

What Of The Year 1918

Seers of To-day Behold 1918 Bearing The New Social Order

At the request of the New York Call, Eugene V. Debs and several other prominent Socialists of the American continent were asked to give their views of the prospects of the Socialist Movement for 1918. Below you find the message of Debs and one or two others, which came inresponse to the invitation.

TPL

There are some few years which stand apart from the rest of historical time; years which through some peculiar combination of circumstances profoundly unusual move us as whole centuries cannot. Such years as the ones which saw the birth and death of Christ; the overthrow of the French Bourbons; the uprising of the peoples of Europe in 1848—we feel that whole epochs were summed up in these allotted spans of 365 days.

To this list of extraordinary years 1917 may well be added by those who have looked on it, as well as by future historians.

Eugene Debs.—Standing at the threshold of the new year, the Socialists of America have every reason for mutual congratulations, for renewed faith in their cause, for increased persistence in their propaganda, and

for absolute confidence in the future. The political victories of the Socialority is disintegrating, and will soon disappear. In all countries the Socialist movement is alert and aggressive and gathering force, and the year 1918 will behold the greatest contests and the most portentous achievements toward worldwide freedom, democracy and brotherhood yet chronicled in history.

In contemplating the outlook for the new year, The Call may well congratulate itself. It has to its credit a splendid record of fidelity, courage and high purpose in the year just closed, and it is equipped for action as never before in the year now dawning upon the world.

Socialist greetings to all our Comrades everywhere with the sunrise of the new year. The "dear love of Comrades" binds us together heart to heart and soul to soul at every council¹ fire, in every fraternity gathering and on every firing line in the greatset crusade, the holiest war, ever waged for the redemption of man and the freedom, peace and happiness of the world.

Morris Hillquit.—The old year is about to depart. Within a few hours the grim and demented old criminal will gasp his last baneful breath of hate and evil, and will join the perpetual procession of years in the dark shadow of the endless past. No one The new world that will be ushered in by the new year and the years to come will be a people's world, a Socialist world, our world.

Courage, Comrades! Let us look the new year in the face with steady and unflinching eyes. Let us resolve to take our place in mankind's struggle for a new world, a happy world. Happy New Year, Comrades!

This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it.— Abraham Lincolnn. * * *

"Give me the liberty to know, to utter and to argue freely according to conscience, above all other liberties." --John Milton.

WHO ARE RUSSIA'S REAL REVOLUTIONISTS ?

Mr. George Kennan is one of the ablest and best informed writers on the different phases of Russian life. He is, however, entirely out of sympathy with the aspirations of the Russian Socialists. Just now he is filling the Classic page of the "Newark Outlook" with tirades against the Russian Socialists. A writer who signs himself "Yours for liberty" propounded the following list of questions to Mr. Kennan, which he attempted to answer. The only point he made in his attempt was to give a lot of information to the Outlook readers, which all well informed Socialists were already familiar with, namely, the fact that many of the early Russian Revolutionists were autocratic and middle class, especially the university students. Mr. Kennan is in favor of a revolution that would leave him and his Russian and American friends lodged comfortably on the backs of the workers. He and his employers, the stockholders of the New York Outlook are the type of men Tolstoy ha din mind when he said of them: "I find them willing and anxious to do anything for the workers but get off their backs and earn their own living."

Russias? 6. Was it the Cossacks or the aristocrats? Or was it the Czar?

7. Was it the landowners, who for years have crushed the peasantry? Or

8. Was it the Bolsheviki, the Socialists, and the I. W. W.'s, as you call them?

Indeed, sir, from the remarks you have made in magazine articles and short stories, we had once thought you had some slight—as much as could be expected from a newspaper and periodical writer—sympathy for the downtrodden of the Russias. But it appears that as soon as the capitalist system is threatened you lose all that sympathy, even as Charles Edward and some others did.

You know as well as anyone else, that the Revolution in Russia was caused from start to finish by the Socialist and Anarchist group, that the respectable elements had nothing to do with it. You also know that, as in other similar cases, the bourgeoiste tried, after the proletariat had been successful, to assume the reins of government and block out the establishment of the social state. You know that the greetings of the press lagged and turned to despair when it was seen that this attempt by the bourgeoisle would be a failure. You know that the Russian Revolution has no more insidious foe than the plutocratic state of America. It is this fear for the plutocracy that leads you to denounce the revolutionists who are trying to make of this a real revolution.

