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ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO—

"TRUTH"

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MINNESOTA
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

RAW SEDITION BILL AGAIN UP IN CONGRESS

Freedom of Speech and Press Threatened by New Vicious Legislation

A campaign against efforts to fasten a peace-time sedition law on the country is announced by the American Civil Liberties Union in an appeal "to the friends of free speech" to help defeat the Sterling Bill in the United States Senate, where it has just been favorably reported by the Judiciary committee. A similar bill was passed by the Senate a year ago and defeated in the House. Opponents of the measure believed that the issue was dead. The report bringing the Sterling Bill before the Senate came unexpectedly without hearings or agitation for its passage.

The bill punishes the advocacy in speech or print of the "overthrow of the government of the United States by force and violence," forbids the distribution in any manner of matter constructed by the Post Office Department to advocate it, and prohibits the display of any flag intended to symbolize it.

The Civil Liberties Union's attorneys assert that every offense at which the bill aims can be effectively reached under present provisions of the criminal code, and that the bill in practice would be used chiefly against persons advocating radical ideas in general, and not merely against the advocates of violence specified in the bill. "The history of prosecutions for the use

of forbidden language," says the statement of the Civil Liberties Union, "proves conclusively that they can never be confined to the language of the act. They always reach out to jail any person against whom the forces of prejudice class-interest or hysteria can successfully be brought."

Other objections to the bill are: 1st. The bill punishes words merely for their supposed tendency, not for their actual meaning. It leaves to prosecutors, judges and juries the definition of what constitutes the crime. That is properly the function only of Congress.

2nd. The bill establishes a censorship of the press in advance of publication, which is a violation of all previous laws on the subject and of the constitutional provision for freedom of the press.

An amendment to the bill has just been introduced by Senator Wm. E. Borah to offset its provisions by punishing any officer of the government who interferes with any person in the exercise of his civil rights. "In view of the illegal practices of the Department of Justice under Attorney General Palmer," says the Union's statement, "this amendment ought to assume a lively debate in the Senate."

OUTRAGEOUS TYRANNY IN AMERICAN MINES

Government Unites With Murderous Company To Kill Unions

On May 14th President Harding signed a proclamation declaring a state of siege in the coal regions of West Virginia and Kentucky, following the request of the Governor of the former State for Federal troops to be sent to Mingo County to assist the State Police in the pitched battle raging there between the miners and coal company detectives. The scene of the battle is the same as of that fought a year ago, in which ten men were killed. A coal strike has been in progress in the district since last July.

Ever since their first attempts to organize as branches of the United Mine Workers of America, and their first great strike in 1902, the miners of West Virginia have been subjected to unceasing persecution by the coal operators (as the mine-owners are called), who have stopped at nothing in their efforts to crush unionism. Their chief instrument has been the Baldwin-Felt Detective Agency, notorious in scores of anti-labor drives. The Agency imported large numbers of "mineguards," recruited from the criminal elements of the large cities, marked out the State in "deadlines" against labor organizers, and stationed garrisons with machine-guns around the coal camps.

Machine-guns Used.

In the strike at Point Creek in 1912, the Agency's men resorted so openly to murder that, for the sake of appearances, the authorities were forced to indict eight of them; but as a result merely bound them over to keep the peace. In 1913 came the Holly Grove massacres, when Baldwin-Felt's men, in company with the coaloperators and the Sheriff, fired machine-guns from an armoured train on the tents in which were living the miners and their wives and children, previously evicted from their homes.

During the war, the urgent necessity for getting the maximum output forced the operators somewhat to moderate their policy, and the union grew rapidly, and gained wage and hour concessions. After

the armistice, however, the offensive was re-opened with increasing violence. In 1919, matters became so bad in the section known as Logan County that thousands of miners took their guns (every mountaineer possesses one in those regions) and gathered from all over the State entered on the great "armed march" across the mountains to rescue their comrades from the Terror.

The "Yaller Dog."

The document, known by the men as the "Yaller Dog," which the coal-operators try to force every miner to sign, states that "he will not, while in the employ of the company, belong to, affiliate in any way with, and agrees to sever any connection he may have heretofore had with, any such union or organization, and will not knowingly work in or about any mine where a member of such organization is employed, and if the employee at any time declines to work under this contract — he will not then or thereafter in any manner molest, annoy or interfere with, the business, customers, or employees of this company."

The company also forces the miner to sign a "House Contract," enabling them to evict men who join the union, or harbour union organizers. It provides that "the said lessee shall not permit any improper or suspicious persons to come upon the said premises, and the said lessor shall at all times have the right to enter upon the said premises for the purpose of ejecting all such persons."

This reversion to the industrial relations of the early nineteenth century make it possible to understand the seriousness of the situation in West Virginia that will develop with the promulgation of a state of siege.

The Turkish Communist paper "Jumek" reports that the workers in the shoe factory refused to carry out a French order for shoes for the Wrangel Army. As a result of the ensuing persecution many of them have fled to Asia where they have joined up with the Communist organizations.

Sales Tax Robbers Warned by Workers

Washington. — When Edward J. McGrady, legislative agent of the American Federation of Labor, told the Senate Finance Committee, on Tuesday, that "Mass meetings of protest against this sales tax, if it becomes law, will be called by the A. F. of L. in every city and hamlet of this country," Senator Smoot quickly demanded information as to whether the statement was authorized by Samuel Gompers.

"I have shown this statement to his secretary, and I know that it represents the views of the executive council," replied McGrady.

Smoot implied by his manner that he had caught organized labor in a defiant and rebellious plot against their lawmakers.

"The American worker today," said McGrady, "is toiling for a living wage. A living wage is nothing more than a horse gets—enough to eat and a place to sleep — and this proposal would put a tax upon his entire income, whereas to the rich it would be only a small percentage of their income."

"Five millions of the now idle, and many millions whose wages have been reduced from 25 to 60 per cent, are now to be called upon to assume this added burden. Big business, not being satisfied with reducing the workers' standard of living, is now attempting to shift the burden of war and the cost of government from their shoulders to the backs of the workingmen and women of the country."

Easter Railway Traffic

Moscow.—In view of the wish of many workers to spend the Easter holidays in the circle of their families who live in the country the Præsidium of the Moscow Soviets addressed a request to the Commissariat for Transport that special trains should be run. In accordance with this request it has been decided that commencing April 23rd for one week an extra train will run daily consisting of 40 wagons, with free transportation, which is now in vogue in Russia.

By LOUIS P. LOCHNER

Washington. — The neat sum of \$800,000,000 is to be added to the slice of public funds already handed over or promised to the railroads, if the efforts of Samuel Rea, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, prevail with the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce. Rea has suddenly discovered that the railroads, when they made up their list of claims for damages alleged to have been sustained under government control and management, forgot to put down \$800,000,000 for "deferred maintenance."

This "deferred maintenance" needs explanation. Mr. Rea's analytical mind has ferreted out that there is a difference between the "price" paid labor and the "cost" of labor. When the government made its estimate of what it owed the railroad for "maintenance, repair, renewal, retirements, and depreciation of property," it made due allowance, according to Mr. Rea's own admission, for the rise in the cost of materials and the "price" paid labor. But, argues Mr. Rea, by reason of the national agreement and the working conditions thereby imposed, in some mysterious way the same number of hours of labor did not produce the same results, so that in reality the "cost" of labor of the railways was \$800,000,000 more than the government's "price" of labor would allow.

But Mr. Rea does not merely want the one item to cancel the other. He wants spot cash for as much of his proposed charge of \$800,000,000 as he can possibly get, but wants the railways' unliquidated liability of \$800,000,000 funded for a long period.

