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AMERICAN SOCIALIST

MAY LEAFLET
The War Program
In Four Pages
Rush In Your
ORDERS NOW!

VOL. III. No. 45.

304

CHICAGO, SATURDAY, MAY 19, 1917.

25 CENTS FOR SIX MONTHS; 50 CENTS PER YEAR; \$1 PER YEAR OUTSIDE UNITED STATES

Upheld Again

Herbert C. Hoover, proclaimed as America's food dictator, assures us that if the United States will take control of its food supply, the present price of flour can be reduced 40 to 50 per cent, and at the same time the producer can be treated in a liberal manner.

This is what Socialists have been contending ever since the war started in August, 1914, when the food speculators got on the job.

"There is absolutely no occasion for food panic in this country", declares Mr. Hoover, "nor any justification for outrageous prices, unless the opposition of special interests defeats the president in obtaining the necessary powers to control the nation's food fully and adequately."

It is not necessary for Mr. Hoover to try to produce an alibi for the president. If Wilson had the power, and no one denies it, to force 100,000,000 people into war, he certainly has the power to control the price of food, one of the details in carrying on a war.

The president used his power to get us into war. Will he use this same power to control the price of food, or will he permit this power to remain in the grasping hands of the Wall Street money lords?

"\$20 a barrel for flour before the war is over", is Hoover's prediction, if the food speculators stay on the job.

Let the people do some "watchful waiting" on the food question. It would be well, however, not to wait too long.

Senator La Follette's advisory referendum on conscription was defeated in the Senate by a vote of 48 to 4. The fact that but four senators out of 96—La Follette, Gronna, Gore and Vardaman—voted for it is another indication that the demand made in the Socialist platform, that the senate be abolished, is sound.—The New York Call.

Fighting For Democracy

Wilson and his war makers have good reason to be puffed at Great Britain for sending Balfour over here to help promote this alleged war for democracy. Frank P. Walsh, chairman of the recent U. S. Commission on Industrial Relations, holds Balfour's record up to the light of day as follows:

"In speaking of our allies, may we not do it plainly and with understanding? Perhaps we ought not to be critical of a friendly ally at this time, yet should we not be excused from not enthusing over the presence of Mr. Balfour, known to us of Irish blood as 'Bloody Balfour', who in the exercise of his autocracy over Ireland put to death more Irish patriots than any man of his time?"

The Irish in Ireland have just given another indication that they have their own way of fighting for democracy. They have just elected Joseph McGuinness to the house of commons. McGuinness is now serving a three years' sentence in prison for his part in the Irish Rebellion last year. The prison sentence imposed by the British crown has not only sent McGuinness to the house of commons, but would indicate that the Irish are out for a clean break with the boasted British democracy and for the establishment of an Irish republic.

In the meantime the United States might investigate the criminal rule of the powers of exploitation over the helpless peoples of Porto Rico. It would be an awful calamity to be compelled to suppress a struggle for democracy in Porto Rico while trying to shoot democracy into the Central Empires of Europe.

Our "Made In Wall Street" war taxing program provides for a bare 16 per cent tax on excess profits. Over in Great Britain the profiteers are paying 80 per cent and feel they are getting off easy. If the people in the United States yell loud enough they ought to be able to go their British brothers one better and shove it up to 100 per cent.

Moving Onward

One of the significant events that has just taken place in Europe was the visit of Alexander Kerensky, the Russian Socialist minister of justice, to a meeting of the Finnish diet, the majority of which is composed of Socialists.

Kerensky, the Russian Socialist, greeted the people of Finland in the name of the provisional government, and declared that Russia would see to it that Finland should henceforth remain free.

The Socialist president of the Finnish diet begged Kerensky to take back the thanks of the diet to the Russian people and the fraternal greetings which he had brought to Finland. He declared that henceforth a complete understanding, based on reciprocal confidence, would reign between the Russian and Finnish peoples.

How great a change this is from the brutal treatment of Finland under Czarism? If Socialism is good enough for Russia and Finland, if it can bring about a reign of equality and fraternity between these two countries, it can do the same for all the other nations of the earth. We are moving onward toward this goal.

The Killing Program

The war lords at Washington, suggest a killing program as follows:

- Kill free speech.
- Kill a free press.
- Kill free assembly.
- Kill all good labor legislation.
- Kill every humane idea that bobs up anywhere.
- Kill the right to strike.
- Kill the right of organization among workers.
- Kill all humane teachings in our public schools.
- Kill the ten commandments.
- Kill all child labor legislation.
- Kill the eight-hour workday.
- Kill all who refuse to kill.
- Kill! Kill! Kill!

Cheers For China

China's house of representatives has refused to embroil that country in the bloody world war. It seems that the members of this body have much more backbone than the members of our congress. They denounced the premier when he sought to urge them to involve the country in the war.

One of the big arguments used against entering the war was that it threatened the republic. The representatives of the people of the United States have no such scruples. Why worry about the republic as long as the dollars of Wall Street receive protection?



The Last Loaf Of Bread—Your Contribution To Wall Street's War.

Who Are The Good Americans?

By WM. F. KRUSE.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, TO SECURE THESE RIGHTS, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundations upon such principles as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."

No, this is not a quotation from the reasonable and sedition-free speech of a Socialist agitator who attacked the draft law. It is taught to all our millions of school children as the height of true Americanism, it used to be thrilled and declaimed with great gusto at every Fourth of July oratorical contest. But it is unpopular now; very, very, unpopular.

It's Old-Fashioned Now.

This is an extract from the Declaration of Independence. It is the cornerstone of the American nation, upon this foundation the Constitution was built, upon it the whole fabric of our government rests. But it is a frightfully old-fashioned document, and in the minds of the powers that be, entirely out of date. What the administration of President Wilson wants is a draft law that shall conscript the life, take away the liberty, and blast the happiness of every American citizen except the munitions profiteer and the pot-bellied jingo shouters in legislative and editorial chambers.

"Life, liberty, happiness" — that program was met for the revolutionists of 1776; but "murder, conscription, and desolation" is the program mapped out for the spineless American conscripts of 1917 by our Tory autocrat in the White House.

"Life, liberty, happiness" is what the working class of all the world wants right now. These are the things that the American people—at least the American part of them—wanted in 1776. These are the things that the Socialists of to-day stand for. In 1776 there were some people who thought this altogether too revolutionary, in fact they thought it treasonable. Such people were called "Tories." They were the supporters and friends of that international highwayman, Great Britain. In 1776

they were in the minority, yet they fought to throttle American liberty. But in 1917 we find them in control of the government, these friends of King George, these Tories, and again they are running true to form, again they are trying to destroy every freedom that we can now boast of, and to do away with every chance to win new liberties for the working class.

Why The Draft?

The question is often asked, "Why should the American people submit to military slavery?" In 1776 we were supposed to have thrown off political slavery, in 1867 we claim to have put an end to chattel slavery, in 1917, just when the fight to do away with the last forms left on our soil was the hottest, when Socialists and labor unionists were trying to put an end to economic oppression, a new form is saddled upon us. This form is more harsh than all the others, it is copied from the most despotic of Old World powers, IT IS MILITARY SLAVERY.

No American has the right to look proudly at the motto, "Life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness." Under the draft law he has no rights that the military authorities are bound to respect. "Murder, conscription, and desolation" is the motto that the Tories have put into the place of Thomas Jefferson's immortal declaration. To the existing government "The Declaration of Independence" is only a "scrap of paper."

Let it be clearly understood that this "free" government of a "free" people has dared to go further into the madness of militarism than has any other nation on earth. Even in monarchical England provision was made to exempt from service those who were conscientiously opposed to the war. And in Australia, under the rule of the British Empire, the question of conscription was first put to a referendum vote. Women as well as men voted on this question, for no one is more interested in the question than the mother, wife, or sweetheart whose very life is bound up in her loved ones. The people of Australia voted it down, and none were more bitterly opposed to conscription and military slavery than were those who had voluntarily gone to the front. Canada has been at war for a much longer time than we have been, yet she has not even thought of resorting to military slavery. Why then should such an infamous procedure be tolerated in "free" America?

The reason is perfectly simple. This

war is not a popular war with the American people. By their votes last Fall they decisively showed that they were opposed to war. Woodrow Wilson was re-elected on the plea that "he kept us out of war". No one knows this better than he who profited most by this desertion of the people who elected him. There has never been a more notorious turn-coat in all history. Hypocrites shouted last Fall "he kept us out of war". But munitions profiteers licked their chops in preparation for the biggest boodle of war profits to follow this country's entry.

People Have Been Betrayed.

The people of this country have been betrayed by their chosen leader, they have been sold into slavery to the war gods. Soon the draft officers will start their operations in every part of the country. Soon will sons be torn from their mothers' arms, and husbands and fathers bid their loved ones a last "Good-bye". And soon, too, will appear the dread casualty list of those killed and wounded in the war, spreading their black pall of grief and mourning throughout the length and breadth of the land.

America, you are a land of mourning. NOW is the time to begin the wearing of the black band of sorrow. Not next year, America, not tomorrow, but now! Liberty, the most precious of your children has been murdered. Labor, your stalwart son, has been enslaved. Democracy is imprisoned. Wake up, America, and realize what has come upon us. For the sake of your own exploiters' bloody gold endangered by alien wars, your sons are to be conscripted, enslaved, and murdered upon foreign altars. Wake up, America! Speak up! Warn your servants in Congress, and the autocrat in the White House, that their days are numbered. Speak up, and say that you will have none of their concoctions of tyranny. Speak up now, before you are gagged and shackled! Speak up now, before it is too late!

"I have heard much favorable comment regarding the May 5th issue and personally believe it to be the best issue of The American Socialist that has ever been published. The people here are becoming hungry for Socialist news and are now coming to the comrades here, asking for Socialist newspapers and pamphlets. We have a ready audience," writes E. G. Fisher, of Parsons, Kans.

MAKE GREAT PROGRESS IN DANISH CITY ELECTIONS.

