

# FARMER-LABOR VOICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF FEDERATED FARMER-LABOR PARTY

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## Illinois Convention Call

From the office of Duncan McDonald, Secretary Pro-Tem for the Provisional Committee of the Illinois State Farmer-Labor Convention, a call has been issued for the holding of a meeting in Peoria, on May 18th.

The purpose of this gathering will be to create an organization that will be represented in the St. Paul Farmer-Labor convention, on June 17th. The State convention will adopt a platform and nominate a full ticket for the State elections which will occur in November.

This call says that all existing working class groups (political and industrial), local unions, central bodies, co-operative, fraternal and farmer organizations, or others, endorsing the principles as set forth in the call issued by the Committee on Arrangements for the St. Paul convention, are invited to attend and participate in the State convention at Peoria.

It is understood that this convention will entail some financial expenditures. But this will doubtless be money well spent, for the advancement of the farmer-labor movement. All organizations which should have delegates in the Farmer-Labor conventions are urged to contribute financially as liberally as possible, to help defray the necessary expenses. All remittances should be mailed to the office of Duncan McDonald, the Secretary Pro-Tem, 727 E. Adams street, Springfield, Ill.

## Beware of California Fruits

**SAN FRANCISCO.**—(By Federated Press.)—Nature is aiding the I. W. W. boycott of California products. Dr. J. Edward Carlyle, an authority on the hoof and mouth epidemic, states: "The people of the United States are in grave danger of contracting the hoof and mouth disease by eating California fruits. Dust from the pastures and grazing fields of infected animals blows onto the fruit and can be carried out of the state. California-made clothing might also catch this dust and it is possible to contract hoof and mouth disease from it."

The I. W. W. boycott is maintained because the state sends men to prison for 1 to 14 years for nothing more than membership in the I. W. W.

## Salt Lake Federation Endorses June Convention.

**SALT LAKE CITY, Utah.**—(Special to Farmer-Labor Voice.)—The Salt Lake Federation of Labor has officially endorsed the June 17th convention, to be held in St. Paul, and is raising funds to send delegates there.

In Utah, the "old original" Farmer-Labor Party, headed by W. M. Piggott, as National Chairman, confines its efforts mostly to its headquarters in Ogden and has little influence in the unions.

On April 10th, in regular meeting of the Salt Lake Federation, resolutions were submitted and adopted, pledging that organization and the Salt Lake Lake central labor bodies for independent political action by the workers and the formation of a Labor Party; for the calling of a convention to form a State

## Nebraska Progressive Party Calls For State Convention.

**OMAHA, Neb.**—(Special to Farmer-Labor Voice.)—A call has been issued for an official delegate State Convention of the Progressive Party of Nebraska, to meet in Omaha, on May 1st.

In this convention, only such delegates will be seated as are proven to be bona fide members of the Progressive Party of Nebraska and not connected with any "fusion" movement or affiliated in any way with the Democratic or Republican political parties. And according to the apportionment of county representation, the 93 counties of Nebraska will be entitled to a total of 391 delegates. These delegates shall be selected in county conventions on April 24th, in accordance with the state election laws.

The set purposes of the May 1st convention are listed as follows:

1. To formulate and promulgate a state platform.
2. To select a State Central Committee.
3. To select electors of President and Vice President.
4. To change the name of the party.
5. To nominate candidates for elective state offices excepted from the operation of the state primary law.
7. And for the consideration of such other matters as may lawfully come before said convention.

(Signed):

J. L. BEEBE, Chairman.  
W. H. GREEN, Secretary.

## OKLAHOMA CALLS FOR F.-L. CONVENTION

**OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla.**—(Special to Farmer-Labor Voice.)—A call has been issued for a Farmer-Labor Party convention, on May 9th and 10th, in Cleveland County, near this city, for the purpose of forming a political party distinct from the Farmer-Labor Progressive League—which is merely an auxiliary organization within the Democratic Party. This Progressive League met recently in El Reno, to adopt a platform and endorse candidates.

The program for the prospective Farmer-Labor Party will meet two glaring deficiencies of the Progressive League's platform, because it will provide for the placing of La Follette electors on the Presidential ballot, and will furnish a set of State candidates of its own, as well as designating candidates for Congress and the United States Senate. And the platform of the new political party will include provisions for public ownership of utilities, governmental banking, public control of natural resources, restoration of constitutional civil liberties, abolition of the injunction in labor struggles, public retention and development of all super-power (water and electric).

A petition with 5,000 signatures will place such a Farmer-Labor Party in the field, and no preferential primary contest will be required thereafter. A single vote for the Farmer-Labor ticket, in the first primary, will place it on the ballot for the coming national election.

Labor Party; and for unity with all farmer and labor groups in the State of Utah.

It is believed that a State Convention will soon take place, for the purpose of forming a real functioning Farmer-Labor Party, that will endorse the program and affiliate with the Federated Farmer-Labor Party.

## THE ILLINOIS PRIMARIES

By JOSEPH MANLEY.

The recent Illinois primaries illustrate and are typical of the much-mixed political struggle now being waged throughout the country.

The results were such that they literally "took the wind out of the sheets" of the Chicago Tribune—which proclaims itself as the "World's greatest Newspaper." On the morning after the primaries, this reactionary sheet carried an editorial caption reading, "Small Seems to be Nominated"—and then followed a blank space eight inches long—"without rhyme or reason." And on the next day, in an editorial called "An Attempt to be Philosophical," this mighty Tribune of the people, wailed about Small's nomination, and then "philosophized" to the effect that no matter how rotten Small might be, no matter how much of the State's funds he might steal, no matter how large an army of State employes he might force to work for his re-nomination—in fact, no matter what crimes he might be guilty of—he was "not a radical," and therefore, "good government is safe."

And the "Attempt to be Philosophical" goes on to say—with quite typical sophistry—"In fact, it was a most honest and idealistic individual who made the worst Governor that Illinois ever had." This allusion is to the late John P. Altgeld, the "radical" Governor who—according to the Tribune's philosophy—committed the unforgivable sin, by pardoning and freeing from Joliet Penitentiary the Chicago "anarchists" who were not hanged like their four less fortunate companions as a result of the framed-up charge that a bomb was thrown by them, in the great Haymarket demonstration for an eight-hour work day.

For months previous to the primaries, the Tribune carried on a bitter campaign against renomination of Small for Governor, and in favor of its own particular Republican cross-roads hero, Senator Medill McCormick—of the Tribune's senatorial family. But Small swept the State, in spite of this opposition, and that of other big newspapers of Chicago. He is an "old-fashioned" spoils politician, without moral scruples of any sort. And he rallied to his support reactionary organs of publicity ranging from the News Letters, published by the Illinois State Federation of Labor, to the Fiery Cross, official organ of the Ku Klux Klan.

State Pays the Bills.

On the streets of Springfield, the State capital, it is freely heard that "Employees of the State House were assessed one month's salary, to pay for the Small campaign; he has his whole official family on the pay roll." An opposition newspaper published photographic reproduction of a check, turned over by a stenographer hired to address envelopes and circulars sent out by Small, but whose service was listed on the State pay roll as "For a seamstress, to mend flags."

The Small campaign had the effect of strengthening the national position of George Brennan, Democratic "Boss" of Illinois (now graced with the soiled mantle of the late Roger Sullivan). Brennan's uninvited list of delegates to the New York Convention defeated the McAdoo slate. And Brennan may be essaying the old role of Sullivan at Baltimore.

Farmer-Labor Convention.

In Illinois, famous battleground of former great national political struggles, it may well be asked, "What of the Farmer-Labor Party?"

Since the July convention, last year, the "old original" Farmer-Labor Party, which issued a call for "the Farmers and Workers of the Country" to attend its "Monster Convention"—and then itself "split" with that con-

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# THE ILLINOIS PRIMARIES

(Continued From Page One)

vention—has put in its time on the job of slinging mud at those who declined to be “thrown over the transom,” in the hall for which they themselves had paid the rent—by a few self-appointed guardians of the national Farmer-Labor movement. That outfit is now split in several different ways. First, they split with both of the old political parties—and with Gompers, who upholds both these old parties—by forming in 1919, their “Labor Party.” Then in 1923 they split with the “progressive labor leaders” in the Conference for Progressive Political Action—designating that “Con Conference” as a “scab and dual outfit.” And at the July convention—called by themselves—they split with the rank and file of the farmers and industrial workers, whose delegates had been sent, from far and near, to organize a real national Farmer-Labor movement.

