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AMERICAN SOCIALIST

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

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304

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How To Watch Russia

Moans for the future of Russia has become a habit with the capitalist press in this country.

The more the capitalist press moans the more the workers of this country should cheer the progress being made by the Russian revolutionary government.

Foreign Minister Milukoff has resigned from the cabinet and takes with him the suspicion he had created among the masses because of his sympathies with the imperialists of other lands. Moans from the capitalist press, of course, because this was another victory for the combined Socialist forces in the Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Deputies.

The bought press fretted and fussed and fumed charging the Russian Socialists were afraid to assume any of the responsibilities of government, that they had no program, that they were obstructionists, they had doomed the Russian revolution to failure.

Then the Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Deputies, taking its own time, and not worrying about the subsidized press of the master class, in the United States or anywhere else, voted to participate in the proposed coalition cabinet. Then they placed six Socialists in the new cabinet, a majority of the membership of ten, and forced the adoption of their immediate Socialist program in the present crisis.

The government gives as its aim the attainment of a general peace without conquest and consents to the demand for the democratization of the army; promises further control over the production, transport, sale and distribution of products; measures for the better protection of labor, the right to a settlement of the land question by the constituent assembly; increased direct taxation of wealth; development in a democratic direction of local self-government and the hastening of preparations for the constituent assembly.

This crisis, probably the greatest faced so far by the Russian revolutionary government, has been successfully bridged, with great gains being made by the Socialist forces.

When the American jingo-capitalist press moans you can depend on it that Socialism in Russia is making giant strides towards the future. When the bought press gets blue on the Russian situation, you can depend on it that all is rosy red. America's industrial autocracy, voicing its fears thru its press, sees itself following in the wake of the autocracy of the czars.

Facts Are Facts

There's money enough, wealth enough, in the country for all. There's food enough for all, too. Here are the facts, taken straight from the Congressional Record:

In the last two years the earnings of 24 of the principal industrial corporations in the United States increased 500 per cent. These increases, due to the war abroad, will double now that war "prosperity" has struck the United States.

Take U. S. Steel, one of the fundamental industries of the nation:

In 1914 the net earnings—available for dividends—of this organization were \$23,496,768. By 1916 this figure had increased to \$271,531,730—nearly ten times. Meanwhile—

The average market value of the outstanding stock of U. S. Steel had risen from the bagatelle of \$682,648,282 in 1914 to \$961,181,378 in 1916.

Do the holders of U. S. Steel stocks rush to buy "Liberty bonds" at three and a half per cent? Not so you'd notice it.

Look at the railroads. In 1913 the net operating revenue per mile was from \$275 to \$300. Now it is from \$337 to \$500. Yet the railroads, in order to compete with the Liberty Bond business, are asking the government to raise their rates 15 per cent so as to make still more money.

Take American Can. Its profits in 1913 went about \$4,000,000 a year. Last year, thanks to the war, they were practically \$8,000,000. Westinghouse trebled its profits from \$3,000,000 to \$9,000,000. And the Powder Trust did likewise, only better.

IN 1913 THE PROFITS OF THE POWDER TRUST WERE \$4,582,075. IN 1916 THE PROFITS OF THE POWDER TRUST WERE:

EIGHTY-TWO MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

That's all.

Yes, there's plenty of prosperity in the country, but it is among the corporations. It is not among the people, whom the corporations exploit and use to their own advantage. These same corporations are preparing to lower their profits to the government, to a certain small extent, and they will loudly acclaim their own patriotism when and while they do so. But they will be making unholy profits all the same, and the people will be paying them.

Patriotism has not ousted capitalism. A war for democracy has not turned the interests into saints overnight. Don't get confused. Keep your head. Facts are facts, and war is an intensifier of robbery.

It is planned to send an army of 28,000 to France immediately. Exploiters of labor on the Pacific Coast at the same time are planning to import an army of 100,000 Chinese coolie laborers. It doesn't make any difference to the master class how many workers are killed in Europe. They know where to get more wage slaves.

"Virtually the only political party in Germany that Americans know about from newspaper reading is the Socialist Party," comments the St. Joseph, Mo., News-Press. The same might be said for every other country. The Socialist Party is the only political organization fighting war in this world crisis that threatens the very existence of civilization.

Gigantic Frame-up Becomes Clear! We Stand Face To Face With Czardom

SKILLED labor is to be exempted from the army, under the selective draft law. Skilled labor is organized labor. In other words, the army is to be made up of unorganized and unskilled workers.

Our army of two million men is to be made out of the strike-breaker class.

Clerks are traditionally strikebreakers. They have no sense of labor loyalty. Unorganized and unskilled workers are traditionally scabs.

Meanwhile the organized workers, the skilled workers, are to be brought under governmental power.

Strikes are to be prohibited during the war.

The Secretary of War has requested every governor and every legislature to stand ready to suspend all labor laws at the request of the Defense Council. No new labor laws are to be passed without their approval; old laws are to be suspended at their request.

The National Defense Council is made up by Big Business, with just enough labor men to make the dose go down. The state defense councils are appointed on the same plan.

Here in Illinois Federal Judge K. M. Landis has just denounced the president of the state defense council, Samuel Insull, as a cheater and a crook. But Insull is in supreme command of the state during the war.

Can you see the gigantic lines of the frame-up becoming clear thru the murk and the flutter of bunting?

Does it not begin to appear to you that amid the cheers and the hurrahing, the gigantic frame begins to assume the form of a scaffold, on which American labor is to be executed?

There is only one salvation. There is but one way to prevent the utter smashing of the whole labor movement; only one way to avoid an absolute industrial autocracy at Washington which shall grind democracy under its feet in the interest of cash.

That is thru the organization of an American Socialist Party so strong that it can seize the political power, in order to control the industrial power in the interests of the people.

That is thru immediate crystallization of labor in the ranks of the Uncompromising Party.

We must begin now. Begin by circulating Socialist literature. Begin by showing the frightful peril which lies masked by the smooth phrases of a "War for Democracy" and a "War to Liberate the World."

Of what use is a political congress which has been shorn of power?

Where is the democracy in an industrial bureaucracy, irresponsible, but clothed with supreme power? Truly, we stand face to face with Czardom!

And where is the arm that can stop this development, save the arm of the Socialist party?

Join us now! Make it plain that we understand what is taking place, and cannot be deceived by phrases.

Make it plain that we know what the purposes are of those who have so suddenly become our national government—the representatives of capitalism on the War Defense Council.

Make it plain that we are watching them, and will break their power by our own.

Then, and only then, will the danger be averted!

Three Big Drives Now

THERE are three ways you can help now to weld the forces opposed to the mass slaughter in Europe, into which the people of the United States have been forced.

Petition To Congress

FIRST:—Circulate the petition issued by the National Office, Socialist Party, urging congress to submit the "Selective Draft Law," that aims to conscript for military service a large portion of the young men of the nation, to a referendum vote of the adult men and women, citizens of the United States, and let them, in the name of democracy, decide whether or not they approve conscription.

The question of conscription, when it was up for consideration in Australia was, on demand of the people, submitted to a referendum vote and overwhelmingly defeated, the vote of the soldiers in the trenches largely determining the result.

June 5th has been proclaimed as Registration Day. This has brought home to every fireside in America the fact that we are at war. Hundreds of thousand will sign this petition to congress now who last week would have carelessly thrust it aside. You can get as many copies of this petition as you can use by writing to the National Office, Socialist Party, 803 W. Madison Street, Chicago.

Mass Meetings On July 4th

SECOND:—It has been decided to set aside Wednesday, July Fourth, Independence Day, for the holding of Mass Meetings in every city in the nation to enlist support in behalf of our petition to congress. An immense amount of literature will be distributed on this day and petitions will be circulated where this has not already been done. A special issue of The American So-

cialist, dated June 30, will be a feature of this great effort. This issue will be sold for \$7.50 per thousand; 75 cents per 100. Send in your orders now for The American Socialist, for the literature you will need on this day, and begin making preparations for your mass meeting.

Liberty Defense Fund!

THIRD:—We need funds to keep alive our liberties that are just as precious to us during war as they are during peace.

Free speech, free press and the right of free assemblage must not be suppressed. They are already in danger of being strangled. Eternal vigilance is still the price of liberty.

Some of our comrades have already suffered persecution at the hands of the czarism that is spreading over the nation. We need funds to defend them.

We need funds to prepare for the defense of others who are destined for similar persecution. The war monster has just begun to show his fangs. The persecution, now confined to only a few places, threatens to become nation-wide. We must not desert those who stand in the vanguard of the struggle to maintain our cherished liberties. Be one of those to help maintain justice. Send in your contributions, big and small, to the Liberty Defense Fund, care National Office, Socialist Party, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill. This fund will be used to protect those wrongfully accused in the great struggle that confronts us in maintaining the rights of free speech, free press and free assemblage, the inalienable rights of a free people.

Read It Again!

Read this over again and decide on what you can do NOW in the great struggle to preserve civilization in spite of the great war madness now sweeping the world.

Rockefeller And Gompers

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., the man at whose doors the murder of the men, women and children at Ludlow, Colo., is laid, is reported at a meeting of the committee on labor, of the advisory organization, Council of National Defense, as having said, "I consider it an honor to have been invited by Mr. Gompers to become a member of this committee. I have felt it my patriotic duty to serve. I was brought up to respect the manual worker even above the man who works with his head. My father worked with his hands, and I want to be known as a friend of the workers, and those who so largely represent them."

When our memory is refreshed of the shooting and burning at Ludlow, it does seem strange how some people treat their friends.

It must have been a proud moment in Gompers' life to invite as a member of the labor committee of the National Council for Defense, the man whom the Federal Commission on Industrial Relations charges with responsibility for the crimes committed against labor in Colorado.

The rank and file of labor is against war even tho' he kept us out of war. Wilson appointed Gompers as the star performer on the committee on labor of the Advisory Organization, National Council of Defense.

This so-called recognition of labor is only in the hope that he can deliver the workers into the military band wagon. Nothing doing "Sammy". Even tho' you are in the spot light, it adds no pleasure to getting shot. Rockefeller and Guggenheim will meet with the representatives of organized labor on the Council of National Defense to discuss ways and means to make the greatest possible killing during the war. But will Rockefeller and Guggenheim meet the representatives of organized labor as freely to discuss demands for higher wages, shorter hours, and better conditions?

Scores of labor officials have been appointed on the National and various State Councils of Defense to help strengthen the military machine. Is it not a fact that the military machine is always used against organized labor? The exceptions are so few that they prove the rule. Remember Colorado, Michigan, West Virginia, Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Illinois (a la Pullman), Ohio (Columbus) and other places.

