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"RECONSTRUCTION"---AND OTHER THINGS

By E. T. KINGSLEY

RECONSTRUCTION IS A VERY popular word these days. It is mouthed with great frequency by statesmen big and statesmen small; "reconstruction" committees and organizations galore are springing up throughout the land; preachers preach about it and platform acrobats, unctiously orate of the splendid possibilities behind it that will no doubt blossom in due course, but about all the satisfaction to be derived as yet from all this talk may be found in the tacit admission made by its sponsors and advocates that there is a necessity for it. That is an admission that would have been unthinkable five years ago.

In the opinion of the noisy gang now so lustily prating about "reconstruction," everything was all right up to the breaking out of the war, but for some inscrutable reason they have evidently changed their minds. Something has happened that has altered their view of things and impressed upon them the necessity of what they term "reconstruction." Just what that something is is difficult to determine:

Things are now just the same as they were before the war, only more so. Being more so it should be apparent that nothing in the shape of "reconstruction" will save this civilization that has already been plunged over the precipice of its own destruction. And besides that there is no logical reason why it should be saved. It is a slave civilization at best and it has not yet been recorded in history that any civilization or empire based upon that infamy ever was saved from eventually dying by its own hand. Babylon, Carthage, Egypt, Greece, Rome all travelled the same route and met the same fate. The present empire of rule and robbery differs from its equally worthy predecessors only in the fact of being of greater territorial extent and correspondingly more terrible in its brutality and infamy.

What plan has yet been suggested by our disciples of "reconstruction" that would in any manner alter the relationship existing between employer and employee, capitalist and laborer, master and slave? What has yet been offered that will do away with, or in any degree lessen the power of the master to rob and torture the slave? Can any "reconstruction" be suggested that will tend to remove from the slaves the stigma of being property and the ignominy of being compelled to produce wealth for nothing for their owners?

The fact is that all this pretence of "reconstruction" is pure buncombe. It is right in line with that startling innovation, the establishment of government employment offices for the purpose of aiding slaves to find jobs that do not exist. And all such reform

and "reconstruction" schemes are equally as silly and futile attempts to stem the rising tide of revolution as was the memorable attempt of Mrs. Partington to sweep back the tide with her broom.

Within the camp of organized labor are to be found some ardent "reconstructionists." Doughty champions of reaction like Gompers loudly proclaim the necessity of labor obtaining a voice in the management and conduct of industry. Very pleasing pictures are shown of typical specimens of the working tribe, quite appropriately clad in overalls and dignity, sitting at the council table along with the capitalist directors of industry and right nobly sharing in the burden and responsibility of successfully skinning slaves and converting their hides into great profit and glory for their owners and masters. These pictures are shown as indicative of what is to come under the glorious dispensation of the "reconstruction" era that lies just ahead of us. All that there is in that sort of nonsense is that a few fat billets will be provided for more of the S. Gompers type, an ample supply of which the slave camp of capitalism holds in embryo within its womb ready to come forth when occasion affords the opportunity for proper sustenance. But with workers upon boards of directors and other managing bodies of capitalist industry and business, the production of wealth for the profit of owners will continue; the burden of producing the really essential things of life will still be thrust upon the shoulders of less than half of the working class, while the balance will still be driven in the production of those things essential only to the ruling class and the upbuilding and maintenance of its empire, an empire whose grandeur and magnificence has always been and can only be written in letters of blood and whose highest eulogy has been expressed in the awful slaughter of the last few years.

Pensions for disabled soldiers, homes and sustenance for cripples, soup kitchens for unemployed slaves, the inauguration of "public works" in order to absorb the out-of-works, will undoubtedly be the chief line of "reconstruction," but it will settle nothing, it will change nothing. The same old root cause of all the trouble, the misery, the agony, the turmoil, the strife, the periodical wholesale slaughter and devastation will still remain, undisturbed and unimpaired. The slaves will still be slaves and the masters will still be masters, in spite of all "reconstruction" that stops short of revolution: the complete sweeping away of the right and power of one man or set of men to rule and rob the rest of their kind. Though that may smack of "Bolshevism" it may nevertheless be true.

The way of the transgressor is indeed hard. The German bourgeoisie failed to break the rule of feudalism in the revolution of 1848. It did not subsequently thereto develop sufficient spirit and stamina to go to it again and complete the job if possible. The result was that Germany remained politically feudal, alongside of western neighbors who had become, both industrially and politically, capitalist nations. Being thus held politically feudal and backward, it became certain that just the very cataclysm of blood and horror should eventually ensue that was pulled off in 1914.

Our of the feudal ruin resulting from the war the German bourgeoisie is now desperately trying to set up that which it failed to realize in 1848, viz., a bourgeois state, after the pattern of France, Britain or the United States. But the failure of 1848 has so prolonged the job that a new factor, and a very disturbing one at that, has developed and is rudely butting into the arrangements.

A revolutionary proletariat has appeared upon the scene. It seems to be of such proportions as to seriously threaten the success of the bourgeois schemers in completing their revolution against their feudal rulers. This proletariat has no confidence evidently in the state that is to be in the hands of the Scheidemann-Eberts gang. They have probably drawn inspiration from observing the felicitous condition of the workers under the regime of "democratic" states of that type, such as Britain, France, U. S., etc., and want none of it. And who can blame them? Who among the workers and real democrats of all lands can wish them anything but success in ousting the Scheidemann-Eberts government and setting up the regime of the revolutionary proletariat, as the Russian workers and peasants have already done? And lucky indeed is the working class of any country that is wise enough to avoid the experience of slavery and suffering under a bourgeois regime of plunder and trade. The feudal infamy was certainly bad enough, but that of the bourgeois has all previous infamies in the slavery line beaten out of sight. Small wonder that a large section of the German working class are averse to allowing it to be forced upon them. All success to the revolutionary proletariat of the world, including Germany.

It should not be forgotten that in 1871 the German authorities kindly placed their armies then on French soil, at the disposal of the Versailles government to aid in crushing the Parisian proletariat which had risen against the vicious and incompetent government of France and established the Commune of Paris. The German

armies were placed upon the north and east side of Paris, thus completing the circumvallation of the city, the French forces holding the south and west sides. Not only that but the Germans, out of kindly feelings towards their ruling class cousins thus threatened by the rebellious Parisian workmen, also returned captured arms and other munitions that had been taken from the defeated French during the war of 1870, thereby enabling the latter to butcher the rebels. And it was done to a complete nicety especially appreciated by not only the French bourgeoisie but of all other christian lands as well. They were butchered almost to a man.

Now take note of what is happening in Germany during these days when the Spartacans and other revolutionary workmen are struggling against the attempt to foist upon the country a bourgeois republic like the French one. The dispatches tell us that "Marshal Foch is allowing them (German authorities) to use German forces to defeat the proletariat." The German armies under the armistice are to be demobilized, etc., but the great "Marshal" is allowing them to be used for the purpose of crushing the proletariat. He is evidently returning the favor extended to the French bourgeois by their German cousins in 1871. It would be interesting to know how much farther the French general is going in aiding his erstwhile enemies in putting their slaves right.

All of this "enemy" business that so much noise is made about, vanishes into thin, exceedingly thin air once a common danger rises in the offing of class rule and class robbery. Once a class interest is threatened by the workers, erstwhile deadly enemies within the ranks of the ruling class rush to arms together in common defense of the common right to rule and rob.

