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Cotton's Weekly

W. J. COTTON, Editor, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

This paper is not published for profit. It is published by co-operative effort as an advocate of the co-operative commonwealth. Last week we printed and posted the following number of copies:—

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Socialists and the War

"Some Socialists here would like to know the reason why the Socialists in Italy refused to go to battle, and why the German Socialists who are more numerous did not also refuse to go to battle, since the Socialists do not believe in slaughter. And do you think the Socialists will make the Socialist movement weaker?"—P.H.H., Waterloo, Ont.

Majority rules. If the majority of German Socialists are not strong enough to stop the war, the Socialists are not strong enough to stop them. If the majority of Italian Socialists are not strong enough to stop the war, the Socialists are not strong enough to stop them. And when war is raging, civil laws are suspended and martial law is established. So whether the German Socialists wanted to fight or not, they would be forced to go to the front and get killed, or they would be shot by fellow Germans for mutiny. If the Italian government should order war the Italian Socialists would have to march to the front and fight.

We do not know what is happening in Europe. No news comes through except that which is given out by the governments of the various countries. Any newspaper that would publish things the government does not want published would be suppressed. If Cotton's Weekly in Canada should tell of the movement of troops through Canada, which the American papers publish, it would be suppressed by the Canadian government.

So the news we get of what the German Socialists are doing is not news, but lies which the capitalist governments want us to believe.

The little news that does come through from other sources shows that the German Socialists are blaming their government, and the British Socialists are blaming their government. This is the exact opposite of what the capitalist papers are doing. For the capitalist papers in Britain and Canada are telling how Britain is fighting against a terrible and tyrannical enemy and for freedom. The German capitalist papers are saying the same things, only the terrible tyrant is the British empire and the fighters for liberty are the Germans.

It is a principle of European Socialists that the Socialists may protect the country in which they live against an invading foe. The German Socialists were willing to defend Germany against the Russian government that would have destroyed the Russian people. And French and Belgian Socialists are willing to defend Belgium and France against invading Germans. So the wily capitalist class of France and Britain ally themselves with barbarous Russia against Germany, and Germany against France and Belgium. This shows that the most backward country politically is able to draw a continent into darkness. No nation lives to itself, and the fight for freedom in Russia is of tremendous importance to Canadian workers.

The war will no doubt stop the spread of Socialism. If the war had not come the Socialists would have captured the governments of Western Europe in a few years. Now when war has come, many Socialists will be killed; homes will be filled with woe. The war may bring Socialism a little quicker. But there is the danger of the spirit of the peoples being embittered. We cannot look upon wounded men, cannot deliberately shoot upon wounded men without sinking lower in the civilized scale.

The war is showing to all the utter bankruptcy of capitalism. Socialists can no longer look at the capitalist class of Socialism, means breaking up the home, free civilization, and so forth. For capitalism means broken homes, ravished women, death, destruction, terror.

The people must awake. Every truehearted man and woman will be on the side of the Socialists. War will teach them that their rulers are impotent swarms of fortune, or cruel rascals.

The Dominion government in its war session just closed, passed laws releasing the banks from paying gold, thus making bank notes absolute legal tender. It also passed a law that the Dominion government could issue Dominion notes to banks against stocks and bonds deposited with the government. Upon these notes just issued the banks must pay interest to the Dominion at the rate of not less than five per centum per annum. We are therefore no longer on a gold basis. We are in the days of fiat money. Fiat money usually means high prices, exaggerated productive activity and a final terrible financial crash. Capitalism is reeling to its death in war and financial drunkenness.

When reaction shall come from socialism, the angry multitude will find its special leadership in those organized and disciplined millions of Socialists, and those who released the demons of war in the hope of checking the social revolution will find that revolution upon them.—Milwaukee Leader.

Gaulle, the French Socialist, has entered the French cabinet. Vandervelde, the Belgian Socialist, has entered the Belgian cabinet. We have yet to hear of a German Socialist entering the German cabinet.

Employers of London, Eng., have been sack workers who refused to enlist. The workers have given the power to the masters to starve them into murdering their fellow workers.

Notwithstanding the insane and criminal Romanoffs, there is a vast intellectual and spiritual ferment in Russia that is absent from Germany and England.—Geo. D. Heron.

British and Canadian papers are publishing silly items about the savagery of the German soldiers. What do they expect? Do they think war is a Sunday-school picnic?

Capitalist papers announced that the Hungarian Socialists donated one million kronen to the Austrian government for war purposes. Needless to say, this is a lie.

