The Passing Show

The San Diego Flood.

The following telegram, dated March 24th, sent out by Stanley M. Gue, secretary of the California Free Speech League, is a condensed history of capitalism. Where its own laws will not avail it turns slinger and murderer of the kind it jails and hang. Read:

"The folk of a month old, taken from city by police, beaten nearly to death, shot at and clubbed. Men scattered in hills. Four return to San Diego. Joe Marko has horrible hole in head and blood soaked shirt and coat, is in semi-conscious condition. Two men of death. Labor papers confiscated. Newspapers arrested. More conspiracy charges against Whyte, Gue, Rosen and Gosden, who have been re-arrested. Big protest meetings in Los Angeles. Hundreds on way here.

"An injury to one is an injury to all."

The jails are full, still the men keep piling into the city for the purpose of being arrested. When men and women become so fully charged with the virus of barbarous freedom that jails no longer terrify them, what else can a civil government do but kill them?

Government is maintained on the fact that ninety-nine per cent of the people are either too stupid to desire the freedom it prohibits, or to cowardly to defy its mandates. The one per cent that occasionally violates its commandments, it is prepared to hand. But, when a number of people deliberately refuse to obey its laws, it is fairly "up agin it."

Varially, these free speech fights are doing a wonderful educational work. They are taking the terror out of the jails; they are exposing the weakness of government; and they are showing the people the one and only effective and speedy way of setting aside the thou-shalt-nots, namely: direct action.

How the Press Doctors the News.

The mine disaster at McCurtain, Oklahoma, sent ninety miners to their deaths, and the capitalist press passed the horrible event up after the first announcement. The press, that plays up to the limit, the killing of a few court officials in Virginia, giving us pages of pictures and scare-headed write-ups daily, forget, instantly, the killing of these toilers whose lives were sacrificed to the greed of a system that cares only for dividends. It sheds buckets of crocodile tears over the bereaved families of the judge and bailiff, but not a sigh for the sixty-five widows and 250 fatherless and foodless children in the mining town in Oklahomas.

Posse and police from two states are hunting down the murderers of the court officials, on whose heads a reward has been placed. Who are engaged in tracing down the men responsible for the criminal negligence that leave mines without proper safeguards against fire-damp? No one. That would be "unbecoming," and might tend to foster discontent and disrespect for the law.

Revolutionists do not expect the press to advertise the murderous work of the capitalists. The capitalists are a brotherhood, and the press is a loyal member. As loyal and necessary fellow grafters, the newspapers got the brotherhood stamp on every item of news that appears on their pages. Small thieves, who do not come in any family, are hunted down and punished severely; and the papers give extra prominence to the news, as a warning to the public of the danger and folly of violating the rules of the game. Amateur murderers are hunted down and hanged; and letters of fire proclaim the ghastly work in our "family" newspapers. But the killers who murder by wholesale the workers of the world are left untouched and their deeds go unaltered. "It's the fault of the system," you say. True; and it's up to me and to you to tear down a system that rests on the mangled corpses of men.

Government, a Capitalist Weapon.

The young Republic of Portugal has furnished added proof to the argument that government is government, whatever its form; that the function of government is to protect and foster the exploitation of labor; that it is, in fact, the expression of the wishes of the capitalist or dominant economic class; and that it will be as violent, brutal and atrocious as the needs of capitalism requires at any given time.

There was a general strike on in Portugal. Lisbon and several other cities were tied up. The capitalists were beaten, if they did not change their tactics of quasi passiveness, which they did. Martial law was proclaimed. The Union headquarters were surrounded by soldiers. Over a thousand strikers were arrested and imprisoned in the foul holds of warships. On their way to prison they song the International with enthusiasm. They were huddled together under the most uncanny conditions and are to be tried by a military tribunal on the charge that they were aiding and abetting in the overthrow of the Republic. It is proposed, further, to dissolve all Trades Unions in Portugal, as being composed of a set of dangerous ruffians. Which, indeed, is the truth, from the capitalist point of view.

If the Unions were praised by the capitalists as bulwarks of the Republic, like our own "safe and sound" unions have often been, it goes without saying they would be a very tame and harmless set of slaves, and quite unworthy of the distinction of being called traitors to the capitalist system.

