

NOTES AND COMMENT.

THE Chicago Tribune scores the "mild reservationists", in connection with the treaty bantering.

"There is nothing mild about the treaty of Paris. There is nothing mild about the state of Europe. There is nothing mild about the policy of any of the powers that will make up the league of nations, the real league within the league. Every point of self-interest is vigorously contended for by our rivals. . . There are no 'mild' Britons at Downing street, or 'mild' Frenchmen at the Quai d'Orsay, or 'mild' Italians at Via Vigesima Settembre, or 'mild' Japanese at Kasumiga Seki. . . The times are not 'mild'. World politics is not 'mild'. America needs something more effectual than 'mild' defenses and 'mild' Americanism."

When thieves fall out—we get a little capitalist truth about the League of Nations. There is so much to reflect upon in this vivid picture of the plenipotentiaries for safeguarding democracy.

There is also the moral. The class struggle is not mild. There is nothing mild about the state of capitalist industrialism. There is nothing mild about the policies of Morgan, Gary, Schwab & Company—"the real league within the league" of American Imperialism. There are no mild sentimentalists on Wall Street. The working class needs something more effectual than the mild defenses of A. F. of L. unionism and Socialist or Labor reformism.

"If we look world conditions in the face, we shall see that sentimentality is an indulgence we cannot afford at such a time. . . This is no time for a mild policy of self-defense. . . The times are not mild."

OSCAR T. Crosby, president of the Inter-Allied Council on War Purchases and Finance, says that Europe is not ruined, either industrially or financially. Actually the war increased production. The huge armies were fed and equipped to the end. If Europe could do all this during the war it can do so more easily now that the war is ended and the soldiers released to industry. The actual war devastation is confined to limited local areas.

All this was pointed out quite insistently in the argument that the war costs could be paid during the war because the war costs represented current production. If the munitions and supplies could be made and used up while the industrial workers and farm workers fed and maintained themselves and their families, where was the occasion for the piling up of the colossal war debts?

The answer is—profits. The workers behind the lines could only convey materials to the armies through the profit method of production and exchange. The war debts represent delayed collection of part of the profits in war commodities.

Europe is capitalistically ruined. That is, the European financiers cannot cash in their accumulated profits, converted into war bonds, without pressing down so hard on the working masses as either to crush them completely or drive them to revolution. American finance is rapidly

unifying itself with the general bankrupt finance of world capitalism. The working masses will not be crushed. Life has its fundamental impulses of resistance. There is no ruined industrialism; that is, the workers have it in their grasp to provide their needs easily, once the interest and profit burdens are out of the way. One item will balance the account of the world finances of today—the item of the proletarian revolution.

AGAIN we quote a Tribune editorial, this time in solution of the race problem. The theme is re-stated several times:

"The blacks form less than 10% of the population of the United States. They have less than one-tenth of a ghost of a show if the relations between white and black become bitterly hostile."

"We know what will happen if the two races cannot live in the same locality in peace. The whites will make a peace which will be their own. If intelligent negroes could control their own people the tension would relax."

"We know that if it comes to violence the black will get the worst of it."

Terrorism the cure for terrorism!

The editorial also says: "The Negro is at an economic disadvantage. He is needed in the south and has been brought into the north to meet labor emergencies, but he does not have an open field of work. These disadvantages cannot be removed by discussing them. They exist in race instincts and, along with the other disadvantages which the Negro meets, arise from causes not at the control of the reasoning faculties."

The Tribune says: Suppress the agitators and terrify the negroes. We say: get rid of the economic disadvantages, consciously enforced, by which the Negro is used as strike-breaker and low-wage job competitor. Get rid of the capitalistic system which cannot get along without such use of labor hordes, either alien, negro or coolie. The aliens, the negroes, the coolies—all are inexorably driven to class-consciousness through the primal human impulses which finally break the chains forged out of ignorance and terror.

TUBERCULOSIS last year killed 150,000 Americans, twice as many as were killed in the year of European fighting. There is a rapid growth of tuberculosis in the United States, according to the National Tuberculosis Association. The "white plague" is largely preventable and can be cured.

Tuberculosis is one of the flagrant aspects of poverty. It goes with the unsanitary living conditions of the slums; it is a by-product of the dust trades. It is not prevented in its destructiveness because the remedy is change of climate, occupation, general mode of living. The pitiable recourse of charity comes only in the advanced cases, for the most part with the odds fearfully against cure.

Tuberculosis advances because science is impotent in the face of capitalistic economics. Medical science, supported by charities, cannot wage a successful

fight against this dread disease, because it is really a fight against poverty.

With some of the billions of the social surplus diverted to the free play of science; with every worker in a position to command the change of work and climate, or the leisure, needed for cure, there can be an effective campaign against tuberculosis. The profit system stands in the way of anything except palliation on a small scale.

The profit system will not yield itself without a revolutionary conflict. Tuberculosis is as firmly entrenched as the profit system. Both must give way to the working class demand for full, free, healthy life. The struggle is on. The immediate apparent power is with the system of capitalistic privilege. The overwhelming reserve power is with the working class. The victory of science applied to the life of the poverty victims of tuberculosis is near at hand.

Report of Louis C. Fraina, International Secretary

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ciety, as the only means of achieving the revolution: a conception as utopian as that of the moderate Socialist, who proposes to "grow into" Socialism by transforming the bourgeois state. The Communist Party endorses the I. W. W. as a revolutionary mass movement, while criticising its theoretical shortcomings.

Imperialism is now consciously dominant in the United States. In his recent tour for the League of Nations, President Wilson threw off the mask and spoke in plain imperialistic terms, emphasizing the absolute necessity of crushing Soviet Russia. Congress drifts, and is impotent. The government, federal and local, is adopting the most repressive measures against the proletariat. Armed force, martial law and military invasion are used against strikes. State after state has adopted "Criminal Syndicalism" measures, making almost any advocacy of militant proletarian tactics a crime. On the least pretext agitators are arrested. Deportations occur almost daily; one of our international delegates, A. Stoklit-sky, is now under trial for deportation.

American Imperialism is usurping world power, constituting the very heart of international reaction. Reaction in Europe and the campaign against Soviet Russia are supported morally and financially by "our" government. An enormous agitation is being waged for military intervention in Mexico. The American capitalist class is brutal, unscrupulous, powerful; it controls enormous reserves of financial, industrial and military power; it is determined to use this power to conquer world supremacy and to crush the revolutionary proletariat. The Communist Party realizes the immensity of its task; it realizes that the final struggle of the Communist proletariat will be waged in the United States, our conquest of power alone assuring the world Soviet Republic. Realizing all this, the Communist Party prepares for the struggle.

Long live the Communist International! Long live the world revolution!