It might be well to note that the hymn of hate is no longer sung against the kaiser by those deadly enemies of his known as the entente allies and the U. S. The Bolsheviks and the Spartacans have now the centre of the stage and the kaiser has been pushed to the wings. He is practically forgotten. His reign of terror in Belgium and elsewhere has been made to look like thirty cents by the Bolshevik "reign of terror" in Russia and which threatens to sweep the earth. Fame is indeed fleeting. The kaiser must feel sore at thus being relegated to the background by hitherto unheard of terrorists. He who was once a master terrorist is now forgotten. Novices and amateurs have now become past masters of the art. But the bourgeoisie is still on top in most countries and labor skinning, and its aftermath of trade, commerce and glory still prevails. Glory be!

THE GREAT ATROCITY.

WEIRD TALES are joyfully told by the eminently truthful press of this great democratic land about the terrible atrocities perpetrated upon all and sundry who perchance incur the displeasure of the Soviet government of Russia. Blood-curdling stories are related, evidently by agents of the de-throned monarchists, ousted land barons (mostly German junkers), generals without armies, a bargain-counter bourgeoisie and similar tattered remnants of the brutal reign of the Czars, of how the wicked Bolsheviks kill, maim, cripple, destroy and devastate. The manner in which they plunder and torture the poor peasants is something damnable, according to our faithful chroniclers. If we are to believe even one-half of what we are told, this wicked Bolsheviks must be kept extremely busy murdering "intellectuals" and "plundering peasants." It is to be expected that land barons dispossessed of land, monarchists without a monarchy, generals deprived of armies and bourgeoisie without slaves to skin, would shout "atrocities" all in solemn concert and wail lugubriously about a "reign of terror," for what could be more atrocious or better calculated to strike terror to their dirty souls than such a rude downfall from their previous high estate? The stripping of the land barons of Russia of their land may perhaps be considered the greatest atrocity yet perpetrated by the widely-cursed Bolsheviks. The following excerpt from the "Fundamental Law of Socialization of the Land," that went into effect in Russia in September, 1918, quite clearly depicts the terrible nature of the "atrocities," not only as perpetrated upon the honest and kindly land barons, but also tends to confirm the tales so truthfully told by the press about the awful atrocities perpetrated upon the poor peasants by the wicked Bolsheviks. It is here reprinted from the Nation, of January 25.

DIVISION I.

General Provisions

Article 1. All property rights in the land, treasures of the earth, forests, and fundamental natural resources within the boundaries of the Russian Federated Soviet Republic are abolished.

Article 2. The land passes over to the use of the entire laboring population without any compensation, open or secret, to the former owners.

Article 3. The right to use the land belongs to those who till it by their own labor, with the exception of special cases covered by this decree.

Article 4. The right to use the land cannot be limited by sex, religion, nationality, or foreign citizenship.

Article 5. The sub-surface deposits, the forests, waters, and fundamental natural resources are at the disposition (according to their character) of the country, provincial, regional, and Federal Soviet powers and are under the control of the latter. The method of disposition and utilization of the sub-surface deposits, waters, and fundamental natural resources will be dealt with by a special decree.

Article 6. All private live stock and inventoried property of non-laboring homesteads pass over without indemnification to the disposition (in accordance with their character) of the land departments of the country, provincial, regional, and Federal Soviets.

Article 7. All homestead constructions mentioned in Article 6, as well as all agricultural appurtenances, pass over to the disposition (in accordance with their character) of the county, provincial, regional, and Federal Soviets without indemnification.

Article 8. All persons who are unable to work and who will be deprived of all means of subsistence by force of the decree socializing all lands, forests, inventoried property, etc., may receive a pension (for a lifetime or until the person becomes of age), upon the certification of the local courts and the land departments of the Soviet power, such as

The time is ripe, is rotten-ripe, for change;
Then let it come; I have no dread of what
Is called for by the instinct of mankind;
Nor think I that God's world will fall apart,
Because we tear a parchment more or less.

—Lowell.

I'll never go down again to see
sojers off to th' war. But you'll see
me at th' depot with a brass band
whin th' men that causes war starts
f'r th' scene iv carnage.—Mr. Dooley.

a soldier receives, until such time as the decree for the insurance of the incapacitated is issued.

Article 9. The apportionment of lands of agricultural value among the laboring people is under the jurisdiction of the Volostnoi (several villages), county, provincial, main, and Federal land departments of the Soviets in accordance with their character.

Article 10. The surplus lands are under the supervision, in every republic, of the land departments of the main and Federal Soviets.

Article 11. The land departments of the local and central Soviets are thus entrusted with the equitable apportionment of the land among the working agricultural population, and with the productive utilization of the natural resources. They also have the following duties:

(a) Creating favorable conditions for the development of the productive forces of the country by increasing the fertility of the land, improving agricultural technique, and, finally, raising the standard of agricultural knowledge among the laboring population.

(b) Creating a surplus fund of lands of agricultural value.

(c) Developing various branches of agricultural industry, such as gardening, cattle-breeding, dairying, etc.

(d) Accelerating the transition from the old unproductive system of field cultivation to the new productive one (under various climates), by a proper distribution of the laboring population in various parts of the country.

(e) Developing collective homesteads in agriculture (in preference to individual homesteads) as the most profitable system of saving labor and material, with a view to passing on to Socialism.

Article 12. The apportionment of land among the laboring population is to be carried on on the basis of each one's ability to till it and in accordance with local conditions, so that the production and consumption standard may not compel some peasants to work beyond their strength; and at the same time it should give them sufficient means of subsistence.

Article 13. Personal labor is the general and fundamental source of the right to use the land for agricultural purposes. In addition, the organs of the Soviet power, with a view to raising the agricultural standard (by organizing model farms or experimental fields), are permitted to borrow from the surplus land fund (formerly belonging to the Crown, monasteries, ministers, or landowners) certain plots and to work them by labor paid by the state. Such labor is subject to the general rules of workmen's control.

Article 14. All citizens engaged in agricultural work are to be insured at the expense of the state against old age, sickness or injuries which incapacitate them.

Article 15. All incapacitated agriculturists and the members of their families who are unable to work are to be cared for by the organs of the Soviet power.

Article 16. Every agricultural homestead is to be insured against fire, epidemics among cattle, poor crops, dry weather, hail, etc., by means of mutual Soviet insurance.

Article 17. Surplus profits, obtained on account of the natural fertility of the

(Continued on Page Three)

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The Federated Labor Party is organized for the purpose of securing industrial legislation and the collective ownership and democratic operation of the means of wealth production.

The Federated Labor Party

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RUSSIA TO BRITAIN

A copy of a leaflet, printed in English, dropped over British lines at Verst 461, Vologda Front, by Bolshevik aeroplane. Like leaflets are also printed in French, Italian, Russian, and even Japanese.

IN order to obtain the consent of the workers of Britain to the unwarranted act of aggression against us, your government gives the following as their reason for landing troops in our country:

1. That they have come to stamp out anarchy and restore order.

It is not true. Your government and the French government are themselves responsible for what disorder there is in Russia. Ever since the Revolution the agents of the French and British governments have been conspiring with the counter-revolutionaries, giving them moral encouragement and financial assistance for the purpose of undermining the power of our Workman's government and to bring about its downfall. Your government and the French government are co-operating with the Czech-Slovaks, who have blocked the access to our food supplies. The serious food shortage in our country is aggravating the disorganization. If there is disorder your governments are responsible for it. Remember when a capitalist government enters a country where there has been a revolution for the purpose of restoring "order," it always means that they intend to crush the Revolution. That is what the German government did in Poland, in the Ukraine, in the Baltic provinces, and in Finland. That is what your government wants to do in Russia. They do not want to restore order. They want to restore the Tzar.