Syndicalists Jailed in England.

Guy Bowman, editor, and two others connected with "The Syndicalist," organ of the Syndicalist League, have been sentenced to serve from six to nine months in jail, on the charge of spreading "inflammatory literature." Tom Mann was arrested later on the same charge.

The English capitalists have awakened to the dangers of syndicalism. But they are too late to forestall it. It has already taken root and these arrests will only help it grow. The Transport Workers' strike was the first evidence of the evolution from craft to industrial unionism; and the present coal miners' strike is further proof.

Nothing really frightens capitalism except a stoppage of the wheels of industry. We may vote for whom we please: he may go to the halls of Congress and ore all over the Congressional Record, so long as he is still wheels in going round capitalism is content and safe. It is work not oratory that counts in this world. A jawsmith may play Yankee-doodle on our emotions, but it takes a blacksmith to shoe a horse.

The Trials of Forty-five.

The trial of the forty-five Labor Agitators gathered in by the U. S. government on the charge of conspiracy to transport explosives between the states in violation of the Interstate Commerce law was set for October.

This is a veiled attempt to use the U. S. government in conjunction with the state governments to put the Iron Workers' Union out of business, and to bound and fetter every man who might be suspected of using destructive tactics, or thinking they might be used.

The idea behind the whole persecution is plain to be seen: Put the eternal kibosh on the dynamite business in the labor war. The masters object to the workers using anything that will kill. They favor discussion and conciliation and arbitration. Or, better still, no unions at all, which is the policy of the steel trust.

What a peaceful, God-fearing country this would be if the steel trust and the government could only succeed in overreaching the working men.

The Lawrence Strike Still On.

There are eight thousand still on strike in Lawrence. The capitalist press has stopped advertising the strike. Its last word was: "The strike is ended," and it cut the wire. But the workers are developing their own press —the most important instrument for propaganda—and are no longer dependent wholly upon the enemy for information.

Money is needed to feed these strikers and to defend Ettor and Gevannatti. The bosses have sprung a new trick for the purpose of stopping the collection of funds. They have brought their old friend, the injunction, into play. But Haywood assures us: "There is nothing that can prevent us from distributing relief, and we will do it in the face of all the courts and injunctions."

In a speech delivered in New York City recently Senator Borah said that we are the most lawless of any civilized nation; that in no country is there "so little respect for law because it is law."

The Senator might have added that there is no people in the world so fond of making laws, no nation that employs so many law makers, and none that can come within a mile of us in the number of law factories.

They say Roosevelt will not get the nomination. He should get it. He is the man for the times. He is a good rider, has no scruples of any kind, and has all the other qualifications for a dictator. Dictator! Don't get scared nor nervous. The times are fast developing the capitalistic need of one. And he'll come when they call for him.

Capitalists dont advocate violence, they use it.

JAY FOX.
another child out into the yard, and the whole band disrupts. Then follows the play in the yard, in which I join.

In the next days we were busy making cardboard frames for the selected pictures; of course there was much wasted paper. Then we peppered the injured fingers particularly of those children who had never handled any scissors or other tools before. Later, wanting some reality, open-air air in my yard out work in the yard, building lakes, rivers, snows, mountains, etc. For that purpose we have to use the gardening tools, and some of the children who never made friends with a hoe.

Now some fights occur when different children interfere with the work of another. Later in the week we take a trip to the Museum of Art. The museum has recently opened showing different phases of the history of Egypt. As a further consequence of our talk on the geography of Africa, we visit the "Museum of African Art," a picture show in Mogile hill, where a famous lecturer explains eight weeks' travel with a caravan of Arabes on camels in the desert of Sahara, when the芸ancy range, because of the relatively high price of admission; but I have written to the lecturer and he has allowed us a reduction of the price, and he has been contributted by some of the "parents" and by our school organization.

- B. LIBER, M. D., in "The Modern School." (To be continued.)

AS TO FLAGS

When a State Committee of the Socialist Party, in the Seattle Convention, requested admission until the United States flag be added to the decorations, he started a near riot and his motion was overwhelmingly voted down.

