

# Today's Psychosis

By W. W. LEFEAUX

PAGAN Rome's head ached. Pagan Rome's head was hard, but it ached. And the ache was no uncertain one. The diagnosis of the condition was easy, for the dear public were showing unmistakable symptoms of a veritable brainstorm. The pathology of the trouble was not difficult, for the Light of the Primitive Christians was hidden by no Bushel; and without exception the symptoms were most pronounced wherever that Light burned most brightly.

But what of therapeutics for the disease? That were another matter. 'Twere easy enough to see the storm; and satisfactory reasons, even if not the root causes, could be assigned thereto. But, "Our calling is in danger," and "What must we do to be saved?"

Imperial Pagan Rome never had had such a head. Many a time had the Imperial Legions swept some provincial religious and patriotic fanatic from the face of the Earth. But this was a seismic disturbance that emanated from the very centre of their earth, and like a tide rising would neither be damned nor gainsaid. Basis in natural law there was to it and the conquerors of the Earth could only adapt themselves to it or be swept aside by remorseless Nature along with the hundreds of millions of other forms of life that had not proved adaptable to changing conditions. This time neither Machiavellian Art nor the Strong Arm could eradicate the business and perforce the matter had to be assimilated.

The slaves of Imperial Rome needed no propagandist to ceaselessly point to the Class Struggle. Captured in battle or taken in the drag net of the Roman Armies there was no medium-of-exchange or pseudo-democracy to veil the situation. But chattel slavery was the order of the day and the social economy of the period was not ripe for any change. No hope appeared anywhere in that direction.

Primitive Christianity preached Communism in the present economy and Hope in the Future. No Marx was required to tell them that they had nothing to lose but their chains, and the accumulated mites of thousands looked very like wealth; in Another Life definitely promised there was to be freedom; at arly moment the Promised Messiah might be expected and the Future Life installed forthwith!

At first they joined up by ones and twos. Gradually it became hundreds and thousands, and then hundreds of thousands. The One Big Union with its Determining Economic Basis and its Hope swept the Empire. For once the psychology of the mass had gotten out of the control of the "Upper Class." Swayed by the idea resultant from the conditions, and mentally intoxicated with a faith accouched by degradation and slavery they rushed to the stake, the cross, the arena and the jails with an unanimity that defied all authority and took repression as a thirsty man takes water.

Imperial Rome had a sick head ache!

Imperial Rome had to face the situation. There were three alternatives confronting the Patricians and Plutocrats. Either they had to exterminate the proletariat or to be engulfed in the flood themselves upon the backs of the masses. They chose the latter alternative. A little appearance of concession, a great noise of confession; a little doctoring of doctrine, a great show of adopting: tremendous fluttering of flags, terrific blowing of bugles, strenuous orations by political pilots, frenzied beating of breasts by new inspired sky pilots and the near-fatal psychology veered before the tornado of patriotism, bombast, loyalty and lying. Imperialism recovered its breath. For the irreconcilables and non-hypnotisable—extermination in a sea of blood.

Christian Capitalism's head aches. Christian Capitalism's head is a hard one. And the ache is no uncertain one. The diagnosis of the condition

is easy for the dear public are showing unmistakable symptoms of a veritable brainstorm. The pathology of the trouble is not difficult for the gaunt spectre of famine is in a world of plenty; the bestiality and horrors of war in the name of Christ and Democracy, the mutterings and uneasy stirrings of the sleeping labor giant, the continuous reference to "the revolution" and a volcanic feeling in the air can not be misconstrued.

But what of the therapeutics for the disease? That is another matter. 'Tis easy enough to see the storm; and the superficial apologists for the system satisfy the petit bourgeois and so-called intelligentsia by their unending chorus of "Bolshevist! Socialist! Anarchist! Crucify Them!". But the chorus still echoing there appears no peace. On the one side the forces of the Higher-Ups gather their armies of hirelings through the agencies of the State and on the other, the ranks of labor swiftly gather.

Imperial Christian Capitalism has never before had such a head. Many a time have Christian Bayonets let Christ and Light into the naked dusky bodies of independent aborigines who preferred death to the enlightenment of "Law, Order and Democracy," and whose sense of the fitness of things did not include resolving themselves into a market for Lancashire Cottons and Birmingham Smallwares. But this is a seismic disturbance that emanates from the very centre of their Capitalist Strongholds, and rising like the tide flooding gives no hint of possibility of abatement. Based on the natural law of Eternal Change or Death, the Imperialist Masters of Worldwide Capitalism must either adapt themselves to the changing conditions or be swept out of existence by the pent-up volcanic forces that they are trying to stifle. This time neither Machiavellian Art nor the Strong Arm can keep for them the unchallenged position occupied under conditions that have passed away.

