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The Ohio Socialist

Official Organ of the Socialist Party of Ohio

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The Russian Situation

There seems to be a conspiracy on the part of the Capitalist Press in this country to distort the actual situation in Russia, or they are ignorant of the Russian people. It is hardly reasonable that the Russian people who have tasted freedom under the Bolsheviks are going to accept the Prussian rule of iron with open arms; they were tired of fighting and hoped to gain time to establish a real democratic form of government, and that is why they arranged to cease hostilities on the western front. Do not be misled by the news sent out by the Capitalist Press for the fact of the matter is that the Capitalist class do not want to see the Bolshevik government successful, because it would mean that the Capitalist system throughout the world would be overthrown that much sooner.

In a few words the situation can be summed up by the following: (By M. Phillips Price, long time Russian correspondent of the Manchurian Guardian).

Moscow.

"Last night I was present at the sitting of the Central Executive of the All-Russian Soviet, at which Lenin opened a debate on foreign relations. He began by pointing out the possibility of the creation of a league of the capitalist nations of the world because of the fundamental antagonisms between the two chief Imperialist states of Europe—England and Germany on the one side and the Far East on the other. America and Japan, he said, prevented these powers from establishing a stable system in Europe and Asia. The capitalist system thereby showed its bankruptcy, for the modern financial capitalism could only exist by the struggle for undeveloped areas of the earth's surface.

"Lenin said the problem of the Soviet government was therefore to keep clear of the two struggling groups of world-capital till the crash should come and the proletariat of these lands should take the reins of government. The Soviet government would use diplomatic methods as far as possible, to tide over the time, but if the German military party determined to tear up the Brest-Litovsk treaty, they would meet with all the resistance the Red Army could offer and also of the millions of armed peasants, who now had their land and knew what they were fighting for."

By John Reed

Russia, under the Workmen's and Peasants' Government is not at all which the bourgeois reporters and diplomats and business men have made America believe.

The world, fed with lies by the capitalistic press, conceives the proletarian republic as an inchoate jumble of disorganization and tyranny where anarchists, drunken soldiers and German agents dance a destructive bacchanal.

No, As for the disorganization, that was accomplished under Nicholas the Second, who, as everybody then knew, wrecked the Russian army and the Russian system of transportation in order to bring about a separate peace with Germany; it was intensified by the bourgeoisie in the Coalition Government of Kerensky, in order to wreck the Revolution.

The Bolsheviks inherited a ruined Russia. Most soldiers were deserting in millions, whose transportation system was in a state of dissolution—Russia starving and exhausted. At the time of the peace treaty with Germany, Russia was not so disorganized as it had been in the last two months of the Kerensky regime.

There was more food in the cities, better order in the streets and a quickening of Russian life such as had never before occurred in her history. Kerensky had merely perpetuated, under the slightly changed conditions of capitalism the institutions of Czardom; under the Bolshevik regime there sprang up an entirely new conception of the state—new political forms (the Soviets); new industrial organization (the Factory Shop Committees); a new educational system from top to bottom; a new kind of national armament; a new agrarian scheme; and a tremendous and myriad-folded outburst of popular expression, in thousands of newspapers, books, pamphlets, in ceremonies and songs, in the theater—rich, happy and free. *

Where "Tyranny" Lives

The "tyranny" of the Bolsheviks exists largely in the minds of interested persons who rarely if ever object to the violation of the rights of free speech and free assembly in other parts of the world. Yet newspapers were suppressed in Russia; people were put in jail, Bolshevik commissars made illegal searches and requisitions. But it will surprise America to learn that almost nobody in Russia was or is in jail because of his opinions.

The greater number of suppressions of newspapers resulted from their violation of the Bolshevik law making advertisements a government monopoly; other papers were shut down for printing, in time of civil strife, lies (such as the widely heralded rape of the Women's Regiment in the Winter Palace), which incited frantic people to bloodshed on the streets; and still others, with a small bourgeois constituency and a large endowment, were put out of business because the newspapers of the proletarian parties, with their enormous public, needed the paper and writing skill, need.

But there are another and simpler reasons for the travelers' tales which have come out of Russia these last six months. The entire basis of society was reversed. In Petrograd, for

example, people who lived in hotels could not get enough to eat, enough heat or enough light; service was bad and servants insolent; there were few cabs to drive about in, and on the railway trains a first-class ticket was no guarantee that one's compartment would not be invaded by a score of unwashed, ticketless soldiers, who disliked the "boorjouj" *** Everything was fearfully expensive.

Workers Are Fed

But the workers in the factories, the soldiers in the barracks, the peasants in the villages got enough to eat, enough heat and light, though short rations, it is true, but still as much as Russians have been getting ever since the Czar in his infinite wisdom tried to starve Russia into peace in 1916 *** And the two-course dinner which the bourgeois traveler had to pay 60 roubles for in the Hotel d'Europe I could get for two and a half roubles in the great communal dining hall of Smolny Institute.