We do not regard the American flag in any greater degree than we do the Russian, German, or English flags, or that of any other capitalist or feudal nation where people are divided in their nationalities, but only as an instrument, under the capitalistic mode of production involving the essential exploitation of labor through a system of slavery.

The Socialists are an Internation and as such we think infinitely more of our fellow-workers in "foreign" countries than in those of our own country, say for example, the workingmen of Canada, Mexico or Timbuctoo for that matter, that we do of the mine. Capital and labor are the two sides of the same old coin. Capital produces the products which we consume,

As an Internation we have chosen a flag—a red blood banner, symbolical of the common spirit of the aspiring human heart. It was the flag raised in all the world and when the world was young. It was woven of the spangled rays of the first clear dawn of civilization. It was the daylight signal of our fathers who by night built their beacon fires on a thousand hills. It was the ensign of Spartans and Phyrigians. It preceded the early Christian communists and in later days became the first standard raised in the American Revolution at Reed's Hill.

The Moravian Sisters of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, waved a red flag, and presented it to Count Pulaski to be used against the British. It was carried to Savannah and the daring Pole was buried in its folds. We have chosen it. To it alone are we loyal and we will follow its standard until we have made a place in this world when we have restored the earth and machinery to labor.

BRUCE ROGERS.

WHAT REVOLUTIONS TEACH

If people would allow themselves the pleasure of studying such a great and fascinating event as the Russian Revolution they would have no difficulty, I believe, in finding their way thru the tangle in which they seem to have lost themselves. A little inventing of a little history will show a great upheaval without comprehending that the feudal system, which had stood for centuries and was far more powerful than we believe in it, was rooted in the mind, not in the body, of the people.

Napoleon is regarded as the highest type of military genius and the quintessence of military lies in the words of a certain Frenchman: "Repetition of the same apparent ploy to the same end." The antecedent of the same sort. He crushed the politicians but he did not attempt to crush the workers. On the contrary, he placated them.

If we come down to recent dates and examine such an upheaval as the Russian Revolution of only ten years ago we shall be forced to similar conclusions. We are still too near that picture to view it impartially, but we can see that the uprisings and fevered orations in St. Petersburg, Moscow and other centers resulted in little but the allowing the House of the Czar to continue to hold the people in its grasp.

On the other hand, the Czar found itself in a state of extreme confusion. The people, instead of making concessions to the peasants, present- ing them with what is known as "the new spirit" of a new kingdom of a new people. Those concessions were made only because the peasants had become conscious of their own power. The peasant—and the peasant is probably the most peaceful creature in the world—had shown that he would not be compro- mised to work, even gone as far as to raid the nobleman's estate. In fact, he even had the audacity to refuse stodgy supplies; he was obviously a power to be reckoned with; he must be placated.

Look at what is now going on across the Mexican bor- der and we shall see the same truth illustrated. The Mexican City mobs that cheered or cursed Tito and are now cheering or cursing Madero, as they will cheer or curse Gomez, Crozer, or whoever may be Madero's suc- ceesor, will be dispersed at intervals by police and soldi- dary, and the government never will put itself out seri- ously to placate them. At most they will be offered some change of ruler who will praise them more ful- ly and offer them a more attractive style of oratory. But the Mexican Peasant is an entirely different element as he has been taught by bitter experience how to live and how to die. He does not know what is to him the prime necessity of life—the land; has driven hundreds of land monopolists into exile and the world is coming to hate the Czar's throne so threatening peril. Therefore, in Mexico we also observe the same phenomenon, and from President Madero to President Gomez, aware political power is at hand, and is a source of national assurance, viz., that the peasant will only be good and submissive to authority he shall have what he is now taking away from him.

As this is the case of the Czar of Russia; rulers attend to their business which is to discover where the power actually lies and to make terms with it.

It is a time-honored proverb that "history maketh men wise" and cannot fail to teach a much wisdom of how to master facts so plain as those to which I point. I am sure, on the other hand, that the man without any historialedge is incapable of grasping the political and social public issues.

