

EXPOSES WAR RECORDS OF LAFOLLETTE

Senator Joined Hands With Imperialists

By JAY LOVESTONE.
(Ninth Article.)

Nothing could be further from the truth than the statement, now being spread amongst many workers, that Senator LaFollette opposed the imperialist world war and America's participation therein.

sives are today asking the work-
.... Yet, many self-styled progressing men and poor farmers who suffered and are still suffering from the capitalist conflagration to support "Battling Bob" on the ground that he fought against the devastating slaughter which took millions of lives and billions of dollars from the exploited masses the world over.

Entered With Militarists.

Before the United States entered the World War, the Wisconsin "progressive" wizard held the belief that it was not America's business to join the infernal fray. Once the war was declared, however, La Follette accepted active American participation as a fact. He then lined up to support loyally the prosecution of the war and to hasten its victorious conclusion for the capitalist class in whose behalf it was fought.

LaFollette differed with other supporters of the imperialist conflict only as to method, but not as to the waging of the war itself. The Wisconsin senator's attitude toward the war was the same as his present attitude to exploitation of the working class by the employers. LaFollette is not opposed to the system of capitalist exploitation. He is opposed to some of its methods and differs from the Lodges, the Smoots, the Coolidges, and the Davises only as to methods of exploiting the workers.

Voted War Credits.

Not only did LaFollette not fight against the war to make the world safe for plutocracy, but he even voted all war credits. And dollars, it

(Continued on page 6.)

Facts About LaFollette's War Record

(Continued from page 1)

must be remembered, are the sinews of all capitalist wars.

In fact, a summary of "Battling Bob's" war record reveals that he voted for at least fifty-five out of sixty war measures passed by congress. Tho he opposed the armed ship bill before the United States joined the Allies, he did not speak on this measure, did not utter a word against it in the senate.

LaFollette Pledged Self For War to Utmost.

When one thinks of the suffering of the Communists, the revolutionary workers, in every country for their opposition to the imperialist blood-fest, he is immediately convinced that LaFollette did everything but fight against the World War. There is an unbridgeable chasm between the war records of Robert M. LaFollette of the republican party of Wisconsin and Karl Liebknecht of the Communist Party of Germany.

Let us call upon State Senator Henry A. Huber of LaFollette's own, Dane county, to tell us of "Bob's" war patriotism. Listening to Senator Huber's speech before the Wisconsin upper house on February 23, 1918, we hear him say in defense of LaFollette's war record: "War having been legally declared LaFollette immediately accepted it as a fact. He set about to make effective war. He believed it to be wise to make war as effective as possible that it might be the sooner ended. (This was exactly the reasoning of the capitalist super-patriots and the profiteers). Hereafter I will give his record on the war measures coming up for consideration in the senate. It is a record to be proud of. He consistently and patriotically supported the president and his country to the end that we might win the war at the earliest possible moment with an honorable and abiding peace."

Didn't Interfere.

And turning to an address delivered by LaFollette before the United States senate, as reported in the Congressional Record (Page 681) of April 14, 1917, we read: "I do not desire to hamper our own effort to speedily prepare to prosecute this deplorable war."

Ten days later LaFollette took occasion to tell the senate (See Cong. Rec. April 27, 1917; Page 1362): "First, all our naval and military resources should be concentrated on the solving of the submarine problem."

Pleading that the country arm itself to the teeth, the "progressive" leader who would now have us believe that he fought against the war, thus implored his colleagues in the senate (Cong. Rec. Oct. 6, 1917; Page 7,887): "It is said by many for whose opinions I have profound respect, and whose motives I know to be sincere

that 'we are in this war and must go thru to the end.'" That is true.

"There is, and of course can be, no real difference of opinion concerning the duty of the citizen to discharge to the last limit whatever obligation the war lays upon him.

"Our young men are being taken by the hundreds of thousands for the purpose of waging this war. Nothing must be left undone for their protection. They must have the best army, ammunition, and equipment that money can buy."

Here we have a song very much in sympathy with the chant sung to the working men by the Garys, the Schwabs, the Morgans, and the National Security and Defense Leagues. **LaFollettism Not Opposed to Imperialist Wars.**

Scrutinizing Senator LaFollette's voting record during the last imperialist war, one sees that, all his present anti-war protestations to the contrary notwithstanding, the self-appointed progressive Messiah is no enemy of capitalist aggression when it is wrapped in such empty phrases as "war for defense" and "safety and security of the country."

In a speech he made at Port Washington on July 18, 1917, "Battling Bob" plainly said: "I didn't believe in waging war to collect Mr. Morgan's money for him." Yet, having no illusions about the character of the bloody struggle, LaFollette voted for 55 out of 60 war measures, prior and subsequent to this declaration.

