

EXPOUND PEACE, BUILD MILITIA, "BOB'S" SCHEME

Badger State Leads in Militarism

By JAY LOVESTONE
(Eleventh Article.)

LaFollette's proud boasts of being an opponent of militarism and capitalist wars have no firm foundation in fact.

Wisconsin, the state which "Bob" always holds up as an example of what a government ought to be to and for the working and farming masses, is one of the leading militarist states in the Union.

The Wisconsin National Guard is one of the biggest in the country. In this "Model Commonwealth" military expenditures have risen at a terrific pace.

And when an effort was made to do away with the state military organization, Senator LaFollette cried "Halt" and threw back the forces opposed to the maintenance of this institution. In preventing the abolition of the National Guard of his state, LaFollette fought against the demands of the workers who have always been hostile to the National Guard because of the frequent use made of its forces by employers in time of industrial disputes.

Finally, crowning the militarist infamy flourishing under LaFollette's much-vaunted "Wisconsin Plan," is the strong record made by the Badger state in helping the capitalists plunge the country into and wage the last imperialist world war.

Militarist Strides in Wisconsin.

On examining the annual reports of the Chief of the Militia Bureau we find that only two states in the Union, Indiana and Wisconsin, have doubled their National Guard strength between 1915 and 1922. In 1915 there were 3,291 in the Wisconsin National Guard. By 1922 the number rose to 6,900.

The Capital Times, a LaFollette mouthpiece, published at Madison, Wisconsin, tells us editorially in its issue of April 5, 1923: "Wisconsin is one of the leading militarist states in the nation. We base this statement on the number of men in the National Guard in this state and on the amount of money spent here for the maintenance of military establishments.

"The figures show:

"That Wisconsin is one of the four states that has gone even further than required by the National Defense Act."

When, as a result of the post-war reaction, the Wisconsin National Guard was losing numbers, a special recruiting campaign was put on for two months. On December 10, 1923, Adjutant General Ralph M. Immel, appointed by Governor Blaine, announced officially that this militarist drive netted more than six hundred new members to the state guard.

More Armories.

This campaign to maintain Wisconsin as a pacemaker in militarism is further shown in the quarterly report for the period ending December 31, 1923, made by State Engineer, John G. D. Mack. Here we learn that four new Wisconsin armories have just been completed and located at Abbotsford, Clintonville, Milwaukee, and Hudson.

Describing this mushroom growth of militarism and its effects in LaFollette's political satrapy, Mr. William T. Evjue said editorially in the Capital Times, July 28, 1924:

"Up at Camp Douglas the annual fan-fare of Wisconsin's military display is in progress. Thousands of young men are marching. The bands are playing. The guns are booming. The reviewing stands beam as the boys go marching by.



THE STORY OF WILMA AND RUTH.

By Karl Reeve.

Christopher, Illinois, Vera and Zora Cernich, 10 and 8 year old daughters of Comrade Victor Cernich, are staunch Foster-Gitlow supporters. Vera and Zora read every issue of the Young Comrade from the first headline to the last period.

Wilma and Ruth Crane, their two inseparable play mates, are daughters of hard shell, Klan Baptists, but that's not the fault of Wilma and Ruth. Recently Mrs. Crane saw her two daughters reading the Young Comrade, and she was very angry that her young daughters should be "Red" sympathizers. Mrs. Crane meant well. She tried to get Victor Cernich to send Vera and Zora to Sunday school and to church every Sunday, but Comrade Cernich said it

was up to the girls.

Then Mrs. Crane wrote a letter to Vera and Zora, asking them not to "corrupt" her daughters and asking the two "Bolsheviks" to come to church. A few days ago Wilma and Ruth Crane asked Vera and Zora Cernich, "Didn't you get a letter from my mother asking you to come to our Church?"

"Yes", Vera replied, "But religion is the opiate of the people," and she explained to her play-mates how the fat priests fool the workers, getting them to think of heaven, while the capitalists skin them on earth.

Now Wilma and Ruth Crane read every issue of the Young Comrade. They like it, and it is getting harder and harder to make them enthusiastic about the Klan teachers in the Baptist

MILITIA RULE IN WISCONSIN

WISCONSIN is one of the leading militarist states in the union. LaFollette's peace-loving commonwealth is one of the four states that have gone even farther in military preparations than required by the National Defense Act.

There are only six states having a bigger National Guard and only four states spending more money for militarism than Wisconsin.

In the war to make the world safe for plutocracy, Wisconsin sent nearly 125,000 workers and poor farmers to the front and gave about \$350,000,000 to the various campaigns to raise funds with which to buy cannon, machine guns, battleships, aeroplanes and poison gas.

The workers have no illusions about the Wisconsin military machine which has been used against them by the bosses, as in the strike of the meat cutters against the Cudahy Packing Company, one of the strongest units of the Beel Trust.

And when the Wisconsin workingmen organized to abolish the state militia, it was LaFollette who robbed them of their victory and saved the day for the militarists and open-shoppers of his state.

"Well, why not?"

"Do you know, Mr. and Mrs. Citizen of Wisconsin, that Wisconsin is today the seventh state in the Union in militarism? Do you know that in spite of the big cut made in appropriations in the last legislature that there are only six states in the Union having a larger national guard than Wisconsin's?"

"And this in a state that is overwhelmingly committed to peace! This in a state controlled by progressives who have made attacks on militarism one of the cardinal points in their platforms!"

