

real instrument of oppression in the hands of the master class, and that it is used without any scruples whenever occasion demands. While it is necessary to organize into economic groups for the immediate struggle against the encroachments of the capitalist class, it is also necessary to wage the struggle for the conquest of the powers of state, in order that those powers may be used for the benefit of the working class; that instrument of oppression must be wrested from the hands of the ruling class and used as an instrument of emancipation in the hands of the workers.

FOOL OR KNAVE?

It is not often that we find prominent capitalists making such ignorant statements as that recently made by James A. Stillman, president of the National City Bank, New York.

In speaking of improvements he says: "All the improvements in industry by invention and the accumulation of capital, work for the benefit of labor." Of course, his making that statement is no sign that he himself believes it. One who would accept that statement as true would have to be ignorant indeed—even more so than a bank president or an automobile manufacturer.

Anything more than a superficial examination of the facts of the case will plainly demonstrate that improvements in industry do not work for the benefit of the working class. It has been a well known fact that improvements in production under capitalism have brought misery to the workers everywhere. This was so during the earliest development of the capitalist system, and it is so today.

With the introduction of machinery into the textile industries of England in the early days of capitalism the effect upon the working class was horrible. The advent of machine production first made itself felt in the world through the misery of the workers. If one doubts this let him read Gibbon's "Industrial of England." The workers, because of the suffering and ignorance, were led to the mistaken action of breaking the machinery. The phrase "machine breakers," which designated the groups organized for that purpose, has become a byword.

Nor have conditions changed with the modern development of capitalism. Each new improvement in industry brings more suffering for the working class. Piece work systems, more efficient machinery, and so on, cheapen production and produce more commodities with less labor power, but this does not benefit the workers under capitalism. The effect is just the opposite. Fewer workers are required to produce the same amount of commodities and the alternative generally is to lay off some of the workers. Each worker produces more wealth for the same amount of wages, consequently the ratio of his robbery is increased. Nor are these all the evils that are brought upon the working class by improvements in capitalistic production. Through improved production the needs of the world market are more quickly supplied and consequently the periodical crises that occur in the capitalistic system come more frequently.

The remedy is not to follow the lead of the early "machine breakers" by fighting against the development of production under capitalism. Fighting piece work systems, as does the A. F. of L., will not solve the problem. The solution lies in another direction. If we fight these improvements in production we place ourselves on a par with the stupid reactionary "machine breakers." We must take over the industries in the name of the working class and then the improvements will be a benefit to the workers. We will then produce for use and the workers will consume the product.

Possibly James A. Stillman is ignorant of these facts. Possibly his statement was handed out to be consumed by the gullible workers who think that just because a man is a successful capitalist only pearls of wisdom can drop from his mouth. At any rate, when we compare his statement with the economic facts, we must conclude that Mr. Stillman is either a fool or a knave.

THE WAY TO PEACE

European news persistently reports that the defeat of the Italian diplomats at Paris creates a fertile field for pro-German agitation among the Italian capitalists. The Italians have not received what they expected. They failed in their attempt to secure supremacy over the Adriatic. They have occupied Albania, but their foothold is insecure. In Asia Minor they find themselves in conflict with the ambitions of Greece, of France and England. By the time the spoils were divided there was nothing left for them. Balancing up their account after the war, the Italians find themselves the losers.

The German capitalists have taken advantage of the psychological moment to seek another alliance with the Italian capitalists. Obviously, such an alliance has two purposes: First, to break the iron ring which has been forged around Germany by the Allies; second, to endanger English-French hegemony upon the Mediterranean, in Northern Africa and Asia Minor. This alliance would spoil the well-laid plans of the Entente and make the "Hun" a menace again. In the north, Germany is seeking an economical agreement with Soviet Russia and in the east she is trying to strengthen herself by unity with Austria. And yet these are only plans, but the possibility of their being put into practice is such a menace that the Entente is already compelled to take defensive measures.

Two steps are proposed by the spokesmen of Entente capitalists to prevent this German-Italian alliance. One would be to help Italy in her present financial and economic crisis. The other would be to award to Italy such spoils in Africa and Asia as the peace conference has at its disposal.

If the peace conference fails to take these steps it must risk the German-Italian alliance and the revival of German imperialism. If the peace conference takes the steps it will advert the German-Italian alliance, but it will not insure the world against war.

To strengthen Italy will only place her in a position to be a stronger competitor in the imperialistic race. Her military system will have to be built to maintain the colonies that have been awarded to her. A fit condition to breed future wars.

By the time the capitalists have finished the work of dividing the spoils and the new spheres of influence have been determined, war conditions will have again extended to the entire capitalist world.

There is only one way in which peace may be kept. That is to transform capitalist production into communist production. There is only one road that leads to real peace and that is social revolution.

MARRIAGE IN RUSSIA

Again for the ten thousandth time a capitalistic reporter has been forced to admit that he could find no evidence proving the nationalization of women in Russia. It is hardly necessary to return to this subject as it is no longer a debatable question. If it were not for the fact that certain ignorant newspaper editors keep harping on the subject we would devote no further space to it. Driven on by their intense hatred of any successes on the part of the working class, they continually rehash this malicious lie about the nationalization of women in Russia. It will therefore not be out of place to comment on the latest news that comes from Russia.

Isaac Don Levine, a special correspondent of the Chicago Daily News, writing from Russia, confesses that there is absolutely no foundation for the tale. One of the questions that was uppermost in his mind upon his arrival in Russia was to ascertain the truthfulness of this story. He informs us that the people in Russia were very much surprised to find that this story had been taken seriously by the world. The Russians themselves refused to take it seriously and laughed at him or anyone else who believed it.

He says, in reference to the origin of the tale: "There was a humorous weekly in Petrograd. It was hostile to the Bolsheviks and to the Soviets. It had some clever writers on its staff. One of them, upon the promulgation of the Soviet decree simplifying marriage, conceived the idea of going a little further and outlining a decree for the nationalization of women. This product of the fertile imagination of a clever humorist was duly carried abroad and translated and published in Great Britain as an authentic government proclamation.

"Perhaps from the point of view of the old Russian order of life, the Soviet marriage decree was a startling novelty. But from the American point of view there was nothing radical about it."

It is, of course, hopeless to expect that the pen valets of the capitalists will repudiate their former statements on the marriage question in Russia. The matter is not discussed here for that purpose. They will undoubtedly continue to publish their lies about the situation. The entire matter has been made so ridiculous that some papers, such as the one quoted above, have been obliged to tell the truth about the matter. It will be noticed, however, that the truth is told in a much more inconspicuous place in their paper than was given to the original lies. All of which proves the contention that we have long made that the capitalist press is the prostitute of the capitalist class.