The Wisconsin senator at no time proposed to take away from the imperialist diplomats and the financiers their powers to make war. At most LaFollette has sought to give the masses who fight the wars a voice along with the intriguing capitalist statesmen and the profit-hungry bosses. Thus we find him say in his Political Philosophy (p. 205): "Why not let those who must pay have something to say? Why not let the people themselves, on whom the burden of war falls, have a voice—some direct expression—along with finance and diplomacy, in determining whether there shall be war, or whether there shall not be war?"

Not Really Against Conscription.

Likewise, LaFollette's opposition to the conscription bill before it became law was only to the method pursued by the employing class in murdering the sons of the workers and poor farmers and not to their right to call upon the working masses to fight their imperialist battles. In the Wisconsin state senate Hon. H. A. Huber, thus on February 23, 1918, defended and explained LaFollette's opposition to conscription on the basis of military efficiency:

"Had men been enlisted in an orderly manner as needed they could have been equipped and supplied as called, and we would not now have a

million men drawn away from essential industries awaiting transportation that cannot be fully provided for more than a year yet. LaFollette was right as events now amply show. Notwithstanding he opposed the conscription act, upon its passage, LaFollette immediately counselled full compliance with the law."

Little Hostility to Capitalists.

Nor was LaFollette dangerously hostile to the big employing interests in the revenue measures proposed by him to raise more than enough money with which to finance the war.

In his discussion of the income tax bill before the senate he said: "The public must pay enuf for the products to furnish a good round profit for the capital actually invested." (Cong. Rec. September 3, 1917; p. 6530).

Not only did LaFollette differ merely as to the method of financing the imperialist war, but he advocated his own plan for adoption of which he argued on the ground that it would safeguard the spirit of war among the masses. Thus the Wisconsin senator made his plea for his plan as follows before his colleagues in Washington:

"I tell them one and all that by their refusal to justly tax war profits and excessive incomes they are destroying the war spirit among the

hundred million people of this country which is absolutely necessary if we are to acquit ourselves even creditably in this great war." (Cong. Rec. September 10, 1917; p. 6861.)

Tax Rich to Breed War Spirit.

Finally LaFollette demanded that the peace terms of the capitalist war be stated not because he might thus expose the true character of the conflict and throw a monkey wrench into the imperialist war machinery, but because he was convinced that such a statement by the ruling class of this country would tend to win the masses more firmly to the war campaign. We need but turn to the speech delivered by LaFollette to the United States Senate on October 6, 1917 to see this truth:

"Such a course (a declaration of the purposes of the war) would also immeasurably, I believe, strengthen our military force in this country, because when the objects of this war are clearly stated and the people approve of these objects they will give to the war a popular support it will never otherwise receive."

Such was and is the opposition of LaFollette to capitalist imperialism and war. And such is the support the workers and dispossessed farmers should give the Wisconsin senator in return on the basis of his war record.

Compounding Felonies

By HARRISON GEORGE

MODERN science is complicating if not compounding crime. The Doheny indictments are demurred to on the grounds that the grand jury might have soaked up some wave lengths when Senator Walsh spoke over the radio concerning the Teapot Dome oil leases, etc. Doheny's lawyers say this seriously "prejudiced the interests of the defendants, etc. Together with this radio business, comes the "scientific" testimony in the Leopold-Loeb case, compelling a revaluation of what are known as "delinquents."

After glancing hastily through the symptoms and looking up our psychopathology, we have arrived at the following conclusions about some political delinquents:

Gompers has a wart on his pineal gland, that's what makes him act that way toward the left wing. John L. Lewis has an enlarged pituitary, that's why he took the money from scab mine operators which Farrington accused him of getting. Johnny Walker has thyroid insufficiency, that's why he reversed himself on endorsing Len Small. Wm. Mahoney has a king-and-slave fantasy, that's why he said "Thank you, Bob!" when he was booted out of the C. P. P. A. convention.

La Follette is in a bad way accord-

ing to our diagnosis. He is badly involved in a Narcissus complex of self-love, a paranoiac tendency of exaggerated appreciation of self, and a split-personality indicated by trying to cater to both capitalist and proletarian interests and to compose his trust busting program with Sam Gompers' demand to repeal anti-trust legislation. Bob's a sick man.

Secretary Hughes, according to psycho-analysis, confuses himself with Christ, that's why he won't recognize Russia. Coolidge's basal metabolism averages about 17 minus, that's why he calls it 'defense day' instead of "mobilization." Bill Taft has acromegalya giantism, that's why he is strong for injunctions; and Wm. J. Burns' central ganglia are out of gear, that's why he's a crook. Now we know, don't we!

Too bad that Jesse James was shot before it was discovered that his endocrine system was unbalanced. And it is a shame that Captain Kidd, and many another lusty pirate, never was able to hire a dozen "alienists" at \$250 per day each, to plead that although he slit many a throat and scuttled many a merchantman, his mind, if not his ship, had struck a reef off the Islands of Langarhans.

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