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T. A. HICKY, Editor.
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No. 299

WHY AMERICA ENTERED THE WAR

A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION.

By T. A. Hicky

When the great nations of Europe began to pile up mighty armaments and to increase their troops from year to year it was known to all thinking men that war was inevitable unless some mighty movement was organized to head it off. Hence the powerful efforts of the Socialists of the world to that end; hence their great International Congress in which militarism was the main theme of discussion; in fact Belief once said that the International Congresses were held mainly "For the purpose of considering ways and means of stopping the oncoming war," and this was in 1893. Thus we can see how far back the catastrophe that has fallen upon Europe was anticipated.

It is accordingly the part of wisdom for us in the U. S. to look ahead and see what the cause of entrance into the war; what will be its immediate results and what the future.

That the United States should have either a Socialist Republic or a great system of militarism with conscription and all other attending evils has long been seen and understood by students of Social Science. Socialism and democracy or capitalism plus militarism plus slavery has been the issue for 20 years and will be the issue until slavery is established or capitalism is crushed. Why can we predict with certainty such an issue? There can be many answers made to this query, but the one that most satisfy every student of events is this: That every economic cause that produced the European war is at work in the United States now and to a larger degree than in either the entente or allied powers!

Let us see: The wealth of the United States is 225 billion dollars and is steadily increasing.

No nation in Europe comes near possessing such wealth. Two per cent of the people own 60 per cent of the wealth and 60 per cent of the people own two per cent of the wealth of the country and the whole general tendency is for the wealthy two per cent to appropriate the middle with ever increasing rapacity until it is only a matter of a decade, or so until these two per cent will own the entire nation's wealth, look, stock and barrel.

No nation in Europe can show such a disparity in wealth distribution.

Apathy, to dispose of the gigantic mass of commodities that is annually piled up before the workers' hungry eyes and which they cannot buy back, as they receive about 17 per cent of their product, the American plutocracy must fight for foreign markets even as did the plutocracy of Germany, England and France. If they do not get these markets a chaotic industrial depression will ensue and in the hungry millions would of necessity pull the temple of Robbery (profit) around their ears. Therefore they must, willy nilly have a large standing army, a mighty navy, conscription, censorship, in short everything that is in full force in Europe now, INCLUDING WAR, and that is the main reason why war was declared against Germany. It was an unparalled opportunity to bring about in the U. S., the same system of militarism that has wrecked every vestige of democratic institutions in Europe.

Let us look into how well the plutocracy have proceeded under the alleged war cloud in the past thirty days.

The following from the gifted pen of Frank Harris, editor of Pearson's Magazine, New York City, tells the tale:

FREEDOM OF PRESS PLACED IN DANGER BY ESPIONAGE BILL.

Postmaster Given Authority To Ban Any Paper He Considers Sedition.

MEASURE WILL BE RUSHED.

Washington—Amended to give the postmaster general the right to bar any newspaper or periodical containing matter he considers "of a seditious, anarchistic or treasonable character," plans already laid in the Senate and Senate to rush through the administration a espionage bill.

The bill which was prepared by the department of justice and introduced in both the senate and the house will be reported in the senate Monday.

At a meeting of the senate judiciary committee a favorable report was made on the order, although several members of the committee were absent.

WORKING UNDER COVER.

Secrecy surrounds the course of the committee in connection with the measure, which is being criticized as striking at the liberty of speech and of the press.

There is an apparent intention on the part of some members

of the senate committee to rush the bill through, if possible. That it will be attacked bitterly when it comes up for consideration seems obvious.

Some senators are understood to believe that the bill is in itself unconstitutional, but they are said to realize that once it is enacted harm can be done under its provisions before their constitutionality can be determined in the courts.

TRY TO SHIELD INCOMPETENTS.
It is suggested here that if the bill is enacted in the form in which it was drawn by the department of justice the impression may be created that information that the war is being conducted improperly is being suppressed.

In approving the bill the committee attached an amendment giving the postmaster general authority to refuse the mails to publications containing matter "of seditious, anarchistic or treasonable character." Attempts to use the mails for such matter would be punishable with five years' imprisonment or a fine of \$5,000.

