

THE REBEL

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THE REBEL

THE GREAT AFFAIR GREAT TO US ONLY BECAUSE WE A RE ON OUR KNEES—LET US ARISE.

DALLAS, TEXAS, SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1917.

T. A. HICKY, Editor.
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Debs Holds Meetings.

DEBS URGES STRIKE IF NA- TION FIGHTS

Eugene V. Debs last night urged the workers of the country to declare a nation-wide general strike if the United States goes to war. Speaking to an audience that packed Cooper Union, the veteran Socialist, with all his old-time fire, declared he would rather be backed against a granite wall and shot as a traitor than "go to war for Wall Street."

Heading his six feet of frame toward his audience, Debs brought up his 2,000 auditors almost to a state of frenzy by his picture of harm to the toilers of the United States should the country go to war.

"I will never go to war for a capitalist government," he shouted. And a few moments later he declared that the government at Washington was capitalist.

"I'd rather a thousand times suffer the fate of Liebknecht in Germany," he said, "I'd rather be lined up against a wall and shot down as a traitor to Wall Street than fight a traitor to myself."

Debs fired on each a Gating gun. Before the cheers from one declaration died down he signaled for calm to shout another epigram.

"I am not a patriot as that word is defined in the house of Morgan," he exclaimed.

"You've been taught patriotism—brutal patriotism—patriotism for your country, but you are not a country. When the working people own this country and other countries there will be no war. I tell you it is better to live for your country than to die for it."

Debs attacked the press, which, he said, was helping the capitalists to get this country into war.

"When you read one of their editorials," he said, "you feel as if you want to go out and shoot somebody—that isn't patriotism; it's plain damfoolishness."

"If war is declared, the workers of the country will, if they are true to their class, declare a general strike and paralyze the war."

The subtext of cheers drowned the rest of the sentence.

He urged the workers to form a "revolutionary union" to save the capitalist class. The Socialist leader, he said, was the only bona fide peace movement on earth. He made a plea against teaching "the art of murder in our public schools," and declared that some professors were advocating war with Germany.

"Every exploiter, every tyrant in the history of the world," he said, "has wrapped about himself the cloak of patriotism or religion or honor for the purpose of inflicting injury but it will come into the people of the United States."

which is against war.

As he was defending Tom Mooney, his San Francisco labor leader, who has been sentenced to be hanged May 17 on a charge of setting off a bomb during the predecessor parade there, some one of the audience called out: "You bet you won't hang him!"

"You bet you won't," shouted Debs. "We'll see that I am going out to San Francisco, and if they hang Tom Mooney they have to have another noose for me!"

Charles W. Brown, who presided over the working class "sit down" strike, the only class in which they would shed their blood to overthrow capitalism in America."

George R. Kirkpatrick made an anti-war speech, in which he said: "Follow the flag? But I want to know where it is going. Follow the flag? Who's going along?"

"Why didn't we hear so much war talk when the Lusitania was sunk? Germany was not the enemy, and we had not made about all the money we could out of the war."

An admission fee of 25 and 35 cents was charged to the meeting, held under the auspices of the Socialists. Probably 2,000 persons fought in vain to get into the hall and the police reserves had to be called out to quiet disorder that arose when the doors were closed.—New York Times.

EUGENE V. DEBS ADDRESSES BIG MASS MEETING.

"The world has always been ruled by the minority," declared Eugene V. Debs, exponent of Socialism, in an address delivered before a large audience in the auditorium of Cooper Union.

High school last evening. Debs stated that the working class has always been in slavery or in some modified form of subservience. The speaker said that the human race had graduated from savagery to barbarism; from barbarism to civilization, and when civilization was reached, the feudal system was invoked. It was followed in turn by capital rule and this is the yoke the people want to throw off.

Mr. Debs said: "In every age of the world, a few men lived who had the courage of their convictions and fought for new rights. George Washington was once called an outlaw and Patrick Henry was tried for treason. However, they fought and talked and trampled down the theory of divine right of kings and set up a new government. Every new class is unpopular, as those who attacked chattel slavery in the country learned. John Brown was hanged as a criminal, and now his name is a household word."

Mr. Debs said: "We are not No. 1. Chattel slavery has disappeared, but we are not free," Mr. Debs declared. "We do not own the tools with which we work. But the laboring man is now rising from the dust in which he worked, and becoming conscious of his rights. They are now organizing. Their faces are turned toward overthrowing democracy. It is now in the industrial 50,000 people one person rule. The tendency of the

world is for democracy and the onward march is rapid.