2. That they have come to help the Russian people.

In the first place is it helping to bring war amongst a people already exhausted by war? We do not want war. We want peace. We want to

be left alone to consolidate the gains of our Revolution, to reorganize our social and economic life in such a manner to secure to the workers the products of their labor. Your government is not helping to do this. It has sent you here to prevent our doing it. Your government is co-operating with the Czech-Slovaks, who are suppressing the workers wherever they go. In Samara the workers obtained an eight-hour day. It has been abolished. All working-class organizations, trades unions, and such like are suppressed. Wherever the Czech-Slovaks go they suppress our workmen's councils, and establish in their stead an oligarchy of speculators, capitalists, and ex-Tsar officers. Your government will use you to do the same in north and central Russia. If your government wanted to help the Russian people it would recognize the Soviet government of the workers and peasants and assist us to reorganize our railways and industries. We, in fact, invited your government to enter into business relations with us that would have been to our mutual advantage. But your government made no reply. No—your government does not want to help the Russian people. It is helping to fasten the yoke of capitalism and Tzarism on them again.

3. That the Allied invasion of Russia is welcomed by the Russian people.

It is not true. Who is welcoming your landing? A few starving peasants, whom your government bribed with promises of food. These poor people are not glad to see you. They are only eager for the food they hope you will bring. Who else is welcoming you? The ex-landlords of Russia, who are expecting you to restore to them the land, forests, and mines which are now the property of the whole Russian people. The capitalists, who want you to overthrow our workmen's government and compel us to become their wage slaves again. The Tehinovniks, the ex-officials of the

Tzarist government, who want you to restore to them their soft jobs, to resume their old game of bribery and corruption for which Russia in the past was notorious. Yes, this crowd, with their hangers-on, are very pleased to see you here. They will flatter you and make a fuss of you; all the while they have a supreme contempt for you, for you are only working men whom they are using as their tools. The Russian commander at your head, General Gurko, is a reactionary of the worst description. He was arrested by Kerensky for his monarchist propaganda. The agents of your government helped him to escape. His only object in joining you is to restore the Tzar.

(Comrades! Do not put your trust in this reactionary gang. Do not permit yourselves to be used as the tools of the enemies of liberty. Never let English workers permitted themselves to be used to crush the Russian Revolution.)

Fellow workers! Be loyal to your the shameful thing be said that the class and refuse to do the dirty work of your masters.

(Signed) Lenin, President of the Council of People's Commissary.

(Signed) Tehtcherine, People's Commissary for Foreign Affairs.

WOODROW GETS A LETTER

The following letter speaks for itself. It is pleasing to note that there is a working-class democracy in Britain, that is at least alive and evidently feared by the powers that be. Happily, however, there is nothing like that in Canada:

"Woodrow Wilson,

"President, U. S. A.

"Sir: You are here in Europe to negotiate a 'Democratic Peace' as a Democrat. If so, I wish you to prove your sincerity by releasing Tom Mooney, Billings, Debs, Haywood, and all the others at present in prison as a consequence of their fight for working-class democracy since the United

States participated in the war.

"The working-class democracy of Britain forced the cabinet to release me from Peterhead prison, where I was undergoing a five years' sentence under D. O. R. A.

"I therefore write you as an ease to my conscience and a repayment to the world's working-class democracy to release my above-mentioned friends and comrades.

The Clyde workers will send me as one of their delegates to the coming peace conference, and there, inside or outside the conference hall, I shall challenge your U. S. A. delegates if my friends are not released.

"After that I shall tour America until you do justice to the real American champions of democracy.

"Yours in deadly earnest.

(Signed) "JOHN McLEAN.

"42 Aldhouse Road, Newlands, Glasgow, Scotland."

THE GREAT ATROCITY

(Continued from Page Two)

land or on account of its location near markets, are to be turned over for the benefit of social needs to the organs of the Soviet power.

Article 18. The trade in agricultural machinery and in seeds is monopolized by the organs of the Soviet power.

Article 19. The grain trade, internal as well as export, is to be a state monopoly.

In view of the awful atrocities alleged to have been perpetrated against the land barons of Russia, Article 8 of the above document makes quite interesting reading. Not even the most brutal baron of the brutal bunch is to be deprived of sustenance. That is indeed most atrocious. The balance of the Land Act deals with details incident to its practical application, and the complete protection of the workers against all exploitation. It is the great atrocity. No wonder the dispossessed land barons cry lustily for "intervention."

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Vancouver, Thursday, Feb. 27, 1919

THE STATUS OF THE WORKER

THAT snuffy, old reactionary, S. Gompers, chief mogul of the American Federation of Labor, loudly and emphatically asseverates that "labor is not a commodity." Considering who that pompous worthy is it would be little short of sheer impudence to dispute the great man's dictum. Still it would be a relief to the mind of the doubting Thomas if the erudite head of the great collectively-bargaining concern would succintly set forth just what he and his aggregation of talent is bargaining about, anyhow. It would appear that if there is bargaining going on it must inevitably be over something in the shape of a commodity, i.e. something for sale. One could scarce conceive of men bargaining over anything else. Can any other thing be bought and sold except property in some form or other? And is it not true that such property offered for sale and over which men bargain and haggle in the market, is a commodity? Of what else does the category of commodities consist of than such articles or pieces of property? Is there a labor market? If so what is bought and sold in such market if it be not the worker's power to labor? It may be technically correct to assert that "labor is not a commodity," for labor is in reality the delivery of the commodity "labor power" that the worker has contracted to deliver to the purchaser thereof. He agrees to work eight hours for a certain sum. That is, he sells his labor power for eight hours and it does not alter the fact by saying that he is hired for that period of time. It is all the same, anyway. The delivery of the commodity sold, his labor power, constitutes the labor he experiences. It is the penalty he pays for being a slave.

But if Mr. Gompers is more or less mixed up in regard to the status of the worker many other people are not. For instance, there is Sir Alfred Yarrow, head of the great shipbuilding company on the Clyde. A most interesting interview with this big capitalist was recently run in the daily press. While the big shipbuilder (by proxy, of course) makes numerous admissions regarding the family affairs of the present ruling class that it were better to be kept secret, he is laboring under no delusions as to the status of the working man under the existing dispensation of things material and mundane. He blurts out the fact that "Britain is financially crippled by the war." He should not have given this away, for to spread such reports around is not calculated to make it any easier for the victim of impending bankruptcy to weather the storm. But when it comes down to setting forth the status of labor Sir Yarrow makes no mistake. He says that each young Britain costs the country \$200 to raise to manhood. If we send a horse out of the country, we expect some monetary return, but before the war we were sending actually \$20,

000,000 worth of wealth-producing manhood to the United States each year without compensation of any kind." Now there you have it in language plain enough for the veriest boob to understand. The working people of Britain are just like horses and other domestic animals, inasmuch as it cost the country a certain sum of money to raise them to "manhood," which in this case means to wage-slavery. And then just like horses and mules if they escape the confines of the duly-provided pasture and beyond the reach of recapture, the money loss that results is indeed serious. Twenty million dollars per year of such loss is no small item, especially to a country that is already "financially crippled," according to Sir Yarrow. No wonder he loudly complains about it. But if that gentleman's explanation is worthy of credence then the status of the workman as property, in every sense of the word, is so clearly established that it would almost seem as though the astute Mr. Gompers might be able to grasp it. If the status of the workman is the same as that of the horse and horse-power is well known to be a commodity that is bought and sold in the market the same as all other commodities, it would appear that so astute and profound an economist as the aforesaid Gompers person ought to be able to comprehend the outstanding fact.

