

Panacea For Unrest Among The French Workers

Under this heading the "New York Times" has a lengthy article by Gertrude Atherton but the most information is disclosed in the following paragraph. She commences by stating that "One hears a great deal in France about the possibilities of a revolution" and then after assuring her readers that there is no real fear comes this startling revelation—

"It is true that certain of the discharged soldiers who have drifted to the large cities will only do a minimum of work at the maximum price, and it is also true that in 1917 there were serious mutinies in the French armies, soviets were formed, there was a spreading disinclination to go on fighting forever against what seemed to be hopeless odds. These mutinies were suppressed by shooting one culprit out of every ten, for France, being a real instead of an amateur military nation, stands no nonsense, and the danger was passed before the French civilian public got more than an inkling of it. Nevertheless the "Bolshevist tendencies" of a certain part of the French Army, and its danger to French institutions after demobilization, are openly discussed by the pessimists."

So little by little the news leaks out. Had the Russian Bolsheviks adopted similar methods to quell counter-revolution it would have been blazoned forth with brilliant head-lines but "when one out of every ten" is shot in the interests of Capitalism we only hear of it incidentally months later. These facts should be cried forth from the house-tops by the workers as it is members of their class who pay the penalty whenever they refuse to lick the hand that beats them.

"Arise like lions after slumber in unvanquished numbers
shake your chains to earth like dew, ye are many, they are few."

Mining Engineers See Signs of "Social Danger"

Mr. C. V. Corless, speaking before the American Institute of Mining Engineers, made some interesting statements—

After reviewing conditions that exist in industry as a result of the war Mr. Corless inquired the cause. "When we regard the widespread unrest in Great Britain and America," he said, "which centres chiefly around the antagonism between capital and labor we find the real causes disguised by divers names."

Those who have experience know that to increase wages, to shorten hours, to improve this working condition and now that, or to concede any other of the varied demands of labor, never satisfies The workers in modern industry do not feel personally interested. They have no sense of ownership. They never begin and finish anything. They have little or no interest in the end product. They do not have the opportunity to think for themselves. They are generally required to perform certain definite work, or even mere mechanical movements without consultation, or in a way that does not call for reasonable exercise or recognition of their intelligence.

The Economic Machine

They have very little or no voice in governing themselves. They are parts of an organization, cogs in an economic machine which they do not fully understand, and in which they almost lose their identity—that is, their freedom for self-development. Somebody, somewhere, shapes the organization and sets it in motion, but the parts of the organization they see or the work they perform usually have little, if any, scientific or social meaning to them. Hence their spirit rebels. The human spirit, unless it has been utterly suppressed, is fortunately so constituted that it always rebels against any form of external authority in which it has no share, and which it does not intelligently grasp.

Industrial peace will never be attained as long as capital and management assume the right to a final say on matters intimately affecting the welfare and even the self-respecting existence of a very numerous class, whose loyal co-operation is as essential to the success of every industrial enterprise as their own.

Great Transition Period

Is it clearly recognized that we are at the beginning of a great transition period of industry? Do we realize that the autocracy of capital is coming to an end? Such periods of widespread, rapid, social change are times of peculiar danger. It is in the power of the present members of society either to recognize the principle at work and to lend intelligent assistance to the movement or to increase the social danger of opposing it.

"AN OPEN LETTER TO THE FOREIGN WAGE SLAVES OF UNITED STATES."

The following letter is copied from a workers' paper having a wide circulation in United States:—

"Again we are confronted with hard times and a long period of unemployment. Many of us have been face to face with those conditions in the past and know from bitter experience what it means to be one of the unemployed. At this time the struggle for existence for the foreign wage worker is more difficult than it has ever been. Men of foreign birth have been denied employment on account of their nationality. It seems as if our usefulness has come to an end; We are denied the opportunity to earn a living; we are not allowed to return to the land from which we came. What are we going to do about it?"

"Thousands of our men have been denied passports, hundreds are in jail all over the country for deportation, most of them are of Allied or neutral countries and who have been held for months. Why are we prevented from leaving this country? Is it the desire of certain elements to create a large army of unemployed in order to crush organized labor? Why not relieve the situation by letting those who are no longer wanted here to leave the country? There is absolutely no sign of any improvement of our conditions in the near future? Why remain here in idleness and endure the hardships of unemployment while we are needed to rebuild devastated Europe? One thing is certain, no matter how things are in various European countries they cannot be any worse than the hard times in the United States, with the bread lines and the soup-kitchens, with box-cars loaded with working men travelling back and forth all over the country looking for jobs which do not exist, with little babies crying for the want of milk and strong young men begging employers to let them work for their board. Those of us who went without food for days and did not see a bed for months in the panics of the past, who were clubbed and driven like cattle when we flocked to the cities to escape the hardship of winter in the open country, we do not fear the poverty of Europe.

"The very conditions which forced us to leave our native land do not exist any more. The revolutions of Russia, Germany, Austria, Roumania and Bulgaria are heralding the workers commonwealth of Europe.

"As long as our labor power could be utilized for exploitation by American Capitalists we were welcome to remain. While we were building railroads, risking our lives in gas-filled mile-long tunnels, while we were busy building big dams in the mountains to irrigate the desert and furnish light and power, while we were doing all the dirty and disagreeable work which goes with the building of cities and towns we were welcome. As long as we were satisfied to sleep in bunk houses—seventy and eighty of us in one-roomed shacks—our employers liked us. But as soon as we start to criticize those conditions we are threatened with deportation.

"Comrades and fellow-workers let us demand to be deported. Let us go back to the land from which we came and let us give the American wage-worker a chance to live through the coming hard times. The deportation of two or three million foreigners would undoubtedly relieve the situation considerably.

"Troop transports could be utilized to a great extent. The various governments of Europe would be glad to have their citizens return and might advance transportation to those that are destitute. Those who do not like to go to their own countries might find homes in free Russia. Think it over. Speak to your friends about it. Let us all get together regardless of nationality and demand deportation."

Workmen and Soldiers' Councils

In the City of Butte, Montana, the Workmen and Soldiers' Council consists of sixty-five members from two different organizations. During the recent strike this council was in session from early morning until late at night.

When the returned soldiers first began to feel the pangs of hunger and found themselves without money, they went to the Red Cross and the Y.M.C.A. and asked for assistance, but were told that these organizations could do nothing for them, however the mining companies of Butte put the Florence Hotel at their disposal but they were soon given to understand that in return for their food and lodging they were to join the State militia, whose chief object is to shoot strikers, and when the strike broke out they were ordered to take the place of the strikers. The soldiers called a meeting and by a two third majority vote decided to stand by the strikers in their demands. All the returned men who have joined the strikers have been told to return their uniforms, but up to date none have been returned.

The Workers and Soldiers' in Great Falls have also formed a Council. In the State of Arizona there is a Workmens' and Soldiers' Council in nearly every city. Miami and Globe and other cities have sent delegates to Phoenix to discuss a general strike throughout Arizona. Portland, Oregon; and Seattle, Washington; are also among the cities where the Workers' and Soldiers' have joined hands.