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# Control of State Through Political Action Must Be Secured By Forces of United Labor If Certain Victory Is to Be Achieved

By E. T. Kingsley

**T**HE SOLE motive of modern industry is the exploitation of enslaved human labor and the turning of the results of such exploitation to the benefit, aggrandizement and enrichment of the ruling class. Since the first slave was shackled and the institution of slavery became the cornerstone of civilization, everything that has been incorporated into the mechanism of that civilization, whether principle, theory or fact, has been so incorporated solely because it furthered, buttressed, bulwarked and made perfect the efficiency of the means of turning the proceeds of exploitation to the upbuilding and strengthening of the ruling class empire of pomp, magnificence and power. Ruling class industry, with its complicated and powerful machinery, represents the achievement of the ages in the production of ruling class requirements and all that is embodied in the superstructure of this vulgar and brutal civilization. The grand climax of that achievement has been indelibly written in letters of fire and blood during the last four years. And this grand climax has all but wrecked the ruling class and its civilization of horror and rapine. From the aftermath of the blood debauch of the last four years that civilization can never recover. Intellectual, moral and material bankruptcy of the ruling class of the world is manifest in every act of the ruffianly rulers and their tools, in every utterance of their statesmen and diplomats, and in every fact that figuratively stands forth upon the pages of their day books and ledgers. And the long ages of slavery and torture have at last conjured forth the

Nemesis, in the shape of an awakening proletariat, that will swiftly sweep this rotten ruling class civilization and its kindred crimes from the pathway of the human race and make it possible for men and women to live upon this earth without being ruled and robbed for the glory and vulgar aggrandizement of slave masters and drivers.

There has never yet been discovered but one means whereby slaves can be held in bondage and ruled, robbed and tortured by their owners and masters. That means is commonly termed government. The modern state is the instrument of the ruling class. It is the instrument designed, developed and brought to its present high state of efficiency, solely for the purpose of holding slaves in subjection to their masters and owners and rendering them docile and tame to the exactions and seizures of their rulers. Government is unthinkable except for such a purpose. And it has thus far proven itself amply efficient for that purpose. So long as it can bamboozle or cajole the slaves into docility and quiet under the lash of exploitation, it cheerfully does so, no doubt because that is the cheaper way, but whenever that method becomes no longer effective, the lash, the knout, the club, the gun, the bayonet, the jail and the gibbet are used with equal cheerfulness and aplomb, for, no matter what the cost in brutality and blood, the property rights in human flesh must be held intact to the owners and masters and the game of profitably ruling and robbing slaves must not be broken up. Never was such gigantic plunder gathered from the slaves of the earth year by year as is the case at the present time. The magnificence and wealth of the ancient empires of Babylon, Assyria, Egypt, Greece and Rome, pale into significance alongside of that of the vulgar capitalist empires of this enlightened age. All the vast power of the chattel slavery and feudalism of the past was unequal to the task of staging such a stupendous and magnificent exhibition of ruling class efficiency and splendor, as that pulled off to the music of capitalist class machinery during the last four years. And let none overlook the fact that governments alone called the

tune to which millions of slaves danced to their death in the glorious spectacle and millions more crippled and maimed themselves in the gallant attempt. Let it not be forgotten that the common people, the useful people of no land had anything to say, either one way or another, in regard to staging the delectable performance. Rulers, ruffians, governments, attended to all of that, and they are now busily but ludicrously endeavoring to save themselves from the ruins of their own show.

Happily we are democrats, here on this western continent. In fact we are now democrats all over the earth, since wicked autocracy has been so sweepingly defeated by the self-sanctified nations of the earth and the pure in heart. Well, in democracies we are told that the people rule themselves. That is what Lincoln termed "a government of the people; by the people and for the people." Granted that this be so, although it be a something absolutely unthinkable and Mr. Lincoln did not know what he was talking about, then it is up to the people of these alleged democracies to take steps to see that their

precious governments let up on the club, the gun, the bayonet, the bomb, the jail and the gibbet, and arrange for at least a more decent and tolerable state of affairs than that which has prevailed in the past and which is even now promising to become far worse. If the people really govern here in Canada and in other equally enlightened democracies, then it is time that the ruling and robbing of the producers by the masters of industry, trade and commerce was brought to an end. It is high time that the intelligent people (may God forgive us) took a hand in their own affairs to the end that poverty and misery in a land and age of plenty might be brought to an end.

