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LET US CLEAR THE WAY FOR THE SOCIALIST STATE

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THE WARSCARE

The capitalist dailies are filled with accounts of preparation for war between Great Britain and Germany. Germany is a horrible thing which wants to gobble the earth and Great Britain must make frantic efforts not to be swallowed.

These warscares are not raised without a purpose. The workers both of Germany and of Great Britain have been doing some tall thinking for themselves these days. They have been trying to figure out how they themselves are benefited by paying good money to support kings and princes and dukes and lords and capitalists and all their attendant flunkies. The kings and princes and lords and dukes and capitalists have felt their incomes tottering from under them and have become frightened. A king or a capitalist is not worth a hoot unless he has a good round income with which to support a big house on a front street and give good tips to his attendants. So all these big parasites upon the workers have gone back to their old plan of setting the workers of two countries to work fighting and killing each other. Of course these workers are peaceful by nature and must have their ears rubbed up a bit before they will get mad and fight. Hence the capitalist press of Great Britain fairly foams at the mouth in its wild attacks on the Germans. The capitalist British press is doing its best to provoke the British workers and make them enraged at the Germans. The British aristocracy is doing its best to second the efforts of the press. Crafty old Strathcona is in the game and is splurging over into Canada with his wraithy, crafty, murderous ideas.

The socialist press of Great Britain is perfectly willing to defend the shores of Great Britain against invasion. It points out to the rulers that a country with a virile population and a citizen army is generally able to protect itself. The socialist press calls upon the government to provide every able bodied man with a rifle that he may protect his home. This the authorities will not do. They want a capitalist army, not so much to use against Germany, as to use against the workers at home. Germany will be only a last resort to stem the tide of home revolution, to be used in the same way that Russia used Japan.

May Laurier long keep a steady head on his shoulders and refuse to be drawn into any scheme of the rulers of Great Britain against the workers.

NOT FIT FOR SOCIALISM

One of the strong arguments, in the opinion of capitalistic defenders, against socialism is the alleged fact that the workers are not fit for socialism. Were the workers made free from their bosses, were the workers not hounded to the factories, mines and mills, by the fear of hunger and by the need of the daily wage, they would become idlers and civilization, built up so laboriously through long centuries to its present admittedly imperfect state, would topple into ruin, and we would revert to barbarism.

This argument is based on an incorrect idea of human nature. This argument is based on the assumption that humanity is divided into two separate classes with different capacities and different attributes. It presupposes that the capitalist class are energetic individuals who will work for the love of work and for the good of humanity. It presupposes also, that the workers are a different class of beings who are lazy, and shiftless by nature, and who will only work under the lash of hunger.

If there is one thing that is proven it is that humanity is all one in nature. The old Roman idea of patrician and plebs and the old French idea of noble and serf have been completely exploded. Humanity is all of one blood and that blood runs red in every man's veins.

Put the average capitalist in the place of the workers, take away from him all the product of his toil, no matter how valuable, and give him a daily wage and the capitalist will develop the characteristics of the working drudge. On the other hand, take the average worker and put him in a capitalistic

position, where he will take unto himself the surplus value of other men's work and he will develop the capitalistic disposition.

There are many things which appear to contradict the above statements. The contradictions, however, are merely apparent, and result from the fact that humanity is ruled by numerous natural laws. There is the law of persistence of force. A disposition in a man is not built in a day. When once built it will tend to keep on in the same direction. Thus, an elderly capitalist suddenly reduced to the rank of a worker cannot adjust himself to the new conditions. The process of readjustment is slow and perhaps the readjustment never completely takes place with the middle-aged, and the broken capitalist continues to the end of his days an ineffectual whine against his hard lot.

It is said the workers, when they get power and money, will do foolish things. Their wives will buy extravagant clothes and the worker will parade the streets in idleness. The workers, it is said, will be slothful, arrogant and inefficient. We consider these statements to be greatly exaggerated. We have more faith in the workers than to think they would be guilty of such foolishness. Admitting, however, all the statements to be true, it simply proves that the workers will need a little time to readjust themselves to their new environment of affluence, ease and power. Does not the average rich father consider that his sons must sow their wild oats before they settle down to business and respectability? Labor may also have to sow its wild oats. If the workers become slothful it is because they have been overworked. If their wives dress extravagantly it will be because they have gone shabby. But this state of slothful display will be but a passing phase.

