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TRUTH

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO—

"TRUTH"

DULUTH, MINN.

No. 49—WHOLE No. 179

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1920

FIVE CENTS

LEAGUE OF NATIONS ALREADY ENGINEERING
WAR AGAINST WORKERS' NEW REPUBLICSpain's Labor Refuses to Obey Call to Arms Against Russia and Urges
International Resistance

By PAUL HANNA.

WASHINGTON. — Immediate, militant and triumphant protest by Spanish labor, led by the Barcelona unions, has thrown a wrench into the League of Nations machinery and stopped the movement of Spanish troops toward Russia.

American diplomatic and consular agents have reported to the state department here some details of the action by Spanish labor which forced the Madrid Government to reverse itself within seventy-two hours after giving a pledge at Geneva that Spain would help make up the League of Nations army assigned to supervise the plebiscite between Poles and Lithuanians at Vilna.

Railway and marine transport workers at Barcelona called meetings on receipt of the news from Geneva and adopted resolutions proclaiming their determination to resist the movement of Spanish troops, either by land or sea, to fulfill the League of Nations scheme.

Similar moves were made also by the workers at Bilbao, Tarragona, Cadiz, Madrid and elsewhere. Within two days it was apparent that the government could not attempt to comply with its hasty pledge at Geneva without the risk of a general strike at home.

Various bodies of middle class liberals joined force effectively with the organized workers. Mass meetings adopted resolutions stating that Spain could not participate in the Vilna enterprise without violating the policy of neutrality that it has observed during the past seven years.

It is believed probable that the Spanish workers know more about the Vilna adventure than is understood in America. They are said to have charged in their indictment that the Vilna mobilization has intended by the League of Nations as the first step toward another military invasion of Russia, following some quarrel to be picked with the Soviet authorities in that disputed territory.

No less alarming to League of Nations advocates are the reports made to Washington of widespread mutiny among Greek troops in Asia Minor. Advances from Smyrna state that Greek soldiers there have begun to "demobilize" themselves and are demanding immediate shipment home. The Greek advance into Asia Minor was directed by Venizelos, whose leadership was rejected by the Greek voters last week as crushingly as that of Woodrow Wilson was rejected in the United States three weeks earlier.

Diplomatic circles at Washington are giving attention almost exclusively to the wrecking of the Entente program in Turkey, enforcement of which depended very largely upon the use of Greek troops against the Turkish Nationalists. Encouraged by their new contact with Russia, the Turks are launching continued attacks against the half-hearted Greek legions.

Further distressing advices are at hand concerning the demoralization of British Colonial forces in Mesopotamia. Announcement made at London several days ago that the offensive above Bagdad was abandoned is declared to reflect a flat refusal by several Indian regiments to advance against their Mohammedan brothers, the Turkish Nationalists.

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On November 22 the big oratorical guns of the Entente-Balfour, Cecil and Viviani—declared that armed intervention to "save" Armenia must not be delayed longer, and that the United States was the country with "the men, money and spirit" to do the jobs. The speakers further reminded the world that as a member of the Senate, last May, president elect Harding had presented a resolution directing the Navy Department to land marines at Batum, on the Black Sea, "to protect American interests" and assist Armenia.

Apropos of that resolution the Russian Soviet Government has just sent a sharp note to London, declaring that if Great Britain should attempt to occupy Batum the step will be regarded by Russia as an act of war. Batum is a part of the old Russian Empire, and, according to President Wilson's note on the subject, must remain a part of Russia. We cannot land a soldier in that region without going to war with Russia.

Each day that the diplomacy of France holds off the recognition of the Soviets, the Russians become potentially stronger. It is now three years since the Russians threw off the rule of the Czar and began the task of setting up a government of their own, and during every minute of that time, they have been the victims of a concerted attack, organized, directed, financed and in many cases led by the accredited representatives of France, Japan, Great Britain and the United States.

The simple Russian folk supposed that the great democratic nations of the West would lend them help and friendship in their struggles to build up a new society. Acting on that belief, they asked—again and again—for recognition and assistance. They called for bread; they received a stone—full in the face.

That treatment has been continued for three years, and the suffering which it has entailed, the starvation, the disease, the warfare, has rendered the Russians bitter. They suffer the bitterness of utter isolation; the bitterness of good offices—spurned with contempt.

There is a revolutionary fervor in Russia. The leaders of the Communists feel that they are the representatives of a system of life that will free men from many of the burdens and miseries of the past. Despite the terrific cost of their experiment in anguish and suffering, many of the Russian people are equally convinced of the efficiency. At any rate, they

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"We will soon be raising monuments to Lenine, who combines the virtues of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln," one headline proclaims. "Business men besiege Vanderlip to share in great contract with Russian Reds," says another. Brouiloff announces end of civil war. "Russian peasants eating more than ever before," and so on through the financial pages and into the Sunday supplements.

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Translated into plainer language, what Mr. Davis says is this: What big business demands the state department always does. With this Vanderlip contract dangling before its nose big business will demand an open door into Russia and pay any price, even official recognition if Lenine requires it.

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And to our state department, wandering at night in the wilderness of its tangled policies, the voice of Vanderlip comes like the roar of a lion to the agitated ears of a lost ass. Our present "government" knows that its every policy will be reversed after March 4. But Vanderlip is l'enfant terrible who vows he will make the state department eat crow in public before it can run out of office and hide its face.

MILWAUKEE.—Milwaukee firms will receive orders for \$6,000,000 worth of manufactured goods as soon as the United States raises the ban on the importation of Russian gold.

This was the statement made today by B. L. Bobroff, president, Bobroff Foreign Trading Co., who recently returned from a prolonged business trip in Russia.

He asserted that the soviet government has deposited \$2,000,000 in gold in Reval to apply on \$6,000,000 worth of orders which he brought back with him.

"Additional business worth 10 times that amount is waiting," he said, "as soon as the ban is lifted. If such an arrangement were made there would be enough business to keep Milwaukee factories going all winter."

Canadian Boys Mean Business

WINNIPEG, Man. — Canadian National Railway employees' union officials have refused to listen to the request of D. B. Hanna, president of the government's railways, that they send a deputation to talk over the dismissal of members of the legislature who worked in the service. They declare a referendum upon the issue involving direct action by 60,000 employees of the system will bring the dispute to a final show down. Union representatives are preparing for a Dominion-wide conference to deal with preliminary procedure.

THE IRISH SITUATION

The British Labor party has recently issued a manifesto dealing with the Irish situation, in which they declare that there is nothing for the British government now but, (1) to withdraw all armed forces; (2) to place the full responsibility for maintaining order in each locality on the local authorities themselves; (3) to provide for an immediate election by proportional representation of an entirely open constituent assembly charged to work out at the earliest possible moment, without any limitations or fetters whatsoever, a constitution for Ireland which the Irish people desire.

