

## THE OLD AND THE NEW

Clearly, the world is coming to appreciate the tragi-comedy of the Peace Conference at Paris. In a cable from Paris the other day, William Allen White (who was to have gone to Prinkipo to meet the Bolsheviki for President Wilson, until the Peace Conference executed a strategic retreat) writes sardonically of the upheaval in Europe and the importance of the Peace Conference:

"In Eastern Europe, from Budapest to Archangel, responsible rulers, such as they may be, are laughing uproariously at Paris—the statesmen who are solemnly sitting about green tables figuring out boundaries, spheres of influence, and economic restrictions when the new order in the world is establishing itself.

"Lenin is leading the laughter, and during the week his domain is finding foothold in India and Egypt. His birthday was celebrated in Rome under machine guns on fountains, the Spanish Ministry is falling. King Albert slid down from the sky, telling the Peace Conference that Brussels could hold out against Bolshevism less than a month more, Liberal Socialists are whittling down Lloyd George's parliamentary majority daily, and Easter Sunday French Socialists will meet to decide how best to show their scorn for the Peace Conference—whether by general strike or by an attempt at revolution.

Southern Germany is torn by Bolshevism, and North Germany is waiting to hear the peace terms before letting go. Certainly if peace does not come by midsummer it will be a peace by anarchy.

What would they? They, the masters of bourgeois society, declared Capitalism morally and economically insolvent when they choose the arbitrament of the sword in their mercenary disputes. They plunged millions of men, women and children into the fires of universal war—they unleashed destruction and organized savagery—in order to determine who should possess the financial and industrial dominion of the world.

Bourgeois society proved itself unfit to direct the destiny of the world. It broke down of its own hideous evils. It mocked humanity and raped civilization. Capitalism organized the courage and enthusiasm of men for systematic destruction; it transmuted the patient suffering of the women and the tears of the children into the profits of the profiteers; it built a terrible bridge with the bodies of the dead soldiers, upon which to march to power. The evil and the oppression, the misery and the degradation of the old order culminated in a terrible and unprecedented scourge of humanity.

The old order broke down. Life and love and peace, which it had crushed, flared up in the action of the proletariat for the Revolution.....

The Peace Conference met. It met to patch things up. Its real task was not to impose terms upon Germany, but to prevent the complete collapse of bourgeois society and to crush the proletarian revolution. The Peace Conference failed miserably in its task. The old order is breaking down. And, through the smoke and the fires of Revolution; is appearing the promise and the glory of the new order of Communist Socialism. It will conquer! Then shall life and love and peace come into their own.

## THE A. F. OF —ELL.

In an editorial on the Seattle strike, in the March American Federationist, official organ of the Gompers-sized A. F. of L., the Stone Age mind reveals itself. It says:

It must be freely conceded that during the war-period in many instances the workers were compelled to accept wages which were insufficient and inadequate to meet the increased price charged for food, clothing, fuel, shelter, etc. It is likewise a recognized fact that the workers did not take advantage of the nation's needs; that in the greater number of instances the workers maintained industrial peace and gave practically uninterrupted service to our government when the war was in progress, while the profiteers were reaping an unprecedented harvest.

What an indictment of the A. F. of L., out of the mouths of its own spokesmen! This is a picture of labor betrayed, while the profiteers fattened upon labor; a picture of labor shackled by its own organization, rendered helpless while Capital wrecked its will upon it.

## THE SLEEPING GIANT IS AWAKENING

General Mannerheim, former general of the Czar's army and suppressor of the red revolution in Finland, was recently "officially" invited to visit the Kings of Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

Mannerheim is known to the propertied classes as "the coming man"; to the working classes he is known as "the butcher" and "the hangman." He is accredited with forming a "strong" government

in Finland, but even "the London Times"—conservative paper—finds it somewhat too strong. Their Stockholm correspondent wrote that the Allies could not possibly permit things to continue as they were in Finland. He pointed out that whereas the "Red Terror," which accompanied the workers revolution in Finland had cost 1,000 lives, General Mannerheim's "White Terror" had cost to date 30,000, with details that dare not be put into print.