Record progress was made recently by the Danish Socialists in the municipal elections. There are now only two cities in the country where the Socialists have no municipal representation.

Where the Socialists previously had a majority in 10 cities, they lost three, but won seven more, making a total of 14 city governments now in the party control. The two biggest cities in the nation, Copenhagen and Aarhus are in our hands. In the former we have 30 out of 55 municipal representatives and in the latter 11 out of 19.

The total Socialist vote increased 13 per cent until it is now 47 per cent of the whole. In 1913 we had 1,083 elected representatives in the municipal governments of Denmark. As a result of the recent elections we now have 1,479 representatives, an increase of 296.

As a result of the recent elections in Norway, the Socialist Party now has control in 55 cities, compared to 26 as a result of the 1913 elections.

FIGHT TO RECALL FICKERT IN WAR ON FRISCO LABOR GROWS

As the day, May 17th, that was set for the legal assassination of Thomas J. Mooney, in San Francisco, approaches, a body of citizens calling themselves the Fickert Recall League report that they are securing thousands of names for the recall of Dist. Atty. Charles M. Fickert, charged with being the brains of the anti-labor frame-up conspiracy.

The petitions allege that Fickert has "failed to appreciate the duties and responsibilities of his office; has violated the standard of conduct demanded of him by the people of California, and has not given the bomb defendants a fair and impartial trial."

The suspension and removal from office of Fickert, pending an investigation of his conduct, is demanded in a resolution adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council.

In this resolution charges are made that members of labor unions have been railroaded to prison and the gallows by "framed cases" and perjured testimony; that the district attorney has evaded the big question at issue; that the blackest criminal conspiracy in the nation's history has been attempted.

The Hour Has Struck

All the world over today, out of the chaos and wild confusion of the war the SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL is beginning to reveal itself, towering above the storm.

In France, in Russia, in war-torn Germany, in Austria and in England, the Socialists have suddenly assumed the balance of power. Every newspaper that issues from the press contains columns on the activities of the Socialist parties.

In Russia, the soldiers' and workmen's deputies, alarmed lest the bankers and landowners who compose the Provisional Government should defeat their aims and make the new Republic as poor a sham as is our own, have seized the power, and have summoned an international Socialist conference from all the nations of the world.

In France the uncompromising minority has determined to join this conference; in Germany and England likewise the minority are determined.

Here in the United States the majority is the uncompromising force; the minority is very small, composed largely of typewriter Socialists from the region of Wall street and Washington, who lend their names to an attempted disruption of the Socialist movement.

The International is beginning to reassemble. We can—must—take part in it. If the American Socialist Party, now clear-cut in its determination, and unitedly certain as to its position, makes a vigorous effort NOW, at this crucial moment, it can sweep into its ranks ALL those who are opposed to war; for they have nowhere else to go.

The Democratic party is completely under the sway of the war-lords; the Republicans are standing from under, and allowing the Democrats to have all the rope they want. Uncle Joe Cannon is authority for saying that the Republicans eagerly expect to climb into power on the rope by which the Democrats hang themselves.

Meanwhile THIS MOMENT IS OUR OWN. Now that the war registration is about to begin, with conscription immediately to follow; now that the war tax bill is laying its heavy hand on the poor man's food; now that the weight of war is beginning to be felt in every home, by every fireside, at every meal—THIS MOMENT IS OUR OWN.

Wherever there is a family which suffers or is about to suffer—THERE IS A RECRUIT FOR SOCIALISM.

The National Office is offering to your hand an immediate weapon. "THE PRICE WE PAY" has been printed as a special leaflet. Attached to every copy is a request for Socialist literature and an application for membership in the Socialist party, directed to the National Office. Every person who receives a copy of this powerful leaflet should be asked to sign his or her name to this tag, cut it off and mail it to the National Office. We will send it to the secretary of the nearest local.

Use this special leaflet to get members. We can roll the dues paying party membership up to half a million if we try. With half a million voters united, we can climb to two or three million within the next four years. We can form a solid, unbreakable, unshakable phalanx which can unite with the International Socialist movement in every other country; by the strength of this union we can dominate the world for everlasting peace. ACT TODAY!

Gompers and Roosevelt, two minds with a single thought, two hearts that beat as one have joined hands to reshape the map of the world. They will surely find a place for the "River of Doubt".

Powderly is quoted as once having said, "A Labor Leader Whose Acts Are Applauded By The Capitalist Press Bears Watching". The war crazed capitalist press has paid glowing tributes to Sam Gompers and several of his associates. Nuf Ced.

Isn't it interesting how much recognition is given to labor these days? Erstwhile despised "labor leaders" are placed on the State and National Councils of Defense. Strange things do happen when the Capitalist Class is in desperate need of Cannon Meat.

Armour said, eat less meat and more rice. Why not? He has a corner on rice and has sent the price up.

Don't complain about the high cost of food stuffs. It's pro-German Propaganda and constitutes treason.

Don't go on a strike to get more wages to meet the increased food prices. You are liable to be arrested and thrown in jail for helping the Kaiser.

The Chicago Tribune a few days ago was kind enough to inform us that our friends and Allies, the British capitalists, tried to sell us obsolete patents, that if purchased would have netted them millions of dollars. What's millions of dollars between friends?

Carl Vrooman, the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture told a "patriotic" Chicago audience that food gamblers are traitors to the country. They should worry what Vrooman calls them, so long as they get the "long green".

Some of the food hogs who are called "traitors" by Carl Vrooman are serving on the Council of Defense. Rest in peace, the country is safe in the hands of the Armour's and Swifts serving on such a council.

A War For Democracy

By IRWIN ST. JOHN TUCKER.

NOW THE United States is committed to conclude no separate peace; we must keep on fighting until all our Allies are satisfied.

Japan, Portugal, Serbia, Montenegro, Chile, Guatemala, Cuba, Roumania, France, Belgium, Russia and England—all of these must get all they want before our sacrifice of blood and treasure may come to an end.

But what is it that they want?—Anybody who asks that question is a traitor!

What will induce them to stop fighting?—Any one who asks that question is a pro-German!

Should not this nation, which is now to give its life blood and its treasure of heart know why, and for how long?—Slacker!

Yet the answer creeps on continually and all the time; in manifestoes, in interviews, in discussions and conferences;

We are fighting to paint the map of the world a British red—with American blood.

FOR THIS was the dream of Cecil Rhodes. And the ghost of Cecil Rhodes pulls the strings, and the whole world dances the dance of death.

Hearken to what we are told by the Government Committee of Public Information:

"The smaller neutral nations must not fall into Germany's economic power. Germany's colonies must be restored, for then England's colonies everywhere would be threatened. Russia would be in Germany's military and economic power, and Japan would be tempted to make an alliance with her. All this must be prevented."

But why? Because, fool and traitor, Germany's economic power threatens England's commercial supremacy, and Germany's colonies, which she desperately needs, might inconvenience England's colonies, which she does not need at all.

HOLY IS the Cape to Cairo Railroad, and for the integrity of that we must lay down our American lives as the sand of the sea.

Damnable is the Berlin to Bagdad Railroad, and to destroy it we must shed American blood as the waves of the ocean; for the Cape to Cairo railroad is necessary for England's colonial possessions, but the Berlin to Bagdad railroad might interfere with the East India company's ancient graft. Therefore the one is holy; but the other is accursed.

Out of the villages, the towns and cities of these free and independent states, American boys between the ages of 21 and 30 must be taken and sent to die in agony on the thousand battlefields of this world-encircling war;

In order that commercial supremacy may remain with the speculators of England and their rent and dividends roll safely in from the ends of the world; and in order that Germany's speculators may be cut out of the same;

For this is a war for Democracy!

THE GHOST OF CECIL RHODES. THE GHOST of Cecil Rhodes pulls the strings; and the nations dance to the tune of the death march.

ing battle line, men are rushing to die for a similarly high and holy cause. The ruling class of Germany are also religious men; and their religion is marks, thalers and pennings; and for that high and holy cause the youth of Germany and Austria are dying.

DURING the Thirty Years War between so-called religious factions, Germany was reduced to desolation. For two centuries she remained a jig-saw puzzle of scrambled principalities, reduced to impotence by meaningless political divisions. In the

with the other, hand they went thru the scanty pockets of those same workers and extracted therefrom the last penny.

WALL street is also populated by religious men; and their religion is dollars and cents; dividends and profits; the income from investment and the civilization of the world by Krag-Jorgensen and Springfield in the interest of a better life.

This is a struggle of Marks, Thalers and Pfennigs against Pounds, Shillings and Pence, with Dollars and Cents thrown in for good measure.

For this high and holy cause we are to die.

BUT WHY not? say you. Is not

unless we had these things we could not hope to fight successfully.

Next day the French embassy arrived; and they immediately informed us that all the war material England had offered to us was worthless and had all been discarded, because it had cost many lives and wasted much money.

France offered us the use of all her patents free, if we would only help her in her fight for life.

It was France who invented the phrase "Perfidious Albion." France has been England's closest neighbor for a thousand years.

OUT IN Chicago a moving picture "The Spirit of '76," was widely advertised; a patriotic film, picturing

enlisted in this war against autocracies—the common people are now the rulers of destiny.

Yet when the common people started in to take a hand in determining what they shall fight for, they were sharply ordered by the Allies to mind their own business and obey orders.

The workers' council has demanded a statement of terms; they have demanded that there be no conquests, no indemnities, for they are not going to fight to enslave others.

This is so frightful and impertinent a thing for these rude unlettered social-democrats to do that by way of ingenious insult we have sent them Elihu Root to tell them how they must run their government.

Theodore Roosevelt, chief champion

Jameson raid; the Boer war; the absorption of interior Africa; the seizure of the Philippines; the Basra sideswipe; the seizure of Persia; the Algeiras treaty; they followed with mathematical precision the plans of Cecil Rhodes to shut Germany off from any colonies, so that the map might continue British Red.

For God can best be served by painting the map British red; and blood makes the best paint.