### Factional Foolishness.

At the present time, this decrepit body (it could not be termed an organization) has little left of even the skeleton of its once seemingly promising plan for organization. Its “leaders” are signing endorsements of old political party candidates, and at the same time trying to return to the C. P. P. A., by way of its July convention, in Cleveland. In Illinois—the only state where it can even pretend to function—its variously split factions are calling for so many “conventions” that a mechanical adding machine is necessary in order to “keep tab” on them. Among these, the Fitzpatrick-Brown faction, with a “Provisional organization” for Illinois, will attempt a convention in Chicago on April 19th. The Ernest-Rodriguez faction, calling itself “The Illinois Farmer-Labor Party, Incorporated,” hopes for a convention at Springfield, on May 25th. And the C. P. P. A. of Illinois says it will meet in Chicago, on May 4th.

### Unity of Ignorance.

In spite of the fact that all of these “splits” are fighting amongst themselves like the proverbial “cats and dogs,” yet when a genuine rank-and-file Farmer-Labor movement is proposed, that will not permit itself to be confined within the limit or rules dictated by the old troglodyte Gompers—then at last there is unity among them, in opposition to this “Communist menace.”

### For Real Thing.

There is to be a State Convention held at Peoria, on May 18th, in an effort to bring some order out of this welter of confusion. And the hysterical cry of “Communist influence” will doubtless be again raised. The call for this meet has been issued by a number of trade unionists and other working-class groups that have not lost—like the “split” factions—all semblance of contact with the farmers and industrial workers of Illinois. On the list of signers to this call, will be found workers in the basic industries of the State—men who have risked life and limb, in the mines and mills and on building construction—who know the needs of the workers, in this present crisis. And these are the sort who—as one of them has aptly put it—“can face all such factional would-be leaders and tell them to go to hell!”

The Peoria gathering will organize for the Farmer-Labor Convention in St. Paul, on June 17th. And it will stress the necessity for political solidarity of the farmers and industrial workers—which will be the keynote of the St. Paul Convention.

## RUSSIA WILL SPEND 5,000,000 ROUBLES ON FARM MACHINERY

MOSCOW.—(Special to the Farmer-Labor Voice.)—According to the program of the Government Plan Committee five million roubles will be spent for building tractors and harvest machinery.

The money, which was assigned for the purpose of buying tractors abroad, will be spent in building up the production of tractors in Russia. Most of the money will be spent in organizing the building of tractors at the Charkoff Locomotive Works.

# FARMER-LABOR IN WEST VIRGINIA

By TOM TIPPETT

(Federated Press Staff Correspondent)

CHARLESTON, W. Va.—Organized labor and the farmers in West Virginia will have their independent political party in the November elections. They have their ticket nominated and plan an intensive campaign for their own West Virginia Farmer-Labor Party. It is not affiliated with any national organization. The independent step is taken here after 16 years of the “reward your friends and punish your enemies” policy.

Unfortunately organized labor will not go as a unit into the new political venture. There is a serious split in the executive family of the West Virginia State Federation of Labor. The secretary of the federation has been ousted from office by its executive board. This action was taken while resolutions were being considered that demanded the resignation of the president of the federation and of three members of his executive board who are against independent political action. The American Federation of Labor has a representative here to negotiate peace and a special convention of the federation is under way.

There was unanimity in official circles, regarding independent political action for the federation, so long as it remained on paper but when the nomination convention was called and it began to take on real life the fight began.

The present move for independent political action in the state federation began in 1920 at a special convention. Its chief advocate and supporter there was H. L. Franklin, but the proposition was voted down. The next year (1921) Franklin was elected by the federation convention to be secretary-treasurer. He was re-elected the following year and the next, having had five opponents in each contest.

In 1923 the federation called a special convention to consider the political outlook after the reactionary West Virginia legislature had adjourned. Resolutions from over 35,000 organized workers were introduced calling for independent action on the political field. The proposition carried unanimously. The resolution declared that complete failure was the result of their 16 years of lobbying for labor measures with the old parties. “The West Virginia Farmer-Labor Party be and is hereby endorsed and the incoming executive board be and is hereby instructed to give their full and undivided support on the political field to the Farmer-Labor Party,” the special convention ordered.

The presiding officers of that convention are the same persons that have now split on the proposition. The convention provided for the calling of a Farmer-Labor Party convention in March, 1924. It was this meeting at Clarksburg March 15 that precipitated the fight. The president of the federation, W. T. Harris, attempted to steer the convention away from an independent ticket. His resolution called for continuation of the Farmer-Labor Party, but opposed a ticket in the field. He was defeated by 78 to 4.

Harris bolted the convention. A platform was drawn up and a state ticket named with Dr. A. S. Bosworth, of Elkins, for governor.

Resolutions hostile to Harris and three members of his executive board came in from subordinate bodies of the federation asking their resignation for not carrying out convention instructions as regards the Farmer-Labor Party and other matters. Harris’ board met and deposed Secretary Franklin instead. T. J. Conboy, the A. F. of L. representative, came in, reviewed the case and ordered a new trial. Franklin’s final appeal is to be a special order of business in the convention of the federation. Local men in the independent political action movement say the troubles here are the birth pains of the Labor Party that is trying to gain birth in the United States.

## Seek Farm Immigrants!

Such is the howl raised by the Southern and Western Reclamation Association in an eight-column, front-page headline in the New Orleans (La.) Item. And there you have the capitalist “system” in a nutshell. First, defate the freeholding American farmers off the land, and then fill their places with coolie-tenants imported from gun-ruined Europe.

# A Farmer-Labor Pilgrimage

ST. PAUL, Minn.—(Special to Farmer-Labor Voice.)—The Farmer-Labor Party committee on arrangements is informed by Tom Ayres, South Dakota member of the committee, that interest in the June 17th convention is increasing there as the date of this meeting draws nearer. And he reports that the South Dakota farmers and industrial workers are planning to make a spectacular entry into St. Paul to attend this convention. They are to have a parade of not less than a hundred automobiles, starting from a central meeting point in Western Minnesota and following along in procession to the Twin Cities. They promise a parade the like of which has never yet been seen in the Northwest. Many will carry with them their camping equipment, in order to save expenses—and all are bound to reach St. Paul in any case.

One of these prospective pilgrims expressed the thought that they might adopt a revised version of the old “Days of Forty-nine” slogan: “St. Paul—or Bust!” The automobiles which will be substituted for “covered wagons” in this latter-day “trek,” will be “all dolled up” with banners proclaiming the pilgrims’ views on present economic and political conditions. And future historians of the great Farmer-Labor Movement will doubtless have something to say of this pilgrimage.

## FACISM APPEARS IN TOLEDO

Reports state that the majority of the Socialist Party members remaining in the party at Toledo, Ohio, are also members of the Ku Klux Klan, and it is indicated that the fascist organization in combination with these “Socialists” and reactionary leaders of some of the unions, especially the Toledo Local 105, International Association of Machinists, is behind the attempt to expel from the union left wing militants of the Trade Union Educational League.

With the Klan working strongly within the Indiana district of the United Mine Workers of America, and at other points, all signs indicate that American Fascism is penetrating the American labor movement even more than in Germany, where, as pointed out by William Z. Foster, in April issue of the *Labor Herald*, the enemies of the Communists have united in a conspiracy against any revolutionary effort of the German workers.

In Foster’s article entitled, “What’s Happening in Germany,” a most thorough analysis is made of the treachery of the “Social Democrats” of Germany, showing how their traitorous “civil peace” during the war betrayed millions of workers to the war machine; and after the war, their vicious butchery of every worker who fought for revolution instead of for capitalistic reconstruction, was aided by leaders of the trade unions and the Fascist tools of Stinnes and the other mighty industrialists.

American workers, who are now only beginning to feel the first effects of the appearance of Fascism in their unions, should read Foster’s article, which is the most important one on Germany appearing anywhere this month, in order that they may see, not only the movement of Germany, but the future of America, and that they may know how the German workers are fighting ever more successfully against the same dangers which will appear in America in the future.

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## FARMER-LABOR INFORMATION

### Increase in Cost of Living.

As compared with the average cost in the year 1913, the retail cost of food on March 15, 1924, was 52 per cent higher in Richmond; 49 per cent in Baltimore, Charleston and Washington, D. C.; 48 per cent in Detroit; 47 per cent in Birmingham, New York and Scranton; 46 per cent in Boston; 45 per cent in New Haven and St. Louis; 44 per cent in Fall River and Manchester; 43 per cent in Cincinnati and Minneapolis; 40 per cent in Atlanta and Kansas City; 37 per cent in Memphis, and 35 per cent in Little Rock and Louisville. Prices were not obtained from Columbus, Mobile, Norfolk, Peoria, Portland, Me., Rochester, St. Paul and Springfield, Ill., hence no comparison for the 11-year period can be given for these cities.

