

Peace

THAT wondrous vagary of capitalist expediency—the now notorious Peace Treaty—has been “ratified” by all the principal nations except America. And whether America ratifies it or not, with or without reservations, the result will be practically identical, since America cannot hold herself isolated from capitalist processes. American capitalist activities, like contemporary nations, will be determined by American capitalist interests. It would appear probable, therefore, that we shall soon be walking, in what the inspired Victoria “Colonist” in its abundant delusion, calls the pleasant paths of peace.” Alas! poor Yorick.

Just as the “great war” invaded all social departments, and occupied all social activities, so will the “great peace” inaugurate methods of adjustment, and conditions of life, reflecting the new vantage point of society. Thrust up from the depths of its unhalting development has come a new condition, a fresh thought, measurable not in terms of imperial ambition, but by the gauge of omnipotent social necessity. What the immediate future holds in store, is yet obscure, but there is no question that it will be increasingly inimical to capitalist society.

The burdens of capitalist society, incurred for its maintenance and progress, are patiently throttling capitalist activity. To develop and maintain itself, capitalist society must further burden its staggering necessity. To do this it must have room for expansion. But the capitalization of all countries, the bonding of future labor and resource, the potency of high power machine production prevents this expansion, because it prevents the very thing that capital exists to accomplish,—the further accumulation of capital. Huge debts, adverse exchanges, high costs, of themselves, are of no importance. They are but resultants of the main cause. All the machinery and paraphernalia of production and exchange are sufficient to their purpose, provided a market can be found. Unlimited credit (or debt) is no hindrance—indeed it is the basis of capitalist intercourse—if expansion also is unlimited. But the moment resources can no longer be clothed with the quality of capital, expansion ceases. Therefore is the market the prime necessity. Failure to find that, means the failure of capitalist production, the collapse of capital itself. In all countries, now, there are revolts, and insurrections, wars and rumors of wars, strikes and disorders, threats and mutterings of the volcanic forces of bonded society, pressing on to a new freedom of social organization. They are witness of the failure of the master class to find a market for its exploitation; the culmination of all slave societies.

But the capitalist conferees battled valiantly according to their lights for their system of “freedom” — to exploit. But the economic dice was against them; the ruin they thought to impose on their rivals boomeranged on themselves. The bluff of their petty subterfuges was called by social necessity; their vaunted idealism scattered to the four winds; their “acid tests of goodwill” violated at every point and turn. The triumph of Soviet Russia, the subjection (economic) of the German Empire, was ruin and disaster for France and Britain, the cause of dissension with America, while the territorial bayonetting of imperialism shattered completely what hope remained for capitalist unity of aggression and temporary success. Blundering on the fundamental of the market, they blundered on the fundamental of slave control, and so doing countered the irresistible economic of social movement. Not because their councils were of guile and deceit, or their motives ignoble did they fail, but because their expediences were not of social necessity.

The armistice was concluded—with the implication potential in actual peace—on the basis of that travesty of democracy, the fourteen points. There were to be no annexations, no indemnities. There were to be self-determination of peoples, the rights of domestic control, and social cooperation for the

common good. And territory has been bartered and mandated for purposes of commercial aggrandisement, indemnities imposed that have ruined nations. Peoples have been shuffled hither and thither, like pawns on a chess board; wars engineered for the overthrow of foreign governments subversive of allied interests; and the “common good” has been bludgeoned and blockaded into famine, disease, suffering and death unspeakable. The most impassioned scorn is inadequate to express its despicable meanness, its callous hypocrisy its inept vision, its unparalleled savagery. Truly is the Peace Treaty: a fitting monument to capital in extremis.

But while capitalist conferences may declare peace, no conference can enact it. Political society is slave society, and slavery and peace cannot exist together. So long as one class shall dominate another, so long shall strife continue, so long shall be the insanity of war, the waste of “peace,” the duress of social misery and degradation. Class domination means class exploitation; means poverty, ignorance, infamy to the subjected: wealth and all wealth connotes to the rulers: means commerce, profits, markets, wars.