(Continued on Page Three)

## THE WORKERS' TASK

The only solution of labor's big problem is a complete change in the mode of wealth production. Instead of the workers leaving their bread and butter in the hands of corporations, they must, by legislative—and therefore legal—enactment, restore the ownership to themselves. If the workers wait for the present owners to get off their backs, they will probably starve to death amid plenty—and it would serve them right. Better join a working class political party today.

It is time that governments were forced to spend less of their time in aiding and abetting the schemes of exploiters and commercial brigands to rather their profits at the expense of the producers of wealth, and more of it for the purpose of relieving the pressure upon the producers and breaking the stranglehold of rulers upon their lives and fortunes. And wherever the



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## Control of the State By Political Action

(Continued from Page One)

ous literature explaining it all is now afloat and it is increasing tremendously in volume. Meetings are being held almost everywhere and the attendance is rapidly increasing. The very atmosphere is even now surcharged with the electricity of revolutionary change. The decades immediately to come will mark the most stupendous changes in social and industrial institutions the world has ever seen. The day of freedom for the toilers of the earth is about to dawn.

For the workers, both rural and urban; for the progressive thinkers; for those who earnestly look forward to a better order, a more decent arrangement of the social and economic affairs of men; for all who have had enough of slavery, of competition, of brutality and war, the time has come for an alignment of forces for the conquest of the public powers for the common good and welfare of all. If all who really believe in democracy were to move in solid political phalanx against the common foe of all progress and human liberty, the edifice of ruling class power would crumble to ruins and that baneful and sinister instrument of class tyranny and rapine government would be shorn of its power for evil, and with its teeth pulled and its claws trimmed might be turned into a useful and beneficent administrative instrument wherewith to peacefully and decently carry out the requirements of a civilization not based upon slavery and slaughter. It is the mission of this publication to do all within its power to rouse the workers, the useful, the thoughtful, the progressive people of the land, to the necessity of united and emphatic action along political lines for the purpose of wresting from the brutal and conscienceless ruling class of this nation and of the world, control of that governmental instrument of oppression and repression whereby the wealth producers are held in the tortures of exploitation and robbery in times of peace, and driven ruthlessly into the shambles of ruling class blood-

lust and slaughter, in times when rulers and robbers fall out and quarrel over the division of the plunder. United political action by all workers and progressives generally, against the robber class and all other lands, is the first consideration, and where these have the franchise there it would be folly to advocate or advise resort to any other means. We still have the franchise in Canada and the United States. Let us use that franchise in our own behalf and that of our class. When we have been deprived of that franchise it will then be time to consider the advisability of using some other equally legal weapon wherewith to effect the deliverance of our class from its age long bondage. In such case even the club would be legal, as any legal gentleman will cheerfully admit, that is if he be paid for the admission. The tactics and methods forced upon the workers and peasants of Russia are not yet necessary here. Let us hope they never will be necessary, but let us also hope, and also solemnly affirm, that whenever it does become necessary to do as the Russian workers have done, that we will not be so lacking in manly courage as to lay down on the job. But the conquest of the public powers by and for the working-class, and that too by the use of whatever means may be determined by the ruling class itself, is the first task in hand. It is up to that class whether the change in coming shall come peacefully, or come in full panoply of war, with wild disavelled locks and shod in iron sandals."

### EDITORIAL NOTES

The United States is generally acknowledged by the self-touted apostles of hypocrisy to be the world's leading "democracy." Among the first 2,000,000 conscript slaves "selected" to carry the message of American "democracy" to the benighted heathen of central Europe, 200,000 were found who could neither read their orders or understand them when delivered. When they got letters from friends or relatives they were compelled to get some one else to read them and interpret their contents. Secretary of the Interior Lane, in his annual report comments upon this evidence of high-class illiteracy and remarks that the nation spends in a year twice as much for chewing gum as it does for school books, more for automobiles than for all primary and secondary education, and pays the average school teacher less than it pays the average day

laborer. And yet this appears to be about the best that can be done. The slaves of the better are they qualified to be used in "making the world safe for democracy?" The particular brand that is now so immensely popular among the ruling class circles. The advantage the "day laborer" has over the school teacher in the matter of remuneration is doubtless due to the greater merit of his services. The day laborer usually performs useful and essential service. The capitalist teacher teaches mostly punk.