It is the Socialist alone who can save the world from a new series of dark ages.—Geo. D. Heron.

The International Socialist Congress will be convened after the war.

Canada's Gifts

The capitalists of the mother country are trying to steal the German markets away from the labor skimmers. The Canadian capitalists want to see the markets stolen and so join in the game. They gather twenty or forty thousand poor, deluded wretches and send them across the seas to face the bullets.

They also have their parliament and legislatures grant gifts to help the British labor skimmers feed the British wage slaves in the army till the carcasses of these poor creatures become food for Belgian worms.

Times have been slack in Canada, and some of the milling plants have had to close down. Some capitalists have been out their profits. So the executive committee of the master class sitting at Ottawa have given a contract of a million bags of flour to the Canadian labor skimmers. Ontario gives two hundred and fifty thousand bags; Manitoba gives fifty thousand.

Last winter when the people of our cities were starving, the government paid no heed. But they whoop it up with great riles to give profits to the milling labor skimmers so as to feed the butcher boys.

British Columbia legislature is giving ten thousand barrels of apples. The real estate sharks have loaded up easy marks with fruit lands. The market is dead, and so the B.C. government buys ten thousand barrels of apples for the same cause.

When the unemployed in B.C. demonstrated and wanted food, they were ridden down by mounted police.

The Quebec government is shipping four million pounds of cheese. But the unemployed of Montreal can starve. They are not wanted just at this moment for the services of the master class.

O you foolish working class. Your masters despise you for your simplicity. And yet they fear you with a coward's fear that you may rise and demand the wealth your hands produce.

They have welcomed the war to keep you patriotic. They give away the wealth you have created. And you cheer their class, you fight their battles. You keep them in luxury and your lives are miserable.

Wake to your rights and your power. Wake and end the war. Wake and cease to be the goat, a joke, a beast of muddy brain.

The War Explained

The explanation of the war is simple. The British capitalists and French capitalists were in receipt of so much surplus value wrung from their wage slaves that they did not know what to do to get rid of it. They hit upon a solution—steal the markets of the German capitalists.

The German capitalists were in receipt of so much surplus value wrung from their wage slaves that they did not know how to get rid of it.

They hit upon a solution—steal the markets of the British and French capitalists.

Now when two thieves go out to rob each other, there is apt to be a fight.

The fight is on, but the capitalist thieves are not doing the fighting.

The working class, the robbed slaves, are flung into the battle lines and are killed.

And the national debts pile up and the financiers place more securities in their strong boxes.

THE REIGN OF TERROR

There were two "Reigns of Terror." If we would but remember it and consider it; the one wrought murder in hot passion, the other in heartless cold blood; the one lasted mere months; the other had lasted a thousand years; the one inflicted death upon ten thousand persons, the other upon a hundred millions, but our shudders are for the "horror" of the minor terror, the momentary Terror, so to speak, whereas, what is the horror of death by the axe, compared with lifelong death from hunger, cold, insult, cruelty and heartbreak? What is swift death by lightning compared with death by slow fire at the stake?

A city cemetery could contain the coffins filled by that Terror which we have all been so diligently taught to shiver at and mourn over; but all France could hardly contain the coffins filled by that older and awful Terror—which none of us has been taught to see in its vastness or pity as it deserves.

MARK TWAIN

The war lords of Germany lashed the German people into war against the barbarous Russians, and the British war lords lashed the British people into war against the barbarous Germans, and are now fighting to help the Russian bear hug more bleeding subjects to its horrible breast, and our little parsons yawn about this being a "holy war." No wonder the parsons and the church are not held in high esteem.

The Boy Scouts were not trained for war. O no. They were simply little Sunday school boys having a nice picnic in the open woods. Now a hundred thousand Boy Scouts are doing military duty in Britain. The British capitalists in their mad lust for wider markets are ready to rob the cradles of the working class.

The capitalist papers dissent on the horrors of war, then paint glowing pictures of the bravery of the poor fool soldiers who go and get killed and ecstatically chortle over the German markets the British and Canadian labor-skimmers are going to robble. When, O when will the working mutt awake?

The German capitalist system had to get wider markets or burst, and the British capitalist system had to get wider markets or burst. So the capitalists of both nations have flung the nations into war, in order to steal each other's markets.

"The kings are handy scargrows behind which roost in partial concealment the 'vultures of capitalism.' And that is the only reason they are permitted to exist."—New York Call.

Strikes of agricultural workers are taking place in Palestine. Shows capitalism has sunk its teeth pretty deep in the Holy Land.

