

Western Clarion

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EDITORIAL

THE GERMAN REVOLUTION.

ONCE more the governments of the world are called upon to view with concern the spirit of the twentieth century; and once again the working-class of Germany hold the centre of the world stage.

As usual we must withhold judgment, the information at our command comes through an extremely unreliable source, the Great Lying Press. The facts which we can rely on are significant enough.

A group of German monarchists attempted to seize the powers of state by force. The German Government fled from Berlin. The working-class came forward and overwhelmed the Monarchists.

Eberts and Noske, the strong men of Germany, called upon the workers to strike. The General Strike which had been treason a few weeks back, now became a patriotic duty. Not only in Germany; our press noted the fact without the usual frantic hysteria with which it has been customary to treat that weapon.

Having prevented the counter-revolution of Monarchy, it remained for the workers to return to the task assigned to them by patriotic blood-suckers everywhere, slaving for a worthless and cowardly horde of owners. But the working-class have received many practical lessons since August, 1914, head and front of which is the knowledge that governments exist by its sufferance alone. The workers have but to say as a class that master-class domination shall cease, and lo! it is so.

This was so in Russia and Hungary. Russia made its say-so good against a world in arms. Hungary was overwhelmed by foreign bayonets in the hands of foreign workingmen.

November, 1917, saw a revolution in Germany which sent the Kaiser and his gang to other lands. We awaited the outcome with expectancy. But we suffered disappointment. Davids, Scheideman, Eberts, all Social Democrats, headed the government. Liebknecht, Luxemburg, Eichhorn, were forced into armed insurrection by January, 1918, through the actions of these self-styled Socialists.

Bavaria established a Communist State, and declared for the Dictatorship of the proletariat. Berlin was the scene of many a bloody struggle over possession of parliamentary and newspaper buildings. The uprisings were crushed, and as usual the vilest and most cowardly murders perpetrated upon the leaders. Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg were beaten to death by a group of army officers of the old regime. Gustav Landauer, at Munich, met a similar fate, and while dying, had his heart shot out by an officer who bet he could do it. This incident was regaled by the Great Lying Press, as an act of atrocity committed by the Communists.

The Bavarian revolt was crushed by Prussians. Now, however, barely twelve months gone, sees press reports everywhere that Prussian workingmen have seized control. It is with satisfaction that we note a new strategy. Instead of capturing law factories and newspapers they have captured arsenals and munition plants.

We would wish mankind to solve his troubles by the aid of that Godlike reason he prates so much of. We also wish earthquakes, pestilence and famine were as fabulous as the Phoenix or Adam's breeches, but alas, we did not make the world, and "The first morning of Creation wrote what the last Day of Reckoning shall read." We did not make

the world, but we might mend it. Mending calls for knowledge and skill. To mend a pair of shoes or a tin can calls for knowledge and skill, gained by observation and practice. Such jobs are completed every time the clock ticks, yet how many million persons would bungle the job did they try their 'prentice thands thereon?

So much more difficult the mending of worlds, observation and practice; not at once comes the knowledge, however swift springs the revolutionary desire, the spirit of revolt. While doubt struggles with hope, and reaction seems prevailing, we recall the words of Marx—"Proletarian revolutions . . . such as those of the nineteenth century criticize themselves constantly; constantly interrupt themselves in their own course; come back to what seems to have been accomplished, in order to start anew; scorn with cruel thoroughness the half measures, weaknesses and meannesses of their first attempts, seem to throw down their adversary only in order to enable him to draw fresh strength from the earth and again to rise against them in more gigantic stature; constantly recoil in fear before the undefined monster magnitude of their own objects—until finally that situation is created which renders all retreat impossible and the conditions themselves cry out 'Here is Rhodus, leap here.'"

When that culmination arrived in Russia, Russian wage-slaves leaped "from the kingdom of necessity to the kingdom of freedom," and Russia has never been singular in anything.

So what irony of fate would it be if future generations of free men celebrate the Paris Commune and the German Revolution, on the 18th of March.

J. H.

WINNIPEG.

THE verdict at Winnipeg comes as no surprise to us, and we think, from their experience of law courts it has not surprised the convicted men themselves. In the case of R. B. Russell, now serving a term of two years' imprisonment in the penitentiary, the manifest absurdity of the verdict on the charges shocked the workers of Canada into a realization of the isolated and apparently unreasonable position the law occupies in relation to the everyday life of the practical workman. Lengthy columns of argument on points of law appearing daily and weekly and monthly in the press, and voluminous quotations from legal authorities governing the active life of men to-day, have made wearisome reading.