"Workers have always been pitted against each other, to their mutual undoing," the speaker added. "When they combine, there is no power between them and the stars that will stop complete emancipation. At the beginning of our country things were primitive and men owned their own tools. There were no millions, and no trusts. Every man could compete with every other man. All is now changed," Debs declared.

"Tools have been changed to machines, owned by the rich, through the efforts of the magic hands of the inventors. But the change is not complete. Should Control Industries?"

"Why should not this nation own and control its industries?" the speaker asked. "Why should we not have individual democracy instead of for a few men Christ?"

Why not produce for the public? Mr. Debs said, "I believe that had training in public affairs even if they had no eye for anything but the 'good chance.' The result was that the policies of the party were soon being determined by these men, to the detriment of the party."

The moral of this is for the workers of the world to realize that they have soon they must see to it that those who have been tried as by fire, who have won their spurs in the battle for justice, are placed at the head."

But before they are placed at the head, they must be well-educated, and that from the work of the standpoint. So, Mr. Debs said, you can not do a greater thing than to induce in many of the younger revolutionists to secure that education.

A representative of The Rebel (E. R. Meitzen) recently inspected the People's College at Fort Scott, Kan., and unhesitatingly said that there is no institution in America that is doing more to lay broad and deep the foundations for the co-operative commonwealth than this college of Socialists, but labor union, farmers unions, including the Non-Partisan League movements, are encouraging their young members to secure the thorough training this great correspondence school affords.

Women, sitting on the jury in the state of Washington—God save the state!—the women will save the innocent.

Must go to war to protect honor. We didn't declare war on the Chinese, but we did declare war on the thousand people in the lake on the Eastland.

"We have been feeding the war for the benefit of Schwab, Morgan, Guggenheim, and others. Over a billion dollars worth of foodstuffs have been shipped to Europe while our own women are engaging in food riots to get food for their starving children," he declared.

"In all history, no war was ever declared by the people, but by the plutocracy, and the people faced death on the battle field. Human life is so sacred that it is the duty of the government to conserve it, not destroy it."

After the lecture last night, Mr. Debs was the guest of honor at a dinner, held for him, by a number of prominent Socialists. The meeting was the biggest success for the Socialists of the city.—Altoona Times, March 13.

EDUCATION THE WATCH- WORD.

Old Populists still remember with bitter regret the fact that eleven hour converts did more to drive the party into confusion and into death, than to the eleventh hour.

How this happened is still fresh in the minds of former Populists. How in the beginning of the party was composed almost entirely of workers—mainly farmers—who naturally did not have much educational training; how, when the party became strong enough to capture county and state governments there was little material available from among the party veterans to cope with the politicians of the interests. So the only thing to do was to turn to the eleventh hour converts, most of whom were shrewd lawyer politicians that had training in public affairs even if they had no eye for anything but the "good chance."

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Another Great Adventure

The Rebel was in the press club in Austin recently discussing the legislature with the ablest newspaper men in Texas. Without one dissenting voice they agreed that it was the most worthless and reactionary body that ever assembled under the big dome. I venture the assertion that this would be the last time the Democratic party as present organized, would meet in the capital. This brought out a roar of laughter and the boys voted me a great hummer! The next day during recess I mingled with the representatives and repeated my statement to Representative Bagby and others and again received the merry Ha, Ha. Now I repeat the statement for the benefit of the readers of The Rebel: The 59th Legislature will be the last legislature that will ever meet in Austin under the control of the Democratic party as present organized.

This is the reason why: Texas is a great agricultural state in spite of the fact that five-tenths of its tillable acres are locked up by greedy speculation, the other condition of its people are going steadily from bad to worse, from decade to decade. The masses, the middle man and the landlubber have mercilessly exploited them, the result has come, to them from the Demna party because the exploiters not only control it, but make up its legislative executive and judicial personnel. The people are now ready to revolt and when the fight is over the Democratic party as we now know it will have been smashed to smithereens. How to accomplish this task then is the question. There are two ways, either of which will be used. One is build up the Socialist party that in sun and rain, storm and calm, has held itself unswayed the banner of genuine democracy, the other is to adopt the plans of the gallant farmers of North Dakota who at the last election captured the state, stormed the citadel of privilege and wrecked both old party machines beyond any hope or chance of repair.

Imagine farmers getting together as farmers and with the aid of the State Federation of Labor electing 81 representatives, out of 118, electing the majority of the supreme court, the majority of state judges, electing the governor and every state office save one and on a platform that demanded:

"The collective or public ownership of oil, coal, minerals, grain elevators, flour mills, packing plants, sugar factories, state ownership of food storage plants for potatoes, fruits and other farm products, state rail and fire insurance and a prohibitive tax on land held out of use for speculative purposes."