A Stockholm special to the New York Evening Post says that "expenditure of Lenin government for 1918 is 46,000,000,000 roubles, and the revenue but 15,000,500,000 roubles. As estimates are optimistic, the real deficit is placed at 42,000,000,000 roubles." This deficit was covered by the printing of "credit notes." During the year "the Bolsheviks printed 20,000,000,000 roubles of these, which with amount already outstanding from January 1, 1918, makes 50,000,000,000 roubles in circulation." As any one may readily see there is evidently no shortage of money (capital) in Russia, and as that is the main consideration, according to all that has been taught by our capitalist masters, it is by no means easy to understand why all this talk of how Russia is suffering for the food and other numerous things that our dear capitalists are so eager to find a market for. And as far as we know the Bolshevik printing press is still in running order and in consequence there is no immediate prospect of money supply running short. Such being the case there is no honest reason why the Bolsheviks of Russia should refuse to pay the paltry billions of their borrowed money from the French and other so-called capitalists of the earth prior to the collapse of the Czar's reign. They might even loan the Germans enough to let them pay the money to the Bolsheviks. It is really amazing how easy it is to make money, and how rapidly wealth may be accumulated although everything that is produced is actually used up as rapidly as it is brought forth.

National bank resources of the United States are now close to \$20,000,000,000, thus surpassing all previous records. Deposits were over \$15,000,000,000 on Nov. 1 with federal reserve banks. As a dollar is equivalent to two roubles it may be readily seen that the United States is by no means behind Russia in wealth and capital. It is all the same kind, too. In both cases it is solely a product of the printing press. It is an order upon the future. It is really amazing how easy it is to make money, and how rapidly wealth may be accumulated although everything that is produced is actually used up as rapidly as it is brought forth.

The gross sales of F. W. Woolworth Co., proprietor of 1818 Ave. 10th and 11th streets, amounting to \$1,017,175,749 during 1918. The company was able to squeeze out 1 1/2 cents profit per dollar of sales, and "the miserably paid and intensely exploited slaves in its employ. As every one knows most

of these slaves are girls at that. The company's profit only amounted to about \$100,000 for the year. It will afford little relief to the girls, however, to know that their benevolent employer is forced to such a narrow margin of existence as implied by these figures. To tell the immortal truth about the matter though, the girls ought to be heartily ashamed to draw down their privacy wages in the face of such harrowing financial circumstances for their benevolent and philanthropic employer. But come to think of it, however, the poor slaves of this age would indeed be in a devil of a fix were it not for the eleemosynary institutions like Woolworth that a divine capitalism has established for their material sustenance and soulful uplift.

Out of 2,500 American soldiers suffering from shell shock in France over 2,000 were instantly cured by news of the signing of the armistice. This was related as a verifiable fact to the senate military commission by Surgeon General Ireland. The somewhat unsophisticated Surgeon General emphatically and enthusiastically remarked that it was the "greatest experience in psychosomatics known." Without any particularly intimate acquaintance with "psychotherapeutics" we feel strongly inclined to quite agree with the learned and profound Surgeon General. It undoubtedly was the "greatest" ever.

Boston Safe Deposit & Trust Co. has declared dividends amounting to \$4 per share for 1918. And yet there are millions of working plugs who stubbornly persist in dubbing along for wages as low as \$8 or \$10 per day, instead of saving their money and starting up an easy money game like the above mentioned. What fools these working animals are anyway. Can it be that the creator made them that way on purpose, so that they might never function as easy marks and gold bricks for the rogues and rascals of this mundane sphere? Looks like it any way.

Now that Roosevelt, the blatant ass of American politics is dead, every dirty sheet of capitalism and every reactionary hypocrite and fount of crocodile tears is busy fulminating his virtues and eulogizing his garbality and inordinate self conceit. It must have been an inspiring sight when the venerable Lodge, that relic of the stone age, burst into tears "when he attempted to eulogize the former president," upon the floor of the senate recently. We too are impelled to tears over the late lamented. Coming as it has so swiftly upon the complete muffing out and silencing of Kaiser Bill Rohensolm, the unhappy demise of the rascous Roosevelt has left the world entirely devoid of salt and savor. These two spectacular assen were all we had to break the prostration gloom of otherwise drab and dreary existence. Now that they are gone all is dark indeed. We shall sorely miss the rascous and frequently spontaneous rascals of the reign of terror. Wonder Lodge weep copiously over "Teddy" demise. And the floodgates of our weep are opened doubly wide over the loss of these two spectacular, flamboyant, noisy and otherwise spectacular personifications.

