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## WAGE WORKERS

DO NOT RECEIVE  
WHAT THEY EARN

Talk of Labor Extortion and  
Profiteering is All  
Bosh

The flippant charge that wage earners indulge in extortion and profiteering is all bosh.

Wage workers do not get what they earn and that the real extortioners must be found in circles where idleness pays better than working.

Men whose annual wages would hardly pay the annual theatre expenses of a gentleman of leisure cannot be accused of extortion.

What possible power of extortion do wage workers have? Unorganized they have none at all. These workers cannot get even what are called fair wages, except as their organized fellow workers standardize wages. And organized wage workers can standardize wages only by quitting work in bodies or threatening to do so if fair wages are refused. Who has the temerity to call this "compulsory" extortion? It is an abuse of language to denounce even the highest wages that labor organizations have ever been able to exact.

"Wage workers engaged in production do not get what they earn."

"And when it comes to extortion what about highway corporations and their watered stock? What about water power monopolies? What about timber barons? What about monopolizers of natural deposits—coal, iron, oil, copper? What about the vast areas of land over the country and the almost numberless building lots in cities which cannot be used by productive business and productive labor except upon payment of extortionate premiums in rent or purchase price?"

"Let useful business men who are all too easily angered by the demands of their own best customers—the wage earners of the country—let those business men think a bit when tempted to denounce wage workers as extortioners, or to join in any hue and cry for putting down wages or keeping them down. Wages are the purchasing power of labor. Low wages mean poor markets; high wages mean good markets."—International Steam Engineering Journal.

The national congress of the college instructors' association at Paris, France, has decided to affiliate with the General Confederation of Labor, the affiliation resolution receiving 246 votes against 53. The congress declared that the interests of the instructors are identical with the trade unionists.

Lots of men seem to think that there is a patent on honest labor and they don't want to risk being infringers.

BREAKDOWN OF  
CAPITALISM IN  
GERMANY COMPLETE

Cessation of Buying of German People Is Very Serious

(By The Federated Press)  
Paris, France (By mail).—Complete breakdown of the capitalist system producing a society which is unable to purchase anything but food and bringing in its trail unemployment and industrial stagnation is apparent in contemporary Germany, according to F. Caussey, a well-known French student of German affairs writing in L'Humanite. Tracing the effect of the depreciation of the German mark Caussey points out the cessation of purchases by foreign business men the moment the mark made a slight gain in value, and the failure of the German merchants to alter their prices to conform with the appreciation of the mark as they did when the mark depreciated.

Far more serious than the abstention of foreign buyers, says Caussey, is the cessation of buying on the part of the German population.  
"It has long been evident," he writes "that food alone absorbs practically all the income of the Berlin workers. The director of the bureau of municipal statistics calculated that a couple without children cannot obtain bare existence rations for less than 17 marks 50 a day. When one considers that the average wage of factory and office workers is barely 23 marks a day and that out of this must be paid rent, gas, laundry, repairs for shoes and car fares, it is clear that there is nothing left to buy, say, a pair of shoes which now cost 450 marks. So the general rise in prices has been accompanied by a complete abstention from buying. Newspapers are full of complaints from merchants, especially the large stores, about stagnation in lines like clothing, furniture, hardware and chemical products.

Naturally this is felt in industry. Berlin was not affected much prior to the middle of May, but since then the blunder of unemployment has greatly increased on account of the collapse of the clothing industry. Mills in the Rhine region are without orders; the Lusatia factories are dismissing their workmen; there is a complete shut-down in the lace and embroidery industries of Plauen, in the silk and velvet mills of Crefeld, which during the war expanded enormously. At Pirmasens, 10,000 shoe workers are unemployed. Paralysis threatens the glass and pottery industries which have long suffered from lack of coal. Furniture and planing mills are closed and even the metal trades suffer, principally because of withdrawal of foreign orders.

"That such a situation should come to pass at a time when the straight world is in dire need of production is one of the most shameful manifestations of the capitalist system and the proof that, occupied solely with the increase of dividends, capitalists are utterly incapable of organizing production.

Caussey goes on to say that the principal relief proposed by the business men is the flooding of foreign nations with marks so as to bring about a fur-

INTERNAT'L LABOR  
CONFERENCE FIXES  
MINIMUM AGE

The International Labor Conference has voted to recommend to the governments represented an international agreement regulating child labor and fixing minimum ages of employment at 14 years, except for Japan, India and a few other far-east countries, where the limit is placed at 12 years because the representatives of these governments insisted that the time had not arrived to make such a "radical" change.

