

SOCIALIST NEWS

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Social Revolution Impending in Poverty-Stricken Italy

The Council of the Chamber of Labor in Rome, passed a resolution in opposition to the formation of a military-imperialist government in Italy...

The Coming of the Storm

By Robin Adair

Do you hear the workers toiling in the murky shaft of Fate? Heavens! listen to the thunder of the sound, Of a million whispered curses; a million thoughts of hate;

Soviet Bureau Warns of Capitalist Press Lies on Russ "Defeats"

In connection with press reports on Russia, the Russian Soviet Bureau here issued the following statement: In the interest of truth we find it necessary once again to warn the American public against placing too much faith in the present sensational press campaign depicting alleged anti-Soviet victories.

Declaration of The Communist Party In Regard To Unity.

To the Executive Secretary and the Members of the Communist Labor Party. COMRADES: This statement by the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party is in reply to your proposal of a conference between the two Executive Committees to see if there is some basis for uniting the two parties.

Quick Watson, The Needle!

DISCOVERED! THE ONE HAPPY FAMILY IN INDUSTRY! IT MUST BE SO BECAUSE THEY SAY SO! "Full many a flower is born to blush unseen and waste its sweetness on the desert air", sang a poet long ago.

representatives of the Left Wing made every possible effort to head off the conspiracy scheme to create a third party. The National Left Wing Council made its appeals to the Left Wing delegates at the Socialist Party convention individually and collectively.

Peace Considered.

Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia have no interest whatsoever to strengthen either the Russian counter-revolutionists or the Baltic barons, and so the result has been that these countries, in the interest of their very existence, have been seriously considering peace with Soviet Russia.

Business Men Impatient.

There is also another very important reason for the present campaign of lies, and especially for the desperate efforts on the part of certain Allied governments to extend the starvation blockade of Russia by asking Germany and remnants of Austria to join the blockade.

Honest Advertising

Only honest advertising is accepted by the Socialist News. The readers know it. That makes the Socialist News a very good advertising medium. You will get results.

At all stages preliminary to the creation of a third party, the official Communist Labor delegates at Chicago.

Workers Demand Peace.

Finally, the laboring masses in Allied countries and in Germany are becoming more and more insistent in their demands that their rulers cease the criminal and senseless war against the Russian workers.

Reports Called Unreliable.

The reports of the alleged advance of the counter-revolutionary forces in the north also are singularly untrustworthy. The only significant thing about this news is that it shows the boundless hypocrisy of the British pretensions of opposition to the German Baltic Junkers.

EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE SOCIALIST NEWS

CONGRESS AND A SOLDIER'S LETTER.

"It took us a very brief time to learn that the word Bolshevik was merely the name of the economic faith and the political party of the mass of the people of Russia."

These words from a soldier's letter was recently read to the Senate by Senator McCormick.

The truth expressed in the above lines is known to every member of Congress, both Senate and House. The chief Executive also is very well versed in the same truth.

Countless committees have been sent and have returned and reported — not always to the president, for the reason that the presidential ear is deaf to an adverse report. But the truth is generally known.

Why is it then that Congress does not impeach the President for waging a war on Russia contrary to the basic law of the U. S.? Why is not Russia left alone unhampered and UNBLOCKADED to work out her destiny?

What has become of the self-determination of Nations? Why are American soldiers, members of the working class sent to far away Russia to wage the Capitalists private war?

Why is Congress appropriating men money and munitions for this illegal war, this imperialistic invasion of a foreign people?

Only one answer to the questions presents itself. Congress and the President are but the executive and the executive committee of the American Capitalist Class.

Capitalism has grown until it is no longer national but International. It has "nestled everywhere" and because of the fact that the Bolsheviks have established a working class government instead of a government of business interests in Russia it is to the economic interests of the business interests of the robbers of the world to crush this Industrial Republic or in turn be crushed by it.

International Capitalism has its counterpart in international solidarity of the workers. The Capitalists of the world know that the worker's republic in Russia must be crushed or it will be the forerunner of a worker's republic in America and elsewhere, and any worker who does not know that it is to his direct material interest to keep the Russian Worker's republic from being crushed by every means in his power is too stupid to be left alone on the job.

Congress is class conscious and is fighting for its class interests.

Your place is with the class conscious workers in the fight.

COMING TO IT.

The threat of congress to embody a clause in the rail bill making it a crime to strike was instantly answered by the heads of several of the big trade unions in this manner. "You pass that bill — and we quit." Some of the leaders quoted in the daily papers are said to have openly threatened the use of 'direct action', expressing themselves as tired of fussing and fooling with parliamentary procedure with the workers ever getting the worst of it.

What is the reason for this sudden change of front amongst the "leaders" of the craft unions? Is it an evidence of a growing wisdom? Our guess is that it is a recognition of the fact that the rank and file of organized labor as well as a considerable portion of the unorganized have grown too radical for the more conservative leaders. The tendency towards strike action on the part of the masses is so great that the "leaders" recognize the futility of trying to stop it.