(U. S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.)

### Australian Wheat Export Surplus.

It is estimated that there was an exportable surplus of 82 million bushels of wheat on hand in Australia on January 31. Substantial increases in all principal crops were reported by the Argentine Ministry of Agriculture on their second official estimate. The 1923-24 harvest of wheat, which is now about completed, is estimated at 7,058,000 tons, compared with 5,330,000 tons last year; flaxseed at 1,606,000 tons and oats at 1,109,000 tons. The largest corn crop on record is looked for this year, based on the present acreage and condition.

In Australia the December rains delayed harvesting, according to the dispatch. Yields are reported high in South Australia, West Australia and Victoria and as of good quality. Crop failure is reported in the northern section of New South Wales, but in other districts the crop is good. The estimate is for 120,000,000 bushels.

(U. S. Dept. of Commerce.)

### Decreased Grain Exports.

The decrease in grain exports is a natural response to the increasing production of Europe, which is now almost back to pre-war production for most of the countries, and also is partly due to the fact that some of the newer producing countries with cheap land and production at low cost have been offering grain at lower prices than the United States exporters could meet. The latter situation is particularly due to the world-wide agricultural exploitation of virgin lands occasioned by the tremendous demands of the war and reconstruction period, which has left somewhat of an over-production, especially of wheat, since Europe has almost returned to her pre-war output.

### Argentine Crops Promise Big Harvest.

Substantial increases in all the principal crops are reported by the Argentine Ministry of Agriculture, in the second official estimate of the grain crop just reaching the Department of Commerce from Trade Commissioner G. S. Brady, Buenos Aires. For the 1923-24 harvest, 7,058,000 tons of wheat are expected, compared with an actual production last year of 5,330,000 tons. Flaxseed is estimated at 1,606,000 tons, as against 1,208,000 last year; oats, 1,109,000 tons, as against 707,000; barley, 376,000 tons, as against 177,000 last year, and rye, 115,000 tons, as against 54,000 tons.

The wheat crop of Argentina is now estimated at 259,334,000 bushels, according to a cable received by the United States Department of Agriculture from the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. The crop last year was estimated at 189,046,000 bushels. Oat production is estimated at 82,052,000 bushels, compared with 44,280,000 bushels.—(U. S. and the linsed crop at 63,225,000 bushels, compared with 44,280,000 bushels.—(U. S. Dept. of Commerce.)

### Russian Seed Grain.

The total quantity of seed grain required in Russia next spring is estimated by the Gosplan as 397,350 short tons, says Trade Commissioner C. J. Mayer, Riga, in a report to the Department of Commerce. However, according to estimates of the Commissariat of Agriculture, the quantity of seed grain which will actually be required next season amounts to 442,281 short tons. The stock on hand does not exceed 216,678 short tons. Consequently, taking the Gosplan estimates, there is need for 180,564 tons of grain. It is intended to cover this through granting credit to peasants and

through purchases of grain effected by the States. It is said that 86,670 tons of seed will be bought using the funds of the recently established Union Agricultural Bank.—(Soviet Government Bank.)

(The Russian Soviet Government helps its farmers to purchase seed grain.—Ed.)

### Russian Grain Shipments.

Russian grain exports from the Black Sea district through the Bosphorus during the month of January totaled 174,981 long tons, according to the United States Department of Commerce. Of this quantity there were 95,623 tons of wheat; 5,876 rye; 13,378 barley, and 7,215 corn. Shipments for January are 109,266 long tons less than for the month of December. The Turkish Government has purchased rather heavily of Russian grain and is distributing it largely for seed purposes.

### Russia Supplying Wheat to East Siberia.

Russian wheat is now being received in Vladivostok for the first time, according to a dispatch from Consul G. C. Hanson, Harbin, China, to the Department of Commerce. Up until now Vladivostok has been supplied with Manchurian and American wheat. In order to safeguard the wheat cargoes from this new source, special ventilation precautions and other measures were taken. The first shipment consisted of 400,000 pounds of Russian wheat received in Vladivostok the middle of February, and a second cargo is reported en route to Vladivostok.—(U. S. Dept. of Commerce.)

## GERMANY REGAINING PRE-WAR CROP PRODUCTION

The "come-back" of Germany as an agricultural producer is shown in figures just released by the United States Department of Agriculture based on radio dispatches from its agricultural commissioner at Berlin. The 1923 wheat crop in Germany is placed at 103,267,000 bushels compared with 69,725,000 bushels in 1922.

Rye production last year was 263,045,000 bushels compared with 209,519,000 bushels in 1922; barley, 108,445,000 bushels, compared with 73,013,000 bushels; oats, 420,719,000 bushels, compared with 284,567,000 bushels; potatoes, 1,197,119,000 bushels, compared with 1,194,181,000 bushels, and sugar beets, 9,585,000 short tons, compared with 11,896,000 short tons the preceding year.

Final figures on the German harvest for last year give a total estimated yield of 9,737,000 tons of rye, wheat and spelt, compared with 7,305,000 tons in 1922, or an increase of 33 per cent over 1922, but a decrease according to the German statistics, of cc per cent for the present territory, as compared with 1913. The increase of bread grains was, however, accompanied by a decrease in the potato crop and large imports are necessary.—(U. S. Dept. of Commerce.)

## LABOR PARTY IS NOT A "THIRD PARTY"

Let it be clearly understood that a "Third Party" and a Labor Party are not the same. The former may be a progressive or reform party rebelling against the corruption of the two old reactionary parties of Capitalism; but it can only be a capitalist party, and not a Labor Party.

By a Labor Party is meant, a political party that is not only opposed to the Republican and Democratic Parties, but which stands openly, squarely and finally for Labor.

A Third Party—as the term is popularly understood today—is not expected to do that. It is expected only to make cleaner the capitalist party politics, and to return some of the early virtues of Capitalism—such as, freedom of speech, of the press, etc.

Labor welcomes everything that makes for a cleaner and more free social and political life. But Labor's grievances are not, primarily, against capitalist party corruption. They are against the economic and other evils inherent in the present industrial system. To cope with those evils, the workers must have their own Labor Party. No other political party could or would successfully do so.

(From "The Advance," official organ, Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America.)

## The Farm Crisis

(By HAROLD M. WARE)

(The next installment of this comprehensive article on the general agricultural situation, will deal with the subject of Wheat Farming—principally in the Northwestern States.)

### EASTERN GENERAL FARMING.

In spite of the fact that thousands of farmers throughout the Eastern States are going into bankruptcy, there is a general continuance of the old illusion, in the minds of individual farmers, that somehow they will prove exceptions. This psychology is explained by its background of diversified agriculture.

### Eastern Farmers Individualistic.

These farmers raise a wide variety of foodstuffs and livestock. Their labor schedules are evenly distributed throughout the year. The exploited labor of the farm family suffices to harvest the small volume of several succeeding crops, and to milk the cows and feed the stock. Although the farms average but 90 to 100 acres, there are no periods of unemployment, because of the variety of products. These products are marketed gradually, and more directly than the great specialized crops of grain and cotton, and there is no forced competition on the world markets. The Eastern farmer says, "We don't have all our eggs in one basket"—and for that reason is less affected by the market declines in a single crop, or by market manipulation. In other words, because his is a more nearly self-supporting farm, the Eastern farmer is better entrenched as an individualist than is the highly specialized grain farmer. Although high costs of the things that they buy and low prices for the things they sell, constantly reduces their equity in the land, the process is slower and less apparent than in the grain country. There the farmer often has the product of his labor, for an entire year, stolen in the few days it takes to sell the one crop. For these reasons, the revolt of the Eastern farmers against their exploiters is less concentrated and less militant than the protest which comes from the Northwestern "sod-busters."

### Gradually Changing.

Of the Eastern type of "diversified" farm, there are in number approximately 2,500,000—or 40 per cent of all farms in the United States. And they are found in the wide area stretching from Iowa to the New England States, and from Canada to Virginia. Along the edges of this area, the true Eastern general type-blends into that of the adjoining specialized area—yet the Eastern area remains distinctly diversified in crop production. This area is the most productive in agricultural and industrial output, as it is also the most thickly populated section of America. These farms are scattered between the greatest cities and towns; and they have, therefore a larger and more continuous domestic demand, for the higher priced and perishable vegetables and dairy products—with only short freight hauls to the market.