## THE PURPOSE OF CENSORSHIP

It is beyond human reason that the common people of any country, the exploited and tortured victims of class rule and class robbery, could be driven like so many cattle to the shambles of slaughter and devastation, as has been the case during the last four years, were it not for the fact that they were deliberately led to and kept in total ignorance of the objects and purposes of the brutal and bloodthirsty rulers and ruffians who directed the slaughter. To keep the masses in ignorance is the first duty of governments, for it is by so other token that their continued rule and robbery can be assured. In all the era of rule and robbery and devastation and slaughter, that has cursed the earth for the last hundred centuries, never has the diabolical art of falsehood, deceit and downright lying been brought to such a pinnacle of perfection as during the last decade, and more particularly during the last four years. Every pretense that has yet been made in justification of the wholesale slaughter that has numbered its victims by the tens of millions, has been a lie. Every profession of motives less diabolical and sordidly vulgar than that of murder, robbery and rapine has been but a cunning humbug. Every edict of authority has been made, not for the reasons usually so brazenly and impudently set forth, but for reasons and purposes entirely contrary thereto.

It is a common boast that the world was never before so blessed with means for the wide dissemination of information, never before was it possible to give to all the world a record of the events of the world each day as they occur. With the cable lines underneath the oceans, with the continents spider webbed with telegraph and telephone wires, with the wireless stations everywhere flashing their messages from shore to shore and continent to continent and with highly organized news gathering agencies alert in

every land, a full account of all important happenings throughout the earth are brought to the breakfast table of every inquiring citizen of all civilized lands. At least that is the way it is related to us, and that is the way it actually is, if we are to believe even one-half of what we are told. But is it true? Are we really informed as to what is occurring in the various countries of the earth, or are we misinformed? Are we given the truth in all cases, or are we frequently led to outright or led astray through misrepresentation? Do we know anything even now about the internal affairs and conditions of other countries, that we can rely on as being the truth? Is it not a fact that we know next to nothing about what is going on among the people of our own land, outside the narrow limits of our own personal acquaintance and observation? Is it not a fact that we are fed daily with pure and unadulterated falsehoods regarding the thoughts and doings of even our own fellow countrymen in other provinces, outposts, or are kept in ignorance thereof through deliberate suppression of the news? It is undoubtedly true that never were the facilities so great for the gathering and disseminating of information and news, but it is also undoubtedly true that the facilities for gathering and disseminating that which is false and misleading are also never so great as now, and the control and operation of these facilities are in the hands of that class in human society whose interests are conserved only by rule and robbery, and which necessitates the holding of the working class in ignorance of how and when and where the trick is turned upon them. It might be permissible to remark right here, that like all other parts of the industrial and plunder mechanism of the ruling class, that for the dissemination of misinformation and falsehood has been designed for that especial purpose and for that purpose alone, as far as its application

to the service of the slave class is concerned. It would be the height of presumption to suppose that it is to be the purpose of bringing any truth to the slaves of class rule, that might in any manner prove dangerous to their rulers and masters.

Perhaps the most transparent piece of government humbug in all its achievements in that line is the Censorship, that it has long since become so fashionable to establish upon the slightest occasion that may frighten the gentle souls of rulers and other ruffians of that ilk. Every country involved in the glorious war, that uncorked its glory in 1914, immediately set up a censorship, for the alleged purpose of preventing any information being printed and disseminated that "might be of military value to the enemy." Any more childish excuse could be given to the rulers. This contention, being the means and avenues for gathering news and spreading the same, in the hands of the rulers, is quite enough to give the lie to the pretense that the censorship was set up for any such purpose. The censorship of Canada has been made to cover the banning of scientific and other publications that by no stretch of the imagination could have anything to do with the enemy, either by revealing military secrets, or bringing about any other comfort to his no doubt dirty soul. The war has now been over for some weeks, but the censorship is still on. There is no enemy left, unless it be the Bolsheviks, to whom military secrets could be revealed by

