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Ninth Year—No. 404

Seattle, Washington, Saturday, December 19, 1908

Price Five Cents

THE CRISIS IN GERMANY

Socialist Fight for Unemployed in Reichstag—Some Things for Americans to Consider

The universal crisis of unemployment felt as intensely in Germany as perhaps in any other country. This condition caused the Socialist members of the Reichstag to address an inquiry to the imperial chancellor asking what steps were being taken to relieve the suffering of the idle workmen.

In the discussion which followed some very interesting facts were revealed, as may be noted in the extracts given below.

Mollenkott (Socialist): "Unemployment is caused by economic crises, which are in turn born of the capitalist system of production. During the decade 1895-1902 we suffered from but one such crisis. After but ten years we are again in the midst of misery. And this despite the fact that the capitalists have assured us that through their corporations and trusts they are enabled to regulate production to a certain extent. The scourge of unemployment is raging especially fiercely now, but it must be emphasized that in many parts a permanent state of unemployment prevails even under normal economic conditions. The building trades, the miners, the farm laborers and the river workers go idle every now and then because of climatic conditions. The sugar and canning industries are running only in certain seasons. The chocolate and confectionery industries run in full force for only a few months of the year. Aside from these a number of other crafts are constantly struggling for an existence, for instance the wood-turning craft. Many thousands go idle under normal conditions."

"During the crisis the capitalists limit production still further. And the crisis is not felt by the unemployed alone. Those at work must consent to wage reductions, the full extent of which we do not learn until after the crisis. In the Royal Mines, during the last crisis, the yearly wage went down from 1137 marks to 921 marks, or a reduction of 4 marks weekly."

"The Department of Transportation issued in 1901 a circular recommending a reduction of wages to counteract the rise during the 'prosperity' times. After the crisis has once passed over, the Trades Unions have been forced to hard struggles in order to raise the wages to the former level."

"We are again amid a great crisis. In the building trades the hard times began already in 1907. The high rents were blamed. But activity did not increase when the rents were lowered. According to governmental reports there are now 420,000 more unemployed in Germany than under normal conditions. But this figure is in reality much too low. The Trades Unions paid out during the third quarter of 1907, 304,000 marks to 1,250,000 members insured against unemployment, but during the third quarter of 1908, 1,250,000 marks, or over twice the amount of last year, was paid out. The few pennies saved up disappear quickly; then comes hunger, followed by disease. Many thousand working men are forced on the road. When the unmarried laborer finds himself no longer able to pay his board, he is simply forced to beggary. If caught at it he is punished, though he is innocent of the cause of his own condition. Theft and hold-ups increase fast. The 'Kreuzzeitung' calculated that the cost of maintaining the prisoners and workhouses during the crisis year of 1901 amounted to 150,000 marks. And still the same journal demanded more prisons for the beggars."

"The number of homeless given assistance during 1904-07 amounted to about 20,000 yearly; 1907-08 this number increased suddenly to 25,000. And the charitable institutions in Berlin gave besides at the same time lodging to 74,000 people. Many of these suffer so much physically and morally that they are socially lost. If the amount that is now used for maintaining criminals had been used in keeping these men and women above water before they sank down into the pool of misery they would have remained useful members of society."

"During the last twenty years the national wealth has increased thirty billion marks. The fortunes in Prussia increased during the decade 1895-1905. But the workmen have received none of this increase. The government often promises, whenever it can, for instance for the miners in Saarbrücken. The state orders its superintendents to import foreign labor for canal construction in order to increase security of labor power, which would cause an increase in wages."

"The new taxes increase the mis-

LOCAL SEATTLE ENFORCES AUTHORITY

Last Thursday evening, at the regular business meeting of the Local Seattle was opened by two suspended members, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Parks, with the result that Mrs. Parks was removed from the hall by order of Chairman McKee.

These two people have spent their days and nights for the last six months endeavoring to disrupt the Local.

There is good evidence that they have been paid by others to do this work. They have had practically no other occupation but to denounce Local Seattle to every member and prospective member. Allied with Dr. Brown and Dr. Falk and those whose minds they were able to poison, they were the chief cause of the Local's downfall.

