

AMERICAN SOCIALISTS

(Continued from Page 6)

by Emperor Wilhelm in Berlin, and accepted as a present from him a life-sized autographed painting of the kaiser, which was later burned by indignant citizens of Oyster Bay. During and before this time Germany, under the old emperor and Bismarck, was persecuting Bebel and the elder Liebknecht and many other Socialists because they stood for human liberty and democracy. These persecutions were always approved and lauded as perfectly proper by certain members of your league, and the great papers which were owned and supported by them. All this time the Socialists of this country and of other countries have consistently, persistently and unremittingly fought the kaiser and the kings, princes and dukes upon whose petty political hereditary power his usurped right of rulership is based.

"Another member of your league, Mr. Nicholas Murray Butler, received a Prussian decoration from the kaiser as a token of his personal affection. Yet, in spite of this, your organization attempts a censorship over the views of the only genuine anti-autocratic party in the United States—the Socialist Party.

"We assert that your league is destitute of any genuine democracy, or it would not admit to membership any man who had received favors from the kaiser or other autocrats. They may burn the Prussian decorations and gifts they gladly accepted, but they cannot burn the record which reveals their views.

Socialists Voiced Opposition.

"When Prince Henry of Prussia in 1902 visited this country and was acclaimed a prince of peace and amity, dined and feted by those who are of your league, the voice of the Socialists alone was raised in protest. The protest of the Socialist members of the Massachusetts Legislature are on record and may be read by any of your members who care to consult the journal of that body.

"The burden rests with the National Security League members with the ruling class of Germany. A constant profession of loyalty does not win out these connections.

"The Socialist Party was the first political organization in the United States that adopted a programme in conflict with German imperialism. By May, 1915, German armies had crushed Serbia and Belgium and conquered a large portion of France. In that month the Socialist party of the United States issued a proclamation that has challenged the attention of the world. While German imperial-

ism was boasting of its conquests, we declared for 'no forcible annexations, no punitive indemnities and free determination for all peoples.'

"The principles were later pro-

claimed by free Russia, then by the inter-allied Socialists and favorably received by President Wilson. Thus our party was the first since the beginning of the war to declare to

death knell of German imperial ambitions.

The National Security League and similar organizations have not accepted, and will not accept this programme. Your attitude would lead to the conclusion that you would do to the American people what the German imperialists have done to the German people.

"We are cognizant of the frightful outrages upon Belgium and the ruthless and merciless war upon the free government of Russia, which, starved, beaten, overwhelmed and prostrate, was forced to conclude a shameful and humiliating peace; the overthrow of the Finnish labor republic; the execution in that country of over 7,000 workingmen in cold blood, the imprisonment of 75,000 others, and the announced intention of imposing a German prince on Finland.

"Our record of opposition to the German kaiser was consistent, continuous and uniform before the war. It has been more pronounced and insistent during the war. It will continue until the Kaiser is dethroned. We shall attack the institutions of kaiserism no matter where they appear until they are banished from the face of the earth.

"The Socialist Party is interested in a general democratic peace, and in securing the return of our boys and the boys of other political faiths to peaceful pursuits. While they go into service abroad, we owe it to them to oppose the plans of any group of persons who would transform these sacrifices into an intolerable autocracy at home."

The national executive committee was united upon this declaration. It is the only statement supplemental to the St. Louis proclamation that will be issued at this time. The 1918 congressional programme, which will be ready soon, is exclusively a programme relating to peace and reconstruction.—The World, Oakland, Cal.

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Yours in the scrap

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