

lay hidden in the heart of the oppressed is today impelling them to oppression.

It is easy to find fault with man as he is today,—man is facing the mirror of history, naked as a beast, burning with the fire of belated useless revenge.

But we should remember that the day is too bright, and that is why the shadows are so heavy. We should understand that in the midst of the dust and mud, of the chaos of destruction, of today, has already begun the great work of liberating mankind from the strong, iron cobweb of the past, a work which is as painful and difficult as the pangs of a new birth; we should feel that we are witnessing the death of the evil of yesterday, which is going through its last hours together with the man of yesterday.

It has so happened that the peoples marching to the decisive battle for the triumph of justice are led by the least experienced and weakest fighters,—by the Russians, a people of a country which is backward economically and culturally, a people worn out by its past more than any other people. Only yesterday the whole world looked upon them as semi-barbarians, and today, almost dying from hunger, they are marching toward victory or death with the ardor and courage of old, tired fighters.

Everyone who sincerely believes that the irresistible aspiration of mankind toward freedom, beauty, and a sensible life is not a vain dream, that it is a real force which alone can create new forms of life; that this force is a lever which can turn the world,—every honest man must recognize the universal significance of the activity which is carried on by the earnest revolutionists of Russia.

## KNIGHTS OR ROBBERS?

The activity which is now going on in Russia should be interpreted as a gigantic attempt to incorporate in life, to turn into actuality the great ideas and watchwords which were created and enunciated by the teachers of mankind, by the sages of Europe. Yesterday the Socialist thought of Europe pointed the way to the Russian people, today the Russian worker is striving for the triumph of European thought.

And if the honest Russian revolutionists, few in numbers, surrounded by enemies and worn out by starvation, will be conquered, the consequences of this terrible calamity will fall heavily on the shoulders of all the European revolutionists, of the whole working class of Europe.

Should this catastrophe occur, all those who do not feel, who do not comprehend the terrible struggle which is waged by the workers of Russia day after day, will have to pay for it with their blood and lives.

The honest heart does not waver, the honest thought knows no temptation to compromise, the honest hand will not cease working while the heart is still beating. The Russian worker is confident that his brothers in spirit will not permit the stranding of the revolution in Russia, that they will not permit the resuscitation of the old, which has received a deadly blow and is expiring, disappearing, and which will disappear,—if the revolutionary thought of Europe will comprehend the great tasks of today.

KNIGHTS OR ROBBERS? .....

It is a clearly established fact that Britain went into the war for purposes of noble character. Never has Britain been guided by narrow nationalistic interests. On November 10, 1914, the House of Commons, Lloyd George called to witness God Himself, in that Britain entering the war was guided by no ulterior motives. "I swear by the name of God that Britain does not desire a single yard of foreign territory. We participate in this war for consideration of noble motives—we defend the weak." The tears of unfortunate Belgium forced the British lion to dive into the whirlpool of war. In his parliamentary speech of February 27th, 1915, the same Lloyd George with indignation branded as slanderous inventions of the enemy rumors to the effect that Britain was striving to seize foreign lands. He said that Britain played only one part; that of the merciful Samaritan.

War has ended. Let us see what became of the promises of British imperialism. According to the Versailles "peace" (abolishing any possibility of a permanent peace), the following territories went over to Britain: German East Africa possessions—384,180 square miles; 7,665,000 population. (Before the war there were in German East Africa ninety British citizens;) German possessions in south-west Africa—322,000 square miles; 190,000 population; Samoa Island—1000 square miles; 35,136 population; New Hebrides, Bismark Archipelago, German part of New Guinea, Solomon Islands. Poor God of British imperialism in the name of whom the earthly semi-god Lloyd George gave his vow! During the war Britain has completely put her paw on Egypt. The seizure of Egyptian territory in the language of diplomacy, is called a protectorate. The Allies, including the American government, approved the act of British protectorate over

Egypt. We must give here some details as to how Britain pocketed the thirty million population of Egypt. The advance guards of British imperialism appeared in Egypt towards the end of the eighties. Britain solemnly declared to the world that she came to Egypt from Turkish atrocities. She, Britain, had in view only the welfare of Egypt. She never dreamed of a British protectorate over Egypt, much less conquest of the country. The late Gladstone (prominent English statesman) used to say that Britain staked her honor for the freedom of Egypt. These assurances of Gladstone were repeated from year to year by Lord Salisbury, Chamberlain and Campbell-Bannerman. And, in spite of all this, Egypt has been annexed. It has become a British colony. This is how the "word of honor" of the British imperialists has been kept. The attitude of the Egyptian people towards their foreign oppressors was manifested very clearly this spring, in the form of several armed uprisings. All honest elements in Egypt revolted against the British tyranny. And the mailed fist of Britain still reigns in Egypt.

Such are the British conquests on the African continent. If this is not highway robbery in broad daylight, what is it? To crown all this, Britain now has an eye on the former German colonies, Cameroon and Togo. She will have to come to an understanding on this question with Mr. Clemenceau's France. We are sure that she will get a fat slice of it. From this dry list of plundered riches, the reader will make a corresponding conclusion; knights or robbers!— ex.

## LA BELLE FRANCE

News dispatches contain many references to the struggle now on in the French labor movement between the old leaders and the revolutionary groups who are striving for control. As the correspondents put it, the struggle is between the conservatives and the demagogues—a demagogue being one who demands the overthrow of the capitalist system. Those who sing the song of the capitalists are "shewd," "conservative" and "sensible."

Spirited opposition to the invasion of Soviet Russia and Hungary has been developing among the French workers. This sentiment crystallized in the demand for a general strike on July 21st. Over this matter came the struggle between the radicals and the conservatives. The reactionaries won in much the same manner as did their fellows who succeeded in defeating the Mooney general strike movement in the A. P. of L. convention at Atlantic City. The strike was made impossible by the tactics of the French labor leaders.

The national committee which killed the strike adopted a program demanding that France base its policy on the principles of the League of Nations. If the Shantung grab is a fair sample of the application of those principles, the French government will very likely grant this demand. Many demands of a like nature were made. It appears that in France, as in other countries, one of the first things which the workers must do, as a preliminary to further progress, is to clean out the reactionary leaders.

The problem in industry at the present day is that of bringing home to every person engaged in industry the feeling that he is servant not of any particular class or person, but of the community as a whole. This cannot be done so long as industry continues to be conducted for private profit.—From memorandum (signed by the Labor representatives only) attached to the report of the provisional joint committee (employers and trade unionists) appointed by the Government Industrial Conference, England.

The French Revolution was directed to overthrow the privileges of an aristocracy. Its triumph assured freedom to the middle or manufacturing class, whose immediate interests were bound up in its success. The Russian Revolution in turn has overthrown both the middle and the upper classes, and the emancipation of mankind is bound up in its success or failure.— Fred Pest, in London "Call."

As Debs says: "The class struggle is colorless." It is not a struggle between white men and black men, between brown men and yellow men, or between males or females. It is a struggle between those who do all the work and have nothing and those who do no work and have everything.

Bolshevism is only Socialism in a hurry.— Israel Zangwill.