The 14-year limit is not established in the United States, through an amendment to the Federal Revenue Act, which puts a 10% tax on the profits of an employer doing an interstate business who hires children at less than 14 years. In other cases, state regulations prevail.

PRICES CONTINUE  
TO INCREASE IN  
ALL COMMODITIES

Labor Gazette Statistics For  
May Show General  
Increase

"In prices the general movement continues upward. Increases in grain, fodder, live stock, fuel, building materials and furnishings more than offset decreases in eggs, milk, hides, textiles and in raw furs," says the Labor Gazette.

"The department index number of wholesale prices rose to 356.6 for May, as compared with 351.1 for April, 384.1 in May, 1919, and 136.3 in May, 1914.

"In retail prices the average cost of a family budget of staple foods in sixty cities was higher, rising to \$16.55 at the middle of May as compared with \$15.99 at the middle of April and \$7.42 in May, 1914.

"The chief increase was in potatoes, which averaged \$6.15 per bag, as compared with \$4.78 in April. Sugar also advanced substantially, averaging 21.7 cents per pound for granulated, as compared with 19.5 cents in April.

"There were slight increases in some meats and in several of the other lines, with decreases in eggs and milk. Coal and coal oil were also upward, and rent averaged considerably higher."

ther depreciation in the purchasing power of German money. The Central committee of the Employer's Federation at a meeting May 29 decreed that an increase in the cost of production (higher wages) would "lead to a catastrophe."

Caussey adds that "German capitalists are united to turn to profit every national catastrophe; the war, the blockade, the high price of money. To-day when peace makes things more favorable for Germany they refuse not only to yield an iota of what they gained this far but they will not even make minor concessions which would perhaps slightly restrict the profits to be made in the future. They even propose to oppress the workers still further. It does not seem likely they will succeed without stirring up terrible convulsions, the harbingers of which are seen in the repeated pillaging of stores in industrial regions.

NON-PARTISAN  
ACTIVITY MAKES  
INDEPENDENT MEN

Nothing Can Equal Present  
Movement of Nonpartisan  
sanship in U. S.

Trade unionists are acquiring new ideals and developing new powers and activities as a result of the most intensive non-partisan campaign in the history of trade unionism.

In previous elections declarations have been urged with more or less vigor by organized labor, but nothing can equal the present movement. Reference to this activity is not guess work or political prophecy, but is based on records received by the A. F. of L. national non-partisan political campaign committee. These records are not secret, subject only to the scrutiny to some select committee. They are the public action of thousands of trade unions in every section of the country. They show that more than 6,000 locals have appointed committees of three members each to urge the non-partisan plan and the list is increasing at the rate of 50 a day in many instances. More than 500 central bodies have appointed committees of five members for the same purpose and many state bodies have taken similar action.

In union meetings and in shops, mills and mines, in transportation and in the field these committees distribute literature, explain labor's demands, urge agitation and the necessity for workers to cast their ballot in the interest of social progress.

These committees are organizing into state, congressional district, city and town conferences to further the non-partisan program. The effectiveness of this plan was shown wherever applied in the spring primaries when many reactionaries were retired to private life or had a narrow escape from meeting that fate.

Defenders of special privilege are astounded at the extent of labor's non-partisan movement and no longer do they cry: "Gompers will fail to deliver the labor vote." It has finally dawned on reaction that no man can deliver organized labor's vote; that labor is non-partisan as regards political parties, but intensely partisan as regards humanity.

The call of the A. F. of L. national committee that labor awake to the importance of senatorial and congressional elections is proving effective. In the Senate it should be made impossible, for instance, for that body to again pass a law, as it did in the Cummins railroad bill, making it a crime for employers to suspend work. If a change is made in the Senate no bill providing for military conscription in times of peace will be passed by jingoes who favor war with Mexico and huge standing armies, and who shield profiteers in their extortion of the people. The same need for changes exist in the House of Representatives.

Workers now have it in their power to elect congressmen and senators who are committed to the cause of those who produce rather than to those who profit by the labor of others.

BRITISH LABOR  
ASKS CHURCHILL  
BE IMPEACHED

At the annual conference of the Scottish Labor party in Glasgow, September 25th, the British Independent Labor party will submit a motion demanding that the government arrest and impeach Winston Churchill, secretary of war, at the bar of parliament, "for violating the constitution by using British military resources to assist reactionary elements in Europe to make war against Soviet Russia without the consent of the British parliament or people," according to an announcement made by officials of the Independent Labor party Tuesday.

With government expense soaring, the nation never before needed a sound budget system so badly.

## CORRESPONDENCE

(The Free Press takes no responsibility for any opinions expressed in letters to the editor. No letters can be accepted for publication, and will not be printed unless accompanied by name and address of writer.)

