

# War Would Be For The Interests of Financial Freebooters Only! Says Socialist Party Emergency Committee to President Wilson

On the eve of the opening of the special session of congress the Socialist Party Emergency Committee, consisting of Victor L. Berger, John M. Work and Adolph Germer sent a telegram to President Wilson and members of congress declaring:

"In behalf of the Socialist Party of the United States, we earnestly urge you to oppose declaring war against Germany or declaring that a state of war exists.

"Instead, we urge you to vote to warn all American citizens to keep out of the danger zone. Our government has respected the war zone designated by the government of Great Britain, why should we not do the same of the war zone declared by Germany? Anyone who enters the danger zone at this time is not a good citizen. Foolhardy persons who deliberately put their country in danger of war do not deserve protection. Should the country go to war, it will be for the interest of financial freebooters only.

"We also urge that if the question of declaring war is to be voted upon at all, it shall be put to a referendum vote of the adult citizens of the United States, both men and women. We desire to put it squarely up to you whether or not you are willing to take the responsibility of deciding that the blood of thousands of your fellow human beings shall be spilled. Will your conscience permit you to do so when you can avoid it by voting against war, or by letting the people decide the question themselves?"

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### Keep Up The War On War!

**COMRADES:**—We have every reason for congratulating ourselves for so far keeping this nation out of the European War. It is largely due to our efforts that Congress has not declared war. I am not saying this without justification, for it comes to us from a very reliable source that we have Congress guessing. Men high up in the United States Navy and Congressmen as well, have admitted that the telegrams, letters and postal cards, sent in from all parts of the country have impressed members of Congress with the fact that the people do not want war.

The new Congress convened on April second and the patriots for profit are bringing all possible pressure to bear to move Congress to a declaration of war. We can crucify them at their own game.

Many of you have already written President Wilson, the members of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives. Do it again and tell them that there has been no change to justify this country becoming involved in the European slaughter. Continue this negative agitation. In the meantime, the Emergency National Convention will formulate a positive program for our future guidance. Don't relax for one moment in your agitation.

Those who are eager to plunge us into war so that treasuries will be swelled, are constantly on the job. We must do likewise.

ADOLPH GERMER,  
National Secretary, Socialist Party.

### "Russia Is Free!"

By MERRIS HILLQUIT.

Interrupting is monotonous tale of men's mad inhumanities, the crushing tale of suffering, death and destruction, of bleeding countries and agonizing nations, the transatlantic cable suddenly flashes the joyous, electrifying message: "Russia is free!"

Russia is free. All the dark powers of tyranny and reaction, of persecution and oppression, under whose baneful rule the Russian people have been suffering and succumbing for generations have been conquered and destroyed. The malevolent dynasty of the Romanoffs, which for 400 years has fastened itself to the Russian body politic like a blood-thirsty vampire, has been definitely overthrown. The weak and cruel features of the Russian autocrat which until now frowned upon the people of Russia from the walls of the gorgeous imperial palaces and great public buildings have been replaced by the defiant and triumphant red flag of the revolution.

The millions of Jews, Poles, Finns and other oppressed races within the domain of the great Russian empire are at last to be accorded human rights. The odious restrictions on free speech and press are to be abolished. The government of the country is to be constituted by the free choice of the people. Russia, dark and dumb and joyless Russia, will henceforth be a free, democratic and happy republic.

The 200,000,000 of Russian subjects, enslaved and oppressed and persecuted and tortured for ages, have risen in their might and broken their chains. They are free, and no occult power on earth can enslave them again.

Russia is free! What an intoxicating sensation, what a world of joy is contained in that magic phrase for us who for years have been watching the trials and ordeals of the great country and the struggle and defeats of its unfortunate people with alternating hope and despair. What a pathetic flush of happiness it must bring to the veterans of the Russian revolution, Catherine Brestkovskaya, Peter Kropotkin, Herman Lopatin, Vera Figner and their few surviving comrades who have grown old and feeble and broken in the jails of Russia, in the cold deserts of Siberia or in exile for their work and struggles in behalf of Russian freedom. What a tragedy that the martyrs of the Russian revolution, the Sha-

lyaloffs and Perofskayas and the thousands of noble and heroic young men and women, the flower and pride of Russian youth, who for their love of the people were killed by Russia's crowned hangmen, cannot be with us to share in our rejoicing. Let us honor their memory in this hour of our triumph. Let us remember that, if the harvest of popular freedom in Russia is abundant and resplendent, it was their blood that made its soil fertile. And let us seek what consolation we can in the conviction that the names of the noble martyrs of Russia's revolution will be worshipped and revered in all times to come, while those of its bloody tyrants will be loathed and execrated.

The Russian revolution is the first bright ray of light that has come to us from Europe since the dark days of August, 1914. It means vastly more than a mere national upheaval. It is a revolution of all-European, nay, of world-wide significance. For more than a century Russia has been the hope and the prop of all European reaction. The fall of Russian absolutism is the doom of political oppression all over the world. The workers of Russia, with their primitive and direct instincts, have been the first to recover from the artificially stimulated, mad passions of war; the first to pause in the slaughter of their innocent fellow workers in other countries and to turn against their true enemies, their oppressors at home and the instigators of all fratricidal wars. If all signs do not fail, their brothers in Germany will soon follow suit and dispose of their Hohenzollerns and their junkers as the Russian people have disposed of their Romanoffs and the reactionary cliques surrounding them. And then the workers in the warring countries may awaken.

The Russian revolution was not accomplished by the liberal middle classes in the Duma. It was born on the streets of Petrograd and forced by the workers in revolt against the war, its savagery, its sufferings and its privation. The spontaneous and victorious revolution in Russia, coming at this time and in this manner, means the beginning of the end of this war, and the end of all wars.

