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THE GREAT APPEAR GREAT TO US ONLY BECAUSE WE ARE ON OUR KNEES - LET US ARISE

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No. 162

THE WAR THE FAKE OF FERGUSON.

The great powers of Europe are at war today and as a result industry is paralyzed and hunger is in a million households where lately there was abundance; the dead are piled in heaps and the cries of widows and orphans are resounding through all the continent; and all to what end; merely that the powers that prey may retain their supremacy as rulers over the workers who produce the wealth of the world.

This war was inevitable. For years the statements of the capitalists had been preparing for it. For more than a generation the Socialists of the World through their various national organizations sought to stop it by means of a world-wide agitation against the oncoming danger, not only to the working class, but to civilization itself. These fighters against war well knew that no benefit could accrue to them or their class, they knew that the only gainers of the conflicts were the crowned and titled purple parasites who stayed at home far from the zone of danger.

"And thus it has happened that the one effective struggle against war has come through the ranks of the International Socialist party. While we did not succeed in stopping this war our work has not been lost, our efforts will be remembered long after the smoke of battle has cleared away. This one great fact will stand out before the minds of millions when the scroll of the events that led to this war is unrolled that we, the much slandered Socialists, were the one great force that sought to avert it and while we failed for the time being, have laid the foundations for the day when swords shall be beaten into plow shares and war shall be learned no more.

In another column of this paper we publish the proclamation of our comrades in Germany, who fearlessly faced the war craze mobs who were yelling for blood while they were battling for peace. Their conduct in this crisis has marked an epoch, in our upward climb to the heights of civilization from which the war lords of the old regime would seek in vain to drive the race back.

In attempting to stop this war the great Jaures died. To prevent it untold thousands of Socialists have languished in prison or were marched with defiant step to the scaffold. And all the time the struggle for peace through every day of every week of every month of every year in the last generation the churches of all denominations have kept as quiet as a house eat while the Socialists carried the mantle of the prince of peace through the valleys and plains of the country, the streets of the cities and the parliaments of the old world.

Were it possible that we could have pursued our agitation and education for five years longer the war lords would have been destroyed and the doves of peace would have encircled the nation of the world.

The assumption that the Socialists were firing at the masses ranks of autocracy and plutocracy was of the most dangerous character in spite of the fact that it was manufactured on printing presses. We denied that the Kaiser held his position by divine right. We denied that the czar was the little white God. We denied the clerical forces in any of the European nations were dominating the masses in any way. We denied that the Socialists were the cause of the present wealth of the world, we analyzed their system and proved that it was based on robbery and that it could only continue to exist as long as it continued to create war between nations and therefore it had to be destroyed. Consequently we declared war on war and although we failed to prevent it this time our education has sunk into the minds of the millions we have converted to our ideas and has ploughed the shallow minds of the vast majority that will only see this as a means to make them see that war must be banished from the face of the earth.

From no other source than the organized Socialist movement can peace come. The Hague conference is a farce. Two incidents illustrate it: The czar presided over it, Roosevelt blessed it and Carnegie's agents took orders for battleship armour while the Scottish Pittsburg crook was singing through his nose for peace. It only needed the pope to pour some holy water on the proceedings to make the farce complete.

The Rebel believes that this war will not last 60 days long. That shortly after its close the Kaiser will be dethroned, a republic will be set up in the German nation, and the ignorant junker will be despoiled of his lands as thoroughly as we will expropriate his bon bon type in Texas.²

Hugo said that the nineteenth century was the century for duty and the twentieth century would be the century for humanity. Let us work and fight to the end that this may be so; then we shall, together see the prophecy of Isaiah verified. You remember it in the second chapter and fourth verse:

"AND HE SHALL JUDGE AMONG THE NATIONS, AND SHALL REBUKE MANY PEOPLE: AND THEY SHALL BE THEIR SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES, AND THEIR SPEARS INTO PRUNING HOOKS: NATION SHALL NOT LIFT SWORD AGAINST NATION, NEITHER SHALL THEY LEARN WAR ANY MORE."