some petty little country weekly perhaps, that never had above 100 subscribers, and not a copy of which ever went into any more dangerous and seditious neighborhood than the reading rooms of the senate and House of Commons at Ottawa. It is quite evident that the censorship was never established in Canada for any such childish purpose as that of preventing matter of military value to the enemy from reaching him. It was set up for the purpose of preventing any thing being published and circulated in Canada from bringing aid and comfort to the internal affairs of the enemy, the Kaiser. This decision is altogether too far from Kaiserland to admit of such silliness as that being resorted to except as a flimsy excuse. And besides all that, we have no authentic evidence that the Kaiser ever heard of Canada, or knows where it is. But we do know that the censorship has been used to prevent information coming into Canada and is still so used. We know that papers and other printed matter that are not interfered with in other countries are here from starting up this dominion, and the only inference is that the censorship is being used to prevent people of this country from gaining knowledge of the most important military secrets occurring in other parts of the earth. In other words it is a means of aiding in keeping the people in ignorance of what is going on in the world, at least in so far as the rulers of this land do not wish them to know. We have not yet heard of the censorship being used to prevent dissemination of the most important falsehoods regarding only the Russian revolutionists and those of other lands, but also the most brazen falsehoods about the activities of the workers of various parts of the Dominion of Canada. No censorship was ever yet established by the ruling class against falsehood and misrepresentation. It is a ruling class weapon against the truth.

## Returned Soldiers Have a Rod In Pickle for the Profiteering Pirates

Profiteers who have been hiding behind the flag will not have easy sailing, a few months hence, according to a soldier who recently returned from France.

"There is one kind of news that rises every soldier—to know that some dastardly creatures are making great sums of money by illegally squeezing the government and the people at home for whom you are giving your life, if necessary, arouses a feeling that you can't describe except that you despise and hate the traitors.

"When a group of soldiers got together over there, with nothing to do but talk, which wasn't often, some one was almost sure to bring

up this subject of the profiteers. Well, I think if some of these profiteers could have heard what the rank and file fighting men (not the professional soldier-politicians) are planning to do to them when they get home they'd pack their kits and hike out in a hurry for some far-off neutral land.

"No, there is no concerted movement. Such things are not known in the army. But the men I met all feel alike on this one sore theme. They all look upon profiteering as reasonable.

"This thing has burned into their very souls. They won't forget! The profiteers will not get by with their game much longer."

### CONFIDENTIAL CHAT

Office: 580 Homer street. Telephone number: Seymour 9205.

When you read this copy of The Star pass it to a fellow workman.

The Star management will specialize in bundle orders, for educational work along working class political lines. The bundle-order rate has been fixed at 3 cents per copy. Order a bundle.

There are three daily papers, and a score or more weeklies and monthly publications in Vancouver, all ready and willing to fight for and defend capitalism, with all that that implies.

The subscription price of The Star is higher than working class papers are in the habit of charging. In addition to the dozens of excuses generally given in such cases, it is the desire of the publishers to secure sufficient revenue from circulation alone to make it possible to keep the sheriff at bay without the sale of half of its columns as advertising space.

The present size and form of The Star appeals to the manager and editor as much handier than the usual six, seven or eight-column productions. Later on, after Star readers have had an opportunity to judge, if the standard-size paper is

preferred, the change can easily be made. Meantime, patrons and friends can look forward to seeing the present eight pages increased to twelve or sixteen at an early date.

The number system will be used on The Star's mailing list. That is to say, instead of being sold by the year it will be by the issue, the number on the address label indicating when the subscription expires, rather than the date. Send along any amount you wish—and your address label will be changed accordingly. It is much simpler book-keeping than the old way. Bundle-order address labels will show the number of papers mailed in addition to expiry number.

Oh, yes, indeed!

"No one," said Lloyd George, a few weeks ago, to a deputation of British manufacturers, "ever dreamt of continuing the present system of government control after the war. He quite agreed that the war being over, the present absolutely necessary interference in business by the state must disappear."

"Wherever a set of people claim political domination within a nation, whenever men imagine themselves predestined to be the guardians of a nation, wherever a caste tries to monopolize the political and economic forces of society to employ them for purposes of its own, without regard for the interest of the rest of the nation, there we have junkerism."

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### PARM'S PARAGRAPHS

Compelled by the policy of violence practised by the imperialism of all the world, the Soviet Republic is marshalling its forces for resistance against the growing demands of the robber packs of international capital, and it looks to the inevitable rebellion of the working classes for the solution of the question of how the nations can live peacefully together.

The Soviet Republic has declared war upon the world, not only in words but also in deed, and in doing so it formally and in the name of the working masses of Russia announced its complete renunciation of all efforts at conquest and annexation, as well as all thought of oppressing small nations.