They have also decided to appoint a commission to visit Ireland, representing the labor party and the parliamentary labor party, in order to ascertain the truth regarding the policy and methods now being carried out by the British government. Upon the return of the commission, with a view to arousing public sentiment in England, it has been decided to conduct a national campaign to enlighten the public of England as to the facts of the real situation in Ireland, and to present the labor policy outlined above.

We have no fault to find with the above policy, but we do feel that something more is needed than commissions and mass meetings. If British labor intends to engage in effective action, action that will produce the desired results, then it must be prepared to wage an active fight against its own government. It is British labor that transports British soldiers and British ammunition to Ireland, on British railroads and in British ships. If British labor will call for a 48-hour stoppage of work throughout Great Britain they will do more to eliminate British militarism from Ireland, than all the commissions and mass meetings they may engage in. In days like these ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS.

The forces of British labor hold a strategic position. With the Bolsheviks driving on to Persia and India, England will not dare provoke trouble at home. But so long as her labor movement is given to the passing of resolutions and the holding of mass meetings, it is foolish to expect her to feel worried about the home situation. But let labor paralyze industry and they will compel the British government to withdraw its murderous assassins from Ireland.

—BUTTE DAILY BULLETIN.

DENMARK TAKES LAND FROM LORDS BY FORCE

Federated Press.

Denmark is seizing about 225,000 acres of the best farming lands in that marvellously productive country, together with funds of landowners to the estimated total of some nineteen million dollars — at the normal rate of exchange — in order to satisfy the land-hunger of her small farmers. The government will become landlord to ten thousand families, each of which will hold its land under a life lease which can be handed down from parent to child, or can be sold under certain fair conditions.

From these entitled lands 125,000 acres will be forced into public ownership, to be distributed to citizens, qualified to vote for members of the lowerhouse of the rigsdag, and whose good character is certified by the town councils. The government lends to each tenant, at very low rates and on easy terms of repayment, nine-tenths of the value of any buildings he puts up. It gives him his land at a rental of four and a half per cent on its valuation, which will be re-estimated at periods of years with due allowance for all values added to it by the tenant's own money or labor.

For all purposes except speculation, the tenant becomes independent owner of a rich farm.

The further 100,000 acres are to be taken from lands held for the state clergy. They will be disposed of in the same way.

The big fund collected through these laws will be used for loans to the small holders, and for the purchase of lands for distribution.

Before the war, 7,000 Danes emigrated each year to the United States. Most of them became dairy farmers in the Middle West. Their own country is the greatest dairy region in the world.

There is some difference of opinion as to the size of the Red Army, but it seems to be agreed that it consists of at least three millions, well organized, fully equipped, and inspired with the idea that they are fighting for a cause. This Red Army has had three years of constant fighting, under all conditions, and in the most discouraging of circumstances. Both the men and the leaders are now well trained for war.

There are two logical lines for the Russians to follow in the development of their diplomacy: One is an alliance with Germany—the resources of Russia and the markets of Russia linked with the German machinery. The other is a federation of the peoples of the East—an offensive and defensive alliance against their oppressors and exploiters from the West.

Negotiations for the alliance with Germany have been going on for some time. The Congress of Eastern Peoples, held at Baku during September, 1920, and attended by more than two thousand delegates from eastern Europe and western Asia, furnishes the basis for an Eastern alliance.

If Russia makes the German alliance, she dominates Europe and destroys the power of France. If she can establish an effective organization among the peoples of the East, she has destroyed the British Empire.

France and Great Britain therefore have good reason to make common cause against the Soviet Government. But can France and Britain stay together? Will the French Alliance hold?

ABOUT THE RED CROSS

The natural generosity of the Irish heart will incline some of our readers to contribute to the Red Cross. Before doing so it would be well to regard that organization a little closely.

The Red Cross of today has but little save the name in common with the original society. It has become throughout the world a political engine, just as much so as an army or navy. In this country the Red Cross is controlled by a self-perpetuating body of officers. There is absolutely not a shade of democracy in its organization. The American organization is affiliated with the Red Cross organizations of the Entente in a so-called International Red Cross, at the head of which is Mr. Henry P. Davison of the banking firm of Morgan & Co.

The American Red Cross does nothing abroad except under the permission and direction of the State Department at Washington, and it is guided in such foreign activities as are permitted it by the Red Cross organizations affiliated with the International. That is to say, should the American Red Cross be driven by public opinion here to reserve its decision to grant no aid to Ireland, then its activities there would be guided by the English Red Cross.

What that would mean we can imagine when we remember how the Red Cross was used in Dublin to camouflage the advance of the English troops, and how those same troops deliberately murdered a nurse, Miss Keogh, engaged in the work of mercy to which the Red Cross is supposed to be pledged. This use of the Red Cross for camouflage appears to have been generalized since then, apparently with the consent of the American Red Cross organizations, for it has been reported several times that vast stores of ammunition in the old Baltic provinces intended for use against Russia are protected as Red Cross depots.

However this may be, it should be enough for us to know that the American Red Cross has refused aid to Ireland, and that, should it ever go there, it will be to comfort the Black and Tans.

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prefer it to the systems of semi-slavery offered by Yudenitch and Kolchak.

If the Allies were able to offer the masses of Russia something better than they now have, there might be some hope of the success of the French diplomacy, but the reception given to the Allied troops who sought to bring "succor" to the Russian people through Archangel and Vladivostok should have convinced even the hardest of heart that the solution of the problem did not lie in that direction.

The Russian people are with the new Government—how completely time alone will show, but certainly completely enough to have enabled that Government to withstand civil war, disease, starvation, and the combined military attacks of the most powerful nations of the world.

The leaders of the Soviet Government—called from obscurity into positions of immense authority—have displayed a statesmanship of an exceptionally high order. Lenin is recognized, by all who have dealt with him, as a man of unusual parts, and he is surrounded by men of equal ability.

Russia has an army—the only large army now existing in Europe. The Russian Revolution began with the demand for bread and peace, but when the military power of Europe was directed against her, Russia turned her attention to the problem of military organization.

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GERMAN COMMUNISTS.

Merging of the Communist party of Germany with the left wing of the Independent Socialists, with the immediate goal of the socialization of all industry, was voted at the convention of the Communist party.

The Communists voted to avoid direct action in the sense of an immediate revolution, but decided to set going a vigorous campaign for the formation of shop councils, and the socialization of industry.

The merger of the two revolutionary parties will take place at a joint convention to be held in December. The combined body will form the largest Communist party in the world, with a membership of upwards of 2,000,000.

WHO GETS \$23,000,000 RELIEF FUND RAISED?

Will the Starving Hordes of Europe Be Fed Or the Greedy Banks of America Enriched?

By PAUL HANNA.

WASHINGTON. — Who will pocket and keep the \$23,000,000 that you are asked to give for the relief of three and a half million children in Central and Eastern Europe?

You have read the appeal, entitled "The Slaughter of the Innocents" and printed in newspapers all over the country, at an approximate cost of \$250,000. It begins with a cry from Herbert Hoover, saying "I come to you again," and concludes, "In the name of Him who said 'Feed my lambs!'"

