

Hillquit Exposes Disfranchisement Fraud—Debs and 1500 Are Citizens

Administration officials in Washington for more than five years have willfully misled the public regarding the disfranchisement of Eugene V. Debs and 1500 other political offenders. They have withheld citizenship from these victims of war madness unscrupulously.

These sensational statements are made in a letter from Morris Hillquit, eminent lawyer and author and member of the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party, to Mr. Debs, following an exhaustive investigation by Mr. Hillquit of this question in behalf of Mr. Debs.

According to Mr. Hillquit's letter, a copy of which was mailed to the American Appeal, Debs has never been disfranchised—could not have been disfranchised under any law or section of the Constitution of the United States.

The five-year effort of two Administrations to prevent Debs from exercising his franchise in order to treat him to his knees with the club of disfranchisement, was in plain violation of the law and Constitution. The repeated statements from Administration sources that Debs was no longer a citizen CONSTITUTE ONE OF THE MOST INSINCERE AND ATROCIOUS ATTEMPTS TO DECEIVE THE PUBLIC AND PERPETRATE A COLOSSAL HOAX FOR THE MOST NECESSITIOUS POLITICAL PURPOSES IN THE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY.



Attorney General John G. Sargent.

Hillquit's Question
On what authority of law does your Department rely to deprive Mr. Debs of citizenship?

Sargent's Reply
This Department has not expressed an opinion on the subject.



Morris Hillquit, Socialist Attorney

President, has been referred to this Department in reply thereto, you are advised that Mr. Debs has not applied for a pardon to restore his civil rights. Should he do so, his application will receive careful consideration.

The Appeal's Challenge

"In view of the continuation of this fraud by the Administration, the American Appeal challenges the Department of Justice to justify this alleged disfranchisement of 1,500 citizens of the United States by a single item of the Constitution; by any amendment of the Constitution; by any law or enactment, state or national; by any decision of any court.

The integrity and honor of the Administration has been seriously challenged by the facts presented by Mr. Hillquit.

The Administration is honor-bound and duty bound to show wherein these facts presented by Mr. Hillquit are wrong, to point out some justification in the law and the Constitution for its position.

It gives this explanation to itself, to the good name of this country, to the people it is supposed to serve, to the 1,500 victims of a policy of persecution it has followed remorselessly for years.

IF THERE IS NO ANSWER UNDER THESE SUPREMELY IMPERATIVE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE PEOPLE MAY WELL KNOW THERE CAN BE NO ANSWER OTHER THAN THE WEAK AND TIMID EVASION ALREADY EXPRESSED IN ATTORNEY GENERAL SARGENT'S LETTER TO MR. HILLQUIT.

A Splendid Victory

The Appeal is so certain there can and will be no satisfactory answer or explanation that it does not hesitate to announce a splendid victory.

To Morris Hillquit, a member of the governing board of the American Appeal, and the Socialist Party, more than to any other individual, credit is due for this victory.

When others were accepting without question the repeated statements of the Administration that these 1,500 men had lost their citizenship, Mr. Hillquit was doing for weeks and months the national and state laws and amendments, the Constitution of the United States, the decisions of our courts.

He did not fire his tremendous broadside of evidence until he had made it complete and invincible. NOTHING BUT FURTHER VIOLATION OF THE LAW AND CONSTITUTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION CAN PREVENT THESE 1,500 VICTIMS FROM SPEEDILY REALIZING THEIR RIGHTS AS FULL-FLEDGED CITIZENS.

To Mr. Hillquit and the American Appeal, and the Appeal Army, and to thousands of readers of the Appeal supporting the Debs' Drive is due great credit for this splendid victory that will explode the monstrous myth that has stood between these men and the just enjoyment of their civil rights for years.

The publicity work of the Appeal and the Appeal Army has been of incalculable value in this great crusade and should not be relaxed until the government is forced to formally recognize the citizenship of all these war victims.

victim of a felony or of any violation of the law of the right of citizenship.

"It is thus clear that you have not been deprived of your citizenship by any Federal Law or act and the inquiry narrows itself down to the question whether your citizenship has been forfeited under the laws of the state of Indiana, of which you are a resident."