It must be a "grand and glorious" feeling to fire a bullet thru the heart of some weeping mother's son or push a chilly glittering steel bayonet thru his soft quivering flesh, then pull it out to see the blood gush from the wound as from a steer in a slaughter house.

Wonderful ways we have of christianizing christianity, civilizing civilization, humanizing humanity and democratizing the world.

If all that our prejudiced enemies say about the Socialists were true, could we have made a worse mess of it?

The Secretary of the Treasury gracefully informs us that our entry into the European madhouse will cost \$16,493,012 a day or about 16 1/2 cents for each one of the 100,000,000 population. The average family consists of five persons so the cost per family is about 82 1/2 cents a day. Well, we are to have "Democracy and Civilization!"

Getting At The Truth

One of the blundering representatives in the Illinois legislature the other day helped show why the exploiters are so anxious to defeat labor laws in the present era of unalloyed patriotism.

This undiplomatic spokesman of the interests of big business pictured with horror what would happen with the entire national guard at the front in France, with no Cossacks at home to keep the workers in subjection. He dilated at length on scenes of riot and revolution that would result when the workers went on strike with not a gun at the command of their masters to shoot them into submission.

He therefore demanded, with other lackeys of the exploiters in the Illinois legislature, that the proposed trial-by-jury law be defeated. And of course the aforementioned lackeys loved their fellow human beings so little and the millionaire exploiters of the state so much that they defeated these humane laws.

The anti-injunction law proposed to stop employers from getting an injunction and jailing workers in every strike. The other proposed law sought jury trials where they are now denied to workers.

These two proposed laws were small attempts to democratize industry just a little bit more in the great industrial state of Illinois.

But this is a war for democracy in Europe, not in the United States. Let the workers get at the truth of the fake plea for democracy.

One of our rabid jingo sheets reports that a successful manufacturer was recently appointed, by the republican governor of his state, to be executive chairman of a committee to act in the war emergency. In his first report he enumerated two criticisms which had been made of the personnel of the committee, as follows: too many so-called workmen; not enough workmen. This exploiter of labor thought these were two good reasons for upholding the wisdom of the appointments.

"Arm the executive branch of the government with the power that this bill proposes, to select the men to constitute the army, and it marks the beginning of the end of our constitutional government"—Senator LaFollette, on Conscription.

It begins to look as if this is to be a war against America's womanhood. Illinois exploiters are using the war and fake patriotism as an argument against the proposed women's eight hour law in Illinois. Big business will stop at nothing.

Some men pray that war will last,
For they're making money fast;
The names of all these patriots are—

Twinkle, twinkle, little star.

Ten billion dollars to pay for the first year of the war. And no one knows how many years it will last. National bankruptcy will soon be upon us.

Reflections

By LEON GRAVES HUSTON.

NOTE:—Here are some extracts from a letter written by Leon Graves Huston, of Spokane, Wash., who enlisted with the Canadians and is now serving on the front in Flanders. The letter is written to a relative. Young Huston writes from a hospital where he is recuperating from a nervous breakdown. He has repeated his anxiety to become a soldier. He writes:

Had I known anything I shouldn't have been in the army at all.

I have about as much chance as the proverbial snowball in coming out of this alive.

If Uncle Sam comes into this war, don't fall for it. I would certainly hate to see any other member of the family go thru any part of what I have.

It looks as tho' Uncle Sam may enter this, and if he does, I hope you will use all your influence to keep your son out of it, altho' I expect it will be of little avail. War is a short word. But only those who have experienced it in the front ranks can realize its full meaning.

The weather is still cold, and the vermin are still large and constantly in mass formation. The mud is inches and feet deep. To be dry is paradise.

It looks now as tho' the United States will come in, and I hate to see it from the bottom of my heart. I for one would much prefer her to stay out.

If this carnage is history to be proud of I say: To hell with history!

Wake Up, America!

Selective conscription.
Compulsory service.
Militarism in the schools.
Free speech denied.
Ditto free assemblage.
And a free press.
Jails for radicals.
Prussianism overdone.
To hell with the constitution.
Machine guns in the police stations.
Imported Chinese labor.
Good-bye 8-hour laws.
Farewell, steaks and potatoes.
Enter rats, rice and riots.
America, wake up.

Give Us The Facts

Evidence of a gigantic central food manipulation trust has been laid before the authorities of the Federal Government at Washington, D. C., from sources of the utmost reliability.

This evidence, which may be produced within a few weeks in public, shows that a few men connected with one of the largest banking houses in the world, have been and are exploiting the food necessities of stricken Europe and of hungry America for their own private profit. They are making millions out of food. They are highly organized, powerful, wealthy beyond the dreams of avarice. They reach down thru the producers to the wholesalers, the commission men, the distributors, the chain stores, the independent—so-called—retailers.

This is a trust worth busting—unless the government takes it over. It is the trust that has preyed unmercifully on the simplest animal needs of the people.

It is the trust that pays the salaries of the food lobby now operating in Washington to prevent the enactment of legislation giving the government powers to seize foods and to dictate prices.

The charge is that the firm of J. P. Morgan is back of it and that Morgan's subsidiaries are with Morgan on the deal.

We long suspected it but now the people are about to know the facts.

If! Our Morgan controlled government does not succeed in hushing up the entire matter!

Fighting For A Sham

An insurrection is reported to be brewing in Congress over the contempt with which the law-makers are treated by the Administration. In a long debate behind closed doors, Senator after Senator complained that the National Council of Defense seems to be the real government, and that the political representatives are ignored.

The British and French envoys held long consultations with the Defense Council, but were not permitted to associate with the senators and representatives.

This was in effect a recognition of the fact that the political congress has ceased to be our government, for we have ceased to be a political state; we are now an industrial state. Our Industrial Government is the Council of Defense. In its hands lie the real power, and the Administration in dealing with them instead of with Congress simply recognize the situation as it exists.

Our political democracy is based on the geographical division of society, which assumes that all the persons who live in a certain area are equally interested in its government. That geographical division has ceased to mean anything. The industrial division of society now is the main fact about it; and whereas we have in theory a political democracy, our actual government is industrial, and it is an autocracy.

We are fighting to force a political democracy on Germany, while we are ourselves an industrial autocracy. We are fighting to force on another nation the sham which we have abandoned.

The only democracy worth while is industrial democracy. Does our government—our real government, our industrial government—pledge itself to that? Until it does, we are fighting for a sham to prevent us from battling for the reality.

"Stand Behind The President"

Where are the jingo newspapers that so recently tried to teach us to "Stand Behind The President"? These same newspapers yelled so loudly that the censorship clause in the espionage bill was defeated in congress.

President Wilson wanted the censorship clause to pass. But the newspapers didn't want it and it didn't pass.

Rank treason this, pro-Germanism, unpatriotic on the part of the jingo press to refuse to "Stand Behind The President".

This country was forced into this war—so far as it has been forced up to the present time—by the jingo-dollars press and the capitalist interests they stand for.

When President Wilson's actions suit them they will stand behind him. When they do not they will stand against him.

In trying to prophesy the next move this war will take, or the direction in which congress will jump, don't look to Washington. Take a look at what your jingo newspaper says it wants. What it wants, Wall Street wants, and they will make Wilson want it, too, or they won't stand behind him.

Sleuths! Get Busy!

President Wilson had better send his secret service sleuths to interview Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt regarding recent treasonable utterances to the effect that the United States has no right to talk about "making the world safe for democracy".

"Ours is not a true democracy," she says. "The battle of democracy won't be won in this country until we re-baptize our nation and establish real democracy."

If some Socialist had delivered himself thusly from a soap box, with a Henry Dobb policeman on the fringe of the crowd, the jail doors would have yawned immediately.

Mrs. Catt was a little more safe while addressing the Mississippi Valley victory suffrage conference at Columbus, Ohio. She declared this country will never be a true democracy until it abolishes the sex line. No doubt, President Wilson and the war makers, like the war lords in Europe, will soon issue a statement declaring this reform cannot be considered until after the war.

How about the women then refusing to permit their sons, brothers and husbands going to the front to fight for this alleged democracy?

Our old friend, the Rev. Newell Dwight Hillis, of Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, again bobs up as the defender of the capitalist system, at the convention of the National Association of Manufacturers in New York City. He declared himself "amazed, astounded and almost afraid" at the people's indifference to the war and berated them for their slowness in taking up the "Liberty Loan". Hillis, of course, fears for the present social order. Those who hope for a new and better social order are not worrying.

"Who said we couldn't strike during the war?" asked 8,000 girl garment workers in Paris, France, as they walked out demanding increased wages to meet the high cost of living. Working girls in America take notice!

The National Association of Manufacturers is planning a campaign to control every member of congress. The Socialist Party is the only force arrayed against this conscienceless gang of exploiters. Get behind the Socialist Party!

Czarism Begins Attack On American Anti-War Forces

Czarism in the United States is closing in on the forces opposed to war and striving for peace.

Indiana state headquarters of the Socialist Party raided, all Socialist literature seized, State Secretary and Mrs. William H. Henry, hailed before federal authorities but let go, county secretary held for seven hours, county records seized but returned, with one other comrade out on \$1,000 bonds.

Chicago Evening Post and other Chicago papers, report that, "Agents of the Department of Justice swooped down upon the headquarters of the National Socialist Party and searched the premises. They also scanned the rooms of THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST, the organization's publication, but evidently nothing was found to justify any action, as they left empty-handed."

Aaron Fisherman, county secretary, Socialist Party, at Seattle, Wash., arrested by federal authorities charged with sedition for distributing anti-conscription circulars.

While Socialists in many large cities have been hailed before federal officials, especially in Chicago, to be questioned and then dismissed, the first raid on a Socialist headquarters and the first seizure of Socialist literature has just taken place in Indianapolis, Ind.

The U. S. authorities, without warrant or observing any process of law, inaugurated the reign of czarism, by raiding the Indiana state headquarters of the Socialist Party and seizing all literature in sight. This consisted of 2,000 copies of the party's anti-war proclamation and one lone copy of the Russell-Mills pamphlet on "War."

Nothing To Hide. That the Socialist Party has nothing to hide in the distribution of these anti-war proclamations, is shown by the fact that copies of all anti-war literature issued by the national organization were furnished several weeks ago to the government's representatives who called at the national office in Chicago and no complaint was heard.