Hence the arrival of this hangman Mannerheim in Sweden and Denmark resulted in an uprising of the working classes. To Sweden in due time, came Mannerheim in his private yacht. The Socialists issued a call for a general strike which was responded to in several large factories. Thousands of workmen were on hand to "welcome" Mannerheim on his arrival. Riots ensued. Police, spies, soldiers, mounted police and plain clothes men were everywhere. There was booing and cat-calls, surging of humanity, eddies of combat, charges by the police, panics and arrests. All afternoon the turmoil continued.

The crowd surged to the police station to liberate the prisoners. It broke in the doors. Dragoons charged. Machine guns appeared. The crowd retreated. All night the police and soldiery were busy clearing the highways, charging mobs, and even breaking up street corner groups of disputants.

In Norway the Socialist Party definitely predicted that Mannerheim would not be allowed to come to Norway. The party executive committee laid plans for a general strike and demonstration in the event of the proposed visit. The party organ, "Social-Demokraten" published these plans in black-faced type from day to day.

A bourgeois paper published the report that the Norwegian legation had privately suggested to Mannerheim that it might be as well for him to change his mind and decline Norway's invitation.

About this time the Electrical Workers Union met and passed a resolution. Herein it was set forth that in the event of Mannerheim entering the City, the union would cease work. Electric power and light would be totally cut off; the city would be dark and motionless. And, added the resolution, if serious consequences resulted, the electrical workers would be in nowise responsible. The next morning came the announcement that Mannerheim had a severe cold and chills with high fever and would have to cancel his projected visit.

We feel sure that the cold he had was that of cold feet but the lesson to be derived from this is that the hand of labor refused to function if its voice was unheeded. Labor did not resolve, but stated that "the butcher" of the working people in Finland would not be tolerated in Norway and took action to prevent his arrival. They accomplished what they demanded by their united effort and refusal to turn the wheels of industry.

## APPEAL FOR HELP OF VLADIVOSTOK UNIONS

SAN FRANCISCO.—(By mail).—An appeal from the labor organizations of Vladivostok to the working men and working women of the United States has been brought in by courier. Since labor unions are outlawed and illegal under Kolshak, the monarchist dictator, the appeal is made under the Workingmen's Red Cross.

The letter follows:

"Workmen's Red Cross, Central Committee, Labor Unions, City, Vladivostok.—To All the Workingmen and Working Women of U. S. A.:

Comrades—

"After a forceful invasion and overthrow of the soviet government by the Allies and under the false pretences of the Checho-Slovaks and the Russian capitalists in the city of Vladivostok and all over Siberia, began oppression of the Russian working class.

Thousands upon thousands of working people, peasants and also the student class, were shot. In one of the cities named Chabarovsk, having a population of about 70,000 people, 1,200 people were shot and slain by the Japanese and Cossacks. Thousands were killed in the city of Krasnoyarsk with the help of the White Guard of Russians and also with the help of the Italian regiments. English regiments have also participated in massacring and suppressing tens of thousands of revolting peasants. Every day there was need for new cemeteries; thousands of other comrades were thrown into jail and at present are rotting there without any charges. Their wives and children are suffering from hunger and cold because they have no means of assistance except from the workingmen's organizations, which are in existence illegally. However, the need is very great, and the Russian organizations can be of little assistance with their meager means. Furthermore, very many factories are closed, and the workers are unemployed.

"In this needy hour, when a part of the Russian workingmen and peasants are strangled between the cries of international capitalists, while the part on the other side of the Urals (in European Russia) is bleeding to death from the uneven struggle with the enemies on all sides, in this hour we are turning to you with the following demands:

"Protest against the organized killing of your brothers.

"Demand the withdrawal of American and Allied troops from