By no other nationality is the equality of women so generally recognized as in Finland among the workers.

"The social order that means social sanity and health and peace, waits on the man in overall. No 'man of the hour' will ever arise to save the worker from the conditions which he himself must change."

"The average worker must achieve a degree of intellectual freedom, or any one of us can achieve economic freedom."

"Slave of the Wheel of Labor, What to heave with words and the swing of Ploides? What the long reaches of the peaks—of song? The rift of dawn—the reddening of the rose?"

The federal anti-loafing ukase has been suspended. The because enforced loafing has become chronic among the workers throughout Canada. Now why not an order-in-council for enforced employment?

The local daily press announces an important capture by Vancouver "Dicks." The victims were youths between the ages of 7 and 11. Also a prohibition drunk. The latter was very drunk.

If prohibitionists are sincere in their desire to see the booze eliminated they will insist that the government commandeer the source of supply and thereafter manufacture and sell the product at the cost of production. Without the element of profit there would be no incentive for boot-legging. The banishment of the bar has been a good thing for the workers. With clear brains they are expending their energy in securing concessions from the boss. And to think, too, the bosses dug up the campaign fund!

### PURLOINED PARAGRAPHS

Revolution is not made, they come. Revolution is as natural a growth as an oak. It comes out of the past. Its foundations are laid far back.—Wendell Phillips.

"If the workers refuse to use their voting power intelligently, whom can they blame for their lack of influence in all public affairs? Influence and power must be acquired, they must be conquered, they are not given."

"We have been fighting to make the world safe for democracy, and we are glad to see that the Europeans have been caught by the spirit of democracy and are now busy to embody it into social institutions. You know the spirit by its manifestations only, and the most beautiful theories derive their value and significance from their actual application to the affairs of our practical life."

"It is not the people in any country that are trying to crush the freedom of the press. That is the work of the ruling class and their political agents. Neither was the freedom of the press given or granted by the ruling class and their political agents. Read what the great British statesman, Disraeli, had to say on this subject: 'The free press was not granted by monarchs, it was not gained for us by aristocrats; but it sprang from the people, and, with an immortal instinct, it has always worked for the people.'"

"Whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad." This saying of the ancients is still true—that is the essential meaning of it is true. The possession of wealth and power and the greediness for more deprive men of the ability to form correct judgments and to see things in their proper relationship to one another. They see only what they desire to see, and thus they are led to actions which do violence to the laws of common sense and reason and ultimately bring about the ruin of their originators."

## Taking care of your teeth is not an extravagance

—Get away from the idea that you are "saving"—when defects appear in your teeth—by putting off giving immediate attention to these.

Keeping your teeth in good condition means comfort, health and a pleasing personal appearance—three things we all want. Is money spent for such a purpose extravagance?

Defects in teeth develop—grow more extensive—daily. In the end they will compel you to visit a dentist. Is it not real economy to attend to them right at the start—when the work is slight and the expense lowest?

Let me examine your teeth as soon as defects develop. I'll tell you what should be done—how much the work will cost.

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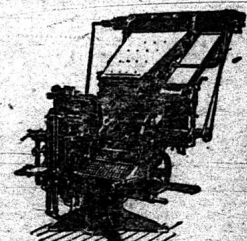
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Vancouver, B. C., Thursday, January 16, 1918

### SALUTATORY

THE LABOR STAR has no apologies to make for its appearance in the newspaper world. It will be an instrument of the working class in its struggle for freedom from the tyranny and exploitation of capital. It will fearlessly new to the class line let the chips of truth fall where they will.

The manager, editor and associate writers are not without experience in the Labor movement of Western Canada. Having made about all the mistakes possible, in the past, an endeavor will be made to avoid some of them during the stirring events of the future.

Special attention will be devoted to the discussion of local, national and international events from the viewpoint of the workers. The importance of the independent political action upon the part of the workers will be emphasized, as the only solution of present-day economic problems, providing a basis to start from in the process of "reconstruction."

After Feb. 1st The Labor Star will be issued weekly. As soon as warranted, it will be made a semi-weekly. The Star will try to make a place for itself by deserving the support of that portion of the working class believing primarily in independent political action.