### Feeling the Pinch.

In spite of all his advantages, however, the Eastern farmer feels the pinch of the present farm crisis. He is losing his equity in the land cultivated. And the rapidly shrinking equity is forcing the most strict economies upon the farmer. He is buying no new machinery, is hiring no extra "help," and is forced to more and more exploitation of his family. The farmers in the Eastern area described were forced to increase their mortgage debt more than two billions of dollars—that is, 400 per cent of their 1910 mortgage debt.

It is only a question of a little time, when the millions of working farmers in the Northeast will become as militant and progressive as their neighbors on the farms of the Northwest.

## Whisper This!

Captain H. L. Schaife, government aircraft expert, told the Congressional investigating committee—during his testimony in the little Teapot affair—that the United States Department of Justice blocked prosecution of individuals responsible for \$7,000,000 graft on government contracts. But he didn't name the individuals—or if he did, none of the "World's Greatest Newspapers" mentioned the fact.

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## "PATRIOTISM" OF THE PROFITEERS

The sentimental patriotism which is the anti-pacifist demand, now gets another nasty "rap in the jaw," by means of the Dupont Engineering Company and its scheme for making profits out of the dead bodies of the wage-workers who died in government war-work during the "flu" epidemic of 1918.

At the Old Hickory Powder Plant, (Nashville, Tenn.), which the Dupont Company was building to take care of the government war orders, at war-profiteering prices, the dead bodies of workers were thrown into undertakers' wagons—six to ten corpses for a load—and carted off to "the potter's field," for uncoffined burial. Yet the Dupont's contract with the undertakers called for the embalming and shipping of these bodies to the homes of the dead workers, at a charge of \$75.00 in each case, with an additional \$20.00 charge "for the use of the undertaker's wagon, between camp and city." The actual cost of burying the bodies was \$11.00 each—leaving a difference of \$64.00 graft, plus the \$20.00 "shipping fee," for each dead body. At this plant, the Dupont Company furnished 90 per cent of the government's \$140,000,000 purchases—orders having been given, from governmental source, that none but Dupont concerns should be considered in the purchasing of materials and equipment. The Dupont Engineering Co., we might add, is one of the most active anti-labor and "open shop" concerns in this country.

This particular operation of the governmental "graft trust" was brought out quite incidentally, during the testimony of George W. Storck, chartered accountant of the United States Department of Justice, while the Wheeler committee of the Senate was investigating a little item of \$18,000,000 stolen by the Dupont outfit of profiteers. And, also incidentally, it was disclosed that our super-patriotic "has been" Attorney General Daugherty made no effort to recover this amount of booty—although conclusive proof of the fraud had been handed in to his office. The efforts of Assistant Attorney General Crim to bring about an investigation and prosecution in this connection resulted in the "resignation" of that apparently too business-like official. And Accountant Storck later discovered that his own confidential report in this case, submitted to Daugherty, had been turned over to the Dupont's attorneys. He also discovered that the government accounting officer whose services made more easy the stealing of these government funds, was one Capt. Foulke, son-in-law of a Dupont. It seems that the patriotic Capt. Foulke had given orders to destroy material receipts, and to manufacture false receipts, from way-bills, etc., to assist in concealing this fraud upon the government. Affidavits were at that time secured from the government employes who had formulated these "phony" documents.

All of which helps to demonstrate that there are nearly as many varieties of "patriotism" as there are of Heinz's pickles—and that most of them are "the bunk."

"Labor must defend Labor," says Labor, official organ of the sixteen distinctly separate and wholly dissimulated "standard railroad unions" "(standard" is defined as "established by rule," you know). Quite incidentally, Labor is also the more or less official mouth-organ of the "Committee for Progressive Political Action." And having thus announced its belief, Labor labors heroically to keep the farmers and industrial workers away from the Farmer-Labor Party—the only organization that offers a practical program for all Labor to protect and defend its political and economic interests.

## ANOTHER CONFERENCE OF THE C. P. P. A.

If any further proof were needed that the Conference for Progressive Political Action is "pussy-footing" on the pressing issues confronting the workers and farmers of the country, it comes now in the news of another conference-talkfest, just held in Washington by that organization.

Many of the "high moguls" of the railroad unions were present in the meeting, which also included the presence of Morris Hillquit of the Socialist Party; Benjamin C. Marsh, representing some farmers, and Mrs. Victor L. Berger of the Women's Committee for Political Action. And there were some "Democrats," like Edward Keating, the editor of Labor, who find it more remunerative to fight the Communists than to oppose the highly organized Capitalists, and who were evidently not anxious to turn down Doheny's friend, McAdoo.

Much time was taken up in discussing "the dangers of the June 17th convention." But no action was taken that would give hope or inspiration to the discontented farmers and industrial workers. Then the conference adjourned, to meet again on May 25th in preparation for the Cleveland gathering on July 4th.

Truth must acknowledge that as a factor for good in the Farmer-Labor movement, the C. P. P. A. has fallen short. It is composed mostly of men who can count by the score the years since they did a useful day's labor of any sort. For just as the West has its "farmers" who make a business of "farming the farmer," so does the East have its "workers" whose ambition is to "work the worker."

The convention of June 17th stands for elimination from the political life of the workers and farmers, of those professional "labor leaders" who have made such a sorry mess of their duty—the building up of the unions.—And the question arises, when such as these "leaders" have failed to perform the work they were elected to do, how can they expect to achieve leadership in a political movement of which they know nothing? It would be like an attempt to ride two horses at once—economic and political steeds—when they could not ride even one of them. And in their fear of meeting with a spill, they seek to transfer to a political organization the power which they have appropriated for themselves in the labor unions. So they would now tie up the July 4th convention before it meets. It is reported that the rules for that convention provide that before a roll call vote can be taken, a representation of fifty votes is necessary; and that each organization shall have one additional vote for every ten thousand members, or major portion thereof, over their single vote requirement. This means a convention where no local unions can be directly represented. And it would be a gathering quite similar to the yearly A. F. of L. conventional affair, wherein the General Presidents, with clock-like regularity, proceed to "draft" the presumably unwilling Gompers for reelection.

The June 17th convention at St. Paul will be a gathering of the rank and file, from the farms and from the workshops. It will welcome delegates from local unions and other local organizations of the workers. And that is the reason why the C. P. P. A. is fighting against this June convention—under the Wall-Street-inspired cry of "Bolshevism!"

A jack-ass kicks—but never thinks. Then there are animals that neither kick nor think. The "class" name of these is me-gomper-therium (more commonly called, aefofelite). And if it had any sensibility—which it has not—that animal could not look a jack-ass in the face without blushing.

Clearly, the time is ripe for a new departure in working-class action on the political field. Because the most that capitalist-class political parties could possibly give in the way of reform would be a system of State Capitalism. And it is not from any such institution that the new society will be born.

Up to date, Governor Bryan of Nebraska has not accepted the challenge of Rev. J. L. Beebe to debate the Governor's qualifications as a Progressive Party candidate. And it is a safe bet that this challenge will never be accepted by Governor Bryan.

## KOO-KOO-KOOTY "FRIENDSHIP".

The struggling farmers of Minnesota had wished upon them another dubious "friendly" ally—no less than the Ku Klux Klan.

With vociferous protestations of sympathy for the farmers' present critical situation, and equally loud-mouthed condemnation of the recently exposed national political rottenness, these would-be American Fascisti are now attempting a "diplomatic approach" toward the militant farmer-labor forces. Demonstrating their own super-patriotism by much waving of "the flag of liberty," these carrion crows of the petty bourgeois buzzard are now citing the more or less religious farming element to the "Holy Bible." And thus they would prove that negroes are not entitled to equal consideration with white workers; and that Jewish merchants—"Christ-killers"—must make way for the Commercial Club "Christian" variety (who divide up with the "Koo-Koo's" their profits squeezed from the farmers).

As an added proof of their farmer-labor "friendship," these Kooties of Kapitalism are launching a general attack upon organized labor—not on account of the A. F. of L. reactionary leadership, but because most of these "labor leaders" are Roman Catholics.

The Minnesota rural districts are being honey-combed (or, we might say, fine-tooth combed) with these Kooty organizations, under such false pretenses. And their danger to the farmer-labor movement lies in the fact that the unorganized and poorly informed farmer element, in despair affailing for that fake organization's propaganda. They have little opportunity for learning that the real purpose of the K. K. K. is entirely one of graft, for the benefit of its "grand leaders" of Cyclopean appellation and iniquity.