This Bolshevik state—it is hard for us to understand, for it is no bourgeois parliamentary democracy, in which theoretically every man has a vote, and practically small capitalist group rules; it is a dictatorship of the proletariat, of the unskilled, propertyless masses of the people, for the purpose of forcibly and permanently wrenching from the hands of the property-owning class the weapons of its dominance. In its resistance to this process, the Russian bourgeois has shown himself ready to join the kaiser himself.

Local Only to Property

It has taught me three things: That in the last analysis, the property-owning class is loyal only to its property.

That the property-owning class will never readily compromise with the working class.

That the masses of the workers are capable not only of great dreams, but that they have in them the power to make dreams come true.

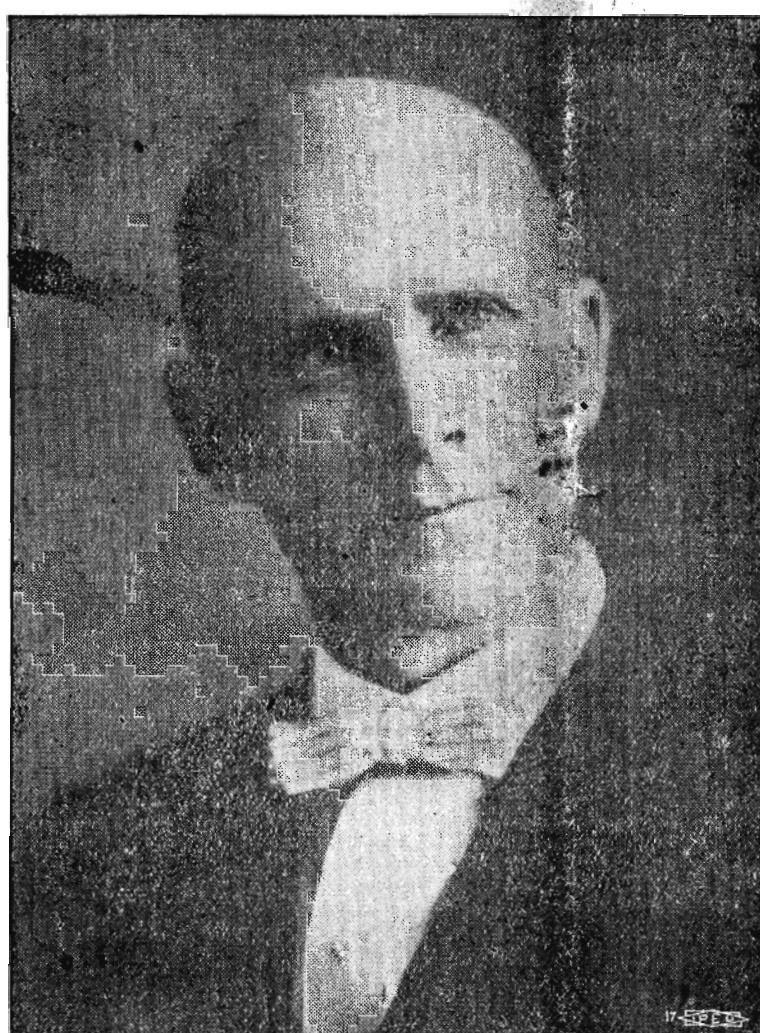
The Mooney Case

The latest news of the Mooney case is that it will now go direct to the U. S. Supreme Court on appeal. A new trial was denied by the California court, and Mooney's attorneys appealed the case as the only legal means of giving Mooney anything like an even break with the Fickett frame-up crew.

Throughout the entire Mooney trial this fact stands out conspicuously as a sign of hope for an exploited class. That is the international character of the agitation which developed in his defense. From England, Scotland, Russia, and other lands came DEMANDS (not cringing pleas) for Mooney's release and condemnation in open terms of the stupendous farce of his trial. Of course all these demands for Mooney's release were demands of workingmen, organized working men, and that these demands were given significant recognition by the government of the United States is apparent to all.

Mooney will never hang. We say this not because we have an abiding confidence in courts, certainly not in the United States Supreme Court, but because we do have an abiding faith in the growing solidarity of labor and we know that labor in America and in Europe are determined that Tom Mooney shall walk the earth a free man entirely vindicated of the monstrous crimes laid against him. It is now up to the workers to continue to develop an aggressive and world wide defense of Mooney amongst labor of all countries. Stand by Mooney.

For centuries and centuries these workers, these doers and makers of all things, these living and breathing foundation stones of the social fabric, have been loaded with fetters and bowed to the earth; but at last—at last!—touched by the magic of their common misery and inspired by the genius of solidarity, their latent power is beginning to pulse in their veins, they are learning to stand erect, and as they lift their eyes they behold that a new sun has risen in their somber skies.