C-M-C

You all know the famous Marxian formula of capitalist production, C-M-C. The capitalist has a commodity to sell. He exchanges the labor value contained in the commodity for the labor value contained in money. When he gets the money, he turns around and buys raw material and labor power to produce new commodities.

If he cannot turn the commodity into money, the whole process of circulation stops. Not selling goods, the capitalist does not employ wage labor. The laborer is sacked and goes looking for another job. He cannot find it unless there is a capitalist who wants to produce commodities which capitalists want to purchase with money.

This is simple as ABC. And it is the explanation of the hard times in Canada.

The workers have been hired by the master class to produce wines, expensive cigars, yachts, palaces, jeweled garments for poodle dogs and the like. There was a demand for these things. The capitalists were willing to pay money for these things. Therefore labor was employed to produce these commodities.

The capitalist class of the British Empire found themselves in such a position that they wanted to produce more of these commodities. Although they wanted wines, cigars, yachts, joy rides, etc., they wanted war.

So they interrupt the process of circulation along old lines in many ways, by withholding money from those lines of capitalist production. And they offer money for other lines of capitalist production.

The capitalists class are willing to buy horses for war, guns and ammunition for war, transportation for soldiers, ragged wounds in Germans, and scattered capitals of Germany.

The inevitable happens. The capitalists whose commodities no longer find money forthcoming for them close their shops. The workers are sacked. They go hunt jobs.

Those jobs are waiting round the corner for them. Jobs to make guns, to make boots for soldiers, to raise grain to feed soldiers, to be soldiers and to get killed.

We are in the period of readjustment of capitalist production. The worker is a slave and must obey his masters. If they do not want him to work at one job, they make him take another. The tens of thousands of wage slaves flung out of work in Canada today show this. They will have to take war jobs or starve.

The capitalist class rule. Whether you want to or not necessity will drive you to work for wages and your work will be to feed your fellow workers whom the capitalists are sending to the international shambles in Belgium and France.

A Gunman Defence Fund

Colorado is still a storm centre of oppression. Twenty-two officials of the striking miners have been arrested on various charges. The militiamen guilty of the Ludlow atrocities have been tried and acquitted by a spit-kettle court martial.

The federal troops are to be withdrawn and the Colorado militia are to be put in charge again. The ranks of the militia are being filled with capitalist plug-ulies.

Eugene V. Debs is advocating earnestly that the miners start a gunman defence fund to use the money to purchase rifles and ammunition for defence against the plug-ulies.

The class war in the U.S. is taking on the form of armed civil war.

THE HOLOCAUST

By Sidney Merton.

Gods of war, tie battle wages, revel in the cannons' boom.

Smear again historic pages with the blood that brings you doom.

Satiate your lustful cravings in the sanguine Deal destruction, death and famine, long ye've waited for the day?

Heed ye not the cries of children, blind your sight to women's tears.

Pillage, ravage, foul and plunder, and to mercy close your ears.

Dye the sea a vivid crimson, paint the earth and black the sun.

Breed all pestilence and horror, feed with flame your belching gun.

Sabre, slash the peaceful peasant, heed ye not their dying groans.

Sack and burn the humble homesteads, mark your boundaries with bones.

See ye off the mangled bodies, that the ear-lands of the world are fed.

Let your stepping stones to glory, be but mounds of honored dead.

Thou accursed and bestial being, drink of blood and take thy fill.

Silence thoughts of love or pity, every heart with terror chill.

Honor not the virtuous maiden, feed your carnal appetite.

Create ruin, devastation, in the Dance of Death delight.

Fiends incarnate—Hounds of Horror—steep in sin thy morbid brain—

Cruel, callous, hellish wretches, brand your brows with marks of Cain!

But remember! When 'tis over, you shall count upon the cost.

When your own life's breath is fleeing—when your own damned soul is lost!

The great war rod lies resting on his pier.

And on his breast is placed the emblems of war's glory.

His sword now sheathed; and on some consecrated tier

Shall be inscribed his noble (?) story.

Leave ye the judgment of his soul to Him above.

And grant that we in future may live in love.

Friend and foe forevermore, in conscious pride

Walking the earth in concord side by side!

When you read of the "glorious deeds" of the rival armies—don't ever forget to think of the awful sorrow and heartbreak of the thousands upon thousands of grieving mothers.—Charles Uffert.

A Boom Coming

A boom in industry is coming. The workers will have all the work they want. They will have their belly full of it. The reason is simple.