But tell me, what do you mean by referring to the Bolsheviki as a "usurping gang"? They fought for the Revolution; should they not be the ones to profit by it? Whether you wish it or not, they will, or there will be another evolution.

ist party last fall served as a prelude to the national elections soon to be held, in which it may be fairly anticipated that from a score to half a hundred Socialists will be sent to the Congress of the United States. This will

be the answer of the people to the assault upon the press and the suppression of public opinion by the present administration. The Socialist party was never before as united, as enthusiastic and determined as it is today. For this the plutocratic powers of persecution are entitled to their full meed of credit, and we accord it freely. Let the good work go on.

Never before, in all its history, has the membership of the Socialist party increased so rapidly as it is increasing to-day, and never before were the American people so eager and receptive for the message and meaning of Socialism as they are at the dawn of the new year.

Unity and solidarity of the workers of all countries is the inspiring watchword, and universal industrial freedom and Socialist democracy the shining goal of humanity.

In Russia the Bolsheviki are making a heroic stand for true democracy against the whole world's combined and corrupt capitalism and imperialism. In Germany the Revolutionary Socialist minority is steadily increasing, and its power growing, while that of the reactionary and betraying majwill shed a tear for him. No one will regret his departure.

A new year is coming. A suffering, bleeding world is awaiting the guest with hope and fear, with prayer and trembling. What will the new arrival bring us?

It may be continued war on the battlefields and continued suffering and gloom in the homes. It may be cessation of carnage and peace among nations. But, above all, it will be struggle for social regeneration and world reconstructiozn.

Fof the dying old year is taking with him the old order into the dark shadow of the dark past, and the new year and the new years are bringing a new world. -Whether the coming year will see war or peace, the world as it existed in the days before the war will never come back again. The senseless pitiless old world of privilege and oppression, of suffering and privation, the world of strife and cruelty, autocracy and class rule, is crumbling and perishing in the supreme agonies of the pain of its own making. The people are coming into their own in all lands. The pangs of the disordered world are but the pangs of childbirth of new and true democracy. In this grave historical process the ghastly war is only an incident. Its deep and all-pervading significance is the social revolution which is upon us.

The Letter.

Mr. George Kennan:

Dear Sir,—I have just been reading your article on the condition of Russia, in The Outlook for November 21, 1917. I would like to ask you a few questions on the condition of affairs in that country.

1. Who was it caused the Russian Revolution?

2. Who has for a hundred years been working against tremendous odds, against the whole police force of the Russian Government, in fact, striving to develop a sufficient Socialist and proletarian movement to overthrow czarism, autocracy, and bureaucracy, with capitalism, and establish a humane and sensible government?

3. Who was it, in the sufferings of this war, that finally consummated the arduous task, clearing the name of Russia of the great blot of the Czar and making the position of the other parasites of that country dangerous?

4. Who was it, in the streets of Petrograd, early in April, that fought against the Cossacks and won the battle for freedom, not in Russia alone, but for all the world, by her coming example?

5. Was it the capitalists of the

Yours for Freedom,

THE HENRY DUBB PRIMER.

Do you see those pretty white jewels?

They are grains of sugar.

They are produced by God, sun and unlynched Negroes.

If you had a pound of sugar and a ton of coal you could trade them for a yacht.

A yacht is much better than sugar, for it will not give you diabetes.

Rich people have sugar and diabetes. Which would you rather be; rich and diabetic or poor and diabetic?

* * *

Do you see the man with the glistening forehead?

The man is a grocer and he is sweating.

Why is the grocer sweating?

He is sweating because his heart is very heavy.

He is sorry because you can't afford to pay him 80 cents for eggs and he knows your baby is sick.

Are all grocers so kindhearted? Oh, my, yes.

The Bainbridge Case

There is nothing new in the Bainbridge Case. We expect he will get a hearing in Court on Monday, January 14th, when we hope to have him released on bail.