In such a hurry is Mr. Rea to collect at least a good share of the \$800,000,000 "deferred mainten-

FARM CONDITIONS

Minneapolis. — The 1920 government census report on agriculture in Minnesota shows that during the last 10 years farm tenantry has increased at a faster rate than farm ownership and that a majority of the farms operated by their owners are mortgaged, the mortgage indebtedness of the state having increased at a much greater rate than the value of farm property.

The value of farm property in Minnesota increased from \$1,476,411,737 in 1910 to \$3,787,420,118 in 1920, approximately one and one-half times, but in the same time the mortgage indebtedness increased from \$77,866,282 to \$254,475,222, nearly four times the former figure.

General Strike Decision In Norway

Recently the Trade Union Council which is under the control of the Communists adopted the resolution concerning the support of the Seamen after a long debate. The decision is: In so far as the present conflict is not favorably settled by May 22nd the whole of the workers of Norway will go on strike.

The order for the general strike will affect 120,000 workers.

The number of striking seamen is already four thousand. The American Line has been stopped since yesterday.

The former premier, Gunnar Kundson has declared that the attempt of the owners to reduce the wages is not justified.

In connection with the general unemployment and the sabotage of production by the capitalists the Trade Unions are seriously considering the plan of making the strike of the seamen an occasion for a general strike.

The result of the conferences of the Trade Union Commission is not yet known.

The harbour is dead. Even the mail boats are not being operated. Up till the present 11,000 workers have the strike.

Horrible "Iron Man" In American Prisons

Washington. — The notorious "iron man" cages of Alcatraz military prison, San Francisco bay, which prisoners are locked upright, unable to change position, have been pronounced a simple and necessary and not a cruel means of discipline," in an official letter signed by the adjutant-general of the war department at Washington.

Mrs. Beatrice Reynolds Kinkaid, chairman of the Palo Alto committee on iron cages at Alcatraz, had telegraphed, complaining that one prisoner was shut into the cage daily for three months, and repeating what the committee telegraphed to Washington in December, that the cages are "a cruel and unusual punishment."

The letter from the War Department denies that the prisoner who was caged daily for three months has been physically injured.

The "coffin cages," as the prisoners call them, are bolted to the door of the cell. Each cage is 24 inches wide and 11 inches deep. The prisoner stands upright with an adjustable board at his back, reducing the depth to nine inches. This forces a rigid position eight hours a day for as many days as ordered.

Booze Instead Of Bread

The "Rude pravo" writes. After the example of the Spaniards in their colonies the Czech government spreads culture in the Russian Carpathian by means of liquor. Already in the previous year wagons of liquor were sent instead of bread. Although the sale of liquors is forbidden in this country and Slovakia big firms importing grain from Roumania have always been able to bring truck loads of liquor quite openly.

(This is one way of breaking the spirit of the workers. Liquor-sodden men are incapable of organized action, and it is a small matter to reduce the bread shipments and to wink at the substitution of liquor shipments instead. Besides, the profits on liquor are much greater than on bread.)

NEW STEAL BY RAILROAD GANG

ance" that he will not take any chances with Supreme Court litigation over a construction of the Federal Control Act favorable to his point of view. Rather does he ask for an amendment to the Transportation Act specifically directing the president to help out the railroads on this proposition. He admits that he does not know just what he is talking about (except that he is certain he needs the \$800,000,000) for he says "In making this suggestion I am at the serious disadvantage of not knowing the actual conditions of the claims made by the railroads, nor the physical reparation in ties, rails, ballast, shops and other structures, or in locomotives, passenger cars and freight cars which they will claim as due to them," but on figures already submitted "it is probable that the under-maintenance claims will run between \$700,000,000 and \$800,000,000."

Glen E. Plumb, of the Plumb Plan League, makes this searching comment upon the Rea proposal: "Why is this law, intangible claim in support of which there are as yet no definite figures and of which Mr. Rea professes to be in the utmost ignorance now being pressed with such vigor before the Senate Committee? Here are the reasons as I see them:

"For the year 1920 the railroads earned out of operations but thirty-three hundredths of 1 per cent return on the valuation of \$18,900,000,000 or \$62,000,000 net operating revenue. (This of course, does not take into account the amount of revenue received by the railways from the government during the first six months of private operation, during which period the government guaranteed them their standard returns. This guarantee amounts to approximately \$630,000,000.)

The railroads have outstanding \$11,000,000,000 of bonds with fixed charges of approximately \$500,000,000 a year. One-half of this annual charge \$250,000,000, is payable July 1st and if not paid it means default on the bonds, which, if continued for sixty days, would give to the bonds holders the right to foreclose their mortgages.

"If the railroads have to borrow from banking interests the amount required to meet the July payments of fixed charges, that very borrowing will destroy their credit and produce serious market disturbances. If they make default — then like market disturbances will follow, probably more serious in extent because of the possibility of foreclosure proceedings. The railroad must get this money, and get it in cash. As Mr. Rea says, "These measures of relief would be carried out with marked benefit in strengthening credit and financial conditions of the railroads. To continue the present situation under existing conditions, when the transportation returns are insufficient, is not merely exhausting their credit but deprives them of cash essential to meet their requirements, and is making them a serious obstacle to the resumption of normal business prosperity."

"We warn the American people to be on the watch for amendments to the Transportation Act — soon to be introduced — providing for the government's assuming this liability, fastening upon the people this debt of private operation and taking from the public funds another subsidy amounting to \$8.00 per capita or \$40.00 a family, as an offset to a like amount of money previously provided by the people for the building up of the transportation system during the period of government control."

ENGLISH COMMUNISTS IN THE MINERS' CRISIS

False Leaders Help Government Defeat Strikers and Jail Workers

(From "The Communist," England)

From the industrial crises and the week; from the turmoil of arrests and threatenings and sentences; from the whisperings of the secret Negotiations and the clamour of the Press—a FACT has emerged.

That fact is that the Government is in treaty with the rabbit Leaders to force a "settlement" on the Miners, which shall serve as a standard of wage reductions for all industries; and that the Government, to serve this purpose, is conducting a deliberate campaign of terrorism against the men and the Party with the will and the power to expose its schemes, and fearless enough to give warning of the double dealing of those leaders who are its confederates.

To force wage reductions, the Government has made a plunge into the cesspool of history: it has resorted to government by lettre de cachet, by the Bastille.

This is not rhetoric: for rhetoric would be no more than a puff of breath in the mighty blast of the truth.

The truth is that over 60 Communists have been arrested; that many true comrades in the working-class movement outside the party have been thrown into gaol; that scores of Railwaymen have been suspended because, they obeyed their Executives' instructions — the Executives standing idly by meantime; that a great concerted attempt has been made to smash the machinery of the Communist Party that about 100 warrants are

out (according to the Daily Herald) in the Rhondda Valley alone against the strongest and most clear-sighted men in the Miners' movement itself; that an army of police spies is at work; that even open trial has been abandoned; and that every judge and magistrate is a proved servitor of Sir Basil Thompson and the secret police.

Note this: the great attack on the vigilant and unbribable Labor wing was not delivered when the Triple Alliance strike was threatening. It was delayed until Hodges had been well wrapped round in the snares of negotiation—until the miners' funds were exhausted — until the Government felt that they could negotiate a surrender with Hodges & Co. One thing only stood — in the way: a press and a party determined to prevent the deception or cajoling or bluffing of the miners; determined that they should know the full meaning of any specious terms concocted at the meetings, secret as sin, between Hodges and the coal-owners' and Government's representatives.

Watch your Leaders! Our party is now paying the price in imprisonment for the warning it gave before. But WATCH YOUR LEADERS! We give you the warning again....