Thousands of Americans are giving of their last few dollars to this fund. They believe the money will be spent outright to buy bread for famished children. Will it be spent in that way? Or will it merely go on deposit in New York banks and remain there?

Attached to the printed appeal is the following pledge: "Every remittance will be acknowledged, and The Literary Digest will be responsible for every dollar contributed, to see that it goes, without one penny deducted, to the purpose for which it is given."

On the basis of statements by persons who have been associated with similar relief appeals in the past, the following questions are now raised:

It is not intended that \$23,000,000 asked for shall be held in a few American banks as the basis of "credits" to governments of the lands in need of charity?

Will not the governments in question give their notes, for varying periods up to say two years, which notes will be held by the American banks before the relief stores are shipped forward from this country?

Are the banks not using at present, and will they not continue to use, these funds in the same commercial, profit-making manner that they use all other deposits?

As the foreign governments pay off their notes does there not accumulate in the American banks a sum of money equal to the original relief fund—in this instance, \$23,000,000.

Do the banks keep that money ever after? Do they distribute it back among the original contributors? Have any of the various relief funds previously gathered and used in the above manner ever been redistributed to the original contributors?

If this fund to prevent "The Slaughter of the Innocents" is meant for disbursement in some other fashion, that fact is not indicated in the printed appeal. Perhaps those who make the appeal have not heard about the familiar process. In that case they will be glad to give the details of their own process, in the interest of a possible quicker response by the public.

Of the \$23,000,000 asked for, The Literary Digest of November 20 announces that a grand total of only \$267,474.74 has been received. That sum is barely enough to pay the newspapers which have carried the advertisements. It illustrates how reluctant the public have become to respond even to the most worthy philanthropic appeal. It emphasizes the urgent need for a clean breast of all details before the public will respond and stop "The Slaughter of the Innocents," no matter how imminent or how graphically set forth in print.

Very few of the post-war re-

lief agencies have made anything like a complete accounting to their contributors. The American Friends Service Committee, relief organization of the Society of Friends (Quakers) is a conspicuous exception to this unpleasant rule.

In view of the fervid exhortation in behalf of destitute Europe, attention has been called to the official announcement by the Red Cross at Washington, November 19, that 700 tons of food, clothing and medicines were put to the torch in the Crimea on November 13.

Some two weeks earlier the Red Cross at Washington assured the Federated Press that it was anxious to carry relief into Soviet Russia. It later announcement says that the 700 tons of supplies were burned up to keep the people of Soviet Russia from getting them after Baron Wrangel's army was beaten in the printed appeal on behalf of the "Innocents" Soviet Russia is explicitly omitted from the lands where it is intended to resuscitate children from starvation.

I. W. W. Frown on Violence, Grady Says

By the Federated Press.

EVERETT, Wash., Nov. 25.—Testifying in defense of Pat Cantwell, accused of criminal syndicalism here, John Grady, a member of the I. W. W. since August, 1917, secretary of the northwest defense committee, testified the fundamental principles of the I. W. W. were opposed to sabotage and violence of any kind.

Ragnar Johanson, of Seattle, organizer of the Scandinavian branch of the I. W. W., said the I. W. W. meant a strike when they referred to direct action. He cited the case of the railroad men in 1917 who, through threat of a strike, forced the passage of the law restricting hours. The eight-hour day was secured in the lumber industry through the same pressure, he said.

Several other witnesses testified in regard to the peaceful attitude and methods of the I. W. W. In an effort to convict Cantwell, the state used evidence unlawfully taken from the Globe building, Seattle, in a raid last spring. Judge Everett Smith had ordered the literature returned to its owners some time ago but the Seattle police ignored the order. The literature, it was claimed by the state, showed the aims of the I. W. W.

Working Class is Against Patriotism

BUENOS AIRES.—The Socialist party of Buenos Aires has resolved to take no part in patriotic demonstrations. This resolution was incorporated in its platform for the coming municipal elections and reads:

"The districts of the capital assembled in congress, reaffirm that our party is a party of class internationally organized and that patriotism, or the idea of country, has served up until now only to misguide the labor movement from its true interests, and resolves that its representatives in the deliberative bodies abstain hereafter from taking part or in any form intervening in acts of patriotic homage."

SOVIET PUT TO ACID TEST

A turning point, not only in the history of Soviet Russia, but in the progress of reconstruction the world over, is the view of the impending trade treaty between Great Britain and Moscow taken by Ludwig C. K. Martens, Soviet representative in the United States.

The signing of the treaty will crown a series of military victories with the victory most desired—economic and commercial victory, he declared.

The outlines of what may be expected, according to Mr. Martens, is as follows:

1. The present regime in Russia will be tremendously strengthened by the event.

2. At the same time the leaders of that regime will be faced with the acid test of their careers.

3. The policy, power, vision and energy of Lenin and his associates will be tested in the solving of the great problem of reconstruction of the largest Aryan nation in the world under an hitherto untried form of government.

4. The result will determine whether a government, so constituted and so founded, can long endure.

5. Trade with Russia, while it will stabilize Europe for the time being, will not solve the various economic problems of the European nations, and the revolutions in the various countries will go forward to their various calamities.

6. France will be the only nation to back counter-revolutionary pacts against Russia; not even America will be able to aid Poland should Poland attempt to move again against Russia.

7. The fruits of the Russian revolution will never be lost; the victory of the peasants and workers will never be wrested from them by imperialism of any type whatsoever.

The treaty, Mr. Martens said, will be the pivot upon which all events in Europe will turn. The things that will result will follow, not so much because of the treaty but because of the events that forced the treaty.

What Should Those Who Stole Two Billions Get?

The Schenectady Union-Star in a recent editorial, entitled "Missing—Two Billion Dollars," discussed the Shipping Board graft of the Wilson administration; and in the last paragraph stated "Two billion dollars went somewhere. Somebody is responsible for it. * * * The people who have been paying for all this stuff are having their inning. * * * They are demanding to know where the money went. A man who steals a loaf of bread gets jail. Those who steal two billion dollars—what shall they get?" In answer to the last question of the (White) Bolshevik editor of the Union-Star, we will reply for him. Such super-patriots "one thousand per cent Americans" should buy a large silk American flag and put it up over their offices or palatial residence to drive away the "Reds."

HIS WEAK POINT.

"Is your husband a good provider, Dinah?"

"Yessum; he's a good provider all right, but I've allus skeered dat niggah's gwine ter git caught at it." — Houston Chronicle.

THE FIRST BOLSHEVIK.

By VICTOR HUGO

Was it a dream? Was I awake? Imagine it!

A man—was he Greek, Jew, Chinese, Turk, Persian?—

A member of the party of order, truthful

And grave said to me: "This judicial death

Striking this charlatan, shameless Anarchist,

Is just. Order and authority must defend

Themselves. Now suffer them to be discussed?