This war, the most gruesome and insane of all wars in history, was caused by the autocratic and bureaucratic governments of Europe. It will be ended by the people. The rule of the privileged classes is bound to bring strife and war among nations. A genuine and worldwide democracy alone can and will preserve perpetual peace among nations.

### Van Lear Opposes War Gift Of Billion Dollars

In answer to a telegram from the New York World sent to mayors of 50 leading American cities asking for opinions on the newspaper's advocacy of a \$1,000,000,000 gift to France in payment for aid in the American revolution, Mayor Thomas Van Lear, Socialist mayor of Minneapolis, Minn., wired that he was unequivocally against the proposition. He declared the gift invited war and asked if it were not for the "steel trust" thru the purchase of munitions with the money.

The mayor's telegram was sent also to the New York American and the New York Call, the mayor saying he believed the World might not print a statement opposed to the cause it was advocating.

**Mayor Issues Statement.**  
In addition to this telegram Mayor Van Lear gave out a statement in explanation of his views. The telegram and statement follow:

"I am in receipt of the following telegram from the New York World: 'The World advocates the United States giving France outright \$1,000,000,000 principally in payment of our debt to her for her aid in the American revolution. The money is to be spent for American food, munitions and supplies. The World is asking 50 leading mayors for views. Will you please wire as early as possible your opinion of this proposition in 100 words, and oblige—The World.'

"Unequivocally Against Gift."  
"To this message I have sent the following answer:

"'I urge: really against \$1,000,000,000 gift to France. No state of war exists. Your proposal presupposes and invites one. If against best judgment of the masses of America war is declared, France could best be helped by commandeering munitions plants and furnishing supplies at cost. Munitions dealers boast of patriotic offer of munitions to our government at 10 per cent profit, thereby sacrificing 30 per cent from Allies. You want government to give France purchase money to pay 30 per cent profit. Is impending war for honor or for profit? I am pro-peace. I favor no gifts abroad from government that cannot afford investigation of starvation prices at home.

"Thomas Van Lear,  
"Mayor of Minneapolis."

**Called War Measure.**

"The proposal of the World would seem to be designed either to force a declaration of war by Germany, or for use as a war measure in the event of open hostilities. In either case it is to be looked upon with the gravest concern by our people, proceeding as it does from a democratic paper and one which is known to be unusually close, both in sympathy and influence, to the national administration. The suggestion of the World, so far as the public is advised, has received no official rebuke from Washington.

"Most of the opponents to America's participation in this world war have taken the ground that the moving impulse of the war forces is the profit lust of a small but powerful section of America's commercial interests, and not the alleged danger of invasion or any besmirching of our national honor. The great body of our citizens have not at any time cried out against the aggressions of a foreign foe; and even those who in the beginning most stoutly maintained that Germany would attack us, are concluding their campaign by insisting that we must attack Germany. The latest move of the World which would seem to be accepted with complacency by the government goes far to support the view of the peace party.

**Sees Aid To Munition Makers.**  
"The gift from our government is to be spent in the United States. Let us assume that \$500,000,000 will go to the purchase of munitions and \$150,000,000 to the purchase of food. According to a recent statement in our local papers the munitions plants of the United States are willing to furnish to our government at a profit of 10 per cent, material on which they could realize a profit of 30 per cent. The gift of our government to France would afford a profit of something like \$150,000,000 to the munition makers of the United States. In other words, the United States treasury thru the government of France, is asked to make a gift of \$150,000,000 to the munition makers of this country.  
"Is the game worth the candle to the munition makers? Will it pay them to develop a buyer at home to replace the European customers who sooner or later must cease to buy?"

**Reviews Steel Company's Profits.**  
"G. A. Torsney reports as follows under date of March 25, on the income to the United States Steel corporation  
Continued on Page Two.

### Russianizing America.



At Our Doors—And Being Welcomed In.  
What Are You Doing To Stop It?

### War's Madness!

**WAR'S** madness is already beginning to grip some of the American people, incited to deeds of violence by the howling jingo press. The first real outbreak seems to have occurred at Baltimore, Md., where the sons of bankers, speculators in war brides, led a howling mob against an anti-war mass meeting being addressed by Dr. David Starr Jordan, the famous pacifist, president of Leland Stanford University, in California. In Philadelphia the police closed a theater against an anti-war meeting of the Emergency Peace Federation. Neither one of these meetings were called by organizations of the Socialists. The police in Pittsburgh tried to stop a Socialist anti-war meeting, claiming it would interfere with recruiting, but the Pittsburgh Socialists insisted on holding their meeting and the police gave in. Some of the reports we have received are as follows:

### Howling Jingo Break Up Peace Meeting At Baltimore

Reports from Baltimore as we go to press tell how a howling mob of jingo and hoodlums who stormed the Academy and smash-

ed big pacifist meeting to bits, stopping Dr. David Starr Jordan in the middle of a word and refusing to allow the speaking to continue.

"We will hang Dave Jordan to a sour apple tree", sang the insane jingoists.

The howling mob was led by Douglas and Leonard Ober, sons of a banker and broker, speculator in war brides, and Carter Osbourne, Jr., son of the vice of the Farmers' and Merchants' National Bank.

### Philadelphia Theater Closed Against Anti-War Demonstration

Repeating the activities of the police in other cities, the Philadelphia police closed the Broad Street Theater against an anti-war demonstration. The meeting was planned by the Emergency Peace Federation.

### Pittsburgh Police Seek To Suppress Socialist Meeting

The American Socialist has just received a telegram from National Secretary Adolph Germer, who went to Pittsburgh, Pa., to speak Sunday, as follows:

Pittsburgh, Pa., April 1, 1917.

The American Socialist,  
Chicago, Ill.