Perhaps the U. S. authorities at Indianapolis had just finished reading the Congressional Record, of May 11th, in which Senator Hastings, of Wisconsin, uses up about 50,000 words in "exposing" the anti-war activities of the Socialist Party. Senator Hastings fortified his "exposure" with the assistance of Winfield R. Gaylord, who furnished him Socialist anti-war literature and correspondence he had with National Secretary Adolph Gerner.

In a letter to Senator Hastings, which also appears in the Congressional Record, Gaylord declares that: "There is occasion for the discreet use of authority for the prevention of general circulation of this pernicious propaganda."

This refers to the anti-war proclamation adopted at the St. Louis convention, about 750,000 copies of which have already been distributed over the nation. The Gaylord letter has a postscript signed by A. M. Simons as follows:

"I have read this and agree with it, and join in the hope that some action may be taken to prevent violence" whether the federal authorities at Indianapolis were trying to follow out the advice given in the Gaylord-

Simons letter or not, this was the first case where any Socialist literature had been seized.

In commenting on the raid on the Indiana headquarters, National Secretary Gerner said: "This seizure of property by the federal authorities is a splendid example of the 'democracy and human rights' for which, we are told, this country has joined in the war."

"People whose cause is right need not resort to the methods of the physical force anarchists, as the federal authorities did in this case. Were they not brutally stupid, they would know that such despotic acts caused the House of Romanoff to fall in Russia."

In referring to the action of Gaylord in turning official documents over to Senator Hastings and for writing him the letter published in the Congressional Record, Gerner said:

"Well, what do Americans think of Benedict Arnold? The world holds an informer in contempt."

"Informers, whether they do their work free or for a consideration, have no place in the Socialist Party or any other working class organization."

Raise "Liberty Fund." The editor of The American Socialist and the officials of the Socialist Party are ignorant of the raid reported in the Chicago Evening Post, Saturday, May 19th. The federal authorities are welcome at the office of THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST or the Socialist Party at any time. As stated before, they have visited the offices of the party and its paper in Chicago and received samples of the paper and all the anti-war literature issued.

The arrest of County Secretary Fisherman at Seattle, Wash., seems to be more serious. Fisherman denies the charge.

It is expected that numerous arrests will be made during the next few weeks by overzealous jingoes, many of them suddenly clothed with authority of the law. In order to see that justice is done and to maintain free institutions in this country during the war it has been decided to raise a fund to aid in defending comrades wrongfully accused. Since human liberty is just as precious now as it is during peace times, it has been decided to call this The Liberty Defense Fund. Anyone wishing to send in any contributions to this fund should address, The Liberty Defense Fund, National Office, Socialist Party, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

The Majority Report

By EUGENE V. DEBS.

AT THE recent emergency convention, called for the purpose mainly of defining and declaring the position of the Socialist Party toward the present war and toward war in general, three reports were submitted to the committee chosen to deal with that important matter and submit the result of its deliberations to the convention. A majority report and two minority reports were submitted. We advise our readers to carefully examine each of the reports which are now before the party for a referendum vote.

The majority report, submitted by a large majority of the committee and adopted by an overwhelming majority of the delegates composing the convention, is the report that in our opinion states the true international position of our party and the one that ought to be adopted and made the party's permanent anti-war platform.

THE majority report has been violently assailed by some hitherto prominent members of the party. They are entitled to their opinion. The "assault" that the majority report is "reasonable." We have not a bit of patience with this charge. To us it seems base and cowardly. Let the capitalist press, and not our own comrades, bring this charge. There are times when it is "treason" to be law-

Going Into Debt

"And I'm going into debt!"

There is no more universal confession than this at the present time.

The business of going into debt is more universal than the business of murder. A few million soldiers are engaged directly in the killing business. Billions of men, women and children are marching toward the poverty line, while nations verge on bankruptcy.

Let us sum up the case of one man as it was told to the editor of this paper:

"I have a family of five children. I am a passenger brakeman on the Pennsylvania Railroad and I earn \$100 a month. And I'm going into debt!"

This man does not waste his money. His only luxury is buying Socialist literature and distributing it among his fellow workers. One hundred dollars a month means he earns \$1,200 a year. This is more than twice the average wage of the American worker.

Yet, while its workers are individually going into debt due to the high cost of living, the national government scolds and frets because these same workers will not share in the greatest debt of all, the first \$2,000,000,000 of the \$5,000,000,000 so-called Liberty Loan of 1917.

"Failure to subscribe the \$2,000,000,000 required would be a confession of national impotence", is the plea that Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo sends out to the nation.

The people do not want to pay for this war any more than they want to enlist in this war. The subscriptions from the masses to the loan have been as meager as the volunteers for the army and navy.

This is not a confession of the national impotence of the people. It is a confession of the failure of the capitalist system of society.

The people do not lack intelligence. Their actions would indicate they are getting more intelligent.

A government that permits its powers to be usurped by money czars, resulting in the impoverishment of the many by the few, cannot expect aid and co-operation from the governed.

A poverty stricken people, daily going deeper and deeper into debt, cannot possibly buy war bonds, regardless of whether they would like to do so or not.

The capitalist system of society in the United States is today reaping the harvest of

abiding and when to be "treasonable" and the enemies of our people, and it is a farce and mockery, if not a crime, to attempt to persuade the working class of America that these, their brutal, relentless, uncompromising enemies, are their friends and waging the war in which they have plunged the nation for their freedom and for democracy and self-government.

IN THEIR opposition to the majority report these comrades express the fear that it may be adopted because the great majority of comrades do not understand it. Precisely! They have little faith in the intelligence of the lower herd. It is too bad that the great majority are too ignorant to pass intelligent judgment upon a report which declares that the Socialist party is opposed to having its members slaughtered in capitalist wars; to ignorant to appreciate the fact that Morgan, Rockefeller and their plutocratic gang are their friends and putting up millions of their stolen dollars to save the poor American workers from Prussian militarism.

WE ARE neither pro-German nor pro-Ally. We are Socialists, international Socialists, and we have no use, not one bit, for capitalist wars. We have no enemies among the workers of other countries; and no friends among the capitalists of any country; the workers of all countries are our friends and the capitalists of all countries are our enemies.

The class war is our war and our only war. We have no interest in national wars for ruling class conquest and plunder. In all these wars the workers are slaughtered while their masters wax fat in the spoils of conquest.

THE time has come for the workers to cease fighting the battles of their masters and to fight their own; to cease being slaughtered like cattle for the profit of the ruling class and to line up in the class struggle regardless of race or nationality for the overthrow of class rule and for the emancipation of their class and humanity.

These are our principles and convictions as international revolutionary Socialists, and if this be treason we plead guilty and stand ready to face the consequences.

THE CHARGE has also been brought against the majority report that it encourages the central powers to wage the present war for the extermination of democracy and for extending the domain of autocracy and Prussianizing the world. Ye gods! And this from men who have been recognized as leaders in the Socialist movement.

Let me remind these accusers that they are lined up side by side with the vultures of Wall Street without an exception, with Morgan, Rockefeller, Schwab and company; that they are hand in glove with Elihu Root, the deadly enemy of the Russian refugees and the arch-foe of the working class and the common people.

Would they have us simple enough to believe for one moment that Wall Street is recruiting an enormous standing army and a navy to correspond to fight for freedom and self-government, for justice and humanity?

These arch-enemies of democracy, these plunderers of the people, these corrupters of the courts, these debauchers of the electorate, these ruthless exploiters of the working class and despoilers of the nation, these red-handed murderers of our comrades at Ludlow, Cabin Creek, Calumet, Everett and a hundred other places, these are our enemies

years of merciless exploitation of the people.

And it is useless for McAdoo, or any one else in Washington or Wall Street, to cry out, "We must oversubscribe this loan as an indication that America is stirred to the depths in the cause of freedom!"

There is no doubt that America is stirred to its depths. It has been stirred for a long time over the increasing cost of bread and all the necessities of life. It has been stirred by the autocratic attempt being made to force conscription upon the nation. It is stirred to the depths in the cause of its own emancipation.

The future, the very near future, alone will tell how much America has been stirred. And when America is aroused it is not impotent, as the present exploiters of the masses will learn to their sorrow.

Wilson is sending 28,000 soldiers to France immediately. That will be cannon fodder for the European "mass murder" machine for a few days.

The tears and heartaches of 28,000 mothers left behind by those 28,000 soldier boys going to France will soon change to mourning as the death lists are published.

The censorship is closing down. Secretary of State Lansing has muzzled every official of his department in Washington. Secret diplomacy takes the center of the stage.

The greatest war budget in history—\$3,400,000,000—has just been submitted to the U. S. senate for endorsement. We'll increase the total of those three and a half billion dollars one hundred times and they'll not number the tears of sorrowing mothers whose sons will give up their lives in order that this great treasure may be spent in painting the world a British red with American blood.

Nathan Straus, of New York, got real sore the other day and scolded our patriots for profiting before a gathering, at the home of Anne Morgan, of the silk stocking members of the National League for Women's Service. He said: "The rich of New York have behaved disgracefully. You have mentioned names of persons who gave \$1,000 each to this league when they have made millions out of the war." Straus ought to be strung up from the nearest lamp post for treason against the master class.

British imperialism got quite a jolt in the house of commons the other day when the government was asked if it approved the passage of a law prohibiting trade unions in St. Christopher and Nevis, British West Indies. The secretary for the foreign colonies replied that the law was necessary to wipe out a pro-German. Incidentally the employers granted a 25 per cent raise in wages. Perhaps the exploiters in the United States will soon discover some alleged pro-German and use him as an excuse to wipe out the American trade unions.

Keep It Up!

There are more people interested in Socialism today than ever before. They want to know something about our movement and our ideas. They will read Socialist literature as never before. We must see that they get it. Start them out with a paper. Almost every day we receive letters reading something like this: "Someone left a copy of the AMERICAN SOCIALIST on my doorstep (or in my mail box as the case may be). I like it. It tells the truth. Here is my subscription." This is the result of your work. KEEP IT UP!

WE will need the AMERICAN SOCIALIST more and more as the war goes on. We must make it stronger by giving it a few hundred thousand circulation. The fact that the war lords in and out of congress want to put a muzzle on the press proves its power.

M. L. Bowers, Rockefeller's personal representative during the Colorado strike, knew the power of the press. He wrote Rockefeller as follows: "Another mighty power has been rounded up in behalf of the operators by the gathering together of 14 of the editors of the most important newspapers."

These papers were needed to mould public opinion. If ever there was a time that we should mould public opinion, it is now!