The farmers of Minnesota—and throughout this country—must "study up" a little in this relation, if they would not be misled into reposing a trustful faith where no faith is due.

What other imaginable cause than conflicting graft interests could have been the reason for "splits" in the K. K. K. organization, such as those which recently occurred in Atlanta and Indianapolis—principal Southern and Southeastern headquarters of the Koo-Koo's?

The whole history of that organization, from first to last, has been but a chronicle of contention between the "leader" element, for possession of great "grafting" power. And in each case, the defeated leaders, when ousted from their fat "easy-money" jobs, immediately proceed to form a "new" Klan—the purpose and procedure of which is the same as that of its predecessor. They "have the habit"—they "need the money"—and they find many farmers who are easily nailed to the Flaming Cross!

As never before, "The reading farmer is the successful farmer."

And while you are planting, don't forget to plant some new thoughts in your mind.

Every other class has its representatives in Congress, but the cause of the farmer-labor class has not a single representative there.

## IN EXPLANATION

Beginning with this issue, Farmer-Labor Voice will be printed at the new plant of The Daily Worker. And we believe that our readers will not again be presented with such typographical "idiot-syncretics" as have been showing up in these columns heretofore.

"All's well that ends well"—and we will not burden our readers now with a critical analysis of the last previous issue. But apologies are due to the author of the article on "Intellectual Hypocrisy" (which the printer insisted upon making an "international" affair), and to the writer of the editorial on "Administrative Incompetence"—who complains that he himself cannot gather any meaning from the opening paragraph as it was printed. That paragraph should have read (as written):

"Universally, throughout capitalist society, the dominant political parties in each country have demonstrated their inability to achieve any lasting benefit for that part of society which is composed of the worker masses—the tremendous majority in all countries of the world."

# They Would Make War

By TOM AYRES.

Notice the increased activities of professional militarists and their lackeys against anti-war agitation. Of a sudden you see this manifestation all over the United States. The next war is on the way. Explanation of the haste of our capitalist Government in the organization of Citizens' Military Training Camps throughout the United States, immediately following the close of the last war, is being revealed in the press and out of the mouths of professional militarists. We are apparently at peace with the whole world. Why then this feverish activity in training the young lawyers, young doctors, the sons of merchants, the "leading citizens" in our capitalist society? Why the antagonism among these classes by talk against war?

## Financial Supremacy Sought.

The reason is clear enough. Ever since the close of the last war, our international bankers have been planning to subjugate the balance of the world. At the close of hostilities we found ourselves in possession of sixty per cent of the gold of the world, and now, as ever, gold commands the world. There must be some place found for the exportation of liquid capital, taken out of the hides of American farmers and the American working class. The country has been sucked dry of money—agriculture has been ruined—in this dragnet of the big bankers, in their effort to mobilize liquid capital for purposes of foreign investment. Our farmers have been held white. There is no cash in the West or Middle West. The latest call rates in New York City were down to 2½ per cent. Wall Street is the gold reservoir of the world, and something must be done to make that gold earn more for those who own it.

Loans have been made all over South America, and as these loans have been extended, American marines have been sent out to protect the loans. Another ten years, and the American bankers will have South America under the bondage of their mortgages. American marines and American soldiers will promptly follow every new bond issue.

## Dawes-Morgan Combination.

The latest development is Mr. Morgan's proposition to take a mortgage on Germany. The industrial plants and the railroads are to be mortgaged, under the manipulation of Mr. Dawes and his expert commission. Loans have been extended to France, so that France will likewise fall under the complete domination of Morgan's mortgages.

The League of Nations covenant, written by Morgan's lawyers in New York City, before President Wilson went to Paris, was intended to furnish the machinery by which Morgan's mortgages on Europe might be handled, and enforced, if necessary. The Dawes plan for the subjugation of Germany and France was likewise outlined and fully considered in New York before the Dawes commission went to Europe. The trip to Europe simply furnished the setting. It was necessary to go to Europe to furnish the publicity background, but the details were as well understood in New York before Dawes and his commission of expert mortgage-makers started for Paris and Berlin, as they were at the time that the full report was cabled with great gusto from London to New York.

American capitalism proposes to reduce to vassalage the entire world, as it has the farmers of the Middle and Northwest. It proposes to make the European farmers and European factory workers its slaves. France and Germany, and all other countries, so far as they can be reached, will be made vassal states of the money barons of New York City and London. What will this call for? Armies, conscription, war equipment, increased taxes on American working people for the support of a gigantic police force, to hold the balance of the civilized world in bondage and to collect the interest on Morgan's mortgages.

## World-War Again?

What will be the result? War! That is just as certain as that day follows night. And war cannot be avoided, because the European and South American peoples, under the domination of foreign bond holders, would thus be more certain to revolt than when under the domination of alien military rulers. If the American colonies had reason for declaring their independence from the yoke of Great

Britain, then German, French and South American peoples will have greater reason to revolt against the domination of foreign bond holders. The foreign representatives of these American bondholders, placed over these foreign peoples to rule them and to collect interest out of their toil, will meet with opposition. Revolutions will follow in all the states paying tribute to the Morgan clique. Then American youth will be conscripted, and sent across the seas, to quell these rebellions, and to take active supervision over the conquered lands. In the meanwhile, American working people and American farmers will be taxed to the limit to support these ever-increasing and expensive police forces required for the collection of Morgan's interest on foreign bonds.

Another war? Certainly! War makers are even proposing, for the purpose of allaying public fear, to conscript wealth as well as the nation's manhood, in the next war. This is a hypocritical device to justify such conscription of manhood. Let it be thoroughly understood that when the owners of wealth hold political power, as they now do, wealth will not be conscripted. The war mongers—the partners of the bond holders in every war—backed by a government of their own choosing, will be certain to arrange matters that they will suffer no loss whatever as a consequence of any war promoted in their interests. Let nobody be deceived by this suggestion coming from the war makers, that they intend to conscript property and funds in the "next war." They will do no such thing. They use this propaganda merely to allay the fears of those who will furnish the bodies to be shot at and who will pay the taxes to support such war.

## The One Pretext.

There is only one thing for the farmers and workers in the United States to do. Fight war, from every platform! Never let the opportunity pass to explain fully to the people how the wars are to be produced, for whose benefit they are to be fought, and finally, who will be called upon to do the fighting. Let the war makers be told straight to their teeth—from every stump and through every untrammelled publication—that the time has come when we will give no more money and no more men for the support of Mr. Morgan's wars. Let Morgan and his bribed henchmen in Washington, and in every other part of the country, take notice that they are not going to be permitted to bring on another war without opposition. And let us start the fight at once and make it so hot that Morgan and his group will understand that the first attempt they make to use the taxing capacity and the manhood of the United States to collect their interest or to protect their stolen concessions in foreign lands, will be met with immediate counter war upon them. Let them understand, finally, that they will be held responsible for any attempt they may make to embroil the people of the United States in a war to collect their foreign debts or to furnish protection for their loot in foreign lands.

## BRITISH FARMERS FAIL TO "FALL"

SYDNEY, New South Wales.—(By Federated Press.)—Thanks to the fierce opposition of the Labor members in the State Legislature of New South Wales, the scheme propounded by the anti-Labor government to bring in cheap-worker farmer immigrants from Great Britain has broken down. Although this scheme is supposed to have started in operation as from last June, no such farmer immigrants have yet arrived.

## JAPANESE FARMERS ARE BECOMING BANKRUPT

KOBE, Japan.—(By Federated Press.)—Agricultural land in Japan that was rated at \$3,000 per acre in 1914, is now \$5,000 per acre. The result is that the tenant farmers, unable to pay the higher rentals, are rendered poverty stricken. And this is leading to strikes and rebellions, with general revolution possible in the not far distant future.

The Coolidge campaign slogan, "Keep Kool with Koolidge" ("K.K.K.K.?!"), is quite apropos, even now, to the followers of that frost-bitten fruit of iniquity. And in November—when "The melancholy days are come."

Wouldn't it be all right to call the Federal Power Commission "trinity" of the Coolidge cabinet—Work, Weeks and Wallace—"a power behind the throne?"

# Co-ops Fail In Trustified U. S.

By SCOTT NEARING.

(Federated Press Staff Writer.)

Consumers' co-operatives undoubtedly have their uses. They train workers in co-operative ability. They teach them the art of economic control. They save money.