Corrupter of Parliaments, destroyer of republics, seizer of continents—he planned for the world-war to occur before 1920 in which Germany's impious commercial rivalry of the British manufacturer should be expunged in a sea of blood; with most of the blood shed by France, Russia

Lillian K. Bullard, of Ilorace, Kans., orders extra copies of the May 5th issue. She says, "It was a corker!"

"I would not be without The American Socialist for any money," says Comrade Clarence Rostema, of Racine, Wis.

"My father took The American Socialist. But he is now working in another town and we want it here," writes Ethel Woodell, of Canton, Ill. Certainly, the whole family needs The American Socialist.

"Some one sent me The American Socialist and it sure is a grand paper," says Mrs. J. V. Smith, of Ramah, Colo., as she subscribes for one year.

Comrade Frank L. Springer, of Aberdeen, S. D., sends in a list of 11 brand new subs.

"I wish to say that I am more than pleased with the stand the party has taken on this world-war," writes M. E. Wood, of West Toledo, Ohio.

"I am in full harmony with your views on the war question" writes a Congregationalist pastor in Michigan as he subscribes.

"I do not wish to be without it," writes W. M. Freeman, of Longworth, Texas, as he asks us to put his name on our list.

The day's mail also brings a year's subscription from a Presbyterian minister in Illinois.

E. A. Kruse, of Fort Worth, Texas, orders The American Socialist sent for three years to the Carnegie Library at Fort Worth, and for two years to the First Baptist Church Library.

"Everybody likes The American Socialist. Long may it live and battle for freedom and justice," writes Comrade William Deas, of Shawnee, Okla.

"Send me 25 copies of the May 5th issue. The paper certainly sends out some hot shots on the war question. Let the good work go on."—E. L. Moll, Burlington, Iowa.

"Keep up the good work—you are making a hit with the working class," writes H. A. Weber, of Louisville, Ky.

"Long live The American Socialist and the International," writes M. H. Miller of Terre Haute, Ind., who says he is doing all he can to boost for his paper.

"I think we have the best Socialist paper in the United States and I urge every comrade to work for The American Socialist," says Comrade E. R. Rosewater, of Juniata, Pa., as he sends in a bunch of subs.

"I think No. 285 the May 5th issue of The American Socialist, ought to open the eyes of anyone who will read it, unless he is an absolute gas," writes one of our subscribers in Catskill, N. Y.

"I enjoy your paper—the whole neighborhood enjoys reading your paper," writes Comrade S. K. Wetzel, of Terre Haute, Ind., who says he is doing all he can to boost for his paper.

"The report of the Emergency Convention at St. Louis has determined me to do this," writes a Comrade in Middletown, Cal. "It is both a solace and a hope—but it is putting into me. I trust it will do so for all the comrades. If there ever was a time when we should wake up and get on the job, prepared to take risks and make sacrifices, now is the time. I find much resentment against the makers of this war, but the people are afraid to say anything. We have gag rule now—yet we are told that we are fighting for freedom. I don't find one in a hundred—that is putting it mildly—who wanted this war. Among the common people who have to do the dying and who are also starving for it, one might truthfully say that nobody wants it. And as for conscription—it is such a departure from Americanism the people scarcely know what it means. They

"More power to you in this world," comes from a comrade in Boise, Idaho. "The people are very demonstrative but few of them are engaged—something like 11 men in as many weeks."

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At Any Rate The Lunatic Has Some Reason To Fight



great year of 1848 it seemed that she might achieve a revolutionary unity.

To prevent this, a monarchical unity was forged in the flames of the war with France, and in the 40 years since then, Germany made far greater increases in wealth, science, and commerce than any other nation on the globe.

Riding on her neck as she grew in splendor and power sat the petty princelings; who called up the mighty ghosts of Thor and Wotan to be her gods.

The scream of the German eagle was nearly as insistent, as that of the American eagle itself.

German soldiers were embodiments of Thor; German princes were incarnations of Wotan, one-eyed god of the Scandinavian forefathers.

Every increase in progress and science, every increase in wealth, was turned to the advantage of these petty princelings, masquerading in the gaudy splendors of dead gods, and raking in their hands the wealth of the ends of the world.

Arrogant, insufferable bores, these junkers were; boasting and bragging and sticking their fists under the noses of the world; they were nearly but not quite as bad as young America.

For the German junkers did not turn machine guns on their own people in times of strike, as the American junkers did in Colorado and West Virginia.

We laughed at them for their laws of lese-majeste; and here in the free state of Washington, we send a man to jail for lese-majeste against the spirit of George Washington, for stating that the great General occasionally drank.

We laughed at them for saying that they were the greatest people on earth; for everybody knew that we were that.

Our American junkers conjured up the ghosts of liberty and democracy as the German junkers hypnotized their people with the ancient ghosts of Wotan and Thor.

With one hand they waved before the eyes of the hundred million workers of America the glorious flag, stained and disgraced by them with innumerable blots of American blood;

England the hope of the world? Is not her ruling middle class composed of the most brilliant of created beings, rightfully lords of creation? Does not Britannia rule the waves by divine decree?

When God said "Let the waters be gathered together under the firmament of heaven" did He not add "I'm saving this for England?"

Are not British institutions the most respectable, British government the most just, British ideas the most progressive, in the world?

Ask Bernard Shaw. For twenty years the world has been shrieking with laughter at his faithful description of the English ruling class.

All of the English silliness, vapid ineptitude and belly-worshipping humbug that the round world ever saw gathered together in one place since Nero died and Rome fell, spread its fat-headed smugness over the south of England. For the round world paid tribute to the ruling middle class which governed England, which lived on the income from its investments.

Within the shadow of the Bank of England was gathered such abominable horror of poverty, starvation, malformation of mind and body and degradation of the human form as the world never saw out of Dante's visions.

The People of the Abyss were less than human; and they were the groundwork of the Commercial Empire for which we are now to die.

For at the time of the Reformation, the lands of England were seized by the state and partitioned among the new nobility. The lands of the villages, the farms of the peasantry, the ground beneath the small towns, was seized and turned into sheep farms.

The people therefrom were huddled into the slums; branded and beaten and hanged for being vagabonds; and subdued with scourge and gun, when they revolted.

Their children were fed into the mills by the million; the babes of England were tortured at the factory machines, to make goods for export.

While the poor were expropriated, the younger sons of the well-to-do were disinherited by the law of entail. There was nothing for them at home, so they sought the ends of the world to make a living. India, Australia, the American colonies, swallowed them up.

The children of the poor died to pile up the surplus of goods; the sons of the wealthy were exiled to build markets abroad. From this double starvation sprang the commercial empire of the Bank of England, which is linked together by a crown on the head of a molly coddle.

THE FAITH OF THE SEA POWER. NOW THIS was our first taste of our Allies' faith.

From the flagstaff of Independence Hall an alien banner fluttered. The Stars and Stripes, which thence for the first time streamed across the firmament and gave greetings to the world, was lowered; and in its place flaunted that flag which once it displayed.

Great Britain's ensign, after these hundred and forty-one years of independence, climbed back into its place, and shook and waved above the hall where once, long ago, the Declaration of Independence was signed.

Beneath, the Liberty Bell hung in silence; it was too cracked to ring, so the English's ambassadors were coming to this country to explain to us her wishes about the conduct of the war; they smiled and bowed and waved their kid gloves and doffed their silk hats as they passed by Independence Hall.

Arrived at Washington, they went into consultation with the American government; and their first official act was to try and sell this nation several million dollars worth of patented junk.

They sought to persuade the War Department to buy from Englishmen patent rights for mortars, bombs and trench devices, which they priced at millions of dollars; assuring us that

the war of the American Revolution. George Washington moves thru its stately scenes; Samuel Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, all the great men of the infant republic take part in its stirring action.

On the eve of its production our United States District Attorney requested that it be suppressed, for fear it might hurt the feelings of the British embassy; so the permit was refused.

The American people, he explained, might become confused between George III, against whom the Colonies revolted, and George V, who now holds up the British Crown.

They must not be reminded of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, the Revolution that set us free must be hushed up; the fact that once we fought against Great Britain must be kept from the young minds of our school children, and no criticism of Great Britain's past implied by laudation of our own heroes.

For this is a war for democracy; and we must be careful not to hurt the feelings of the earls and knights and things who have condescended to visit our shores.

THE British and French ambassadors were not received as fraternal delegates from one country to another, but as secret messengers from King to King. They were not allowed to talk with our congressmen and senators. The President did all the talking.

Under our constitution, the Senate is the treaty making power. But the Senators were not allowed to converse on the subject of our foreign relations, for constitutions are sometimes inconvenient.

They were told that the President would tell them what they must do, and then their duty to democracy was to obey in silence, and to jump when the whip cracked, and not before.

They must not know too much. So indignant did the senators become that only six out of the ninety-six attended the reception given by the Secretary of State to the British envoys.

This is a war for democracy; so the 90 senators nobly refused to eat macaroons and drink pink tea, as a heroic sacrifice on the altar of their indignation.

But—they jumped when the whip cracked. The President and the Britons concluded agreements about war measures and about peace terms; and Congress was ordered to do what it was told when it was told, and to mind its own business;

For this is a war for democracy!

THEN SOME one unfortunately asked the British noblemen what had become of the five million soldiers England had raised. And it was found that three million out of the five million are being held at home, while glorious France is bleeding herself to death.

On the bloody line of battle the Canadians, the Australians, the Hindus and the South Africans fling themselves in masses against the German machine guns; but these million English soldiers patrol the peaceful Kentish lanes, while France, bleeding to death, pathetically implores more men.

England explains, courteously but firmly, that if she sent another million men across the channel, they might not be able to get home to afternoon tea; so the United States, three thousand miles away, must do her bit and send her million men.

France bleeds and starves, but will not complain; she only begs for aid. It was the French who invented the term "Perfidious Albion." The English have been the closest neighbors of the English for a thousand years.

BY WAY OF INSULT. THIS, you understand, is a war for democracy.