Besides, the laws are there to be executed.

They are eternal truths that must be made

To prevail even at the price of the scaffold.

This innovator preached a philosophy:

He ridiculed our ancient and venerable worship,

Love, progress, empty words that I mistrust.

This man was of those who regard nothing holy;

He revered nothing that we reverence.

In order to inoculate them with his suspicious doctrine

He went about picking up in all the most wretched places

Cowherds, fishermen, choleric rogues,

Unclean tatterdemalions having neither money nor scrip;

He entertained this rabble even in his guest chamber.

He did not address himself to the intelligent man,

Wise, honorable, having rents, money, wealth;

He cared for nothing, he led the masses astray;

With grimaces and fingers raised in air,

He pretended to heal the sick and wounded,

Contrary to the laws. But that was not enough:

The impostor, if you please, raised the dead from the graves.

He took fictitious names and counterfeit qualities;

He passed himself off for what he was not.

He rambled about at random, saying: 'Follow me!'

Sometimes in the country and sometimes in the town.

Was it not enough to stir up civil war,

Contumely and hate among the citizens?

One saw running toward him frightful pagans;

One a cripple another deaf, another with a plaster over his eye,

Lying in the ditches and in limekilns,

Another scraping his sores with an old piece of broken glass

The honest man, indignant, retired into his house

When this juggler passed with such a crew.

On a holiday, one day, I no longer know which,

He drove out of the temple, and very brutally,

This man took a whip, and crying, declaiming,

Licensed merchants; the fact is authenticated;

Very worthy people who kept shop on the temple grounds,

By the permission of those who, I think, had the right

Of the clergy, who received a part of their profit.

He drew in his suite a sort of girl;

He went about perorating, shaking the family,

Religion and society;

He undermined morality and property;

The people followed him, leaving their fields fallow:

It was very dangerous. He attacked the rich;

He fawned upon the poor, affirming that here below

Men are equal and brothers; that there is not

Any great or little, neither slaves nor masters;

That the fruit of the earth is for all; as for the priests,

He tore them to pieces; in short, he blasphemed. That

In the street. He related all these horrible things

To the first cloakless and shoeless beggars that came.

An end had to be made of it; the laws were explicit;

He was crucified."

These words, spoken with a gentle air,

Struck me. I said to him: "But who, then, are you?"

He replied: "Indeed, an example was necessary.

I am called Elizab, and I am a scribe of the temple."

"And of whom do you speak?" I demanded. He replied:

"Why, of that vagabond who was named Jesus Christ."

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KAHN READY WITH NEW SAVAGE MILITARY BILL

"War to End War" Meant War to Make More War

By ROSA LADDON HANNA.

WASHINGTON. — Julius Kahn, Republican Congressman, from California, who, as chairman of the House Committee on Military Affairs, championed the draft act of 1917, announce the completion of his new bill for compulsory military training and an automatic conscription law, which would become effective immediately upon declaration of war.

These two outstanding features of the bill, which is to be discussed by the military affairs committee next week and an effort made to have it passed in the next Congress, recommend:

1. Compulsory military service for all able-bodied American young men after they have reached the age of nineteen;

2. Automatic selective conscription of all American men between the ages of nineteen and forty-five years.

Now that the "war to end wars" has been fought and we are at peace, the Chairman of the House Military Affairs Committee suggests: "If the United States can train 500,000 youths every year the nation will be incalculably advantaged in the matter of military read-

iness..." His other suggestion is the amending of the Army reorganization act "so that immediately upon declaration of war by Congress all male Americans would be amenable to selective conscription."

It will be recalled that Congressman Mondell, Republican floor leader, protested at the last session of Congress that the system of compulsory training proposed by Kahn would cost the nation in the neighborhood of one billion dollars a year.

A similar bill, presented by the Military Affairs Committee and endorsed by Secretary of War Baker, was killed in the last session of Congress by both Republicans and Democrats. It is doubtful if the coming Congress will undertake anything so costly in view of the great national deficit and the anticipated annual expenditure of five billion dollars for years to come.

If any considerable support for Kahn's bill should develop in Congress it will be taken to indicate that when the hour strikes to invade and conquer Mexico the next administration means to have every adult male automatically available for use in that enterprise.

THE PROJECTION REMOVED.

(A shop poem)

The projecting beam has been removed.
Mechanically I have stooped for twenty years to avoid its audacious sociability.
In that time all sorts of human heads have come in contact with its wooden wall.
Right where I labored it jutted out.
All arguments for its removal went unheeded.
Now I am stoop-shouldered.
But this morning to my surprise the offending projection was sawed off.
Yesterday for the last time a person bumped his head against the projection.
I didn't see the person, but the carpenter told me.
It was the boss.

Frank V. Faulhaber in The Liberator.

Mothers Lose Life in Child-Birth

WASHINGTON.—Declaring there is an appalling and unnecessary loss of life among women in child-birth, a resolution was adopted at a meeting of the College Women's Club here this week, urging the immediate passage of the Sheppard Towner bill for the protection of maternity and infancy.

The resolution includes the request that the bill, which has been in Congressional committee for some

time, be passed by Congress without amendments in order that its provisions may be considered by the forty state legislatures which will meet in regular session the coming winter.

It was pointed out at the meeting that 25,000 mothers lose their lives annually in the United States through lack of proper knowledge and care during the period of maternity, and that as many as 250,000 babies die every year from causes which are largely preventable, and which would be prevented by the provisions of the Sheppard-Towner bill.

AUCTION

The Scandinavian Socialist Sewing Circle Will Hold Its Sale of Fancy Hand-made Articles at Workers Hall, Thursday Evening, December 7th, at 8 P. M. sharp. Program and entertainment and coffee with dopp. Cordial invitation to all.

DARROW'S DEFENSE OF FREE SPEECH

Clarence S. Darrow's speech in defense of members of the Communist Labor Party tried at Chicago under the Illinois Espionage Act was acclaimed by all who heard it as the greatest modern revised by Mr. Darrow. Handsome printed, extra paper, 50 cents revised by Mr. Darrow. Handsome printed, extra paper, 50 cents postpaid; ten copies mailed to one address for \$4.00. This is a book that readers of TRUTH will want to circulate.

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335 East Ohio Street, Chicago.

West Virginia Real Plague Spot Reeking With Lawlessness Of Coal Operators And Courts

Plunder and Pillaging Carried on by Mineowners' Thugs to Keep Workers From Organizing

By A. FRIEDMAN.

Some 50,000 non-unionized miners are living in the Logan, Thatcher, Tug River and Pocahontas coal fields of southern and southwestern West Virginia in a form of society similar to the feudal system of two and three centuries ago.

Miners are being murdered with alarming regularity. Organizers of the unions are hounded from one hamlet in the wild hills to another. The workers, living in the only homes available — those owned by the operators — are immediately dispossessed upon its becoming known that they have joined the union. Their furniture is thrown without warning into the open and left to the ravages of a constantly changing climate, while the dispossessed miners seek shelter with their families among the hills.