THIS IS THE FIRST OF FOUR ARTICLES ON THE WAR. THE
SECOND WILL APPEAR NEXT WEEK.

When the campaign was growing worse a few months ago The Rebel called the attention of the tenant farmers of Texas the mortgage farmers and their kith and kin to an immense piece of fraud that was about to be put across on them in the form of an alleged land plank that even if adopted by the Legislature signed by the governor and put into effect, could in no way, shape or form or manner benefit the two hundred and fifty thousand heads of families who are now renting land in the state of Texas and whose number is increasing from three to four thousand a year.

An indignant roar went up from a large number of Ferguson supporters who claimed that the Farmers' Union officials—Lewis and Radford—would see to it that Ferguson's plank would be broadened and strengthened at the El Paso convention.

They proceeded to show us that big work was being done along this line. For instance my good friend, Jack H. F. Ring of Houston, surrounded the press of the state with 2,500 word documents containing four resolutions dealing with the land question from a radical standpoint that would be and actually was presented to the above named convention. These four resolutions in this document were presented by no less a gentleman than Houston's famous tax commissioner, Mr. Joe Pastoria. The convention is over, Pastoria is back at his desk and the resolutions are sailing down the placid bosom of the Rio Grande and the Ferguson land plank is all that is left to be voted for by the people who wish to vote the Donk ticket next November.

I mentioned above that I called this alleged land plank a fraud some months ago and the man who wrote it was either a fool or a faker and that the man who supported it was either an ignoramus or a grafter; further that the man who stood for governor on that plank and told the million people of Texas who live under the renting system that there was any relief for them in it was as big a taking in politics as he was a usurer in business.

My countrymen, as Coal Oil Joe would say, the above language is extremely harsh, there is nothing polished about it, it is simply calling a spade a spade and not an agricultural instrument and if there be one of my readers who question my characterization of Mr. Ferguson I would ask them for a moment to look with me into Ferguson's land plank which has been almost unanimously endorsed by the Democratic convention at El Paso last week. Let us look.

What does this plank propose? This: That the bonus system shall be abolished in Texas so far as land tenure is concerned. Above the traditional third in grain and fourth in cotton shall be considered usury and it shall be perfectly legal to allow the landlord to take one-half of the crop for himself providing that he supplies the labor.

Read that plank over again. Wherein is the status quo changed? Wherein does this differ from the situation that has removed a quarter of a million tenants in this state? Wherein is the bonus system hurt except in Bell county, the home of Ferguson, where he has made his fortune in usury and in Macellari, Falk, Ellis, Limestone, Dallas and a few other blackland counties. Total loss to all together who suffer from the bonus system and it amounts to 4,000 heads of families. Thus we see that the other two hundred and forty-six thousand heads of families are not affected by bonus and the multiplied thousands who are coming after them are not affected directly or indirectly by Ferguson's land plank.

Look at this fake in another way. I will reduce its composition to such simple terms that even a ten-year-old child could understand it. Supposing that every one of the 250,000 tenants were subject to the bonus system then Ferguson's land plank could not, to the extent of a silver dime, benefit the impoverished miserables who till the soil and produce the wealth of the state. Why? For the simple

KAISER EXECUTES SOCIALIST. IS REPORT

London, August 14.—The Daily Citizen, organ of the Labor party, this morning says it has learned from a reliable source that Karl Liebknecht, leader of the Social Democrats in the Ger-

The Daily Citizen says that the story was brought to London by a German refugee who also reports that Berlin is in a state of revolt because of the shortage and high price of food.

Dr. Liebknecht, was an officer of the reserves and when called upon to serve, refused. According to the story, a detachment was sent to his home and he was taken to the military barracks where he

He also charged that the Krupp company, manufacturers of arms and armaments, through an agent, bribed army and navy officials in order to obtain an insight into official documents.