No State Disfranchisement

"The question must be answered emphatically in the negative. States have no power to treat aliens with the rights of United States citizenship or to deprive citizens of such rights. Oddly enough this doctrine has been most emphatically asserted in the infamous Dred Scott decision, but that doctrine has never been questioned or changed by constitutional amendment, or subsequent judicial decision. The state of Indiana, furthermore, has never attempted by statute or otherwise to deprive citizens residing within its bounds of the rights of United States citizenship.

"The state has limited by law certain political rights of its citizens. The constitution of the state of Indiana empowers the General Assembly to deprive of the right of suffrage and to render ineligibility to any person convicted of an infamous crime, and the General Assembly has exercised this power in several ways. In fixing the penalties for various crimes, the laws of Indiana in numerous instances provide that the defendant upon conviction may be disfranchised and declared incapable of holding office. There are very few instances in which such penalty is made mandatory. In fact, I believe that automatic disfranchisement and ineligibility for office applies only to the crime of robbery in its various forms. In practically all other cases the penalty of disfranchisement and ineligibility is part of the sentence imposed by the judge upon conviction and may be so imposed for any determined period."

No Automatic Disfranchisement

"There is no general statute automatically disfranchising any person upon conviction of a crime, but such disfranchisement can only take place upon conviction of a crime defined in the criminal laws of the state of Indiana, after trial in the state court and is part of the sentence pronounced by the judge presiding at such court.

"Since you were never convicted under the criminal laws of the state of Indiana and no sentence of disfranchisement was imposed upon you, you have not forfeited the right to vote in the state of Indiana, and I feel confident that if any attempt is made by the local election authorities to prevent you from voting at public elections, you can successfully frustrate such attempts by an application to the courts for the protection of your rights.

"Your only political disability relates to holding of office.

"By the Act of 1881, a General Assembly of your state provided that an election may be contested on the ground, among other things, that the contestant prior to such election has been convicted of an 'infamous crime.' It might have been questioned whether that provision applied to your case, both because the statutory wartime offense under which you were convicted could be held not to be an infamous crime within the meaning and intent of that provision and because you were not convicted of any crime recognized as such on the statute books of your state.

"It was probably that doubt that the General Assembly had in mind when in 1921 it enacted an additional law on the subject, which seems to have been framed largely to cover your particular case which reads as follows:

Only Bared from State Offices

"That it shall hereafter be deemed an ineligible qualification for persons to hold any office within the state of Indiana either by election or appointment, that such persons shall never have evaded or have been convicted of evading the selective service act of the United States or any conspiracy or attempt to defraud the government of the United States, or of any seditious utterances in violation of the laws of the United States or of any other crime against the laws of the United States where the sentence imposed therefor exceeded six months."

"I am of the opinion that the law is a valid exercise of the constitutional powers of the Indiana legislature, and that you are thus barred from holding office in the state of Indiana. This, however, in my opinion would not apply to Federal office, such as member of the House of Representatives, United States Senator, President and Vice-President of the United States.

"If you accept my views on the subject, it seems

to me that it would be well to shift the base of your campaign from Congress to the Department of Justice.

"The United States Attorney General has publicly announced that you will not be restored to citizenship unless you petition for pardon and take a new oath of allegiance. This attitude is without warrant in law and may be challenged with all the emphasis at our command.

"Sincerely yours,
"MORRIS HILLQUIT."

Let Them Answer

These facts are a clear and ringing challenge to the Department of Justice, in President Coolidge and to the entire Administration in Washington.

They demand a reply. The Administration is obligated on its honor to point out where these facts are in error—wherein they are justified in the position that the 1,500 men convicted for violation of the Espionage Act and other war-time acts are not citizens. On the face of these facts it unquestionably follows that Harding and Daugherty arrogated to themselves authority, power, not granted by the Constitution of the United States, by Congress, by the Espionage Act, or by any other law.

Without warrant of legal authority they simply nullified the constitutional rights of 1,500 citizens and declared their citizenship forfeited.

The court in which Debs was tried and convicted assumed no such power and even if it had, there is to be found nothing in the Constitution or laws of the land that would sustain or justify such a monstrous outrage.

It is thus made quite clear that the confiscation of Debs' rights as a citizen, as well as the citizenship of the 1,500 other victims, was fraudulent on its face, a usurpation of power not granted by any stretch or twist of legal authority—a lawless act committed by political bandits.

