

# POLITICS

## The United States Restores the State of War

by *John Pepper* (New York).

New dangers are looming over the workers and farmers of the United States.

Coolidge the strike-breaker, President of the Government, is welding tremendous plans to restore the State of War in the United States.

The Federal Government is planning three far-reaching measures: 1. The restoration of the United States War Grain Corporation. 2. A federal anti-syndicalist law. 3. A national registration of all aliens.

These three measures mean a complete restoration of the State of War in the United States. Coal mining and railroading are already in the clutches of the Federal Government, and the revival of the War Grain Corporation means the absolute rule of the government of bankers and trusts over farming industry. It means restoring the conditions obtaining in the world war, when the whole of industrial life was put under control of the Federal Government.

A federal anti-syndicalist law means the reviving of the Espionage Act, means the consolidation on a national scale of the existing thirty-eight state laws against sedition and overthrow of the government by force and violence.

The registration of all aliens in the United States means the restoration of the State of War, when the persons and property of foreigners were placed under control of the Federal Government, which meant that millions of immigrant workers were virtually outlawed.

#### The War Grain Corporation.

The bankers and trust Czars are the real rulers in the United States. It is therefore obvious that the initiative for these new bills and measures comes from the bankers, and of course, the public, the people of the United States, is informed of the new plans of the government and Congress only through the various conventions of the bankers.

The plan for a revival of the United States War Grain Corporation was drawn up and submitted to Coolidge by a committee of bankers, congressmen and some big landowners and proprietors of farmers' organizations posing as farmers. The statement these bankers and fake farmers submitted to President Coolidge was:

"We want it distinctly understood that our mission is not merely on behalf of the wheat growers and farmers of the Ninth District, but we speak for the wheat growers and farmers of the entire country. We wish to safeguard the investors in farm mortgages throughout the country, and we are especially interested in saving for thousands of farmers their rights of ownership in their land and in preventing farmers from being forced to leave their present location for other States and occupations."

The revival of the United War Grain Corporation is not in the interest of the farmers, but aims "to safeguard the investors in farm-mortgages throughout the country"! The revival of the War Grain Corporation is not in the interest of the exploited farmers, but in the interest of the bankers! The committee of bankers itself admits this; and it is truly the worst kind of short-sightedness or betrayal, that politicians like Frazier or Magnus Johnson, elected by the masses of farmers, now howl together with the banking wolves, demanding the revival of the War Grain Corporation. The first War Grain Corporation during the world war helped to prepare the present bankruptcy of the farmers, and if Frazier or Magnus Johnson are today advocating the creation of a second grain corporation, it means that consciously or unconsciously they are delivering up the farmers to the bankers and to the Federal Government of trusts and bankers.

The farmers are demanding *public ownership of the railroads, mines and big industries*; and the answer of the government of railroad corporations and coal barons is to proclaim *the government ownership of the farmers*. The War Grain Corporation, headed by well known bankers, means nothing else than monopolistic power on a national scale over the products of the farmers. Frazier and Magnus Johnson were elected to oppose the bankers, and to overthrow the government of bankers; and now they are helping to complete the rule of the bankers over the farmers, they are helping to transform the farmers into the slaves of a capitalist government.

#### Federal Anti-Syndicalist Law and Registration of Aliens.

The Constitution of the United States speaks only of the House of Representatives and the Senate, but the unwritten constitution of reality, recognizes a third part of Congress—the American Bankers' Association. It is of course evident that the latest plans of the government effecting the vital interests of millions of workers are first introduced, not in the House of Representatives or the Senate, but at the convention of the American Bankers' Association. Solicitor-General James M. Beck in his big speech against the menace of Red Radicalism, at the Bankers' Convention, revealed the plans of the Coolidge government:

"The Federal Government has not been indifferent to the spread of such propaganda, and only the last week the Attorney General has taken steps, by cooperation with the State authorities, to establish a more effective supervision of the revolutionary and criminal elements in this country."