The rich young man is supposed to sow his wild oats. The nouveau riche is supposed to go through a period of vulgar display. Why should not workers, when they pass from being the drudges to the condition of being masters, be allowed the same indulgence? The workers of the world are of the same flesh and blood as the capitalists and when they get the power will develop capacity and with socialistic principles will run this old world better than the capitalists have ever done.

Dr. Emil Simon, Socialist, has been elected to the St. Louis, Mo. Board of Education, having received 66,953 votes. The daily press opposed his election but he was endorsed by the Republicans. The straight Socialist vote increased from 4,900 last fall to 5,500. Owen Miller, president of the Trades and Labor Council was elected at the same time to the Board of Freeholders. He received 111,918 votes.

New Zealand evidently does not take kindly to its government offering Dreadnoughts to Great Britain. The citizens have been rioting and tearing Union Jacks as a protest. The New Zealanders evidently do not want to help arm a decadent nobility with battleships to keep it in its position of parasite tyranny.

Many capitalistic ladies and gentlemen have the idea that the Socialists of Canada are an aggregation of barroom drunkards. If there is one set of persons more than another who are just the reverse it is the Socialists. They know they must keep their brain clear to do a lot of deep thinking.

Here is the Board of Arbitration appointed under the Lemieux act declaring that it is dangerous to let the United Mine Workers operate in Canada because it is an American organization. International labor organizations are evidently bad, but international capitalism is all right.

Patten the wheat king, who has boosted the price of wheat has to have a bodyguard to protect him against indignant bread consumers. When the workers get wise they will capture the legislatures and legislate laws that will put such men as Patten out of business.

We would have more faith in this Layman's missionary movement were there not so many big capitalists back of it.

NOVA SCOTIA COAL WORKERS

Down in Nova Scotia there has been trouble. There are two labor organizations. One organization is the Provincial Mine Workers Association which is purely Nova Scotian. It is the pet of the big companies. The other is the United Mine Workers Association. It is an international organization. It is strongly entrenched in Western Canada and in the States. It has headquarters in the United States. Recently this organization has been gaining a foothold in Nova Scotia. The Dominion Coal Company will not recognize the U. M. W. It will not receive committees of its members. It will only treat with the P. W. A., its own little darling.

The Board of Arbitration appointed under the Lemieux Act, that capitalistic law for squeezing the worker, was called in to settle the dispute and as was to be expected under present conditions it rendered its decision strongly condemning the U. M. W.

The reason for its decision, forsooth, is because the influence of American labor unionism is pernicious to Canadian industries. The miners' representative, Daniel McDougall, fought valiantly against this decision but to little purpose. His two colleagues gravely announce that American unionism is pernicious to Canada.

These two arbitrators are either knaves or fools. If they are knaves, then they have done the bidding of the coal company well and will be honored. If they are fools they will be honored just the same and will probably be used again to hit labor another one.

American capital is flowing into Canada. Capital is unpaid labor and the Canadian government is doing its best to get this stolen labor of American workers over into Canada to help bind the native workers more firmly in their servile condition. The American unions have fought to the best of their knowledge to give the American worker a chance. They are endeavoring to follow up the American capital by making Canadians a part of an international body of protesters.

These arbitrators say nothing of the blood money of Canadian workers being drawn across the border to enrich American capitalists. They only say that it is a bad policy to allow American unions in Canada.

Capitalism is international; labor must become international. These huckstering arbitrators, although they can get their opinions splurged through the columns of the capitalist press, will not befuddle the workers. The coal company will be taught a lesson some day.

THE FRENCH SITUATION

In France the socialization of industries has proceeded farther than in most of the other countries. In state ownership Germany leads. In state socialism France leads the world.

France owns posts and telegraphs and, if we mistake not, telephones. She has a state monopoly of powder and tobacco. The opening and working of mines is subject to state authorization. She has adopted a law under which the railroad systems will gradually become state owned.

This socialism might easily develop into state tyranny were not the workers thoroughly revolutionized. The state employees have won the right to join the unions and to join the central organization of labor. Now the state employees are demanding a share in the management of the various departments in which they work.

This is the beginning of true socialism—a state industrialism democratically managed. Should these state workers have the right to manage their departments then the parliamentary system breaks down and the revolution is accomplished.

The capitalist press is raving. Clemenceau does not know what to do. The army is honeycombed with socialistic ideas and cannot be trusted to shoot the workers down. The reactionary press is endeavoring to exploit the commotion for the return of the royalist regime. It seems, however, that France is about to enter into a new phase of government along the lines of socialism, or at any rate along the lines of social laborism.

