

WITH THE YOUNG WORKERS

CONDUCTED - BY THE YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE



May Day and Child Health Day

By George Papcun.

MAY DAY is approaching. As usual, the capitalist class is trying to confuse the workers and draw their attention away from the International Labor Holiday. They have instituted the so-called Children's Health Week. In different cities proclamations are being issued to observe one day in the week as Children's Health Day. Some places it is on May 1st. In Pittsburgh it is going to be observed on May 3rd. The Pittsburgh Child Health Council points out that one hundred thousand children in Allegheny county lack open air facilities. Over 50,000 have defective vision and over 50,000 are in need of dental work. During this week there will be thousands of circulars issued calling upon the parents of the children and trying to show them the importance of the above facts. But of course this will be about all, for how can the parents see that proper attention is given to their children when it costs money to see that it is done.

No Remedy.

The same organization points out that thousands of children in Allegheny county are working in the factories when they should be in school. Of course it points out that they should be in school, but it does not give any remedy. How can these children go to school when there are 5 and 6 and sometimes even 8 in a family and the father makes as low as 35 and 30 cents an hour, on which he is supposed to support the whole family, which is an impossibility. In the whole year one week is devoted to propaganda about taking care of the youth. The rest of the year it seems that these same people forget that such a thing exists as child labor in this country, and some of them even keep on exploiting this same youth which they are hollering about during this one week. When they holler you would think that they are doing it for the betterment of the youth, but there seems to be a catch to everything that the capitalist class tries to put over. As usual, the capitalist class does not run its propaganda for nothing.

Wants Healthy Soldiers.

The Child Health Council points out that during the last war 80 per cent of the young men examined were defi-

cient in some particular way or other. And it thinks that it must worry so the same things do not happen in time of another war. Not because it wants to help the children or the working class youth of America, but because the capitalist class must have healthier cannon fodder for its next war. Aside from this, let us take up the question of why 80 per cent of this youth that was examined in the last war was a physical wreck in one way or another. This the health council does not point out. The workers themselves must look into the matter. The newsboys, for instance, who are peddling newspapers from early in the morning till early next morning, who are of the ages from 14 to as low as 5. We find that this child health council mentions nothing about this. Nor does it mention about the youth who from the age of 14 to as low as 12 in the Heinz factory of Pittsburgh or in the D. L. Clarks, and other factories. Of course this they do not point to. This kind of news must be suppressed.

Hooverized Council.

This child council, which has organizations all over the United States, seems to think that parents make their children go to work because they want to, or that the parents deliberately neglect their own children. It does not point out that the children are forced to work because the boss class wants profits, nor it does not point out that the children are neglected because of the same reason and the mothers and fathers of the youth have no means to pay to have the eyesight or dental work taken care of. The name of the organization which sponsors this move to try to make healthier material for slaughter in the next war is called the American Child's Health Association. The head of the organization is Herbert Hoover.

We also find that President Coolidge and all the governors have endorsed this week. Of course all who are representatives of the boss class must do the bidding of the boss class to see that the youth is healthy enough for the army, but at the same time to see that it is mentally dead so that it will be willing to take instructions without questioning whether they are correct or not. In other words, that it should be willing to fight against the working class.