

# Votaries of Violence - Who Are They?

— By LINN A. E. GALE —

"You are encouraging violence by the workers against the capitalists", writes a critic.

I am doing nothing of the sort. I am opposed to violence at all times. It is a boomerang morally and economically and hurts the user far more than the victim. All clear-seeing Radicals are against it. The thousands of Radicals in prison in almost every land, prove this.

"Violence"? Why, violence is the very backbone, heart and soul of capitalism. The workers never want it. But the instant that the workers begin to show solidarity and to act in unity either in elections or in the mills, violence is the first weapon that the capitalists use. Violence is the chief instrument of the capitalists and the last resort of the workers.

Why is 'Gene Debs, compassionate, kindly, forgiving soul who is loved by every man who really knows him and hundreds of thousands who never saw him in Atlanta Prison? Because he was an advocate or practitioner of violence? Of course, not. Debs has deprecated and opposed violence all his life. He not only denounced individual violence but mass violence which is customarily dignified by the title of war. And he is serving a 10-year prison term in the United States for it. Debs, the champion of the workers, incarcerated because he was a man of peace, by a government which, obedient to the capitalists, stood for violence!

Why is Mrs. Kate Richards O'Hare in prison for 10 years? Why were Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman jailed? Why has Congressman Victor L. Berger been sentenced to 20 years in prison and kicked out of the legislative seat to which his constituents clearly and decisively elected him? Why are William D. Haywood and hundreds of I. W. W.'s thruout the United States under sentences of severity unparalleled even in the Germany of the kaiser or the Russia of the czar? Why was poor Praeger lynched in Illinois? Why were Pacifists ministers horse whipped, tarred and feathered and subjected to unnamable outrages during the recent war? Why were the far visioned Liebknecht and the motherly broad-minded Rosa Luxemburg murdered in Germany? Why did I and thousands of other "slackers" have to flee to Mexico?

The answer in every case is that the persons in question opposed the organized violence, the huge, horrible

exercise of force that has been named war. They were men and women who believed in Peace and a peaceful settlement of the differences of the government of the world. And they paid for their loyalty to Peace by being slaughtered or locked behind steel bars or compelled to flee to foreign lands!

Who started the war? Who conscripted men to fight when they didn't want to? Who is responsible for the killing of 10,000,000, the wounding of millions more, the raping of thousands of helpless girls and women, and the starvation of thousands of babies and mothers? The capitalist governments of the world of course. Communists, Socialists and Labor organizations everywhere opposed war. Most of them yielded eventually and gave some kind of support but none of them did so willingly. They only acquiesced thru fear when they acquiesced at all.

Why has there been hurled at Soviet Russia all the virulent venom of foul falsehoods that prostituted minds could manufacture? Why were Lenin and Trotzky called "German agents?" because Russia waged war on anybody? No. Because Russia made Peace with Germany. The world has kept ignorant of the fact that she also tried to make Peace with the other countries, failing thru the treachery of the dulcet-toned dissembler in the White House.

Always and forever the proponents of violence are the capitalists and militarists and their agents. Read the articles of Guy Empey in his magazine, "Treat 'em Rough" and see how he tells people to knock Bolshevik speakers off soap-boxes.

Read what Ole Hanson in Seattle tells the public to do to Radicals. Read the American Coal Journal which openly speaks of "the worthless lives" of the workers, says that Labor, as at present operating, must be suppressed" and that this "cannot be accomplished with too fine a regard for existing laws."

Read the brutal, murderous advertisements of Edwin Selwin in the Seattle Post Intelligencer, the Seattle Business Chronicle, and the Tacoma Ledger, in which he said of Radical agitators, "We must put to death the leaders of this gigantic conspiracy."

Take the recent shooting affair in Centralia, Wash., U. S. A., when four American soldiers were shot and an I. W. W., also a veteran, was lynched and his maltreated corpse dragged thru the streets of the town.

The facts now show that the soldiers began the trouble by attacking the I. W. W. hall and that the I. W. W. members merely acted in self-defense. Edward Bassett, war veteran and commander of Bute Post of the American Legion, an intensely "patriotic" organization, says, "The I. W. W. in Centralia, Wash., who fired upon the men that were attempting to raid the I. W. W. headquarters were fully justified in their act. The evidence received at the coroners' investigation showed the same thing. A blind man in Centralia selling Radical papers had his stand twice demolished and his stock burned up, besides being once kidnapped in an auto and taken out of the county. Mobs of "patriots" in all parts of the United States—and the same thing happens in all countries under capitalism—are raiding houses, offices and club rooms, assulting and shooting people and destroying their property with cynical contempt for right and decency. International imperialism is trying its best to force the United States into war with Mexico so that it may exploit Mexico's rich resources without interference.

"Violence" is the very essence, spirit, brain and body of capitalism with its by-products of militarism and patriotism. By violence do the owners of the earth's wealth keep control over the masses, seize trade balances, dominate "backward" countries and strangle every outcry against their countless iniquities. By violence are men made to butcher their brothers in wars in which they have nothing to gain and everything to risk.

Sometimes, after patience has been exhausted, after the limits of endurance have been exceeded, after elections have been stolen, strikes have been broken, protests been sneered at, and pioneers of a Better Social Order have been jailed, tortured and slain without number, sometimes, then the workers themselves resort to violence.

Can we blame them much? Should it surprise us? True, it is foolish and futile. But what else can be expected? And how week indeed is the heap of up whole of all the acts of violence ever committed by Organized Labor in all history compared with the monstrous mountain of crimes of the capitalists, kings, kaisers and priests who for thousands of years have filled the world with the woe and waste of their wicked and wanton wars!

What imbecile irony for defenders of capitalism to prate of the "violence" of Labor in the aftermath of an orgy of international "violence" that has left the earth a charnel house of ruins and a sepulcher of shapes that once were men!

## "TREAT 'EM ROUGH"

The miscalled Department of Justice which is really a department for doing the dirty work for the dominant class, has given the American people many reasons for believing them insincere. The Attorney General, a Mr. Palmer, who is rumored to have the presidential bee buzzing in his bonnet, is alleged to have given as his reasons for the persecution of the reds, the allegation that the reds advocated the use of violence. That there are people who DO advocate the use of violence, OPENLY and evidently with the **thoro approval** of the Department of Justice and Mr. Palmer, (we say 'evidently' advisedly, for the culprits have done so repeatedly and the department of justice AND Mr. Palmer and the whole army of sleuths, professional and otherwise have never attempted to bring the guilty parties to account.)

Here are two samples, taken verbatim from a magazine edited by Guy Empey, and called "Uncle Sam," dated January 1920 and sold openly on all news-stands.

They are headed, "Treat 'em Rough."

"Dr. Mayo 'sees science extending American life limit'. What we want to see is Patriotism reducing Bolshevik life limit. **THE NECESSARY INSTRUMENTS MAY BE OBTAINED AT YOUR HARDWARE STORE.**" The caps are ours but the wording is surely a direct bid for the fanatical to go to the nearest hardware store and there purchase fire-arms with which to shoot to kill any one whom the fanatic sees fit to call a red.

Here is another one, a plain and open incitation to murder. "Far be it from us to advocate violence, even against Bolsheviks. But when the only way to get an idea out of a man's head is to remove the cranium and shake the idea down the neck, what are you going to do?"

The Department of Justice will please take notice. The American people will also take notice that the Department of Justice is blind to such open advocacy of violence because it is done in the name of 100 per cent. Americanism.