

## The Twentieth Century Spanish Inquisition

From an article written in the New Republic we take the following extracts:

"These poor fools of conscientious objectors, let them be fools. Let them be dogs. An officer is an officer and a gentleman. Does a gentleman take a dog and hold him under a drench of ice water till he faints and then take him outdoors and race him till he faints and then drag him back under the shower till he faints again? And does a gentleman take a dog and tie him down and pound him with water from a hydrant hose till he yelps into hysteria and then goes dumb into unconsciousness?"

But if you are a conscientious objector "never will you do any work under the order of Mr. Baker's department of blood and slaughter. You are court-martialed to forty years in jail."

"You are sent to serve it, perhaps to Fort Jay in New York. There you are ordered, militarily ordered, to work. You refuse. You are put into solitary confinement. There is a little hole for light in the roof. There is a little hole for light in the door. In the hole in the door there is a grating. You are chained to the grating. You stand. You stand in your underwear and bare feet. You get two slices of bread and a drink of water three times a day. You get no washing-water. At night, when you are loosed from your chains you are delivered to insects. You roll them off your body in little knotted lumps. For fourteen days you inhabit this cell. Then you are sent out-doors with an axe and with rations. You are to find your own firewood and make your own fire and cook your own food and live the life of the desert island, and not so bad. You do it for fourteen days. And then you go back to the solitary cell and the darkness and the starvation and the vermin and the chains. And, by the letter of our system, you may go on alternating between the desert and the cells for forty years. Mr. Baker has now abolished the chains but the rest remains."

Speaking of Camp Funston, he says: "Certain of those officers devised a combination of a sort of 'water cure' and wake cure. The idea was to break the consciences of the conscientious objectors by breaking their rest and by breaking their physical nervous systems. They march you round the guard house for a long time. They take you in and shower you. They march you again. They shower you again. You lie on your cot. They wake you and march you and shower you. You sleep. They wake you and make you march.

You begin to be weak. You lag. They throw you to the ground and beat you. They prick you with bayonets. You struggle on. You do not struggle fast enough! They step on your hands and sprain your ankle and still force you to march with each step a thrill of agony. You protest. You go on a hunger strike. They raise you from your cot and hurl you under the shower. You collapse under the shower. You lie in your cot in a coma. You are hurled outdoors in the cooler air and revived and hustled around the guard-house on your feet or on your hands, a rolling bundle of physical nervous wreckage. And again you are held under the cold water until the marrow of you is ice. And you are a baby now. You cry and shriek and blather and scream and cannot stop, and officers and gentlemen cause this sort of thing to be done to you for two whole weeks."

I carefully read the article and paused and carefully looked at the paper in my hands. Was I reading of the Spanish Inquisition or was I reading of the much talked of "Hun Atrocities?" No, I was reading the current issue of the New Republic. Then I remembered that we are making the world "Safe for Democracy" and I understood. I thought of the Bolsheviki and the so-called "reign of terror" and I remembered the words of Arthur Ramsome in his concluding paragraph in "An Open Letter to America." Speaking of the Bolsheviki he said: "These men who have made the Soviet Government in Russia, if they must fail will fail with clean shields and clean hearts. . . . They will none the less have written a page in history more daring than any other which I can remember in the story of the human race. . . . and that page will be as white as the snows of Russia and the writing on it as bright as the gold domes that I used to see glittering in the sun when I looked from my windows in Petrograd." Will the page of history written on "Making the World Safe for Democracy" be in letters of gold or of blood? Let us away with cant and determinately take our stand for the immediate release of those men—not cowards—who adhered to principle in spite of the methods above described. If these are democratic methods then it is time that the working class shook themselves free from the chloroform that has dumbed their brains and realize that what they thought was democracy was in truth hypocrisy and it is for them to at once remove the mask and show capitalism in all its hideousness.

## More War or Socialism ?

In 1887 Frederick Engels wrote on the future prospects if capitalism continued and these are his words:

### Engel's Prophecy, 1887

"If it came to war again the Prussian-German army will undoubtedly have important advantages against opponents on account of its model organization; but never such advantages as in the last two wars—1866-1870. For instance, the unity of the chief command will hardly be as it was, thanks to fortunate circumstances at that time, and the corresponding absolute obedience of the seconds-in-command will not obtain. And the business relationship which now prevails between the agrarian and military nobility and stockjobbers may easily become fatal to the maintenance of the army on the field. Germany will have Allies, but they will leave one another in the lurch at the first opportunity.

"And, lastly, there is no other war possible for Prussia-Germany but a world's war, and that a world's war of such extension and violence as never has been witnessed before. From eight to ten millions of soldiers will be used to slaughter, and all Europe will be eaten bare.

"The devastation wrought during the Thirty Years' War will be compressed into a three of four years' war, spreading all over the continent famine, epidemic diseases, general demoralization of the armies and masses of the people, brought about through acute distress, irrecoverable confusion of the elaborate machinery of commerce, industry, and credit, ending in general bankruptcy, breakdown of the old States with their traditional State wisdom, so that dozens of royal crowns will be rolling on the pavement with nobody to be found to pick them up, absolutely impossible to foresee how all will end, and who will come out of the conflict as victor. But one result is certain—general exhaustion, and the creation of conditions for the eventual victory of the working class.

"This is the prospect which at last will bear its inevitable fruit if the system of competition in war preparedness is carried to breaking point. That is where you, my sovereigns and statesmen, with

your wisdom have brought the old Europe to.

"And if nothing is left for you but to begin the last great war dance—to us it will be all right.

"Perhaps the war may press us into the background for the moment, and we may lose some of our already gained positions, but when you have let loose the powers which you cannot subdue again, at the end of the tragedy you are ruined, and the victory of the proletariat will be won.—Frederich Engels, London, December 15, 1887.

Thus we have his predictions written 27 years before the outbreak of the war and who, today, will deny the fulfillment of same.

We feel that the social revolution is at present in travail and will shortly be born in a healthy condition and well fitted for the developing of the "New Social Order."

Needless to remark that the period of transition will be hard and bitter unless the whole of the exploited class awaken from their apathy and unite against the infinitesimal minority of the exploiters.

Should the great mass of the people fail to seize this opportunity and allow capitalism to continue on its blood-thirsty mission, the future will be appalling almost beyond description.

During the past four years we have been told that this was a war to end all wars; that this was the last war, and if the Allies were victorious we would have everlasting peace, as German militarism was the cause of war and when once it was defeated then we had nothing further to fear. The Allies are victorious and the war to end war is accomplished, but what is the result?

We read in the "New York Nation" November 30th, 1918, the following:

"Secretary Daniels asks appropriation from Congress of \$600,000,000 on top of the vast sums spent in the past eighteen months. He assures correspondents who assemble at his office that a great navy has never menaced the liberties of any nation. It is a large standing army which is to be feared. . . . The program which Mr Daniels presents, can have only one aim—the out-stripping of Brit-