Superintendent of Police and Commissioners of Public Safety try to suppress Socialist meeting claiming it would interfere with recruiting campaign. Socialists insisted upon constitutional right of free assemblage and successful meeting was held.

Adolph Germer."



# Wisconsin Senate Adopts Constructive Program Of The American Socialist

By IRWIN TUCKER.

With only two dissenting votes, the state senate of Wisconsin adopted a Socialist resolution, addressed to the Wisconsin delegation in Congress. This resolution was introduced jointly in the Assembly and Senate following a caucus of the Socialist delegation, at which I laid before them the constructive program outlined in last week's American Socialist. This constructive program had been sketched in an informal conference at the National Office, and is embodied in the resolution, of which this is a verbatim copy:

### "JOINT RESOLUTION

"Memorializing Wisconsin Senators and Representatives to follow certain governmental policies in case of war."

"RESOLVED by the Senate, the assembly concurring, that in view of the apparent imminence of a declaration of a state of war, we hereby recommend to our Senators and Representatives in Congress the following war measures for their favorable consideration:

"1. The confiscation of all yearly incomes of ten thousand dollars and over for the defraying of the expenses of war."

"2. Immediate taking over by the United States Government of all railroads, and their operation under a cabinet department; compensation to be made to stockholders on the basis of the physical valuation of the railroads, said compensation to be paid after the physical valuation has been completed."

"3. Immediate seizure of all mines and their operation without profit under the federal bureau of mines."

"4. Immediate seizure by the Federal Government of all storage warehouses for food supplies; and the enactment of a law making the speculation in food supplies an act of treason under the articles of war."

"5. Dealings between the government and the workers in all of the industries seized and operated by the Government shall be conducted thru their organizations with due safeguards for the right of organization among those not yet organized; and be it further

"RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution, attested by the proper officers of the assembly and senate, be forwarded to the United States senators and representatives from this state, forthwith."

There was very little expectation among the Socialist group that these resolutions, so sweeping and drastic in their character, could be passed thru either house, although it was felt that the assembly would be more favorable than the Senate. But the sentiment in the legislature, supposedly dominated by Governor Philipp and his reactionary machinery, was suddenly revealed as overwhelmingly favorable. At this writing the lower house has not acted. But if the vote is taken at all, it is extremely likely to be quite as radical as the senate.

With this action of the state of Wisconsin, the constructive program called for in last week's American Socialist enters the domain of practical politics. If the St. Louis convention of the Socialist Party draws up some such outline as this, and its members scatter to the four corners of the country to press home wherever it can be pressed the imperative necessity of socializing all the in-

struments of production and exchange, it will command everywhere just such surprisingly strong sympathy as the Wisconsin case has shown.

It is true that this war was brought about for the profit of capitalists supported by militarism. But that is no reason why it should end in their favor. The railroads were built for private profit, but we are in favor of taking them over. Let us turn this war, started by capitalists, to the destruction of capitalism! Every nation which has been dragged into this conflict has been socialized to a greater or less degree, according as its working class was alive to the possibilities of the case. Russia has dropped its czar; England has taken over its railroads; in Germany the rumblings of social democracy seem to be growing louder and louder. In this country, the American Federation of Labor has skillfully injected labor into the center of the situation by making terms to support the government on condition that property is conscripted and industrial democracy established in every plant that works for the Government! Can we ignore the tremendous possibilities of our power?

There is a vast sentiment ready to crystallize itself around the constructive program proposed. In Chicago the city council voted overwhelmingly for a proposal to enable the city government to conduct its own ice, coal and food supply, although a few of the gray wolves shouted despairingly "It's opening the gate to Socialism."

The national administration itself has proposed the conscription of all incomes over \$100,000 as a feeler. If we lower that conscription to take in everything over ten thousand, we shall put a punch into the proposal that the ninety-nine and nine-tenths per cent of the American people who are below the ten thousand dollar line will gleefully recognize and enthusiastically cheer.

Organized labor has already demanded industrial democracy. Can we do less than back this demand in the present and prospective case of war by all means possible, but if war is forced, then to "take all the profit out of war."

The memorial has been passed by the legislature of North Dakota and is pending now in the legislatures of Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Dakota and Montana, and has been sent for presentation to the legislatures of all the other states in which legislative sessions are being held—thirty-eight states in all.

Arthur Le Sueur, legal adviser for the Non-Partisan League of North Dakota and the Northwest, has brought the memorial east, with authority to present it in the name of the League, of Governor Lynn Frazier of North Dakota, and of all affiliated farmers' and workers' organizations. The league itself, which has initiated the resolutions, is a centralized movement of farmers and allied workers which has recently swept thru the Northwest and is developing a remarkable political and economic strength nationally.

Urging the preservation of peace and insisting on strict neutrality, the resolution "earnestly recommends and requests" that not only munitions plants and steel foundries but flour mills, cloth factories and "such other property and money" be taken over by the government "to be used during the war without compensation and to be surrendered after the war to the owners."

"This memorial," said Mr. LeSueur in presenting it to official representatives and to public audiences in the east, "is not what one would call a direct demand for peace, but it has a direct power for peace, in my judgment, than any direct demand for it could ever have, because of the suggestion which it carries that citizens of wealth are not going to do as they have done in France, and other European countries, and as they did do in the United States in time of war—make the war an opportunity for a monopoly of wealth—but will be compensated for their burdens themselves. If this were actually done war would actually cease, for the common people are never voluntarily given to pay the costs of war, and the rich will never carry on a war at their own expense. In wars, during all time, the rich have had all the glory and the poor becoming poorer, as a result of the war. If some way could be devised whereby the war debts of Europe could be cancelled, the war over there would cease."