EUGENE V. DEBS

Eugene V. Debs' Hail to Comrades

At the dawn of every day my hearty hail goes out to all the workers of the world. They are my comrades and I covet no higher honor than to share their lot and no greater wealth than to have their respect and love.

And I include them all, on equal terms, regardless of race or creed or sex; and my loving greeting goes out to them all as it follows the sunrise around the world.

For centuries and centuries these workers, these doers and makers of all things, these living and breathing foundation stones of the social fabric, have been loaded with fetters and bowed to the earth; but at last—at last!—touched by the magic of their common misery and inspired by the genius of solidarity, their latent power is beginning to pulse in their veins, they are learning to stand erect, and as they lift their eyes they behold that a new sun has risen in their somber skies.

In their long travail their unpolluted hearts kept time, and now they beat in unison as the one great heart of the human race. With the love-light in their eyes and their hands outstretched they greet each other as "Comrade," while in their united heart-throbs may be heard the drum-beats of the Proletarian Revolution.

All hail the sons and daughters of this glorified international host, with whom I proudly march to Victory or Death!

"Hold the Fort"

Sing I. W. W. as They Return to Prison.

One hundred and one members of the I. W. W. on trial at Chicago last week, heard the jury's verdict, "Guilty" and were remanded to prison pending an attempt of their attorneys to secure an appeal. When the boys marched back to their cells, which have for ten months been their homes, they sang that industrial warrior's song, "Hold the Fort."

Again this famous rebel song is heard from the lips of men grown accustomed to the tragedies of life as lived by those who have the hardihood to give battle to capitalism with labor's new weapon of the industrial organization.

Our memory goes back nearly two years ago, a sunny Sunday afternoon on the placid waters of Puget Sound this stirring rebels' song floated out upon the air from the hearty lungs of a thousand loggers of the northwest woods.

We remember it was met with a death valley from rifles of the Chamber of Commerce deputies, spies and stool pigeons stationed behind barricades on the wharf at Everett, Wash., and half a hundred workers fell, dead or wounded on the deck of the "Verona."

That this predetermined slaughter was a direct cause of the greatest growth of the I. W. W. in any period of its history has long since become an acknowledged fact and from the blood of those workers spilled on the deck of the "Verona" sprang a fact that has been bitter indeed in the mouths of the exploiters of labor. "Bloody Sunday" produced an hundred thousand I. W. W.

What will the Chicago jury's verdict beget? We do not attempt to say. But we do know that no jury, no law, nor any number of "Bloody Sundays" can stop the victorious march of industrial democracy.

Order Bundles Now

The trial of Eugene V. Debs for alleged violation of the espionage law will begin at Cleveland on September 9th. The trial will be reported in The Ohio Socialist each week. A special Debs' Trial Edition will be issued on Sept. 11th. Every party member will want to get and read the news of this momentous trial from the start. It should be read by every worker in Ohio from first to last.

Read the first news of the great trial and distribute it broadcast over the state. For this edition, special bundle rates of 50c per hundred will be given. Every local should order a large number of this edition. Send in your orders for bundles so as to reach us not later than Sept. 10.

TO PARTY MEMBERS

Since The Ohio Socialist became a weekly it has been a heavy financial drain on party funds. The only reason it has been so, is that not all party members are subscribers. If all party members were subscribers there would be no deficit.

Referendum "E" supplies the method of proper support for the state paper. Vote for it. It is the only way we can continue to build the paper. It is the organized way. It is the sure way.

You don't have to wait for the referendum to carry to support your own paper. Let's stop the deficit now. Start now to place every member of your locals on our subscription list by selling O. S. Press Stamps to them. ORGANIZE, EDUCATE, AGITATE, CO-OPERATE, FORWARD MARCH!

H. WAGENKNECHT

The Last Chance

Two days to win, two days to get 2,000 names on State Petitions. We must have them. Do your part. Mail petitions so as to reach State Office by Aug. 31.

Help Build Debs' Defense

Your help is needed now. Get your Defense list in circulation. Debs has aided you, now help him. Heavy expenses must be met. Workers must supply the funds.

Do your share. Do it right away.

7,000 Socialists Shot

Nuerteva Tells National Conference of Bourgeois Atrocities.

Nuerteva, representative in this country of the Finnish workers' republic, appeared before the conference and told of conditions in Russia and Finland.

He described how, as the result of ceaseless activity, the Socialists gained a majority in the Finnish Parliament, and how they worked long in building up their political, co-operative and trade union movement. This has been temporarily obliterated through the coalition of the Finnish Socialists with the bourgeois Government.

Seven thousand of the fiercest of the Finnish Socialist movement, men and women, were shot down, he said:

There is now one lone Socialist in the Finnish Parliament; there is not a single labor newspaper in the country, while the ruling class is planning to establish a monarchy and to invite a German prince to ascend the throne, said Nuerteva.

