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VANCOUVER, B. C., MAY 1, 1925

MAY DAY.

ALL the bodies of the International,—Labor, Socialist and Communist—have in the time honoured way given forth in abundance the manifold reasons why the workers of the world should, on May Day, awaken to the significance of their condition and function in life, take resolution and, "by opposing end it." The rallying cry ranges all the way from the time worn demand for the universal application of the eight hours' day to the establishment of the co-operative commonwealth.

The First International in its time declared the limitation of hours in the working day to be the first step in the direction of the emancipation of the working class, which sentiment has been reaffirmed times without number these sixty years since. Irrespective of the emancipation of the working class but significant of the tendency toward international organization and control of industry under capitalist finance, the Peace treaty following upon the world war made provision for the establishment of an international labor office through which a uniform work day of universal application was to be worked out and agreed upon—which has been done. Some fifty countries have agreed upon the principle of the eight hours' day—each resolving, meanwhile, to carry the principle into practice when the other does it. And when the other does it the eight hours' day that evolves is somewhat warped and twisted by amendments and conditions having effect in favor of certain prescribed industries, generally those concerned in export trade, which is in accord with the considerations of the case as being of the world market variety.

Actually, today, the tendency is for the establishment of the universal eight hours' day—or any other uniform work day—to become something for international capital to promote in its own interest. This is very well illustrated by a recent report made by the International Federation of Trade Unions (Amsterdam) from which we take this: "The placing of a recent British order for five motorships in Germany has been a shrewd blow for British employers, affecting as it does employers' profits. At a joint conference of shipbuilders and shipyard workers, a shipbuilder urged that the British Government should be approached and urged 'to take international action for the enforcement of the 48 hours' week in Germany and Holland.' So long as their own pockets were not touched the British employers' representatives at the International Labor Conference shewed some coolness towards the ratification of the Eight Hours' Day Convention. Now they are suddenly beginning to think internationally, having been converted by the needs, not of International Labor, but of British trade."

There is sound sense in the observation that the employer's first concern is trade rather than the aims and aspirations of labor. The point here to be observed, however, is that while the annual May Day output of ink and paper continues its plaint for the eight hours' universal work day after the pattern of the old fashion wherein this is set forth as one of the ideals of labor and thus deserves first attention—while that is being done the needs of the employers

have prompted these latter to get together and to attempt the arrangement of their differences—through the eight hours' work day if need be.

Still the old fashion prevails of issuing slogans on May Day. Here is one not a month old, issued in all seriousness by Amsterdam:

"Let the workers force their governments to establish the eight hours day and to make disarmament a reality, not an empty phrase.

Let the workers open their eyes and see things as they are. Let them recognise their economic and political rights and demand them of their governments.

Let them awaken from their apathy, let them rise and bid the war-makers of the world cease from their deadly work.

We will not wait!

No longer will we be driven like a flock of sheep by a little band of capitalists who have no ideas beyond their own selfish interests.

No longer will we be the unresisting prey of a handful of men who spill our blood and blast the lives of our wives and of our children merely that they may heap up higher their ill-gotten gains.

Let us free ourselves once and for all from the yoke of Capitalism. But we shall never be able to rid the world of this pest while our working hours are long, and our barracks full of soldiers.

Come then, Comrades, come in your millions to join us on May Day: come and march with us in our world demonstration for the Eight Hours' Day, Disarmament and Peace."

Capitalism is a "pest" sure enough, as the document has it, and we miss our guess if the workers don't know it. Yet the matter of looking at the international labor multitude, in its present temper, from the traditional May Day standards, has the appearance of an autopsy.

G. M. F.

Abe Karne \$1.00; J. Mitchell \$2.00.

Above, C. M. F. receipts from March 31 to April 30, inclusive, total 13.