Editor, The Free Press:

**THE IMMIGRATION QUESTION**  
The old slogan, energetic promotion of immigration is played out. The ideal immigration of Canada is the only stable method of immigration; this we need, condensed it is fair pay, plenty to eat, good education, co-operativeness, equal opportunities and an incentive; an incentive is necessary for increased production; equal opportunities are necessary to produce that incentive. Co-operativeness is necessary to stabilize markets and high cost of competitiveness; good education is necessary to master details; a living wage is necessary to keep humanity from being a machine. For the root of all trouble is man, therefore study humanity. This alone will produce progressive economy. Here is a few co-operative facts from England, to show what labor can do: They own 12,000 acres of farm co-operative lands there, also boot, woolen, flour, and many various factories; 1,500 societies with 3,500,000 members, capitalized at \$250,000,000; last year alone \$1,000,000,000 worth of trade; also amalgamated with the labor unions on political representation. Result, a solid backing. This proves labor can run business.

Now to immigration: Carter arrived at the St. Lawrence in 1541; in 1920 all Canada boasts of 9,000,000 all told. Allow four ancestors with 3 children each, it fetches us to 62,000 in 1720; therefore your natural increase should be more; where's your immigrants. Thousands have been sent abroad on immigration, result, thousands come here, but what becomes of them. From appearances the main idea seems to have been, to cheapen labor. They come here, get a few months' work at the harvest, or the section; then a few of the bread and sausage brigade, whose one idea is to save enough to get out. Is this immigration? The real married settlers, we often offered them the splendid sum of \$10 to \$20 a month, for 16 hours a day to learn farming, was it not a generous policy? What resulted? They saw a homestead was impossible with the magnificent wage, of course the wife might help to do odd jobs; we could give her another \$5. Then we expected them to save a winter's grub stake. Result: A continued backward flow. The States had no kick to this policy; they got their work at our expense; but what literature will shift friends of theirs when they got back; now, instead of wasting money, why not try self-advertising, all stabilized business firms tell you their first object is satisfied customers. How to do this: Guarantee a year's work or equivalent, at a wage that a married man can save enough to later start on; make farm life attractive, produce social economic life, a few laws thus would help, improved farms under technical instruction on crop payments, minimum living wage; localized married unemployment insurance, old age pensions, free labor hospitals, bonus to workers' maternity cases, mothers' pension, government leased cottages. Try these for a start, and see if self-advertising pays, a farmer one year gets cheap labor, then the man gets out; the next two years he loses more money than what he gained, for he cannot get men, and so the game went. Today a progressive settled country must be democratic; your country's safety demands it. Remember China has 400,000,000; Asia is expanding, and Canada is a fertile ground; therefore solidify your own citizens first, remembering foreign blood, in a crisis cannot be relied on. In union there is strength, internal disruption may leave you some day not democratic brothers, but foreign slaves, therefore co-operate on common sense, by producing such a satisfaction amongst your own, that their letters will fetch more of their kind.

Respectfully,  
J. GARDNER.

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## U. S. CHAMBER

**COMMERCE FAVORS  
NON-UNION SHOP**

Referendum Shows a Vote  
of 1,655 For to Four  
Against

Washington.—The chamber of commerce of the United States has announced the result of its referendum on a so-called social program that was submitted to all affiliates.

The vote was held by organizations. A non-union shop declaration was approved by a vote of 1,665 to 4.

Other declarations were approved by the same vote. On the question of the shorter work day the requirements of each industry shall be ascertained "by careful study," but hours should not be reduced below the economic limit and greater leisure for the individual must be enjoyed, it is stated, "only with the understanding and acceptance of the fact that it involves commensurate loss in the earning power of the workers." In other

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## N. Y. KNIT GOODS

**WORKERS STRIKE  
FOR RECOGNITION**

New York. (N. Y. Bureau).—Five thousand knit goods workers, representing 75 per cent of the trade in this city, went on strike Tuesday morning for a 25 per cent increase in the minimum wage, the 44-hour week, recognition of the union and the closed shop, limitation of the number of apprentices to one for every ten workers, and six legal holidays a year. The Knit Goods Workers' Union comprising chiefly sweater makers and affiliated with the Amalgamated Textile Workers, is conducting the strike.

## Join the Labor Party

words, a worker should always remember that when he plays with his children he is losing money. The outlawing of strikes in public utilities is approved. Least some wage earner might believe his income is the result of stock speculation and "wildcatting," the program declares. "The wage of labor must come out of the product of industry and must be earned and measured by the contribution thereto."

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