

A Capitalist Dictatorship

By JAY LOVESTONE

SOME HISTORY

An analysis of the plan and structure of the American Government conclusively reveals the fact that our much-vaunted Constitution is, an excellent plan of crushing the working masses and baffling their will.

Historians like Beard, Smith, Bryce, Fiske, McMaster and Woodrow Wilson offer abundant evidence to show that the American Constitution and the Government founded upon it were deliberately designed to eliminate as far as possible, the direct influence of the broad masses on legislation and public policy.

At first the American Revolution was merely an organized, armed protest against what seemed to our forefathers to be an arbitrary and unwarrantable taxing power exercised by the British ruling class. As the struggle developed, the war took on a much broader and more popular basis. For a time the poorer classes were a powerful factor in the political life of the country.

But with the return of peace, the propertied classes steadily regained prestige. A strong wave of reaction then set in. It was under such conditions that the American Constitution was adopted and the present American Government organized.

Our Holy Constitution

To the average American workman, the Constitution is the very incarnation, the very embodiment of democracy. In fact, the Constitution is only an attempt to apply the precepts of the 18th century philosophy—the aims and ideals of the capitalists rapidly coming into the position of the ruling class. Adam Smith, the economic and political lodestar of the rising capitalist class has tersely formulated the essence of this philosophy as applied to Government. He said:

"Civil Government, so far as it is instituted for the security of property, is in reality instituted for the defense of the rich against the poor, or those who have some property against those who have none at all."

This was the guiding principle of our "Fathers" who framed the Con-

stitution. The Constitutional Convention set up as its goal the organization of a government that would as much as possible keep out the broad masses and not be directly responsible to them. They sought, according to Professor Smith, to devise a government "which was just popular enough not to excite general opposition and which at the same time gave to the people as little as possible of the substance of political power."

Bribery and the strong appeal to the fear of European aggression helped to secure the adoption of the Constitution by the States. Bryce maintains, that if the Constitution had been put to a popular vote instead of to the States, it would have been rejected. At the time of its adoption, the American working masses did not look upon the much venerated Constitution of today as a democratic document.

Plan Spanish-Jewish Weekly

The Spanish Branch of the Workers Party is issuing a May Day number of a newspaper "El trabajador." It is expected to be the beginning of a series of publications that might form the basis for a Spanish-Jewish Weekly.

There will be industrial and political articles, some poems and some drawings.

The Theatre Guild's "R. U. R." is going to the Court Theatre, Chicago.

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