Over in Russia—which was the world's worst autocracy when it nobly

of this war for democracy, issues a warning to them that they must not take their democracy too seriously, otherwise it will disarrange the plans of the entente; and that would be a German plot.

Over in Germany the Socialists are demanding a republic; but we are warned that this is a German plot.

The only republic that will be accepted is one which is built upon the ruins of the commercial fabric of Germany; a republic after the fashion of the Transvaal or the Orange Free State.

French and British censors suppress the news that Germany offers to relinquish Belgian and French territory; American newspaper men are told they must not publish this fact. These people must not be told that what they are fighting for is theirs, or they will refuse to fight any longer after the war is won; and that would be a German plot.

Over in Russia, barbarous Russia, the American embassy was stormed as a protest against our horrible treatment of Mooney in San Francisco. And the American people wondered "Who is this Mooney?"

A damnable conspiracy to hang an innocent man had been exposed; a conspiracy to wreck the unions and give the chamber of commerce undisputed control of San Francisco, had been smashed. The Russians knew it, but the American people were not allowed by their press to read of this.

It might make them suspect that while their attention was distracted by the woes of Armenia, their own liberties were being wrecked; and anybody who told them the truth about these things would be guilty of a German plot.

For this is a war for democracy.

THE MEN who conspired to hang Mooney, the men who conspired to crush the union labor movement thru the shooting in Colorado, in West Virginia, in Michigan—these are the men who are yelling for this war for democracy.

I mention these facts because some of our leading working-class thinkers have fallen into the vulgar vice of believing all they are told, and swallowing all they read; and they want the American Socialist movement to throw itself into the bloody mess of war, to safeguard democracy.

We are going to crush the Germans, wipe them off the map, destroy their army, break their backs;

Because Cecil Rhodes once said, "If there is a God who rules over the nations and concerns himself with the destiny of mortals, it is impossible to serve him better than by painting the map British red."

CHEER DENUNCIATION OF WAR AND CONSCRIPTION

CLEVELAND, OHIO.—At a meeting held in the Public Square, in spite of a proclamation of the mayor that speakers making unpatriotic utterances would be arrested and in spite of the condemnation of the daily papers, four thousand people listened for two hours in a drizzling rain to speeches denouncing the war and calling upon the workers to refuse to register for conscription. An organization meeting was held at their headquarters by Socialists before the public meeting at which a hundred men and women volunteered to mount the speaker's stand in case arrests were made. The meeting was called by the Socialist Party, the Socialist Labor Party and Workers International Industrial Union co-operating. E. R. Marley spoke for the latter organization. Richard Koepfel for the Socialist Labor Party, and C. E. Ruthenberg and Tom Clifford for the Socialist Party. All the speakers were loudly cheered when they denounced the government for entering the war and the conscription act.—C. E. Ruthenberg.

Three Socialists have been elected as delegates to the Constitutional Convention to revise the Massachusetts Constitution. These delegates are Daniel R. Donovan, of Springfield; Louis Delaney, of Holyoke, and Charles H. Morrill, of Haverhill. Comrade Donovan was elected as a delegate at large and received 110,902 votes. Comrade George H. Wrenn, President of the Massachusetts Branch of the A. F. of L. was defeated as a delegate at large he received a vote of 99,411. The election was conducted without the candidates running under any party designation. The Socialist Party nominated and supported its own candidates who received support from many members of other parties.

The State Convention of the Socialist Party of Massachusetts will be held in Boston on June 23-24. The ball will be announced later. Delegates to the convention will be apportioned as follows: American Branches, with Boston incomplete, 79; Finnish, 111; Lithuanian, 29; German, 15; Jewish, 13; Polish, 3; Scandinavian, 4; Russian, 3; Italian, 9. Total number of delegates, 263.

"This week we received more recruits than the army and navy in this country," is the word that comes from Greater Pittsburgh Branch, Pittsburgh, Pa. "We supplied them all with six months ammunition in the shape of subs to The American Socialist. Our slogan is, 'More volunteers than the government!'"

WORKMEN'S SICK AND DEATH BENEFIT FUND OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Table Showing Status of the Society at the End of Years stated in 5 Year Periods

Year	NUMBER OF MEMBERS		Amount of Benefits Paid Since Organization		Amount Saved in Cash Reserve
	Men	Women	Sick and Accident	Death	
1885	116	—	\$525.90	\$150.00	—
1890	2,919	252	35,014.57	3,600.00	\$6,062.57
1895	10,992	1,924	310,846.07	75,581.00	35,265.38
1900	21,616	4,123	1,002,398.32	253,731.35	89,773.35
1905	28,470	5,912	1,962,960.82	587,740.96	220,323.38
1910	37,743	7,524	3,236,004.12	1,087,845.77	438,501.72
1915	43,650	8,347	4,876,761.11	1,762,706.87	865,200.00

For further information write to Workmen's Sick & Death Benefit Fund Entrance on 7th St. No. 1, THIRD AVE., NEW YORK Second Floor

Lillian K. Bullard, of Ilorace, Kans., orders extra copies of the May 5th issue. She says, "It was a corker!"

"I would not be without The American Socialist for any money," says Comrade Clarence Rostema, of Racine, Wis.

"My father took The American Socialist. But he is now working in another town and we want it here," writes Ethel Woodell, of Canton, Ill. Certainly, the whole family needs The American Socialist.

X RAYS

By JOHN M. WORK.

YES, WE have discovered a brand new genius in Chicago. I promised last week that I would tell you about him. Perhaps it would be more accurate to say that he discovered himself. His name is Oliver C. Wilson. He is County Organizer for the Socialist Party of Cook County, in which Chicago is located, and has just been elected State Secretary of Illinois.

He is an expert in intensive organization. In January, 1916, he was assigned to give special attention to the ninth ward, in which our vote in the city election of 1915 had been 1,264. He went at it in a practical, "business like" manner, to build up the organization and put it in a fighting condition. In the election of April 1916, our vote was 3,893. With these good results to assist him, and with the aid of many workers, men, women, and young people, who had been heartened by these results, he staid right on the job for another year. In April, 1917, our candidate, alderman, Charles V. Johnson, received 4,428 votes and was elected. This gives us three members of the Chicago city council—Kennedy, Rodriguez, and Johnson. There are numerous other wards which can be worked up and carried by the same practical means.

In a recent number of the Chicago Edition of The American Socialist, Comrade Wilson had a short article in which he gave the main outlines as to how it was done.

I hereby request the editor to republish the article in the National Edition, for the benefit of all those, throughout the United States, who may have the spirit to accept the advice of the ninth ward to "Go and do likewise." I also request Comrade Wilson to write one or more additional articles for the National Edition, giving the methods more in detail. He has tried out methods which have brought the desired results, and it stands to reason that similar methods will bring similar results elsewhere. They can be altered to suit the local conditions, but in substance they can be put into practice almost anywhere. There is no sense in going into a campaign with the expectation of losing. We should go in to win—and then go to work and make the intention become a reality.

I am here reminded of a speech by James H. Maurer, Socialist representative in the Pennsylvania legislature, in which he said that whenever he undertakes to do a thing he always goes into it with the intention of succeeding. He does not admit the possibility of failure, but expects to succeed. And he does succeed. He has been elected and re-elected to the legislature. That is the sort of an attitude to have. That is the kind of an attitude that wins.

Nothing succeeds like success.

GET YOUR SHARE OF PROSPERITY.

SO YOU don't like the high cost of living. You would like to receive a little of the prosperity which you have helped to make.

Well, what are you going to do about it? Are you going to take it out in grouching? Or will you get into a movement that has the necessary knowledge and aggressiveness to solve this and the other social problems?

The Socialist Party is not made up of cringing people. On the contrary, it is made up of bold, aggressive people, who feel a sense of mastery, and who propose to dominate the situation and abolish the social evils. We may be wage slaves, but at least we are rebellious wage slaves. You remember what Wendell Phillips said, "A slave I pity; a willing slave I abhor; a rebellious slave I respect." I don't know whether or not I am quoting it literally, as I haven't it before me, but that's the gist of it.

It is not necessary to take it out in grouching, nor to be a cringing slave. We want you to develop a spinal column and stand up for your rights. We invite you to come into the Socialist Party and help to abolish, not only the high cost of living, but also all the other frightful social evils due to capitalism, and erect a social system based on justice and brotherhood.

The collective ownership and operation of the exploiting industries will accomplish this result. When this is accomplished, the industries will be run for the benefit of all the people, instead of being run for the benefit of a few, as they are now.

Investigate Socialism, and you will be convinced.

There is no other way.

THERE IS BUT ONE WAY.

IN CONNECTION with the high cost of living, nowadays, there is some talk about giving the government the power to fix prices.

I am in favor of giving the devil his due. I will admit that this might do a little good. It might keep the prices of a few commodities a trifle lower than they would otherwise be.

But, as a solution of the problem of the high cost of living, it is utterly and hopelessly inadequate.

Since the democratic and republican officials who would have charge of the matter are in favor of the present capitalist system of industry, it naturally follows that they would interfere with it as little as possible. They would not use the power to fix prices except when forced to do so by public opinion. And when they did use it, they would allow the capitalists as big profits as they could and get by.

But, regardless of that fact, it would be a failure anyhow, because, in the very nature of things, the present system cannot be operated without private profit. If the prices were put down where they ought to be, the industries concerned would simply go out of business, because they would not be making profits.

Only by collective ownership and operation can the industries be run without private profit.

Again, I say, there is no other way.

WE HAVE NO SECRETS.

A QUARTETTE of government sleuths called at the National Office of the Socialist Party the other day and examined it to their hearts' content. Apparently they went away satisfied, for nothing further has been heard from the matter.

One nice thing about the Socialist Party is that it has no secrets. Everything we do is open. All sessions of the National Executive Committee are open. All of the sessions of our convention at St. Louis, and also all of the sessions of the various convention committees, were wide open to the whole world. The war program adopted by the convention provides for open public opposition to the war.