All this murder and systematic pillaging of men who dare to stand up for their rights is being committed by the armed guards and paid detectives, hired by the various coal operators' associations of the state.

The United Mine Workers of America is determined that the state shall be made safe for unionism. To its present membership of 25,000 within the state, it aims to add the 50,000 unorganized men. The operators reply by forming powerful associations, concentrating their effort in this section, and trying thus to ward off the oncoming tide.

The organizing of West Virginia has always been a perplexing problem. As recently as 1916 there were no more than 7,500 unionized miners. In that year the organizers were encouraged by successes in other parts of the country, and since then the entire northern and central parts have been unionized. But in the south and southwest the situation has been more difficult. While the unionizing activities in the north were going on, the operators had been re-inforcing their position in the southern districts. They pursued every conceivable method of stimulating racial hatreds. They acquired practically complete control of the little villages, sprung up around the mines. They became the owners of all the homes of the miners.

For years prior to the World War, the operators had maintained immigrant agencies in the large Eastern ports. These agencies had been used to divert the stream of

immigrants arriving in the country into the coal regions of West Virginia. They promised the ignorant newcomer ideal conditions of labor and high wealth-accumulating wages. They even paid his fare into the coal districts. In this manner they succeeded in luring numbers of workers, speaking diverse languages and therefore difficult to organize.

Since the wave of unionism has swept the state, the miners in the South have become restless and discontented. They have lived long enough under the unwholesome conditions maintained by the operators. The latter, seeing the growing restlessness, have started an active campaign of "Americanization" and "stamping out the Reds", meaning by "Reds" those who protest against conditions or plead for unionism. They continue to play upon the contempt of the native for the "foreigner", thus keeping active the racial antagonisms they themselves have provided for through their policy of keeping the "foreigners" ignorant.

They are using the courts to stem the wave. Injunctions have been issued by one court after another, restraining the organizers from continuing their activities. The operators allege that the organizers interfered with the individual contracts between the miners and their employers. In these contracts is a

clause, calling for the immediate dispossession of the miner from the company house, should he quit work or be discharged. Invariably the miner is discharged when he joins the union. Dispossession follows and he is homeless as well as out of work. But the courts sustain these injunctions in spite of the abusive conditions of the contracts and the consequent social chaos resulting from their performance.

And as if these conditions were not enough to stir men to revolt, the operators have carried on a system of robbing the miner of some of his wages. Coal cars carrying more than the standard cars allow are used at the mines, while the miners are paid for standard weight only. They are not allowed their own check weighmen as in the union fields.

The miners have met the challenge by a greater determination completely to organize the state of West Virginia before the next general convention of the United Mine Workers of America.

The Chafin Brothers, the Pinkertons, the Baldwin-Felts Detective Agency, and the armed mine guards are today the last trench thrown up by the operators in their fight to maintain an "open shop" regime. As a last desperate move they have declared open war on the union miners.

U.S. FORCED TO TRADE WITH SOVIET RUSSIA

America Must Export Goods to Save Country From Ruin by Unemployment.

By PAUL HANNA.

WASHINGTON.—"Will the next administration trade with Russia if Lenin stays in power?" was asked of a prominent Republican.

"Yes", he answered. "The next administration would trade with Russia even if Woodrow Wilson and the Democrats were in power there."

The United States must trade with Russia, he added, or else stop exporting entirely. Foreign trade is, and always must be, an exchange of commodities between nations. Heretofore Western Europe has absorbed the bulk of our exports, sending us in return her own fabricated and other products, plus enough gold to balance the credit sheets. Two years after the general armistice finds Europe with neither fabricated nor raw products to barter with us. America is a merchant whose customers have gone bankrupt. Our exports are dwindling and our factories shutting down.

Even if French, Italian, German and British Currency had not shrunk to fractions of former values European buying in our market would be difficult, since nations do not really buy abroad with money. They buy with their own products; money is used only to balance accounts.

Strictly as regards currency, the French franc at 7 cents is as poor a medium in the American market as the German mark at 1 cent. In both instances there is emphatic loss, and barter will strangle as fatally under one inch as under ten feet of water. So America must find a new customer or else shut up the export shop. Russia is the only important alternative buyer from America.

Hard times, unemployment and business failures during the coming

winter are now looked for to put the tragic finishing touches on the Wilson policy toward Russia. Spring and the inauguration of a new administration will witness the opening of Russia as a means to check the spread of economic ruin in the United States.

Canada's Premier Barred From Speaking Till He Answers War Lads

TORONTO, Ont.—Until he answers the criticism which returned soldiers, widows and cripples have to make of his Government, Prime Minister Arthur Meighen will not get a hearing in Toronto, J. Harry Flynn, general organizer of the Grand Army of United Veterans, told 4,000 cheering re-

turned men in Pantages theatre here.

Indignant veterans declare they will take control of the mass meeting arranged for Canada's premier in Massey hall next week blocking all entrances to Toronto's largest auditorium so that Meighen's friends cannot pack the meeting.

Hostile receptions greet the Premier everywhere he goes on his western Canada tour, disillusioned veterans condemning him for his broken promises. The climax is expected in Toronto, which sent more volunteers to the war than any other Canadian city.

That organized labor will stand solidly behind the returned soldiers was the declaration made by John Bruce, general organizer of the United Association of Steamfitters and Plumbers, in a speech to trade unionists in the Labor Temple. The laborite, who strongly opposed the passing of the Military Service Act during the war, said the stand then taken had been justified by the treatment meted out to the soldiers since their return.

When Capital controls the press, Capital controls the people. When Labor controls the press the people will control capital.

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DEADLY GAS MADE BY U. S. GOVERNMENT FOR NEXT WAR

America to Outdo Old Prussia in Savagery in Future Killings

By The Federated Press.

NEW YORK.—The statement in the House of Commons by Premier Lloyd George that America is experimenting on deadly war gases is fully borne out by the facts.

The United States Government, it is understood, will not agree to abolish poison gas as part of its military system. In the next war United States soldiers will all carry packages of poison gas as part of their equipment.

The Chemical Warfare Service of the army, directed by Brig. Gen. Amos A. Fries, has perfected the solidification of poison gas so that it may be carried in a man's pocket, and used for gas cloud attacks.

Two battalions of gas troops are constantly engaged in research work in chemical warfare at the Edgewood Arsenal, where there is an up-to-date plant. Experiments are being made with different gases of various strengths on white mice, guinea pigs, rats and dogs.

The American Chemical Society, which is composed mainly of manufacturers of chemicals is co-operating actively with the Chemical Warfare Service, as the British chemists are cooperating with the British War Office in similar experiments.

Supplementing the present committee of 15 American chemists, another group of 50 prominent chemists is to be appointed to act in an advisory capacity.