Declaring that "it has become apparent that there is some invisible force carrying on a press propaganda to involve this nation in the European conflict"; and declaring that "it is apparent that the munition, armor and steel plants, and their allied interests would be the gainers in such a conflict"; and declaring that "it is generally believed that the munition, armor and steel plants are the parties responsible for this propaganda"; the purposes of the resolution or memorial proceeds:

"We respectfully petition the President and Congress of the United States, to do everything in their power that can honorably be done, to avoid this nation's being drawn into the European conflict of destruction."

"And we respectfully petition the President and Congress of the United States, to endeavor to maintain absolute neutrality with neither favor

nor prejudice toward any of the belligerent nations.

"And be it further made known that it is our firm and unalterable purpose to support and stand by our nation in case of war, with our lives and property."

"And being mindful of the principles of equity, justice and freedom upon which this government is founded, we do most earnestly recommend and request that the Congress of the United States authorize and empower the President, so far as it is within their power, in case war becomes inevitable, to seize all the property useful and necessary to the government in carrying on the war without compensation and to be surrendered after the war to the owners; such property to include factories, shipyards, munition plants, armor plate mills, flour mills, arms, factories supplies and equipment, cloth factories and such other property and money as the government may require, to the end that all our citizens, regardless of social position or economic advantage, shall contribute equally to the common need and common defense of our nation, so that citizens of wealth may be enabled and compelled to contribute to the common welfare and need of their country on the same terms as the enlisted soldiers or sailors, who give their lives and their all."

## Van Lear Opposes War Gift Of Billion Dollars

Continued From Page One.

for the year ending December 31, 1916.

"Even the most rampant bulls on steel had no grounds for disappointment in the report for the year ending December 31, 1916. The company's total business amounted to \$1,231,473,779, an increase of \$504,754,190, or 69 p. c. over the total in 1915. Net earnings were \$342,997,092, against \$140,250,066 the year previous, while the amount earned per share on the common stock was 40 cents, as compared with only 9.90 cent in 1915. The total undivided surplus was \$381,360,918, of which \$189,000,000 was in cash, a vast sum of ready money even for so gigantic a concern as the United States Steel Corporation."

"We turn now from the munitions makers to the food speculators, with whom we assume France would spend the remaining half billion. According to a table recently published in one of our leading dailies, eight staple food products have increased in price, since 1911, 250 per cent on the average. The testimony of the food sellers is that this tremendous increase is due principally to the abnormal demand created by the war."

"Gain For Food Traders." "Immense stocks of food now await shipment to Europe. Let the United States keep open the avenues of trade, and furthermore furnish to France \$500,000,000 for food purchases in America, and a modest estimate indicates that our food traders would take upward of \$200,000,000 straight out of the public pocket by way again of the government of France. This of course, would be only a befitting token of appreciation from the American people for the modest prices with which the food speculators have contented themselves within recent months."

"And the end is not yet; for the new power of France to buy would mean an increased demand and a further consequent boost in prices. The protest of the consumer the food plunderer would be able to meet with a comfortable smirk and the assurance that the law of supply and demand was in operation and that he could not stop it. I am not unmindful of the claim that the consumer has his relief—that prices are high, wages are high also and work is abundant. Workers have not begun to keep pace with prices, and to the honor of American labor let it be remembered that they have not demanded the continuance of the European war nor the participation of our government in it, tho the war makers have been busy in pointing out the economic advantages of war to the workers."

"Decrees Beating 'Tomtoms.' "Our profiteers, however, are like those of whom it was said, 'Whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad.' So far toward the precipice have they pushed the nation that they have become reckless in their assurance. The commercial animus which prompts them they now scarcely care to conceal by tireless beating of the tomtoms of national honor, national safety, and loyalty to the government. They remind us of the image makers of old who, when Paul of Tarsus came to Ephesus to preach that there be no gods which are made by the hands of men, stood on the corners crying, 'Great is Diana of the Ephesians.' They knew that if the living God supplanted Diana the trade in images would suffer and to one another they confessed, 'Our craft is in danger.' The steel trust if today it would speak honestly must surely say, 'Our graft is in danger.'"

"In behalf of all men who hold public office in these difficult days, I wish to raise my voice against the brazen and unscrupulous effort of the war party to bend to uses disastrous to freedom, the official power of this nation, high and low.

Defends Own Course. "I have myself been accused of using my office for the purpose of peace propaganda. If I have made peace propaganda it has been in my own motion and not because I was coerced or incited into doing so. There is no public man or public body today that is not persistently solicited to lend aid to measures inimical to liberty and foreign to American institutions. Compulsory service is sought to be forced upon us thru our schools and our government while thru the latter body the attempt is made to establish censorship in its worst form and to divert the public income from purposes of peace to the destructive ends of war."

"What is the personnel of the conference committee on national preparedness, the Universal Military Training league, the Navy league, the National Defense league? It is time that these for very shame were silent and that the men who must bear the burden of the battle had their say upon the necessity and the desirability of war."

## Food Prices To Go Still Higher If We Get Into War

By LUCIEN SAINT.

(Special Correspondence.)

WASHINGTON.—When war breaks out food prices will go up. This is a universal habit of food prices. They will stay up, once they go up. They will rise to starvation heights. They have already done so in Germany, England, France and Russia.

The needs of the army for food will first be met. The army will get the best, and plenty of it, no matter whether the reserves of the army, the main body of the citizens of the nation, starve or die. Thus doth capitalist civilization decree and thus will it be.

Labor will suffer more than any other class. Labor, therefore, thru intelligent political and economic pressure, must prevail upon the Government to recognize this problem and to take a strong stand from the very first. Sooner or later we shall need a Food Controller. Why not NOW?

Let the working class map out a program of food preparedness, and let them present this program thru their one representative in Congress and their state legislators, to the authorities. This program must contain these measures:

Government ownership of the transportation systems, including the express companies.

Government holding of the terminal warehouses, cold storage plants, grain elevators, and markets.