What has Hodges been doing? To what great demonstration of anger has the arresting and gaoling of his members driven him? To silence — to cynical silence! and to worse. To a secret hobnobbing, accompanied by lying com-

THE WEEK'S GRIST OF AMERICANISM

Civil Liberties Union Compiles Acts of 100% Patriotism

Mob Violence

1. GEORGIA. Two negroes and three whites were killed on May 27th at Byromville in a battle between a posse and negro farm laborers, one of whom refused to pay Chief of Police Cunningham the polltax, declaring he had not been permitted to vote.

2. LOUISIANA. Jack Morgan, arrested several times for vagrancy, was tarred and feathered at Shreveport on May 26th by a mob of masked men.

3. NEW YORK. A mob of several hundred men severely beat Thomas Hazelwood, a Negro, in New York City on June 4th on the complaint of two white girls that he had jostled them.

4. OKLAHOMA. Thirty dead and more than 100 injured is the toll of race riots in Tulsa on June 1st. The Negro district was devastated by fire. State and federal investigations have been ordered.

5. WISCONSIN. Rioting between strikers and strike-breakers at the plant of the Northern Paper Mills at Green Bay on May 31st resulted in the stabbing of two pickets. Three arrests were made.

Criminal Cases

6. ALABAMA. Thirteen of the fourteen seamen arrested at Mobile on May 26th on a charge of disorderly conduct were discharged for lack of evidence. Charles Nelson, arrested in March as an I. W. W. and released, is held on a charge of "being a suspicious character."

7. IDAHO. A round up of I. W. W.'s in the sawmill strike at Priest River on May 13th resulted in the arrest of R. Cullen, who had an I. W. W. membership card.

8. Tom O'Hara, I. W. W. organizer, arrested at Pocatello on May 13th for distributing I. W. W. literature, is held on a criminal syndicalism charge.

9. ILLINOIS. James Adams, arrested in Bloomington for vagrancy, is being held because I. W. W. literature was found in his possession.

10. NEW JERSEY. The conviction of Henry Petzold under the state sedition law was set aside and the indictment dismissed by Judge McCarthy of the Hudson County Court on June 5th because the section involved has been declared unconstitutional.

11. NEW YORK. Paul Manko, a Russian, was convicted of criminal anarchy in the Bronx County Court on June 1st for distributing a communist leaflet.

12. PENNSYLVANIA. Steve Zanoloff and Joe Martinovich, communists, convicted of sedition at Pittsburgh were sentenced to from three to five years in the State Penitentiary and fined \$1,000 each on May 2nd.

Civil Cases

13. NEW YORK. The Appellate Decision of the Supreme Court on June 4th upheld the city of Mount Vernon in refusing a permit for a Socialist street meeting on Oct. 2, 1920, thus reversing Justice Keogh's decision that the ordinance requiring permits was unconstitutional.

Administrative Decisions.

14. WASHINGTON. D. C. Second class mailing privileges, withdrawn by Postmaster General Burleson in 1917, were restored, on May 31st, to the New York Call and the Milwaukee Leader by Postmaster General Hays.

Miscellaneous.

15. WEST VIRGINIA. State police raided the tent colony of striking miners near Williamson on June 5th and arrested 42 men on a charge of violating the martial law proclamation by firing on motorists.

Damning Capitalism's Victims

For pure gall, capitalist newspapers can not be beaten. To illustrate our contention, we wish to refer our readers to an editorial which appeared in the Philadelphia Public Ledger on June 1 under the caption of "Lying Bill Haywood."

It is too long to quote in full in these columns, but the main point which that organ of the Curtis millions attempts to make is that conditions in Russia are bad. Bill Haywood is denounced as a liar because he dared to compare Communistic Russia with Capitalistic America. The Ledger writer points to the fact that a \$12-a-week office boy in American receives the equivalent of 240,000 Russian rubles under the present exchange rate and holds up for inspection the system of food rationing in Russia. It is the evident conclusion of the writer that conditions are so good in America and so bad in Russia that the two can not be seriously compared.

The point which the Ledger fails to take into consideration is that Russia is the VICTIM of the same economic system which prevails in America today. True, conditions in Russia are bad. But it comes with poor grace for exponents of capitalism to condemn the Russian Communists because of that fact. Rather let them condemn themselves. They supported and still support the system which led to Russia's collapse and which will just as surely bring ruin to America.

For centuries the people of Russia were robbed and exploited by their property-owning aristocracy. During the late war, which was the inevitable result of the capitalistic system of production for profit, Russia was bled white; 7,000,000 Russians lost their lives in Imperialism's war for "democracy." Not only that, but the industrial life of Russia and particularly the transportation facilities of that great country had broken down. When the Communists took control in Russia they inherited a nation which was not worth having. Their task and purpose now is to make their country and the world a truly decent place in which to live.

Taking into consideration that the Russian collapse was caused by capitalism and remembering, at the same time, all the obstacles which have been placed in the way of the Russian people since the revolution of 1917, we see what a colossal piece of impudence the Ledger's editorial really is. No comment of ours could more adequately demonstrate the contempt of the kept press for the intelligence of its readers.

But in spite of capitalism's blockade and in spite of England's military opposition, France's intrigue and Woodrow Wilson's private war, the Russians have made wonderful progress. It was by calling attention to the things which the Communists of Russia have accomplished that Big Bill Haywood again engendered fear and hatred in the hearts of the human parasites who feed upon the working class.

The thing for people to consider today is not where America stands or where Russia stands, but the direction in which they are travelling. Slowly, but surely, Russia is struggling out of the social morass into which Capitalism has plunged her. The Russian people are building a society in which all will be producers and no man shall live from the labor of his brother man. America is still travelling the pathway of capitalism and her people are walking blindly toward the same abyss into which the nations of Europe have fallen.

The march upward and onward is always hard. But Russia is leading the way. She is breaking a path which the peoples of the world soon will be forced to travel.

—READING LABOR ADVOCATE.

Composition Of The Moscow Party

"Pravda" reports: On March 1st the Moscow Party organization consisted of 1194 groups in the city and 343 in the suburbs. The total membership was 31,714 Communists and 8100 candidates in the city, 6781 Communists and 2550 candidates in the suburbs. The Party is made up of 56 per cent workers, clerical workers 22 per cent, peasants 12 per cent, intellectuals 10 per cent. In education - 69 per cent have had high school education, 16.29 per cent complete elementary school education, 75.39 per cent junior elementary school education, 5.17 per cent home education and 1.46 are illiterates. 81 per cent are Russians and the remainder of other nationalities.

TOLEDO JOINS THIRD

Toledo, O. — The principles of the Third International were subscribed to at the conference of the Workers' party, held here last month. In line with this, socialization of land, of the means of transportation and communication, of the industries, the mines and the banking and insurance system was advocated. It was decided to hold a representative national convention of delegates in the near future for the purpose of forming a nation-wide organization "for the spreading of revolutionary propaganda in this country."

REAL AMNESTY

Odesa.—The former Wrangel soldiers who have arrived here in groups have expressed the wish to take part in the reconstruction of Russia and have requested to be allowed to take part in the Soviet elections. As a result of this a full meeting of the Provincial Executive has ordered that 70,000 former Wrangel soldiers are to be allowed to vote in the next elections.

Work, Eat and Learn

Petrograd. — Illustration of the rapidity with which illiteracy is being driven from among the workers in Russia is shown in a report on the Public Feeding Service of Petrograd just out. In 1920 there were 2250 illiterates among the workers in this Feeding Service. The number has now been reduced to 260.

Amnesty In Finland

Since the year 1918 90,000 men and women have been arrested. Of these 30,000 were either murdered or died from sickness and hunger in the prisons, 20,000 were conditionally released with the loss of civil rights. There are still about 2000 in prison who will be partially released under amnesty. The 20,000 conditionally released are to receive their civil rights.