I feel very strongly that if certain alleged revolutionary leaders had even a bowing acquaintance with the record of the past they could not honestly as- sume toward the pressing problems of the hour the atti- tude they are assuming. For of late, in all their treat- ment of such all-important struggles as that which cul- minated for the moment in the McNamaras confession; in such social wars as that at Lawrence, Mass., or, the gigantic coal strikes now threatening to paralyze Great Britain and Germany, they seem to be in the stage of the three great lessons taught us by the worlds greatest rev- olutionary leaders in opposition against which we must struggle can be pushed back or unseat the man who has power in any potent power. The second is that society, like armies, is full of fast men, and when it depends on command of food supplies. The third is that if you have the com- mand of the food supplies within your grasp but are not ready to take them, you are not a power but an impotence; and the lesson in the latter case is that those in authority will pay not the least attention. You may have mastered the entire literature of political economy; you may have yelled your head off in your worship of revolutionarvspillbinders; but if you are afraid to act, your learning and your enthusiasm will do you just as much good as does the annual public reading of that truly Anarchistic document, The Decla- ration of Independence.

I have been led into these reflections by a careful re- view of the various and contradictory comments on the McNamaras confession; from clippings of Tito v. Law- rence Strike, in which Mr. Gompers appeared to think his brothers in France were doing his work; the winning of a battle that would profit them and thereby injure a particular organization; from clippings relative to the strikes in England.

And when I take a wider range and look beyond the limits of our own economic struggles I find the same tendencies in the old countries. To make the case clear, I will quote claims that they are revolutionary leaders. I take "The Public" to be a journal of that character. I assume that the "public" is by no means a group in the general sense of the word and the confection of the landlords! In fact, I have no objection to their out compensation, which was the heart and soul of Henry George etc. that is to say, the revolutionar- ies. Yet when I turn to "The Public" edition of the determined effort made recently by the English suffer-
LIBERTY AND THE COMMUNE

White Lily, springing in the life of France, Freedom, whose roots chaptered round the hearts of The Scare had at thine time to burst in blossom, when Hate of thy beauty rose in darkishness; and looking on thy spotless bloom askance, Tyranny made thy garden like a fen With streams of blood into whose whelm then; Mockingly laughed, and bade thy growth advance.

Midst pools of gore with riven carcases lined, Thy pure white petals bruised and dripping red, Still didst thou greet the world that thee dead; Vex, even clad flesh didst find food; Freedom, and, slow lifting up thy head, Livid, to live at last, mankind, world.

—William Francis Harman

The Agitator

gets to enforce what the editor himself pronounces as being their natural right, I find only unstated condemnation need go no further than this: they have waited with parliament saw fit to give them; they have ruined them by cause. It is the teaching that underlies the entire Socialist propaganda, and is false to all the lessons both of the present and the past; a cowardly and cowardly sophistry that flies in the face of fact.

We may squirm and squall, and deplore, but that does not effect one wit the central facts that struggle is the heart and soul of every process; is forever more dangerous than wiser, things happen because their happening is necessary to development. It is the fashion among thoseWithout the struggle and the struggle, horses, these Frankenstein terrified at the being they themselves created, to decry revolutions. But revolutions are part and parcel of the natural law of growth. In my judgement they are the most important part, for only revolutionary periods rouse man out of the self-same into which he habitually falls and wake him from dreams to the realities of life. Then only does he look facts straight in the face and see the hollow mockery of the pretense. For it is not in the struggle, it is in the struggle, self-abasement, individual heroism no advance for the individual or that aggregation of individuals we call "society" is possible. In this article I have endeavoured to point out what I conceive to be the leading truths revealed by the French, the Russian and the Mexican revolutions. Analysis of all other struggles will give similar results.

WM. C. OWEN.

THE AGITATOR IN HISTORY

IV

(The matter running under this title was written for "The Freer's Magazine," but didn't quite suit that subservient capitalist sheet. It isn't sentiment.

It is too radical; it bars too loud at the system.)

Is the American or the Russian, or the French (or the representative government) has proven to be a failure? Is it not common knowledge that the U. S. Senate is a rich body of men, one of many of whose members have bought their seats by the bribery of legislators? Have we forgotten the graft exposures of recent years? Isn't the finger of suspicion pointed at every legitimate body in the land?

Tasoma Shows Failure of Government.

We may not be in a city, the proof of the failure of representative government. By its adoption of the commission form, which is a reversal back to the centralized or monarchical form of government, the officials of Tasoma have become just as bad as the disapprobation upon representative government.