But as a substitute for an organization of producers, and as a structural basis for immediate social progress, they will not qualify. Yet there are millions who now believe in the possibility. Have they a reasonable ground for their beliefs?

There are several momentous questions which the advocate of the peaceful consumers' co-operative revolution must answer.

## Problems Presenting.

1. The beneficiaries of the present order—the steel trust, Standard Oil, etc.—already control the coal, iron, oil and timber reserves. How can they be induced to part with them?
2. These same masters of the present order also control the machinery of the state. If the co-operative associations, formed according to law, really threaten these interests, will the co-operatives not be outlawed and their property confiscated?
3. The co-operatives, according to the theory, will be the employers of all the labor—in mines, factories, stores. Will they permit labor to organize? To select workers' councils to direct the works?
4. As they proceed in accumulation of property will not the co-operatives develop into defenders of the present system which protects their property and defends them in their right to direct production?
5. By what method will the transition be made from the present order? Will those who now dominate economic life voluntarily surrender their privileges?

## Limitations.

One of the most attractive claims of those who advocate consumers' co-operation as a method of building the new society, is that their plan can be put into operation here and now. There are three reasons why this must be denied for the United States.

In the first place, the great bulk of American industry has no direct connection with the consumer. Farms produce wheat and cotton and cattle which are manufactured in their finished forms before they reach the consumer. The bulk of the manufacturing in the heavy or key industries turns out machinery that never gets to the consumer at all. Most of the coal and all of the copper and iron ore go into manufacturing and not to the consumer. Therefore, in all of these industries, an organization of producers comes a great deal closer to the actual functioning of society than an organization of consumers.

In the second place, merchandising is so highly organized in the United States that consumers' societies find it almost impossible to compete with the chain store and the department store.

Third, the margin which the American worker still enjoys above his actual needs makes him indifferent to the savings which a co-operative can promise. He prefers to invest his surplus in some business and climb the ladder of "success."

The co-operative movement has gained a firm footing in Europe. During the same period it has met with widespread failure in the United States. Perhaps these reasons account for the difference.

It costs real money to purchase influence in the national capital. And the millions so disbursed are assessed through the medium of corporate control, on the producers of wealth—the farmer and the industrial worker.

And it costs some more real money for official "whitewash"—great quantities of which have been used in the "Congressional investigations" during the past half century. This little item has likewise been always saddled onto the backs of the farmer-labor masses—who benefit not at all, through any such "investigation."

It takes 20,000 governments clerks in Washington, D. C., to keep the time and make out the payroll for the 80,000 "what-nots" who feed at the public trough there.

## SHOPMEN'S STRIKE COST \$125,000,000

300,000 Men Involved.

*Their Share of the Losses Not Figured in Road's Calculations—Damage by Violence.*

Since its declaration on July 1, 1922, the shopmen's strike, involving approximately 300,000 employes on virtually every railroad in the United States, has cost the railroads about \$125,000,000, according to estimates prepared by railroad executives. Further, a recent investigation shows that while the places of most of the shopmen who left their work about two years have been filled, many of the unions have still to call off their strike activities.

The strike was instituted when the shopmen refused to accept the cut in wages decided upon by the Labor Board. Since then the men have accepted various forms of compromise. Recently requests for increase to the 77 cent an hour basis in vogue before the order of July 1, 1922, has been asked of the Southern Railway and the Mobile & Ohio, with the understanding that the policy adopted would follow on other railroads throughout the country.

Some of the railroad officials point to the figures recently made public by the Attorney General's office, indicating that an investigation of conditions on fifty railroads shows an expenditure of \$96,501,376 as the result of the strike.

Such figures, they point out, verify the estimates of railroad executives. They do not represent, of course, the full cost of the strike, because a large share of the expense was borne by the strikers themselves, and by the general public, which suffered through delays in passenger traffic and the handling of freight.

An indication of the fierceness of the struggle between the unions on the one hand and the railroads on the other is evidenced by the fact that the Department of Justice expended almost \$2,000,000 for additional United States deputies as the result of this one strike. This did not include the 60,000 additional guards and police officers that the railroads employed.

The reports show that practically all of the shops and roundhouses were picketed and that the railroads were forced to feed and lodge the shopmen who took the places of the strikers. This housing and feeding took place at almost 1,100 points along the lines of the different railroads, officials say.

Records of damage to persons and property show 19 deaths, due to violence; about 1,500 instances of assault, and 65 kidnappings.

Besides this the records show about fifty attempts to burn or dynamite bridges over which trains might pass; with an additional 50 attempts to destroy railroad property by dynamiting.

Attempts were made in many parts of the country to cause delay in the schedules by the derailment of trains that would block the main line, and in the opinion of some officials this was done to intimidate passengers and thus cut down the revenue of the railroads. Various methods were used to do this, including the greasing of rails, the placing of obstructions on the tracks, the removing of spikes, interference with frogs and switches, cutting wires and signal apparatus. In all about fifty such cases were reported.

From these figures it is indicated that the actual cost of the strike to the railroads amounted to about 20 per cent of the net income for 1923.

Most of the officials are agreed that while there are meetings in various places by the shopmen and a pretense of keeping up the strike against some of the railroads still goes on, so far as the cost goes the strike is at an end. Many of the railroads have taken back the unions on modified terms, and others have organized company unions to represent the employes in conference with the management.—(New York Times.)

There was quite a tempest in the Teapot Dome committee when Senator Spencer carelessly stated that the late Secretary of the Interior, one Franklin K. Lane (otherwise to be probably unrecorded in history) had issued leases that were duplicates of the almost equally late Secretary A. B. Fall. We wonder how do they get that way—these dyed-in-the-wool U. S. Senators?

## BARGAINS IN OHIO FARMS

By J. A. HAMILTON.

One of the leading quick remedies for the bankrupt farmers' troubles is "diversified farming." It indicates that if the farmers would not specialize on one crop, but instead would raise a variety of crops, they would get along much better.

But if a Western farmer were to come to Ohio, to gaze upon the prosperity and riches produced by such a violation of the natural tendency of industrial development on the farm and in the factory, he would be quite disillusioned. The farm situation is perhaps not so bad in Ohio as in the Western States—but the Ohio farmers think that it is quite bad enough.

### Abandon Farms.

Plenty of farms are now to be found in Ohio with the farm house unoccupied, and the land used for cattle grazing—if not entirely abandoned. And in the vicinity of industrial centers—such as Zanesville, for instance—will be found many farms that are operated only a part of the season, the farmers working for wages in town during the rest of the year. This method enables the farmer to pay his taxes, and thus hang onto his farm hopefully.

The profitability of farms may be judged from their market price, and when farms are offered for sale at 50 per cent of the replacement value of stock and equipment, then surely the farm situation is not a prosperous one.

### Sample Bargain Sale.

Here is an illuminating example: A farm seven miles from Zanesville, less than a mile from a good hard-surfaced road, was sold for \$5,200. Of course, this is an amount of money that would cause most bankrupt farmers to die of heart failure, if they were to get hold of it, all in one lump. But let us see what went for this price.

Forty-one acres of fine farming land! And on it, a large eight-room house; a good barn; half a dozen out-buildings; several farm wagons, sleds, a buggy and harnesses; machinery, and a cream separator. Also one splendid team of horses, eight cows, six hogs (weight, 2,200 lbs.), forty-five chickens, and a good collie dog. Besides about 200 fruit trees and bearing grape vines, there was also included with this farm sale, twelve tons of hay, considerable unthreshed oats in the barn and corn in the crib.

A conservative valuation of this outfit, under normal conditions, would be about as follows: House, \$5,000; stock and machinery, \$1,500; barn and out-buildings, \$2,500; fences, \$500; total, \$9,500—not including any valuation for land improvement.

These figures were supplied by the former owner of the farm—who said that he sold because he found himself getting poorer and poorer all the time. And among the reasons for this, he said, that last year it cost him 65 cents a bushel to raise oats, which in the Zanesville market brought him 42 cents a bushel—out of which he paid the threshing bill. So, the more oats he raised, the more money he lost!

## MOSCOW CO-OPERATIVE FOOD SHOPS

MOSCOW.—(By the Federated Press.)—Running restaurants and tearooms is one of the latest stunts of the Moscow Union of Consumers' Co-operatives. The organization has taken over a number of the restaurants and tearooms which were favorites before the revolution, renovated them, and is offering light lunches and meals. The meals cost 30 per cent and tea 40 per cent less than in the same type of private house.