The Finnish reactionaries fear he said, that if a republic is established and the people given an opportunity to elect a president, the Socialists would come back into power in spite of all opposition and persecution, just as the Bolsheviks carried Vladivostok recently.

Workers' Government Goes to Russia

During the Red Guard revolution, Nuerteva pointed out, there were over 37 people killed in the conditions prevailing after the Finnish bourgeois-German imperialist alliance only fittingly described in Jack London's "The Iron Heel." When the ruling class stopped at nothing in their efforts to crush the working class, the Finnish workers' government was transferred to Petrograd, where it is working hand in hand with the Russian Soviet government.

Nuerteva said the fall of the workers' republic in Russia would mean a great setback for the entire international Socialist movement, and urged the Socialists of this country, as well as of other lands, to carry on an unceasing agitation to secure recognition of the Russian Soviet republic.

Negro Socialists Ask Aid

Chandler Owen and A. Philip Randolph, of New York city, Negro Socialists, appeared before the conference and urged the carrying on of Socialist propaganda among the Negroes.

Owen pointed out that 99 per cent of the Negroes are workers who have lost faith in the Republican party, while they have never had any faith in the Democratic party. They declared the opportunities for the spread of Socialist propaganda among the Negroes were never better than now. They urged that work be carried on especially in the northern states.

They declared that 25 per cent of the Negro vote in the last New York city election went to Morris Hillquit, Socialist candidate for mayor, and that of 500 Negro women enrolled 100 enrolled as Socialists. They now have a Negro candidate for congress in New York city on the Socialist ticket. They have a strong publication advocating the cause of Socialism among the colored people.

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The jury was out fifty-five minutes.

It may have been only a formality that they left their seats to go to the jury room. A Chicago paper states it is evident that only one ballot was cast.

Motion for a new trial will be filed immediately and if necessary, appeal will be taken. All defendants are now in Cook County Jail. A word of cheer from the fellow workers in the field will be appreciated by them.

Fellow Worker Haywood gave out the following:

"I have no fault to find with Judge Landis, and none of the rest of us have," said Haywood, at the county jail. "He was fair to us, absolutely square throughout the whole trial. His instructions were fair, I thought, and certainly he treated us excellently while the trial was in progress."

"Everything possible that could be done for us during the trial was done. This is shown by Judge Landis letting about seven of us out of jail on our own recognizances. I am glad that none of us violated the confidence he reposed in us, but that all were on hand for the final day."

Every comrade should read this 10c book. The picture of Debs on the cover in one of his most striking poses is worth ten times the price. Order of the State Office, 10c a copy.

Order Now

"THE DREAM OF DEBS"

A few years ago Jack London wrought a masterpiece in the general strike. He called it "The Dream of Debs." It was a vivid picture of a probable future happening in the conflict between labor and capital. It compares with the "Iron Heel" in vividness of portrayal. It is a classic.

Every comrade should read this 10c book. The picture of Debs on the cover in one of his most striking poses is worth ten times the price. Order of the State Office, 10c a copy.

O. S. Press Stamps in your

dues books are spikes in

Capitalism's coffin. Drive

'em in.

The Cat's Out of the Bag

In all our experience we have never come across anything quite so frank as the circular of the American Exchange National bank for August.

It reveals the inner workings of the "social order" that are just now creaking under the strain of world events. It portrays a society in which the producer of wealth is bound by economic forces to ill-rewarded tasks. Labor is chained and skinned and swine's "social order." The banker is behind which these "other persons" hide while they are passing imposts on to others. Increased taxes bear on them as harsh as they do on "widows and orphans." This may provoke your profanity, but be consoled with the knowledge that the banker is calm, still philosophically calm. Cultivate this mood, as he has cultivated with his ignorance, and we will proceed with your gibes:

As the war progresses, the tendency toward eliminating party lines in Congress becomes marked. In districts where the Socialists and other AVOWED ENEMIES OF THE EXISTING SOCIAL ORDER have a chance of winning when all other political parties put candidates in the field, the leading men of the principal parties are discussing the advisability of selecting one patriotic candidate and electing a congressional district to oppose the canidate of the avowed pacifists and enemies of this country.

The banker has painted a picture of the social order as it effects the worker and now points out the miscreants who are avowed enemies of it, and these scoundrels prove to be Socialists. The latter have a tendency to disturb the banker's philosophical calm while he is portraying the worker in chains. And bear in mind that it is the quintessence of their kind of "patriotism" for the "leading men" in the "principal political parties" to unite on one "patriotic candidate" to oppose the "avowed enemies" of the bankers' "social order." As they pass

Proletarian Science

A Course in Economics Arranged for Study Classes
By W. E. Reynolds
(Written especially for the Ohio Socialist)

TEN QUESTIONS IN ELEMENTARY ECONOMICS

Here are ten test questions, all taken from the little ten-cent booklet by Marx, "Value, Price and Profit." How many can you answer, and be sure that your answers are correct? Try it and see. Send your answers to the author, including stamped, self-addressed envelope for a reply and I will be glad to grade you in accordance to your answers. Address care of the State Office, Socialist Party of Ohio, 1291 Cool Ave., Lakewood, O. 1—Are the prices of commodities regulated by wages? 2—Which is the greatest consuming class, capitalist or working class? 3—Does supply and demand have anything to do with VALUE? 4—What is the bulk of working class wages expended for?

AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

Proposed by the Ninth Ward Branch of Local Cook County, Illinois

Amend Sec. 6, Art. 10, of the National Constitution of the Socialist Party:

Section 6—The State Committees shall pay to the National Office every month a sum equal to ten cents for each member in good standing in their respective states and territories, and the dues to the State Committees shall be increased accordingly. Provided that in case this amendment is adopted the National Office shall discontinue the practice of collecting campaign funds and leave this field open to the State and Local organizations.

Section 6A—Every person making application for membership in the Socialist Party shall accompany his application with an initiation fee of One Dollar; provided, however, that this shall not apply to women who make application for membership. The initiation fee shall be divided as follows: Twenty-five cents shall go to the branch which receives the member's application, twenty-five cents to the City Central Committee, where such committee exists, twenty-five cents to the County Central Committee where such committee exists, and twenty-five cents to the State Organization. Where a City Central Committee exists but no County Central Committee, fifty cents shall go to the branch receiving the application, twenty-five cents to the said County Central Committee and twenty-five cents to the State Organization. Where no City or County Central Committee exists, seventy-five cents shall go to the branch receiving the application and twenty-five cents to the State Organization. The State Organization shall issue an initiation stamp and sell same to subdivisions of the party at twenty-five cents each.

Comment

Section 6 as amended will raise the dues ten cents a month to each member. It will not affect the dues of household and office. It will double the regular amount of the National Organization and of every State Organization. It will make possible a tremendous campaign of organization all over the country. It will make it possible for the National organization to discontinue the practice of calling for a campaign fund and leave this field to the locals and states. It is essentially a war measure. It will provide the means of carrying on the work of the party under all conditions and result in the development of a real Socialist movement of America. Ten cents means little to each member. To the National and State Organizations it represents a war chest that will open the way to the greatest campaign of organization, education and propaganda ever undertaken. It should receive the support of every member. It was talked over at the National Conference of State Secretaries and endorsed.

Section 6A—Providing for an initiation fee of One Dollar for new members is just as important. The members have paid for the education of the non-members long enough. Let each new member pay back to the party a dollar in return for the party's efforts in converting him. The funds from this initiation will vitalize every division of the movement. The branch will have funds, the County and City Organizations will have funds and the State Organizations will have funds. Let the new member pay for his education. Throw away the Salvation Army collection plan. Vote for the initiation fee and build a new movement.

E. BERGNER,
Chairman Ninth Ward Branch,
H. O. FORSBORG,
Secretary Ninth Ward Branch.
Adopted Aug. 16, 1918. 200 members in good standing.

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR SAYS

President Wilson must have caused a flutter in allied foreign offices when he declared that "the processes of peace which are begun shall be absolutely open." The statement seemed to advocate an unequivocal demand for the open discussion of peace terms, until Senator Borah, taking Mr. Wilson at his word, introduced a resolution in the Senate, whereupon the president was heard from in opposition. Then he explained that he meant "not that there should be no private discussions of delicate matters, but that no secret agreements should be entered into, and that all international relations, when fixed, should be open, above board and explicit." Now some one will have to explain what the president means by "fixed." In the meantime anyone can see that not the least difficult part of the war is going to the end of it.

The Boston Fuel Committee, with the approval of J. E. Storrow, Federal Fuel Administrator for New England, announced that beginning July 19, 1918, the price of anthracite coal will be \$11 instead of \$10.25 a ton, the rate fixed last January.

Soldiers Tribute to Our Gene

And in the close intimacy of our brotherhood I have found no fault in 'Gene; for he is as faithful and tender as my dear old mother, who loves him, blessed him and made him kiss her, as brave as a lion, as gentle as a woman, as honest and straightforward as a little child; as white, clean and sweet of soul as his elder brothers, Lincoln and Christ—and these are the nation's noblest noblemen.—W. E. P. French, U. S. Army.

15c a week for capitalist lies. Stop, think Spend a dollar for Socialist Truth.

Abraham Lincoln was opposed to chattel slavery. The Socialist party organization is just as bitterly opposed to the wage slavery of the two chief factors upon which the productive power of labor depends?

9—What are the component parts of surplus value?

The brave soul never shrinks in the hour of crisis, but measures up to its demands and coins its opportunities in gleaming treasures.—E. V. Debs.

