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THE SHANTUNG GRAB.

In acquiring Shantung Japan has evidently put one over on the Peace Conference. In order to hold Japan in line it was necessary to allow her mastery over China. During the war Japan has seized provinces in China, and with true brigand spirit, insists upon retaining possession of them.

China's wishes in the matter were ignored. And why not? China is powerless and has been a doormat for the Great Powers for many years. Those who are weak receive little consideration at the hands of the strong. Might is Right throughout the universe. Only the fit survive. In spite of the lofty ideals which are supposed to actuate the Great Democracies, China is turned over to satisfy the imperialistic ambitions of the Niponese capitalists. As a protest against this rape, China has refused to sign the Peace Treaty—but that means nothing. Protests are worthless unless they are backed up by power, and China is powerless.

The Shantung steal is such a barefaced outrage that Wilson has been forced to excuse it on the grounds of "expediency."

THEY WISH IT WERE TRUE.

The wish being father to the thought, hireling editors of the capitalist press are telling of the tottering condition of the Hungarian Soviet Government. There were many such tales in the early days of the Russian Soviet, and these reports bear a striking resemblance; not only in the tales that are told, but also in the fact that they are universally untrue.

Unquestionably, the Hungarian Soviets are having a hard struggle to maintain their power, but it is also true that each day they grow stronger. Just now they are having trouble with the Jugo-Slavs and Roumanians. If they succeed in disposing of these enemies before Fall the future of the Soviet in Hungary is assured.

The fact that very little is being said in the capitalist papers about the bolshevik offensive would indicate that all must be well with the Red Army.

The possibility of Allied intervention seems to be small. With the organized workers planning general strikes to prevent Allied invasion of Hungary and Russia, the capitalist class will think twice before starting a campaign of intervention. Such an invasion is liable to precipitate a revolution in their own countries and the capitalists hesitate to run such a risk. They are pinning their hopes on backing some counter-revolutionary leader in an effort to overthrow the Hungarian Soviet. So far no reactionary leader of any prominence has appeared, and the workers grow stronger day by day.

BEWARE GREEKS BEARING GIFTS!

The country is experiencing an upheaval of reconstruction. There are numerous strikes in various sections of the country and the so-called labor leaders are at their wits end trying to serve their masters by keeping the workers on the job. The capitalists, as well as all other forces of reaction, are bewildered in their frantic efforts to cope with the situation.

Many causes contribute to this general unrest. The most important is the decrease of wages—real wages—that has been going on for some time past. The depreciating value of the dollar has shrunk the wages of the worker faster than he could boost them by strikes and other means. With the slackening of

industry, following the closing of the war markets, there has been an added effort on the part of employers of labor to reduce wages. In this they have had some measure of success and the workers are fighting back with every means in their power.

The restraint upon strikes imposed by the government during the war no longer binds the workers and they are availing themselves of the opportunity to regain lost ground. The examples set by their European comrades have made them more bold in their demands; these examples have also served as a warning to the capitalists.

Many concessions are being offered the worker if he will but consent to have his Samson locks shorn and not become too radical. The bosses have learned that it is expedient to give the workers some concessions to keep them off their trail.

The most common "concession" that is being offered to the slaves is the "democratizing of industry." The worker is to have a share in the responsibility and the profits. It will be noted that these bosses unions which are to be organized not touch upon the fundamental question of the abolition of the profit system. The profits of the capitalist are to be guaranteed. His right to them is not to be questioned. His sacred per cent is not to be abolished. Thus the cause of the troubles of the working class is to remain. It makes no difference whether the workers participate in the management of industry or not—the profit system of production will continue to breed wars and panics.

That the capitalists consider the present situation serious is evidenced by the fact that their intellectual hirelings of the press are counseling them to keep cool and not to antagonize the workers.

The interests of the workers are directly opposed to those of the capitalists, and when such great exploiters of labor as the International Harvester Corporation offer to "democratize" their factories it behooves the workers to be cautious. The "democratizing" of industry is nothing more or less than a palliative. It will, perhaps, stave off the day of the total collapse of the profit system and keep the capitalists in the saddle a while longer.

It is openly stated in many leading papers that the only way the "better classes" can hope to retain their present position is by making concessions to the workers.

We are reminded of the siege of Troy and the story of the wooden horse which gave rise to the axiom: **Beware Greeks bearing gifts!**

THE BAND OF NATIONS.

Mankind has long dreamed of a league of nations; to link together into one vast confederation the peoples of the earth has been the vision of the philosopher and the idealist. Down through the ages poets sang and dreamers dreamed of the Parliament of Man. All efforts toward this end have failed—including the attempt made by the peace delegates at Paris. They failed, as did others before them, because of the conflict of interests inherent in class societies.

When Woodrow Wilson sailed for Europe he was looked upon by the unthinking as the saviour of suffering humanity. He bore upon his shoulders a great trust. His was the task of liberating the peoples from the yoke of Mars. The Fourteen Points, the formula by which freedom was to be forged, were to be beacon lights to a just and democratic peace. Fired with the ideals of a medieval crusader he set forth, only to find the wooden sword of democracy impotent against the armor of capitalistic imperialism.

The maze of conflicting interests presented at the peace table could not be solved by a mere democratic formula. Bourgeois brains and ingenuity were not equal to the task. The division of the spoils of war could not be accomplished in accord with the Fourteen Points. Too many appetites must be satisfied; too many ambitions conflicted with one another. France must be protected, Italy and Japan demanded their pound of flesh, England must have her lion's share, and the interests of the United States must be looked after.

Over all lay the shadow of Bolshevism—the menace of the awakening proletariat. The great problem was to divide the spoils to suit the taste of the conquerors and to protect them against the threatening storm of working class revolution. Something must be offered the people which would resemble the ideals for which they had fought. So the Robber Band serenely wrapped itself in the cloak of a League of Nations and dictated a brigands peace. Capitalists expect this alliance to