

individuals suspected of being in the employ of the German government while the war was on no longer exists. In fact, the war-time laws, such as the espionage act, etc., were never invoked against German spies, as not one of them has ever been convicted. Such laws were used almost exclusively against representatives of the class conscious workers of the country. The excuse for such prosecutions was that agitation carried on against capitalism had a tendency to interfere with the military and naval operations of the United States government; but that excuse no longer exists. That fact, however, does not seem to concern these valiant champions of democracy, for they seem to be devoting more energy than ever to the persecution of people who hold other political views than theirs.

For a time it was thought such tactics were merely the result of the desire on the part of certain individuals connected with the department of (in) justice to hold their jobs, but the persistence with which these persecutions are conducted convinces us that it is a part of the present day policy of the democratic administration.

Any government that encourages such despotic acts cannot long continue to exist and every time an individual prominent in the proletarian movement is victimized by the official thugs and gunmen of the government an ever larger number of intelligent people lose respect for that government and its institutions.

INDUSTRY AND THE SOVIET

We have received so much news from the capitalist press about the chaotic conditions existing in the Russian industry that one is led to believe that the streets are thronged with the armies of the unemployed. Nothing could be further from the fact. News which is now coming from Russia shows that the stories that have been told of the closed factories have been malicious propaganda against the workers' government.

The fact of the matter is that the industries under the domination of the workers organized Soviets is thriving and production is being carried on at a remarkable pace when one considers the difficulties under which the Russian workers are laboring. In spite of the blockade which is maintained by the Allies, they are developing their industries and if it were not for the energy consumed in fighting the reactionaries they would be in fine shape. A Soviet chemical engineer says: "You Americans can give us cotton and dyes, and many other things, but give us peace and we will show you how our industries can produce."

The textile industries are a fair gauge of Russian industry. In the month of February, a month in which fuel is difficult to obtain, the textile industries of Petrograd produced 3,750,000 arshins of goods (an arshin is about three-fourths of a yard.) The idleness that exists in the textile industries is due to their being cut off from the cotton supply of Turkestan by the Cossacks. Although Turkestan is under the control of the Soviet, transportation is cut off and cotton cannot be obtained.

Unemployment is not as pressing a problem in Russia as in some of the Allied countries. Many of the workers have been absorbed by the Red Army and agricultural work on the farms. Just as in the United States during the war skilled mechanics are in great demand. On May 19 a list was posted in Moscow asking for 3,000 skilled mechanics, 1,600 trained railroad workers and 150 higher technical experts. In March the demand for workers exceeded the supply. The Moscow bureau received demands for 28,713 men, exceeding the supply by 11,000. On April 1 there were only 7,323 unemployed

registered with the Moscow bureau, of which 2,122 were men. It is of interest to note that over 50 per cent of the unemployed were former employees of mercantile establishments, showing that the trader is being eliminated in Russia. The middleman is going.

Persons out of work in Russia and in need are pensioned by the government. From April 1, 1918, to April 1, 1919, Moscow aided 37,663 persons. Workingmen who reach the age of 60 and have lost 60 per cent of their productive ability are pensioned by the government.

In the face of these facts, what becomes of all of the malicious lies about the Soviet failure to operate industry?

COMMUNIQUE

Now is the time for the churches to emphasize the idea that they who have the harshest times here on earth will have the softest seats in their Master's heaven, and thus do much to lessen the resentment against the increasing cost of living.

"Actors call first strike in history," according to a newspaper headline. Strange that it should take so long for the actors to learn to act!

That trick of "jamming down the high cost of living" didn't fool the railway workers. They figure a raise of pay in the hand is worth a whole lot of hot air in the papers.

"The Negroes were conscripted to 'make the world safe for democracy,' and yet America is not 'safe for the Negro.'" —The Messenger.

"Nothing is so obvious to any student of social forces," says a Negro writer, "as that the loyalty of the oppressed to the oppressor does not result in securing liberty for the oppressed."

A Texas subscriber remarks that a certain Mr. Wilson is the guy who put the mock in democracy.

Henry Ford won his case against the Chicago Tribune and was awarded six cents damages. It is now established that Ford is not an anarchist, but the fact that he is an "ignorant idealist" has been firmly established.

From a news item we learn that 191 men were killed in Michigan last year while operating Ford tractors. Henry, he ain't no anarchist. Anarchists have a habit of killing people by throwing bombs, but Ford sells 'em a tractor and let's them do their own killing.

"Congress cheers member who demands intervention to 'make Mexico stable.'" That is doing pretty well, but cannot be compared with the Professor's slogan, "make the world safe for democracy." People are not inclined to be aroused by such an unidealistic war cry.

When we go to war with Mexico we wonder if those who oppose American imperialism will be branded as "pro-Mexicans."

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capable of any action that will in the slightest degree threaten the supremacy of the capitalist class. So far from desiring to drive an entering wedge into any institution of capitalism as a preliminary to "sovietizing" the entire system is the revolutionist that he positively refuses to be a party to any sort of a combination brought together to ameliorate the condition of the wage slave under capitalism. As Antonio Labriola says: "To demand of this society that it shall change its laws which constitutes its defense is to demand an absurdity." Equally absurd is the naive proposition to secure representation of labor on a board of management while the capitalist class controls the state. Instead of devoting

his energy to senseless and futile appeals to the ruling class the revolutionist strives to organize and educate the working class for the conquest of the political state in order to destroy that machine of class domination and establish in its place the dictatorship of the proletariat as a preliminary to the complete expropriation of the capitalist class.

Let the labor fakirs and incompetent "defenders" of capitalism exhaust themselves fighting over the alleged reconstruction measures and their effect upon the public. The class conscious proletarian is interested in these quarrels only to a sufficient degree to be in a position to point to the fallacy of the workers hoping to ameliorate their condition through such channels. The same labor leaders

who are now pleading with the capitalist government of the United States to give them a voice in the management of the railroads are always the first to endeavor to silence any revolutionary activity on the part of the members of the unions they happen, unfortunately for the slaves, to be the heads of. The slogan of the labor fakir is always "no politics in the union," but they themselves are always playing the game of capitalist politics. Their talk against politics is simply propaganda to prejudice the workers against working class political action, so they can continue to play the game of capitalist politics. To educate the workers in the principles of revolutionary political action is the task of the true representative of the proletariat.