Order a bunch of sub cards now and get busy or make up a list of subs at 5 cents a year, or 25 cents for six months and hurry it in immediately to the AMERICAN SOCIALIST, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago, Illinois.

"I like the way the paper is being edited," writes Comrade George W. Louttit, of Everett, Wash. "It is not personal but clean cut, and presents facts so clearly, that even a Henry Dubb ought to learn who the fellow is that is on his back. But of course, some of them have awfully thick skulls."

"Your last issue of The American Socialist is a fine one, good all thru. I believe it not only represents the true spirit of the Socialists, but also of the majority of the people."—Paul P. Moore, West Branch, Iowa.

"Wish to say I like the way The American Socialist is being put out, and would like to suggest that you find space for, say, one article each week on scientific Socialism, evolution or some more advanced ideas of the greatest philosophy known. Subscriptions come slow owing to \$17 flour, etc., but will do the best I can."—W. O. Westcott, Jackson, Mich.

Comrade O. P. Kelly, of Belle Ellen, Ala., sends in the first list on the sub blank enclosed in the last issue of The Bulletin.

"Your paper is a wonder", writes one of our well-wishers at Newport, Ky. "There ought to be about 100 more of them in this free country."

Democracy And Humanity

By ADOLPH GERNER.

WE ARE bound to have "democracy and humanity" whether we want it or not. Everybody is talking it and fighting for it. The Kaiser says he wants it. So does the King of Italy, the Mikado of Japan, the Kings of England and Roumania. And didn't the Czar of Russia fight for "democracy and humanity" until he was kicked from the throne? Have you ever known of a greater combination of champions of democracy than the above?

This country is adding its mite. Sam Gompers and John D. Rockefeller, Jr., (the man who is responsible for the death of men, women and children at Ludlow, Colorado), are fondly embracing each other and in their warbling voices sing sweet songs of "democracy and humanity". In the presence of all these democrats, it is impossible to escape "democracy". Cheer up, sad heart, the cherished day of freedom is here.

The other day, according to a Washington Press Dispatch, "Sammy," as Mark Hanna used to call Gompers, at the Civic Federation "dinner", delivered a "keynote" speech before a great gathering of labor "leaders" and plutocrats. Sammy is favorably known for his keynote speeches, and it must have been a grand and glorious feeling to the exploited miners of Colorado when they read how John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and Daniel Guggenheim applauded that melodious voice as it rang out for "democracy and humanity."

Picture This Touching Scene.

That Washington gathering must have been a touching scene. Just picture to yourself, dear reader, the mingling of men worth millions, with the "representatives" of labor. On the one hand were such lovers of democracy as John D. Rockefeller, Jr., who has his fingers in everything that can be turned into dollars; Daniel Guggenheim, of the American Smelting and Refining Company; Hale Holden, head of the Burlington Road; E. E. Rittenhouse, (sounds somewhat hyphenated), President of the Equitable Life Insurance Company; John Patterson, of the National Cash Register Company (ask Gompers whether this concern recognizes the union); P. E. Crawley, Vice President of the New York Central, etc. Each one of these would unquestionably take the stump at their shops and urge their employes to organize into a union to demand increased wages, shorter hours and improved conditions.

On the other hand, at this gathering was that battle-scarred, tried and never found "Sammy" Gompers, who believes in the referendum, except in the election of officers for the American Federation of Labor. Other labor "leaders" were present, but they were evidently of so small a caliber that they were not worth mentioning in the press. In his "keynote" speech, Sammy called upon the millionaires for sacrifices and they applauded. Well, I am sure you will at once get a mental picture of John D. Rockefeller and Daniel Guggenheim slipping into a khaki suit at \$15 per month to bare their breasts to the storm of battle that the suffering world will enjoy the "new freedom" Gompers told his hearers that "if the cause of freedom, justice, democracy and humanity (whatever he means by that) is to prevail, labor and capital must put away selfish aims and work together to win the war." There you have it. That ought to hold you for a while. In line with that sentiment, it is pertinent to suggest that Gompers add Rockefeller, Guggenheim and others of that tribe to his organizing staff. No doubt, they would gladly cooperate and lend their influence to organize the men of the mines, mills and smelters. In Illinois labor has a fair sample of the "working together." The anti-injunction bill as well as other important labor measures, were smashed into smithereens by the State Legislature. This in spite of the fact that officials of the Illinois Federation of Labor are serving on the State Council of Defense. Wonderful "working together," isn't it?

MEETING WAS UNIQUE.

The Washington meeting was unique in more ways than one. John H. Thomas, member of the English Parliament and one of the British Labor commission was also present and he warned the gathering against "overconfidence and against industrial strife." Nail that one down. Beware of industrial strife! No matter how many the food hogs charge you for bacon and beans, don't go on strike for more pay. If Rockefeller, Guggenheim and Armour, out of the goodness of their heart, give you more, all right, but if they don't—well, the Parliamentary member from England has warned you against industrial strife, so please take notice. I freely admit that the organized labor movement of this country is woefully in need of sound official advice, but we would rather have it in words of encouragement to the workers to demand more for the sacrifices they are asked to make. It would be quite pertinent for John H. Thomas, M.P., to urge the workers of America to take advantage of the unprecedented opportunity to get a greater share of the wealth they create. The British workers were not afraid of industrial strife. On many occasions, during the war, have they gone on strike and compelled the masters of bread to yield. The workers of Germany and other countries have done the same. Are we sons and daughters of Mr. Morgan to surrender our rights even though the right of labor to strike for economic betterment to be excluded from our shores? Pray, tell us, what is your conception of "democracy and humanity"?

How About Ireland?

But in that "keynote" speech what did Gompers or the Parliamentary representatives from England say about "democracy, justice and humanity" for Ireland? May we hear from you, "Sammy", and John H. Thomas, M.P. whether the illustrious phrases you use, mean the independence of a nation that has been exploited and oppressed for centuries? Step out into the light, you men who speak of democracy, so we may see you as you are. We want more than high sounding phrases. Tell us just what you mean by "democracy, justice and humanity." We have a right to know in plain words what the world is fighting for and we have a right to know on what terms peace will be made. Up to now, each of the belligerents says to the other "you started this." But that doesn't stop the war. It doesn't stop the crippling and killing of millions of young men who could otherwise help to build up a grand and glorious world.

We Americans have a right to know of President Wilson and of Congress just why we are to pay the price, in treasure and blood, that war entails. Why are countless homes to be draped in mourning and why are fathers, mothers, wives and sweethearts to drench their cheeks in tears and live a life of grief over the loss of the ones they loved? Why are we to have a nation of armless, legless and sightless men as the terrible toll of war? Why are future generations to be crushed with the burdens of a war, the true purpose of which has not been explained? Yet you, Mr. President, with a sufficient number of members of congress have passed a law that makes military serfs of your constituents and you propose to enslave them to an expedition of murder and destruction. And all this without telling us, except in vague and meaningless terms, what it is all for and how it can be stopped.

Our Great Sacrifice.

The Secretary of the Treasury informs us that the carnage of murder will cost us more than six million dollars per day. This cost will be increased as the war goes on. In addition, we will pay the still greater price in human life and human agony. I repeat, Mr. President, and gentlemen of the administration, what is it all about and how can it be stopped?

"Yours for world peace and the brotherhood of man," writes Comrade George W. Stone, of Millard, Neb., in sending in a club of four.

"The enclosed shows that we are going to try to wake up the 'Dubs' in this county" writes Comrade H. G. Brockway, of Sumas, Wash., as he sends in a list of subs.

Comrade A. H. Rote, treasurer of Local New-Castle, Pa., sends in an order for 25 sub cards. Every local in the land ought to have a big supply of sub cards.

One of our comrades at Emporium, Pa., orders a bunch of sub cards and writes, "I will do what little I can. But I have a poor chance to do much. If I am caught selling sub cards I lose my job. But the grass is getting green now, so I will take a chance."

"Here I am again. Send me another eight cards. Yours to do or die", from McKeesport, Pa.

"Not many Socialists here but about 90 per cent of the people do not like to go to war", writes a new subscriber at Roxbury, Mass.

"I have enjoyed your paper for a number of years and hope it will set a few people 'thinking' by being sent to the above mentioned clubs", writes one of our boosters at Holyoke, Mass., as she orders the paper sent to four organizations in her city.

Fifty Thousand Copies of "PRICE WE PAY" Sold

A RUSH of orders for "The Price We Pay" four-page leaflet began as soon as the announcement of its printing in leaflet form was made. They began coming in at the rate of ten thousand a day by the time the issue of May 19th reached the comrades. A second edition will soon be necessitated, if this rate keeps up. Everywhere comrades who have already received and used it report that its reception by non-Socialists is tremendous. The leaflet creates little short of a sensation.

"This is surely a great piece of literature," writes J. C. Chenoweth, Shelbyville, Ind. He orders 200.

"Brimful of good things and truths that must appeal to any one with common sense", writes Mrs. William Vermuth, La Crosse, Wis.

"Send me a dollar's worth of Irwin Tucker's Price We Pay. It's splendid", writes Emil Limbach, Pittsburgh.

"Comrade Tucker has told the truth uncompromisingly", says A. S. Hodge, Mishawaka, Ind.

"Stupidity, yes stupidity is our greatest enemy", writes Alex van Gundy, of Cheyenne, Wyo. "Starve them a while longer and they will wake up."

Mrs. Amanda Montgomery writes that she is scattering "The Price We Pay" along an automobile trip thru Kansas and Oklahoma.

N. Gramm, Harrisburg, Pa., writes for one thousand copies. "I think that is the very best argument against war which I have ever read, and should be read by every worker in the world", he writes.

"This is absolutely the best article of its kind I have read and I will do my share to have it read by others", writes B. Leknes, a bank cashier of Russell, Minn. He orders one thousand copies.

Local Maywood, Ill., orders a bundle of 2,000 copies.

Use this leaflet wisely and well. It will produce results.

Price: 20c per 100; \$1.50 per 1,000.