At the previous meeting of the Local, Dec. 11, Parks was in the hall and attempted to carry out the expulsion of the speakers and voting as if still a member.

At the meeting of Dec. 18, after Parks had shouted "Fire" from the

from her, she sprang forward and struck Comrade George Stevens fall in the face with her clenched fist. Stevens then picked her up and carried her from the hall. As the door closed behind him, and before he could disengage himself, Stevens was set upon and beaten in the face by a dozen "Independent Socialists" waiting in the hall since the Lewis-Parks set-to.

Then Mrs. Parks called in the police to arrest Lewis. The chairman went out into the hallway and explained the situation to the officer, who then went away, making no arrests, and the meeting proceeded in an orderly fashion with the regular business on the docket.

The capitalist papers, especially the "P.L.", have been making a specialty of scraps, big and little and nose, in the Seattle Socialist Party Local for the last few months. You would think from reading them that nothing but scraps was to be found among the Socialists. But this sum can be disproved by the fact that two hundred millions is too much only when it is for the assistance of the workers (applause from the Social Democrats). But this sum can be disproved by the fact that two hundred millions is too much only when it is for the assistance of the workers (applause from the Social Democrats).

"Furthermore, the public labor employment agencies should be thoroughly organized throughout the country and the nine-hour day should be made the legal workday. It is the duty of the state to help the unemployed. The state must help. Do not waste the money on cannon and warships, but use it to improve the homes of the people and the economic power of Germany." (Vigorous applause from the Social Democrats.)

A long debate followed, with the result that the government gave the unemployed a few nice phrases, while the government parties scornfully refused to do anything to relieve their condition.

(Translated from the Danish in "Social-Demokraten," Copenhagen, by Arthur Jensen.)

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Red Sunday, Jan. 22

Protest Against Political Extradition.

The Chicago defense committee for the political refugees at a recent meeting carried a motion making the next "Red Sunday" (Jan. 22, the anniversary of the beginning of the Russian revolution of 1905) a day of great protest demonstration throughout the United States.

A special committee was elected to arouse all Irish societies to action in order to prevent the extradition of Patrick Koss, a young Irish lad who is wanted by the English government. The same committee has in charge the defense of the Mexican revolutionists now held in Arizona and California.

(Compiled from "Stridheedske," the Danish Socialist organ, by Mikkel Kupala.)

Socialism, in a Nutshell

By A. M. Simons

WHAT IS SOCIALISM?

The word Socialism has come at the present time to have two quite distinct meanings. One, that of a future Co-operative Commonwealth, is a legacy from the Utopian stage of Socialism; the other, that of a social philosophy, is the result of the modern scientific phase of Socialism. Both of these meanings have become firmly fixed in the language that it is probably useless to attempt to eradicate either of them. Yet while they do remain the fact of this double meaning must give rise to constant confusion.

CATASTROPHIC UTOPIANS.

The first sense of the word, that of a future state of society, need not detain us long, for while it is still the more popular and common meaning of the word it is really almost meaningless. No Socialist, and least of all the scientific revolutionary Socialist, ever dreams that there is going to come a day when one can say 'Yesterday was capitalism, today is the Co-operative Commonwealth.' Hence they leave to a catastrophic utopian the task of telling 'what will happen under Socialism.' By the way, it is interesting to note that it is always this 'step-by-step' opportunist Socialist who really adopts the 'catastrophic hypothesis.' He is the one who continually tells us how this, that and the other thing will be run 'under Socialism,' as if he expected some morning to wake up out of capitalism into a society labelled Socialism.

SOCIALISM A SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY.

But it is in the sense of a social philosophy that the word Socialism has really come to have its present tremendous importance in the world of thought and action. It is this meaning, the acceptance and understanding of which, in a large degree, differentiates the modern scientific Socialist from the sentimental utopian who formerly bore that name.

In this sense there are two essential points in the meaning of the word, which are comprehended in the philosophy expressed by the word Socialism.

FIRST POINT—"ECONOMIC DETERMINATION."