But that is all there is to the status of the wealth producers under the glorious regime of class rule and robbery. They are just property, that's all. They are as indisputably owned, body, boots and breeches, as were their chattel slave and feudal serf predecessors. Only they are not now owned as property by individual masters, as was the case with their predecessors, but they are owned as a class by the ruling class. Individual members of the ruling class having use for one or more of the slave class, merely make a selection of such animated articles as they wish out of the common jackpot of human property, and having used these packages of labor power upon the instalment plan as it were, until their needs are satisfied, they return them to the highways and byways leading unto the labor market again where they tamely await the pleasure of some other master who may be pleased to use them some more. It is all very simple and easy to understand, unless the cranium of the investigator be made of material no less permeable to reason than reinforced concrete. Slaves are property and what is still more to the point they constitute all there is or ever was to property that could bring to its owner or owners revenue, a something gotten without effort upon the part of those owners. They constitute all there is on earth that is bought and sold in the market—all that is measured in terms of trade, commerce and exchange, for whatever is so measured has been produced and exchange value given to it by the labor of these slaves alone. Behind every stock, bond, deed, mortgage, loan and debenture or other evidence of property ownership, stands the slaves of civilization to make good the values therein supposed to rest. The status of the slaves as property is clear and unmistakable. Sir Alfred Yarrow knows all about it.

PRODUCING TOO MUCH JOKE

A VERY LARGE PART of the humor, spontaneous and exorcising, that was wont to spring full fledged from the Wilsonian administration at Washington, as Jumbo sprang from the brain of Jove, has been lost to the world since the versatile McAdoo resigned from his numerous posts therein and took to the lightweight task of shysterism for some film producing firm for the measly stipend of \$100,000 per annum. But still we are not un-

mindful of the fact that the McAdoo person is in a sense endowed with immortality, or at least his compelling though perhaps unconscious humor is so endowed, because much of it is so profound and ribcracking that it will pleasantly linger in the funny bone of humanity as long as time lasts, unless, of course, it is in the meantime forgotten. McAdoo was always great on making speeches while attending to his arduous duties Director General of the railways and cracking financial jokes on behalf of the treasury. And his speeches were usually not only full of jokes but were real jokes themselves. McAdoo, however, is no joke. He was and we believe still is the son-in-law of the only Wilson himself, the patentee of the famous safety first device for world democracy. While he still held down the tough job of an all round Pooh Bah for the Wilson administration he found time to write some very humorous letters. Under date of Dec. 11, 1918, he wrote Senator E. D. Smith, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce, regarding railway matters. Among other interesting things he said, "Upon the efficiency of the transportation machine in America depends in great measure the future prosperity of the nation. Involved in this prosperity is the extension of our foreign trade. We produce so much more than we consume that markets must be found for that surplus."

Of course everyone knows who McAdoo means when he uses the pronoun "we." When "we produce more than we consume" he means that the class in the nation to which he belongs does the producing. Just what amount a Director General of railways, an administration Pooh Bah, or a shyster for a film corporation, would, could or should produce, is not stated in the communication, but may readily be imagined by any one who has observed their performances. But if "we" means McAdoo and his class, it is not easy to see of what use the working people are in the scheme of things. It is easy to understand that it is impossible for the ruling class and its attorneys and other flunkies to consume all that there is produced, but it might occur to some of us that if the workers had half a chance to give is a try out they would make such a hole in the pile as to make it hardly worth while to ship the balance away to foreign lands. But as all production is carried on by the workers alone and as all that is produced belongs to the class that constitutes McAdoo's "we" the necessity of transportation efficiency equal to the task of taking that production away from the worker who brings it forth, lest they wickedly, feloniously and with malice aforethought, unlawfully consume the "surplus," may be seen by anyone not blind. In fact that is just what railways and other transportation systems and methods have been primarily designed for. Presumably McAdoo knew that when he was writing the joke in question. And it must have been intended for a joke for surely Senator Smith could not be fooled into taking it in any other manner. At least senators ought to know what railways, etc., are for. If they don't certainly the rest of us do.

But to lay all jokes aside for a moment, can it be possible that any sane person can be so dull as to believe that foreign trade is now or ever was necessary in order to dispose of any surplus that might accrue because the people of any country produced more than they consumed or could consume? Is it possible that any one can be found who is so impervious to the shafts of humor that he could not see the joke in any such a proposition as that? We are told that foreign trade is carried on for the purpose of disposing of that which "we" produce and cannot consume. Now if "we" produce let us

say a million dollars worth of stuff more than "we" consume, and ship it away to foreign markets, what do "we" get in exchange therefor? The people of other lands can only purchase, as a rule, by making payment in things they have produced, like ourselves, in excess of what they consume. If the things "we" send abroad because "we" have produced more than "we" consume, are paid for by shipping to us the surplus acquired by the people of other lands in the same manner, will McAdoo or some other joke fend please rise and explain how our surplus is disposed of or even lessened by such a process? If "we" have a surplus of one million dollars worth of wealth that "we" cannot consume and that is exchanged for a million dollars worth that the people of some other land has produced and cannot consume, have "we" not just as great a surplus of stuff that "we" cannot consume as before? If not why not? If "we" produce more than "we" consume, in what other manner can such be gotten rid of or avoided than by cutting down production to actual requirements? The size of it is that all this trade, commerce and business is not carried on upon what is wilfully produced by the real producers above the amount requisite to satisfy their needs. It is carried on with that which is taken from the producers by force for the simple reason that those producers are slaves, ruled and robbed as slaves always were by their overlords and masters. Even a cow would have better sense than to gather more grass than she could consume. Even she would have far better sense than to believe that the only way she could lessen the embarrassment of a surplus would be to send it to some other cow in Patagonia for instance, and take a similar jag of surplus in return from her Patagonian correspondent. But even a muley cow is not so great a joke as McAdoo and bull con artists in general of the House of Fat, the house of "we." And the best part of the McAdoo joke is that his communication to the senator was printed holus bolus in our esteemed contemporary, the Railroad Worker, of February 1919, with evident approval of the wisdom contained therein, or at least without cracking a smile over the grotesque McAdoodian philosophy of buncome. But this joke about "we" produce more than we consume," and are compelled to trade the surplus off for an equal surplus in order to get rid of the surplus, is indeed rich; especially when coupled with rather startling fact that the "we" of other lands with whom "we" trade are at the same time getting rid of their surplus by means of the selfsame trade. It beats killing two birds with one stone, this getting rid of two surplus quantities of wealth by one and the same swap or trade.