The Legionaries Join The 3rd International

The convention of the Non-Communist Socialist Legionaries of Czechoslovakia took place on May 8th, 33 delegates were present who represent 75 locals with a membership of 15,000. After the speech of Dr. Pollack it was unanimously decided to join the 3rd International without reserve. The Society now bears the name Union of Communists Legionaries of Czechoslovakia. The organ is "Taborita" of which 5,000 copies are published.

MORE CHILD SUICIDES.

The Save-a-Life League says suicide is increasing among children. In 1920 a thousand more killed themselves than in 1919. Of 12,000 suicides, 707 were children from 5 to 16 years. Farmers' wives and 400 soldiers returned from service are included among the grown-ups. Four girls between 13 and 15 recently tried to kill themselves because school was too much for them. Two Chicago sisters past 40 killed themselves because, "life was too hard."

FAITHFUL TO THE LIMIT.

Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph: A distinguished peer has a faithful butlerservant. One evening when a large party of guests was being entertained at dinner the host noticed that the man seemed extraordinarily nervous and made stupid mistakes. The butler, however, kept on bravely until the coffee was served and then stole up behind his master's chair and said softly:

"Please, my lord, can you spare me now? My 'ouse 'as been afire for a hour and a 'alf."

SCIENCE (?)

A new angle in wrinkles: Wrinkles are of three kinds: First and foremost, most compelling wrinkle, is that which forms on the lining of (and inside of) the oelly. This wrinkle is caused by mal-nutrition, non-nutrition or faith-nutrition—and is quite prevalent with-in the bellish of the working class, present and future—Wrinkle No. 2. has many fine points, and much might be said in

praise of this moral wrinkle. It forms itself on the outer surface of a plutocrats belly (or em-bonpoint) when that worthy under takes to perform useful labor. Wrinkle no. 3, appears upon the faces of slaves — even so as on faces of masters. Wrinkle no. 3, when it appears on slaves face indicates, that wrinkle no. 1, in slaves belly has had direct communication with slaves brain. Wrinkle No. 3, when it appears on master's face indicates, said master has worked, (or is about to go to work) to support himself.—T. Bone Slim.

SOVIETS LOOMING IN NORWAYS BIG STRIKE

Christiania. — Between 130,000 and 150,000 workers of Norway are idle. They are out to support the sailors in their fight against wage reductions, and although negotiations between the shipowners and the men were opened some time ago, they have had no result. The Conservative majority of the Christiania municipal council has decided, as an act of class-war, to cease the granting of free meals to 11,000 school children — granting instead funds for arms and barbed wire defenses to the police.

There is no glimpse of a settlement, as negotiations have been broken off. A sort of Soviet force, or workmen's civil guard, is in control of all traffic in the town of Hammerfest. The police have deemed it wise to recognize this body, and the military guard is to be sent home. A remarkable incident is reported from Elverun, where a meeting of 200 military recruits sent fraternal greetings to the strikers, adding: "Long live the solidarity of the workers and soldiers."

CIVILIZATION? HELL!

Will Irwin, the well known American war correspondent, has written a book dealing with the NEXT WAR. Of course you think that the last war was the last war. It was the last war the politicians thought of, but, as you know, politicians like liars have very short memories.

Irwin writes about war as it is, not as our children are taught it. He strips it naked of all its pretense and presents it with all the glamor and romance stripped from it. The next war is going to make the war look like a tea-party. It will be more terrible than any affair the mind of man could conceive of. There is consolation in the fact, and we say this advisedly, that those who declare war will be compelled to share in its horrors. There will not be any section of the population of the warring countries safe from the attacks of the enemy. The rapid advance of aerial transportation makes it possible for armies to carry deadly gases and germs and infect whole population. So the man in the mansion will die from the effects of the same deadly germ as the man in the slum. It is well. Why should the producer suffer and the parasite rejoice?

There has been discovered by American chemists a terrible gas, known as the Lewisite gas. This gas has never been used "but which has all three of the qualities so urgently sought by the chemists of war, namely, it is invisible, it is a sinking gas which will search out the refugees dugouts and cellars, and if breathed it kills at once. And it kills not only through the lungs. Wherever it settles on the skin it produces a poison which penetrates the system and brings about certain death." Contemplate the horrible effects of this gas. Imagine for a moment that you are down in the basement with the airplanes overhead bombing your house and dropping down shells containing this gas. This is the future they have in store for us. Mr. Irwin further informs us "We have a gas beyond Lewisite. It cannot be much more deadly, but is spread is far greater. A mere capsule of this gas in a small grenade can generate acres of death." The United States' war department further assist in taking the joy out of life by informing us that one drop of what is known as poison rain released from an airplane, would prove fatal to any one below.

Major-General Swinton, a British tank who invented a more modern form of tanks, states some brutal truths about what is coming:

"The final form of human strife, as I regard it, is germ warfare. I think it will come to that; and so far as I can see there is no reason why it should not, if you mean to fight—prepare now—we must envisage these new forms of warfare and as far as possible expend energy, time and money in encouraging our inventors and scientists to study the waging of war on a wholesale scale instead of thinking so much about methods which will kill only a few individuals at a time."

The "Majawh" in an honest-to-god soldier. Why waste your time killing just a few workers when you kill them in the hundreds? Might as well get the war over as soon as possible for there are more wars than one to be fought.

Numerous doctors and scientists have sacrificed their lives in the development of the X-ray. They felt that with its discovery many lives would be saved. They forgot the sordid nature of the system under which they were working, for the "Majawh" is of the opinion:—

"There is a tendency at present for progress in the development of different forms of rays that can be turned to lethal purposes. We have X-rays, we have light-rays, we have heat-rays. We may be so very far from the development of some kind of lethal ray that will shrivel up or paralyze or poison human beings."

If you cannot shoot them poison them, and if you can neither shoot nor poison them—then simply burn them up!

The stage it set for the wholesale shooting, poisoning and burning up of humanity. The churches will lose out. For why should a man who has to fight in the next war, with all its horrors, have any fear of a hereafter? The pacifists will raise their hands in holy honor at the brutal frankness of the militarists and their preparations for the ghastly expeditions of death to come. But protesting and resolving will not prevent war. We cannot prevent war by lamenting the methods whereby they are fought. We must get down to the roots. What will be the cause of the next war? Discover the causes and you will then realize how to prevent war. In the mean time watch the fight for oil.

—BUTTE BULLETIN.

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PREACHER WAKES UP DENVER CONVENTION

Radical Parson Puts American Legion Orator in The Shade

(Federated Press)

Denver. — Rev. G. S. Lackland, pastor of Grace Community Church in this city, brought the American Federation of Labor convention in a whirl of shouting enthusiasm to its feet today when he made a ringing speech denouncing big business for trying to subsidize the church. It was the first moment of release the delegates had from boredom. They not only cheered him during and after his speech, but passed a unanimous rising vote of thanks.

"We ministers of the Gospel," he shouted, "not the ones over 35 years of age, but the ones under 35, are going to say to these folks: 'All right, if you think you are to bury us, we will refuse to bury you; we refuse to marry you; we will refuse to baptize you or take you into the church.'"

It was a boycott and as such was understood instantly by the delegates who cheered until the speaker despaired of being able to finish his speech.

To it he added: "They may think they can get by with that down here, but after awhile they will get to a place where the Supreme Court is on the square."

He followed Col. Alvin M. Owsley of the American Legion, introduced by President Gompers to address the convention. There was a dramatic contrast between the receptions ac-

corded the militant preacher and the reactionary ex-soldier. The delegates listened to him perfunctorily and applauded as listlessly as they had listened. It was no wonder. The only message he had for them was the Legion was strong on law and order.