RUSSELL AND THE RUSSIAN COMMISSION.

CHARLES Edward Russell is the kind of a man I think he is, he will decline to serve on the American commission to Russia.

We cannot believe all we read in the papers, but if it is true that he has been appointed, it is distinctly for the purpose of having the Socialists of the United States ostensibly but not really represented. It is a very cunning thing to appoint one who, as the government knows perfectly well, does not represent the Socialists at all.

The most fundamental dictates of good faith and honorable dealing require that Comrade Russell, or any other member of the slight minority, shall decline such an appointment.

"He kept us out of war."

Again, I ask, is it necessary to rub it in?

"Were half the power that fills the world with terror,

Were half the wealth bestowed on camps and courts,

Given to redeem the human mind from error,

There were no need of arsenals or forts."

—Longfellow.

Toledo Cheers Nearing

Scott Nearing's debate with Mark Winchester, Toledo School Board member, on the question of introducing military training into the public schools, jammed Memorial Hall to such an extent that police and fire department officials had a hard time in enforcing fire ordinances.

The debate was a spirited one and the audience was overwhelmingly in favor of Professor Nearing's stand. Every plute paper in town had to admit this to be a fact. Following is an extract from one of the papers:

"Mark Winchester said: 'We need more training and discipline in our American cities.' This statement was greeted by hisses, jeers sounded when Winchester said:

"The scout movement and military training make for pure democracy, democracy with a small 'd'. Military training will reduce truancy. It will create attendance. A military man keeps his head up and is not afraid to look you in the eye."

Nearing's Reply.

Dr Nearing said: "I am going to disagree with Mr. Winchester at the point where he puts a gun into the hands of the boy. In the place of the gun I would put into his hand a study of international hygiene—a course which I would introduce into the schools—studying war as a disease.

"We entered this war with the utmost reluctance. We probably will have to see it thru to the finish, but we must start now to prevent future wars.

"Under selective conscription, recruiting officers will pick out the best and send them away to be shot. We are sending the good and the strong to the trenches. That is suicide.

"If the German people could have stayed off this war another ten years the kaiser would either have a job or else be in some county jail. Revolution was brewing in Europe before this war started. One of the mistakes the Germans made was that they gave their children military training.

In rebuttal Mr. Winchester said: "I might turn the other cheek if my enemy struck me. Probably Professor Nearing could. But no one would dare to strike Dr. Nearing's little boy!"

Nearing replied: "Just because a man hit my little boy, I wouldn't hit his little boy."

Unions Take Up Fight.

Altho Nearing was officially ousted from the Toledo University several weeks ago, his contract has until June to run. In the meantime the students at the university and many others, particularly union labor, are taking up his fight. The Central Labor Union pledged itself to stand by him and to fight for his re-instatement.

STUDENTS FOR NEARING.

A hundred students of the University of Toledo paraded the downtown section of the city in autos as a protest against the discharge of Professor Nearing. They then proceeded to Zenobia Hall where a stirring mass-meeting of protest was held. Six university students were the only speakers, the meeting was one of the largest and most orderly ever held in Toledo, yet the papers, who represented by reporters, completely suppressed all news of the meeting. One paper did mention the parade in a little six-line note.

A resolution passed at this meeting declared, in part, "That there is developing over the teaching of economics in the University of Toledo, so large a degree of control that it constitutes a serious menace to the student body." A committee of five was elected to present the resolution to the next meeting of the Board of Trustees.

This body attempted to hold a meeting for the purpose of reconsidering the discharge of Professor Nearing. Altho all members were notified it was found that not a single one of the reactionary trustees put in an appearance. A large audience assembled to watch the Board meeting and there was great disappointment when "No Quorum" was announced. The Trustees then retired to a committee room to continue their investigation of the conditions at the University. One member of the faculty resigned and others are threatening to leave unless some change is brought about.

BOOK REVIEWS

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP, by Carl D. Thompson, cloth, 113 pages, published by B. W. Huebsch, for sale by the Public Ownership League, 4131 North Keeler Avenue, Chicago. Price \$1.00 net post paid.

This little volume is the last and best work of the author, whose special studies and wide experience in municipal affairs is well known. It is a comprehensive survey of the municipal ownership movement in the United States with some reference to European experience. It covers especially the following:

1. The extent and rapid growth of municipal ownership giving the statistics of the municipally owned enterprises and their nature, and the steady progress made.

2. The case against private ownership showing the various points in both theory and practice at which private ownership breaks down.

3. The failure of regulation—a complete refutation of theory with reference to the experience in foreign countries and an especially strong array of facts from the various American states.

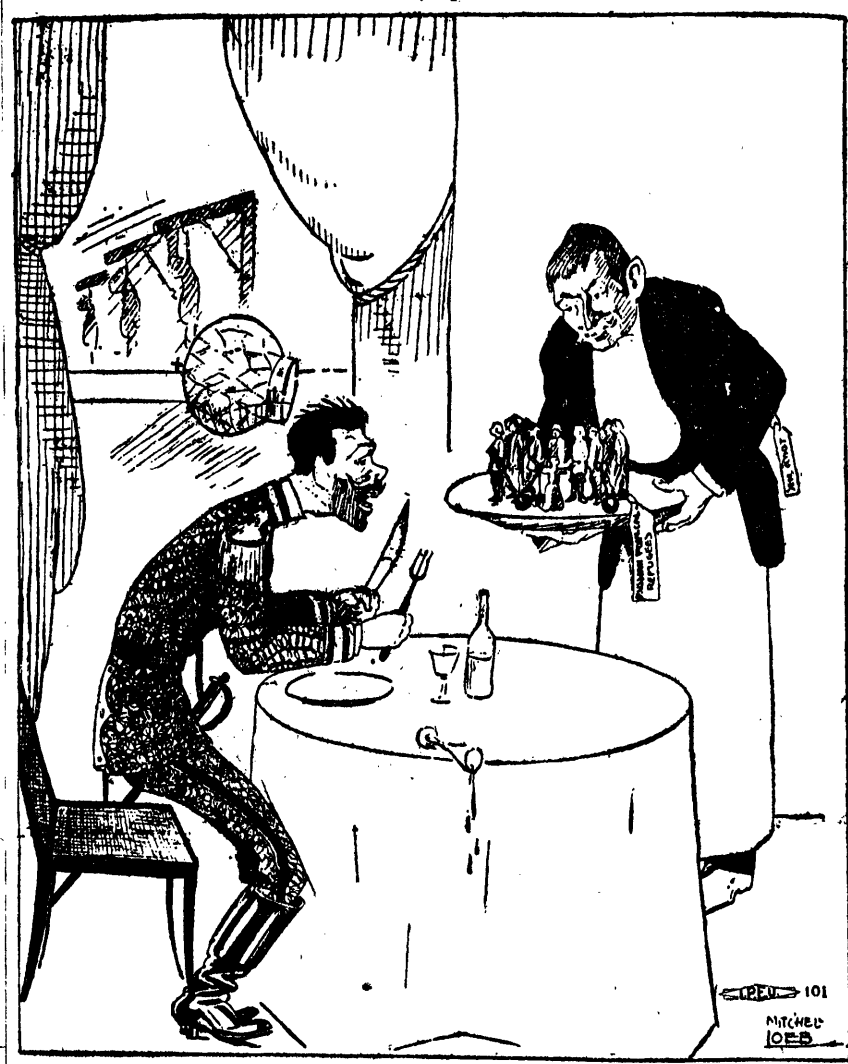
4. The advantages of municipal ownership, an especially interesting section showing the possibilities of economy in the organization and operation of utilities and the actual advantages realized by the public in lower rates, better service and better general conditions; also a section showing the advantages to labor in better wages, shorter hours, better treatment, etc.

A book that is a mine of information covering the vital points of the subject and giving just the essential facts that every advocate of municipal ownership must have, and that every opponent must be able to meet if he hopes to hold his ground.

Ghosts Of The Near-Past Rise To Haunt Elihu Root

WE reproduce this cartoon from the New York Call of May 17, 1912, when Elihu Root was pressing his amendment to the Dillingham Bill, which would have returned Russian political refugees to satisfy the lust of Russian czarism. Root is here shown serving up Russian political refugees to the late czar.

The president seems bent on going thru with his program to send Root to Russia as head of a commission of business men and military lackeys. The commission includes Elihu Root, special ambassador for Wall Street;



Cyrus H. McCormick, president of the International Harvester Co., which has huge holdings in Russia; John R. Mott, international secretary of the Y. M. C. A.; Charles R. Crane, money magnate and business altruist; C. R. Bertrou, a New York banker; Major General Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff of the U. S. army, and Rear Admiral James Glennon, of the navy.

Russell And Duncan, Too.

In order that this aggregation might be successfully palmed off on the revolutionary Russian government, Charles Edward Russell and James Duncan have also been placed on the commission, Russell being hailed as a "Socialist Leader," and Duncan being the special minister plenipotentiary of Samuel Gompers.

Russell got the appointment that was turned down by Victor L. Berger and which would not have been accepted by any other representative Socialist. Russell practically severed his connections with the Socialist Party in 1916 when his position on the question of war forced him to decline to become a candidate for the presidential nomination.

In 1912 Russell was one of those who fought Root and opposed his war on Russian political refugees. At that time Russell charged Root with being backed "by every reactionary influence in the country."

It is also to be wondered at how Gompers can surrender his man, Duncan, to the tender mercies of Root. Writing about Root in 1915 Gompers said: "Mr. Root is representative of that aristocratic class which thinks things can be done for the people better than they can do them for themselves. His record upon legislation favorable to the interests of the people is almost uniformly in opposition. Senator Root has proved that he cannot understand the statesmanship of humanity."

The national administration has already set out to protect this hybrid commission from the tender mercies of American and Russian Socialists. Its course can only result in shrouding the commission with additional distrust and suspicion.

Czar's Tactics Arrive In America.