AN INTERNATIONAL MADHOUSE

SOME MONTHS have elapsed since the signing of the armistice. The dogs of war are supposed to be in leash and the dove of peace is expected to again hover over the scene. Alleged statesmen of mighty calibre have been for some time foregathered at the victor's banquet board, presumably for the purpose of refurbishing the dove's plumage and renovating the dove cote that have been badly ruffled and befouled by the ruling class family row of the last four and a half years. Sometimes this gathering at Paris is jocularly termed a "Peace Congress," but captious critics who claim to have peeped through the keyhole assert that the performance thereof bears a much more striking resemblance to a conclave of pickpockets, porch climbers, bandits and burglars assembled for the profound purpose of dividing the loot and apportioning the plunder, than it does to a show having anything to do with "peace" unless it is to demonstrate its utter impossibility. While no

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sin of governments during the past has been more loudly condemned and rationally executed by the disciples of hypocrisy and deceit whose mission has been to stir up so much fog and confusion about the cause of the recent bloodletting that the common herd would be unable to arrive at any clear understanding of that cause, than the sin of "secret diplomacy," if it is worthy of note that no greater secrecy could be thrown about the deliberations of this alleged "peace congress" if it was actually a gathering of bandits to divide the plunder or lay plans for a future raid.

Even supposing that the "peace congress" does in due time conclude its deliberations and a peace is signed, have we any assurance that peace will prevail? Is there anything in the world situation today that makes peace at all possible? From every quarter comes tales of increasing unrest and discontent among the working people. It becomes each day more and more impossible for the masters to find employment for their slaves, and without employment there can be neither quiet or content. Ruling class industry in its very highest development has been emphatically demonstrated during the last four years. The mightiest production of ruling class essentials the world ever saw took place during that time. Never before upon such a grand scale was the function of class rule so clearly demonstrated; never was ruling class efficiency and the superlative excellence of its industrial and governing mechanism so convincingly expressed as during that glorious period. No such stupendous slaughter and devastation was ever pulled off before; never was there a more complete justification of class rule staged in all human history; never were the splendid possibilities of human slaughter by the machine method more magnificently exemplified; never was there such a striking comparison drawn between the productive power and "kultur" of the primitive and barbaric past and that of christian civilization. But this grand triumph of ruling class industrialism and its methods, registers the beginning of the end of class rule and class robbery. The huge mechanism of ruling class industry, the eventual and ultimate purpose of which has been so magnificently disclosed during the years just passed, can no longer be made to function as the mechanism of peaceful industry. The whole fabric of industrialism is falling to pieces. Made and finally perfected for the sole purpose of slaughter and devastation, once the huge task of the last few years is finished, once the grand culmination of all ruling class "aspirations" has been attained in the complete triumph of capitalist civilization over its feudal forebear from whose loins it sprung, the mechanism breaks down. That which has been created purely for the purpose of war, slaughter and devastation cannot be used as the foundation for an edifice of peace. In spite of the fact that some hundreds of millions of slaves were turned from the production of the really essential things of life and their every energy expended in killing, maiming and destroying upon a scale hitherto undreamed of, there has yet been sufficient of those essential things produced to satisfy all reasonable demands. And now that the slaughter has at least momentarily ceased and the machinery thereof is no longer kept going full tilt, the ruling class world is thrown into a veritable jimmies of turmoil, strife and revolutionary action growing out of the inability of rulers and masters to turn their enigma of slaughter and rapine to the requirements of peace. Evidently the industrial mechanism so-called that has been devised and designed to promote slaughter, devastation and waste, cannot be turned to the production of the essential things

of life and the inauguration of an era of peace, plenty and fraternity. War, bloody and destructive war, is the highest achievement of which ruling class civilization is apparently capable. In world wide war the ruling class attains its final goal. Its supreme mission has been realized in the last four years. Senile decay swiftly follows and its civilization becomes an international madhouse. Can one arrive at any other conclusion after taking careful survey of the world situation as it is today?

Editorial Notes

A Bulkley Valley pre-emptor recently suicided by shooting himself upon the doorstep of his own cabin. This should be taken as a warning to returned heroes to think at least twice before falling for any B. C. land settlement schemes that might be suggested to them.

One celebrated captain of industry in Great Britain is quoted as approving of shorter hours of labor and better pay, provided the workers will properly reciprocate by working enough faster to make up the loss that would otherwise be suffered by the employer. That is reasonable enough to be sure.

When the sheriff attempted to read the riot act at Glasgow during the recent strike, he was immediately convinced of the error of his ways by a well directed blow from a bottle thrown presumably by some striker. A baton charge was then made by the police upon the crowd. About 30 civilians were beaten up and nineteen policemen were laid out. This was not in Russia, nor yet in Germany. Make a note of that.

Is there a rumor afloat that there will soon be a collapse of that thing called a government at Victoria? Some people consider it more of a joke than anything else. It seems, however, that Ilones' John and his minstrels are incapable of dealing with the very simple problems arising out of the felicitous conditions they have inherited from the Bowser regime. It might as well be laid to Bowser as anything else, unless it might be the kaiser or the Bolsheviki. So maybe there will be an election soon.

If one man or set of men are compelled to work for another or others for nothing, what are they but slaves? Is that not all that there ever was, is or can be to human slavery? If the wages of such laborers are paid out of the products of their own labor, and such payment still leaves a surplus in the hands of their employers, masters, rulers, robbers, or whatever we may be pleased to call them, is that not equivalent to working for nothing? If not why not? And is that not a fair description of the conditions and circumstances under which the workers of all lands are now existing?

"Kaiser Bill Hohenzollern" could not have been such a bad one after all, judging from the speed with which he has been forgotten. His name is no longer mentioned by his late inveterate enemies. And report hath it that there is a well beaten path from where he now is to where he used to be, that is being daily trod by his faithful friends who long to have him reinstated upon the throne that he so long and fittingly graced. And still we hear no kink that the "democratic" governments of western Europe. Can it be that they would much prefer that he be re-seated upon his now busted throne than that the Spartans should triumph?

If it be true that less than one-half of the working force of the earth is engaged in producing all of the essential things of life, such as food, clothing, shelter, etc., and the other half

is engaged in producing only the things that are essential only to rulers and robbers, will some kind soul please inform us what "reconstruction" can really reconstruct that does not strike a death blow at ruling class industry? If ruling class industry has thrust the burden of producing all of the essential things of life for all, upon the shoulders of say one-half of the working people and driven the balance to the production of useless and nonessential things, how can matters be rectified without completely upsetting ruling class industry and wiping out that useless and brutal class?

It requires at least some talent and not a little memory to enable one to lie consistently and well. In many respects at least some of the hired liars of the daily press are lacking in proper equipment. It is a real wonder how they ever get the money for what they do. In one of the dispatches run upon the front page of a local daily liar recently a lurid account was given of the horrors prevalent in Moscow. The dispatch was dated from Warsaw, Poland. It evidently originated in Vancouver. At least one might so judge from the reading of it. After picturing the terrible scarcity of food, fuel and other necessities of life, the novelist naively states that "flower shops and hairdressers do a fine business, about thirty of these places being open. There being no food, fuel, etc., to purchase, the monied class (Bolsheviki) evidently finds a satisfactory substitute by wearing flowers and having their whiskers trimmed. Of these flower shops and hairdressing establishments our novelist says: "Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik minister of war and marine, who is fastidious and has a special lady manicurist, patronizes them." Now as Trotsky has a wife and three children and draws a salary of 900 rubles per month—about equivalent to \$100—it is quite easy to understand what large sums he must have wherewith to squander on such atrocities as posies and having his toe nails trimmed. Query: Does the atrocity novelist of the daily in question really earn his money and if so how much more than a penny a line should a good liar command?