THE CAVE MAN ANSWERED

By E. DICKENSON

"Doctrinaire Socialism would re-place the family and home life by a glorified free lunch counter and state foundling asylums, deliberately enthralling self-indulgence as the ideal, with on its darker side, the absolute abandonment of all morality as between men and women."

I will retract the statement I have just made. I will admit that public dining rooms would affect public morals. And I will contend that public morals would be substantially benefitted by them.

Under our present economic system, which Mr. Roosevelt considers as superior to the proposed one, the average woman degenerates into a household drudge and breeding animal who alternates her time between bending over the kitchen stove and nursing babies. Though she may have the soul of Joan d'Arc and the mind of a Francis E. Willard, she spends the big share of her life, in most cases, baking bread, frying pork, waiting on the table, washing the dishes and doing like tasks.

Mr. Roosevelt starts off by conceding that "every step toward civilization is marked by a check on individualism," but hastens to point out that Socialism would be too big a check on individualism, resulting in the condition which he has predicted.

Let us see. A "glorified state free lunch counter and state foundling asylums" would perhaps be imminent to the public welfare. The former president thinks they would. Well, even if we suppose they would, then, is it not probable that they would be highly preferable to the existing state under which many people go hungry because there is no such "state free lunch" and many babies are murdered by abortion or of malnutrition soon after birth or grow up into ill-nourished, weakly children because of the lack of that "state foundling asylum" against which Col. Roosevelt inveighs? Mind you, I am not admitting that Socialism would involve either a free lunch or a free foundling asylum. But even if it did, a casual study of conditions as they are today would indicate pretty strongly that the new arrangement would be better than the old one. Many men and women have no lunches, or mighty scanty ones, now; all would have free lunches then, according to Mr. Roosevelt's conception of the new order. Many kids now have no shelter, or else are housed in environs that dwarf their growth and pervert their faculties; they would all be guaranteed a place to stay under the scheme which Teddy mistakenly calls Socialism.

But in all seriousness, Socialism will provide no free lunch counter and no foundling refuge for all children. He that will not work shall not eat. Workers will be paid for their work, somewhat the same as now, except that everybody will be working for the state or community, whereas some now are working for their very selfish selves, some are not working at all, and the great majority are working for the other two classes. As for state foundling asylums, they are mostly structures built in the colonel's fertile imagination. There is no earthly reason for thinking that children will not be nursed, loved and cared for by their mothers as much then as now—more so, in fact. Mothers nowadays, who have to leave their babies and go to work before the wee ones can toddle, might better put them in a foundling asylum in many cases if such institutions were available. However, with the work of the wealth of the world fairly distributed, the mother will not be obliged to leave the child so much as she must do now; she can give the care which under the capitalist system is too often withheld by necessity. That the state should support institutions in which pregnant mothers could remain until delivered of their children has been declared by many scientific authorities who are far from Socialists. If the state did this, the mother who wished to spend the pre-natal and post-natal period in her own home would still be perfectly free to do so. And the average intelligent, conscientious woman will undoubtedly prefer that course.

It is, as a matter of fact, quite certain that under the Socialist state there will be "founding asylums," though in a different sense than Mr. Roosevelt's word would convey. If the state, which is supported by the citizens, owes any obligation at all to those citizens, one of the first would seem to be to care for mothers and children so far as necessary. There certainly should be an institution, supported at public expense, and free to those who desire to enter it, for pregnant women who wish care outside of their own homes. There certainly should be special provision for unfortunate girls who, through ignorance and indiscretion, become mothers out of wedlock. And there certainly should be ample arrangement for the care of babies which, for one reason or another, have not homes in which they can properly be reared.

Mr. Roosevelt, who so consistently and persistently argues that the state should protect its citizens from the diabolical designs of alien enemies, should be the last man to deny that this same state ought to afford the fullest measure of protection to the mothers of its coming citizens.

So the trouble with the ex-president is that he sees through a powerful magnifying glass the mote in the eye of Socialism, but does not even suspect the existence of the beam in the eye of capitalism.

Self-indulgence, in truth, is "deliberately enthroned" right here and now. Proprietors of capitalist enterprises, who coin millions in profits off the labor of their workers, do not hesitate to gratify every impulse and desire. Roosevelt's personal knowledge of the "malefactors of great wealth" confirms this. The bourgeois deny the proletariat the knowledge of birth control methods, with the result that poor devils who barely earn enough to support themselves and their wives find themselves loaded down with the burden of children that they cannot properly feed and care for. Meanwhile the bourgeois have wives and mistresses galore, and, having scientific secrets at their command, are able to avoid the bother of offspring and the unpleasant scandals consequent on having children out of wedlock. Indeed, what is high society today but a riotous revel of those who have the money and can pay the price for the minimum of danger?

