALL of these in war cannot be regarded as any qualification for conducting reorganization in peace.

Nearing Continues Fight. Altho the Board of Trustees, taking advantage of the absence of some of its members who are friendly to the fighting professor, decided not to re-employ him by a vote of 4 to 3, while at the same time increasing the pay of every other member of the faculty, the matter is not yet closed.

POT ROAST IS PATRIOTIC. Practically every restaurant and lunch room along West Madison St., Chicago, has had a job for a show card writer during the past week. They have been busy changing the name of that good old staple dish "German Pot Roast and Mash" to a more patriotic "American Pot Roast".

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"The Quick And The Dead"



HERE IS a caricature of the two conventions recently held at St. Louis, Mo., that of the Socialist Party and the Progressive Party, that appeared in one of the local daily papers.

These conventions were held on the same floor at the Planters Hotel and the artist seems to have gotten the basic idea that the Socialists are a live, fighting bunch, while the Progressives are indulging in a Rip van Winkle sleep. This cartoon made a hit with all of the delegates that saw it and we reproduce it here by request.

Activity of Young Hopeful Sign of Socialist Advance. One of the most hopeful signs of the Socialist Party's progress is shown in the activity of the Young People's Socialist League of the recent National Convention.

Make Hit At Big Meeting. Saturday night saw our young comrades, a hundred strong, taking complete charge of the detail work at the two big meetings held in the Odeon Theatre.

Triumph For Young People. Besides these two committees I appeared before the Constitution Committee and asked them to insert a recommendation to give the Y. P. S. L. fraternal representation at all Conventions and State Secretaries' Conferences on the same basis accorded to the Foreign Language Federations.

MILLION ATTEND FUNERAL OF RUSSIAN REVOLUTION'S DEAD. A national public funeral was accorded to 180 of those who fell in Petrograd during the short struggle for the overthrow of the Romanoffs. They were buried in a "Brothers' grave" in the Marsvoev Pole, not far from the Neva, opposite the fortress of St. Peter and St. Paul.

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Protect People Not Aim Of National Defense Body

WASHINGTON.—We are at war. We have a Council of National Defense, charged with the duty of taking steps to protect the nation and its people.

Why does not this Council whose powers are almost unlimited, at once seize the transportation facilities and run them in the interest of the people? Why are the railroads still left in private hands, begging for higher rates, and why are the telephone and telegraph systems also left in private hands?

The answer is simple: They have their own men on the Council of National Defense! Their names are: Walter S. Gifford, chairman of the advisory council of the Council. And: Daniel Willard, chairman of the transportation committee of the Council.

GIFFORD left the payroll of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company to take this job. WILLARD is still President of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad.

What do you know about THAT! Both these gentlemen are on record as opposed to Government ownership. Willard has consistently opposed it. Gifford has consistently opposed it.

May Change Tune. Of course, these gentlemen may change their tunes when necessity pinches and when public opinion, if not stifled by the so-called spy or espionage bill, finally drives them from their cover. Here's hoping that they will shift their ground. But they show no open signs thereof.

The railroads, in this alleged crisis, have absolutely broken down. They have not the cars to insure the carriage of even foodstuffs from one point in the United States to another. On the one hand the Government has sent men out to stimulate the farmers of the South to grow enough food so that the South will not have to depend on railroad trains to bring in food and feed from the north and west, and on the other, thru the above mentioned Council, it is doing nothing but "confer" with the railroad men about readjusting themselves to war conditions. Why not cut the Gordian knot and take the railroads

WHY BOYS DIDN'T SALUTE. The principal of a Baltimore, Md., High School lectured to his charges on what it means to salute the flag. "When you salute the flag," he said, "it means that you stand behind the President in everything he does, right or wrong."

Child labor impeaches the brutal system that fosters it and thrives upon it and sooner or later that system must be wiped from the earth.

AMERICAN SOCIALIST

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over—take them over, and, while taking them, also as a war measure, seize the billions of dollars worth of land which the Government gave the roads years ago as a subsidy? Tax Necessities. Instead we must be taxed on our bread, butter, tea, coffee and amusements. There's patriotism for you.

If there is patriotism in the railroads, we have yet to see it. America awake and America efficient are the watchwords of the hour. Is there any truth in us? Is it all a humbug? Are we to advance socially in the war, or is the war merely an excuse for continuing a lot of nice old grafts? Your guess is as good as mine.

Appropriate Suggestion For U. S. Peace Terms

While proposing his sensational "peace" parley some few months ago, President Wilson severely criticized the German government for not giving its peace terms with sufficient clearness to be easily understood. We have not yet seen any American peace terms, so hasten to suggest the following. Since Wall Street dictated that this war should be declared, it is no more than right that Wall Street be favored in its ending.

"Peace Terms of the U. S. A." This being a war for democracy we demand, first, that the Kaiser and the whole nobility be dethroned; second, that his place be filled by a Governor General nominated by the President of the United States, and ratified by the Board of Governors of the New York Stock Exchange.

That one half of all German colonies be surrendered to the United States and the other half to Great Britain. That in return for the cancellation of all war loans made to Great Britain and her allies by this government, there be surrendered to this government complete ownership of the British West Indies, a first mortgage on Canada, and a pawnbroker's lien on the British Navy.

That in conjunction with French, English, and Japanese capitalists our "captains of industry" be given full permission to grab up all the natural resources of Russia, China, Africa, and other backward countries. That the United States be guaranteed a full and unrestricted monopoly in international thugery and crookedness with respect to Central and South America, as a natural extension and modernization of the Monroe Doctrine.

When upon five boys promptly refused to salute the flag. They were suspended for the rest of the term.

PREPAREDNESS FOR DEMOCRACY

The People's College wants to have a heart-to-heart talk with every man and woman who reads this paper. Capitalism has proved a failure in these times of stress. The warring nations have been obliged to "socialize" their industries in order to meet increased demands. The old argument that co-operative enterprise is less efficient than private enterprise has been answered in the test of experience.

After the war will come the period of reconstruction, when the fight between the profit system and industrial democracy will be on in earnest. Are we prepared? Remember, comrades, under the present system the workers use only their hands; under the new system they must use their heads as well as their hands. That is why the People's College was founded three years ago.

GIVE YOUR HANDS A HEAD

Education is Labor's only road to freedom. Why not study law? It will develop your reasoning powers, broaden your vision, give you a firmer grip on life. Working-class lawyers are in demand, and the demand is growing. Our students are passing better bar examinations than many university graduates. We have a Combination Law Course which includes Public Speaking and Language. Write for our free booklet, The Law and the People.

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We have a similar course in Advanced English. These courses will fit you for the battle of life, and for a place in the great battle for real democracy.

The People's College can give you an education—the right kind of an education—at home. We have given it to hundreds of others; we can give it to you. Easy monthly payments. A little spare time. Opportunity is knocking at the door of the Working-Class. Let's open the door. Fill out this coupon and mail it to us today.

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