Since the above was published the Pearson Magazine office was mailed four hundred copies of the magazine seized. Fortunately the new standard national edition of over 100,000 copies had been mailed out over the United States and are now selling for \$1.00 a copy.

Still the plumes' desperate attempts to choke off a free and independent press keeps on apace. In the Milwaukee Leader of April 15, last column, 1st page, we read:

ABSOLUTISM OR DEMOCRACY.
At the moment of writing only the threat of war is upon us. But the first acts of Congress and of state legislatures have been aimed against the freedom of the American people. So-called military necessity is eagerly used as a pretext for the suppression of dissent, compulsory industrial service and every other proposal calculated to throttle democracy and enshrine the absolutism desired by the economic masters of the country. This "pretextuality" is first of all a preparation against their own people.

A Congressional bill for the suppression of free speech and of free press has been introduced by the United States Senate. The censorship bill is to be railroaded into law if the President permits it. This planned press censorship is more drastic, more absolute, in its scope and in its letter, than anything that has been proposed on the peoples of war-maddened Europe; let not one word of protest against this uttermost threat of militarism has been uttered by the economic masters who have signified every possible military plunge this country into war.

The censorship is not meant to screen innocent military movements from public scrutiny; that eventually is guarded against by an existing law; but is aimed confessedly at the expression of any editorial opinion or any statement of fact which might tend to discredit "routing" or "destroy the efficiency" of the military arm of the government. It would be left to army dictators to say what did disorganize, and what did destroy efficiency.

These purposes are set forth boldly in an amazing brief for the bill issued by the War War College.

The censorship is only the most daring feature of the program of conscription and compulsion which is already being directed against the mass of American citizens. As far as possible that program is already being executed. Some features have already succeeded, some are for the time held in check. But the spirit of suppression is rampant and its forces are powerful and determined.

A senate committee has brought in a bill to prohibit any employer in the United States from giving employment to any worker under a twenty-eight years of age who does not have an army certificate of at least eight weeks military training in a year. Free Americans are to be staved into military.

A person in Congress named Padgett, a Representative of Tennessee, has introduced a bill that would force all workers to labor, with or without their own will, in any factory that the government might have commandeered or otherwise taken into control "for the public welfare." If the American Federation of Labor had not been on guard to pull it through, this bill would have fared very little by a mere executive order.

Another bill, for "espionage," would make the Russian spy system green with envy. A citizen striding by a railroad track might be arrested by any policeman of an officer. The possible use of a railroad for moving troops; the possible use of a school-house, of a courthouse or postoffice as an armory, would make the high school of the people's own property "enemy country," "no man's land."

In the various states such things as these are doing: A Missouri legislative bill would compel the Governor to commandeer as many armed guards for a railroad, as the general manager of the road might demand.

New York proposes a contingency to shoot down American workers just to add to the "Bloodily For Aye" conscription bill for the military training enactments already put into law.

Special interests in Minnesota pass a bill appropriating \$50,000 a year to enable the Governor to "suppress disorder."

So the threat runs, binding in one class-conscious interest

captured and locked up in a room with that other long distance hero, Cal. Crazy Horse from Oyster Bay and kept there until the war tells us another death.

The subject for discussion is: "How I did not climb the heights of Verdun" and "How I did not climb the heights of San Juan Hill."

The weakest, and in the sense of being dead of the bloodiest government in Europe, King George of England, should go

the eight billion dollar National Industrial Conference Board, the allied Chambers of Commerce, and the profiteers by the war. It is plain that the would-be master class of industry desires to force industrial absolutism upon the workers and to institute militarism as the quickest, straightest road to their ends.