I can not speak for the Socialists, for they have not taken any stand on this subject, but it is my personal opinion that this condition should be unquestionably rectified by repealing archaic laws forbidding dissemination of birth control information.

This will de-throne public indulgence by giving all classes, instead of a few, the power to limit offspring, thereby eliminating the immorality now so prevalent among young men who are the other. As for comfort, do not

marry, lest they have children that they can not support.

Socialism will de-throne self-indulgence by abolishing the system under which a few become enormously rich, and having lots of money and little to do, fritter away their time in debauches and liaisons. Instead of the "absolute abandonment of all morality between men and women," Socialism will establish a truer morality between them.

If Mr. Roosevelt has in mind also, as he probably does, the enactment of laxer divorce laws as a consequence of Socialism, his indictment can be equally as quickly dismissed. Socialists certainly will want women freed from statutory thralldom as well as from economic slavery.

While recognizing that a sincere and beautiful love between one man and one woman is the ideal state, and will probably be the choice of the great majority of normal people, they will probably advocate that the highest form of marriage is a condition on terms of equality. Such a union between the average high-minded man and the average high-minded woman will be for life. Such a man and such a woman would find repellent the idea of selecting a different mate with each turn of fancy or flame of passion.

However, it is hard (for a radical, at least) to believe that the new social order will retain a marriage code under which a man and a woman, foolishly and thoughtlessly united, and later learning their unfitness for each other, would be forced to wreck their lives in a hapless partnership that should be broken, the sooner the better. It is the curse of modern society that many a sweet, refined woman has unwittingly wedded a man of brutish instincts and been compelled to spend her life with him, letting him rape and abuse her as he desires, when every pure and lively impulse of her soul cries out in anguish for liberation.

Mr. Roosevelt is all wrong. His indictment is well-worded, clever, pleasing to the eye and the ear. But his charge is untrue—his indictment is an a priori indictment, if there is such a thing, for he files his accusations first, then tries to make the facts conform to the accusations, and if they don't, why, so much the worse for the facts.

Under Socialism there will be no empty stomachs, except where there are lazy men and women. There will be no bloated bellies and jewelled fingers on the one side and no skinny skeletons and starving souls on the other. There will be no champagne-and-lobster feasts for those who will not work and no Bowery soup for those who cannot live on their stingy pay, as long as one man does as much work as another, his lunch will be as good and no better than the other's. Finally, and perhaps most important of all, there will be no master sex and no servant sex—the wife will be as free as the husband and her position as honorable.

And the product, in terms of the human equation, of this new civilization will be men and women so free of mind, so strong of body, so clean of soul, that all life will be a grander, richer, fuller privilege than ever Col. Roosevelt, with his mistaken ideas, now conceives.—Milwaukee Leader.

A Cold Blooded Crime

By O'BRIEN GEDDES.

I knew Henry McKilvane well. He was always in trouble. He had no business in Athensville, anyway, although I realize what is hardly justification for what happened, if it should need any justification. Still it had never occurred to me or indeed to anyone else as far as I can find out that Henry was capable of committing a capital crime. But you can never tell anything about these modern people who feel called upon to reform everybody they see. I was very much surprised at Henry's conduct. And I was hurt, too. For hadn't Athensville always been a comfortable place for the man? I admit that at times we didn't understand him very well and we might have been guilty of a little rudeness toward him now and again . . . but in the broad sense of the word Athensville was kindly disposed, as Henry was a trifle upset about that. Then there had been a bit of feeling in regard to so many of our colored porters being let out of the draft in spite of our suspicion that they were not telling the exact truth with respect to their age. And maybe there was a little tension among some of us when we saw rifles put into the hands of those who came forward and entered the draft. But all in Athensville was quiet, mighty quiet, and there was no cause for any such exhibition of brutal abandon as Henry was guilty of. No wonder there is bad blood in the black belt. That sort of thing can't be allowed to pass, and Judge Possum did his simple duty. Nothing but his simple duty.

Athensville had been very quiet for two or three months before Henry broke loose. Of course there was the war work going on all about us and there had been that preacher in town who had told the folks all about the Turks and the abominable brutalities they had practiced upon the poor Syrians and Armenians, and we were a trifle upset about that. Then there had been a bit of feeling in regard to so many of our colored porters being let out of the draft in spite of our suspicion that they were not telling the exact truth with respect to their age. And maybe there was a little tension among some of us when we saw rifles put into the hands of those who came forward and entered the draft. But all in Athensville was quiet, mighty quiet, and there was no cause for any such exhibition of brutal abandon as Henry was guilty of. No wonder there is bad blood in the black belt. That sort of thing can't be allowed to pass, and Judge Possum did his simple duty.