Said he: "There is only one kind of loyalty and that is the kind we of the American Legion have adopted. It is unquestioning confidence in our government. Let us frown down the efforts of the disloyal who would fan the flames of hatred of government. The Legion stands to combat autocracy of the classes and autocracy of the masses."

It sounded like the Legion — the Legion that has furnished for its membership "loyal" men to break strikes and to tar and feather Non-partisan League organizers.

Reverend Lackland took a dig at the American Legion. He had described the situation in Pittsburgh, where the Employers' Association put a boycott on the money-raising campaign of the Young Women's Christian Association because of their liberal industrial program; "because these splendid fighting young women took steps to bring about conditions that would build up womanhood and motherhood," said Lackland and shouted: "May God help the American Legion to stand by the Y. W. C. A."

MARTIAL LAW STILL RULES IN WEST VA.

Charleston, W. Va. — Martial law was flattened out in Mingo County, when Judge George Poffenberger, sitting in the Supreme Court here, ruled that martial law is incident to military occupation and cannot be enforced except by military forces. Since martial law in Mingo County is being enforced by members of the state constabulary and county officers, this decision would seem to nullify the force of Governor E. F. Morgan's proclamation made about a month ago, and putting acting adjutant general Tom Davis in charge of the situation.

The decision was made in the habeas corpus proceedings brought in the case of A. D. Lavinder organizer for the United Mine Workers of America, who was arrested three weeks ago under the martial law order for carrying his licensed weapon, and held since without bonds.

Frank Keeney, president of District 17, U. M. W. A., Sidney Hatfield, Organizer John Workman, and several others will face the federal court here June 21 for the alleged violation of an injunction.

Continued attempts by constabulary and mine guards to depopulate Lick Creek, a strikers' tent colony, have failed. Following a recent shooting affray instigated by constabulary, the entire male population of the colony—43 men—were driven off like sheep, and confined in a room 20 by 25 feet for two days and one night, with nothing to lie on but a bare cement floor.

The women of the colony, as soon as the men had been driven off, were advised to leave. Instantly they answered:

"Nothing short of death for us can break up this tent colony until our constitutional rights have been restored."

THE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

By ELLA WHEELER WILCOX

I have listened to the sighing of the burdened and the bound;
I have heard it change to crying, with a menace in the sound;
I have seen the money getters pass unheeding on the way,
As they went to forge new fetters for the people day by day.

Then the voice of Labor thundered forth its purpose and its need,
And I marvelled, and I wondered, at the cold, dull ear of greed;
For as chimera in some great steely tell the passing of the hour,
So the voices of people tell the death of purchased power.

All the gathered dust of ages God is brushing from His book;
He is opening up its pages and He bids His children look;
And in shock and conflagration, and in pestilence and strife,
He is speaking to the nations of the brevity of life.

Mother Earth herself is shaken by our sorrows and our crimes,
And she bids her sons awaken to the portent of the times;
With her travail pains upon her, she is hurling from their place
All the minions of dishonor, to admit the Coming Race.

By the voice of Justice bidden, she has torn the mask from night,
All the shameful secrets hidden she is dragging into light;
And whoever wrongs his neighbor must be brought to judgment NOW,
Though he wear the badge of Labor or a crown upon his brow.

There is growth in Revolution; if the word is understood,
It is one with Evolution—up from self to brotherhood;
He who utters it unheeding, bent on self, or selfish gain,
His own day of doom is speeding, though he toil, or though he reign.

God is calling to the masses, to the peasant, and the peer;
He is calling to all classes that the crucial hour is near;
For each rotting throne must tremble, and fall broken in the dust
With the leaders who dissemble and betray a people's trust.

Still the voice of God is calling; and above the wreck I see,
And beyond the gloom appalling, the great Government-to-be.
From the ruins it has risen, and my soul is overjoyed.
For the School supplants the prison, and there are no "unemployed."

And there are no children's faces at the spindle or the loom;
They are out in sunny places, where the other sweet things bloom.
God has purified the alloys, He has set the white slaves free,
And they own the hills and valleys in this Government-to-be

EDUCATION IN SOVIET RUSSIA

"Novij Put" reports: The foreign "friends" of Soviet Russia make efforts to circulate the belief that Russia has become completely savage under the rule of the Soviets. If one was to believe the words of these generals capitalists and their servile press one would expect no schools in Soviet Russia. We give herewith the following figures which speak very clearly.

During the year 1914—1915 there were the following schools: 56 universities with 76,000 students; 1400 secondary schools with 400,000 students; 83,000 elementary schools with 5 million pupils; 1600 professional schools with 5 million pupils; 1500 professional schools with 170,000 students. In the year 1919—1920 there were 100 universities with 120,000 students; 4000 secondary schools with 620,000 students; 100,000 elementary schools with 6,500,000 pupils; 2300 professional schools with 200,000 students.

(These figures do not include the schools for illiterates, schools set up by the trade unions, party schools, etc. These figures cover the normal educational machinery for

children and older students following a normal course of education.) The Opening of the Pushkin House in Petrograd.

The opening of the Pushkin House took place in Petrograd on May 5th. The House will be under the protection of the Russian Academy of Sciences. In future all literary and historical work dealing with the life and times of the great national poet shall be concentrated in this house.

An Institute For Experimental Medicine.

"Novij Mir" reports that a second Ukrainian Institute for experimental medicine has been opened in the University of Odessa.

Symphony Concerts On The Volga.

"Izvestija" reports that the Musical Section of the Commissariat for Education has decided to hold a two month tour of the best musical talent of the "Moscow Symphony orchestras". The concepts will take place in 15 of the towns along the Volga beginning in Jaroslavl and finishing in Astrakhan. The well-known composer Suk will be called upon to take part as conductor. The soloists will be Weselovski (Singer), Igumnov (Piano) and Fischberg (Violin). Well-known musicians such as Glasunov, Ippolitov-Ivanov and others will take part as guests.

A WISCONSIN LUMBER PARADISE

By MARTIN DE WAL

(The Man Without a Country.) During these days of prosperity in the Capitalism, the lumber industry in Wisconsin is greatly blessed. The wages have been systematically reduced from \$85 per month and board, to \$30 and \$35. The camp conditions, always bad in Wisconsin through the lack of organization, are keeping step downwards with the reduction in wages. This coming Winter, it is generally expected wages will be \$25 per month and board and work from daylight to dark, as an object lesson to these men in the applied democracy for which many fought in Europe. (In the camp I visited half were ex-service men).

These conditions are opening up the eyes of most of the men. Looking around they see what others have gained by I. W. W. organization. In the neighboring states of Michigan and Minnesota conditions are still bad, but at least 100 percent better than in Wisconsin, because of the active work of a small percentage of lumberjacks carrying red, I. W. W. cards.

The West Lumber Company at Luzeville, Wis., is a glorious example of lack of organization, and proudly takes its place in the front rank as a boom and blessing to the Wisconsin lumberjack. Fifty-fifty? Wages are advertised at \$30 to \$35 a month, but is very seldom paid. The food is cooked by a man better fitted for blacksmith than cook. Everything is either half cooked or half burned, besides being dirty and greasy. We called him chef "Fifty-Fifty."

Fitted-up box cars are the homes of the men. These camp cars are fitted up with two and three tier double and single bunks which have as many inhabitants as the northwest bunks had till the I. W. W. came.

These creatures savagely resent the intrusion of the lumberjacks. The blankets furnished the men have forgotten the sight of a laundry, and have that delicious odor generally associated with decomposing carcass. In the centre of each car a wooden sink with two tin wash basins a barrel of water, on a shelf a bucket of water with a tin cup, complete the modern conveniences.