The first of these is what is commonly called the 'Materialistic conception of history,' or, since this expression tends to confuse the idea with metaphysical materialism, what has little or no essential connection with it. It is the doctrine that the economic conditions of society determine the ideas and the actions of the individual. It is the doctrine that the economic conditions of society determine the ideas and the actions of the individual. It is the doctrine that the economic conditions of society determine the ideas and the actions of the individual.

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SECOND POINT—"THE CLASS STRUGGLE."

The second fundamental thought of Socialism in the sense in which it is now best embraced is in the discovery of the law of social evolution through the class struggle. By this it is meant that each method of production brings to the dominant social position some social class. This class is the one which under that method of production is most essential. Hence the tools of production are improved and the method of their utilization changed a new social class is made essential. This new class struggles with and overcomes the old and society advances another stage.

CAPITALIST CLASS NO LONGER ESSENTIAL.

The importance of this law at the present time lies in the fact that the capitalist class by abdicating its function as the organizing, directing class in industry has ceased to be the socially essential class. At the same time the change in the manner of production from individual to collective production and the organization of the laborers in great industrial productive armies independent of the capitalist class, now so far as the productive process is concerned, has made the laborers the essential economic class. Therefore, in obedience to these two laws it is certain that the time is not far distant when that class will become socially dominant and take possession of all the instruments of social control. They will then, as the capitalist class does at present, control the state, determine public opinion and set social customs.

THE NEXT STAGE.

But an examination of the present stage of industry and manner of production shows us that the next change in the organization of industry will be in the line of a transfer of ownership in a highly concentrated form from individuals to the collectivity. Now it also happens that this change is one which will be of tremendous benefit to the laboring class and hence they have a strong incentive to work in concert with social development to hasten the action of the laws we have just explained.

ALSO REVOLUTIONARY.

This philosophy constitutes the basis of modern, scientific Socialism. Since this transfer of social classes will constitute a reversal of a large number of social institutions, it is also called revolutionary. And in every sense in which this word has in the English language there is no more proper place in which it can be used—a fact I would call to your attention some persons would not hesitate to try to prove to revise that language, at least so far as the vocabulary of Socialism is concerned.

SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES PERSUASIVE.

The principles of this philosophy are now invading every field of human thought. They are reflected in the present cry of 'back to the people' (which is simply another way of calling for proletarian domination and capitalist overthrow) in art, literature, music, handicrafts, history and pedagogy. Once that a laborer has become thoroughly conscious of the truth of these principles, the method of his operation which his class is to play in the working out of these laws—once in short he has become 'class-conscious,' he is a Socialist for keeps, for his Socialism is grounded upon the everlasting rocks of truth and fact and not upon the shifting sands of sentiment and day-dreams.

To Organize the Slaves of Capital to Vote Their Own Emancipation

"THERE'S A REASON"

By E. J. Lewis and Arthur Jensen

(Dedicated to C. W. Post, of Little Creek, Fame.)

CAST OF CHARACTERS.

Boss of printing shop. James Jones, a Seab pressman. John Smith, a Union pressman.

(Jones seated in comfortable chair. Enter a meek workman. The workman, James Jones, the Seab, takes off his hat and teases his hat embarrassed in his hands.)

Jones (in a frightened, low voice): "Good morning, Sir, I saw you in the morning paper and called to see if I could get the job."

Boss-Well, what can you do? J.-Oh, I think I can do what you want done.

R.-Well, what makes you think you can? J.-I belong to the Y. M. C. A. and I am honest, and I have worked for a man back in South Bend, Ind., who was one of the trustees in the Methodist church, and he said I was all right.

R.-That's all right. But have you got any recommendations? J.-Yes, Sir, I've got one (hands it to the boss).

R. (reads aloud): The bearer, James Jones, went to work for this firm as pressman at the time of the strike for an hour and remained loyal during the entire time of his service. He is a fairly good mechanic, but his chief merit lies in his loyalty to his employer. (Signed) HOLLISTER BROS. Per Jas. Andrews.

Chicago, Jan. 4, 1908.

(handing it back to Jones) Well, what would you be willing to work for?

J.-I would be willing to start for anything that you think is 'fitting to pay' and then you can raise me when you think I am worth more.

R.-Well, you can come back in about an hour.