I was standing on the corner by the postoffice with Possum when the trouble started, and later I was with the judge and the folks from the Hill when the tragedy took place. It was a horrid business, a horrible business. It passes belief what a man can do in cold blood. I can still feel the awful revulsion that swept me when Henry showed the brute that had been lurking in him in unsuspected by us all. Yes, sir; I have been living in Athensville for better than half a century and I have never witnessed the equal of that act. The south doesn't record a more cold-blooded murder, cold-blooded, sir; no temper; face as white as a sheet and calm as a piece of rock, and no language of any kind, not a single word. Just the same, an unmotivated murder if there ever was one.

As I said, I was standing beside Possum when the first news of trouble was whispered along Jeff Davis Avenue. It was whispered but it made a greater stir than it would have made if it had been shouted from the house-top. The old story, of course. Billy Morton's daughter it was, and the nigger was away with half an hour's start before the girl regained consciousness. All she could remember was that he was wearing gunny sacks for shoes. That and black, awful black.

Before we heard the story there wasn't a nigger to be seen in the plum disappeared, hit out and the whole town looking for them, for him. "Twasn't more than ten minutes before they had him either. Oh, it was the right one, all right. Didn't he confess?" You bet he confessed! The whole town heard him. But that was a bit later.

Andy Taylor was for hanging him then and there. There were quite a few who agreed with him, too, but some of the boys said that there was too much talk about hanging niggers without taking the trouble to find out whether they deserved it. No, sir; the nigger they hung this time was going to confess! No damned Yankee papers were going to sit in judgment on the acts of the citizens of Athensville. No, sir! So some of the boys take the nigger down to Juggin's Hollow and make him fast to a stake and some of them go over to the blacksmith shop and fetch some irons, rods, you know, and some bits of wagon tire. There was going to be nothing irregular about this lynching, you bet. No, sir! No, sir!

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The fire's going good by the time they show up with the irons. Well, sir; that nigger sure did start to howl when he saw the irons. "Oh, boss; you ain't goin' to scorch a poor nigger?" You bet he ain't. "Oh, boss; I ain't never seen that white girl! I ain't never heard of that white girl! Oh, boss; you ain't goin' to brand him this nigger!" I never did hear a nigger carry on like that one.

Well, sir; by that time the whole town was right there in Juggin's Hollow to see justice administered. And there was no concensus of popular opinion in favor of taking the nigger's bare word for his innocence. No, sir! That was what the irons were for. That nigger was going to have a chance to show how deep his innocence went. Any nigger will yell that he is innocent. Leave that

The Mystery

By ELLIS B. HARRIS.

Why life and death, love, hatred, joy and tears? What lies before us here in time and space To compensate the sorrows of mankind? Shall I sometime, somewhere, dream the plan—if plan it be—that now is system? It is not that I shrink from travail pain For self—and yet it is for self at last, For where is happiness amidst misery?

And where is joy whose knowledge comes to me That sisters walk the streets, or at their tasks Faint in their hunger for the means of life, And famishing, for touch of human hearts, Reach out their hands for wife and motherhood? Denied, forsaken, because some selfish beasts Devour their tender flesh in profit lust— O, that such swine were cast into the sea!

In sheer amaze I cannot realize How man can be so beastly in his quest And from the very cradle, or the arms Of mothers, seek for baby hands To bind them to the breakers or the loom, And steal away the sunshine and the play That he would not deny his dog, which fawns, Of grovels there to lick the poots of one— Though master—still is less than this, his brute.

I wonder where is God, or is there a God? And who has made this fiend resembling man, To glare at us when I protest and grieve, And threaten me with greater hell than this? I gaze with wonder on his patient slaves, My fellow men—or are they men at all?

That toil and sweat and look, with some respect, Upon this thing that chains them to the wheel And sneers at all their moil and misery? Or do I sleep, and is it all a dream— These little ones that toil; and then the glare Of crimson lights where virtue dies, that life May stay to a few a mere bitter dreg,

And sons and daughters robbed of love must lust, In lie of marriage, home and infant hearts, While mental prostitutes in richer joys, Bought with the blood of future motherhood, Sang gaily with their consorts over wine, And fondle with affection cat or dog, While babies perish for one precious drop Of nourishment from starved and withered breasts.

Is it a dream, and shall I wake some day With streaming eyes for sorrows vanished then, And joys of waking from such troubled lands, To gaze in long wild ecstasy.

To find the earth a garden for all youth, A workshop where the mind and hand is free To plan and build a world of truth and love, In which to find, at last, our God in self.

And heaven here where justice doth abide.

What Is Property

Many years ago a Frenchman asked the question, "What is property?" He scandalized property owners, not only because he asked the question, but also because he was the founder of a school of anarchism. If the larger owners of property today are not asking the same question they are asking something similar to it. This usually takes the form of an attack on Russia, where we are informed by a chorus of voices that "property has been abolished." Has it? If we ask of what does property consist we are sure they will agree that land, minerals, coal and oil deposits, machinery, raw materials, industrial plants and articles of personal use are property. If property has been abolished, none of the above can be found in Russia!