In times of peace workers produce and get a bare living wage. All the rest they produce goes to the master class. The workers produce so much surplus wealth that the capitalists are choked with the quantity of it.

The master class look only to their own welfare. When they are choked with goods the workers have produced and kindly given them, they say there is over production, and order the mills closed. The workers then work hungry in the midst of plenty and seek work which is denied them because they have produced so much.

Because they have produced so much is why they have hard times.

Now the capitalist class have a new desire. The British, French and Russian capitalists want to live like the German capitalists and hog the world markets.

So they wave the capitalist flag, get the poor fool workers singing patriotic songs and send them to the battle line to get out—up and shot up in various inglorious, undignified and disgusting ways.

To provide ammunition, horses, food, clothing, war supplies of all kinds take a tremendous amount of labor power.

So the master class, instead of having the workers surfeit them with wealth the masters cannot consume, will set the workers providing and renewing the equipment of the war lines, and feeding the workers on the butcher lines.

That will produce "good times." The workers will have all the work they want. Business will boom.

This simply means that instead of the workers being flung out of work by producing too much, the armies will consume the surplus and the fool workers can keep right on working like fury for a bare living wage.

The Socialist remedy is for the workers to own the machinery of production and distribution. Then the workers themselves could consume the wealth they produce and live in luxury on little labor.

The workers do not want this remedy applied. The capitalist thieves who rob the workers tell the workers that Socialism is bad medicine, and the workers believe the plundering masters.

The Racial Guff

We have had the explanation flung at us that the war is a racial one between Teuton and Slav. It has been said that the war is due to the need of racial expansion on the part of the Germanic and the Russian peoples.

This is nonsense. If races have to fight, why do not the Scotch and English fight each other? Why not the English and Spanish Americans fight each other? Why do not the French and English fight in Canada? Why do the three races in Switzerland live in harmony?

Races do not go to war. Races never went to war. Races have been at war since war founded upon economic causes, and the war today is economic. The fact that the races are different is merely accidental. We have had many civil wars in the world's history. Wars are based on economic causes. Remove the economic irritation and wars would cease.

Socialism will introduce world peace, not because of its brotherhood idea, but because of its scientific analysis of society. Laying bare the class nature of present past societies, and showing the way to build a classless society where industrial friction would be over, and the struggle for markets would cease.

The Montreal Evening News of August 31st publishes an editorial praising the benefactions of rich men and draws the conclusion that riches concentrated in few hands is a glorious thing because these rich can then distribute millions for hospitals, etc. Buncom.

The Spanish ships of the Elizabethan age were manned by nobles and cringing peasants who often revolted in sheer terror and had to be forced to fight by the nobles. The British ships were manned by daredevil sailors. And the free spirit British cleaned the seas of the noble-ridden Spanish ships. It would be better for Canada to have no labor skinner rich and to have a free spirited unshackled people.

The Socialist daily Vorwaerts, published in Berlin, Germany, protests against the German brutality in Belgium. German troops kill hundreds of non-combatants and burn Belgian cities when Belgian men not in uniform are taken by the German troops. Vorwaerts points out that the German law tells the Landstrum, or levy en masse, to shoot at the invaders of Germany and never mind whether the Landstrum soldiers are in uniform or not. Thus German law orders Germans to do what the Belgians are doing.

When the unemployed besought help from Woodrow Wilson last winter in the U.S., he told them to be cheerful, as summer and warm weather was coming. When the problem of unemployed is thrust before the nose of Crothers, Canadian Minister of Labor, he tells them to be cheerful and lighthearted for the war will bring high prices and much work. This is the way the political puppets of the master class treat the workers, and the workers stand for it.

British papers are trying to rouse the indignation of British people against the Germans because of the barbarities of war committed by the Germans. And no doubt the German papers are trying to lash the German people into fury over the barbarities committed by French, British and Russian soldiers.

Press despatches declare that Winnipeg authorities are suppressing American papers in the city which publish war news not allowed by the British censor. Evidently the Canadian people are little boys and girls who must not know nasty things that grownup Americans know.

Twenty thousand attended the anti-war demonstration in Brussels before the war. The Socialists are still active, and at the first opportunity will stop the war.

Socialism Cause of War

One of the causes of the war was the spread of the Socialist movement. Austria, Germany and France have a combined Socialist vote of 6,700,000, and each year showed the Socialists stronger than ever.

In Great Britain a huge strike was to have been called off for shorter hours and more pay.