Evidence of Guilt

That the Administration of Washington is conscious of this fraud is in fearful terror of an exposure of its utterly untenable and untenable position—as strongly indicated by its recent reply to a letter of inquiry from Mr. Hillquit asking on March 11, whether or not Debs had legally been deprived of citizenship. The following is Mr. Hillquit's letter:

"Mr. Debs informs me that the Department of Justice on one or two previous occasions expressed the opinion on his conviction has operated to deprive him of his rights of citizenship and that he can only be restored to such rights by a pardon issued by the President. In behalf of Mr. Debs I respectfully inquire whether your Department still adheres to this proposition and, if so, on what authority in law it relies for support of the same." Boldly faced with the question of the legality of its own acts, the United States Department of Justice, did not reply as a just and law-abiding Department of Justice should reply. It did not attempt to justify its stand. It did not say one word in its own defense.

IT CRAWLED, IT BEGGED THE QUESTION, IT DODGED THE ISSUE, IT SIDESTEPPED IN THIS WEAK AND PITIFUL FASHION:

"Replying to your letter of March 11, 1926, you are informed that so far as I am advised this department has not expressed an opinion on the subject of whether the conviction of Eugene V. Debs operated to deprive him of his rights of citizenship."

Why did not the Attorney General attempt to quote the law and constitution in justification for the disfranchisement of 1,500 citizens?

There is but one answer—if there were any legal justification for this monstrous outrage, it would be forthcoming.

ATTORNEY GENERAL SARGENT'S EVASION, HIS FAILURE TO TRY TO JUSTIFY THE ADMINISTRATION OR ANSWER MR. HILLQUIT, IS CLEARLY A CONFESSION OF GUILT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

The Department of Justice confesses that it has never expressed a legal opinion on Debs' disfranchisement—FOR FIVE YEARS IT NOT ONLY EXPRESSED A PUBLIC OPINION THAT DEBS WAS NOT A CITIZEN, BUT IT COUNTENANCED AND CLEARLY ENCOURAGED THIS FICTION, UNTIL IT WAS ACCEPTED AS THE TRUTH THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

Illuminating History

When President Harding released Debs from prison, he made it clear that he had not pardoned Debs and stated as the opinion of the Administration that Debs had forfeited his citizenship. At the time of Debs' release he told Debs:

"The question of your citizenship will be left to the future."

This view was sustained and reiterated by Attorney General Daugherty, by Daugherty's successor, Attorney General Sargent, and by Congressmen and Senators.

On March 19, following the introduction of the Berger resolution in Congress, Congressman Berger called upon the President in behalf of the restoration of Debs' citizenship. President Coolidge, without definitely committing himself, referred Representative Berger to Attorney General Sargent and the Department of Justice. The attitude of this department at this time made the attitude of the President.

On March 11 Berger visited Attorney General Sargent and asked for the restoration of Debs' citizenship. When Mr. Berger explained that Debs would not ask personally for a pardon and the restoration of his citizenship, Attorney General Sargent is quoted in the press of the country as saying:

"Until a man is ready to say that he will abide by the laws governing every one else, it is my informal opinion that he is not entitled to clemency."

Later, Attorney General Sargent stated that if laws would apply in the regular way for a pardon and the restoration of his civil rights, AND WOULD TAKE A NEW OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, his application would be considered.

Consider such humiliating demands from a man whom the Department must have known all the time was a full-fledged citizen!

Clearly, these officials are learning nothing as the time approaches of their exposure and humiliation. The Appeal has a letter dated as late as April 8, reiterating this fiction of Debs' disfranchisement. It was written to an Oklahoma reader of the American Appeal by James A. Finch, United States Pardon Attorney. It says:

"Your letter of March 31, 1926, addressed to the

Fight Must Go On For Official Admission of These Men's Rights

On this page is the amazing story of the conspiracy of government officials to cheat 1,500 citizens out of their rights as citizens.

Don't think because the truth is known that the battle is all over but shouting and going home to rest.

The battle has just begun. The keynote of that battle is sounded by Congressman Berger on the next page.

NOW THAT WE HAVE EXPOSED THE OFFICIALS OF THE ADMINISTRATION WE HAVE GOT TO STICK TOGETHER AND FIGHT UNTIL THEY ARE FORCED TO ADMIT THE TRUTH AND PERMIT THEIR VICTIMS TO ENJOY ALL THEIR CIVIL RIGHT WITHOUT OPPOSITION OR MOLESTATION.