Property should be sacred. It must not be destroyed. No person should be in any manner disturbed in the enjoyment of his property. Most certainly not. We can all agree to that. But what is property? The only test of property in the commercial sense is that it will bring to its owner a revenue, that is something for nothing. Unless it can do that it will not be rated as an investment. It will have no standing in the market. Now it happens that none of the things that are generally termed property, such as land, buildings, factories, warehouses, railways, steamships and such stuff cannot and does not bring any revenue to the owners thereof. But through the ownership of such things the owners are enabled to command the services of working people, the producers of all wealth, and out of which alone can revenue be paid. Thus while it appears that such things do actually bring a revenue to the owners, the fact is that all such revenue accrues from the labor of those workers whom the owners are able to command in wealth production because they control the land, buildings, machinery, etc., which the workers must have access to if they are to live at all. It may thus be seen that the workers constitute the sole revenue producing power and therefore constitute all there is to property in the commercial sense. All property value as measured in terms of the market and exchange, consists of the wealth producing power of such labor as the owners of such property value may be able to command. Consequently all that is bought and sold in the markets of the world, whether

MORE ABOUT BOLSHEVICS

Just as we were becoming accustomed if not resigned to tales from Russia of terror and sudden death, of the dictatorship of the proletariat, the suppression of the bourgeoisie, and the collapse of industry, of mob rule and the brigandage of the Red Guard, we are suddenly obliged to adjust our minds to new and more startling charges. The New York World, a journal not generally in the habit of lending its columns to the propagation of anarchism, has published a series of cable dispatches from Berlin, written by Robert Minor, well-known in New York radical circles as a young man of frankly anarchist sympathies. Robert Minor is out of Russia with the latest Bolshevik outrages on the tip of his pen. The Bolsheviks have not kill off the bourgeoisie, it appears. On the contrary, members of the middle class are serving under the Soviet Government as directors and managers of the leading industries, which are publicly owned. Worse yet, the Soviets have begun to function as sober organs of government, and disorder has well-nigh disappeared. "The initiative," reports Mr. Minor, "which used to be exercised in the streets, has been transferred back to governmental halls. Disorder has practically ceased within the acknowledged jurisdiction of the government. When the red flags wave in Moscow all is harmonious and official and well-policed." The members of the Red army, according to Mr. Minor, are submitting to discipline with an unaccountable willingness. The officers, drawn not only from the former upper class, but from the "Chicago and New York sweat-shops" as well, are generally respected and obeyed. When the Bolshevik army, singing the Internationale, swung into Minsk, "the working classes rose to meet the invader with open arms." Mr. Minor cannot understand it. It is easy to appreciate that an honest anarchist might well be irritated by a disciplined, integrated government; but what is the rest of the world going to make of this last bit of anti-Bolshevik propaganda.

The estates of Count Karolyi were reputed to be the second in value in Hungary, surpassed only by those of Prince Esterhazy, and worth thirty million dollars. He has now announced the distribution of this vast property in conformity with the law recently passed in Hungarian Assembly. When he was here in 1914 he said: "I will not give my estates to the Magyar people because I want the Magyar people to come and take them away. I won't give them to my people and I won't bribe them. The land rightfully belongs to them—when they awaken to this, they will go and seize it, and as far as I am concerned they are entirely welcome."—The Nation.

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in the shape of real estate, buildings, or other commodities, possess value solely by virtue of that which has been placed within it by the enslaved workers. And all workers are enslaved. As slaves they are the property of the ruling class of their respective lands. And they constitute all that ever did or can bring to the owners something for nothing. Certainly property should be sacred, that is from the owners standpoint. And that is the gospel that has always been taught the slaves of the earth by their owners, rulers and masters. And why not?

OUR SOLDIER BOYS

[A Suggestion by Nemesis]

Recently there has been much printed in the public press and much spoken on public platforms in praise of our soldier boys; we have been told in eloquent speeches and burning paragraphs of their valorous deeds on those far-away battlefields of Europe; we have been reminded time after time of those rows of wooden crosses which mark the last resting places of our immortal dead who gave up all and life itself for their country and for us.

From the pulpit; from the political platform; from the advertising and editorial columns of the public press; in magazine and story-book; on the ears and in the street; by our own home firesides: in prose and verse: in sentences made painfully eloquent by pauses for sob and sealding tears, we have heard many, many times of the deeds of those brave brothers and sons of ours, of their suffering and their agony; of their wounds and of their deaths and—all for us.

And God knows that all that has been said and written expresses only a small part of what they really have done and suffered for us.

Only those silent, returned men, whose eyes have the expression that the revelation of great things gives, know what they have done for us, and they cannot tell us for words are useless to express abnormal feelings and they will not tell us for to the noble it is shame to speak of sacrifice.

Let us try and realize what they have done for us and put it into a plain man's words that plain and honest minds may understand.

Mr. White of government financial fame was here in Vancouver but a short time ago, and he said that our soldier boys had helped to save Canada from the Hun.

Nothing could be truer than that. Without the heroic efforts of the sol-

diers of the empire Canada today would be a province of Hunland. Now, let us see what that means, having always in our minds the experiences of Belgium and the portions of other countries over-run by the atavistic Prussians acting under the orders of their mad rulers.

First imagine the effect such a catastrophe would have meant to the 8,000,000 inhabitants of our country—to the millions of matrons and maidens and the free-born Canadian men. Picture it for yourselves. It is an easy task in the light of the happenings in Belgium, France, Serbia and Armenia.

Now take a bird's-eye view of our beloved land—those millions upon millions of square miles, composed of undulating prairies, snow-clad mountain ranges, green and opulent valleys, rolling rivers and rushing streams, all swept by winds of heaven unsurpassed in their purity and invigorating properties by any on the earth. Think of the capital—capital produced by the toil and sweat of generations of British working men—in our railways, banks, mines, factories, stores, insurance and other gigantic corporations, farms and private homesteads and think of all of it at the disposal of the despoiling Hun and his comrade the unspeakable Turk.

Think again of the unimaginable wealth still stored up in our soil, in our forests, in our rocks and in our waters, awaiting but the labor of man in the time to come to be produced for the benefit of the whole human race and think of it again under the control of the inhuman and selfish Hun and his satellites.

You are aware how those wild brutes of Germany acted while they were attempting to accomplish their design of conquering their neighbors; now imagine how they would have acted had they succeeded and those neighbors had fallen helpless into their clutches.

Our capitalistic orators, politicians,

parsons and all the other wise men of Canada have told us again and again that our soldiers have saved all this for us and nothing that they have ever told us is nearer to the truth of God than that.

I take upon myself, here and now, to say to the government and public of Canada that the monstrously inadequate pensions and casual "jobs," provided for our soldiers, the benches placed in odd places about the streets; the eloquent tributes to them in the capitalistic press; a few cigarettes and buns distributed with the smiles of our beautiful society women and other trifling charities obtained by a system of street corner begging WILL NOT DO.

The time has now arrived when we have to seriously consider and make up our minds in what manner of way we are going to reward those empire and wealth saviors—those saviors of our wives' and daughters' honor; those saviors of the honor of our race now and for all time.

Every man of Canada today is faced by this problem, which we cannot put on one side or shelve by appointing a commission to consider it and let it pass for ever from our conveniently-ordered memories.