### HYPOCRISY UNMASKS ITSELF

THERE never was a war fought in all history that was not waged in the name of liberty. Either side in these delectable and edifying struggles always outwits the other in loyalty and devotion to her glorious cause and poses the accurate finger at its adversary as the enemy of civilization and the curse of humanity. The legions of Rome were never sent forth upon marauding expeditions in the name of liberty, but in the name of their emperor. The barbarian hordes never raided Roman territories, that they did not do so with the cry of liberty upon their lips. In all the bloody wars of Europe from the collapse of Rome to the present, the resounding slogan of all the combatants has always been, "liberty." The armies of Napoleon fought for liberty; Wellington and his minions fought for nothing short of the liberty of the colonies of Crimea was pulled off in her sacred name, and both sides to the combat were as a unit in so affirming. Britain has conquered and held half the earth—including India—in the name of liberty. The rebellious colonies of America fought for their independence from her brutal rule, in the name of liberty, and Britain as stubbornly fought for liberty in order to prevent it. In 1861 the United States the North and the South, both fought for liberty, and in 1870 France and Germany did the same thing. The Boer war, the Spanish-American, the Jap-Russian, and a lengthy list of lesser ones, each and all marked an undying zeal, upon the part of all the participants, to further the cause of liberty, utterly regardless of all discomforts that might fall to their respective lots in the glorious struggle.

And then came the great war of 1914, the most stupendous spectacle ever pulled off on behalf of liberty in all the history of blood and butchery, and even the most biased observer will be compelled to admit, that each and every one of the numerous national combatants has been actuated solely by an overwhelming desire to preserve and extend the liberty of all the people of the world and safeguard civilization against the sinister and deadly influences that might wickedly seek to destroy it. Each and every one of the combatant nations has affirmed and repeatedly reaffirmed its loyalty and devotion to that noble and very commendable purpose. And where there is such an emphatic unanimity of affirmation, who is there among us so dull as not to be convinced of the nobility of purpose and the deep sincerity of the affirmance, both singly and collectively?

But, strange to say, when the Central Empires were still in fine fettle and evidently thought they were winning the battle for

liberty and civilization," they were most contrary of the opinion that their noble cause could not be properly furthered and liberty and civilization be made safe and secure, except by annexations of territory and payment of indemnities to be exacted from those other equally valiant champions of liberty, democracy and civilization, their imaginary enemies. These empires, during those troublous moments, were vociferously emphatic and quite notably persistent in asserting the absolute disinterestedness of their motives, in so far as material things of this world are concerned, and actually made the welkin ring with voluminous asseverations of their eternal devotion to the sacred and noble cause of "safeguarding liberty, establishing justice and preserving civilization," against the murderous assaults and wicked designs of their apparent enemies, but really allies in the cause. That they were really allies is clearly shown by their mutual confession of being engaged in battling for liberty and civilization. Battling for the same thing they could not be enemies, and it is not exactly clear how they could have fallen into the error of ever imagining themselves as such. And it was a really delinquent sight to witness the emphatic renunciation of all worldly ambitions and the utter disregard of territory, indemnities and other similar vulgar things, by the Entente disciples of liberty, democracy and civilization, and their fervent embracement of the soulful doctrine of "self-determination" for small nations, "no annexations and no indemnities" for the big ones, the death of autocracy, the "destruction of militarism, and the world made safe for democracy." And thus did hitherto sordid nations rise above the vulgarity of empire over material things and enter the kingdom of righteousness, where spiritually and purity of purpose become the supreme riches of the human soul, and the individual does not have to wait until death to be possessed of his allotment. 'Twas thus that nations found their "soul," as some poetic dops flende have so succinctly set forth.

The tide does not always run one way. In due time it turns. This is as true of the tide of war as it is of that of the "salt chuck." When the tide eventually turned against the Central Empires and the star of the Entente was in the ascendant, although nations bravely battled for liberty the Central Empires began to lose faith in the virtue of annexations and indemnities as a means to firmly secure liberty to a distracted world, and as their case became more and more hopeless that loss of faith became a reality transformed into a fixed and firm conviction. This change of face, however, was not generally considered as anything particularly startling by the rest of the world, for it had been rising above the vulgarities of empire for some time. The Central Empires, the wicked "Hun" was nothing but a hypocrite at the best, and his change of face was attributed entirely to his change of fortune. But, strange to say, while the "Hun" was evidently lost with the efficacy of vulgar material acquisitions as an aid to the securing of liberty to the world and the peoples thereof, his doughty, earthwily antagonists of the spirit—empire builders—were still in the back of their mind, and landed on their feet in a world swamped of grossly material substance. Having lost their last-fought cause, they are now become ardent champions of such base and low ambitions as the seizing of territory by force and the collecting of plunder under the fascinating cognomen of indemnities. No more nonsense about "self-determination of small nations," no more nonsense about "no annexations." No more meaningless twaddle about "no indemnities." No more laying sawie nights over the possibility of liberty being destroyed. No more concern about the salvation of "democracy." No more humbug about the "destruction of civilization."