J.-Thank you, Sir. (Exit).

R. (talking to himself): Well, it's hell all right that we have to ally ourselves with such shrimps, but it is necessary in order to stay in business, so I guess the best thing a fellow can do is to not let one's better feelings run away with him. (Enter John Jones, the Union pressman.)

Smith (in a straightforward and fearless manner): Good morning, I saw your ad in this morning's paper for a pressman, so I called for the job.

Boss-Yes, I need a man. What can you do?

S.-Anything you have got in mind.

R.-Hm, got any recommendations?

S.-Yes, here it is (handing his union card to the boss).

R.-That ain't no recommendation. What has that card to do with your ability to work?

S.-That card means that I can fill the shoes of any man in the shop.

R.-Well, what are you willing to work for?

S.-The scale. What does that mean?

S.-That means living wages as determined by my union.

R.-And how much is that?

S.-Twenty-one dollars, and I won't work for less.

R.-Well, I don't think you are the kind of a man I want. Besides, \$16 is all I intend to pay.

S.-Oh, I see. You don't want a man, you want a horse.

R. (talking to himself): It's no use talking, a man like that demands respect, but there I go again like a mousy old woman; any time I can get suckers like that nation's leg from the Y. M. C. A. I guess I won't be foolish enough to hire him.

(Re-enter James Jones, the Seab.)

R.-Well, I guess you have more sense in a minute than those others have in a month, but I will have to use all the suckers that are willing to be used. But I think the union man has worth a dozen of those nine-dollar chumps.

Curtain.

R.-You can go on to work to-morrow morning, and I will see what I can pay after I see what you can do.

S.-Thank you, Sir. (Exit).

R.-Well, it's no use talking, those union men have more sense in a minute than those others have in a month, but I will have to use all the suckers that are willing to be used. But I think the union man has worth a dozen of those nine-dollar chumps.

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ington. How many had money in their
pockets? A score confessed to a copper
or two. And how many would go to
any kind of work, however hard, if
they had a chance? "All" was the
reply in a shout. "It's the work we
want, money, not soap."

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NEXT DOOR TO HOUSE OF LORDS
By Emil M. Herman.
The election of 1908 has come and gone. Once again the conscious mem-
bers of the proletariat and those in
sympathy with us have counted noses
with the capitalist class and their
dupes.
A decision is to be a skirmish in the
tremendous class struggle going on in
society.
It is a time to test the strength,
solidarity and intelligence of the wage
class. We have taken a marked step
in advance. We have passed another
milestone in the road of progress. We
are a little stronger, a little more
lightened and a little more aggressive
than we were four years ago. Much,
very much more is yet to be done—
the most important of which is more
and better organization. As a result
of the late election the capitalist class
is still in complete control of the
powers of government, national and
state. Iniquitous Bill Taft and the
Republican Party have been elected to
administer the affairs of state. The
interests of capital are safe. Labor
will continue to get it where the
chickens go to the toll meat.
Are they that voted for Capitalism
and all its attendant evils will con-
tinue to kill 5,000 and mail 65,000 of
their employees annually. Men will
blow up in the mines and their
wives insulted by the very class who
are responsible for their death.
The wage class will continue to ex-
ist in poverty, misery and despair.
Seven million women and 4,000,000
children will continue to go to the
factory and workshop, while millions
of aboriginal men search vainly for
a chance to get to the toll meat.
Two hundred thousand women, annu-
ally, will still be forced to sell their
virtue upon the altar of lust in order
to keep their miserable families in
existence. The department stores will
continue to be recruiting stations for
the houses of ill fame. Children will
still faint in their seats at school from
the sheer weight of nourishment. The
bread lines will continue to grow and
tag days to collect charity for the
"worthy poor" will recur occasionally
to remind us before the Republic is
in power and that production for profit
still continues. Crime, insanity, vice,
drunkenness, unemployment, graft,
variance, etc., will continue to flourish
and spread and the Republic will be
by the Republican and Democratic re-
presentatives of capital will be, as in
the past, the pontifical, workhouse,
chain-gang, poor farm and charity.
Comrade, a tremendous task is be-
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