In this great land which I have in a feeble way attempted to present to your imagination there are many billions of acres of land, enough indeed to give to each man, woman and child nearly 300 acres and the greater part of this land is fertile and fruitful to a remarkable degree and the remainder where the plough will never leave a furrow is productive of much that adds to the comforts and necessities of mankind.

And always keep in mind—and you cannot too often repeat it to yourself—that our soldier boys have saved all this and kept it intact and without a stain.

How shall we reward them? We

never can pay the debt in full which we owe to them.

If a man were to save my life, my honor, my wife and child from worse than bondage and I were to give him the whole of my paltry savings to the last cent, do you think my debt to him would be settled?

You know it would not and so we cannot pay the debt in full to our soldier boys and they know it, too.

But reward them we must and handsomely. How?

During the whole of the terrible years when so many of those boys were sacrificing life and limb and every physical God-given gift they possessed to put down a long-planned military attempt to take possession of our planet, there was another element at work in our midst—an element so debased that we can think of them only with shuddering disgust.

I refer to the profiteers—the robbers of God's poor and the wives and children of those who were protecting them—the traitors who during the crisis and the storm betrayed and robbed their fellow-beings to their eternal shame and to the eternal disgrace of the governments that permitted their execrable crime to go unchecked and unpunished.

Those fiends, man only in shape, amassed many billions of dollars which are now in their possession and which I suggest should be demanded of them to help to pay for the carrying out of the following very modest scheme to reward the saviors of our lives, our honor and our land.

Many of our boys, thank God, will return to us safe and sound mentally and physically. To each of them let us give \$5,000, begging them to accept it not as an adequate reward for their services but merely as a slight expression of our gratitude and to prove to them that we appreciate to the utmost what they have done for us.

(Continued on Page Seven)

Every F. L. P.
Local in
British
Columbia
Should Make
a Special
Effort to Send
a Delegate

To the Membership of Federated Labor Party

Comrades: The first convention of the Federated Labor Party will be held at headquarters, 510 Dominion Building, Vancouver, beginning at 10 a. m. Thursday, March 21.

It is now twelve months since the Party was launched at an informal gathering following the 1918 convention of the British Columbia Federation of Labor.

During the past year the success which has attended the organization of the Party throughout the province now warrants the holding of a provincial convention to determine immediate and future policies in accordance with the general desire of the membership of the various branches.

Representatives will be on a basis of two delegates for the first two hundred members of a branch and one for each

additional hundred or a majority fraction thereof. Branches will make arrangements for transportation of their delegates.

As the B. C. Federation of Labor convenes at Calgary on March 10, to be followed by a Western Conference in the same city, the holding of the F. L. P. convention March 21 may assist some branches to secure representation.

Forward to the Provincial Secretary the names of delegates as early as possible.

E. T. KINGSLEY,
President.
R. H. NEELANDS,
Vice-President.
MISS H. GUTTERIDGE,
Treasurer.
W. R. TROTTER,
Secretary.

THE FORCE OF DESTINY

WE record our gratification at learning from the papers that our old friend Mr. McAdoo has risen in the world. From his start as a humble bureaucrat at subsistence wages or thereabouts, he has become attorney for a great moving-picture merger at \$100,000 per year, according to the morning dailies; the evening editions raised it to \$200,000, and we confess (envious creatures we are all!) that we did not look to see what next day's issues gave him. However, he seems at last in a way to be prosperous in an honorable employment, and no doubt will go into the films. The most rudimentary box-office sense would insure his doing so, hence it were superfluous that we should undertake to emphasize a unanimous popular demand. The ex-secretary is agile and personable, and unless Washington society reporters have flattered him shamefully, he is a dancer of credit and renown. The country insists on the privilege of responding as one man to the inspiring spectacle of his being filmed through one of the buck and wing specialties of his native south, supported, say, by Mr. Charles Chaplin on one side and Mr. Douglas Fairbanks on the other. Again, he has had the unusual experience of holding an office for almost every hour in the day—secretary, bureau-head, board-head, commission-head, sales manager, and what not? What a predestinatory preparation for the part of "Pooh-Bah" in an adaptation of the "Mikado" written to order by the admiring young lions of his staff! Vice-president Marshall is right. We confess to a touch of cynicism when we read the credo of Americanism set forth in his Washington speech the other day, but it has yielded wholly to the exhilarating influence of our present line of thought. Who could complain of our political system, when it leads straight to beatification of a whole people by opening such cultural opportunities as these?

We try not to be carried away by our enthusiasm, but while we are on the subject, we should like to propose an arrangement of general exchanges, something like exchange professorships, between or office-holders, whose performances seem to have gone very stale for lack of a sharper sense of the audience, and the commercial stage. We have not worked out the details, but anticipate no difficulty with them. As a beginning we would suggest that Mr. Burleson at once exchange with Mr. Joseph Cawthorn for the remainder of the season. There would not be standing-room in all New York for the crowds that would go to see Mr. Burleson, and when we think of the improvement in the postal service under Mr. Cawthorn, we predict with confidence that every business interest in the country would rise up and call us blessed. Again, let the senate investigating committee transfer its activities to the Winter Garden, or perhaps make a shift with the Brown Brothers at the Hippodrome. Congress would be ever so much wiser, it would learn ever so much more about essential human nature; and on the other hand, the theatre-goers would get far more than their money's worth of sheer, stark, diverting, and wholly unconscious humor. And as for the cabinet—why, fifty years ago Artemus Ward, with sterling good sense, was urging President Lincoln to fill up his cabinet with showmen. Showmen are what is needed—showmen in their several specialties—and let the cabinet, in their several specialties, go on tour, minus Mr. Burleson, who, as we have intimated, is far too precious to be wasted on the provinces.—The Nation.

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DESTINY, OR THE ONLY MEANS
[Nemesis]

As man evolved from uncouth shapes
Through struggle pain and strife,
And slow emergence from mental mists
To sweet self-conscious life,
Two radiant forms watched age by age
That long momentous birth,
And hailed with joy the crowning gift
That passed from Heaven to Earth.

And man full-blooded and erect,
And eyes with reason's primal glow,
Gazed on that fresh sun-nurtured earth,
And felt his soul within him grow;
And Love with eyes that warmly glowed
And Freedom tall, serene and fair,
Those forms divine, kept watch and ward
As if some foe was lurking there.

But quick as falls the tropic night
In jungle dense and sheltered vale,
A shadow sinister and gray
O'ercast the man in mantle pale.
He shrank in cold instinctive dread
That wild things feel at midnight
dear,
Though warned by neither sight nor sound.

Yet feel some dreadful lurker near.
And Love that shadow saw and paled
And stood as one in dull despair;
Then bent her head upon her breast,
And breathed to God a fervent prayer.

And when at last she raised her head,
Her radiant eyes with tears were
filled;
And thus she spoke in accents low
And tones that strangely throbbed
and thrilled.

"O God! the Man by greed possessed
Now faces pain and woe and strife;
An age-long struggle must be his
Ere he shall grasp the truth of life."

"For greed inspires the deed unjust
That robs man's brother of his due;
That breeds resentment fierce and deep,
Stirs up the vile and kills the true.
There is one light and one alone
That shines across those ages dim:
"Thine Love that holds the torch on high
And beacons through the strife to him."

Not selfish love that torch upholds,
Not inborn love of pulsing life,
Not love that centres round himself,
Not love for babe nor love for wife—
But greater love, the Christ shall teach
The love that operates from Mind,
Embracing all and seeing all—
The one salvation of mankind.

