

## WHAT OTHERS ARE THINKING

### "LONDON TIMES" DISCOVERS A MARE'S NEST

**Northcliffe's Great Paper Creates World-Wide Sensation by Distorting the Socialist Propaganda in England—Declares They Plan a Revolution.**  
Special Cable to New York Times.

London, Sept. 25.—Under the heading "The Ferment of Revolution," The Times gives prominence to the first of a series of articles by "a well-informed correspondent who has made a careful study of revolutionary propaganda current among certain classes in this country." The writer of the article shows that the movement runs counter to British trade unionism, but that it is sufficiently serious to demand public attention. He writes:

"There exists at the present moment a revolutionary movement in this country which has gathered a considerable momentum. It has long passed the stage of mere talk, and has realized itself in formidable action. There has been no attack on the throne, no rioting in the streets, no destruction of visible property, but the changes have been already brought about which are thwarting the efforts of the Government to conduct the war with efficiency, and if these changes go further they will bring the country into confusion."

He says that under the general name of "Labor" the observer at a distance is likely to confuse a series of movements which are distinct and often contradictory. Referring to the Labor Party Conference and the Trade Union Congress and the labor leaders, he says that they and the majority of wage-earners are loyally and practically inclined. The revolutionary ferment is working among intellectually inclined young men and young women of the well-paid wage-earning class.

"These men and women have no leaders and no set organization, but they are united in fellowship by a string of theories incompatible with the present organization of society. They have at their disposal a propaganda by which these theories are being forced into every working-class home, and they are the chief fomenters of the local and general strikes which from time to time bewilder trade union executives and paralyze the forces of the Government, and in which the individual workingman often participates, either through misunderstanding or by compulsion. These revolutionists are men who do things and their power is in proportion to their unity and their zeal, and altogether out of proportion to their numbers."

"Examining their theories, the writer says that they are to a man disciples of Karl Marx. They look upon society as sharply divided into two classes—the capitalists and the proletariat—and aim at the complete overthrow of the existing economic and social order.

"We may perhaps say that the ideal of the movement so far as the distribution is concerned, is that the whole produce of the country should be divided into approximately equal shares dealt out to weekly wage-earners without much distinction. The proposal that any share however small, should be allotted as a reward for the use of capital is regarded as in principle inadmissible. That management, scientific knowledge and distribution will claim their shares is generally recognized, but these and like matters are so much foreshortened in the views of the theorists as to seem of little importance. On the question of economic government the theorists have been successively disciples of State Socialism, syndicalism, and the system of national guilds."

They all aim at abolishing the capitalist system, or the wage system which rests on private ownership of the means of production. They differ about what should be substituted for it. Socialism would have state or public ownership and control; syndicalism claims both for labor organized in industrial unions; guild Socialism seeks to combine the two by vesting ownership with supervision in the state, but intrusting the conduct of each industry to unions or guilds. The writer of the article says that the last is now by far the most popular of all their constructive schemes.

The Times in an editorial says:

"The facts which will be set out in these articles are no news to the government or to the official heads of trade unionism; but their cue has always been to turn a blind eye, and, when that is impossible, to minimize the extent of the mischief and soothe the public with 'optimistic assurances' which the public is always ready to swallow. That policy is natural, and up to a certain point defensible; but when the result is a continued and rapid increase of evil on lines that promise no decline, but certain development into a national danger, then it is time to adopt a different policy and at least to let the nation know what is going on. In our opinion and in that of most competent judges fully conversant with the facts, the time has come."

### VATICAN JAMS SOCIALISTS IN PEACE DEMANDS

It is so seldom that a Catholic dignitary or a Catholic paper has anything good to say about Socialists or Socialism that we hasten to acknowledge any symptoms looking to a better understanding of our movement from that quarter. In this connection the following cable dispatch makes interesting reading:

Rome, Oct. 2.—Pope Benedict is apparently seeking support of his peace plans from the people of the belligerent nations since his appeal to the rulers has so far been ineffective.

Direct approval by the Holy Father of certain Socialistic aims was attributed to him in two separate statements to-day.

The greatest significance was attached to an editorial in the Osservatore Romano, a newspaper frequently regarded as the Vatican's official organ, and which it is believed was approved by the Pope. The editorial declared the Holy See was in agreement with the Socialists of Italy and elsewhere in so far as they were seeking to safeguard democratic liberty and protect constitutional rights by legal means.

### WAGES AND THE STANDARD OF LIVING

(By O. B. Server, in the New York "People".)

The labor market has all the characteristics of other markets. The value of labor-power is determined by the socially necessary labor time it takes to bring the worker to the market, to the point where he can become a producer in capitalist industry, combined with the amount of food, clothing and shelter necessary to keep him in good working condition. The socially necessary labor time embodied in other commodities also determines their value on the market, and in what ratio they exchange for other commodities.

Supply and demand regulate the price of a commodity. Those that sell the commodity try to sell as dearly as possible, while those that buy try to buy as cheaply as possible. The laborer, when he sells his commodity, his power or ability to labor, to a capitalist, tries to sell it

at the highest price, while the capitalist tries to buy it at the cheapest price. Thus the same economic laws that determine the value and price of other commodities also determine the value and price of laboring power.

