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DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF ALL THE WORKERS

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Billions as Profits While Wages Collapse

REFLECTIONS

By the Editor

PATRIOTISM IS LARGELY a matter of viewpoint. If a foreign foe were to devastate our land and impose suffering upon American men, women and children, it would be considered good Americanism for all of us to resist to the utmost. In that case submission would be rightly interpreted as an act of craven cowardice and co-operation with the enemy could be nothing less than treason.

However, values and definitions appear to change when the same results arise from the activities of enemies within our national borders.

FOR MORE THAN three years the people of America have been suffering as a result of the activities of their fellow Americans. To the man out of a job it makes no difference whether a foreigner or an American closes factories and reduces living standards to starvation levels. The effect is the same whether the persons who keep workers out of work-shops are American policemen or armed aliens.

However, for some reason—probably because they are told to do so—the workers of America react differently to American-made tyranny. Instead of resisting starvation they submit to it. Instead of fighting every move made by capitalism's generals for the preservation of the poverty system they actually co-operate and are thankful for the crumbs that are handed them.

WHAT'S THE MATTER? Right now there are millions of Americans who are existing under conditions which are certainly no worse than those imposed by the German army upon its prisoners of war. And who can believe that the people of "Little Belgium" would have suffered any more than millions of Americans now suffer if the Belgians had accepted German invasion as meekly and co-operatively as the great American public accepts the rule of a small group of American plutocrats?

Has all the patriotism oozed out of Americans that they permit their nation and their homes to be laid waste merely in order to preserve the privileges of a ridiculously small minority of self-seeking individuals?

IF I WERE asked to name the highest duty of present-day Americans I would mention the word "resistance." It is the duty of the millions to resist every effort which is now being made to make American life fit with the philosophy of poverty which is now being foisted upon the people.

To resist wage cuts is to fight for the right of life, liberty and happiness; to resist pauper jobs for food vouchers is to resist slavery; to resist cheapening of public expenditures is to repel enemies who are threatening the welfare of coming generations.

THAT, OF COURSE, is only a fanciful reflection at the present time. It will remain no more than that as long as the workers lack the POWER of resistance.

And right there is the rub. The workers are powerless. They can do nothing more than weep and swear—and obey. In the past those who are now the victims of the system's collapse set themselves pretty for slavery. (Continued on Page Seven)

DIVIDENDS AND INTEREST MOUNT WHILE SUFFERING GROWS THROUGHOUT WORLD

Years of Depression Have Not Hurt Owners of Big Industries—Rake-offs of Those Who Own Are Now Five Times as Large as in 1913—Low Commodity Costs Further Increase Power of the Few Whom Capitalism Benefits

(By COLSTON E. WARNE)

AMHERST, Mass. (FP)—The flow of money into the coffers of those who own stocks, bonds and other evidences of debt has been increasing at a steady pace and reached a peak in 1930. This is shown by figures compiled by the Journal of Commerce, a conservative Wall Street publication, and accepted and published by the U. S. Department of Commerce.

The total interest and dividends paid during the first 10 months of 1932 are reported as \$6,030,000,000 as against a total for the whole of 1928 of \$6,028,000,000. While dividend and interest payments are certain to be well above the 1928 figure when the last two months' totals have been added, wages have fallen more than a half. In each case the figures represent actual money, totals, with no relation to percentage, and no adjustments of any kind.

No Depression For Owners
Going back further, the total of dividend and interest payments are nearly five times as large as in 1913; they are more than twice the level of 1923; even in this year of staggering depression they are well above the average of the preceding 10 years. In no two years in American history have interest and dividend payments exceeded those of the depression years, 1930 and 1931. The three depression years, 1930, 1931 and 1932, will show payments 90% as great as the whole war decade, 1913 through 1922, which included war prosperity and the post-war boom.