During the past four years at a time when the organized labor bodies of Europe were strengthening their position the A. F. of L. under the leadership of "safe and sane" labor misleaders of the type of Gompers, traded labor's opportunity for a promise of a future betterment. Now is the time when those promises are due and the rank and file do not intend to allow their leaders to lead them into another cul-de-sac. And the leaders are giving in to the demands of the rank and file in order to save their meal tickets!

In the meanwhile the activities of the RANK and FILE are furnishing the student of sociology with some of the most hopeful signs of modern times.

THAT TWO SIDED THREE CORNERED TABLE.

We said in these columns at the very beginning of the President's round table that nothing would come of it. Nothing could come of it because they were in search of the impossible, a plan or scheme or proposal whereby labor could be made content without interfering with the capitalists profits. There is no such plan. There can be no such plan for the reason that every dollar capital gets labor has to earn and get along without. Industrial unity was doomed from the day when the needs of industry required a workingclass that could read and write and understand. The same intelligence which causes a worker to examine a machine for a loose nut to avoid a fatal accident, causes great numbers of the workers to inquire into the inner workings of the social machine. Once that inquiry is started the workingclass is no longer content with the crumbs of industry in the form of wages, but wants to eliminate the useless in industry. The useless in industry today are the capitalists. They do no work, perform no function of any real benefit to society.

The round table broke up without accomplishing a single thing unless it was to show a few more of the great American public the utter futility of seeking half-way reform measures to cure a social cancer.

As near as we can figure it out the object of the Americanization movement is to make the proletariat a sort of stingless bee who will not want to remove the drones from industry.

Capital is organized to get all it can out of labor, but when labor organizes to get all it can out of capital that is disloyalty, unamericanism, bolshevism and all that the plute press can think of that is vile!

IT IS UNLAWFUL.

If the sick man of Washington was correctly quoted in the associated press, he said "The proposed miner's strike is not only a national calamity at this time but it is unlawful."

It is lawful for a robber coal company to seize, take and hold the coal deposits underlying a quarter of a state and make all of society pay tribute to it for the use of a social necessity, but it is unlawful for the diggers of that same coal to strike for a part of the stolen plunder!

It is lawful for the coal companies to hold up the delivery of coal thereby creating an unnatural shortage and forcing the price of coal above the ability of the average consumer to pay, but it is unlawful for the digger of the coal to withhold his labor power until he can sell it at a price which will secure a decent living for him and his family!

It is lawful for the government to give away thousands of acres of coal lands for a mere trifle but it is unlawful for the miners to ask for a share in the proceeds!

Verily the ways of capitalist political economy are wonderful, and wonderful is the grasp of these principles held by the former teacher of a young ladies seminary!

Camouflaged verbiage aside, it is lawful for the dominant class in society to do whatever they have the power to do, and it is unlawful for any member of the working class or any working class organization to try to do anything to stop the dominant class from doing as it pleases.

It is lawful for the government to give away thousands the power to do. It is unlawful for the working class to try to develop that power.

The problem is thus much simplified. The class war now is transplanted from the domain of intellectual struggle into a struggle for the control of economic power and here will be sounded the deathknell of autocracy in industry.

Every victory for the master class gained by the arbitrary use of their autocratic power but insures their future damnation. The men whose manhood has been brooken loathe the system and are ever planning fresh attacks upon it. The infant being molded beneath the starved heart of the worried mother comes into being breathing a very song of hate and out of such material Capitalism is building for its undoing on some not distant tomorrow.

The immediate future is dark but it brightened here and there by the faint rays of the coming dawn when industrial autocracy will be forced to give way to industrial democracy.

A WONDERFUL RECORD UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES

The report of a large installment concern states that over a period of more than five years their records show that 95o/o of the people are honest. When we stop to consider that in every walk in life the dishonest is rewarded and the honest penalized this is a remarkable showing. We have all heard the remark, "business is business" generally made as a prelude to a dishonest transaction. All the business of Capitalism is founded upon fraud, dishonesty and hypocrisy, so that showing of 90% honesty can only be explained by reason of the report having to do with buyers from business-houses. In other words, it is a report of the honesty of the common people — not the honesty of the better classes. There are about 90o/o working class to 10o/o middle and upper class. The inference is plain.

A KING A QUEEN AND THE SCABS.

A real live king and his queen have been touring these benighted states of late. It is not so long since we were being compelled to voluntarily contribute foodstuffs, cash and clothing for the benefit of the starving Belgians, and now before the peace treaty has been signed the Belgian King, Queen and Royal party take a trip to the land of sham democracy which will cost over a million dollars. The plute press recently carried the story of how the king and queen walked over the hot iron in the steel mills of Pittsburg, and how the queen climbed to an advantageous position in order to take a picture of the men handling a red-hot ingot. When she got that picture she got a picture of a bunch of scabs. It is but logical however for kings, queen and scabs to herd together.

A CAMPAIGN THAT FAILED.

The "hush-hush be quiet—" campaign of our industrial overlords does not seem to be much of a success.