The arrest of Boris Reinstein, an American citizen of Russian birth, in New York City, depriving him of passports he had already been granted to aid him in his return to Russia, and submitting him to cross examination by the bloodhounds of the U. S. secret service, all goes to indicate that the Russia of the czars has come to America and the America of our revolutionary forefathers has gone to Russia.

The secret service was especially interested in Reinstein's views on Root. He said that in common with millions of people of this country, he looked upon Root as a reactionary and the enemy of real democratic institutions. This, of course, ought to sentence him for life in some federal prison, or at least during the period of this alleged war for democracy.

Widow's Tears Weigh More Than Wall Street's Thunder

NOTE—No question is settled until it is settled right. That is a true of the action of congress in passing the conscription measure as it is of any other action. Practically every word uttered against the administration conscription measure, whether by democrat, republican or Socialist, was suppressed by the American people. I hope, thereby, to have this question settled right by giving the great mass of the people an opportunity to intelligently pass their decision upon it. This week we offer an extract from a speech by Representative William E. Mason, of Illinois, as follows:

By REP. WILLIAM E. MASON. I was delighted, and am always glad to hear the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. Lenroot), who told you how when the conscript marched down the street, with the foot toot playing and the drum beating, the people would say: "There goes the boy that goes to fight his country's battles."

But the unkind man on the sidewalk will say, "Yes; he is going to keep out of the penitentiary." That is your law, gentlemen. If he does not come in and sign up, it is a year in the penitentiary, is it not? Yes. A brave boy!

And when you come to bury him and put the monument over his head, it will say, "Here lies the body of my son, who gave four years of his life to the cause of his country." And then some devil will come along in the graveyard and write below it, "Because he was afraid of going to the penitentiary or getting shot by order of court-martial."

90 Per Cent Opposed. Now, you gentlemen, who are scared of this propaganda, get out of that fear. There is nothing so old as yesterday's newspaper. (Laughter.) I got 40 or 50 telegrams yesterday—I got a hundred telegrams yesterday, most of them from millionaires. I have been getting them right along. A lot telegraphed me a week ago that they favored the plan adopted by the President, and I answered them, "For God's sake, tell me what it is; for, as a Member of Congress, it has not been furnished to me"; and it was not until last Friday that I knew that the final plan was presented by the Senate bill. I asked a man in ev-

goddess of chance decides which shall go. If they are within the age and sound, the judges have no power to let out one and take the other. If the loafer is lucky at the wheel, he is free and the gentleman goes to the trenches. Do not tell me the people understand this. Another illustration: Here a family with two sons, one the support of wife and children and possibly parents. The family agree that he should remain at home, because he has learned a business that pays enough to support the family and agree the other, equally good and honest, but who has neither wife nor child and wants to go, may go. The family agree—but here comes your wheel—your dicebox, your law, and says your family do not know what is best—if the wheel decides it, and it may—"You must both go," or the wheel may say, "You who are willing to go stay and you who want to stay go."

Stop And Think.

Oh, men of America, stop and think! Next autumn, if this war continues, when our people sit around their hearthstone and talk over family plans to get food and fire for the coming winter, and your "wheel" begins to turn, curses, like those from Pandora's box, will be amongst us. Fear, the greatest curse of mankind, will lead them all. It will cover like the shadow of death over every home. Fear of cold and hunger, fear of death—fear will lead, and trooping by her side will be hate, envy, jealousy, fraud, corruption, and violence. Turn your wheel that breaks the women's hearts. Shake your dicebox for the price of mothers' tears. Cast your lots, if you will, for the blood of our boys, as they did for the Master's garments at the foot of the cross, but if you leave out all opportunity for the brave before you brand as slackers and conscripts all who have a high sense of duty can not go, I will never vote for this bill.

Mr. Chairman, we all like to be popular, but it would be a coward's part to think of our business or political prospects or our party now. We are changing our form of government. The absorption of legislative power by the Executive was never so apparent. Then we go further, and nearly every one of you say you favor the draft because the Regular Army—the General Staff—recommended it.

The military arm of this Government is passing this bill, and you know it. You admit it, and you yield to it because of the newspaper propaganda that has so misled the people and is misleading us.

SASSIETY ECONOMIZES.

Mrs. Joseph M. Gazzam, society leader, in a lecture before the W. C. T. U. at Philadelphia recently, told how she had everything fixed so that her country could win this war. Here's her program:

- 1.—Limit debutante parties and dances to hours between 9 and 1 o'clock at night.
- 2.—Encourage simplicity in dress and entertainment.
- 3.—Serve simple refreshments and no intoxicating liquors.
- 4.—Abolish "breakfast" after the dance.

If that don't scare the Kaiser nothing will. Sassiety is getting revolutionary—"Abolish breakfast after the dance!" Horrors!

Our only suggestion to amplify this program is that we suggest to Mrs. Gazzam and the other parasites, male and female, in her set, to get off the backs of the American working class.

"Produce News", an official organ of commission merchants and dealers, admits that one of the causes of the high cost of living is that some contracts for the purchase of eggs from the rounds of fifteen operators. Every little "operator" gets a rake-off of his own, and the ultimate consumer foots the bill. "There are cases where more than fifteen handle a single contract. It is a very common practice," say the investigators.

Robert W. Childs, special U. S. District Attorney, is going to lower the high cost of living. He is going to bust the lima bean trust.

That Russian Commission

From The Milwaukee Leader.

We are always sorry to cause an uncomfortable hour to our friend, the editor of The Milwaukee Journal. Now The Milwaukee Journal was all "net up" because of a news dispatch saying that Victor Berger has been suggested for the high commission which the government will send to Russia. The Journal hastens to declare that "suggestion is one thing and appointment another." The Journal editor, or the assistant, has undoubtedly wired his protest to all the influential friends of The Journal at the Sublime Porte in Washington—to the Kapudan Pasha, to the Privy White House Chef, to the Lord High, Executioner and, last but not least, to little Fee Wee Paul, the Chief of the Eunuchs.

But all of that hard work was unnecessary. As soon as Victor Berger was assured that his name had really been suggested, he sent to a friend in congress the following letter, which speaks for itself:

April 30, 1917.

Hon. Member National House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

My Dear Mr. I understand that you have the confidence of our president—you certainly always had mine.

An Associated Press dispatch in yesterday's papers states that the president considers the appointment of a Socialist for the commission to Russia and my name was mentioned in the telegram.

I appreciate the high honor, of course, and would be pleased to give my services—but I can not for the following reasons:

Every American Socialist wishes and works for the disappearance of autocracy, kaiser and junker from the face of the earth, but we feel that the Germans themselves must abolish these institutions in their own country. We have no right to force upon the Germans (or any other people for that matter) thru a terrible war, a form of government which they may not want. The Socialists, therefore, are not in agreement with the president as to the basic reasons for which our country is supposed to have entered this war.

Our paper, The Milwaukee Leader, has from the beginning taken the position that this war is the main of a gigantic struggle between England and Germany for the control of the world's trade, and for the world's "imperium." In our opinion, America's entrance into the fiendish conflict at this time will serve only to multiply the horrors of the war—to increase the toll of death and destruction—and to put us among the imperialistic nations.

Furthermore, I do not believe that the Hon. Elihu Root, a well-known representative of American plutocracy—and the persecutor of Rado-witz and Pouden, the Russian revolutionists who had escaped to America—is the right man to advise the Russian democracy (and especially the Russian Social-Democracy) what to do in this world crisis.

For these reasons it would be impossible for me to accept an appointment on that commission.

Yours very respectfully, VICTOR L. BERGER.

"Save your money," say the big business houses. "But don't save too much of it," they quickly add. And they pay for advertising space to say it, too. In fact, the way they have figured out, economy means spending money—judiciously, of course. The masters need have no fear that the American working class is going to save any too much. To save we must first get, and the master class will ever be on guard to keep anything like that from happening in the U. S. A.

Rev. Frank Waller Allen, pastor of the First Christian Church at Springfield, Ill., author and Chautauqua lecturer, under pretension which resented his opposition to war and the wage system, has resigned. Another victim of the 20th century Moloch.

In War Prepare For Peace.

EVERY lesson that has been taught by the war was proclaimed by socialists before the war began. We pointed out the weaknesses of Capitalism, its failures, its inefficiency, its inevitable results. The people would not listen then. They are beginning to listen now. The war is repeating our arguments, and uttering them in such tones that the world cannot choose but hear. People are turning with longing hearts toward industrial democracy, co-operation and international brotherhood as the only basis for prosperity and lasting peace.

As soon as the turmoil and excitement of the war have passed, we shall have a momentous revival of interest in Socialism. The world is getting ready for our message now. Are you ready to help deliver that message? Can you say what you want to say? Can you write as you would like to write? Can you make words fit your thoughts?

A knowledge of language is the basis of all education and of all success in life. The People's College can give you this knowledge in your own home during your spare time. If you lack this knowledge now, there is no good reason why you should lack it any longer.

A COURSE IN PLAIN ENGLISH.

The People's College can give you a course in Plain English for one-half to one-fourth of what such a course would cost you in a capitalist correspondence school. And we give you a course that is different, unique, interesting, written especially for the People's College, a course with the revolutionary spirit in it. 30 lessons in 30 weeks. A little spare time. A few cents a day.

We have a similar course in Advanced English. These courses will fit you for the battle of life and for a place in the great battle for real democracy.

Do not say you cannot get an education by correspondence. You can. If you are past twenty years of age, you can learn better by this method than in any other way. We have students of seventy who are taking these courses successfully. Thousands of things are being done to-day that were thought impossible a generation ago. If you feel the lack of an education, fill out this coupon and mail it to us to-day.

The People's College, Fort Scott, Kansas. (S)
Dear Comrades: Please send me information concerning your course in
Name
Address

Collect The Price

Wilson and Wall Street and the rest of the warmakers in levying war taxes upon the people again display their unwillingness to realize that the workers should not be the only ones to "Fight and Pay".

Not content with conscripting the lives of the masses, the warmaking national administration is now working to conscript the meager earnings of the class that toils.