He also charged that the Krupp caused articles to be printed in France advocating an increase

reason that every last one of the 250,000 heads of families who are tenants would quickly find that the landlord would say, as Mr. Ferguson himself says on his big property in Bell county to his tenants, "To Hell with the third and fourth, I will pay wages." I remember these wages will be fixed by the labor market according to the law of supply and demand and in that manner the Mexican and negroes will stand on an equal footing with the poor sorry white trash who votes the Donk ticket. Obviously Ferguson's land plan would be worthless, when the wage method would be introduced instead of share cropping.

Let us view it from another angle. This article is written within ten miles of the rich black land belt that surrounds the incorporated town of Shiner, Lavaca county, Texas. In that district the third and fourth is unknown and the bonus is undreamed of. What then is the method of exploitation used by the landlords or their tenants in the black land belt of Lavaca county? Just think. Twenty years ago they demanded three dollars an acre cash or land four dollars for the first, six and now seven dollars an acre for the second. Should the tenant be allowed to buy the land from the landlords in Bell, Falls, Ellis, McCallan or any of the other black land counties where the bonus system operates, why then they would simply do what the black land farmers of Lavaca county have done. Then the last condition would be as bad as the first.

And this is the depth and width and breadth and length of banker Jim Ferguson's land plank. Is it any wonder that this contemptible fraud is known to his neighbor's as "eighty per cent Jim." A river can arise no higher than its source, a usurer can rise no higher than his graft. And with these facts reviewed do you daresay question The Rebel when we characterize Ferguson as a faker and a cheat that may be said of him is that because of the position that he occupies to he is an uncommon fakir.

Those comments on "eighty per cent Jim" would not be complete if we did not refer to his backers who made his nomination possible. The first set were the immense liquor interests with their long history of control running into the '60s. The figures are not available, but the liquor industry has been the main interest of his candidacy. The second set were the newspapers like the Gal-Ad. News, The Chronicle, The Waco Times-Herald and in fact all the daily papers in Texas with one exception that has deliberately proceeded to close their news columns to the candidacy of the one party and the one man who is a candidate for governor this year. The third set were the real estate interests. The Gal-Ad News presents a plain, honest, scientific method of settling the land question in Texas. The Gal-Ad News is the party, its candidate is E. R. M. Jensen of Hallettsville and its plank is "The Gal-Ad News will own one hundred and twenty million acres of land held out to the public for speculative purposes shall be taxed to its full rental value."

The first set were the Farmers' Union officials of the Le and Radford stripe who know that Ferguson has nothing to offer the farmers, nothing to offer the renters and yet have deliberately sold out their dwindling membership by carrying the flag of the county usurer for a miserable pittance. To them the organized farmers of Texas might say:

Fortunately the campaign is still on in the interest of renters that Ferguson and his debauched allies have sought to betray. The campaign is on until the votes are counted next November. The day after the campaign will be on until the workers of the state of Texas are aroused to the one question that confronts them which is: Shall landlordism be destroyed by legal enactment that will provide that no man shall own one foot of ground in Texas except that which he uses and occupies.

On that method of solving the land problem E. R. Meitz stands; therefore elect him governor of Texas next election day.

OUR HAT.

Hatred is the outward expression of a tormented soul. We hate the wine though thoug the cup. We hate the dance hall, but are on the floor. We hate our customers, but submit to their em-

(The above article was sent to me by a friend who writes as follows:—
The Rebel by an unfortunate man who wishes to express his feelings and does so under a pseudonym. A system of society that breeds hate in the breast of a woman, even though she has a

black as the universe. Hatred washed the feet of Christ, is the same system that breeds the hatred that creates war. I feel toward you as I feel toward the unfortunate children in the streets of London. I feel toward the poor, the oppressed, the feeble-minded in the

When love dies, hatred lives.
When friends desert, hatred
fills in their places. When in
dungeons, hatred whispers, wait.
When hungry, hatred says, "You
will be avenged." Hatred lives
where hunger is. Hatred lives
where oppression reigns. Hatred
lives where injustice stalks.
Hatred lives where the master