Nor is the next Congress likely to be indifferent to the danger which too many men have hitherto minimized. Two bills will be urged for passage—one to register all aliens in the country, and the other to make it a crime to conspire to overthrow the National Government by force and violence. Today it may be doubted whether there is any specific Federal statute which enables the Federal authorities to arrest an alien, even though he is carrying a bomb to blow up a customs house. The registration of aliens, if

adopted, will probably cause a speedy and welcome combing out of alien Communists who are now under cover and who are ceaselessly plotting day and night to destroy the ordered principles of liberty for which the Constitution stands. It may be that this peril is unduly exaggerated, but it is well to exaggerate, for forewarned is forearmed."

America is facing a new economic depression. Production in the steel and textile industries is declining. Many mills are closing down, and yet the remedies of the government against the menace of wholesale unemployment are: A federal anti-syndicalist law, registration and finger-printing of aliens, and wholesale deportations of Communists. But we know from experience that everybody is a Communist who is not humble servant of capitalism. Everybody is a Communist who fights for higher wages and shorter hours. Everybody is a Communist who participates in strikes against the rulers of the steel and textile mills or railroad corporations. And in the kingdom of Gary, the steel-king, everybody is even a Communist who tries to organize the hundreds of thousands of unorganized steel workers.

And just as the elected leaders of the farmers—Magnus Johnson, Frazier and the others—have betrayed the interests of the exploited farmers, in advocating government ownership of the farmers, in the same way, the elected leaders of the workers—Gompers, Lewis and the others—betray the interests of the workers, in advocating government ownership of the workers. The speeches of Gompers in the Portland convention of the American Federation of Labor provide the best pretext for the government to persecute the foreign born workers—in other words, the overwhelming majority of the laboring masses in the basic industries. Registration of aliens is but the first step towards government ownership of the workers. Registration of aliens means that the capitalists are virtually making an inventory of their living possessions, in the same way as at the end of the business year they take an inventory of their stock in trade.

The reactionary bankers, trust-lords and government are crying out that Communism is a serious menace to the country. What is Communism? Simply public ownership of trusts, industries, banks, railroads, mines, and political rule by workers and farmers. What does President Coolidge offer with the help of Magnus Johnson, Frazier, Gompers and Lewis, to the farmers and workers? Nothing but government ownership of farmers and workers, and political rule by the big capitalists of industry, banks and railroads.

The workers and farmers must choose now. Do they want government ownership of the workers and farmers, or do they want public ownership of industries, banks and railroads by the workers and farmers?

## The Election Results in Austria

By Josef Grün (Austria).

The elaborate second process of ascertaining the votes cast for the election to the National Council, and the disagreements connected with the interpretation of the new franchise conditions, have prevented the final results from being published up to now, although the election took place on October 21. The decisions of the head electoral authorities, who did not meet until October 29, are likely to be contested by the constitutional court of justice, and will probably undergo some slight alterations in consequence.

With regard to the distribution of seats, the sole final results as yet made known refer to the various Diets, which are elected simultaneously with the National Assembly. Of the new federal states, five participated in the election. In Vorarlberg the Christian Socialists retained the two thirds majority, in Steiermark they neared an absolute majority, in Burgenland they won more seats than the Social Democrats, who have hitherto held the lead, but without possessing the majority. In Kärnten, finally, the united bourgeois list, consisting of Christian Socialists, Pan-German, and Federalists, succeeded in gaining the absolute majority, and in depriving the Social Democrats of the relative majority. The result of the elections to the Diets, from among whom the delegates for the Federal Council are chosen, signifies that the bourgeois majority in the Federal Council, hitherto very small, will now be increased.

The most important Diet election, however, was that to the Diet of Vienna, which is also the municipal council of Vienna, which is again the federal province and the largest municipality in Austria, and comprises almost 30 per cent of the inhabitants of Austria. Since the elections of May 4, 1919, the Social Democrats had possessed nearly a two thirds majority. The