Men who will go the lengths these officials have gone—men who will countenance for five, six and seven years a palpable disfranchisement fiction involving the sacred rights of 1,500 citizens—will go a long way to save themselves from humiliation, disgrace and perhaps political disaster.

Publicity is the weapon that will do the job.

We have got to have bigger publicity, wider publicity, than we have yet contemplated.

THE DEBS' CITIZENSHIP SPECIAL, AMERICAN APPEAL NO. 18, MAY 1, 1926, CAN AND MUST BE THE BIG PUBLICITY BATTERING RAM THAT WILL CRACK AND BREACH THE WALLS OF CONCEALMENT, CONSPIRACY AND FALSE PROPAGANDA IN AMERICA AND BRING TO DEBS AND THESE 1,500 MEN GOVERNMENTAL AND PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF ALL THEIR CIVIL RIGHTS.

The special number of the American Appeal will do this work, if you will give it circulation. The eyes of the nation are on the Appeal Army. They are measuring the strength and future possibilities of the Appeal.

YOU NEVER HAD SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY IN YOUR LIFE TO STRIKE A STUPENDOUS BLOW FOR HEROIC MEN, A GREAT CAUSE AND YOUR LITTLE FIGHTING PAPER.

The DEBS SPECIAL is the next issue of the Appeal. This is your last chance to order. USE THIS ORDER BLANK.

Debs Citizenship Special May Day Number Bundle Order Blank

Bundle Rate—50 copies, \$1.00; 100 copies, \$2.00

THE AMERICAN APPEAL, 2653 Washington Boulevard, Chicago, Ill.

Enclosed you will find \$..... to pay for a bundle of THE DEBS CITIZENSHIP SPECIAL.

Name

Street Address.....City.....State.....

(Your name above places you on the Debs Emergency Honor Roll)

Passaic Owners and Government Openly Unite to Crush Strikers--- Norman Thomas Kidnapped, Jailed

"Call up Forstmann and Hoffmann plant and get me my orders." This request was from policeman No. 1 of Garfield city in the New Jersey textile strike zone.

It accurately describes the open and vicious connection between the mill owners and the local government authorities. It is no longer a secret that the bosses of the big mills are directing the police and sheriff's men in one of the most savage, violent and lawless attacks on peacefully striking workers in the history of the United States.

Norman Thomas Kidnaped

This is the kind of brace game into which Norman Thomas, Socialist candidate for governor of New York, in the last election, walked as the selected victim in the American Civil Liberties Union test of an unconstitutional New Jersey law now being invoked by these industrial and political brigands to prevent the strikers from exercising the rights of free speech and free assembly, even in a hired private hall.

Mr. Thomas was dragged from the stump of an apple tree where he was attempting to quote Jefferson on liberty to a rapidly growing crowd; was kidnapped, arraigned in a secret court without recourse to defense, charged with disorderly conduct and thrown into jail.

For several days prior to the Thomas meeting, all attempts of the strikers to meet, parade or picket in Garfield were prevented by brutal police violence. Attempted meetings and parades were broken up by a most shocking use of police clubs in which scores of heads were cracked and painful injuries inflicted on the strikers. Numerous arrests and jailings were perpetrated. Ridiculously high bail was imposed on the victims. Albert Westford was arrested and his bail fixed at higher than that imposed upon a man charged with murder—\$5,000.

Smash Children's Parade

In a final effort to express their grievances before the public, the strikers organized a children's parade, thinking that defenseless children would be a protection against police violence. This parade was smashed at once and brutally by the cowardly police slaves of the mill owners.

Little children were arrested. Some of them spent the night in jail. On the Monday before the Thomas meeting, Sheriff Nimmo of Bergen County read the Riot Act to the longest picket-line of the strike. He concluded with the words, "God save the state!" to it, boys! Clean 'em

Zober's bones when they were arrested. In court, the judge said the police chief could give the punishment, but Zober wouldn't go through with his sentence of spanking and sent the kids home with a severe scolding.

"Anna, a twelve year old picket for her father and mother and older sister and brother, told me as we were marching to Lodi to picket the United Piece Eye Works, that a Cossack had clubbed her in front of the Gera Mills. 'If he hadn't hit the tassel on my cap, I'd have had an awful bump. I didn't dare tell my mother.'"