According to this measure, if it passes, the readers of The Rebel may wake up some morning in the near future to learn that The Rebel has been suppressed and its editor is in the Federal jail at Fort Worth. All right, the next morning the schools go to school, I am going to keep on writing as I feel like it with no other considerations, and that is that I print nothing but the truth as I see it and that I shall never permit one word to appear that will bring the blush of shame to the cheek of Virtue; otherwise I am going to criticize any one I feel like from present to future, constantly, all the time being amenable to the libel laws both civil and criminal for which I say. I am pretty mild now, but if that tin ear named Burleson, who by the way has been a notorious upholder of his pious and was one of those whom Frank Walsh had in mind when he reported to Congress that the landholders have reduced Texas tenants to a condition bordering on penury should attempt to enforce a censorship, I will be one of a number of editors who will so blatter the Wilson administration that they would wish the mountains would fall on them so as to hide themselves from the sight of men.

Now if these gentlemen pass this espionage or censorship bill here is one paper that will not tone down one word. They shall call on every citizen to use every honorable means to prevent its passage and if passed fight it to a final regardless of the car-like powers of the postmaster general.

Surely things have come to a pretty pass when almost simultaneously with the abolition of the censor in Russia the plunders of Columbia seek to insure it here. We banish the censor on the NEVA and install him on the Potomac!

Am I going to fight censorship no matter what guile it appears under. In short I shall struggle against the entire Morgan plan, because I know that the object of this is to raise an army to fight our own people and then collect and underwrite the billions loaned to England by a coterie of Wall St. financiers.

Now you agents of the plutocracy at Washington, I am a clean cut American, born in Ireland, and if this be treason make the most of it.

Why do I write this way!

Because I am thinking of the carnage at Verdun. I am thinking of 3,000,000 boys lie the trenches on the Western front. I am thinking of the hills and plains of this locality that yesterday were white with snow, the color scheme of which today has been changed to red. I am thinking of the young American boys who kneels by the empty pillow where lay his little lad before he became a soldier. I am thinking of mothers of Europe who in the lonely solitude of their homes today are listening for the music of a voice that is silent, for the sound of step that are still. I am thinking of the President of the United States, but I am thinking of the quiet firesides yonder in America. I am thinking of the homes and families from which the President has expressed desire to hear and from which he should hear in trumpet tones from the fathers and mothers who have boys to save and fight for in this conscription battle. I am thinking of the youth who are training for the duties of citizenship. Europe is killing here, but let us beware of a similar fate. For no doubtful "international right" shall the lives of the nation's youth be sacrificed.

What a plot is that man who would go to the home and freer of the nation and deny the right to live to the boys of this country. Grief, anguish and despair must not be suggested in the working class homes of this country by compelling these parents to stand by the plutocracy may have their bonds underwritten by the government and the munition manufacturers heap colossal profits.

And I say—Down with War.
Down with Censorship.
Down with Conscription.
Down with the Plutocracy.

War is Hell. If they want Hell, let them GO TO HELL!

P. S.—In our next issue I shall publish a really strong article on the war.

along with his cousins, Bill, Nick and Al. The people of London were not surprised. When the British, as yet, they are coming, Father Abraham, 100,000 strong.

When we think of the pillars and wholesale bloodshed of the weaker nations by Britain—France, India, Egypt and Russia, we hope they will dump George in the Thames until he seeks refuge in his proper home—a sewer.

John D. Rockefeller is entrenched behind barbed wire, machine guns and machine guns in Pochontus Hills, New York, near Tarrytown, Westchester county, guarded by private detectives, gunmen and other armed guards. A terrible prison.

And when we think of his thugs lashing the women and children in Ludlow, Colo., we hope he stays alive until he is legally executed for his crime.

KINGS LOOKED UP.

Glory be but the people are looking up the Kings, thank God. Our Nick is in a palace here in southern Russia biting his nails and himself. The little white god, head of the Greek church does not know what name he will have to take a firing squad.

When we think of bloody Sunday we vote for a rope instead.

A dispatch from Morio states that King.

that 26 heads of National Labor Organizations have demanded a change in the form of government in the name of the working class of Spain. This means the Socialist republic, King Al, cousin of Nick, was locked in his palace surrounded by troops. He sent out word that he would not surrender like his cousin as he "would go at the head of his troops and stake his life with them. This is a new stunt for a king.

When we think of the war and Belgium we hope he will soon be