Government supervision and regulation of crop production.

Government regulation of exports.

And so on.

This may or may not be the exact program, but it is the precise line of attack. Even the militarists will have to recognize this fact. Let the brains of the Socialist movement serve their country in constructing a sane and workable plan which, in peace as well as in war, will socialize food and make living cheap and healthy.

## Find Little Jingo Spirit

CONGRESS declares war upon Germany, it will be for this reason:

"That Germany is sinking upon sight and without warning unarmed or peaceful merchant ships of a neutral power."

Wholly aside from the right and justice of this reason, this is the reason, and once in the war, all groups in the United States will be equally involved in the problem of securing a speedy and RIGHT end to it—the least loss of life, the least breaking down of international good will, the least violence to the principle of humanity, almost all of which war violates.

Old timers in Washington are marveling today that there is so little jingoism thruout the country. There is plenty of jingoism in certain of the newspapers, but not near as much as there was when Hearst and the Sugar Trust drove McKinley into war with Spain.

The duty of the Socialists, as this correspondent sees it from this vantage point in the nation's capital, is to let the war be a war of the making of the capitalists, for their own honor and protection. It is none of our war. The socialist duty is clearly to work harder than ever before for the right things in national life which the stimulus of war may make more possible.

Work for Government ownership—it's inevitable, but it will come quicker if you work for it.

Work for popular control of your local and national governments. Raise your voices for what you want. The Russian people got it—why not the Americans.

Bear down on the constructive things. Leave off destructive criticism. Let the enemy do that. All things will not be right or wrong at once. A little at a time.

Make the war help you do your work.

## Censorship Looms Bigger

IT IS requested that no information, reports or rumors, attributing a policy to the government in any international situation, not authorized by the President, or a member of the cabinet, be published without first consulting the Department of State."

This is paragraph number six of the censorship regulations. As yet they are not hard and fast regulations, that is to say, they are not compulsory. But before another week shall have passed, they may well be compulsory. The lid may be clamped down on the American press.

Where does labor and the labor press get off? Under the proposed censorship will it be possible for Socialist papers to criticize the course of the government—will anti-war organizations be allowed to protest against the war or object to the way it is being run? Are we going to become "efficient" after the fashion of Russia, Germany, and England?

Regulation No. Six will cut the country off from the real news of Washington. It will put the folks back home in the dark. It will give the government a freedom from the healthful sunshine of publicity, which it needs, war or peace, now and all the time.

This is one of the side things that war does. As yet we are not at war. The censorship is a reason for not having any war at all.

## Our War Program

By WM. F. KRUSE.

One may be blind and deaf and lame and crippled and yet not fail to see that we are close—very close—to war. Every step now being taken by the powers-that-be are in that direction. Army and navy is being mobilized, an energetic recruiting campaign is on, plans are already under way to muzzle the press and the labor organizations in case war is declared, and a special congress is called several weeks ahead of schedule time.

There can be only one answer to these activities—WAR.

We can readily see the masters' hand in this game. As long as there was no restriction placed on our shipment of ammunition, food, clothing, and other supplies to the belligerents of one side, we were in no danger of being dragged into the conflict. At the very start of the war our trade was cut off completely with the labor powers and our trade with neutrals was seriously hampered. But we were not then in danger of war. Our trade with England and her allies was still secure and war loans and munitions contracts had a marvellously soothing influence on our now rabid jingo press.

But now the shoe is on another foot. Shipments are stopped and with them stop the abnormal profits in the "War Brides." For doing just exactly what Great Britain did at the outset of the war, the using different means, we are to fight Germany. Are we? The public office says we are. The War College and all our epauletted soldier boys say we are. Wall Street says we are. Its hirelings in Congress say we are. The man on the street is undecided, in the extreme East he seems to think so too, in the West he is, in the main, of a different opinion. Now what shall the Socialists say about it?

The need of a clear-cut war policy is imminent to all Socialists. We must cohered or incited into doing so. There is no public man or public body today that is not persistently solicited to lend aid to measures inimical to liberty and foreign to American institutions. Compulsory service is sought to be forced upon us thru our schools and our government while thru the latter body the attempt is made to establish censorship in its worst form and to divert the public income from purposes of peace to the destructive ends of war.

"What is the personnel of the conference committee on national preparedness, the Universal Military Training league, the Navy league, the National Defense league? It is time that these for very shame were silent and that the men who must bear the burden of the battle had their say upon the necessity and the desirability of war."

Our positive program should include every progressive measure that the conduct of the war has taught other governments. We should stand for the immediate conscription of in-

up its character as a selfish trade squabble. We should in every way pursue a policy of obstructionism to the jingo policy. To do so will undoubtedly get us into trouble with the government and into disrepute with the war-makers, but they are not of our class, nor is their government as yet our government. A business war of this character is unjustifiable from any angle save that of the profiteer, and we should never let up in our opposition to it.

A discussion of these topics is vital to the welfare of our movement at this time. We are dangerously close to the brink of war. Other countries have been, and in plunging into the pit have dragged even a great many of our socialists with them. We have no right to expect that our comrades in this country will show themselves to be any clearer thinkers than have others been. The maze of controversy that has already been waged over this question ought to banish all our hopes in this direction. Already do we find some of our comrades advocating that we join in the war on the side of the allies. To them the idea of continued opposition on our part is exceedingly distasteful. They see, or at least profess to see, in this war a great struggle between "democracy" on the one hand and "absolutism" on the other. To them war becomes a "principle" to them instead of a selfish capitalistic squabble for world markets. These champions of democracy have always had a rather lame cause until a few days ago the news of the revolution in Russia electrified the world. It looks a great deal more plausible now. The very people who saw in the Tsar's fight only a grab for a warmer water port can now look only at a fight for republican principles. And those to whom America's entrance into the fight was yesterday only an effort to protect munitions profits, today suddenly become convinced of our holy mission to vindicate the traditions of republicanism—by shouldering a gun and going to slaughter the tools of those who don't believe as we do.