The arrest of Norman Thomas has precipitated one of the most important legal battles in America. Behind Thomas is the American Civil Liberties Union prepared to push this case to the limit and determine once and for all whether or not a corrupt and supine state government in behalf of private profiteers can make laws that suspend and annul the constitution of the United States.

Of Nation-wide Importance

In the meantime the strike of the textile workers has reached a stage of crisis and importance which makes it the most important issue before the workers of America at this moment. Albert Westford, leader, has stated that the strikers are insured the backing of the workers of the United States sufficiently to continue the strike all summer.

A Lawless Procedure

At the Thomas meeting Mr. Thomas mounted to the forks of an apple tree and endeavored to make a speech which by any stretch of truth could not be construed as encouraging or advocating violence.

Story of Child Pickets

The strikers have even attempted child picketing of the homes of the corrupt and craven local officials. Edward Lowell of the Federated Press told his boys these things and have little pickets are ready to go.

British Socialists Prepare for Immediate Victory at Convention

(From Labor, Washington, D. C.) London, April 11. The Independent Labor Party has closed its convention with the adoption of a program made up of militant things which in recent conventions it had refused to adopt.

The I. L. P. is the "pure socialist" part of the Labor party. Founded by the miner, Kier Hardie, it was welded by MacDonald to the Trades Union Congress and thus the Labor party was born.

The new program adopted by the 500 delegates at Whitley Bay represents a revolt against the "inevitability of gradualism" idea formulated by Sidney Webb, the Fabian, for the Labor party, and now generally accepted by MacDonald, Thomas, and other leaders.

The new program is called "socialism for our time," and represents the militant "left wing's" effort to tell the British workers how to get somewhere before they are dead.

Program of the Socialists To what extent the rest of the Labor party will go along with the I. L. P. program remains to be seen.

First place is given to a wage movement, as "the spearhead toward a new social order." It might be said a proposal for a living wage.

Show-up wages as a means for taking from the rich and distributing to the producers, says the I. L. P. Where industries can't stand a battle would unite they are reorganized to add a supplement to wages.

This also is a step toward the "redistribution of national wealth according to individual need."

MacDonald's Absence Noted "Should we compensate or confiscate" (when taking over industries) was the third big policy which the del-

whence he could not have got back to a committee meeting within three days.

"Let the unions create the situation," he believes, "then the Labor party job will be to put the new situation into the best possible laws."

Maxton is a schoolmaster by profession, with a thin dark face, black brows, and a black "raven's wing" of hair that has been caricatured all over Britain. His thin figure (in the House of Commons) betrays the ill-health which has always hampered his leadership. He looks like a living menace—and is the quietest-voiced and most irresistibly funny of conversationalists.

Tories to Make Amends

As an orator he is a fire and a debater he is the one Labor man whom the hardest-shelled Tories in Parliament will listen to silently, despite his scathing indictments of them. This is partly because they feel they did him an injustice once.

They threw him out of the House of Commons when he first came there, had him formally suspended when in the course of debate over reducing feeding allowances for needy children he called them "murderers."

The suspension caused an uproar in England. Then it came out that during that debate Maxton had been spending days and nights at the bed of his only child, desperately ill, and that the boy's mother had died shortly before, for lack of medical skill which Maxton could not afford.

Those who are most against him freely grant the brilliance of his debating quality. His earnestness is compelling; yet his favorite recreation is parodying and ridiculing the speeches and programs of his associates and himself.

Absentee Owners Get 4 Billion in Profits in 1925

By Leland Olds Federated Press

Dividends and interest payments in 1925 crossed the 4 billion dollar mark for the first time in history, according to the U. S. department of commerce. The total of \$4,777,236,000 means an average gain of about 6 per cent for the owners of capital over the 1924 season, which they received on their securities in 1924.

This exorbitant return to absentee owners would provide a full year's pay to 2,500,000 workers at the average wage paid in the country's factories. If divided equally among all the farmers, factory workers, railroad workers and miners employed throughout the country it would have given each about \$10 more toward his annual budget.

This year's payments mark a gain of nearly 20 per cent over 1924, the last year of war profits. They represent an increase of 120 per cent over 1913 when the owners of stocks and bonds received a total of \$1,777,236,000.