Paradise for Pigs. Under each camp car the wash water from the sinks forms a miniature lake in which the pigs (four legged ones) delight to wallow. The horse barns adjoin the sleeping cars, and the piles of manure on either side do not help matters much. In hot weather the smell is like

anything but a rose garden. Add to this the hosts of flies and mosquitoes and you get an overpowering sensation. The first six months are the hardest; after that one doesn't mind it. Why 99 percent of the men stay only a few days or so under such delightful conditions is one of the contradictions of human nature.

This company works the men only twelve hours a day. They have the very kindly idea that it is better for the men to be well occupied for long hours, to keep them out of mischief, as periodically I. W. W. literature has been found in camps.

Frank G. Gibbons, the foreman, heartily endorses the sentiments. His watch is always fast in the morning, and slow at night.

Way to Paradise

Invitations to workers to enjoy this paradise are usually extorted in Minneapolis, through the Tri-State Employment Office. Invitations cost two dollars. The railroad fare and auto stage is advanced, amounting to \$7.95, including a ten mile drive in a stage.

This has to be worked out. At the rate of wages paid, one dollar hospital fee added, this takes nine days. If the kind master doesn't like his looks at the end of that period, he is again forced out into the cruel world.

It is said by many that certain officials of these lumber concerns are on friendly financial terms with these employment sharks and split with them the fee charged the men. Advancing the railroad fares works both ways: the companies get their work done cheaply and the railroad companies get the fares. The last ten miles are by automobile stage owned by interests of the lumber company.

Good Business

It is a great game. The worker pays the up-keep of the shark and the side graft of the officials, for the right to work. Then starting in to work for his board and the enrichment of the railroad company he is very speedily laid off. He pays the bills, does the work and is fired for his pains. This is business with a capital B.

The only solution lies in correct education on industrial lines. Nothing can withstand an educated, organized working class — a working class that knows what it wants and how to get it. It will even make these business men honest, minus their business. They will have to go to work themselves. They will receive no pay, but will have a decent place to live in and serviceable clothes to wear. Those that will not work shall not eat.

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PROPOSED TAXATION PROTECTS PROFITS

Washington. — Four bills imposing a land tax and an inheritance tax and eliminating many of the present taxes, including the excess profits tax have been introduced in the House by Representative Oscar Keller of Minnesota.

One bill would impose a tax of one per cent on land values in excess of \$10,000 after exempting buildings and improvements, and in the case of farms the cost of clearing and draining and maintenance of fertility. The exemptions are so applied as to exempt from taxation, according to Keller's estimate, approximately 98 per cent of all actual farmers. The bill aims to tax holders of natural resources, valuable sites in cities and the holding of land out of use.

The inheritance tax bill applies a tax of 1 per cent on estates of from \$20,000 to \$35,000, 2 per cent on estates from \$35,000 to \$50,000, 4 per cent on estates from \$50,000 to \$150,000, 6 per cent on estates from \$150,000 to \$250,000, and graduated taxes on larger estates on an increasing scale until the point of \$100,000,000 is reached, after which the tax is 90 per cent.

One bill repeals all existing transportation and sales taxes, except those on tobacco, distilled spirits, oleomargarine, habit forming drugs and products of child labor, and repeals the excess profits tax and the 10 per cent tax on incomes of corporations.

Another bill amends the income tax law so as to distinguish between "earned" and "unearned" income. The tax on "unearned" income, together with the super-taxes, is retained, but the tax on "earned" incomes is cut in two.

Keller figures that these taxes, with customs and other miscellaneous revenue, would raise funds sufficient to meet the government budget, and in addition provide a sinking fund which would pay off the government debt in thirty years. The bills are sponsored by the Committee of Manufacturers and Merchants on Federal Taxation with a membership of 30,000 and by the Farmer's Federal Tax League.

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KANSAS WANTS HARVEST HANDS

The governor of Kansas has again made his annual appeal to the workers of this country to hasten into his state and help gather in the crop that is soon ready for harvest.

There is only one class of workers to whom this call appeals. It is to the migratory workers, the fellows who are hounded from pillar to post and who are generally termed hoboos and tramps and I. W. W. No workers with steady jobs will listen to this appeal. It does not interest them.

The only way Kansas can get workers to come and save the crops for that state is to get word to the down-and-outs. If they fail to respond the crops of Kansas are largely lost.

Now the governor has no interest in giving the hoboos a job. He cares not for the condition of the migratory workers. In fact he hates them. He has it in for them and has laws to put them in the inhuman dungeons that Kansas is notorious for.

When you are thru in the fields of Kansas you are kicked out. You are not wanted there any more — till next year. How you are going to live between harvests does not worry Kansas and its governor.

But it ought to worry you. You should take a square look at the condition you have to work under and the pay you are to get. And it is not enough just merely to look. It is important that you get wise on the question of organization. This is the best time to organize. If you do not organize now you will be driven like the cattle that are ready for market. No one will care how much you suffer. You already know about the long hours and the hot sun. You already know how much you will get in the pay envelope when you leave the field after you have saved the crop of Kansas.

There is one union that has paid attention to the agricultural workers — only one. It is the One Big Union, also known as the I. W. W. The Agricultural Workers Industrial Union now invites you to line up. If you refuse to listen to the good advice of the organizers and get blistered badly and treated cruelly no one is to blame but yourself.

Get busy now and write one letter to the A. W. I. U. and one to your pal and get him in also. If the workers go to Kansas organized they make at least a partially decent living while there. A few cents to exist on during the dull season will come handy. The masters keep the horses in trim and feed them hay and oats even when they do no work, but the migratory workers have no such luck.

Moreover you might suggest to the governor of Kansas that he will have to put on decent behavior when you come or you will stay away next time and let him and the farmers take in the crops the best they can.

We cannot help see the inconsistency of scolding the unemployed and jailing the jobless when it is clearly evident that if there were no unemployed Kansas would lose her crop. The system provides that the jobless shall save the food for the nation, but the nation does not save the bodies and minds of the unemployed.

The Kansas governor calls for 40,000 harvest hands. What will he do to protect those 40,000 after they have saved the Kansas crop? What will become of them? Does he care? Does anybody care?

Only the Bolsheviks care.

THE HYPOCRICY OF COMBERS

A comely city rested in the lap of a large valley. Within its walls were multitude of people. Among them were some brigands who ruled the city.

These brigands got it into their heads that it would be a patriotic thing to set fire to the city and collect some insurance and also, in the excitement, rob and plunder the people in their distress.

There were labor unions and many workers in the city. The brigand rulers called upon them to haul up oil and kindling and saturate the city with the oil and touch the torch thereto.

The unions and the workers servily obeyed. The fire rose. Vast buildings were consumed. Vast throngs of men were killed and hordes of women and children perished.

The brigands in a far off town heard of the plot and nudged each other and that it would be fine to imitate their pals in murder and foul plunder. These too called upon the unions and the workers and commanded that they carry oil and kindlings and saturate the city with the oil and touch a torch thereto. Some union men protested and were at once hurled into prison. But the big chief of the old union persuaded the men to take notice of the servile union men of the first city and follow in their footsteps. It would be patriotic so to do and the big chief was above all patriotic to the brigand crew.

But what's the use?

Of course organized Labor in Europe could have put a stop to the war before it was started. Of course it was idiotic and criminal for the German workers to obey the dictates of the kaiser. In that we agree with Gompers.