OLE THE DEADBEAT

SEATTLE, Wash. — Ole Hanson, famous buster of Seattle's revolution that never happened — ex-mayor who unloaded a street car system on the city at \$6,000,000 more than its value, has been sued by Mathew Grossman and W. J. Northfoss, grocers, doing business as the Union Market, for \$49.33 due since April 13, 1918.

Although Hanson is said to have cleared more than \$100,000 on his lectures he has refused to pay the grocers, they allege in their complaint. Money he has in a Seattle bank has been attached on the grocer's suit.

WHY HE DIED RICH.

Boston Transcript: Not long ago an old fellow died out in Kansas, leaving a barrel of money. He had a houseful of children—ten or a dozen. It cost considerable to feed them. The old man evolved a scheme.

He would say to the children in the evening, "Now, how many of you will take a dime and go to bed without supper?"

They all took dimes and went to bed hungry.

Next morning the old man would say, "Now, children, how many of you will give me a dime for a nice, warm breakfast?"

And, of course, they would all cough up their dimes.

The old man thus saved the cost of the children's supper. This was just one of his schemes; he had others. That's why he died rich.

MEXICAN WOMEN WORKING 14 HOURS

By LINN A. E. GALE.

"We work from 7 o'clock in the morning until 8 or 9 o'clock at night all of the time. We cannot go out for dinner but have to take a little lunch with us and eat it when the boss is not looking. We hardly ever work less than 13 hours a day and more often it is 14 hours or even more."

The speaker was a thin, poorly-clad young woman of about 30 years. Her wan, drawn face told her story better than the words she uttered. She was one of the secretaries of the "Union de Tostadores de Cafe del Molino de la Fortaleza", which in English is "Union of Toasters of Coffee of the La Fortaleza Factory."

On Tuesday afternoon November 16, about 50 of the wretched employees of this little industrial hell, marched over to the I. W. W. hall at Plaza del Salto del Agua No. 17, Mexico City, and told Carmen and Catalina Frias, two I. W. W. girls who live in the hall at night and act as janitors and reception committee in the daytime, the sordid story of their miserable servitude. All but 7 or 8 of the 50 were girls and women. Some got as low as 25 centavos (12½ American cents) a day for the 13 or 14 hours of toil. The average was 50 centavos (25 cents) daily and a few received the munificent salaries of a peso (\$1.00).

The coffee workers had been reading of the strikes all over Mexico, of the rapid growth of Bolshevik ideas and of the formation of the One Big Union in various mills and factories. They decided they would have a One Big Union too. A meeting, was held and officers were elected and it was voted to make an immediate demand on the wealthy owners of the coffee factory for a raise in wages. No sooner had a committee visited the proprietors than the whole union, en masse, was fired. Labor is still cheap in Mexico and there is plenty of human raw material to convert into profits. If some talk, there are always others to take their places.

The discharged workers had heard about the I. W. W. and knew where its hall was. Without further ado they marched scheduled for that very evening. At night they returned, scheduled for that very evening. It might they returned, participated in a meeting of the general recruiting local of Mexico City, voted unanimously to join the Mexican Administration of the I. W. W., and were promptly accepted by the General Executive Board as a branch of the Department of Production.

It was voted that all the discharged workers should present themselves at the factory as usual the next morning. If as was expected, they were promptly ordered out and reminded that they had been fired, they were to go to the I. W. W. hall where General Secretary-Treasurer Ciro Esquivel would accompany them to the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration office and they would all put in a demand for 3-months' wages as indemnification for being discharged without just cause, in conformity with the famous labor article of the Mexican constitution. It was considered better to do this than to declare a strike, for in a strike there would be no legal claim to the 3-months' wages. Meanwhile, unless the workers were taken back and unless increases of 200 percent and 300 percent in pay were granted at once, a boycott was to be declared against the owners of the "La Fortaleza" factory and their product, the factory was to be picketed to keep new slaves from coming there to work, and sabotage was to be used to reinforce the demands of the new I. W. W. union.

As with hundreds of other factories in Mexico, this is the first time the "La Fortaleza" coffee makers ever had a union. And this original union of theirs is an industrial, not a craft union. It is a little thing in the Mexican class struggle but a straw that shows how the wind blows.

T R U T H

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J. O. BENTALL, Editor.

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THE NEW PAY ENVELOPE

Some day you will open your pay envelope and find no money in it. Instead you will pull out a card and read:

"The bearer, John Smith, being a worker and having performed his natural share of labor, is entitled to everything he needs for the full development and enjoyment of life."

You go to your home to wash up and find that you have no landlord or banker calling for rent or interest. No bills awaiting you. You take your wife and children to the dining room of the big hotel and when you have eaten all you can of the best food in the land you go home without as much as tipping the waiter. For in the first place you have nothing to tip her with, and in the second place she could not use your tip, for she too has a card that she drew from the last pay envelope just like yours.

Then you want to visit your friends at the other end of town or at the other end of the state and all you do is to get into the streetcar, or Pullman, or airship and get there. You show your card, just as a railroad president does now, and that is enuf.

You want a pair of shoes or a suit of clothes and you pick what you like best. No cashier. You are a worker and have done your share of the world's work and that settles it. All that you may desire is yours for the asking. What more do you want?

Dreams!

Nothing of the kind. This is the most potent and inspiring reality on the human horizon of all ages. The realization of such a manner of life is so close that we feel its breath on our cheeks.

Just as we sat down to write these lines we got another breeze from Russia.

A special cable from Moscow to the New York Volkszeitung says that Russia has decided to abolish money.

With the regaining of economic stability following the capture of enormous supplies of food, clothing and raw materials in Crimea, the soviet government decided that conditions were ripe for the entire abolition of money as a means of exchange in Russia.

Soviet Russia has long been aiming at the abolition of money but did not consider the time opportune. At a recent meeting of the soviet of people's commissars the first steps were taken to introduce the new measure.

According to an order issued by the soviet all government employees will receive from the Russian state, water, electricity, rent and telephone service free. Beginning Jan. 1, 1921, Russian railroads will be free to the public; there will be no passenger or freight rates. The Russian railroads will be operated by the government on the same basis as the postoffice. There are no postage rates in Russia.

The decrees of the soviet of Russian commissary is regarded as the preliminary steps to the complete abolition of money as a means of exchange.

This is the most dynamic news that has been flashed upon the world since the first victory of the people over the czar. It is the most damaging power that brutal and insane capitalism has to meet. It is as simple as it is practicable.

The workers will pile up their product for use. No one will prevent the workers from using what they need.

It's the system. It's coming. It's coming fast.

ANOTHER SLAM AT THE BOLSHEVICS

That the Bolsheviks are a wicked people seems to be the sentiment of the capitalist press. At least that is what we gather from careful reading of the plutocratic newspapers.

There was the unpardonable Bolshevik sin of tipping the czar's stool so that the poor fellow fell and broke his legs way up below his ears.

Then the scoundrels took the factories and told the workers of Russia that they could have them for nawthin'.