The administration's program for raising \$1,800,000,000 to finance the first year of the war means that the working class is to do all the fighting, the dying and the paying, while the exploiting class, in this war as in all previous wars, will stay at home and do the preying.

It was hardly expected that the greatest jingo sheet of them all, The Chicago Tribune, would make the startling admission that, "The 'poor man's breakfast' will be compelled to bear a heavy share of the war cost burden if congress approves of the scheme of taxation proposed by the ways and means committee of the house". But there you have it.

Tea, coffee and sugar, with nearly everything else, are to be war-taxed so that the poor man's burden for the first year of the war, payable to the government, will be \$33 for each member of his family, nearly \$200 for a family of six.

In addition to having his tea, coffee and sugar hit by war taxes, the poor man's burden will also include numerous other taxes. Alcoholic liquors as well as soft drinks are to be taxed, along with his evening pipe or cheap cigar. The price of postage stamps is to be boosted. His electric light, gas and telephone bills are to be taxed. Every time he goes to a "movie" he will be hit by a tax. And so the story goes, on and on and on.

If one son in a working class family of six is sent to the front, and manages to keep alive, the entire wages he receives from Uncle Sam for one year will hardly cover the war taxes of the family back home. Figure it out for yourself. He will get \$180 in wages while the war taxes will amount to \$198. This does not include the payment of the huge bond issues now being floated by the government.

The worker has only one way to meet this war tax. That is by securing an increase in wages. But the kind government at Washington has put its foot down hard on demands by workers for increased wages and better working conditions during the war.

Then again, it will be especially hard for the working class to meet these war taxes, because part of the family support will be removed by taking one or more sons away to the war. When it comes to paying his mankillers, Uncle Sam is a very poor employer, as the wage scale in the army and navy will show.

The working class therefore has no way of escaping its war taxes, no more than it can escape the increased cost of every necessity of life imposed by the "patriotic" profit takers who stay at home and prey.

How different it is with the exploiting, master class. Socialists have declared that if lives are to be conscripted, incomes should also be conscripted. We declare that life is more sacred than money. Yet the same congress that voted almost unanimously for the conscription of human life, is now considering exempting the greater part of all incomes, no matter how high, with not a thought of conscription. And this is supposed to be a war for democracy!

The plutocrat with an income of \$1,000,000 for instance is to keep about \$600,000 of that income. The death dealing machinery of modern war shows no such discrimination when the cannon fodder is massed for the slaughter.

A partial income tax will not hurt the exploiting class. Unlike the workers, the exploiters can pass their taxes on. The increased war profits of J. Pierpont Morgan and John D. Rockefeller will more than take care of increased income taxes levied by the government. They can shift the burden to other shoulders.

The industrial autocracy of this country, thru its influence over congress, is forcing the working class not only to fight this war, but to pay for this war. The least that congress could have done, if it wanted to distribute the burden of this war, would have been to conscript every income over \$3,000. But that would be striking at the heart of industrial despotism.

If the workers are to pay for this war in addition to fighting this war let them demand and collect as the price—the overthrow of the industrial despotism that brought on the war.

Be A "Coward"

By ELLIS B. HARRIS.

Be brave enough to be a coward
And step out from the crowd.
Not every man is so endowed,
To stand with head unbowed
Before the ignorance of mobs:
Inspired by Mammon's tools,
That prostitute themselves for jobs,
To raise a race of fools.

Be "coward" enough to shun the "brave,"
If courage is the choice
To be a military slave
And heed a master's voice
That bids you kill for his content,
While he with care assures,
At home, his interest, profit, rent,
As fast as it matures.

Be "coward" enough to face the strong,
If need be, for the right,
When "courage" means to stand for wrong
Beneath a flag of might;
Be free from blood, when power commands,
That stains the boastful "good,"
With praying lips and murderous hands
For truth and brotherhood.

It takes a Man to face the gang
Majorities that rule;
It takes a Man to rather hang
Than be a master's tool.
If treason be to hate the sword,
The bayonet and shell,
Then as a "traitor" face the horde
That prays and fights for hell.

Your paper and your party need you!

If the president is to be supreme in this war congress might just as well adjourn.

Have you sent in a list of subs to The American Socialist recently?

How many of those war proclamations and programs have you distributed?

Have you sent in your contribution to the national office to help carry on the war against war?

The proverb now reads, "Kill the enemy before he kills you".

If the secret diplomacy that started the war in Europe is to be brought to this country congress might just as well adjourn.

If the professional soldiers of the army and navy departments are to rule this country congress might just as well adjourn.

The war is going to cost you \$33 this year in war taxes alone. Better donate something now to help stop all wars.

"Having read your leaflet No. 5, and also the debate of the senate and congress, I wish to say that your stand taken in this crisis is splendid," writes "A Real Patriot", who, "Altho not a Socialist is tending that way".

"Under a pretext of carrying democracy to the rest of the world, we have done more to undermine and destroy democracy in the United States than it will be possible for us to repair in a generation of time"—Senator LaFollette.

Francis S. Peabody, the Chicago coal king, is at the head of the national committee on coal production, which contains a select list of the nation's coal barons. The coal miners will surely get the double-cross instead of the square deal from this crowd.

"I am opposed to compulsory service because it is undemocratic and unjust. I am opposed to compulsory service because that is the system which breeds despotism and autocracy, and is opposed to democracy."—Senator Gronna, of North Dakota.

"Where is it written in the constitution. That you may take the children from their parents..... and compel them to fight the battles of any war in which the folly or the wickedness of the government may engage"—Daniel Webster on Conscription.

"We must be Socialists in the very best sense, each working with all for the common object", is the way The Omaha World-Herald wants us to go into the present war. Wonder if this paper will be just as anxious to promote Socialism, in its best sense, after the war is over.

During April, the first month of the war between the United States and Germany, the profits of the United States Steel Corporation, the steel trust, amounting to \$48,000,000 the greatest in the history of this grasping corporation. What will be its profits when this war really gets under way?

Wall Street bankers are getting skeptical about the ability of the government to sell those \$2,000,000,000 worth of bonds. They are advising a higher rate of interest claiming, "A loan of such size is unprecedented and can hardly be carried off by popular imagination". Of course it is not to be expected that the Wall Street financiers will put their money into war bonds at 3 1/2 per cent when they can make several hundred per cent in the production of war munitions and speculating in food.

Lord Rhondda, one of England's big business men, assures the money lords of America that the war will not hurt profits. It hasn't in Great Britain. Of course, America's profiteers knew that before the war started, or they wouldn't have entered into the bloody business. But the workers of the nation are going to fool them. They are going to use this war to take the profits out of industry, to democratize and socialize this grand, old industrial autocracy, now ready for the great change.

Democracy May Lose While Seeming To Win; Says Jingo Paper

In its issue of May 5 the New Republic, wildest of jingo organs, and one of the first to demand our entry into the war, issues a warning of grave danger that, while we are shooting democracy into the Germans across the ocean, a financial autocracy may be established in this land. It demands a radical application of some of the principles suggested in The American Socialist as a constructive war policy; namely, heavy income taxes, heavy inheritance taxes, heavy excess profit taxes, to pay the war expense.

"According as we prove wise and strong in our taxation policy, or weak and timid," says the New Republic, "We shall win or lose the substance of what we are fighting for. We are fighting for democracy, and democracy may be brilliantly victorious or crushingly defeated in the halls of congress as well as on the plains of Arras.

"It is worth recalling some of the analogies presented by our own Civil War. That was a struggle for democracy, too. Free labor against the slave power, the farmers and laborers and small merchants of the North against the landed aristocracy of the South—a clear contrast of political and social forces is drawn. The democratic North crushed the aristocratic South. Democracy had won—on the surface. What was going on underneath the surface it is not so pleasant to recall. Inflated prices were steadily wearing away the standard of living of those who lived by labor. The workingman was driven to increased exertions by the lure of higher wages, while the content of purchasing power in his pay envelope grew steadily less. The farmer planted exultingly in the hope of good prices, to find at the harvest that the good prices were merely an illusion to make him work harder and involve himself more deeply in debt. But the army sutlers, the contractors at home, the organizers of industry, the speculators, floated joyously upon a sea of profits. This was the time when the nuclei of the steel trust and the oil trust were wrought from the germ of unlimited expansion. The "easy money" of the Civil War period and the mushroom fortunes and insatiate speculative spirit engendered by it laid the basis for most of the perplexities that harassed American politics for a generation. We beat the southern aristocracy, only to build up an oligarchy of finance and industry and speculation which for decades withstood all democratic assaults and which has not even yet been reduced to full submission to the democracy.

"If we do not look sharply to our war finance, democracy will win no unambiguous victory, even if Germany is beaten."

This last sentence seems to be purposely so written as to hide its meaning. Of course, if the trouble is taken to translate, its significance is plain. "No unambiguous victory" means "an ambiguous victory", which is the same as saying that democracy will lose, while seeming to win.

This utterance is of grave significance. The New Republic has been one of those wildly militant organs which for more than two years has been screaming for war. This sudden change in its note gives warning that the financial powers which profited out of the Civil War and turned its victory into defeat, are planning an even greater overthrow of popular liberty and democracy under the present war fever. And the New Republic is in position to know.

In the same issue it pokes scorn at the dogmatic orthodoxy of the radical socialists. But this editorial gives substantial backing to the proclamation made by the Socialist Party at St. Louis, that this war is a financial war. The orthodox Socialists seem to have the right of it, after all.

All Hail, Conscription

By LUCIEN SAINT.

WASHINGTON.—Congress readily agreed to pass conscription for men, but conscription for materials and of profits is another matter.

Hiding under the clouds of patriotism which are everywhere decorating the sky, the big importers of phosphate rock from South America have up to this moment successfully killed a project to sell fertilizer to the farmers at cost. The Government was to buy fertilizer from the corporations for what they paid for it, and then sell it to the would-be users of it at between \$35 and \$40 a ton less than the market price.

The resolution giving this power and appropriating the funds passed the Senate after a bitter fight, but it is now dead or dying in the House.