Here is the table from the Journal of Commerce which shows how the payments of dividends and interest have piled up for the last 20 years:

Year	Payments
1913	\$1,777,000,000
1914	1,788,000,000
1915	1,865,000,000
1916	2,135,000,000
1917	2,389,000,000
1918	3,029,000,000
1919	3,189,000,000
1920	3,415,000,000
1921	3,342,000,000
1922	3,299,000,000
1923	4,085,000,000
1924	3,840,000,000
1925	4,086,000,000
1926	4,391,000,000
1927	5,670,000,000
1928	6,028,000,000
1929	7,584,000,000
1930	8,572,000,000
1931	8,220,000,000
1932	6,030,000,000*

(*—First 10 months.
These figures are not complete, since certainly not all interest paid by individual borrowers is reported, for example. But they may be compared.) (Continued on Page Seven)

ERIE, PENNA., REGISTERS HEAVY SOCIALIST GAINS

In 1928 Thomas polled a total of 115 votes in the city for President. In 1932 Thomas had 1,319 votes in the city and 708 in the county, making a total of 2,027 ballots to compare with the 115 of four years ago. The Socialist Labor Party had 17 votes in the entire city and county, and Foster, Communist, had 67 in the city and 19 in the county, a total of 86.

Local Erie is now laying intensive plans to effect a complete city organization, and is forming ward organizations with chairmen in each voting precinct in the city. Their slogan is, "On with the fight that has barely begun."

HAIN-SYMONT'NE CASE Aired AT T.P.L. MEETING

Speaker For Unemployed Organization Reads Statement From Work Director's Associate in Check Transaction

PLAN STATE ORGANIZATION

Four Hundred Hear Demands For Higher Living Standards For Citizens Who Become Unemployed

The Lillian Hain-Russ Symontowne case was unexpectedly revived at a meeting of the unemployed workers of Reading on Thursday afternoon. The meeting was called by the Taxpayers' Protective League and was attended by about 400 persons.

Several weeks ago the League had presented a petition to the Poor Directors of Berks asking that Symontowne be removed from his \$350-per-month position as Director of Work Relief. Prior to that publicity was given to the fact that, upon the recommendation of Symontowne, the Board had issued two checks totaling \$206.75 to one Lillian Hain for services which, according to Raymond Wenger, accountant-investigator for the Taxpayers' League, were (Continued on Page Two)

PARTY APPROVES UNIONS' PROGRAM

Resolution Adopted by Executive Committee Declares Industrial Efficiency Must Result In Reduction of Working Time

BALTIMORE.—The Socialist party, through its executive committee, meeting in Baltimore last week end, promised its co-operation in the program outlined by the American Federation of Labor in Cincinnati. The party's resolution follows:

"The National Executive Committee of the Socialist party, in session in the city of Baltimore, sends fraternal greetings to the American Federation of Labor and warm congratulations upon the progress it has made at its recent annual convention in Cincinnati.

Approves New Demands
"We heartily endorse the demand for a 30-hour week. The natural advantages of the marvelous technical improvements in our industrial processes should not be allowed to be perverted into dire social calamity, and to deprive millions of workers of a chance to work and live. In a fair and rational industrial system increased productivity of labor must be met by a corresponding reduction of work time and improvement of living standards.

"We join emphatically in your condemnation of the dangerous 'share-work' campaign, which is but a hypocritical method of further reducing wages, and in your opposition (Continued on Page Four)

SOCIALIST CIGARS

Karl Marx Cigars, in five and ten-cent brands, put up in boxes of 25, make splendid Xmas Gifts. Order yours now by dialing 2-2441.

GEORGE TELLS WHY SOCIALISTS OPPOSE REDUCTION IN TAX RATE

Nine-Mill Rate Will Benefit Rich, Handicap Social Service and Result in Future Tax Increase, Councilman Declares—City Debt Has Increased During Year. City Wage Bill Will be Cut and Unemployment Increased—Condemns Plan to Grab Water Funds

Quoting Fusion Councilman William J. Smith's admission that the city could not be properly operated on a 9-mill tax rate, Councilman Jesse George, Socialist, yesterday declared that the cut from 10 to 9 mills will be followed by a tax increase later, probably in 1934, which will work a greater hardship than ever upon such workers as still retain possession of their homes by that time. George, with Councilman William C. Hoverter, are the Socialist minority in Council and both have declared their opposition to the millage cut. At this week's session of Council Hoverter, as Director of Accounts and Finance, refused to introduce the 1933 budget which was computed on a 9-mill basis. The ordinance was introduced by Mayor Ermentrout.

