

Editorial Page of the Workers' World

The Workers' World.

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"HONEST INVESTMENTS."

In the course of his speech at the LaSalle, Frank Walsh dropped a bomb that will open several interpretations. "If the Plumt plan is not adopted now," he said, "inside of five years the owners will be begging for the Plumt plan to save their business." We have no reason as to the substantial nature of this statement, except that five months is apt to be the length of time elapsing before the capitalists seek refuge from the cyclone of working-class wrath.

Mr. Walsh's masterly analysis of the railroad problem and his exhaustive explanation of the inner workings of the financial piracy of the upper class gave evidence of such a knowledge of the utter bankruptcy of their claims as to make one wonder whether he is not a socialist. "That he is familiar with Socialist economics is evidenced by his statement that 'capital is the surplus product of labor and nothing else.' If their capital is the surplus product of labor, where did the power come from to 'invest' of those who have appropriated that surplus by force and fraud?" Mr. Walsh has dug up more facts to prove that force and fraud than any other man in this country and he surely cannot be deceived.

He explained that a part of the millions piled up by the railroad magnates came from secret and illegal relatives to corporations which they owned and controlled. This is a fact which the public does not represent honest investment. And that other part of wealth, represented by the value of land which they got for nothing in the first place should not be allowed by right to them. "We have Mr. Walsh's word as single-tongued truth. What does he mean by his reference to their 'honest investment'?" Perhaps, like his statement that we have political democracy in this country, he meant it for a joke.

"The Forge," a paper published by the Workers, Soldiers and Sailors Council of Seattle uses a little work by printing the following paragraph which coincides exactly with Mr. Walsh's:

"The railroad problem in the end can be settled only as a part of the labor problem as a whole, only as a part of the whole social problem, instituting production for use instead of for profit, by making every able-bodied person a producer, by coordinating the mental and manual work necessary to society, and by giving to all the full product of their toil."

The Union men who wore Gompers buttons in the Labor Day parade must have thought they were going to march backward.

A stranger in our fair city who looked over the list of peonists and labor lists was struck by the program for Labor Day. He said, "Particular to a friend and asked: "What is this—a celebration of the Employers Association?"

If the shopmen didn't get their raise, they at least got a first class "statement" from the Employers who think they can turn in the grocery bill.

Why is it that "the red woman" whom the leaders fear so much always gets the most applause from the rank and file? Are they getting red blood in their veins?

THE OLD GAME.

We are all familiar with the old game of the crook who yells "stop thief" at his own escape. We have a modern adaption of this dodge in the effort of the defenders and beneficiaries of the broken system of capitalism to blame the broken conditions onto the workers who, they say, are not producing enough! This is like advising a man in a leaky boat to bale out the water faster, but common sense in a case of that kind might impel him to plug up the leak. The workers are in a leaky boat but they haven't yet located the leak. Therefore, it may be worth while to point it out.

The workers of previous generations in this country, as far as I have been able to find, never attempted to do this. They have not been able to do it because they have not been sufficiently altered for the better. On the contrary, they have been altered for the worse. Clark defined as "a hell of a fix." The workers of yesterday slaves and bled and died; the workers of today slave and bled and are at least half dead.

Still we produce more than ever times over the example of "increased production" and yet, why are we not many times better off? The answer is so simple that the average college professor cannot understand it. Increased production hasn't been produced for the simple reason that we don't get what we produce. We are feeding the parasites and the parasites are feeding us. If we eliminated the parasites altogether we could have more and work less. But if everybody had to work, it would be socialism, wouldn't it? Yes but are you more afraid of socialism than you are of starvation?

ARTISTS AND WORKERS.

The Actors' strike in New York marks the beginning of what we hope will be a nationwide campaign to interest artists and certain other professional workers in their cause and to recruit and convince them of their identity of interest with the working class. There are vast possibilities in such a movement that should not be overlooked. One of the most subtle and effective methods of moulding public opinion is the use of art and a conscious organization of actors and other workers in the theatrical field could exert a determining influence on the character of the propaganda disseminated there.