But for Gompers, after he has been one of the most willing tools that has ever disgraced America in a vile plot to destroy civilization and after he has dragged the entire American Federation of Labor into slavish obedience to all the dictates of Wall Street and gained the unquestionably deserved applause of the master class for faithful services rendered — after having done willingly all that the organized workers of Germany unwillingly were compelled to do — for Gompers to get up in the Convention at Denver and scold the workers of Germany and blame them for the war, and say that they could have prevented it, is a piece of hypocrisy that makes the peace buffoonery of Woodrow Wilson look like a sideshow.

We are not in the habit of perfuming the pages of TRUTH with the foul smell of such hypocrisy, but there is a limit to endurance and we believe that if the rank and file of the A. F. of L. get the information they will not long fall for the insincerity and misleadership of the great chief.

It appears that the victors let Germany off easy when you figure the preparedness taxes of America and other countries.

THE POOR FARM

A very pathetic story appeared in the Duluth Herald the other night about a man ninety-one years old who died at the poorfarm recently. It states that he left three children to mourn his loss.

The Herald makes much of the fact that there were three children to mourn his loss and that these had not taken care of the old man instead of letting him die in the paupers' desert. It points out that children who treat their parents thus are not what children ought to be and that it may be possible that they too might end their days in a similar institution.

Of course the Herald misses the point as it generally does when it deals with social-economic questions.

First, why a poor farm? Why call it that? And why was this particular man there? Had he not performed work enuf to give him a comfortable home if the exploiters had not robbed him? Most of the inmates of poorfarms are of the working class whom the system has robbed and broken. Then when they are helpless they are handed over to Charity. Why didn't the Herald show us that?

The inventor of the sleeping car died a pauper in South Chicago and was buried in the potter's field. Was it because he had been lazy and brainless? Not that. It was because a shrewd thief stole his patent and made himself a multimillionaire out of the invention of a worker. We suppose that if this inventor had three children neither of whom could keep him the Herald would have damned them in regulation style, but would have no word of reproof for the thief or for the system that perpetuates thieves.

And how do we know but that the system had robbed the children and that they were also paupers? Does the Herald know? Why did it not make an investigation? Or didn't it dare to?

These are days of unemployment and exploitation and it is not always the easiest thing to take care of the aged when rent is high and food is high and wages are low.

But we are thinking of other subjects of charity who live at public expense. We mean the parasites who wallow in the earnings of the workers. They are actually inmates of a poorfarm — only it is not called that. But they are just as helpless and when they die the workers' money will have to bury them. We could mention several of them and their names would create a sensation if put in print. They are often in print and pictures in the society pages of our Sunday papers, but they are not revealed as paupers because the custom is to make people believe that they are great even though they are not able to earn their own living.

In Russia there are, of course, no poorfarms. Workers over fifty years of age are given the same care as when they worked altho their labors are not demanded after that age. There are no paupers in Russia. All the people work till they are fifty and then they have earned enuf to live the rest of their days in comfort. No one has robbed them. All have the same chance.

In this country we rob the workers and then point them out as disgraced because they die poor.

Of course we must change that. Decent people with intelligence will not endure that sort of condition. It is the doing away with poverty and poorfarms that we call revolution. Long live that Revolution!

THE CASE OF SCHWARTZ

It is becoming quite evident that the Bolsheviks treated Schwartz with altogether too much consideration. Instead of being too severe with him they let him off too easy.

Schwartz went to Russia as a Socialist with credentials from the Socialist Party. His actions were not square and on the evidence gathered he was put in prison. After going over the matter and getting his promise that he would attend, to his own business and not lie about Russia when he got back he and his wife were let out and given such aid as they needed for their trip.

Instead of keeping his promise to be on the square Schwartz comes over here and concocts the deepest lies about Russia that any man could be capable of. He did just what the Bolsheviks suspected him of doing, but let him have the benefit of the doubt. They were right about him as he has proven and should have kept him in Russia till he had decided to quit being a capitalist spy.

Russia is not afraid of having the truth told, but she is right in trying to prevent liars who are paid by the capitalists to give credence to their stories by having "been there." That always carries weight.

Schwartz is evidently nothing but a pervert who is willing to be used by the counter revolutionaries. He lied to the Bolsheviks and now he is lying to the workers in America.

TREATED ALIKE

Is that so? When and where were the people of this great democratic country treated alike?

The other morning one of the advertising men for a local paper told us how he was arrested and made to pay a fine for having lost the front license plate on his automobile. The fact that he had the rear one, and the further fact that he had not noticed the loss of the front plate, and that he had not in any way intentionally violated the law made no difference to the judge.

It was quite different when Governor Preus came to town and stood his car in front of a hotel where it was against the law to park any machine. A police officer not knowing the car belonged to the governor tagged it and when His Majesty came out found an order to appear at the police station.

Did he go? Not the governor. He sent a messenger over to inform the police chief that he had not known of the regulations. The police tore the order up and told the messenger "to forget it."

Of course the officer did the reasonable thing to let the governor off, but on what ground? Not that he had not intended to violate the law, but because he was the governor. Had this been the aforesaid advertising wage earner he would have paid a fine even tho he could fully establish the fact that he intended to violate no law.

And when it comes to arresting ordinary workers there is no such a thing as a formality of asking into the intent for the crime. Slam them into the dungeon.

The outfit called democracy is not in good running order, or words to that effect.

The old socialist party in convention at Detroit is laying elaborate plans to run Russia even if it has to confess that it cannot run its own little convention which now consists of over seventeen delegates, omitting the one expected from New Jersey where the movement boasts of one local of seven members.

TIGHTENING UP

It appears that we are nearing the end. The actions of the ruling class indicate that.

Among the first and also the surest signs of the end of a system is the increase in use of force and suppression to keep alive.

Whenever a country has to use force to keep its people in subjection you may expect something to happen soon.

The hounding of radicals in this country has been looked upon as something strange when one looks back upon the period of comparative liberty we once enjoyed. But when the handcuffs were clamped on the men and women who dared to think and when we were outdoing every country in the world in persecutions we had to admit that fear had weakened our nation and that the time for a final reckoning must be close at hand.

It was rather encouraging to look across the waters and behold the European countries granting almost full liberty to the people. There was the free press. There was the freedom to assemble. When the armistice was signed there was general amnesty declared. All that looked good to us.

England was among the most liberal. All during the war she allowed street meetings. No papers were suppressed as was the case in this country.

But her day of common sense seems to be past. Not only in Ireland is she persecuting the rebels, but recently she arrested the Communists, because they stood with the coal miners in the great strike. The Communists were true to the miners when the officials of the triple alliance sold them out. This peeved England and she struck back.

Until recently the Communist party of England was allowed to work openly. But if the new tactics are to continue the Communists will go under ground in England as well as in America.

England is showing her weakness in going back on principle that ideas worth while will live no matter how much they are suppressed. The Communists of England have been strengthened many times over by the arrests that have been made.

The only force that will win out in the long run is the force of thought and justice.

So while the governments are closing in they are not intimidating the workers. They are only showing the weakness of their own position, and the workers are intelligent enuf to recognize this.

TWO COMRADES GONE

Comrades Carl Haglund and Tom Fossen left last Tuesday for Sweden and Norway. Before they went the members of the local here presented them with tokens of esteem and comradeship by which they may remember their fellow workers as they go to their homeland.

These comrades asked us to express for them their appreciation and their thanks for the gifts from the local organization. They leave with that feeling of friendship which can spring up only thru hard work in a great and inspiring cause.

And in behalf of the local we want to wish these two comrades a delightful trip and a short stay on the other side of the water, for we need them here. They have been among the best workers in our organization and Comrade Haglund has held responsible positions as treasurer and on all the important committees. He will leave a mighty big emptiness and it will be hard to find any one comrade who will be able to take his place. Comrade Fossen has been away from our city part of the time but whenever he returned he leaped into the harness and always helped pull the load.