Table with 2 columns: Year, Total dividend and interest payments. 1913: \$1,777,236,000; 1914: \$1,786,376,000; 1915: \$1,865,112,000; 1916: \$2,150,250,000; 1917: \$2,824,100,000; 1918: \$2,724,772,000; 1919: \$3,189,148,000; 1920: \$3,448,760,000; 1921: \$3,414,980,000; 1922: \$3,390,720,000; 1923: \$3,582,216,000; 1924: \$3,810,588,000; 1925: \$4,777,236,000.

The cash receipts by the owners of stocks and bonds in the 13 years shown in the table amount to the enormous total of \$37,526,247,000. Reports of the commission of internal revenue indicate that over 70 per cent of this went to the 1 per cent of the population that can live in comfort without doing anything useful for the community.

Attempts to justify such huge payments to owners by saying the country needs a constant supply of new capital are hypocritical. Today the corporations are retaining enough in undivided or surplus profits to provide for all necessary expansion of the country's plant. As a result there is an admitted surplus of capital looking for investment and the investment bankers are working overtime to provide enough new securities for the demand. A re-division of the country's income in favor of the millions of real producers would result in nothing but good to the nation as a whole.

Two Divergent Policies

The difference between MacDonald and Maxton was sharply illustrated during the coal crisis last July. Both were named by the Labor party as members of the Committee of Four which the party offered to the Trades Union Congress "to cooperate." The unions feared the committee intended to be a brake on them, and ignored it. While MacDonald and Henderson vainly tried to get in touch with the unions in London, Maxton took the fastest train to Scotland, to a village,

Socialism Makes Huge Gains in U. S. Colleges—L. I. D. Doubles

Socialist ideas are making unusual progress in American colleges. The League for Industrial Democracy, an organization for the purpose of teaching the fundamental principles of Socialism to American college students, doubled its student membership in the colleges in 1925.

IT INCREASED ITS STUDENT MEMBERSHIP IN THE COLLEGES DURING THE YEAR FROM 1,000 TO 2,000, ACCORDING TO A REPORT JUST ISSUED BY THE LEAGUE FROM ITS HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK CITY.

Regarding the successful and inspiring work of this organization in 1925, this report says: "During 1925, Paul Blanshard, the League's field secretary, visited in behalf of the society some 82 colleges and one academy extending from Maine to California. He made two separate trips to thirteen of these institutions and addressed 35,600 students. During these trips he spoke at 52 college chapel exercises and delivered 102 class room lectures. He also gave more than 50 addresses before city groups with an aggregate attendance of 5,000. About 1,000 students joined the League as student members following his addresses. The value of this work by the League's field secretary can scarcely be estimated.

"Harry W. Laidler, the co-executive director, while devoting most of his efforts to administrative and research work, conducted three assembly meetings, each attended by about 2,000 students in college classes and student groups at the General Seminary, Columbia, New York University, Barnard and Wesleyan and before a score of city groups, audiences totaling 3,000.

"At the conclusion of 1925 the League had in the colleges about 109 correspondents, or student representatives, and a college membership of about 2,000.

"The League has city chapters in New York and Washington, D. C. The New York chapter has a membership of about 500. The Boston League for Democratic Control, the Philadelphia Young Democracy, and other groups

are also affiliated with the League. The League contains as well several college chapters and affiliated groups. The League for Industrial Democracy is the continuation of the International Intercollegiate Society. Among well known members of the Socialist party and Socialists belonging to it are Harry W. Laidler, Norman Thomas, James H. Maurer, Vida D. Skiff, Vladimir Karapetoff, Paul Jones, the Leeds Nearing, John H. Holmes, Paul Blanshard, Erwin C. Jesse Wallace Huxham, Mary G. Bradford, Helen Phelps Stokes.

The purpose of the society, as set forth in its circular, is to promote education for a new social order based on production for use and not for profit.