The capitalist class of America is using the Actors' strike to good purpose and effectively just now to point out to the people of the Americas workers against Russia. Did it ever occur to you that the people who produce these plays and the men who operate the machines in the motion picture industry could stop a kind of work if they had the will? Just think what would have to be realized by permitting them to stop on the screen about their class they were injuring themselves and putting barriers in the way of their own freedom.

The artists could hand together to stop it, and make a rule to never take part in a play calculated to injure the cause of labor. Then the operators could establish a censorship on the ground that a state of war existed on the part of the class and the other class and refuse to pass anything for the benefit of the enemy.

The printing trades might take up with the idea and put the same rule into practice. This has been done in isolated cases and might be made general with proper proper effort.

What the telegraphers for instance in Winnipeg refused to send out any dispatches about the strike which did not bear the O. K. of the strike committee.

Capitalism is a system which not only enslaves the manual workers, but commercial and industrial workers as well. It is propped up and supported by lies which the artists and workers themselves distribute. If they should decide to stop the lies capitalism wouldn't last very long.

FAKE SOCIALISM.

The spectacle of socialists being carried off their feet by proposed reforms which sound radical and mean nothing calls very forcibly to mind the woeful need for sound socialist teaching within the ranks. That our own members should show signs of middle-class mentality is a sign when the working class is trained of propaganda. So has been the case by the vote-hunting Socialist Party. If Victor Berger's old age pensions and Morris Hillquit's Municipal stations are Socialism, the party members are not to be censured for considering any such shifts as the Plumt plan in the same light.

The answer, of course, is that none of these or similar measures are Socialist. They are not even steps to Socialism, but they are steps to help to bolster up the present system. They are steps to help resist the shock of a real working class vote. We need not necessarily oppose these reform measures but we must emphatically dispute the claim that they offer a solution of working class problems or that they are even practical steps toward a solution. There is no salvation for the workers short of revolution and it is the duty of the party to keep that fact always in the foreground.

The fight of socialists under the leadership of the party to keep the party to the rocks and has paralyzed it in this present opportunity to take hold of the discontent of the masses and harness it to the revolutionary vehicle. The fight waged by the Left Wing to carry the party cast out in Chicago this week, to a fitting climax it is for the reform elements defeated by the membership, to call on the capitalist police force to throw out the Left Wing delegates. What better illustration of the complete bankruptcy of the reform reactionary and anti-socialist character, and what further proof of the duty of real socialists to separate from them and on for?

STATE POWER.

"The most important problem in every revolution is the problem of state power. In whose hands is this power that can resist in all things?" says Lenin. Here we have in a few words the Bolshevik denial of the Syndicalist proposition that the revolution should be won for the control of the state, that is, for the control of the state, as the New Solidarity puts it. But the political state does not ignore the attempts of the workers to seize the industry as more than a thousand labor trials.

We learn from the revolution in action that the struggle for control of the land and the instruments of production goes hand in hand with the struggle for state power and the one depends absolutely on the other. The New Solidarity under capital is that the class and other classes attempt to organize against those who attempt to organize the workers in the industries; the political state under working class uses these instruments against those who are not organized.

The one thing they settled several theoretical questions by submitting them to the test of practical experience. For instance, they found it difficult to jump out of our tracks when they show us others that lead straight to the goal.

We certainly had a thrill when the "Do You Know?" ads came out with the information that Kansas City ranks fifth in bank clearing. It makes us feel so much richer.

From all indications the coming winter is going to be a great revival of business—especially the soup house business.

Every profit taker is a profiteer.

President Wilson is going to take a trip across the country. Perhaps he is hunting for his four points.

IEWS, REVIEWS AND INTERVIEWS.

By Ralph Cheyney

Love. I scatter my small wealth of love to all.

Who rose in me a sympathetic thrill; And gave a spasm of affection.

My treasury, I find, does not grow still.

I spent my coin of love, nor would recoup.

One of us has cast into the till; But back flows farse metal yet, to fill My coffers. Tell me, how does this come?

How is it that love always is less and gains a greater energy when spent?

Without restraint, all fiery, lavishly; A new economy of gain and loss.

Perhaps the soul has evolved from such comment.

On Love's political economy.

This is another poem of Paul Driveler's that I have dug up from his book "Poetry of the War." He is a poet who has a good sense of humor and a good sense of irony.

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