THE SLAVE AND THE MACHINE

Once upon a time a man did all the work of the world assisted by a few primitive tools. The master class of that epoch, which lasted in the United States down till 1864, owned the slave bodily. A master class, to be a master class, must have the control of those things which produce the necessities of life of that particular age. Therefore the master class owned the slave.

But a time came when the machine developed and did the work. Human energy no longer did the bulk of the world's work. Human energy was necessary to direct and control the machine, but the machine was the instrument of production.

Men thereupon became of less value to the master class. The slaves were freed because their value had sunk in the market of commodities. The machine became the valuable thing and the master class turned their energies to acquiring and controlling the machines of production.

They have succeeded to a great extent. The machine does the work and the masters hire the labor of men to control and do it. The machine doing the work the value of man's labor has shrunk. Some machines will do the work of a thousand men. The men are displaced and must compete for the job of controlling the machine.

Hence we have arrived at that stage in social production where the machines do the greater part of the world's work while men are idle. These idle men, having nothing to do, must starve or rebel. A lot of them do not see clearly and believe the faked articles of a bought daily press. They hunt for jobs when no jobs are to be found. When they have votes they vote the old party tickets. When they really get to work thinking, they will either force their way into political life or rebel.

THE SOCIALIST STATE

The Socialist state need not necessarily be socialism. Socialism desires to build up an industrial policy which shall be controlled by the members taking part in the industrial production.

There is a good deal of what is called Socialistic legislation which is being enacted at the present time by the capitalist governments. These laws are enacted partly through the pressure of of socialistic thought among the electorate and partly for the benefit of the master class themselves.

This legislation is not truly socialistic as it does not lighten the burden of the toil of the proletarians. This legislation is simply a shifting of the benefits of capitalism from one set of capitalists to another.

There has been a great agitation for state-owned cables. Heneker Heaton has given the slogan to the world of "a penny a word" for cable rates. This is a fair example of what the bourgeoisie want. State owned cables will not benefit the workers to any great extent. It will be the commercial classes who reap the benefit. It will be the international trusts who will benefit because they are the entities which have the most cabling to do. At present the cable ring of capitalists control the cables and charge high rates.

It is desired to eliminate these gentlemen. They will be bought out by the state and a large debt will be assumed by the state and supported by the workers. The state will then own the cables but the working classes while paying more taxes, will get very little of the benefits.

Venice had state socialism to a certain extent. The princes of Venice were merchants. Therefore the city of Venice owned warehouses and gave them free to the merchants. Here was state socialism directly beneficial to the master class and to none else.

In old Babylon the soldiers were given homes by the state. They were rent free and tax free and it was death to any ordinary citizen to attempt to appropriate a soldier's home unto himself. Here was a phase of state socialism, that was detrimental to the ordinary citizen.

Sparta was fully socialized according to the old plan. The state owned everything and the state was controlled by a small military caste. Hence all

the benefits produced by a socialized condition of affairs were appropriated by the military caste and all the misery was heaped upon the slaves.

The modern socialism such as the socialists desire will be a free democracy, not an ancient tyranny.

THE SCRAPS THAT FALL

Every argument put forth by the capitalist press naturally exalts the master class. The master class control the mills and machines of production and it is for them to say whether those mills and machines shall start, or not.

Were the workingmen in control and had they captured the organizing ability of the middle class there would be a different story told by the daily papers. Different arguments would be put forth. As conditions are now, the editorial columns of the average newspaper are nauseating.

The master class of capitalism control, and arguments are constantly placed before the workers to persuade them to be obedient to their masters and to help their masters to be masters. How often do we hear such arguments as the following gravely put forth. "Let the workingman be content to help the millowners make money, for when the millowners make money they will be good and give the workers a square deal, after the millowners themselves have tended to their own wants." This is the argument put forth by protectionists of all description.

Have you ever seen a dog sitting beside a table while his master and his family are eating. Does the dog get the best that is going? If the dog is very patient and good he will get the bones out in the back yard. When the master tells the dog to be good and he will be fed this is what the master means. The master will get the juicy meat and the dog will get the scraps.

Thus it is with labor. The masters sit at their table, they, their wives and their children and their mistresses and their flunkies attendants, and the master speaks to his workers like he would to his dog. "Be good and let me and mine eat the juicy meat and if you do all the work and don't complain you can get the scraps."