But undoubtedly the importance of legal technicalities exists (if in a measure greater only than the measure of their human interest), for by the result of the legal argument as we now have it, our friends and comrades in Winnipeg are declared guilty of seditious conspiracy under six different counts, with intent and under common design.

It has sometimes happened that a case at law under prosecution by the crown has been decided upon a convenient Act, ancient enough to have been forgotten by plain, everyday honest men. And it would appear by these findings that the vast body of Canadian workmen have not once, but often, broken the law as it affects them and their organizations. This applies not alone to the One Big Union form of organization, but to unions and union men of the A. F. of L. persuasion also.

The significance of this prosecution lies in its initiation practically at the birth, in Canada, of the O. B. U. While it is not our function to proclaim the superiority of one form of industrial organization over another, if any exists, it is plainly evident that the O. B. U., rightly or wrongly has won, or at least incurred the enmity of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, together with all its adherent and relative bodies, if not of the Canadian Government itself. The sustained effort of the Crown to lay the Winnipeg strike at the O. B. U. door is evidence enough of the light in which it is regarded.

We, ourselves, have suffered a compliment at the hands of Mr. Metcalf, in having the *Manifesto* of the Socialist Party of Canada quoted (page 40), and we take no offence thereat—and we have no defence to offer.

But we cannot refrain from commenting upon the appalling ignorance, not alone of industrial and political history, but of the present common everyday affairs of labor manifested by the mouthpieces, all

and sundry, of the government itself.

The acts of man are neither arbitrary nor are the laws he makes the everlasting outcome of his capricious will and pleasure. They are born of stern necessity arising from perpetual change in material conditions which determine his wants and by which his method of supplying these wants is ultimately governed. And the readjustment of the rules and regulations of his own making to suit his needs arising from the changing conditions surrounding him, is regulated by man's understanding of himself and his own history.

The attention of the worker in Canada will now be rivetted upon the institution of the State and the laws it operates in its maintenance: its legal representatives are sound instructors. The Winnipeg trial marks the most momentous period in the history of Canadian labor. At the moment of writing, sentence has not been pronounced, but whatever the immediate outcome may be, no prison bars can silence the voice of the intelligent worker of today:

"Stone walls do not a prison make:
"Nor iron bars a cage."

OUR JAPANESE LETTER.

Mr. Editor:—I am very extensively with tickling sensations which make to me laugh widely when I read the news in "The World" all about the menace.

I come long time years ago with my friends from Japan, and we work very thoroughly in jobs for small money, because when we come first we think it very large money. We read what good people Japanese to work in fields, orchards, and how nice it is for fruit and vegetables farmers to have us because white workers not understand properly how to work like Japanese.

We feel very congratulate to ourselves and think how kind we are to help production about which we read most wanting in this country, then we read about how it is good business to save money. I read many times one word "Thrift," and this I find out is to save money and not be lazy with moments, so I say these kind people who make noise in newspapers are good advice giving so we do as they tell us.

Bye and bye we have plenty to buy piece of land so that we make productively and not lose our time and also make application "Thrift" business.

Then war comes and many Japanese go away to fight and we read many nice words in newspapers about brown men good sports, our allies and lots of other speeches.

Now what is the matter—we work hard for nother man, we thrift for ourselves—we buy property—we grow more production—when we work for nother man we all right—when we go to fight to for save world for democracy fine people us everyone.

If Japanese man menace when he not work for nother man why he menace when he work for himself—why did newspapers tell many lies before—I know.

When workingman make profit for somebody else he splendid fellow—when he shoot, kill a man he never see he great patriot until he come back from fight. When he thinks his thoughts for himself and tell his friends you are fool so am I—if we are good when we make profit for other fellow and no good because making things for ourselves to use then we are gulled like the black crow who gave away the cheese to the fox because he told him he was singer.

All workingmens are just one big fool family. He gets flattery in his head till he cannot see where he is going, then pretty soon if make roar he get flattened in his belly when boss gang fire him.

This beautiful story happen in all countries.

Please you me excuse I not make correctly English but I read him better.

Yours very truly,

ANO HITO.

Clarion Maintenance Fund

Bob Walker, \$5; Jno. Pollock, \$1.50; Wm. Morrison, 85c; per H. Robertson, \$2; Jas. Mitchell, \$2; F. V. Smith, \$1.50. One dollar each—K. Johnson, A. Taylor, R. Tromans, T. B. Miles, Charlie Harris, J. L. Total, \$18.85. Inclusive of 12th to 28th March, 1920.