Industrial unrest is so great that it would take up every inch of space in our great religious weekly to give even a four line notice of all the strikes and lockouts going on at the present time. It is significant, the fact that out of seventy eight big strikes now going on, sixty seven of them were called by the rank and file in defiance of the wishes of the "labor leaders"

ETHICS.

What are "wrong," "right," "vice," "virtue," "bad" and "good?"

Mere whips to scourge the backs that naked bear
The burden of the world—bent backs that dare
Not rise erect, defy the tyrant, "Should,"
And freely, boldly do the things they would.
In living's joy they rarely have a share;
They look beyond the grave, and hope that there
They'll be repaid, poor fools, for being good.

To serve thy master, that is virtue, Slave;
To do thy will, enjoy sweet life, is vice.
Poor duty-ridden serf, rebel, forget
Thy master-taught morality; be brave
Enough to make this earth a Paradise
Whereon the Sun of Joy shall never set!

MAGNIFICENT!

Occasionally man rises to the heights of eppie magnificent. One of these occasions was at the Industrial Conference when Samuel Gompers, ill and weak, in trembling hoarse tones, "eloquently repudiated the insinuation that the American workers were embracing Bolshevism." Gompers recalled that three weeks before Wilson declared war a conference of 136 labor leaders had pledged to back the government to the limit; that labor loyally kept its pledge during the war; that labor had never used the war for its own advantage; that union labor was willing to cooperate with capital; and that the organized workers, far from contemplating revolution, loved their government and were the most patriotic and loyal in the world: "Gompers shook with emotion and his voice quavered as he violently defended the loyalty and patriotism of organized labor." The gentleman making the insinuation apologized.

It was magnificent! An aged, ill man defying calumny and compelling an apology, heroically securing a victory for labor in spite of terrible odds.

But what Gompers actually said was this:

"You can depend upon organized labor; we as its leaders are loyal to Capitalism. We are always ready to mobilize the workers as cannon-fodder in your wars. We shall prevent the workers from becoming radical, from initiating revolutionary measures. You and I are part of the governing system of things; and we shall defend our privileged status. You must cease your attacks upon the labor leaders: Your interest and theirs are identical."

Gompers condemned labor to industrial slavery, oppression and wars. It was magnificent — for Capitalism.

Editorial in Communist.

KAISER GARY

If ever there was a situation which called for the sympathetic intervention of all right-minded men and women, it is that now prevailing in the steel industry in this country. We may or may not believe in strikes as a method of redressing the grievances of labor; we may or may not sustain the justice of the aims set forth by the steel workers in this particular strike; but we must all agree on the right of the workers to organize, to present their claims, to be heard by impartial arbiters; in other words to have a voice in the determination of the conditions of their labor. It is on the basis of the most orthodox and generally accepted principles of trade unionism that the steel workers have organized; it is with the most conservative group of organized labor in America, the A. F. of L., that they have affiliated; it is in accordance with the fundamental usages of orderly democratic procedure in this country that they have conducted their campaign. But like the Belgians in 1914, they have been met by the tyranny of a benighted and cruel "Kaiser," Judge Gary, who recognizes no human rights but those of his own autocratic will, and knows no power but that of his mailed fist — and the greatest industrial war in many years is the result! Anything more outrageous than Judge Gary's attitude is impossible to conceive. He talks of "the open shop" — and closes every steel mill tight against every man carrying a union card. He prates of American liberties — and like a Tsar sets loose his cossacks on all citizens within his factory realms who attempt to exercise ordinary constitutional privileges of free speech and free assembly. He raises the cry of anarchy and revolution — and is himself the supreme offender against the established laws, institution and habits of the nation. Judge Gary has but one purpose, and that is to smash unionism in the steel industry. He seeks to remove the workers from his path, as Austria sought to remove Serbia, and the Kaiser, Belgium and France, in 1914. And like these tyrants, he stands ready to use any weapon, to defy any law and custom, to outrage the whole public sentiment of the times, to accomplish his nefarious purposes. Judge Gary, in thought and action, is typically "Prussian"; he represents in industry today all that must be removed and gotten rid of, if our democratic civilization is to survive. Hence the challenge to all liberals to rally to the cause of the steel workers.

Exchange

One thing badly needed by the American public is an antidote for the overdose of front page headlines of the past four years.

The race riots here are but the echo of the big race-riot of all the races ended just last year over across the pond.

The big race riot was caused by economic, not racial differences, and the same diagnosis holds good here.

Capital organized to get all it can out of labor: Labor organized to get all it can out of capital, and the biggest labor organization in America, the A. F. of L. organized on a basis of identity of interest between capital and labor!

The desire on the part of an employer of labor to get more profits, is "business acumen" — a high term for brain and is given as the reason why he should be allowed to continue the system of exploitation. The same desire on the part of a worker for more income is not called "business acumen" but is unamericanism due to bolshevist influence!

Don't work overtime. You are selling your birthright for a mess of pottage when you do.

If a league of nations is to prevent wars, why do we need such a large increase in "our" army and navy?

The close of the war has left the majority of the people under the painful necessity of having to borrow a religion, make one, or else honestly admit the passing of a need for a religion.