Order now from the

NATIONAL OFFICE, SOCIALIST PARTY

803 West Madison Street - - - - Chicago, Ill.

Russians In Copenhagen In Appeal To Germans

The group of Russian Socialists who have hitherto made Copenhagen their headquarters, has issued the following appeal to the German working class:

The Russian revolution has completely altered the international political situation. Russian Czarism, the greatest enemy of civilized Europe, has been abolished, and the whole Russian people now has the right to determine the foreign policy of Russia. To our great indignation we find that many influential organs of the bourgeois press in Germany are advising the suppression of our revolution by military means, while several Conservative organs quite openly express a desire to work for the old regime in Russia. To our great regret, however, we find that practically no protest has been entered against such plans in the German Labor press. In view of these facts we Russian Socialists, resident for the moment in Copenhagen, but about to leave shortly for Russia, in order to take our place in the Socialist ranks, consider ourselves called upon to make the following declaration, and do so in complete agreement with the whole of Russian Socialism:

We desire immediate peace. We demand a general peace without annexations, war indemnities and no other conditions. We will fight for it with all our strength. Any attempt, however, on the part of the German military command and the imperialist classes to hinder the development of our revolution by military means, to render assistance to the old regime, and to rob Russia of her dear-bought freedom, will meet with the sharpest and most decided resistance from the whole Russian working class. We are fully entitled to call upon the workers of Germany, without distinction as to party or group, to put an abrupt end to this reactionary agitation with the utmost energy in word and deed.

THIS FORD FREE. You don't need money to get an automobile. Let me give you one of my brand new Ford Touring Cars. I have given away dozens of them. You will get as well as one, too. If you have no auto and want one, send me your name and address and I'll send you one of my Ford cars. A post-card will do. BROADWAY AUTO CLUB, 300 Capital Bldg., Topeka, Kansas.

"SHALL J. P. MORGAN OWN THE EARTH?" A booklet which PROVES, by photographic extracts from an official U. S. Government report, that the Morgan wealth and power are twenty times greater than realized and the Morgan greed utterly unquenchable. How Morgan (after the war) can manipulate a "panic" then buy cheaply control of all vital industries; how he keeps now all this power and profit; how newspapers are controlled; governments and legislatures corrupted. Price 50 cents—send your money back if not satisfied that the information given is well worth the price. Descriptive circular, with testimonials, free. Proposition to agents and dealers on request. Address the author J. JACK PANSKY, P. O. Box 307-A, Grand Rapids, Mich.

FERRI-GALATIAN SANITARIUM. Chronic disease treated with hydrotherapy, diet, exercise, electricity, mechano-therapy, osteopathy and other physiological methods. Pleasant environment. Rates reasonable. 100 MANCHESTER ROAD - - - WHEATON, ILL.

HEAVEN AND HELL. Swedenborg's great work on the life after death, 400 pages, only 75 cents postpaid. Pastor Lundström, Windsor Place, St. Louis, Mo.

FREE - 6 MONTHS - INVESTING FOR - PROFIT. A monthly Guide to Money-Making. Tells how \$100 grows to \$2,000 - how to get richer quickly and honestly. H. L. BARBER, Pub. 474, 32 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago.

WANTED - Bachelor farmers, with \$150, for co-operative farming here. E. S. SAUNDERS, ST. ELMO, TENN.

X RAYS

By JOHN M. WORK.

IT IS said that Japan has some doubts about the unselfishness of the United States in entering the war. She suspects that there may be some material motive involved in it.

How can you, Japan? You should not permit such unholy suspicions to enter your mind. We cordially invite you to send a commission over here and make a minute examination of our saintly capitalists who plunged us into the war. Don't ever allow yourself to believe that they are after commercial conquest. Haven't they themselves told you that they have gone into the war with pure and lofty motives, for the purpose of advancing democracy thruout the world? And didn't you notice how handsomely they practiced the democracy they preach, by submitting the question of war or no war, and the question of conscription or no conscription, to a referendum vote of the people of the United States, instead of plunging them into the war against their will and forcing conscription upon them against their will?

What more can you ask? Shame on you! You must not besmirch the fair name of our chaste and hallowed capitalists.

CARL VROOMAN, assistant secretary of agriculture, is reported to have said, "I have no hesitancy in branding the man who speculates in food as a traitor to his country, and I have no hesitancy in charging that such traitors are at work in the land. Prices of food are not normal. They have been artificially boosted. There is a lobby at Washington trying to prevent us from getting control of food supplies. These lobbyists are nothing less than traitors. They want control themselves in order that they may rob the public for their own gain."

If you are sincere, good luck to you in putting the food speculators out of business, or even part way out of business. We are quite sure that you have no intention of putting them entirely out of business, but if you even curb them somewhat, we shall give you due credit. And you will find 'em Socialists decidedly and aggressively active in helping to put them out of business.

But, I wish to inquire, why all this lateness of the hour in waking up to the fact that food speculators are traitors?

The food speculators have been up to the same tricks for years. They have been at it in times of peace, as well as in time of war. It is just as traitorous to rob the people in time of peace as in time of war.

THE WHOLE idea that greater civic duty is owed to the nation in time of war than in time of peace is false.

Worse than that—it is rotten.

It is particularly rotten when the war is a wicked one.

What a ridiculous conception of patriotism it is that expects unselfish service in war, while permitting the most unbridled selfishness to run riot in peace!

If, for some years before the war came, there had been justice in the United States, we would not have been in the slightest danger of getting into war with any nation.

Moreover, if there had been even handed justice in the United States, and if, in spite of that fact, the country had by any chance become involved in war, the people would have been so enthusiastic in support of their country that they would have risen en masse and joined the army—and no conscription whatsoever would have been necessary.

Yes, we must have a new deal in civic duty. We must have a social conscience which will not permit a little bunch of capitalist owners of the industries to rob the rest of the people in time of peace.

The way to bring about this result is by the collective ownership and control of the exploiting industries.

DEVOTED woman comrade writes, "I carefully save all my American Socialists, mark all worthy plain pieces in a conspicuous manner, and mail to various ones who I feel will read and may see the light."

This is a good idea. It is an example worth following. She adds that when she meets those to whom she has sent the papers, they often express, as their own opinions, the views which she had marked and sent to them. Thus she discovers that her aim was true, for she hit the bull's-eye.

IT IS our duty to educate the people so that they will know the cause and cure of war. At bottom, the whole trouble lies in the ignorance of the people. As J. A. Wayland said, "To remain ignorant is to remain a slave."

No one but the Socialists will tell the people the truth. No one else knows the truth.

It rests with us to see that all the people become regular readers of Socialist literature. When they become sufficiently intelligent, they will use their ballots to abolish capitalism, the cause of war, and establish Socialism.

Then, war will be no more.

The people are being crammed with lies every day by the capitalist papers. It is the duty of every Socialist to see to it that they get a chance to subscribe for a Socialist paper. Take this home to yourself. Get subscribers for the American Socialist.

SINCE war was declared, the American Peace Society has gone over to the jingoists. Its official organ, the Advocate of Peace, published in Washington, D. C., is now supporting the war.

Thousands of the pure and simple pacifists, however, are not supporting the war. And it still remains true, in spite of the lies of the capitalist press, that the great majority of the American people, are opposed to the war.

Do you not see your brilliant opportunity?

All of these people are left stranded high and dry, without any paper that tells them the truth. They will jump at the chance to subscribe for the American Socialist. Under the circumstances, it is like offering a slice of bread and butter to a starving man.

Try it. Ask them to subscribe for the American Socialist.

WE SOCIALISTS are as much entitled to exemption from conscription as the quakers.

Yes, more so. More so, because the quakers, like the pure and simple pacifists, uphold the cause of war altho conscientiously opposed to war itself.

We Socialists, on the other hand, are not only conscientiously opposed to this war, but we have for years been aggressively engaged in an effort to abolish the cause of war. Instead of being contradictory, like the attitude of the quakers, our attitude is thoroughly logical.

HAVING fulfilled my contract with the house for which I have been working for the past three and a half years, I am to spend the immediate future as an editorial writer on the Milwaukee Leader.

I have been writing for the Socialist press for fifteen years. I take pleasure in saying that up to the present time I have not received a single penny for any of the multitudes of articles which I have written. Soon I shall no longer be able to make that statement, because I shall be giving my full time to the work, whereas heretofore it has been a side line. Therefore, it is necessary for me to brag about it now or never. My writing will continue to be a labor of love, however, for I shall, as always, write primarily for love of the cause.

I shall continue to write my X Rays for The American Socialist as often as possible.

Meyer London Fights Spy Bill in Congress

"The power which the espionage bill confers upon the postmaster general to exclude from the mails things that he considers treasonable or anarchistic is an attack upon the liberties of the little fellow, of the defenseless man," declared Representative Meyer London in a vigorous assault on the "use-of-the-mails" section of the spy bill in congress.

"Title XI" imposes a fine of \$5,000 and a jail sentence of five years, or both, for its violation. It is as follows: "Every letter, writing, circular, postal card, picture, print, engraving, photograph, newspaper, pamphlet, book, or other publication, matter, or thing of any kind in violation of any of the provisions of this act, or of a treasonable or anarchistic character, is hereby declared to be nonmailable matter and shall not be conveyed in the mails or delivered from any post office or by any letter carrier."

London Criticizes Power. Representative London's speech criticized the censorship powers given the postmaster general and the dangerous possibilities of the complete exercise of those powers. He said: "There is nothing more oppressive in the world than a democracy gone mad than a democracy which has surrendered its rights to an individual."

It is Title XI which permits any postmaster to exclude from the mails anything that he may consider treasonable or anarchistic. I was never so amused in my life as when I listened a few days ago to a discussion on this floor of what Socialism and anarchy and nihilism mean. I did not participate in that discussion, as I did not want to lend it dignity.

Socialism Industrial Democracy. I am not going to enter upon a discussion of Socialism and anarchism. Nihilism does not exist today. So far as Socialism is concerned, it is the science of industrial democracy. The Socialist seeks to apply to industry the principles which are supposed to govern the political relations of the individual to the state in a political democracy.

Anarchism in its philosophic sense means the perfection of the individual to an extent which would make government unnecessary. It has absolutely nothing to do with terrorism. Terrorism is a question of methods, and not a question of philosophy. It may be a reactionary, a conservative, and still be a terrorist. The night riders who fought the Tobacco Trust with terrorism were not anarchists.

Attack On Liberties. Title XI permits the postmaster general to exclude things that he will consider treasonable, that he will consider anarchistic. It is an attack on the liberties of the little fellow, of the helpless man, of the defenseless man, and not on the powerful newspapers. The big newspapers will find plenty of champions here. They own the country. If you want to know what the president is thinking, read the great New York newspapers, and they will tell you in advance what you will do tomorrow. That has been our experience. So the big papers will take care of themselves and have plenty of supporters and friends here.