Of the 22 bakeries in Moscow under the management of this co-operative, those in workers' sections sell bread cheaper than those in the center of the town. The organization has a string of food shops in various sections of Moscow. Those in the center have tempting show windows. The prices are 5 per cent to 20 per cent cheaper than the market prices.

To acquaint the public with the desirability of trading with the co-operatives the board of directors received permission from the government to keep the shops open at night and on Sundays, when the private shops are forced to be closed. The shops comply with all regulations governing overtime and Sunday work.

## MARTIAL LAW FOR LABOR IN NEXT WAR

(By Federated Press.)

WASHINGTON.—Direct conscription of labor at the time of next war "or national emergency" is, reluctantly but surely, being abandoned by the strategists of the army general staff, and economic mobilization, with a guaranty of fat profits and immediate contract orders, is being substituted. "Patriotic" labor leaders are to deliver the workers to the war crowd, and martial law will do the rest.

The Federated Press is informed that 50 officers have been working full time, and 300 officers part time, during the past year, on plans for the next war mobilization. It is informed that the draft of the detailed contract which is to be signed and delivered to some 6,000 manufacturers in all parts of the country, to be made effective upon the declaration of war, will be completed within a few weeks.

This war supplies contract, far from conscripting the materials and money available in the United States, as has been promised by the military propagandists ever since the World War, will be a definite assurance to the manufacturer that he can operate at a profit and can operate immediately—when war comes. If the business interests of the country line up for a war, and stamp out pacifism at the critical moment, the manufacturers will make their own killing.

Promise is made that the profits will rise with the efficiency of the manufacturer. Cost-plus contracts will be abandoned, and premiums will be laid upon cheapness of production, and upon speed. No guaranty of short hours and high wages is mentioned. Labor must look after its own interests.

This scheme of insuring a greed-inspired clamor for war throughout the country is to be offered as a modification of the American Legion's conscription bill, which was written in the war department and was introduced in Congress by Senator Capper, of Kansas, and Representative Johnson, of South Dakota. The bill (H.R. 4841) provides that "in the event of a national emergency declared by Congress to exist upon which in the judgment of the President depends the immediate increase of the military establishment, the President be and he hereby is authorized to draft in the service of the United States such members of the unorganized militia as he may deem necessary; Provided, that all persons drafted into service between the ages of 21 and 30, or such other limits as the president may fix, shall be drafted without exemption on account of industrial occupation."

That last phrase covers labor in general, and is the clause which has struck a snag.

Army men say the war machinery could be organized after a declaration of war, and pressure could be brought upon any group of labor or of employers that failed to fall in line. But in the meantime contracts now prepared will have been locked in the office safes of thousands of big manufacturers, and their alluring terms will be known to the directors of tens of thousands of banks, and other thousands of newspaper publishers, political bosses, and other molders of public opinion. And in the event of Congress failing to pass this Capper-Johnson bill or any other conscription measure, the powder trains for setting off a war will still have been laid.

## REAL RUSSIAN GOLD, AT LAST!

(By Federated Press.)

PARIS.—Almost as big a political scandal as the oil affair in the United States is the series of revelations made by L'Humanite, the labor daily of Paris, concerning the corruption of the French press and French politics by agents of the czar of Russia during the days preceding the war.

Day after day L'Humanite has been publishing documents, telegrams, secret reports, etc., unearthed by the Soviet government in Leningrad, which show the highest circles in France were the recipients of bribes.

The dauntless Communist paper has offered a prize to the person who would guess what newspaper, what newspaper man, and what member of parliament drew the greatest benefit from the czar's generosity. The prize winner guessed the following names: Le Temps for the paper, Calmette for the journalist, and Senator Perchet for the political personage.

The other papers are furious. They threaten to bring a series of lawsuits. The first to sue is the Matin. L'Humanite announces it will celebrate the beginning of the trial by further embarrassing disclosures.

## SECRETARY WALLACE UNDER FIRE.

WASHINGTON.—(By Federated Press.)—After hanging fire for many months, the investigation of Secretary of Agriculture Wallace has been started before a house committee headed by Representative King, Illinois. The first testimony has come from John M. Burns, former attorney in the packers' and stockyards' administration, and from Earl S. Haines, formerly an examiner in this same division and previously employed in the stockyards' and packers' investigation by the federal trade commission.

Burns told how the farmers are robbed by the livestock commission men's ring, and how Chester Morrill, executive assistant to Wallace in directing the stockyards' administration, refused to permit the National Livestock Producers' Co-operative Association to file an application to trade in live stock on the Kansas City exchange, after it had stated its intention to reduce the rate of commissions charged to farmers.

When the law division of the department told Morrill that he was violating the federal statute by refusing to file this application, he had to yield. Recently, however, two individuals filed a rate 30 per cent below the regular commission rate on the Oklahoma City exchange, and the combine asked Wallace to block their doing business. They were subjected to such pressure that they finally agreed to charge the regular rate, and were admitted to the exchange.

Earl Haines, prominent in the federal trade commission's study of stockyards conditions, which led to the enactment of the present makeshift law, agreed with Burns that from 25 per cent to 40 per cent should be returned to the farmers, from the \$40,000,000 taken from them by the livestock commission men each year. Haines resigned from Wallace's department last October, submitting a letter in which he declared that the important advantages gained by the farmers after 30 years of struggle against the meat packing combine are rapidly slipping away, due to the shielding of profiteers by the very agency of government that was created to guard the public against them.

The Poor Fish says that he is against child labor—but that if the manufacturers have to hire adults instead of children, lots of things will cost more.

## KEPT PRESS LIES ABOUT RUSSIAN CHILDREN

On Friday, April 11, the Chicago Daily Tribune printed two pictures in its pictorial section showing the suffering of Russian children, plus the imagination of the kept newspaper liars.

The captions with these pictures speak of the "nationalization of children." This is the latest invention of the enemies of Soviet Russia and recalls the story that had such a wide circulation about the "nationalization of women."

### Truth Avoided.

It may be true that there is still a certain amount of suffering among children in Soviet Russia. But the Tribune fails to mention the millions of child laborers in the United States who slave away their lives in factories and the fields, for a mere pittance, and who must live under the most frightful economic conditions. And it fails to speak of the thousands of homeless waifs in this country—the wealthiest of capitalist countries. There is no mention anywhere in the Chicago Tribune about the suffering children of the hundreds of thousands of unemployed in this country. Plenty of pictures could be had showing the suffering of children in this country, or in the other capitalist countries. It is not out of pity that the hypocritical "World's Greatest Newspaper" (7) carries those pictures of Russian children. It is simply a part of the campaign of the capitalist press to discredit the first Workers' Republic.

### Facts Ignored.

The Chicago Tribune is one of the worst enemies of the working class of this or any country. It has never once suggested that the United States should recognize Soviet Russia. Recognition of Russia by the United States and the resultant trade would aid Soviet Russia to recuperate entirely from the last vestige of the ravages wrought by the World War, civil war, foreign invasion, blockade and famine. Trade with America would mean machinery for Russia, and would mean an increase of production and further improvement of conditions. Trade with Russia would be a benefit to American workers, because it would give employment to hundreds of thousands who are now out of work. Trade with Russia would relieve the suffering of the children of these hundreds of thousands of unemployed workers in this country. But the Chicago Tribune does not speak of any such things. It specializes in lies about the first Workers' Republic. It is true, of course, that Soviet Russia has not yet completely materialized its plans but Russia is on the upgrade, while all capitalist countries, notably Germany, are on the downgrade. The Chicago Tribune does not

## NO BUYER FOR THE MINNESOTA STAR

MINNEAPOLIS.—(By Federated Press.)—The Minnesota Star, founded as a Farmer-Labor daily in 1920, and now describing itself as "independent," failed to interest possible purchasers when the time for opening bids came in district court here. Sealed bids had been called for but none were received. The daily, which has been in receiver's hands, on motion of a creditor paper company, was valued at \$25,000 in a verbal bid for all the assets by the attorney for Thomas Van Lear, present editor; John Thompson, present business manager, and A. B. Frizzell, who handles Great Northern Railroad advertising. The receiver, a Minneapolis advertising man, refused to consider the offer. Another bid of \$100,000, made for the same interests, carried with it the pledge to keep the paper going and pay the creditors out of earnings. This was also rejected.