Imagine then that this movement has spread into Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and that in Minnesota alone there are 120,000 men traveling from farm to farm at this moment as I write, then you can have an idea of how stupendous is the political revolution that is sweeping like a prairie fire across the prairie of the North and Middle West.

Now when you would be so bold

or ignorant in the light of the gallant fight that the farmers of Texas and the South have made in the Grange and Alliance, the Wheel and the K. of L. and Land League to say that the farmers and industrial workers of Texas can not follow in the footsteps of their Northern brothers and dump on the political scorpions that corrupt political organizations that have ever regaled them with honey words only to betray them when elected. So there is the reason the farmers and laborers can hang crisp on the door of the Demns.

In the meantime The Rebel, while deeply sympathetic with the Non-Partisan League's efforts, will continue to fight as in the past for the full program of socialism.

On another page under the head of Non-Partisan Socialism we publish a remarkably able article from the gifted pen of W. H. Knudsen of the state of Washington. He enters into the discussion in a lucid scholarly way that will be appreciated by our readers. We have no doubt but that will throw a flood of light on the great question of how to restore the government to the producers of wealth.

It is profoundly significant at this time to see the farmers at the Northwest reach out a hand to welcome and fraternal alliance with the men of the Southland. The Non-Partisan League has invited E. R. Meitzen, one of the founders of the Land League, to visit them and speak for them in North and South Dakota and Minnesota for the next two months. He will bring a message of hope and good will from Dixie and I predict that as a result of his visit for the first time North and South will join in a great national movement that with the assistance of the Socialist party will sweep the speculators, swindlers, land-grabbers and all other exploiters from the face of the earth. Speed the day.

REBEL WILLING TO ENLIST:--

"When the drums sound

"And the bugle blazes 'To arms.'"

I am willing to volunteer and enlist at the first break of the drum of state socialism, for the first and foremost trench filled with blood and flesh, bristling with bones and skulls, infused with vermin and disease, and screaming with shot and shell.

And I believe I can get 25,000 more like myself, provided, the government will concede John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and 24,999 other millionaires or their sons to command and to us in that "Black Hole" of death.

Let God and the 42-centimeter guns have mercy upon our souls.

A press dispatch from Petrograd says that a provision will be incorporated in the new constitution giving Russian women the right to vote. Who would have thought that the Czar crowned emperor of Russia would ever become more democratic than our own chivalrous Southland.

Mr. LONDON. Yes.

parables except the machine rule, sustained by munition interest as a great many Republicans know. But the trouble with both of you is that you are hidebound by machine rules. You have no vote as your leaders tell you to vote, and you subordinate your reason, you eliminate your independence, you do away with your own thinking. The President was frightened by the impression that was given to the preparedness campaign, and he is terrified by the Democrats.



they yielded against their judgment and their own sentiments. Gentlemen, I ask you call a halt to this prepared campaign. I call upon you to vote the remaining days of session of Congress to the problem of the high cost of living. I call upon you to legislate for people instead of legislating to create an aristocracy of munitions interests. (Applause.)

Mr. Karchner accounted for the great change in the land of his birth in this wise: "Ideas make men free; designate to no man or set of men the right to do your thinking for you; your own thinking and show to the world the wrongs as you see them; if you have done your part as a citizen in making this a better world in which to live. No wrong can exist when people are informed."

B. E. Calvin, President of the Union Pacific Railroad, practically charges that the German government is behind the strike of the Trainmen's Unions. A more infamous charge never fell from the tongue of any man than that, but it proves what Marx so elegantly pointed out 75 years ago, namely, that there was NO CRIME. The Capitalist would not commit, and LIE he would not tell for the sake of PROFIT. And it is Calvin as his nameless kind who are determined to charge men like Senator Lane and LaFollette with disloyalty! Give them "woe for you!"

In the dying hours of the Legislature the peanut politicians are trying to rush through a measure providing for an increase in the governor's salary from \$10,000 to \$10,000 per year. No doubt Ukelele Jim could make good on an extra \$6,000 at this time.

"I observe all the details of the law, and you have given me, and I will inform you that the said law is of full working, and each citizen has grants of land and made to the persons who are willing to work the land.

"We are trying to bring into practically a system of social evolution in this regard. The talist land-grabbers are individuals because we extend to give the land to any who need it, or, 'to the more exactly, we declare that the land belongs to the State.

"This is but one of the reforms which are operating

100

Ida M. Tarbell, the noted writer, declares that "hopeless poverty is as fatal as any poison known today. Landless toilers or they will die."

reference also to land for the purposes of educational and other public matters and taxation and we hope to attain considerable success. Without more, any of my assurances, etc.,—your
" (Signed) S. Alva

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