Likewise the Bolsheviks turned their attention to the vast fields and farms and told the peasants that they could go to work on them and produce the biggest crops in the world and that they need not give as much as a pound of screenings to the land lords. Nay, they insulted the very land lords themselves by telling them to put on overalls and go to work. That if they didn't have money to buy said overalls the Bolsheviks would stake them for a pair.

In addition to all this wickedness the Bolsheviks positively refused to nationalize the women for the ex-putes and for the gloating cornfed fatlings of the capitalist countries that were throwing brick bats at the new giants.

Depredations in the form of licking the daylight out of every upstart that the Allies have sent in to crush the Bolsheviks are too recent to mention without calling to mind the horrors of these events.

So the capitalist press hits upon another crime that the Bolsheviks are guilty of. They are going to fail to be anybody for the outrageous reason that they are HONEST.

Says the weeping sympathetic press:

"The Bolsheviks can't hope to rule the world if they can't even fool it."

If the poor benighted Bolsheviks had only had the sense to follow the successful example of the capitalists they might have developed some little strength.

But to go forth in the broad light of day in open honesty and tell the world exactly what is so and appeal to the heart and mind and conscience of the people without cloak or camouflage—it's a scream.

The Bolsheviks are lost.

There is no hope.

A National Conference of the Norwegian Labor Party, held at Christiania last week, decided by a large majority to remain affiliated to the Third International.

BRISBANE KNOWS—BUT

You remember how our friend and Christian brother Johnnie Bull put his arms of love around our own Uncle Sam and told him in all confidence and kindness that he had to send one of Uncle's children back home as the child would persist in telling certain secrets that children have not the sense to keep.

It was simply that E. J. Costello had gone to Europe to get facts to send to the Federated Press for the enlightenment of the people in this country.

Secretary Colby, that sanctified bearer of his mantle who could not tell a lie, affirmed unflinchingly that he had nothing to do with the deportation from England of afore mentioned Costello. We rather believe Colby — this time. Colby wanted none of the stripe of Costello on this side of the planet.

Arthur Brisbane, perhaps the most prominent journalist in America, is reported to have said:

"If Mr. Costello is an accurate reporter, I should say that England showed wisdom in deporting him. With MacSwiney dying of hunger and scurvy, and every Englishman wondering what English organized Labor is going to do, accurate American reporters are not wanted over there."

This seems to sum up the general view of American publicists. No one knows better than Brisbane that accurate reporters are not wanted at the capital or anywhere else where the bell hops of capitalism are running errands for their bosses.

But Colby has never ousted Brisbane from the press conferences of the State Department, nor has England ever desired to deport him.

THERE'S PLENTY OF IT.

According to cartoonist McCutcheon, who has for some time been a servile tool of capitalist newspapers, and thus incidentally lost his art and become a mere commercial monkey wrench, Harding is busy with saw and hammer to make his cabinet.

The capitalist press with its editors and cartoonists are now specializing in war propaganda. So in a recent cartoon McCutcheon lines up the timber that Wall Street has picked and makes Harding say:

"I can't make a cabinet without wood."

This cartoon is supposed to be so smart that many kept editors find it impossible to pass it by without complimenting McCutcheon on his brilliancy in suggesting so clearly that the next cabinet would not be worth its salt unless it included the wooden headed General Wood.

In carrying on the contemplated war Wood would be a useful slab in the administration's furniture. He could always be depended on to nod to the master class and there would be no danger that he might change his mind or adapt himself to such progressive measures as the advancing proletariat might force upon this backward nation within the next four years.

But why make a news item out of the paltitude that a cabinet should contain wood? Has it ever been made of anything else? Didn't Woodrow build his'n out of wood? Haven't the wooden headed wage slaves endorsed the wooden outfit that has been splitting the wooden blocks of these same slaves?

And don't worry about any danger of a shortage in the supply. There is enuf wood for cabinets for the next ten billion years.

There is, however, some slight disadvantage in this make of a cabinet. In the floods of rebellion and the sea of revolution it wont sink. And it is too raw to burn, so history has to smell its stinky hulk for a more prolonged period than should justly be inflicted on it.

I never saw a Federal Judge,
And never hope to see one;
But this I'll tell you anyhow,
I'd rather see than be one.
Editor:—Original, that is, flame me.—D.

Revolutionary Tactics In Trade Unions

From "The Toller"

Editor The Toller:—

I and others among my fellow coal miners have been greatly interested in the letters on trades unionism which have appeared in The Toller in the past two weeks. In your issue of November 6th, you have quoted from the thesis adopted by the Congress of the Third International at Moscow and have elaborated in a convincing manner upon the general policies which revolutionists should follow as outlined therein. I only wish that this entire thesis could be placed in the hands of every coal miner in my district for we have a large contingent of radicals among us and they need just such an authoritative document as this to further educate themselves.

My object however, in writing to you is to ask you a question, the answer to which is bothering a few of us in this mining district. The question is: Should revolutionists accept executive positions in conservative labor unions? I am asking this not to establish a theoretical formula, but from a standpoint of practicality. I will explain. In this mining district we have a man who stands very high in the estimation of the rank and file; his radicalism cannot be questioned. It is quite possible for us to elect him to a high executive position where his influence for the good of the workers would be very great. He is rather dubious about accepting this office fearing that to do so would be a violation of revolutionary principles. Being a true revolutionist, should he take this position offered him by his fellows?

AN OHIO COAL MINER.

ANSWER BY THE EDITOR.

Yes, he should accept the position. Considering the heretofore erroneous concept of revolutionists as to their duty in respect to conservative labor unions, it is natural that those who are as yet unlearned in the newer tactics which have been developed by THE REVOLUTION should hesitate in making a decision of this nature.

As pointed out in the former article, revolutionists have committed the folly of voluntary withdrawal from the trades unions viewing the situation as hopeless for any good they might do therein. They failed to see that when they did this they severed their connections with the MEMBERSHIP at the same time and lost contact with them. In short, by cutting the bond between themselves and their fellows they played directly into the hands of the reactionaries. A true revolutionary tactic would have been to remain in the unions in close contact with the workers at all costs.

The thesis adopted at Moscow is based upon the necessity of revolutionists maintaining a direct contact with the

CHARLES M. SCHWAB'S TEN COMMANDMENTS OF SUCCESS

(With our own finishing Touches)

1. WORK HARD—Hard work is the best investment a man can make.
2. If he can transfer the hard work to the other fellow.
3. STUDY HARD—Knowledge enables a man to work more intelligently and effectively.
4. And to vote for the boss.
5. HAVE INITIATIVE—Rats often deepen into graves. Applied especially to the twelve hour steel mill slaves.
6. LOVE YOUR WORK—Then you will find pleasure in mastering it.
7. Scrub women should learn this by heart.
8. BE EXACT—Slipshot methods bring only slipshod results.
9. For example the expert management of the war.
10. HAVE THE AMERICAN SPIRIT OF CONQUEST — Thus you can successfully battle with and over come difficulties.
11. And crush the weak according to Christiana methods.
12. CULTIVATE PERSONALITY—Personality is to a man what perfume is to a flower.
13. Recommended to soldiers and hello girls.
14. HELP AND SHARE WITH OTHERS—The real test of business greatness lies in giving opportunity to others.
15. As John D. has done.
16. BE DEMOCRATIC—Unless you FEEL right toward your fellow men you can never be a successful leader of men.
17. Like Burleson and Woodrow.
18. IN ALL THINGS DO YOUR BEST—The man who has done his best has done everything. The man who has done less than his best has done nothing.
19. Do your best to do your best friends, and imitate the great founder of Bethlehem slavery.
20. So shall you live long and multiply your profits on the face of the earth.