Just as his change of fortune effected a corresponding change in the convictions of the "Hun" regarding the plundering of his neighbors, so has the change of fortune with the Entente Allies effected a complete change of conviction in regard to the same noble purpose. At the beginning of the war the "Hun" can be accused of wearing no mask of hypocrisy in regard to his intention to seize plunder wherever he could lay his hands upon it. When the tide of war turned against him, he encouraged the same intention by means of the garb of hypocrisy. He pretended to be opposed to plunder in any form. So long as the tide of war appeared to be against the other side to the noble freedom-loving nations, the nations that had "found their souls," noisily and hypocritically avouched the purity of their purpose and their unshakable opposition to "annexation and indemnities." They pledged to oppose plunder in any and all forms. That it was all sham and hypocrisy is clearly attested by their every act and word, since the tide of war turned in their favor. As the tide of war turned in their favor, they will undoubtedly strip the last shred of decency from their hypocritical pretenses of the last four years, and stand clothed in the naked shamelessness that is and has always been the only legitimate and befitting garb of rulers throughout all history. And it is good that hypocrisy should unmask itself, for then it will be well done.

### THE WISDOM OF FINANCIERS

WHEN it comes down to the matter of finance it is the various impudence for common dupe to pretend that they know anything about it. It is for that reason that we quite properly sit with due humility at the feet of those who are, by virtue of long practice and secular fitness, duly qualified to expound the intricacies of the art of finance, and drink in their words of wisdom with a thankfulness eminently befitting the occasion. For who should be, or could be, qualified to speak with authority upon such a weighty subject except those who have given it a life study. Most assuredly no wage animal or horny-handed tiller of the soil could accumulate any knowledge worth while in regard to how to make payment for wealth produced and hold, when there is nothing on earth with which to make such payment, or how to become rich by accumulating figures that represent nothing but wealth which has been produced and consumed, leaving nothing behind but the figures aforesaid and a lean and hungry look upon the visage and a bad taste in the mouth of those who produced the wealth. For sound information upon finance it is best to go direct to the fountain-head of financial wisdom, the Bankers' Association and its staff of financial experts. By so doing we may be sure of obtaining a correct insight into how and why the nation of the world become the richer the more they are in debt; how wealth may be amassed by the accumulation of figures that represent nothing but debt that can never be paid; and wealth which has been produced and consumed in spite of the fact that all the wealth that is produced in the world is totally consumed as fast as it is produced.

Thomas W. Lamont, of J. P. Morgan & Co., is chairman of foreign securities committee of the Bankers' Association. Now Thomas must be a very competent financial sharp in order to hold down so important a post with that aggregation of financial wolves. No further argument or dispute is requisite to establish the competency of Thomas than the very fact that he holds such an important position. At the recent convention of the "Bankers' Association" Thomas unloaded a voluminous quantity of financial wisdom of the choicest quality. He lucidly pointed out that the fortunes of the war for democracy had converted the United States from a "debtor nation" to the tune of some \$4,000,000,000, to a "creditor nation" to the tune of some \$10,000,000,000. And Thomas prognosticates that the tremendous mass of foodstuffs, materials for reconstruction, etc., that Europe will require for years to come will be financed by the balance of the United States, of at least \$1,500,000,000 per year. "How is such an enormous annual indebtedness to be settled?" asks Thomas. To which he cleverly makes answer, that the "United States" will continue to continue and heavy investment by America in foreign obligations, public and private. If the world is to move on; if its people are to be housed and fed and clothed; if rich America is to do her full share in rendering these services, we shall have to lend to, and in foreign countries on a scale that, five years ago had never even conceived possible." In other words the only way that payment can be made is by extending the payment indefinitely. Either Thomas' explanation means that or it means nothing. It seems that all that happened through the United States bringing home or "absorbing" the \$4,000,000,000 debt of the nations of the world abroad is that instead of such debt now being held against American railways and other concerns by foreigners it is now held by American brigands of the same ilk. 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