I want to lift my voice on behalf of free speech and the free word, both written and spoken. If there are any treasonable thoughts in the minds of the American people, I want them expressed; if there is any discontent with the war, I want to hear it. Is it treasonable to demand a revocation of the war resolution? Is it or is it not treasonable to oppose the sending of an army abroad? Is it or is it not treasonable to complain that there is a shortage of food and incompetence in high places in dealing with the food problem? All such complaints are encouraging to the enemy. Shall we suppress them, or shall we find compensation in the opportunity to have wrongs righted by the curbing power of free discussion?

Quotes J. S. Mill. I hear some people here attack certain utterances as treasonable. They were nothing more than a protest against war. I did not intend to make a speech on this section, because so many people spoke in favor of striking out this section. I am not going to enter upon a discussion of liberty. So many beautiful phrases have been uttered about that. It is evident that in every community where democratic principles rule there must be some restriction of the absolute rights of the individual. John Stuart Mill said in his book on "Liberty" that the great problem of civilization seems to be how to reconcile the largest measure of individual liberty with the highest welfare of the community. That seems to be the whole problem. That is the problem, stated in the fewest possible words.

"Let us not surrender our individual rights at a time when we need to enlist, when we must enlist, the co-operation of every man and every woman. Let men speak freely. Do not drive them into the cellar of conspiracy. Do not turn people into hypocrites and cowards. Let us not, while we talk of fighting for liberty abroad, sacrifice and crush our liberties here.

"That is why I am glad to see such a sentiment in favor of striking out section 4, and I hope also to see title XI eliminated from this bill. I will not surrender any of the liberties of the humblest citizen of the United States."

"Economy means making every dollar go further—not the curtailment of buying," says the owner of the big store. "Every dollar that you spend works for the other fellow, every dollar that you save works for you," says the banker.

Between these two parasites, who's a liar? Not that it matters much to the workers, the average wage paid in this country even now will not keep body and soul together.

Organization Column.

NOTE.—We want the best brains in the Socialist movement to contribute ideas to this "Organization Column." We feel that the best organization ideas come from those who really do the work of organization, the rank and file of the membership who are always on the job. Let us hear from you. Send all communication to the Organization Column Editor, The American Socialist, 838 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

Organization Work Gets Results in Omaha, Nebr.

By RAYMOND LAWLOR.

"I" SAID Mr. Perlmutter, "a hen would lay, once in a while, a gold water and chain, there would be more money in my jewelry business."

If—the Socialists were organized we could now take advantage of the magnificent opportunity for propaganda which the world-war offers.

Fate has knocked many times at the Socialist door, but her knock now is more emphatic than usual.

Must this opportunity too, be allowed to pass, simply because we cannot be practical?

Being practical means working with the means we have, not wasting our time moaning because the means at hand are not good enough to work with.

To be practical we must pick out the course which has the smallest "ifs."

If our local could afford a trained organizer we could get somewhere—the mean most frequently heard—and in the meantime our opportunity may be slipping—and if this chance slips the day when we can have trained organizers is far off indeed.

Trained organizers we have in plenty, but no spare bread to give them.

We are broke because we haven't organizers and we haven't trained organizers because we're broke.

Can the vicious circle be broken? Yes. How? Easy.

Omaha local is trying to break it—like this. A city of 200,000 with a local that, for the past 20 years ranged in numbers from 200 downward to 30—mostly downward. Money had been spent, not wisely—but too well.

In Nebraska voters must express their political preferences at the primaries. This is recorded officially.

The Omaha list, when purchased, showed about 1,000 registered Socialists, about 80 of whom were party members, in more or less good standing.

The names and addresses of one ward were sent to the national office after striking off the names of party members.

The national office wrote each "Prospect" three personal letters. The letters were in a series, forming a connected argument for party affiliation.

Better still, the letters had the unusual merit of being couched in language that working people could "savvy."

When the third letter was mailed we were notified and furnished a set of cards on which to report results. A couple of days later five were selected to follow up the letters. They followed them up—not with their good wishes, but with their legs.

The result of one morning's jaunt was as follows: Parties called on.....54 Applications received.....16 American Socialist Subs secured.....13 Future appointments made with.....12 Unable to interview.....11 Time spent 2 hours by each committee-man.

The list was fairly representative. The same proportion should approximately hold good on a larger one.

Here are a few don'ts for those who really want to do something, before it is too late to say anything. Don't take up with the National office unless you mean business. Stamps cost money. To waste stamps is STEALING the party's money.

Don't pick your most brilliant speaker or writer for chairman of your hustling committee, unless he is also your hardest and most persistent WORKER.

Don't get any corpses on your calling card. One dead one can, and will, kill half a dozen live ones. The volunteer system is best.

Don't send in a larger list than you can follow up promptly. You must get 'em while they're hot.

Don't be eloquent. The place for eloquence, if anywhere, is on the rostrum.

Don't parade your scholarship when you call. To do so is apt to kill the bird and the letters which your prospect has read.

Don't be a SLACKER! What's the use having a National Secretary if you don't make him work?

Don't forget to keep tab on your work so that the results will be permanent.

In various state elections only 60 to 70 per cent of the total vote is polled.

Crime costs the United States \$100,000 an hour. The yearly cost of crime in America is estimated at \$1,373,000,000.

1,500,000 persons die in the United States every year of preventable diseases.

3,000,000 persons are suffering from preventable illness.

95 per cent of all illness can be prevented.

Economic loss each year in the United States due to sickness ranges from 1 to 3 billion dollars.

500,000 persons in the United States are suffering from tuberculosis. One-seventh of all deaths are due to it.

The economic loss in the United States in 1909 from tuberculosis is estimated at almost 50 per cent above the value of the wheat crop of the country.

52 per cent of the 200,000 deaths of infants in the United States are preventable.

500,000 persons are killed or crippled by their work in the United States.

Poor people in an effort to do without a doctor use patent medicine.

A Mother's Appeal

Twenty-five years ago, when we were married, there was a popular idea that women were foolish to spend their lives rearing children. That it was folly to sacrifice social life, health, strength, and opportunities for literary culture to become mothers.

Preferring the old-time ideals and religion in regard to home struggle to give them a chance in the world, our four sons were born. Then came the struggle to give them a chance in the world. We have hesitated at no sacrifice, no labor that would help them climb to places of honor and qualification. The two oldest have just finished their college courses and are ready to help in the struggle to give the younger a chance. These sons of mine represent the concentrated effort of a life time, not an eight hour a day lifetime, but night and day, morning, noon, and eventide.

Our government comes along and says your claim is nothing, these boys are ours. We demand them as living sacrifices to be offered to the God of Gold. They must pass thru a fire in comparison to which the fire worshippers of old are as nothing. Their eyes, their arms, their bodies are ours to maintain and destroy. Why should you cry out? What does a mother's love count in a world war? Why should you plead that your sons' hands be free from blood guiltiness? What matter if you know it to be a crime to murder whether on field of battle or in the dark watches of the night? If only the mother's of the whole world would arise and claim their own and defy any power that denies that right. Mothers of Germany! Mothers of England! Mothers of France! Mothers of America! Mothers on the Isles of the Sea! These men in the trenches are yours! These men behind the guns are yours! These men bleeding and torn, burned and martyred are yours! These men with the fire of hell in their souls are yours! These men dragged by imperialism to four fields of blood with human blood are yours! Did you teach them this at your knee! Did you teach them that life was vain, and only to be used for slaughter and crime! Oh! Mothers! Arise! Demand your own!

The one love that is unchangeable, supreme and almost divine in the world is that of a mother. Is that dead with grief and multiplied sorrow?

Plead and work for peace as you have never worked.—A Heart-broken Mother.

BOOK REVIEWS

"Watchfires"—Peace Play with a Punch. Four act drama by Tracy Mygatt is worthy contribution to pacifist literature.

By WILLIAM F. KRUSE. We are indebted to Miss Mygatt for a decidedly readable, and what is even more rare, a decidedly playable four act play. It is a contribution to the pacifist literature of the day that stands in a class by itself. No one can doubt that the play is a most effective means of reaching and teaching the public mind, and this play, if widely distributed and produced will surely play its part to this end.

The called a four act play it really amounts to three good one-acts and an epilogue that draws the threads of the other stories together to a climax. The scenes of the second and third are laid in Germany and England respectively, while the first act and the last are in New York City. The purpose of the play is to show the deep undercurrent of peace agitation in all countries and there is plenty of good dramatic action and keen dialogue to bring out the author's thought.

The play is well printed and contains an introduction by David Starr Jordan. It can be purchased from the author at No. 2, Jane Street, New York City, at 35c per copy. All rights are reserved and permission to produce the play should be applied for to the author.

\$100,000,000 is spent each year in the United States on patent medicines, most of them are entirely without medicinal value and some are decidedly harmful.

Numbers of children have died from sleep-inducing nostrums and serious heart disorders are traced to headache and neuralgia cures.

Butter is colored with aniline dyes and adulterated with marrow, fat and water.

Hotel vs. Prison

By GEORGE R. KIRKPATRICK. Everywhere at my recent meetings I have been told secret service agents, plain clothes men and all that crew, were in my audiences—to do the bidding of the American Kaisers of industry. I have delivered my message unmodified because of their threatening presence.

Lately matters have "come to a head." At York, Pa., last week, the Mayor of the town announced and ordered that no meeting whatsoever should be held at the place advertised for my lecture. He finally agreed that I might address Socialists only at the place advertised, which I did.

Thursday evening, the next night following, after my lecture was finished and most of the people had left the theatre—at Ephrata, Pa.—two men came to me, one wearing an army overcoat, the other looking the part of budgeon-wielder if necessary. These two came to me and announced they wished to talk to me. The conversation opened at once. They announced that they represented the federal government and had been sent to bring me to prison at Lancaster for appropriate treatment by the authorities.

They showed me a pair of handcuffs intended for my use in case I became unruly. Just why they did this I do not know—unless it was for purposes of intimidation.

Why they did not take me along with them I do not know. They seemed to have been sent to advise, argue, threaten, suggest, and intimidate—and warn me.

It was all very interesting to me, and I at once began to urge them to be specific as to the part of my speech they disapproved of. I made no promises whatever and told them I could not so easily surrender a right so precious. Reminding them that they had listened carefully to the entire lecture they should surely be able to name at least one part of the speech they disapproved of—if they objected to the speech at all. They thought it would "interfere with enlistment."

"Why," said I, "repeatedly in the address I told the young men present to go out and enlist tomorrow, if they wished to—that I wouldn't scold them or make fun of them." To which the spokesman for Government replied, "Yes, but you told them to enlist with their eyes open." "Surely you could not object to that," said I.