We send greetings with them to the workers in the Scandinavian countries and our heartiest good wishes go with them on their journey.

A MOVEABLE WOOD-CUTTING AND SAWING WORKS

To supplant human labour by machines is the slogan of modern industry and the slogan of Soviet Russia. Mechanisation and electrification are permeating all the pores of our stricken technique, with the result that one of our crises—the fuel crisis, is at the turning point. The introduction of the mechanical saw and cutter, and of mechanical means of loading, is placing the wood-fuel industry on new foundations. The barbarous method of chopping wood by hand is being done away with, and now, by means of the mechanical saw and cutter, three men can do the work formerly done by 16—20 men working by hand. This appliance is worked by electricity. This partly explain the immediate application that this mechanical method is receiving in the lumber regions that are isolated from the centres with electric power houses.

Taking this fact into consideration engineer Berkin, is setting up a wood chopping and saving plant in a train. The platforms hold 8 saws, 4 axes and 12 transporters in special wooden cases. All the iron parts in these machines have been substituted for wood. The power axe represents two benches with a joist, and a double-bladed axe turning on a shaft with the speed of 200 revolutions a minute, capable of splitting a log 9 inches thick and 5 feet long. The transporter mechanically transfers the sawed wood from the saw to the axe. With this adjustment 163 workers and a technical staff, working daily in two shifts, can give 100 cubic sags of sawed and chopped wood. In this train there are living rooms for the workers, hospital, library, workshop, warehouse, and so forth.

It was very difficult to overcome all the innumerable obstacles, but an inventive mind and proletarian perseverance and diligence overcome everything. A dilapidated site was turned into a workshop, where the 1st Wood-Sawing and Chopping Train is being fitted out. The work furnishes an example of the incredible stubbornness of men in striving to attain their aim: in the daytime, when there was no electrical energy, special handles were made for hand transmission, muscular energy being used instead: a drill, for instance, was connected with a whetstone, and both worked simultaneously. The endurance of the workers, who worked from 9 in the morning till 11 at night, knew no bounds, and their efforts and devices penetrated to the smallest wants.

Many workers, after work, had to walk 10—15 versts, and still they stuck to their job. Other foreign workers closely bound up their fate with the fate of all the workers of the republic, and remained at their posts till the end.

Their efforts have left nothing undone. An electric station of 75 kilo-watts has been set up, they obtained a steam engine of the marine type with reversible gear, from which they detached the propeller and put a flywheel at the end of the shaft. A locomotive will serve the purpose of a boiler, which will be connected with the steam engine by special steam pipes. Every saw and axe has its own motor. Electricity and steam heating have been introduced everywhere, and all difficulties being overcome, the first sawing and cutting train was built and installed.

A SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF THE DICTATORSHIP

Brailford's new book, the Russian Workers' Republic is I believe, the best account we have had so far of the constructive work of the Russian revolution. It is a picture painted by a careful, honest and largehearted observer, one of the ablest journalists in England, and a man whose political sagacity and social passion are so evenly balanced that it is a pity he is not one of our leaders.

How strange it is a man like Brailford, who has never vaunted himself a Socialist, goes to Russia, and understands all that is happening there, while the Kautskys, the Spargos and other "Marxians" scream such hysterical lies! There is certainly something deliberate about their blindness, something deeply envenomed about the manner in which they have chosen to take up arms against the first Workers' Republic in history.

Among a thousand other good things Brailford gives one, I choose to copy out here, his comment on the dictatorship. The Yellow Socialists of the world have been so saintly and indignant in their scorn of this base tactic; hear what a kindly humanitarian, an honest observer, a realist, an outsider, says of it:

"The word 'dictatorship' which Russian Communists use to describe their own monopoly of power in the Socialist state implies that it will be temporary. It should last, according to the tactical theories of the Revolution, until the capitalist system has wholly disappeared in Russia, until the former privileged class has been absorbed in the general body of citizens, and until the civil war and the external war have stopped.

"Opponents are skeptical, and doubt whether the moment will ever come when the Communists will voluntarily renounce the power which they have seized. Power intoxicates, and history shows few instances of voluntary abdication, save in the hour of evident failure and defeat.

"There is one test to which one may submit a dictatorship which professes to be temporary. Does it educate? It is difficult to believe in the permanence of any despotism over a well-educated population. Tsardom survived by reason of the abysmal illiteracy of the old Russia, and within certain limits one may make a case for some form of revolutionary dictatorship by pointing to the hopeless ignorance of the peasant masses. In the modern class state the forms of democracy are frustrated, not merely by the power of wealth but also by the gap in culture between the propertied and the working class.

"This must be said emphatically for the Russian Communist party, that it is preparing its own eventual disappearance.

"It is ripening the whole Russian people for responsibility and power by its great work for education.

"It has striven, amid inconceivable difficulties, for the prompt enlightenment of the whole nation.

"It has, moreover, based its entire system of education not on any principle of passivity, receptivity, and discipline, but rather on self-initiative and activity. The new generation which will emerge in a few years from these modern Russian schools have crossed the spiritual frontier between East and West and will resemble the passive, indolent, apathetic Russian of the past as little as he resembles the average Englishman or American. As I watched the elder children debating, questioning and governing themselves, I realized that by its educational policy alone the dictatorship has set a time limit to its own permanence."

We need never fear for Russia. These droves of broken-hearted idealists who have been coming back to America on every ship recently, the Dr. Zuckers, the Mr. Schwartzes, the little Bonis and the like who have been turning out so much copy for the capitalist press, we can dismiss them. There are honest witnesses, less partisan, less sadistic in their delight at recounting the terrible pangs Russia is going through, and their stories have more of the vitality of truth.

Clare Sheridan can be believed, and Arthur Ransome. They are not yellow Socialists, they have no axes to grind at home, no jobs to seek. And Brailford can be believed.

"It may be honestly claimed for the Soviet administration, he says, "that it has a better record in its relations to art and culture, generally, than any other government in the civilized world."

We are grateful for this statement. It reassures us that whatever the political and economic situation may be, the Russian Revolution, in its chief object, the cultural emancipation of the masses, still is living and great. It can never die now; it has brought to light something in the world that humble men never knew was here, and will never now be quite able to forget.

—Michael Gold, in the Liberator.

When the Inter Church movement dug into the slave conditions of the steel trust the Capitalists lost interest in religion. Profiteer protecting religion is the only kind they want.

Mrs Stillman says the Bolsheviks are bad people, because they have such loose morals. And all the moral press agrees with her.

As soon as the press has created a dirty hag and dragged her down into the mire the movies are there to reap the harvest—and divvy up with the press.

TIME IS SLIPPING AWAY

You are going to get that Painting offered by Comrade Carl J. Nordmark to the one who secures the largest number of subs for TRUTH by July 1, are you not?

But you are awfully slow. We never dreamed that there would be so few who would go in for that painting.

We are going to guess the reason: you think you will stand no chance. Is that it?

Well, listen. You have a fine chance so far. It will take only a few subs to be abreast with the head sprinter as things stand now. It may be that you can go out some afternoon and beat the whole bunch. Try it.

We are not going to say anything more about the picture. Only this must be said: You will never put your efforts to better use than to earn that picture. It would pay you to get a big bunch of subs even if you never got a look at it, for you will do so much good through this work. But when you consider that there is a painting which only the modesty of an artist puts at \$50 and which might bring as much as \$500 if placed on the market is right ahead of you to come into your home and remain there if you only hustle a bit, then it seems to us that you have a double incentive.

Send in your subs as you get them so each may get TRUTH right away. Let us add a thousand new readers to the list by July 1.