What is there in this whole business? We are all glad that the Tsar has gone (hoping that all our newspaper reports are true, of course), it represents one step forward in the march of progress. It is Russia's bourgeois revolution—it had to come sooner or later. It is a sign that we may at last have hope for more from the workers of Russia in our international fight against the common enemy, the master class. But have we nothing to hope from the workers of Germany? Bread riots being put down by soldiery withdrawn from the front, Liebknecht and his followers unquenched in their opposition and finally Bethmann-Hollweg's announcement to his peers that the German people will not be satisfied to put up with the same conditions that prevailed before the war! Do not these promise something from the German people?

Our effort should be directed toward breaking down the war spirit of all nations, not in the humiliation of any one of them. What right have we to rebuke the militaristic spirit of Germany when our hands are thus blackened by the largest military appropriation ever made in times of "peace"? Let us try to take care of our own doorsteps first.

Some of our "enter-the-war-for-the-sake-of-Democracy" socialists seem to think that the present alliance between the Allied powers is the beginning of a World State that shall bring about peace and justice for all. That is a pretty dream, but entirely unfounded in fact. It merely constitutes the beginning of a new balance of power—and a new secret diplomacy that cannot fail, unless stopped by working-class power, to lead to new wars and new injustices. The economic interests of the now rapidly developing Russia must sooner or later come into conflict with Britain just as those of Germany did. India and other British possessions in the Far East will be an ever present incentive for Japan to break the faith. China too is coming along rapidly and there is sure to be a clash when occidental capitalism seeks to share the plunder in which the little Japs are now wallowing. There is no safety to be found in militaristic alliances of any such nature,

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## The April Leaflet!

Our April leaflet is entitled "The High Cost of Living." It was written by Scott Nearing.

This leaflet should be distributed by the hundreds of thousands. You can get these leaflets from the National Office, Socialist Party, 803 West Madison Street, Chicago, Ill., at 10 cents per 100; 75 cents per 1,000.

The cost of living is going up! Let the workers of the nation know the reason why!

We have seen them formed all thru history and every nation that has ever placed its faith therein has been destroyed.

If we want peace, a permanent lasting peace, the only way that we will ever get it is in refusing to draw the sword ourselves and in organizing our numbers to such an extent that our masters will not be able to use the working-class of this, or any other country, to bolster up its profits. Every battleship added to our list, every officer educated, every soldier made, raised just that much more of a barrier to head off the coming of international brotherhood. Let us do our share, first to stop war before it comes, and, falling in that, ever afterward to do our best to make war unpopular. We can make it decidedly unpopular to the capitalist by appropriating all his profits and taking away his control of the tools of production. We can only hope to make it unpopular to the workers by a solid education in Socialism.

The Labor party of New South Wales established a court to enforce fair rents and block the gouging of landlords. From 50 to 100 complaints a month have been adjusted in Sydney alone. The court has final jurisdiction and no lawyers are permitted to come in for either tenant or landlord to interpose quibblers and fiddle around for fat fees. It costs only \$3,000 to conduct the courts and tenants pay a nominal fee of 24 cents to have a case considered and are not required to appear personally. It frequently happens that when the rentals for a single house in a terrace or apartment in a building are fixed by the court the rate applies to all other similar habitations in the district. Of course, the landlords yell Socialism, confiscation and bloody murder, but the Laborites don't care a rap and inform the owners that they are mighty lucky to be permitted to charge any rents. It is quite certain that the rent regulation system will be retained after the war and it may lead to the government taking over all the rented houses. That's how Socialism breaks up the homes!

The notorious Meyer bill, which provided that all young men between the age of 18 and 23 years would be compelled to attend military training camps four weeks each year, and which looked threatening after passing the Senate in New York State, was killed in a House committee last week. Much credit for defeat of the measure is given the two Socialist members of the Legislature, Shiplacoff and Whitehorn.

Chester M. Wright for nearly three years managing editor of the New York Call, has resigned his position. Differences of opinion with the association that controls the Call on industrial and political policies are given as the cause for the change.

The Forward, Jewish Socialist daily in New York city, is about to celebrate its 20th anniversary. The paper now has a circulation of over 200,000 and is an acknowledged power in waging campaigns for improved conditions for the organized Jewish workers.

As in the Briand ministry, there are three officers in the new French War Cabinet, who are Socialists or were identified with the party. Thomas is an active member and Bourgeois and Viviani claim to be Socialists, but are not enrolled as members.

## Must We Arm?

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between

Morris Hillquit

and

Congressman Gardner

of Massachusetts.

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## Spanish Leaflets

Four leaflets in Spanish have just been issued by the National Socialist Party as follows:

Una Defensa Catolica Del Socialismo (A Catholic Defense Of Socialism) by the Hon. Charles Russell.

La Guerra de las Clases (The War of the Classes).

La Parabola Del Poso (The Parable of the Water Tank) by Edward Bellamy.

La Parabola Del Cazador (The Parable of the Hunter) by Edward Bellamy.

Just the thing to reach your Spanish friends.







Fight On Scott Nearing Is Daily Growing Hotter

Big Business, thru its representatives in Toledo, O., is continuing its fight to oust Scott Nearing from his position as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in the municipal university there.

Labor unions, radical societies, and the workers generally have been circulating petitions urging his retention at the university. Over 5,000 signatures have already been collected and more are coming.