The present rapid spread of Socialism among educated and thinking college teachers and students just at a time when the labor organizations are being barricaded against Socialism is undoubtedly a case of the floodgates around the dam. As the Socialists are being impeded in one direction in capitalist America, they are scoring a channel in another direction. Out of the young and immense student elements of America will come a force that will unite with an awakened and irresistible labor movement.

are also affiliated with the League. The League contains as well several college chapters and affiliated groups. The League for Industrial Democracy is the continuation of the International Intercollegiate Society. Among well known members of the Socialist party and Socialists belonging to it are Harry W. Laidler, Norman Thomas, James H. Maurer, Vida D. Skiff, Vladimir Karapetoff, Paul Jones, the Leeds Nearing, John H. Holmes, Paul Blanshard, Erwin C. Jesse Wallace Huxham, Mary G. Bradford, Helen Phelps Stokes.

The purpose of the society, as set forth in its circular, is to promote education for a new social order based on production for use and not for profit.

The present rapid spread of Socialism among educated and thinking college teachers and students just at a time when the labor organizations are being barricaded against Socialism is undoubtedly a case of the floodgates around the dam. As the Socialists are being impeded in one direction in capitalist America, they are scoring a channel in another direction. Out of the young and immense student elements of America will come a force that will unite with an awakened and irresistible labor movement.

Farms Lose 17 Billions in Five Years to High Finance Jugglers

By Lincoln Phifer

A census report recently made public says that the farm land in the United States decreased in value, between 1920 and 1925, 17,050 million dollars, or 31 per cent.

The total value of farm land in 1925 was 47,772 million dollars, compared with 64,822 million dollars in 1920. During this same period mercantile manufacturing and transportation industries of the United States increased their capital and real-estate values by approximately fifty thousand million dollars. While this involved the selling of stocks to the employees and customers and the borrowing of money from the banks, it did not result from the relatively small total wealth which was added to the country or all of them combined.

Neither has the actual value of the farms decreased seventeen thousand million dollars. The land remains just as it was in 1920. The houses and equipment remain. Indeed, the equipment has been increased by the purchase of many millions of dollars worth of tractors, automobiles and new machinery.

Stealing by Stock Jobbery

Both with the distributing industries and the farmer it is largely a matter of bookkeeping. The chief difference is that the distributor has received money for new paper issued, while the farmer has spent money for new equipment, yet is seventeen thousand million dollars worse off than he was in 1920.

Stated in plain language, the profit-taking industries have laid claim to the property of the farmers to the extent of seventeen thousand million dollars, all within five years' time, and the books that document this include:

Local grain pools of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba all market their crop through the central agencies. Last year farmers who sold through the pools received \$146 for their wheat. This far in the year's crop farmers have received \$129 as a part payment on No. 1 Northern at Ft. William. In the next 4 months they will receive two additional payments. The payments for the 1924 crop were \$1, 20, and 10.

Forty thousand farmers have joined the wheat pool during the past year, making the total membership about 125,000. This is the best answer to the charges of private grain dealers that the pool farmers get less for their wheat than farmers outside of the pool. What ever the grain dealers may say or think, farmers are joining the pool in large numbers.

Originally pools handled meat. Coarse grain pools have also been formed to handle oats, barley, flax and rye. Steps are being taken to organize a dairy pool, a poultry pool, and a seed grain pool in Saskatchewan. In Saskatchewan there are 72,674 farmers in the wheat pool and 52,157 in the coarse grain pool. The Saskatchewan pool owns 58 county elevators, "bought, built and paid for."

ing stocks and bonds shows that it has taken possession of the property. The profit-taking industries have simply "made" seventeen thousand million dollars out of nothing, and have got the money. The farmers, while still in the possession of all they had before, are actually seventeen thousand million dollars poorer than they were.

Claiming All America

The farmer is not the only sufferer. The fact is, no worker, ordinary citizen in the United States, possesses one penny of wealth. It is all mortgaged or under bonds. Not government or state or municipal bonds alone. The stocks and bonds issued by manufacturing, transportation and mercantile industries, within the last five years, if added to all the stocks and bonds that were in existence five years ago, come very close to claiming every bit of property in the United States. It will run close to one hundred thousand million dollars.

It is more junking of paper. But the fact is that it actually gives possession to them of "your" property. It is made clear that much of it is in the form of bonds, the pledge to pay returns is backed by the power to take the property if returns do not come.

There was a time when "business" consisted in putting up money and buying goods, and then selling them. It does so no longer. It is now largely a matter of manipulation. The returns are pledged against you, even though you had no part in making the pledge. Merely by including the value of all property in the papers issued by the manipulators of industry, all property actually becomes theirs, so far as returns are concerned. You may hold the title to it, but you pay others' profits and interest on the property you foolishly believe to be your own.