A. E. F.

By CARL SANDBURG.

There will be a rusty gun on the wall, sweetheart,
The rifle grooves curling with flakes of rust.
A spider will make a silver string nest in the darkest, warmest corner of it.
The trigger and the range-finder, they too will be rusty.
And no hands will polish the gun, and it will hang on the wall.
Forefinger and thumbs will point absently and casually toward it.
It will be spoken among half-forgotten, wished-to-be-forgotten things.
They will tell the spider: Go on, you're doing good work.
From The Toller.

FROM A MEMBER

To the Scandinavian Socialist Local of Duluth
Dear Comrades:—
I don't suppose you will ever know how thankful I am to every one of you for the comradeship, the understanding and the real sympathy that I have received, both during the dark days and the lighter ones.
I feel like I have experienced the things worth living for — the comradeship that is the Socialists' dream. It certainly makes life worth living to be able to be among you comrades, and I hope to see you all again before long.
With sincerest regards to everyone of the comrades of the club.

CHARLOTTE MOE.

Chicago, Nov. 25, 1920.

Fellow Worker: I see they are letting the war prisoners out. Von Schack and Von Ropp are paroled from Leavenworth. Why don't they let the labor prisoners out?
Because the war with Germany is over, but the war with labor is on.

WHY FACTORY EXPROPRIATION FAILS

By L. A. MOTLER.

A good many of us who hoped that the seizures of factories in Italy would have led to other things must have felt disappointed at the final outcome. But the failure of the workers to retain possession was only to be expected. In the very nature of things, it had to be so.

It is just as impossible to have "free trade" ports in a protectionist country. It is just as impossible to have booze shops in a country given to prohibition. The two things cannot exist side by side. It is just as impossible to have Communist oases in a desert of Capitalism.

We have had Socialist "experiments" in setting up a haven of refuge where the select "true-blues" could put into immediate practice their theories instead of waiting for brave music of a distant drum. And of course these have failed.

Their failures have usually been blamed onto that stockjoke of the anti-socialist, "human nature"; sometimes they have been put down to the well-known inability of Socialists to run a fried-fish shop. But the main fact is that such a socialist community will always find it is unable to get away from its capitalistic surroundings. And unless that community wishes to hedge itself in, in a kind of monastic seclusion with strictly aesthetic and ascetic pleasures, it must be prepared to compromise with the outside world. It simply cannot place itself without the law, for instance, and still less can it get away from the money system which is the whole basis of capitalism.

And what applies to these quasi-monastic communities also applies to isolated acts of factory expropriation. The basis of the present system under which things are made, sold and exchange is Credit. There is very little actual money going about, and it is a notorious fact that the present paper currency in Great Britain and other countries is not backed by its equivalent in ready money (usually gold.)

Supposing that the workers of a certain factory decide to take over that factory and run it for their benefit, and incidentally for that of the community at large. We will presume that the Government is otherwise occupied and leaves them — at least temporarily — in quiet occupation. These workers will need raw materials out of which to manufacture the finished article. They will of course be aware where to get that raw material. How are they to pay for it?

It is understood, naturally, that this factory seizure occurs under the present system — that is to say capitalism. The men who have the raw materials for disposal will of course be capitalists and they will hardly be persuaded to accept credit-notes from what are to them criminals in possession of a "stolen" factory.

It is also impossible for the workers to draw upon the "firm's account", as it is the usual practice for cheques to be signed by two members or directors of the firm; whilst a little third-degree business might be the means of inducing the directors to sign, it is extremely doubtful. Then there is no absolute guarantee that the bankers would honour the cheque.

An attempt might be made to dispose of the finished product and the buyers be asked to pay cash down. But as the buyers would also be capitalists in any event, they would view the matter from the capitalist standpoint as a transaction in stolen goods, and according to their own morality, it would be of doubtful legality in the most favourable light. If they bought at all, they would even then pay in through a banking account and so safeguard themselves to some extent in view of future eventualities. Even in the midst of a fairly well-established revolution, there will always be people who expect things will go back again next week to the "good old days" — and in this particular case we take it that it has all occurred within the present system.

It is therefore inevitable that communist experiments must inevitably fail in face of the money system, and in face of capitalist morality. For expropriation to succeed, it must be national; that is to say there must be a revolution. How this revolution is to come about, and in what form is not the purpose of the present article.

A national revolution, however, is a ticklish business, as can be seen in the case of Russia, and even so in the cases of Germany and Hungary. Just as isolated expropriation within the capitalist state must fail, or at the best result in a form of compromise, so also a national revolution in a world of capitalism must end either in failure or in compromise.

The revolution must be international to succeed altogether. And in order to succeed internationally, it must be based on the will of the workers. This is not to say that we must wait till a majority of workers are in favour of a revolution; but we must make the revolution now by getting about it. That is to say the workers must learn to take control now. It is useless to wait till the guns go off and then rush into the streets singing the "Red Flags" and string up everyone weighing over fourteen stone.

It is in these comparatively quiet days that the pros and cons, and the how's and the how-not's must be studied — and applied. Then the Revolution won't come up a side street and find us wondering why the buzzer hasn't gone off this morning.

FAMILY REUNION

The biggest family in Duluth is going to have a great big reunion Saturday night Dec. 4. The family has about 400 children, young and husky, bent on a big time at the reunion and a bigger time in the revolution.

There are no cross old cranks and no one over ninety nine years young, except the baby which is both the youngest and the oldest of the whole relations—and we call her TRUTH. In fact it is in honor and in love of TRUTH we have this reunion.

We gather Saturday evening, and there will be singing and dancing and speaking and eating and drinking and feasting and planning and arguing and jollying and frolicking and an all around hallelujah good time. You can come as early as you want and stay as long as you are happy.

We might tell you that the family name is The Scandinavian Socialist Club. Some time we may tell you a whole lot about this club, for it has a record of as splendid a work as has ever been carried on by a group of workers in all this country. The club has its own hall and is carrying on a steady and effective work of propaganda thruout the city, and thru TRUTH it is spreading its influence all over the whole country.

Every member and all friends are invited to join in the reunions festivities at Workers Hall this Saturday evening.

For ages they've all sung in "basso".

We laugh while seeing them fall so—

But the workers are there

With a scientific snare

For the crowned, and uncrowned also.