Here to some extent the similarity between the commodity labor-power and other commodities ends. Other commodities can be stored for varying periods of time, depending on the nature of the commodity, while the worker must sell his labor-power every day or he does not eat. His is the most perishable commodity on the market.

The human element also enters with the sale of labor-power. The laborer, when he does not get the full value of his labor-power, that is, when he cannot buy enough food, clothing, and shelter, even though he labors every day, may try various schemes to buy them cheaper, or he may be moved by sentiment to accept less than the value of his laboring power should bring. Or, not knowing his status in society, he may think the reason he suffers is not because he doesn't get enough in wages, but because the things necessary to keep him alive are too dear.

During hard times the capitalist class does not hesitate to shove wages down as low as possible, which it can do, there being at such times a large surplus of workers on the market competing for the jobs. When the condition is reversed and there is a scarcity of workers, wages advance very slowly, in fact, as a rule, lag behind the increased cost of living. To-day, for instance, the employers are appealing to the patriotism of the workers not to change the existing labor standard without first consulting the Council of National Defence. The capitalist class realizes that the present time is favorable for the workers to get increased wages. The employers know that unless they can effectively appeal to the nationalistic spirit of the majority of the American workers these workers may take advantage of the present war-time conditions to raise wages.

When laborers were plentiful the capitalist class did not try to maintain the then existing standard of wages, but shoved wages down. Now, when the laborers have a good chance to get higher wages, the capitalist class is very much concerned about maintaining the existing standard of wages and hours.

That their plea to the workers is not having as much effect as the employers would like can be seen in the large number of strikes in all parts of the country. It is no more than right that the workers should endeavor to get higher wages whenever a favorable opportunity offers. If they must submit to a reduction in wages when times are bad and if this is not compensated for by higher wages when the market is favorable, then labor-power will sell under its value in the long run, and the laborer will be in a deplorable condition.

No permanent relief can be had by the working class as long as capitalism lasts. Higher wages and shorter hours always lag behind the increased productivity of machinery and the continual rising cost of living. The interests of the working class call for a change in industry; a change to Socialism. The working people should carry on the struggle for higher wages and shorter hours so that their standard of living may not deteriorate too rapidly, but they should never lose sight of the fact that these struggles are but preliminary to the greater struggle to overthrow the rule of capitalism.

Effective organization is needed to carry on the struggle against capitalism. The Workers' International Industrial Union on the industrial field, and the Socialist Labor Party on the political, typify the two kinds of organization that are essential to winning the war against the profit system. Only with this war won will the standard of living be such as is worthy of human beings.

### REVELATIONS THE ORDER OF THE DAY

Revelations are the order of the day. Our splendid contemporary, Le Populaire due Centre, reports that the Russian Journal Copeek, of June 17, contained some curious revelations respecting the great journals of the Parisian Press:

"During the course of the examination of the documents of the Minister of the Court, and the examinations of the secret accounts and credits of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, it has come to light that the zeal manifested by a certain number of French journals for the Tsarist regime was hardly disinterested.

"For instance, the Petit Journal and the Figaro had each 10,000 subscriptions from Petrograd. But these 10,000 subscribers only received one single daily copy between them. On the other hand, 10,000 subscriptions fell into the coffers of both the Petit Journal and the Figaro.

The third beneficiary of the sombre despotism who tortured and humiliated the Russian people was none other than the illustrious Matin, and this paper's subscriptions came through another Russian Minister, the Minister of Finance.

The Capeck states that during the years 1915 and 1916 the total of these subscriptions was doubled. The Petrograd Journal adds that under the pretence of paying for advertisements, these figure enormous sums for the insertion of articles favorable to the flotation of loans. These sums alone amount to several tens of thousands of roubles. . . . (Nine lines censored).

—Labor Leader.

### "RED SPECTOR" BOTHERS POLITICIANS AND PROFITEERS

Professional politicians are becoming alarmed because of the uncertainty of the political outlook, owing to wholesale defections to the Socialist ranks. Yet all the while they are closing their eyes to the causes which are responsible for this phenomenon. Government officials and captains of industry are likewise becoming uneasy and are trying to stem the tide by resorting to means which are as ineffectual as would be the use of a rake in trying to stop the flow of Niagara.

One of the causes of the success of the Socialist propaganda at this time is the general reaction against capitalistic greed and exploitation as exemplified in the policy of our profiteering industrial magnates. Labor refuses to bring "patriotic" sacrifices in the form of more intensive work and inadequate wages, while Big Business is coining blood-money out of the war, and it has seized the present opportunity for pressing its claims. "Financial America," a New York daily publication, which brings news of the money market and of the banking world, contained an editorial, "Fostering Socialism," in last Saturday's issue, which sized up the situation as follows:

We hear from all sides of the selfishness of labor. Some even term their action as disloyalty. Yet if we delve deep enough into their motives we find that they are loyal enough to the first for reshaping the political democracy of the world, but that they also have their own fish to fry. While (Continued on Page 7).