All those minor atrocities can be abolished only with the abolition or collapse of their parent atrocity — political society. With social organization resting on economic freedom, then only can peace be, and its treaty inviolate. R.

The Battle of Life

THE world still moves around in a vicious circle. The clouds gather and the heavens darken, the storm breaks and precipitates, deluging the earth with murder, famine, and disease. Biscuits are still being fed to the puppets that bid fair to serve the roaring lion that seeks whom it may devour.

The home of the standard of Liberty and Freedom snatches the bloody thread of Churchill to lengthen and brighten the line with the lives of men and women struggling for conditions that will make Liberty and Freedom possible.

United States of America are reported to have en route for Danzig military equipment for 200,000 men, 80 locomotives, 4,500 cars for troops transport, 5,000,000 pounds of margarine, and 100,000 tons of flour, besides a considerable amount of grain and other materials. The “Labor Leader” of March the 18th still further comments on the delay of aid to Poland; protracted restoration as urged by Mr. Hoover would end in financial ruin.

Poland is a finger of the lash in the hands of the modern patricians that are bursting with indignation at the idea of proletarians having the audacity to establish a system of production for use instead of for profit.

The tyranny and abuses of the Roman Owl still hovers and lurks among the bushes of Christian civilization. Paganism saw the flower of youth strangled and bled, despised and tortured, gaol and burned because they sought to free themselves from a hopeless servitude. Cruel and unbearable were the conditions under which men must work and live, crushed under the yoke of a powerful hierarchy 200,000 slaves rose in revolt against their masters. Eunus, Drimakos and Spartacus were leaders of three slave revolts that shook the Roman world to its very foundation. The ruling class of the old Pagan world were horrified and insulted at the impudence of slaves striking for freedom. When the revolutionary armies were crushed and thousands of the slaves made captives a lesson must be taught to prevent any future uprising. 7,000 of the bodies of men branded by the taint of labor dangled upon the Roman Cross that decorated the Appian Valley. Roman aristocrats mounted their chariots and rode daily through this valley to witness the decomposition of the bodies of slaves that had the nerve to attack the privileged class. A Patrician bribe resulted in the betrayal of Drimakos by a jealous rival of his own army. Drimakos was tried before a patrician judge and condemned as a traitor. He was cast into a

dungeon and devoured by lice; thus ended the life of a thinking member of the working class.

The Roman highway of Paganism is still travelled by the divine, the noble, and the intelligent worker.

Central Europe is bathed in the blood of those striving to wrench themselves from the bonds of servitude. Poland the puppet, bribed by modern financiers with a morsel to keep guard and bark occasionally, might prevent the fire of Bolshevism from spreading to other little puppets that the capitalist refused to feed any longer. The “leg” of Nations has been pulled and stretched a little bit too long for the pants they have to wear, showing promiscuously the ugly foot that tramples on self-determination of small nations. Armenia may be a wall built to blind the masses to the east, but the live wire between European Bolshevism and Capitalism is Poland.

Roumania has been the patrician club cunningly used to batter the life out of the Austrian Socialists. The Allied plot to crucify the forces erecting a new social system has decorated the modern capitalist class with shame not one degree behind the slave persecutors of the old Pagan world.

The demand of France and Britain for German military officials for trial is no doubt a subtle effort to restore the monarchy when birds of a feather will flock together and restore order in Russia.

“The best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft agley.”

The economic world has been moulded into a new pattern, and according to Mr. Hoover and the chief of the Liverpool corn exchange, there is in the world only one per cent. less of wool and wheat than the average for the five years previous to 1919. The European unemployed army is recorded to be 17,000,000. Wheat surplus is said to be 20,000,000 quarters over and above the world's requirements. Yet we have famine, disease, and death for the workers, with gaol, deportation and in many cases murder for those having the audacity to inform the workers they must unite to break the chains that bind them.

GEO. PATON.

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