The love that service gives nor takes,
That seeks at all times to bestow,
That pushes others to the top,
And finds true happiness below,
Though ages roll in selfish strife,
This is the only means to gain
The peace that man instinctive seeks
But seeks through selfish means in vain.

Then Freedom spoke, "The words are true;
Through Love alone shall man attain
To heights sublime—his destined goal,
And cast for ever mental pain;
Through Love alone, shall Freedom's crown,
Though won by blood, be safely worn:
And when his foe, the demon greed,
Beneath his feet lies crushed and torn."

PRESS CENSORSHIP AND
DENIAL OF FREE SPEECH

There is another cause for unrest in Canada and that is the ban by order-in-council of so-called seditious literature and the right to organize political or educational groups to study economics. Free speech is no longer tolerated. We have developed a democracy in Europe but in doing it we have built up an autocracy by order-in-council in Canada. Special policemen have been appointed to enforce these orders-in-council. They were chiefly

OUR SOLDIER BOYS

(Continued from Page Six)

Many of these boys will return crippled mentally and physically and will be unable to compete successfully in the individual and bestial struggle for existence which the system under which we exist involves. There will be many widows and orphans to be provided for and we must do it handsomely and I propose that incomes from \$150 a month and upwards be granted to them—to the incapacitated soldiers and widows for life, unconditionally as their absolute right which nothing and no one can take away during their lifetime; and to the orphans an adequate income till they are of age to enter the ignoble struggle on their own behalf.

I am painfully aware that there are many among us whose god is gold, and whose thoughts and deeds are governed by an all-absorbing greed, who may raise a protest against this scheme but I insist that if it has any weakness at all, that weakness consists in its very moderate demands upon the public purse considering what our boys accomplished for us in the terrible trenches of Europe where they saved our fair land with all its beauty and wealth; its lovely women and proud men from a fate worse than death and from a shame that would have tortured to the end of the ages.

"At least 50,000 working men and women were in the hall or trying to get in. Every one was tremendously excited. . . . For hours men and women speakers stood upon the platform telling of the unfair trial of Mooney in San Francisco. Every now and then when some fresh injustice was sighted like the attempt to railroad Alexander Berkman to the penitentiary, great shouts of 'for shame' shook the vast building. . . . So crowded was the hall that the speakers could not descend the steps of the platform but had to be carried back and forth over the heads of the audience. The meeting lasted for hours and in that time soldiers and sailors, peasants and factory workers, discussed in the most intelligent manner the whole history of the San Francisco affair." In this writing of a huge protest meeting held on behalf of Mooney and against his brutal incarceration and threatened murder at the hands of the vicious ruling class ruffians of the U. S., Louise Bryant was not describing an event that occurred in that great "democracy," but one that took place in Russia, the land of the much-reviled Bolsheviks. Nothing of the kind could be pulled off in the United States, for that country possesses nothing in the shape of a labor movement worthy of the name, nor with a vision beyond that of patriotic slaves slyly serving their masters, both politically and economically, and whining about the treatment those masters deal out to them and which they so eminently deserve.

political appointees and some amusing incidents have occurred when these gentlemen attempted to show Ottawa that they earned their salary by prosecuting some unfortunate who was unable to keep pace with the orders-in-council, and quite unconscious of possessing prohibited literature. Any one who advocates public ownership may be imprisoned; searches were organized for forbidden literature, in fact a reign of terror was attempted in some districts. The prosecution of men holding radical views and subscribing to radical publications were not confined to foreigners, as quite a few Canadian weeklies were suppressed. There is a large number of political prisoners in Canadian jails and we may expect to hear of an order-in-council creating a home; a Siberia for political exiles in northern Alberta. —From speech in the Alberta legislature, by Alex. Ross, M. L. A.

Federated
Labor
PartyMEETINGS FOR NEXT
SUNDAY EVENINGVANCOUVER BRANCH
ROYAL THEATRE
8 p.m. SharpSpeaker:..... R. P. Pettipiece
Pianist:..... Julian HaywoodSchool for children and adults,
2:30 p.m., at 641 Granville street.NORTH VANCOUVER
K. of P. HALL
3 p.m.

Speaker:..... Dr. W. J. Curry

NEW WESTMINSTER
COLUMBIA THEATRE
3 p.m.

Speaker:..... Chas. Lestor

VICTORIA
K. of P. (Labor) HALL
8 p.m.

(Local Speaker)

NANAIMO
DOMINION HALL
8 p.m.

Speaker:..... E. T. Kingsley

OFFICERS OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA
BRANCHES
OF THE
FEDERATED LABOR PARTY

are requested to send THE STAR announcements and reports of all meetings held, including educational public meetings, organization work, and such other news items as will be of interest to all Western Canada wage-workers.

SPAIN

Interesting news is now leaking through from Spain. The Romanones government recently tendered its resignation. This, on request of the King, was withdrawn until the budget was voted, which must be before April 1. A series of crises have passed, which apparently have had no serious effect on the life of the country. But they unmistakably mark a stage in the dissolution of the old system of government, and this is being hastened by the determined effort of the revolutionary working class to capture

the country. Of course the only problem is the labor problem. The present regime will go down unless provision is made to provide employment and better the conditions of the working class. What is termed "enlightened opinion" is agreed that the only thing that can save Spain from anarchy, is some suitable program of public works, not an artificial means of providing employment, but a permanent productive enterprise, such as railways, irrigation projects and power development. From an engineering standpoint Spain must be "civilized," which

means industrialized and the slaves kept busy. Eager eyes are cast to Britain, France and America to advance capital from this immense resources.

If the government can give suitable encouragement to foreign enterprise for developing the tremendous resources of the country it would not only assure itself strong outside support, but go far towards defeating the "formidable and sinister campaign now being organized by the workers, whose grievances are deep and genuine." That the workers are being powerfully influenced by the revolutionary trend of events throughout Europe, goes without saying.

The revolution may triumph in Spain at any moment. All the efforts of reactionary governments cannot long hold it back, at any rate.

Parm's Pertinent Paragraphs

The bonehead who talks of "running his own business" in these days of slave-operated industry is on a par with the ignoramus who declares he pays wages to his employees. There is no "business" unless the slave is working. And who the devil would keep a slave around who didn't earn his own wages—and then some?

Congratulations, Major Burde, M.I.A. for Alberni! The more that B. C. fish trust is stirred up the "fishier" the smell.

By legal enactment all the natural resources of Canada have been transferred to political pirates and corporations. By the same process they can be restored to those who use and need them—as soon as the workers are ready.

Quite a number of changes are being made in the personnel of the Vancouver industrial labor movement—and for Labor's good.

According to biblical love Christ saved others, but himself could not save. The Allies are in somewhat the same position. The Russian and German workmen have secured the democracy. All we have is a legacy of Hun militarism and orders-in-council.

The coal mines of British Columbia should be made the property of the state, and coal produced for the use of those who need it. It might mean the deportation of a few "alien enemies," but the country could worry along without them.

If the workers wait till the Oliver-Farris "reformers" at Victoria abolish the modern slave plantations (company towns) they will have lived to see the Peace Conference reach a conclusion.

Returned soldiers need never be out of employment. They can spend their time looking for the democracy they were fighting for.

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The business office, and editorial sanctum of Editor Kingsley, is now located at Suite 510 Dominion Building, corner Hastings and Camille streets. Sey. 4933.

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Organize public meetings and sell literature—then organize for election day!

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