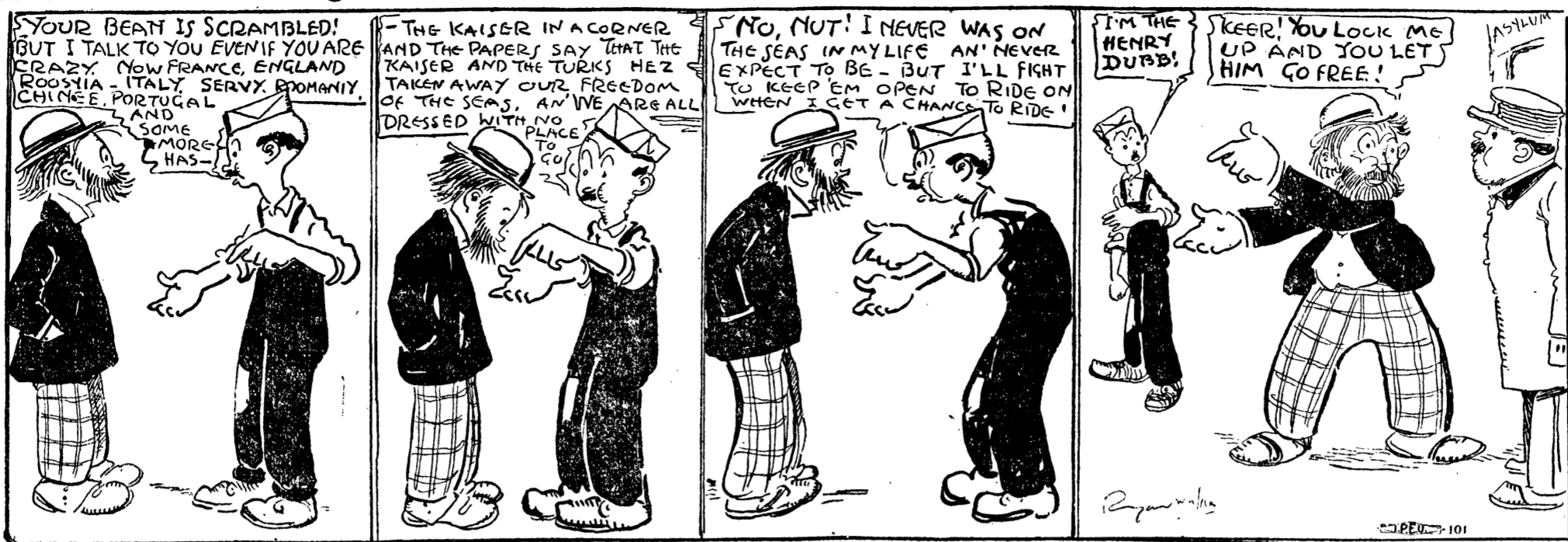
As the matter stands now, Nearing's resignation is before the Trustees for their action. A probing committee of three of the trustees has been out for some time and has not yet drawn up its final report.

The Central Labor Union was represented by its President and Business Agent. Both declared that they would pledge the support of organized labor to protect the university against any attacks upon its financial support that might result from the retention of Dr. Nearing on the faculty.

Nearing in the meantime is continuing with his class work. The extension classes that he teaches will soon end their terms and he is expected to employ this time in giving the plutes more of the medicine that they now so bitterly resent.

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What's The Use Of Talking About Freedom Of The Seas To A Lunatic



By RYAN WALKER

Scholarship Contest News

This week sees a few new changes in our listing, but Comrade Freidman is still on top and is going further and further toward the winning line.

Table with columns: Name, Address, Points. Lists names like M. K. Freidman, B. J. S. Gary, R. H. Lane, etc., with their respective points.

Sweden has taken control of nearly all cereals in the country and issued rules calculated to husband the country's resources.

Nearing Case Is Still Stirring All Toledo

"No longer is Toledo's morning greeting, 'What do you think about the weather?', but 'What about Nearing?'"

The above is the opening paragraph of one of the letters to the Toledo "Blade" and other papers in the city, means all of which are printed.

"I believe in democracy and in the brotherhood of all men. No community can endure which ignores the Golden Rule, the basic law of social life."

"Millions of people, the world over, are today seeking to overthrow German militarism. There are two methods of securing this result. The first way is to militarize all of the great nations."

"Ideas and ideals are the most powerful and permanent things in the world, as your own history shows. A century and a half ago our ancestors immortalized themselves by broaching the idea of political democracy to a king-ridden world."

"The only possible way to save the present-day world from militarism is to cut to the root of the problem and establish an industrial democracy, which, in its turn may prove a beacon light to mankind."

"I oppose militarism because I believe it stands for the brute in human nature, and that if we adopt it, the democracy is doomed."

"I revere the government that represents democracy. I honor the flag that stands for liberty and justice. So strong is my feeling on this point that I resent seeing the government turned over to an irresponsible plutocracy or an irresponsible bureaucracy, just as I resent having the flag, which is the symbol of our democracy, used to cloak special privilege and shameful exploitation."

"Militarism is the madness of the past—dragging us down and destroying us. The spirit of brotherhood and good will among men is the voice of the future, calling us to a higher plane of life than humanity has ever known."

"SCOTT NEARING."

Its Meaning

(Lines Inspired by a Military Bugle). A bugle blast sounds in my ears; In ringing tones the summons comes. All fraught, it seems, with blood and tears And orphan's cries and widows' groans.

It means to me a nation deep Down in the depths of hate untold, Inspired by greed without a peep At glories that peace can unfold.

It means to me a nation gone Far back to times when man was beast, When loot and lust spurred effort on, And all things good were all things least.

It means to me, I must confess, A shameful and a sorry state; But wait! Rejoice! Its power grows less: Its life is sure, but short in length. For peace will come and men no more Will seek the kind from other lands: The sword will rust, the cannon's roar Cease to be heard when all join hands.

By Edmund R. Brambaugh.

Government Of Finland Is Headed By Socialist

By HENRY ASKELI.