But in the appropriation of funds for militarism, Wisconsin ranks even worse. The last available annual report of the Chief of the Militia Bureau reveals the fact that in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1922, only three states appropriated more money for their National Guards than Wisconsin did. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1923, only four states, Michigan New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, spent more than Wisconsin for the national Guard.

Pacemaker in War Preparations.

When Woodrow Wilson called upon the American workers and poor farmers to shed their blood in order to make the world safe for capitalist democracy, LaFollette's state, Wisconsin, rallied to the imperialist colors and wantonly sacrificed the lives and dollars of the working masses.

Let us listen to a glorification of Wisconsin's war efforts by John M. Nelson, now national director of LaFollette's presidential campaign, as he delivered it to Congress on behalf of the Wisconsin delegation, on July 15, 1918:

"The President, as Commander-in-Chief, has had our unanimous support on all war issues. When he asked for appropriations, we gave him all he asked; when he asked for authority to issue bonds, we gave it to him; when he asked for authority to control our food, fuel, railroads, telephones, telegraphs, mines and factories, we gave him the authority; indeed, we did not hold back as a delegation when he asked for power over our liberties and our lives. . . .

"Once war was declared, I accepted the majority decision for war. I recall only three votes out of about 120 since war was declared upon which I was not in full accord with the Administration. . . . It has been stated that I voted against conscription. This is a base falsehood."

Support War Loans.

And from the Milwaukee Journal of October 10, 1918 we learn of the strong support accorded the various war loans in the home of LaFollette, now seeking workingmen's votes as an anti-war candidate. We quote:

"Total bond sale is \$102,000,000.

The forty-five counties in Wisconsin in the Chicago Reserve Bank District have bot \$102,000,000 worth of bonds compared with a quota of \$100,000,000. Since subscriptions are still being tabulated, the final total will be still higher. Twenty-seven Wisconsin counties are over 100 per cent, Kenosha leading with 142 per cent. Milwaukee is eighth, with 109 per cent of quota, according to the present tabulation.

"Milwaukee county has subscribed \$35,904,000 to the Fourth Liberty Loan, which is more than \$3,000,000 over the quota. Among subscriptions are \$105,000 by the church committees, \$38,000 additional from federal employees, \$79,000 from county em-

ployes, \$70,000 from city employees, and \$30,000 from the police department."

The total amount of war bonds sold in the 71 counties of Wisconsin, according to Pixley in "Wisconsin in the World War," is about \$335,900,720.

Workers Used as Cannon Fodder.

LaFollette's progressive, peace-loving state was as lavish with the workers' lives, as it was with their money in the last capitalist world war. On page 36 of the Report of the Adjutant General of Wisconsin, for period ending June 30, 1918, we find:

"To date of this report there have been forwarded to the different camps under the calls as made by the War Department:

"Selected men to number approximately	90,000
"Wisconsin National Guard to Camp McArthur	18,000
"Enlistments	10,000

"Total furnished Army and Navy since the beginning of this war118,000"

Finally, in the announcement by Governor Blaine, August 2, 1924, on the proposed Defense Day plans, we are told that the number Wisconsin sent to the front reached a grand total of 124,814. LaFollette's gubernatorial candidate then goes on to declare proudly:

"Wisconsin's military record recalls the major components of the Iron Brigade and the major components of the Thirty-Second Division. It recalls the fact that in no war during its history had Wisconsin failed to answer the call for national defense or within its own boundaries known industrial or military disorders, and the fact that on July 18, 1918, when American arms stemmed the tide in the second battle of the Marne, one out of every fifteen soldiers wearing the American uniform in France came from Wisconsin."

Hate Wisconsin Militarism.

The workers of Wisconsin have at no time had any illusions as to the extensive military preparations going on in the state. The following appearing in the Milwaukee Leader of May 12, 1921, shows the misgivings of the workers aroused by the record-breaking military appropriations voted in the state:

"The efforts to increase its personnel and give greater power to the National Guard are viewed in labor circles with mistrust and open declarations that it is not done with an eye to an outside foe, but to prepare to put down labor.

"Labor men claim that Fort Sheridan was located midway between Chicago and Milwaukee by the capitalistic interests that guide the military policies, so that regulars will be on hand to meet labor troubles."

The great service the Wisconsin National Guard is to the Badger state bosses can be seen from the fact that, under the usual pretense of riot and violence, several companies of troops were rushed to terrorize the workers into submission in the Cudahy strike of August, 1919.

In the strike of the meat cutters against the Cudahy Packing Company, one of the beef trust firms, Governor E. L. Philipp of Wisconsin rushed three companies of National Guardsmen from Camp Douglas, fully equipped and prepared to stay for an indefinite time, in order to "mediate the dispute" against the workers.

Supports Wisconsin Militarism.

Robert Marion LaFollette has been a consistent supporter of the military system in Wisconsin. In his message as governor he declared in 1905:

"The people of Wisconsin should recognize their importance and take just pride in maintaining the Guard. . . .

The model of efficiency in the military service in this country is the United States Regular Army; and every effort should be made to bring the militia as near this standard as possible."

Then, in February, 1923, an effort was made, because of the strong labor opposition to the rapid strides in militarism that Wisconsin was making, to abolish the National Guard. Even Mrs. LaFollette lent support to this movement. Senator LaFollette then came upon the scene and led a vigorous opposition to this effort to abolish the Guard.

The bill to do away with the state militia, hated by the workingmen, had passed the assembly. Preparations were afoot to fight for its adoption by the state senate. But LaFollette, the self-styled anti-militarist, soon entered the lists against the Wisconsin workers, lined up with all the enemies of organized labor, joined with all the open shoppers and killed the move to disband the state militarist organization.