The workers have listened to this talk and have been content to eat the scraps. The workers, those who are socialists, are ceasing to show that dog-like devotion to their bosses. They may lose their jobs but they have the proud knowledge that their masters no longer pat them on the head and say, "Good dog."

THE LITTLE OLD APPEAL

The Appeal to Reason has been in trouble. Comrade Wayland announced that for eight weeks the circulation steadily declined, and that, at the low price charged, the lists must be kept up or the paper could not continue. With the last number we notice that it has begun to pick up again, which is good news. This continent needs the Appeal. It has done more for socialism than any dozen papers. It reaches farmers and wage workers by the hundreds of thousands, and circulates in every nook and corner of every state in the union, and has a good Canadian list.

The Appeal announces a May-day special edition, giving the reply of Eugene V. Debs to Roosevelt's attack on Socialism and Socialists. There is no doubt that this will be one of the warmest editions that has ever come from the Appeal press. And it hopes to break its own record for all past time, and sweep this up to the 5,000,000 mark. Almost takes your breath away. Nothing however, to the undaunted little Appeal. The price for this edition is 50c per hundred—\$5 per thousand.

We have a warm corner in our hearts for Comrade Wayland and the Appeal to Reason. May it get away up on top of the 300,000 per week mark.

Capitalistic greed breeds the wild brute criminal and puts a policeman over him with a club. Would it not be better to build a civilization which would not produce the criminal and which would render the policeman unnecessary?

A PUPPY TO A ROOT

Sometimes a puppy, in his youthful enthusiasm, will spy out a root of a tree and will dig away at it and snarl and growl and pull. The master, seeing this energy, will smile and give the puppy a titbit to eat. The puppy will gradually associate the snarling and growling and the shaking of a stick with food. He will think that such tricks are the cause of his being fed, and will repeat them in his master's presence whenever he is hungry.

In the same way men in actual life do certain useless things and for doing them get food and housing. These men come to consider, just as the pups do, that their activities are the cause of their being fed and keep repeating their useless tricks. And these men, being just as unreasonable as pups, consider that their useless performances will always result in their getting food.

The lawyer goes through a lot of antiquated mummeries before an antiquated gentleman of antiquated ideas. The advocate's work is useless and the antiquated gentleman is a barbarous relic of other days. Nevertheless both the lawyer and judge are given fine food and drink and nice houses. The doctor trots around uselessly doing useless things for patients whose chief need is a little hard work in the fresh air. The doctor for his useless work gets fed, just as the pup does. A dozen merchants will trot around in the same town, all doing the same thing and all doing them more or less uselessly, and for their more or less useless work they get fed, just as the pup does. Then a dozen newspapers will be started in the same city by a dozen men and a dozen newspaper reporters will start after the same news and a dozen typewriters will typewrite the same thing and a dozen linotype men will set the stuff and a dozen newsboys will sell the result, no matter how inane, foolish and useless the news may be, and they will all be fed, just as the pup was.

And the men who do the world's useful work, they who raise the grain, and they who build the houses and the railway tracks, and make the garments to keep men and women from the cold, they must live in the back streets and live on poor fare and shiver in the cold so that the puppylike lawyer, and the puppylike judge, and the puppylike doctor and the notary, advertising agent, newspaper man, idle rent receiver, idle interest getter, idle millionaire and musty Greek professor nearly all of whom are doing are absolutely useless work like the puppy at the roof, are well fed, well cared for and well housed.

The puppy's master may some day get tired of feeding titbits to his useless pup. The workers also may some day get tired of keeping themselves poor to feed their parasite pups on the best of the land.

IS THE MIDDLE CLASS DISAPPEARING?

W. R. SHIER

The statement is frequently met with in current economic literature that the middle class, consisting of farmers, shopkeepers, small manufacturers, professional people and independent artisans, is being crushed out of existence or, to say the least, that it is rapidly falling into a condition of relative unimportance.

If we approach the question upon purely theoretical grounds, we can arrive at but one conclusion, namely, that under an industrial system that is developing more and more into large scale production the small capitalists cannot maintain their historical importance; that as one industry after another passes from the country into the city the farmers as a class must become of lesser and lesser consequence; that under the shadow of mammoth departmental stores the shopkeepers must dwindle into insignificance, and that under these same circumstances the independent artisans are not likely to add to their battalions, if indeed they add to them at all, at the same rate as the already extensive army of wage-workers.

Women have a life and death interest in the Socialist struggle for freedom.