The Trump Ace of Capitalism—Worldwide War—was played in 1914. Accomplished by a

## FINLAND AND RUSSIA

On Wednesday, by way of gratitude for the Finnish offensive against Petrograd, launched by General Mannerheim last week, the British Government "recognized" the independence of Finland and the de facto Finnish Government. Meantime according to Reuter, the Finnish Socialist are demanding the removal of Mannerheim on the grounds (1) that he was chosen by the old, unrepresentative Diet; (2) that he is imperfectly acquainted with the Finnish language; (3) that he authorized the White Terror; and (4) that he is in touch with the Russian reactionaries. It is in fact, more than possible that General Mannerheim's offensive against Russia, and his co-operation with General Judenitch's reactionary army, may provoke serious trouble in Finland.

Meantime, the advance on Petrograd has been checked at Olonetz.

## GERMANY

The following is from the pen of Mr. George Young formerly British Council at Archangel. He is now correspondent for the London Daily News in Germany.

Whilst Consul in Archangel he bitterly denounced the British occupation of that port and did his best to expose the Allied intrigue against Soviet Russia, openly espousing the cause of the Russian workers republic against the sinister influences seeking its downfall. On April 24, he wrote, apropos of Weimar the seat of the Scheidman-Ebert Government.

As the opening of the discussion shows, the majority of the Congress will favor a combination

of flagwaving, trumpeting, orating, de-laming and other well-known psychosis, forming stunts. The Capitalist States of the World played the game that had been played on a smaller scale many a time since the old Roman Plutocrats sensed the keynote of mass control, and the proletariat of the Christian World rushed into the greatest carnival of mutual murder yet staged in human history. For the irreconcilables and the class conscious—tortures and the firing squad.

What cards has Capitalism left? By what propaganda can the psychosis now forming in the masses be prostituted again to bolster up the "rights" of property and human slavery? Electricity, steam and machinery have formed a psychosis of the proletariat that presents a soul-wracking problem to the owners of the proletariat. A glimmer of halting, stumbling intelligence is shooting into the mental equipment of the mass; a thin shaft of light is shooting across that fired brain benumbed by the slavery of untold generations; the giant chained by his "superior" formed mentality is slowly stirring.

Capitalism's only hope is to guide and use the psychosis of the industrial proletariat in such a way as to again center it upon other ephemeral activities. Will material conditions accommodate any such performance? Steam replies No! Electricity echoes No! Machinery roars No! The intelligent among the workers thunder No!

We will not be tempted to indulge in the mental relaxation and ramblings of prophesy.

We shall see. Perchance the workers of Europe can be shown and convinced of the necessity of shovelling Europe into the Atlantic Ocean, and the workers of this Continent hypnotised into the mental state that will set them at shovelling America into the Pacific.

We have had our psychosis of "Slavery here below and Hope in the Future." Our psychosis of War is about over and the remains are rapidly oozing away.

Is it to be a psychosis of shovelling dirt? Or is it to be a psychosis of LIBERTY?

of Parliament and Councils in which the latter shall have political power.

The best chance for Germany now lies in the establishment of such a combination on the basis of practical proposals from this Congress. The workman will not work unless some real socialisation is introduced, and that is only possible if more steam be brought into the political machine than the parliamentary system can raise. Socialism and reconstruction have been going back, not forward. Last week the Socialisation Commission resigned, because Weimar would not give effect to its mildly socialistic recommendations. Yesterday the Finance Minister Schiffer resigned, because his democratic ideas made as little progress. The Councils are as essential to Germany today as the Commons were to us a century ago. Indeed, our insistence on the supremacy of the Weimar Assembly as a guarantee for the maintenance of peace can be paralleled historically by our insistence a century ago on the maintenance of Upper Houses in the constitutions of the States revolutionised from France. The function of the territorially elected Parliament will in Germany, and probably everywhere, become more and more that of an Upper House, while the industrially elected Congress will be the creative and constructive institution. The whole difficulty lies in finding a working compromise, or, rather, co-operation. Just as feudalism imposed its political system, still surviving, in the House of Lords, as Liberalism imposed its system in the House of Commons, which now, obviously, requires supplementing, so Socialism must have its political system in the Councils. This is not revolution, but evolution. The revolution comes from thwarting and threatening it.