The statute under which I have been convicted is a confession of failure, and weakness, and at the same time a reversal back to ancient, monarchical forms.

No System Against Crimination.

No system that is strong and deeply engrained in the heart of the people is safe from criticism. For criticism brings out strong points of such a system, by comparison, and thereby end the same point.

When we make criticism a crime you are not only daring back to monarchy, you are violating the most sacred charter of Liberty—the Freedom speech.

When the American people saw that the constitutional convention failed to make provision for the protection of free speech, they realized at once that a most important matter had been overlooked, and set about to remedy the oversight. So, in the first amendment to the constitution reads: "Congress shall make no laws abridging the freedom of speech or of the press."

This shows us how dearly the people cherished the right of free expression in the early years of this Republic, when the impress of European tyranny was fresh in the land.

The State of Washington tells us we must not publish anything which even tends to create disrespect for the laws, or dignity of human authority, which it was in my case, that to criticize any law, no matter how stupid or absurd it might be, is to commit a crime. The only way of law can be construed as bringing all law into disrespect. As a matter of fact, it is the laws themselves and the criticism of the criticisms that cause the distrust. The anti-treating law is a good example of what I mean.

"Nude and Prude" Not Attack on Law.

In "The Nude and The Prudes" there is no actual or intended invitation to disrespect for the law. The law is not the subject of the article. What I was endeavoring to do was to get into concrete form the disrespect in which the community in which I live held a few individuals. I was simply acting in my capacity as an newspaper man, reporting the news. As a member of the colony, I was interested, and felt the same indignation toward those individuals, whom I had no right to believe were not inspired in their efforts to "clean up the colony" by legitimate motives.

There was but one way consistent with the general opinion to show our disapproval, and that was to ridicule these persons, boycott them. That is what the article unpretentiously did. I called attention in the opening line and urged the people to ridicule the law. It was far-fetched and strained. So much so, that every lawyer we sub- mission to the article to laugh at the idea that a conviction could be obtained.

Of course, no lawyer could be had on the bare article alone. So other means had to be resorted to in order to bring about the desired result.

The circulation of nudist dynamite, which every man does who has land to clean; and the further circumstance that I visited San Francisco about six weeks before the "Nude disaster," where I go frequently to lecture and in the interest of The Agitator, were fine material for those engaged in the "cleaning up" to get into concrete form the disrespect in which the community in which I live held a few individuals. I was simply acting in my capacity as a newspaper man, reporting the news. As a member of the colony, I was interested, and felt the same indignation toward those individuals, whom I had no right to believe were not inspired in their efforts to "clean up the colony" by legitimate motives.

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THE EDITOR’S DEFENCE

The Editor of this paper has been convicted on the charge of "encouraging disrespect for the law." If this verdict is allowed to stand every free citizen of the State will be at the absolute mercy of the prosecutors, and may be thrown into jail at any moment.

The interest of The Agitator in this case be appealed, and we urge that you subscribe to this fund.

The Free Speech League.

NATIONAL LEVYN, Tex.

REGENERATION

Weekly organ of the Mexican Revolution; published by the Mexican Liberal Party. Edited by H. W. 914 Boston St., Los Angeles, California.

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Around the World

The Commune of Paris

If we had been in the beautiful city of Paris 41 years ago this month, we would have seen a great city in the throes of armed revolt. Not merely a mutiny among the rank and file of the political police, which had misgoverned fair France; not alone a fierce protest against the surrender of the French armies to the victors, as well as against an armed force rising against a threatened re-establishment of the empire—though each and all of these have been decried by some or other of the friends of the revolt. It was a revolt of a far more sweeping character. It was a violent protest against the infamous political police and social system and its men and women, as against all the vested interests of the inherent right of men. It was a protest of the robèd against further spoliation, of the poor against a continuance of their misery. It was a revolt against continued fraud, vice, crime and war. It is not necessary to recount the incidents which transpired, in rapid succession, from the 15th of March, 1871, till the army of Versailles effected an entrance into the doomed city. We are all familiar with the principal events of that memorable time: How, on the day mentioned, the government troops made a desperate but unsuccessful attempt to steal up the stairs of the national parliament, how the attempt was frustrated mainly through the devotion of the women of the Commune, who by their enthusiastic and resolute efforts to lay down arms and to fraternise with the poor people; how General Clement Thomas and Jerome were shot, because of their cruelty and tyrannical conduct, by the Council’s own soldiers; how the Commune, which was daily strengthened by the repeated failures of the Versailles troops to dislodge the soldiers of the Commune from the advantageous positions occupied by them in the environs of Paris; how step by step our comrades mounted to the zenith of their power and influence. Louis Despots, Geon, Riol, and others, by the 26th of March the Commune was formally declared.