They still more parleying, in which I continued to urge that they name specifically a part of the speech they would particularly condemn. After much talk they finally pointed out, "For illustration that part in which I interpreted the extraordinary efforts of the capitalist to make use of a war with Germany just now to build up a mighty army in preparation for the unemployed and the strikers in the panic likely to follow the war immediately after the war."

1.—The war is likely to close within a year, isn't it?

2.—We can not send many men for almost a year, can we?

3.—Well then, why this universal yell in the capitalist papers for an army to be drilled at once—an army numbering from three to five million men?

With much criticism and warning they went their way, leaving me to sleep in a nice clean bed at a good hotel instead of the prison at Lancaster.

It was also found by the same Bureau that in Manhattan 44 per cent of all scales, 50 per cent of all measures, 66 per cent of all weights defrauded the purchaser.

A firm of scale manufacturers in New York City with an output of 100,000 scales a year made false scales and advertised to merchants that the scales would soon pay for themselves.

95 per cent of the butchers in North Dakota were found using preservatives containing injurious sulphites or borates.

The Bureau of Municipal Research in New York City estimates that the people of that city are robbed of at least 13 million dollars each year by short weights.

Out of 37 stores in Poughkeepsie, N. Y., only 4 had correct apparatus.

AMERICAN SOCIALIST

Official Organ of the Socialist Party of the United States.

J. L. ENGDALF, Editor. Entered as second-class matter, July 21, 1913, at the post-office at Chicago, Ill., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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SATURDAY, MAY 26, 1917.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPT.

Organization—Education—Solidarity.

WILLIAM F. KRUSE, Director

To reach the nation's youth with the message of Socialism and to bring them into the organized Socialist movement through Young People's Socialist Leagues.

Address all communications to: Socialist Party Young People's Dept., 803 W. Madison St., Chicago.

National Champs Contest

Winners, April, 1917.

Organizers Division.

First Prize: (10 points) Edward Jurey, Trenton, N. J.

Second Prize: (4 points each) Joseph Dilleuth, Brooklyn, N. Y.

L. P. Schuhardt, Terre Haute, Ind.

Max E. Konecky, Omaha, Nebr.

J. Sonnenschein, West Side, Chicago, Ill.

Fred Shogren, Newark, N. J.

Abie Waks.

Educational Division.

First Prize: (10 points) Silk H. Polayes, New Haven, Conn.

Second Prize: (4 points each) George Waller, Central West, Chicago, Ill.

Darwin B. Sherman, Rochester, N. Y.

Third Prize: (4 points each) Louis Josephson, Trenton, N. J.

Samuel Blauner, Northwest, Chicago, Ill.

V. T. Bailing, Richmond, Ind.

H. J. Amos, Watertown, N. Y.

Entertainment Division.

First Prize: (10 points) Tom Matthews, Omaha, Nebr.

Second Prize: (4 points each) Mary Wally, Terre Haute, Ind.

Lucille Benjamin, Denver, Colo.

Third Prize: (4 points each) Florence Erickson, Jamestown, N. Y.

Rhoda Kerstein, Buffalo, N. Y.

OFFICIAL NOTICE.

All leagues are hereby notified that Philip Kessler, 2616 West St., McKeesport, Pa., has been elected State Secretary to fill out the unexpired term of Theodore Schwartz, resigned.

The Board of the National Conference of the State Executive Board in Philadelphia, May 27th, to discuss ways and means for the improvement of general league work.

GENERAL NOTICE.

Circle Three League, Ind., has done more within the past month to bring itself into the limelight than in all the past years of existence. You must know that this fighting league has organized and reorganized several times, but it is on the map for keeps now.

They presented Local Terre Haute, S. P., with a fine silk red flag. Then, when the Party decided to quit paying rent and get a home of its own the Yipsels put their shoulder to the wheel to help along the cause.

Party was short of money and the lighting of the new home was very poor, so the league raised enough money to buy a complete set of lights and several of the Yipsel electricians installed the system during their spare time. Finally a membership contest was held between the "Red" and the "White" teams. Needless to say the "Reds" won and the "Whites" showed themselves good losers. Their banquet on the close of the contest was so interesting that it broke into several papers in town.

Richmond, Ind., is going in for athletic honors and is breaking in a good baseball team.

CONNECTICUT.

Ansonia, Conn., had to postpone the debate with New Haven on account of school examinations. But a lot of good resulted from the visit of the Big Town members.

New Britain, Conn., makes it a point to visit a neighboring League at least every third month. They have raised \$30 for a library.

NEW YORK.

Rochester has its usual good program of activity. Three lectures by prominent college teachers the first league hike, and a presentation of the play "Our Incomes" were the program for May.

Circle No. 1 Queens County has a very high record of Yipsels who have joined the Party thru the aid and encouragement of the Y. P. S. L. They are proud of this record and well deserve to be other leagues will do well to go in for the same sort of repute.

Buffalo No. 1, is also going good these days. Keenly interested in the National Champs Contest to improve its standing. Wat

The overwhelming majority of the American people stand for immediate peace. They are opposed to raising a single dollar or sending a single man to gain new colonies for the British Monarchy.

British Empire Boldly Proclaims Its Determination To Push Forward A War Of Conquest And Annexation

By JOHN C. KENNEDY.

NO AMERICAN citizen need be in the dark for a single moment regarding the aims of the British Government in this war. On May 16th, Philip Snowden, one of the Socialist members of the British Parliament, presented a resolution approving of the statement issued by the Soldiers and Workingmen's Committee of Russia, who really control the Russian Government, in which they declare that they are ready to end the war without annexation, indemnities or conquest.

If Snowden's resolution had been approved by the British Government, the proposition could then be put squarely before the German Government and the German people as to whether they were ready to end the war without annexations or indemnities on either side.

WANT MORE LAND.

IN COMMENTING on Snowden's proposition, Lord Robert Cecil speaking for the British Government stated regarding the German colonies:

"While it is true that we did not take them in order to rescue the natives from German rule, but as a part of the war operation, having rescued them, are we going to hand them back? Then there are Poland, Alsace-Lorraine and Italia Irredenta. Could Great Britain commit herself to a policy of non-annexation in these cases?"

Former Prime Minister Asquith made a speech along the same lines and both made it plain that the British Government intended to hold all the land it could get and in addition demand a huge war indemnity from Germany.

ARE WE FIGHTING FOR THE BRITISH EMPIRE?

IT IS plain that the British Government is determined to make this a war of conquest and annexation. It is equally plain that the Kaiser and the Prussian Junkers would like to do the same thing. The American people have absolutely no sympathy with either of these groups of imperialists, landgrabbers and exploiters. There is no reason why we should join in this war on either side. There is no reason why we should send a single man or a single dollar to the European battlefields. The one thing we should demand is that the war should be ended at once without conquest, without annexation, without indemnity. Greater freedom for the people and less power for the capitalists, kings and aristocracy are the only matters in which we have any interest.

The workmen and soldiers who now control the Russian Government have stated the program and raised the standard for the progressive people of every country on earth. The spokesmen for the masses in Germany, such as Ledebour, Haase, Mehring and Liebknecht, the spokesmen for the workers of Great Britain such as Philip Snowden, and likewise of the other European countries join hands with the Russians in demanding that the war be ended without delay.

AMERICAN PEOPLE STAND FOR PEACE.

THERE CAN be no question that the overwhelming majority of the American people stand for immediate peace. They are willing to support the program put forward by the Russian workers. We are not ready to raise a single dollar or send a single man to gain new colonies for the British Monarchy.

In view of the statements made recently by the Representatives of both the British and German Governments, it is absolutely clear that the war is implied and solely a mercenary affair conducted by reactionary, heartless and unscrupulous imperialists. There is only one attitude that any worker or clear thinking citizen can take towards the war, and that is that our only aim should be to end the work of slaughter and destruction as soon as possible. We demand peace and all the powers of capitalism and autocracy cannot silence our demand at this time. We will be heard, and we are determined to take such action as is necessary to make the power of the people felt.

JOIN THE SOCIALIST ARMY.

IF YOU stand for peace, if you want to end the horrible massacre that is now going on in Europe, join the great army of International Socialism. Join the Socialist Party at once. It is the one powerful organization that is absolutely opposed to this war and stands firmly for political, social and industrial democracy.

If you do not know where the Socialist Party organization meets in your town or city, communicate at once with Adolph Germer, National Secretary, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago.

Your help is needed now to help end the war. If you agree with our principles and program, enlist at once in the great organization that stands first, last and all the time for peace, progress and liberty for all.

The Gold Coast Menu

Our Vanderbilts, Astors, Goulds, Rockefellers, Morgans, Fields, Armours, and other dwellers along the Gold Coasts of our principal cities, in setting an example for the poor, are already talking of three course breakfasts and of meatless and wheatless days. England's aristocracy has been doing some of this talking ever since the war started. On a recent meatless day the menu at one of the exclusive hotels of the rich was as follows:

- Soup with Watercress
- Boiled Salmon, Parsley Sauce
- Prepared Lobster
- Neapolitan Ravioli
- Eggs Mornay Fashion—Artichokes—Mashed Potatoes
- Caramel Cream
- Macaroni with Cheese grilled on the top.

All of which was topped off with an anthem by the wealthy diners entitled, "Preserve our empty stomachs, Oh, King."

Regardless of meatless and wheatless days, never fear, the stomachs of the rich exploiters, in all lands, during the war, will be well preserved. Not so, the stomachs of the meek and lowly ones. But the time will soon come when this cannon fodder, now too busy fighting, baying, dying and starving for the war, will put in a claim for a square meal three times a day. Then watch the structure of our capitalist system of society begin to crack and crumble.

Less Persecution More Prosecution

Let us have less persecution and more prosecution. Prosecute the gamblers in food. Prosecute the munitions profiteers. Prosecute the big war tax dodgers. Prosecute the lying jingo editors. Prosecute exploiters who break labor laws. Prosecute all who break laws. But do not persecute: Believers in free speech. Believers in free assembly. Believers in a free press. Believers in world-wide peace. Believers in a new civilization.

They have broken no law. They are struggling for humanity and they invoke the law against the "Might makes right" laws which a dying social order seeks to invoke to perpetuate itself a short while longer.

The U. S. attorney general's office at Washington has the names of all the gamblers in food but there is no prosecution. The persecution of all who believe in humanity daily grows more severe. This is no war for democracy. It is a war for:

Less Prosecution More Persecution

Russia has free speech; why not America?

Russia has free assembly; why not America?

Russia has a free press; why not America?

Why not Russianize the United States?