S. P. EXECUTIVES NAME GROUP FOR INDUSTRIAL WORK

Committee, Headed by Krzycki, Will Organize Unemployed and Act In Strikes And Relief Work

FIX \$75,000 AS '33 BUDGET

Committee Named to Work With Independent Papers Favorable to Socialism—Approve Work of L. I. D.

BALTIMORE.—Aiming to coordinate Socialist activities on the industrial field, the Socialist national executive committee has chosen Leo Krzycki, member of the executive board of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, as chairman of a committee on relations to labor.

Associated with Krzycki will be James D. Graham, president of the Montana Federation of Labor; Powers Haggood, formerly organizer for the United Mine Workers; James H. Maurer, who was president for sixteen years of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor; and Emil Rieve, president of the American Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers.

The committee will be in charge of work in organizing the unemployed, forming strike relief machinery, assisting in strikes, and supplying in (Continued on Page Four)

GREEK SOCIALISTS IN N. Y. ORGANIZE PARTY BRANCH

Greek Socialists in New York City have organized a branch to crystallize Socialist sentiment among Greek-American Socialists and to help Greeks in their labor unions and community life. Although the branch is new, it has already sent a delegate to the recent United Youth Anti-War Conference here and is sending a delegate to the annual convention of the party in Baltimore, Dec. 9 to 11. It is also attempting to organize Greek food workers into unions.

Anyone interested in Socialist organizing among the Greeks can get information from this branch: Paul Dejerenis, 206 East 96th street, New York, N. Y.

What Reading Folks Are Talking About

STILL LYING ABOUT SOCIALISTS

Quoting Charles A. Mills, president of the Merchants' Bureau of the Chamber of Commerce, both daily newspapers published the statement that when the Fusion administration removed the snow from Penn street this week it was "the first time in 20 years the City of Reading has undertaken to clear Penn street of snow at its own expense."

Commenting upon this statement, ex-councilman Maurer said: "That man Mills must be a stranger in Reading. The Socialist administration cleaned Penn street after every real big snow and paid the workers 50 cents per hour instead of the measly 5-cent cash rate which is now being paid to workers on public projects."

In their desire to boost Fusion stocks the labor exploiters of Reading are making extravagant claims, not because they approve so mightily of the Fusion brand of city government, but because they desire to kill the prestige of the Socialists.

Socialists are trying to acquire political power in every department of government because they know that only by the use of power can they end the system under which men of the Mills type can hire department store girls for less than living costs. The Socialist economic policy, and not the municipal record of the Socialists, is the unforgivable crime in the opinion of labor exploiting individuals.

GLORIFYING SLAVERY

It was sickening to read the words of praise which Relief Work Director Russ Symontowne wrote about workers at the municipal fuel yard.

Unemployed workers who braved last Saturday's bitter cold to prepare fuel for the homes of the jobless were hailed as heroes and their "splendid spirit" was strongly commended. As a matter of fact, the work they did was just about as degrading an exhibition of abject humility as could be imagined.

This is the 20th century and the workers who prepared wood for fuel are citizens of the richest nation on earth. Just a few miles separates Reading from the anthracite coal regions where miners are willing and able to produce all that is needed of high grade fuel. Under such conditions there is no real need for men in Reading to freeze themselves at a wood-cutting job. And the only reason they consent to such an arrangement is that they are so thoroughly enslaved that they dare not rebel against the disgrace of needless and barbaric toil.

If the nation were suffering from some great natural calamity there would be considerable virtue in the business of standing up to the task despite the personal suffering and inconvenience. Then the responsibility of the individual to the group would be strong. But under present conditions, all that wood yards do is help keep miners' families jobless and in want, while jobless citizens vainly attempt to heat their homes with an antiquated and unsatisfactory fuel.

Docile slaves have been kidded along all through history. But always there have been some workers who resented slavery and sought the destruction of the slave system, workers who were hated and maligned by the slave drivers just as (Continued on Page Seven)

ONLY TWO MORE DAYS

Christmas Shoppers have only two more days. In the last minute rush, keep in mind Advocate advertisers.

SOCIALIST Radio Program EVERY SUNDAY

at 12:15 P. M. over 361.4M WEUE 830K

Dec. 25—Rev. Max C. Putney
Jan. 1—Raymond S. Hofes
Jan. 8—James H. Maurer
Jan. 15—Darlington Hoopes
TELL YOUR FRIENDS