Although the circulation of the Star has slowly climbed until it is now approaching 60,000, this has been at the expense of practically all the features that formerly distinguished it as a farmer and labor daily. Appeals to these elements to buy the paper and make it once more a militant daily organ of the producers in Minnesota and the Northwest have failed. The liabilities were considered too great. With about half of the circulation of the older dailies in Minneapolis the department stores and other firms were willing to pay the Star half the standard advertising rate. Hearst interests looking into the Star plant decided not to buy because the only chance of its becoming a going concern, in their opinion, was to make it a spirited third party organ, which they are not now willing to do.

Bitter quarrels between Van Lear and A. C. Townley, Nonpartisan League chieftan who usually controls a majority of the proxies at stockholders' meetings, have marked the recent history of the daily. Van Lear in 1922 ousted the original editor, Herbert Gaston, whom he now charges with some of the responsibility for the extensive investment in the plant made in 1920. Gaston has shown that Van Lear was on the board of directors at the time the important decisions were made.

admit the truth—that Soviet Russia has done more for its children than any capitalist country in the world has done for its own children.

# RUSSIA AND GERMANY

RUSSIA STEADILY BUILDING UP  
GERMANY STEADILY DISINTEGRATING

Dr. W. A. Horsley Gantt, who was a year in Russia with the American Relief Administration, and for the last six months has been investigating health conditions in Germany and other European countries, says:

"The contrast between the health conditions in Germany and Russia is that Russia is just getting over her crisis while Germany has not reached hers. The difference in the mental outlook of the people is the keynote to a large amount of the trouble in Germany. The brightest ray in all Russia's darkness is the growing optimism of the mass of the people, and it is this intangible argument, much more than any mathematical data, that leads us to believe that Russia will soon emerge from her difficulties.

"According to the conditions existing at present in Germany, we may expect to see a steady fall in the birth rate and a rise in the death rate for at least one or two years."

SEE THE FILM

# RUSSIA AND GERMANY

Which portrays both of these countries in action  
Write for particulars

## Committee For International Workers' Aid

(Friends of Soviet Russia and Workers' Germany)

19 South Lincoln Street (New address)

Chicago

### Farmer-Labor Forum

The Farmer-Labor Voice solicits from its readers a free expression of their opinions upon all subjects of special interest to the farmers and industrial workers generally.

Contributions to this Forum should usually be of not more than three hundred words. With these, pen-names only will be published if requested. But name and address of writer must accompany each contribution.

The Farmer-Labor Voice assumes no responsibility for the opinions expressed in this manner.—ED.)

Editor, Farmer-Labor Voice.

I take the chance, which the FORUM offers, to present before its readers a question often raised in my mind and in the minds of others by the continual false assertion that the interests of the farmer and of the wage-worker are opposed to each other, because each buys what the other sells, and each strives to better his own condition by buying cheaper and selling higher.

If this were true, the fact that the middlemen exploit both buyer and seller would not alter the fact that unity between wage-worker and farmer could operate only up to the point where extortionate profits of the middlemen are stopped; that the efforts of wage-workers to improve their condition by lower prices for farm and other products which they must have would conflict with the efforts of farmers and each other, striving to better themselves by securing better prices; that efforts of farmers and others to better their conditions by selling higher would conflict with the efforts of wage-workers and others, trying to improve their conditions by buying cheaper.

To support this contention it is continuously asserted that price is the sum total of all costs of production plus profits—whether reasonable or extortionate. So popular is this assertion that resistance to high taxes, rents, freights and profits is based on the claim that these high prices not only diminish the return for expenditure of income directly, but indirectly raise prices of other things by increasing cost of items entering into their production.

Wages, too, are in this popular category figured as a cost item of price, a cost that is shouldered by the consumer. And this view is often taken by the wage-workers themselves as well as by the farmers.

One or the other of these two ideas must be false. Either price is NOT what popular opinion takes it to be, or else all attempts of farmers, laborers and others to better their condition by means of altered prices is a popular fallacy. I ask you, readers: Which is false? Which is true?

EDWIN M. WHITE,  
Newton Grove, Mont.

To the Editor: The Omaha "World-Herald" has stated editorially: "The country has full confidence in the fearlessness, public devotion and ability of Senator Walsh—thanks to whom, light is now breaking in dark places."

Now, if Senator Walsh is such a wonderful defender of righteousness, it would seem that he has been a long time in finding himself. Twelve years ago, when the Republicans had just passed through the Ballinger scandal and the Democrats were warmly grilling them, this same Senator Walsh was ringing the fire-bell every hour. But when the Democrats came into full power and responsibility, this "radical" Senator from the Montana copper fields became as a cooing dove while the Democrats were acquiring title to the vast railroad, telephone and other monopolies.

Senator Walsh represents the vested interests, just as do the others of his political caliber. But, being a very capable and tricky lawyer, he is able to successfully exhibit his stock in trade as a partisan politician when the opposition have too carelessly neglected their political fences.

When he gets through exposing the Teapot Dome graft operations, Senator Walsh might then explain his own efforts to hand over to the Montana Power Company some great water-power sites in the Yellowstone National Park. Of course, there may be some fine legal distinction between the giving away of oil-land reserves and the giving away of water-power sites, which is not properly understood by the general public. If so, then Senator Walsh is just the man to demonstrate this distinction.

W. H. Green,  
Omaha, Neb.

## "BACK TO NORMALCY"!



### THE ILLUSION OF CROP DIVERSIFICATION

A few years ago, "intensive farming" was the one best bet for the farmer—if we accepted as true the theories of bankers and lawyers who were intent upon teaching the farmer how to be prosperous.

Notwithstanding the "line upon line and precept upon precept" of this intensive farming propaganda, it made no progress because, in the last analysis, intensive farming means a great deal of hand work. There may come a time in the future, when pressure of population becomes great enough, that we shall go back to hand work; but it is folly to talk that now.

And so for several years past we have heard little of intensive farming. But recently the farmer's tutors have been lecturing him on "diversified crops" as the only true road to salvation. This was the burden of the discussion at the regional conference of tenth district bankers at Kansas City the other day.

Now, theoretically, diversified farming is all that its advocates claim for it; but it lacks practicality. This is an age of machinery and machine work on the farm. To a great extent each different crop requires its special machines. And to be equipped for dairying, potato growing, wheat growing, corn growing, not to mention the cultivation of navy beans, sugar beets, alfalfa, honey, fruit and the like, means an investment in machines far in excess of the average farmer's ability.

Nevertheless, diversification must come about in some form eventually. Suppose all the land owners in a township were to form a corporation, buy up all the land, and organize to operate it scientifically. All the stockholders (if farmers) would be hired by the corporation and work for it. A committee would decide on the crop for each piece of land, and diversification could be carried out without entailing an excessive investment in machines.

This is probably a long way in the future, if it ever comes to pass; but in present circumstances diversification of crops is just as much of a chimera as intensive farming. Both sound well, but are impracticable.

CHARLES Q. DE FRANCE.

### "Prosperity"

Profits of 65 per cent, 114 per cent and 160 per cent are features of the 1923 annual reports of corporations manufacturing and distributing food. Ten of these corporations in the year piled up profits totaling over \$100,000,000. This huge figure includes only the profits remaining for common stockholders after large sums had been set aside for depression, taxes and bond interest. Actual profits were probably half again as large.

Armour & Co. on an \$800,000,000 meat business made a gross profit of \$38,853,217. Large deductions for depreciation, interest and taxes reduced the amount available for common stockholders to \$15,691,257, which is reckoned at 7.3 per cent return. Swift & Co. shows a profit of \$13,184,619 after all deductions, equivalent to 8.8 per cent on common stock.

But the three corporations which got away with the highest returns to their common stockholders are Great Western Sugar, Fleischmann & Co. and General Baking Co. The sugar company made no bones about reporting a profit of \$16.22 on each \$25 share of common stock, a return of 65 per cent. Its total profit amounted to \$10,785,000. But Fleischmann yeast report of only \$5.69 a share of no par value looks small enough until we find that the actual value of each share of stock is reckoned at \$5. Then the rate of profit for the year jumps to 114 per cent, which sounds pretty generous. It evidently pays to exploit vitamins.

General Baking, however, takes the cake. Its \$5,525,559 profits are the largest in its history, being 20 per cent over 1922, more than double 1921 and five times the earnings shown in 1920. And these huge earnings are openly attributed to the low price of flour, the gap between what the workers pays and what the farmer gets. These profits mean a return of \$11.18 a share on the no par common stock. But in 1922 two stock dividends were paid, which increased the capital from 34,000 to 138,578 shares. "Thus," says the Wall Street Journal, "earnings are equivalent to over \$160 a share on the old stock."



# "BACK TO NORMALCY"!