The workers were so tremendously productive that the masters hardly knew how to consume the product. The remedy lay at hand. Start a war, let the slaves the masters knew not how to use kill each other, let them destroy whole cities and lay waste tremendous areas, and when the war is over, let the slaves who remain be set to work building up what was destroyed.

The slaves have flung themselves into the fight, but the end is not yet. The slaves who remain are liable to revolt. Even now the Socialists in the armies are spreading the gospel of brotherhood and the needlessness of war.

RIPE FOR SOCIALISM

Denis H. Fisher, Renfrew, Ont.

"Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad." The moloch of war has set his broad across the firmament of Europe. The breeze of patriotism—"the last refuge of scoundrels"—has fanned the flame, and the congregation has engulfed the abiding place of twentieth century Christian (?) civilization.

Is this the beginning of the end? The doctrine of peace bequeathed to humanity by the humble Nazarene after 2000 years has apparently gone for naught. Nay, were the principles he laid down ever followed or adhered to? We examine the ages past and gone, and history, without tremor, says, "No."

Right along down the line we find that violence upon violence has been the order of the ages. Racial wars, religious wars, and in latter years economic wars. We Christians of the latter day made a strong bid to eliminate the savage in the breast of man. We established a Hague tribunal. We made one whose material benefit was largely missed by the intricacies of the war game. Besides being an exhaust for the disposal of surplus wealth which was well nigh choking quite a number of them, it fostered a kind of sentimentalism amongst a godly portion of the gullible class, religiously inclined, who thought that, with Carnegie, and a few more blatant parasites to the fore, "All's well along the Potomac." Beyond this our wealthy empire appointed by God to direct the wealth of the universe in channels where their inferior brothers without brains might have an occasional dip at the hog-trough, they have accomplished nothing. The horrors of war are now upon us. Let us see, who are the principals that with mighty arm, and gorilla ferocity would precipitate civilization to the verge of destruction? If report speak true (vide Upton Sinclair) "Austria with a doddering imbecile for a visible head. Russia with a weak-minded melancholic czar, and (hats off) the German emperor, an epileptic degenerate, drunk upon the vision of himself as the war lord of Europe." These three have the honor of starting the embroglio which has engulfed Europe.

To be sure, they had to have a pretext for hostilities. They claim Serbia instigated the murder of the heir apparent to the Austrian throne. Some of us may remember that the United States accused Spain of destroying the Maine. We may also recollect that Huerta refused to salute the Stars and Stripes down in Mexico. Armed with the pretext cohorts are mustered, the trumpets blare, they march away. The war is on, hell is let loose, and hundreds of thousands of noble fellow-workers of other nations will sacrifice their young lives upon the strength of as flimsy excuse for unholy carnage as ever emanated from the brain of man.

The real cause of this war, the worst in the annals of the world's history, are purely economic. With further aggrandizement of wealth for any one nation Socialism has nothing whatever to do. Socialists thinkers see through all the war the tremendous blow capitalism has ever directed against the movement that would banish all wars and establish the brotherhood of man upon the earth where our common mother, Nature, from her generous bosom, could nurture double or triple the world's inhabitants.

On every hand—in all nations—we have lately seen the forces that work for revolution—grim poverty, unemployment, men with wives and families—even in our own much-heralded Canada—willing to work but denied the right by a paltry bunch of bloodsuckers and retail it to us in quarts and pints.

The world in all its entirety was and is ripe for the message of Socialism. Gaze where you will, exploitation leers at you, and through it all, you see the gaunt faces of the toilers weary, yet radiant with the hope that the dawn is near whose sun will herald the bursting asunder of the chains that have bound them and their ancestors for so many countless ages. Daily, hundreds were coming to see the light that promised so much for their children and posterity. In Germany 4,000,000 were after the hide and tallow of by-rational plutocracy. They lost a prop in the death of August Bebel—but ideas never die. They belong to the "Law of substance" of Ex-sartre-Hauekel.

In France the master class assassinated Jean Jaures, one of the leading lights of Socialism. They may go on killing either privately or on the field of legalized butchery; but I repeat, ideas will never die.

Capitalism was in one of the tightest corners yet. The dollar god pulled the strings, and their worthy "kinkships" had to jig to the music. It was either Socialism or another temporary period for the rule of gold. War has been the last step of capitalism to the top deck of the sinking craft of "commercialism," and thus it will have another brief breathing spell.

Wars, rumors of wars, and all other sundry violence might have worked a few years ago, but enlightenment has come to the people through education. The time is coming soon when we will take the sceptre of oppression and cast it from us into the same limbo where lies the divine right of "kings."