The "Claimed" Property Slips Away

The census report mentioned above contains some other significant information. The total number of farms in 1925 was 6,371,917, a decrease of 267,725 farms in five years. The total number of acres in farms in 1925 was 924,855,280, a decrease of 11,000,000 acres in five years. The number of farms operated by owners in 1925 was 3,888,244, a decrease of 56,736 in five years. The number of tenant farms in 1925 was 2,483,672 greater than in 1920.

The report that in the "dedication of the farm" (more properly, the robbery of the farmer) coming within the last five years, published earlier, showed that five million farmers were ruined and joined the working classes in various cities within five years; others taking their places to lose what they had accumulated.

Almost a National Panic

This robbery—for it is nothing else—by means of bookkeeping, carries with it great danger. For a year the elated brigands of profits speculated on the bogus stocks they had issued against the property of other people. But a few weeks ago they began to grow apprehensive that their wicked

game might be found out. The vast sums of speculators' loot were being almost every holder of the many points.

If Wall Street banks had to pay the money by peddling the 20 billion dollars of property that they had in actual value, they would have to liquidate the whole thing with a total loss of 100 per cent of the money based on ordinary business prices.

Now these things are being done by the press. A dispatch from London to the Kansas City Star of March 13, says: "It is estimated that the crash in stock prices had had the effect of reducing the street that has wiped out the LIQUORS OF THE PAPER MARKET SECURITIES in thirty days, and will not be the forerunner of a general business depression or even a 'crash down.'"

"If the country does not get out of debt just because of the steady security values, there is no chance of business depression." The report went on to admit that "there is a period in certain lines, but it has been slow."

Then, the "correspondent" says: "Wall Street lost all sense of value and value. It built a great many paper values and these are now in the upper stories have been falling. The issuance of fraudulent securities, the LOOT taken from the people of Spain in the early days of the war, was insignificant compared with the LOOT taken from the people of America during the last five years."

Some Startling Results

All this means is that the farmers are being taken to the cities and this means a labor situation there.

Second, there is danger that enough will be left on the farms to feed the people of America in an unforeseen crisis arrive.

Third, the farming industry is wrecked, as the mining industry metals was wrecked before. The advantage and strength of agriculture, merchandising and distribution, the profit-taking industries, are being taken to the cities, by the New York city and the New England states able to absolutely ruin the West at any time they may wish. It is reestablishing feudalism in the West, controlled from the cities.

That this is true is proved by the suits. The eastern owners are awarded increased amounts of street stock gamblers and billions of dollars; but the farmer has pleaded in vain for more than four years. Even of the present administration sectional, as viciously as any did not know that there was a riotous west of the Mississippi. The crisis now is far worse. Remember how Wall Street of the panic of 1893.

BOOKS

Table listing books for sale with prices. Includes titles like 'Socialism Summed Up', 'The Trinity of Plunder', 'Why Things Happen to Hapless Workers', 'What's So and What Isn't (Works)', 'The Hillquit-Keating Debate', 'A Nation Divided', 'The New Slavery', 'Labor and the Next War', 'Life and Death of Uncle Sam', 'Present Day Socialism', 'Dubs and the War'.

THE NEW LEADER A SOCIALIST WEEKLY 16 Pages Each Week. Indispensable to anyone who desires to be well posted on the progress and activities of the Socialist and Labor Movement here and abroad. JAMES ONEAL, Editor. Weekly features by Norman Thomas, Max Eastman, Coleman Adams, and others. \$1.00 FOR SIX MONTHS. Send today for a sample copy! THE NEW LEADER 1 East 15th Street New York City

Canada Farmers Gaining Control of Own Markets

Winnipeg, (P. P.)—Canadian farmers, members of the grain pools, have just received a part payment of about \$37,000,000. This amount has been mailed out by the Canadian Co-operative Wheat Producers Ltd. in 190,000 checks.

AMERICAN APPEAL, 2653 Washington Blvd., Chicago, Ill. SUBSCRIPTION LIST RATES \$1.00 A YEAR; 50 cts. 6 MONTHS

Table for subscription list with columns: NAME, Rural Route or Street Address, Box No., City, State, Amount.