Root, Russell and the Russian Revolution! Why say more?

Southern democratic senators are trying to put the child labor law out of business as a war measure. More democracy!

Socialists recently secured a majority in the cabinet of Finland. We have just secured a majority in Russia's coalition cabinet. Next!

State Secretary Solomon of New York announces that William English Walling has not been a member of the Socialist Party since 1914. All capitalist newspaper editors please take careful notice.

"An elective federal empire" is offered in place of a "German republic" say the rumors of Kaiserland. Well, the first thing to do would be to elect the empire out of existence.

If Roosevelt is sent to France will his exploits be deleted by the censor for strategic reasons? If so, what a crimp it would put in Roosevelt's political strategy. But he can write another volume for his autobiography as a last resort.

Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo, in trying to sell his war bonds, has joined the ranks of those who want the workers to cut out all waste. We refer McAdoo to the garbage collectors who complain that their jobs are in danger because people even eat garbage nowadays. McAdoo must think we live on the stuff that the potbellies of his banker-friends are made of.

Eight votes were mustered against the army draft bill in the Senate. They were cast by Gore, Oklahoma; Harwick, Georgia; Kirby, Kansas; Stone, Missouri; Trammell, Florida; LaFollette, Wisconsin; Gronna, North Dakota, and Norris, Nebraska. These names will be remembered when the memories of all the other senators have been blotted out by oceans of blood shed by our youth upon European battlefields and the tears of mothers sorrowing at home.

Plutes Fear Stickers

The Chicago Daily News gives front page mention to the efforts of the authorities to stamp out a sticker campaign that has sprung up in a certain section of the city. Ascribing the work to anarchists the paper goes on to quote the stickers:

"One which was especially obnoxious to the authorities read as follows:

"Let the preachers who pray for war,
The editors who write for war,
And the capitalists who make profits on war,
GO TO WAR!
But workmen, your place is in the workshop."

Another of the labels read:

"THOU SHALT NOT KILL. Don't commit murder and hide your bloody hands under any flag."

A third bears the heading "WAKE UP, AMERICA" and goes on:

- "Selective conscription.
- "Compulsory service.
- "Militarism in the schools.
- "Obey the law and keep your mouth shut.
- "Prussianism overdone.
- "Free Speech overdone.
- "Ditto free assemblage.
- "And a free press.
- "Falls for radicals.
- "Machine guns in police stations.
- "Imported Chinese labor.
- "Good-bye eight hour laws.
- "Farewell, steaks and potatoes.
- "Enter rats, rice, and riots."

The article goes on to state that five members of an anarchistic West Side colony have been taken into custody, but the officers would not state whether the evidence was strong enough to warrant prosecution. The story is trimmed with the usual embellishments of underground printing presses, free-love colonies, and other trimmings used by the master class to cover over an inroad upon the liberties of the people.

An Appeal To Good Faith

Charles Edward Russell has been asked to decline the appointment on the commission chosen by President Wilson to go to Russia, which is headed by the reactionary, Elihu Root.

The request is made on behalf of the Socialist Party by the Emergency Committee of the National Executive Committee consisting of Victor L. Berger, Adolph Germer and John M. Work.

The letter sent to Russell asking him to decline the appointment was as follows:

It is reported in the press that you have been appointed as a member of the American Commission to Russia. If this report is true, we request you to decline the appointment.

As you know, you are one of the very slight minority of the members of the Socialist Party who are in favor of the war in which our country is now engaged. The party as a whole is overwhelmingly opposed to it.

Any Socialist serving on the commission to Russia should be the one who really represents the Socialists of the United States, and should accept the appointment only on condition that he shall be completely at liberty to really represent them. You are, of course, aware that you do not represent them, and that you cannot represent them so long as you hold your present views regarding the war. It is evident that your appointment was made for the purpose of avoiding any real representation of the Socialists of the United States on the commission, while at the same time making a pretense of having them represented. Your name is also used for the purpose of covering up the appointment of Elihu Root who is sent to Russia to represent the interests of the worst and most dangerous elements of American plutocracy. This was a cunning and unfair action, and we trust that you are too honorable to stand for it.

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

The Emergency Committee also issued a statement regarding the cablegrams sent by William English Walling, J. G. Phelps Stokes and others to Russian Socialists. It was as follows:

Regarding the cablegrams sent to the Russian Socialists by Walling, Stokes, Russell, and others, these men speak for themselves only. Altho the papers call them Socialist leaders, the fact is that they lead nobody but themselves. The Socialist Party does not consider that it is its duty to give advice to the Russian Socialists as to what they shall or shall not do under circumstances with which they are necessarily much better acquainted than anyone in this country can be. As the newspapers reported that these men styled themselves the "National Executive Committee of the Socialists", we desire to make known the fact that none of them are members of the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party. The National Executive Committee consists of Victor L. Berger, Morris Hillquit, Anna A. Maley, John Spargo, and John M. Work.

In no other country at war are the Socialists so nearly unanimous in their opposition to the slaughter as they are here in the United States. An intelligent understanding of the situation should make this opposition even more nearly unanimous.



Her Boy.

A War For Democracy?

By IRWIN TUCKER.

PRESIDENT WILSON in addressing a branch of the American Red Cross, warned the country that it had as yet no conception of the terrible sacrifices in men and money it was to be called upon to make. The country is faced with the demand that it make these sacrifices blindly, not knowing the terms on which it is asked to make them. No one has yet discovered what the understanding reached between President Wilson on one hand and the French and British envoys on the other, as to terms of peace, included.

Must we die blindly, as rats in the dark, not knowing why? Is this the President's conception of democracy?

There are ugly facts abroad. Ugly suspicions exist as to the intents of the allies. Russia has renounced all hopes for territorial aggrandizement. So have we. The Socialist majority in Germany specifically renounces indemnities and territorial extension as objects of the war.

So far the Allies have refused to meet this challenge. What has been said by them has strongly indicated their intention to demand territorial gains at the end of the war, and punitive indemnities, over and above the reparation of damages inflicted by hostile armies. Belgium alone has signified that it will be content with restoration of sovereignty and reparation for actual damage. France and Great Britain, in their note of January 10, issued from Paris, asserted that their objects would not be made known in detail until the hour of negotiations.

Rene Viviani, in his speech in New York, demanded the restoration of Alsace and Lorraine to France, voicing the ancient cry of "Revenge!"

It is vitally important that those who are to die should know what is the cause for which blood is to be shed. Is it to be for liberty and democracy throughout the world? Or is it to be on behalf of one set of stock speculators and against another set?

Is it true that Great Britain is bent on making a business opportunity out of this greatest of all human catastrophes?

The following paragraph from the Chicago Tribune, of May 8, occurs in the daily special dispatch from Washington sent by Arthur Sears Henning, one of the best posted journalists in the national capital. It also developed during the day that the British War Commission brought to this country the models of various implements of trench warfare, the rights to manufacture which it desired that the United States should purchase from English manufacturers. The royalties on these trench bombs, mortars and other arms, if adopted by the American government, would have netted millions of dollars to British manufacturers.

When the French commission arrived it was learned that the British models were not in use on the French front because they are out of date. The French offered to supply the models of their trench warfare implements free of cost to the United States. Arthur J. Balfour announced on his arrival in Washington that Great Britain would seek no treaty with the United States; that she "felt confident we could be relied upon to do our part without being bound to a treaty."

There are two sides to this contention. If we are not bound by a treaty, then neither is Great Britain bound to us.

Arthur Sears Henning, special writer for the Tribune, stated on May 7 that while France is bleeding to death for lack of men, and while the British envoys in this country are joining with the French in urging this country to send our men thru the submarine zone to the battle line, Great Britain herself is holding in England three million out of her army of five million. His words are as follows:

"That the British fear the worst is evidenced by the fact that of the 5,000,000 fighting men England has assembled and trained, 3,000,000 are being held at home to repel a possible German invasion, while only

2,000,000 are on the firing line in France. Despite the desperate need of more men on the western front voiced by France, Great Britain has refused to send another 1,000,000 on the ground that the destruction of shipping by submarines might make it impossible to return troops to England in the event of an invasion."

"Now the United States is commanded to awaken from a three year lethargy and save the allies from disaster!"

Why has the 21 mile wide English Channel suddenly become so utterly impassable a barrier in the event of invasion? England, the champion of liberty, is letting France bleed to death rather than take a chance. We who are compelled to send our men three thousand miles across the ocean, must send our half million men at once, lest England be compelled to risk her security to save France!

The U. S. District attorney at Chicago ordered that permission be refused to exhibit "The Spirit of '76", a moving picture drama of the American revolution, on the ground that it showed Great Britain as an enemy of democracy, and therefore might be displeasing to our allies.

"George III. was King of England at the time of the revolution, and George V. is King now. Some people might become confused and fancy that we were fighting the present King. The scenes there might be interpreted as against England, and therefore should not be permitted."

"Some of the scenes were eliminated because of moral effect, and some because they were too horrible. Any pictures which might stir up or tend to arouse sectional feeling, or stir up the people of one part of the country or of one nationality against those of another should also be barred."

"Films or exhibits showing war horrors—wounded and dead men on the battlefields, or in the hospitals, the sinking of ships, etc., should also be eliminated. They are not conducive to recruiting in the army or the navy. It is not necessary to remind women of the dangers that their husbands, sons and brothers will have to face."

We are supposed to go to blind; all information as to what warfare is like is forbidden? We are not even to know what it is all about.

This is a war for democracy!

People Aroused

Never have the people of the United States been as much aroused as they are today over the pending enforcement of the conscription law.

The approach of registration day is rolling up its wave uncertainty, protest and fear.

In this crisis for the youth of our land, shared in by all the rest of us, it is interesting to note the statement of Henry Batter, organizer of the Detroit, Mich., branch of the American Union Against Militarism, who has just completed a tour of the state and finds sentiment overwhelmingly against conscription and registration for conscription. He says:

"Only about 50 per cent of the men eligible for military service in Michigan will register for conscription."

In his interview with men between the ages of 21 and 31 years, Batter found that many would rather go to jail than submit to registration.

Little does congress know of the real sentiment of the people in this and other states, declares Batter. They are entirely opposed to the draft measure passed by congress, and will not willingly submit to it. Attempts to enforce it may result in the duplication of the Civil War draft riots in the frank opinion of the anti-militarist organizer, who is in constant touch with the sentiment of the people of Michigan.

Congress and the President ought to give the people an opportunity to vote on the question of conscription. Let us have a national referendum on this matter. Give the people a chance to vote it down.

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