BUSINESS HELPS ITSELF

(Continued from page 3)

4,800 country newspaper editors, to a selected list of several thousand ministers, to college libraries, to college fraternity houses, to railroad and Y.M.C.A. reading rooms and to workers in certain states who are influential in forming sentiment in their respective voting precincts." etc. To this end funds are needed and asked for—ten dollars and up. Together with the circular goes a reprint in leaflet form from "The National Republican" which we here reproduce as indicative of how bankers, manufacturers and mine owners propose to prevent themselves from being "misrepresented" before the people:—

(Reprinted from The National Republican)

IF BUSINESS MEN DON'T DEFEND SELVES,
THEY WON'T BE DEFENDED.

By George W. Hinman,
In the Chicago American.

"Radicalism received its death blow in 1924!" "This death blow is one of the two real achievements of the year—one of the two chief assurances of business progress in 1925!"

These stiff statements were laid before business men by a business man's newspaper. Many statements of the same sort have been made in the business reviews and forecasts of the last six days. The battle is over, the victory won! That is the idea.

Nothing could be further from the truth. If the present tumult in Italy, the communist alarm in France, the commotions in south-eastern Europe did not prove just the contrary, the figures of the elections nearer home would do so.

In the United States the so-called radicals have polled some 5,000,000 votes. That is, one out of every six voters in the United States has gone on record for sweeping changes in the present way of doing business.

In Great Britain, the so-called radicals have polled 5,500,000 votes. That is one out of every three British voters has gone on record against the present way of doing business.

In Germany the so-called radicals have polled 10,700,000 votes. That is, one out of every three, and then some have registered their protest against the present business order.

When in the three most conservative countries on earth more than 21,000,000 grown men and women deliberately demand a general upheaval of business and business methods, their cause is neither dead nor sleeping. And, in stating this plain fact, a man does not have to give Russia even a first thought.

Of course radicalism is not dead. Neither is Socialism. Neither is communism. No one of them will be dead so long as some men prosper and some do not; so long as some men have plenty and some not enough; so long as some men are successful in business and some men barely manage to live.

The men who imagine anything else, who think they can maintain themselves in their business success without defending it, are sure to learn these truths soon enough if they do not grasp them now. But what is the practical use of all these vague words just now? Let us see.

Samuel Rea, president of the Pennsylvania railroad, suggests in the morning newspapers that what the railroads need to keep them going is more understanding and more confidence from the public. He means more understanding of their way of doing business and more assurance that this way is the right way.

Railroad officials all over the country are saying the same thing. They are on the battle line of business, have been there for years, are there still. Therefore they know that radicalism of all sorts, whether good or bad, is neither dead nor moribund.

The lawmakers of thirty-nine states are to assemble and pass laws this year. The estimate is that some 60,000 new laws will be proposed and about 15,000 of them will be added to the 2,000,000 laws and local ordinances already in force in the United States. The majority of these laws will cross the lines of the nation's business.

What will be the main power in making these laws? Largely the desires of the people who elect the lawmakers. Largely also the activity of the people in demanding this, that or the other sort of business legislation.

Who will be the most active in making known their demands? The so-called radicals—not only the 5,000,000, but many others who did not go radical in the last election because they did not like just the kind of radicalism offered them.

Who will be least active? The business men, probably, who think the battle over and the victory won on November 4, always, of course, excepting Mr. Rea and his railroad associates who woke up a few years ago and have not gone to sleep again. That is the situation. What then? What do all these general statements lead up to? They lead up to this:

If the bankers and manufacturers and mine owners of the country refuse to be warned by the example of the railroad men, if they sit back in silence while sociologists, psychologists and sentimental up-heavers misrepresent them to the people, if they are too idle and self-confident to bestir themselves as long as the money flows to them across the table, they will wake up to find the radicalism, socialism and communism that they thought dead more alive and aggressive than ever.

If these men have real confidence in themselves, there is no excuse for their failure to stand up and declare it—at public meetings, in the assemblages of schools and colleges, before Sunday evening clubs and along the Chautauquus circuits.

Nobody helps those who do not help themselves. That is a business fact that all the elections in the world cannot alter.

This, then, is the manner outlined whereby the American business man proposes to continue to—as he puts it—"help himself."

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