Let us dwell, for a moment, upon the scenes of that last fatal week, beginning with Sunday, May 21, 1871. That was the day when the government forces capitulated to the Commune and occupied the St. Cloud gate, and lasting until noon of the following day, when the last barricade in the Faubourg du Temple had been overpowered and the last armed insurgent had been hunted to death among the graves in the cemetery of Pere la Chaise. From the moment that the soldiers entered the city scenes of carnage were enacted which beggar all efforts at description—scenes which have no counterpart in history save the bloody night of the massacre of St. Bartholomew. Would that I could paint in words of living fire the damnable deeds perpetrated in the name of duty on that last fatal week. I would see and burn the knowledge of the awful truths so deep in the brains and hearts of my readers that their very cheeks would blanch and the blood would surge through their veins with a rush. I would bid them remember the shambles opened in vacant cellars by the French officers; where the men and women of the Commune were murdered and their sexes were taken for slaughter. I would remind them of the crowds of men, women and children who were forced, by the march of death under the scorching sun, through the public streets, manacled together with heavy chains, and who were shot or stabbed at the least possible sign or the slightest gesture of despair. I would tell them again of the sick and disabled, murdered in their beds in the hospitals; of the men whose heads were ripped open; of the ruthless slaughter of innocent babies. And then I would paint for them the hideous sight of the comrades of the Commune perished like wild beasts in the mud, and finally mowed down with guns and cannon which were directed at the barricades until the scattered and wounded were left but a reeking mass of blood and mangled flesh.

Let us not forget these things, my comrades, for the day will surely dawn when their remembrance must serve as our watchwords of deeds worthy of the cause which we call our own.

The lack of space will not permit a history of the Paris Commune. We already have them, both from a capitalistic and socialistic point of view. The oficials of the Commune. The former do not deny, but justify, the wanton murder of 50,000 Communards; the latter give dates and places and documents to prove their rectitude. Visitors in Paris at the time (among whom may be mentioned Frederick Harrison, the English social democratic, and Paul de Kock) have also written accounts of the merciless tortures and butcheries of the Communards by the regular and police forces.

The massacres of that awful week were ordered committed by those in authority. Nay, more, they were ordered by sword and by the clergy. It was openly stated that when the Commune would once more resume its authority in the ill-fated city, the working people of Paris were to be treated like wild beasts, hunted and slaughtered without mercy.

Be patient, comrades! Be patient and strong! The hour of our deliverance is not far. The hour of our deliverance is not far. The hour of our deliverance is not far. The hour of our deliverance is not far.

W. M. Holmes.

“Anarchy—a social theory which regards the union of order with the absence of all direct government of man by man as the political ideal.”—Century Dictionary.

REVOLUTIONARY TACTICS

In the next number of The Agitator we will begin the publication of a series of articles by Fellow Worker Foster, on Revolutionary Tactics. These articles will include a critical examination of the tactics pursued by the Socialists, Anarchists, Syndicalists and the I. W. W., and a comparative analysis of their general effect upon organized labor.

Fellow Worker Foster has spent considerable time in Europe recently, studying the labor movement, and the data and general information he will embody in these articles will be of great value to us American revolutionaries, and whether or not we agree with his conclusions. Our ignorance of the European labor movement is monumental. After we have studied the articles carefully, we will then be in a position to draw our own conclusions. I warn you against snap judgment one way or the other. There is much to be considered.

J. F. WM.

From small acorns great oaks grow; all confusions start with a spark. Of late days even the most optimistic have been forced to admit that society is sleeping on a slumbering volcano, and the awakening may be nearer than many of us, regarded skepti- cal by years of disappointment, have supposed.

WM.

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