If any nationality has reason to be glad about the downfall of Russian autocracy, the Finnish people certainly have. I am sure every Finlander, excluding those who were benefited by the old regime, will feel a deep gratitude towards those who assisted the revolution.

According to the latest news dispatches from Helsingfors, Finland also, it now has a new senate, which is Finland's supreme executive body. This was agreed on after prolonged negotiations by all political parties. The new senate consists of twelve members and is chosen according to party divisions in parliament.

The Social-Democratic party is the largest party in Finland at present. It now has a majority on the Diet and control of the senate. Other parties represented in the new government are: Old Finnish party, young Finnish party and Swedish Popular party. This composition government has already organized a new judicial department, excluding the former reactionary officials, and appointing instead the best jurists in their place.

For more than a hundred years Finland has been a part of the Russian Empire; a Grand Duchy, so called, and in the past 20 years the "Russianization" of Finland has proceeded relentlessly. And yet, in spite of this aggression and especially during the most ruthless oppression Finland has taken her place as one of the most progressive nations in the whole world.

The world already knows that in Finland every man and woman has a voice; that they have proportional representation; women representation in the Diet and many other radical measures. All these they got by fighting for them. They got them when conditions were most oppressive. What will they do now, when they have constitutional liberty?

During the Russian oppression, the working class in Finland had to fight against two enemies: the Finnish capitalist class and the Russian autocracy. Now, when the latter is a thing of the past, they can concentrate their efforts more strongly against the capitalist class.

This revolution did not overthrow capitalism in Finland. No; capitalism is still there. But constitutional autonomy will give the working class freedom of speech and assembly and to the nation as a whole wider self-government. There is a world of difference, living in the constitutional state and in the autocratic state.

This newly gained freedom cost the blood, lives and liberties of hundreds and thousands of revolutionists in Russia and in Finland. Those daring souls began the agitation among the peasants and the working people, which resulted in the nation-wide revolutionary wave that swept the country like a prairie fire.

Yes, indeed, we have a reason to be glad.

FOR "MUNY" OWNERSHIP.

The platform of the Socialist Party of St. Louis advocates the establishment of municipal gas, electric and cold storage plants to reduce the high cost of living, a municipal electric plant to serve the entire city, a municipal gas plant, municipal ownership of the street railways municipal loan offices and a municipal drug store.

CHRISTIANITY AND SOCIALISM

The American Baptist Publication Society, with headquarters in Philadelphia, has issued a pamphlet written by Prof. J. E. Franklin, bearing the title "The Relation of Christianity and Socialism," that is a magazine of facts, and the document will doubtless create a great deal of interest in the Baptist Church and probably other denominations.

What shall we say of the Sermon on the Mount, in which Jesus points out wherein the accepted ethics, social as well as individual, differ from his own ideals? What is the meaning of the parable of Dives and Lazarus? Is it not the condemnation of those who sit at ease amid their abundance, indifferent to the sufferings of the poor, denying social responsibility, denying human brotherhood? Dives was as charitable as the average Christian; he permitted Lazarus to share with the dogs his superfluous abundance.

"Now what is the conclusion of the whole matter? If the indictment drawn by socialism against our present industrial organization is measurably true; if our competitive system is the fruitful source of poverty, misery, and sin; if the co-operative commonwealth is an ideal that can be approximately attained and brings with it a state of society in which men can actually live the true Christian life, the Christian Church by all its ideals and traditions, should be squarely committed to this movement.

"Socialism is not merely a question of bread and butter. It involves all the relation of man to man, repressing selfishness, exalting justice, and promoting brotherly kindness. It is applied Christianity."

This is an aich of a time for Harper's Weekly to come along with this kind of stuff. Why didn't that magazine print something like it before the November election? Then it might have had its wish gratified. Listen: "Now that neither the Republican nor the Democrats have a working majority in the next House, it is pity that Meyer London is the only Socialist returned to Congress. Had Berger and Taylor of Milwaukee, Debs from New York, and Hillquit from New York City been elected with him the country would have enjoyed the somewhat novel experience of having a party with a program of fundamental reconstruction holding the balance of power in the legislative halls of the nation. The full program of socialism no one need expect to see inaugurated in this generation—the great war has given it such an impetus as no one thought possible two years ago. But the party's unflinching support of international peace, of democracy in all forms, and the rights of women and children, and generally of all who are oppressed, is beyond admiration. Congress, the country and the world need more, not less, socialism."

William Hamilton has been chosen as President of the Legislative Council in Queensland, Australia. This action by the Labor party is a blow that almost killed father capitalism. Bill Hamilton—as everybody calls him—is a most objectionable person. He is one of the pioneers in the trade union movement and helped form the Labor party years ago. He was a miner, sheep shearer and tramp at various times. As a strike leader he created so much trouble on one occasion that the capitalistic State government that controlled Queensland put a price on his head and he had to go into hiding in the bush as an outlaw. Now to lord it over the Legislative Council is disgraceful, indeed. Alfred Jones, another miner, has been appointed State Minister of Mines, a Cabinet position. They do things queerly in Australia, where they have the gall to try to run their affairs without the aid or consent of capitalists and their lawyers and politicians.

According to the American-Scandinavian Review, the recent municipal elections in Norway show a greater gain for Socialism than originally reported. In Christiania the Socialist party captured 45 seats in the City Council against 35 Conservatives, 5 Radicals and 2 Liberals. The Conservatives have held their ground, while the two intermediate parties, representing a great extent Socialistic principles, have apparently gone over to the Socialist party organization, with the result that Christiania for the next three years will have a Socialist city government. Large gains were also made in smaller places.

Some of the Australian labor papers are bemoaning the split in the Labor party over the conscription issue. But without exception they are against conscription, and declare that while the division hurts at present it will have proven a good thing in the long run.

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