All hail to conscription!

Once more—

The seed men are hiding behind a cloud of patriotism. They are doing a rushing and profitable business, urged on by the production of foodstuffs campaign. In some places they are reducing their prices—giving less seeds per envelope, and making more money because of the stimulated business. But—

Seed men in the South, whose names are known to the government, are holding at this moment enough soy bean seed to plant the entire normal crop. The Government has asked Congress for power to commandeer this seed. Congress has not given it. Congress may not give it till the planting season is past and gone, and the seeds can not serve their purpose as seeds till next spring.

All hail, conscription! Take the bodies of men and send them out for cannon fodder, but don't hurt profits or capital for heaven's sake.

Enlist For The Food War!

Enlist for the food war!

Don't let the food speculators put it over on you. Don't eat grass when you need meat. There is plenty of meat and bread for all. Expose the profits of the grocery man, the baker, the packers, the middlemen, the railroads. Realize that you are being robbed by the capitalist system—robbed every day and at every meal.

Don't waste money buying patent foods that are not foods. Know and act on this knowledge—that there is PRACTICALLY THE SAME FOOD VALUE IN EVERY BREAKFAST! FOOD, no matter what it is called, no matter what it sells for. Realize that WHEN YOU BUY SHREDDED WHEAT YOU ARE BUYING WHEAT, PLUS A LITTLE COOKING FOR \$2 A BUSHEL. Realize that you can buy wheat for about \$3 a bushel, and that you can boil this wheat and get a good, nutritious breakfast food. It is a food rich in everything your body needs.

Don't buy Corn Puffies or Rice Wafers, no matter how brown and tasty they look. Boycott the food fakers. If you want corn, buy seed corn at the feed store and crush it in a hand mill at home the way your forefathers, the farmers did. You will get ALL the corn, and no chaff. Do the same with rice. Rice is rice, no matter whether it has been shot from guns and sold at five to twenty times its real value or bought at the grocery store.

Keep your eyes open in the food war and don't let the interests put it over you. If every Socialist local should organize itself into a food club, should study food, and should act on the result of its investigations, not only would the cost of living come down for its members, but you would be beginning to put out of business the grafters.

Don't expect your government to be more intelligent and alert than you are. This is an alleged democracy. Let's make it a real one. The food war is a real people's war.

Let Us Have The Facts

Let us have the facts about war profits. What are they? What terms have the manufacturers made with the suppliers of food and material for the war? It will hurt no one but the grafters to know the profits.

Some excessively patriotic people are giving their time and materials to the Government for nearly cost. Are they all doing this?

Listen. Since the war the manufacturers of a certain kind of fiber board which has wide uses have put up their prices thirty-five per cent. They claim that their cost of production has gone up that amount. Their books do not show this. In fact their books show that they have almost unlimited supplies of this material which they purchased at a low figure. This firm is selling to the Government, in other words, to the people. They are robbing the people.

Here's a job for one of our numerous commissions, the Tariff Commission, the Trade Commission, the Interstate Commerce Commission, or some of them. Perhaps the National Defense Council might be interested.

Possibly there are too many Commissions and Committees and Departments to pay any attention at all to the matter. Perhaps our Government is getting too cumbersome to work.

These are pertinent questions, hastily put forth before the censorship closes down. Who knows the answer?

Anyway, some one is making money out of the war, for prices are going up, and the business men are announcing that business is bound to prosper.

Can't the common people come in on the wave of prosperity, also?

Tucker Makes Hit

Irwin Tucker's onslaught on conscription in his article, "The Price We Pay", that appeared in the May 5th issue of The American Socialist, has scored a bulls-eye in the fight on the draft. It has made the biggest kind of a hit with all those reading it.

Many letters have been received praising it and the orders for extra copies of this issue have been extraordinarily large. One of the letters that has come to us is from J. Mahlon Barnes, former national secretary, and is in part as follows:

"It gripped me wonderfully. It is, with the exception of the 'War Brides', far and away the best statement I have read regarding or coming out of the war situation."

Frans Bostrom, of Tacoma, Wash., writes of the May 5th issue of The American Socialist, "It is one of the finest exhibits of Socialist newspaper work it has ever been my privilege to read."

Referring to the article by Tucker he says, "I have been requested by a number of comrades to ask you to have that printed in leaflet form for distribution. It is about the right size. It has the consistency, so exceedingly scarce among Socialists, to aim its shafts in the right direction, i. e., against the stupidity of the common people."

It is being planned to get this article out in leaflet form for immediate distribution. Orders are now being received. Prices: 20 cents per 100; \$1.50 per 1,000. Order from the National Office, Socialist Party, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago.

Abolish all popular government: We have found a new use for the ballot box and our election machinery—it is to be used by the gamblers in human life to pick the victims for Europe's slaughter.

The "no!" has been dropped. It now reads, "Thou shalt kill!"

We are now going to pick out 500,000 young men between the ages of 21 and 30 who are "fit to kill".

They know what militarism means in Germany. By passing the conscription act, the Germans accuse us of having adopted their militarism. We cannot help but plead guilty.

The Cunard Line has increased its earnings 55 per cent as a result of the war. The increase is from \$5,600,000 to \$11,700,000. Yes, the stockholders in the Cunard Line will be able to pay their income and other war taxes.

"Conscription is state slavery. It is involuntary servitude, not for crime. Conscription is confiscation of men. It restrains their liberties, forces their actions, and drives them into danger, perhaps at the cost of their lives"—Rep. Huddleston, of Alabama.

The convention of the Workmen's Circle in New York City recently adopted a resolution endorsing the war proclamation and program adopted at the St. Louis convention of the Socialist Party. It also protested against sending Ethel Root as head of the proposed U. S. commission to Russia.

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, states that he prefers not to ally himself in any way with any peace advocates. This should necessitate Gompers immediately severing his connections with practically all of the American labor movement.

Philipp Scheidemann, recognized head of the majority faction of the German Socialists, has been made president of the constitution committee of the Reichstag, say Berlin advices. The committee will work out the promised electoral and other reforms. It is claimed this gives the majority Socialists the decisive vote in the future affairs of the empire.

Hanging for the food speculators was suggested by several members of congress recently as a remedy for the high cost of living. No doubt these congressmen thought they said something. We are not in sympathy with such insane suggestions because they get nowhere. If the insanity of the elected representatives in congress keeps on increasing we would warn such profiteers as Fatten, the wheat gambler, and Armour, the food pirate, to beat it for the trenches as the only real zone of safety.

Navy Gives Receipts

To show its gratitude to the women folk of those who have enlisted in the U. S. Navy, the Commander of the Great Lakes Training Station is issuing pretty printed cards to the effect that a man from their home is now serving his country at the front in the Navy. These cards are to be publicly displayed in order to stimulate recruiting, presumably to encourage other women to swap their husbands and sons for a piece of gaudy cardboard. Any woman who would make such a trade must have a mighty low opinion of her male relations.

Gag Will End Democracy

By VICTOR BERGER, Editor of The Milwaukee Leader.

The man who would suppress free speech and who advocates press censorship is the most dangerous foe of this country because, under the pretext of extending democracy in Europe, he is willing to abolish democracy at home.

Any law of that kind is undoubtedly unconstitutional. It surely is a violation of the spirit of our political institutions and should not be tolerated.

If that censorship provision passes our Congress I hope that there will be a thousand editors found in this country that will rather go to jail than submit.

John Pym defied a king of England almost three hundred years ago and went to jail for free speech. Are American men less liberty loving?

Getting Acquainted

Considerable dismay is being created in the ranks of the jingo press on receipt of the news that Russian and German soldiers on the Eastern front are fraternizing with each other.

These jingo sheets consider it the worst of tragedies that the workers of these two countries should get really acquainted and find out that they have nothing to fight and kill each other for.

Here's hoping that this spirit of fraternity becomes cantagious and spreads to all fronts.

It is reported that not one shot has been fired on the Russian front for a whole week. This ought to give the German soldiers in the East an opportunity to consider affairs at home, to question the machinations of the warmakers in Berlin and come to the conclusion that the time to quit fighting has arrived.

Fraternizing between the working class soldiers of Germany and Russia should be the prelude to a "Back To Berlin" movement that will put the Kaiser in the same company with the late Czar.

Bloody battlefields is probably the last place one would look for fraternity and brotherhood. Yet this is one of the latest developments of the present war. May this development grow to its fullest realization.

The Fifth Commandment

Little Christian children by the millions have been taught, in four words, one of the most profound rules of morality and ethics. The Fifth Commandment, they are told, reads as follows: "Thou shalt not kill". They are told that all good people obey these commandments, and if they would be good and upright and true they too will obey that commandment.

We presume that the editors of that noble exponent of jingoism, The Chicago Tribune, have been taught these humble virtues. If they haven't been taught them in church they should have received this instruction in the public schools. Yet we find "Get the Other Fellow" as the title of a recent editorial contribution to the propaganda of murder and we may well ask, "Shall it be substituted for the other in the most widely published book in the English language?"

This "Get the Other Fellow" editorial reads: "In war killing an enemy for one's country is more serviceable than dying for it. In war it is more beautiful to give than to receive. The bullet lodged is better than the bullet received."

"We are not going out to die, but to kill. Dying, pro patria, may be a beautiful thing, but a more practical thing is to kill. Let the other fellow do the dying. He may have the beauty of it for whatever it is.

Americans are not going out to die for their country—any more than is necessary. They are going out to kill for their country—as much as may be necessary. "What we want to offer up on the altar of our country is Germany—not ourselves. * * *

Pro patria, kill some one else. It's a dead loss to die for your country. It is a clear gain to make the enemy die."

In view of the above shall we say that the ethical education of the gentlemen who edit The Tribune has been sadly neglected, or shall we conclude that Christianity and every other known creed of faith and morality is all very well in its place, and perfectly applicable except when the money bags of Capitalism in general, and of the gentlemen who own and edit The Tribune, in particular, are endangered in a war of their own making?

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