

The Drift of Things

ONE of the correspondents at the Industrial Conference, convened by Wilson for the solution of the differences between capital and labor, described the "public" group as varying from darkest brown of reactionism to "salmon pink" of radicalism.

Undoubtedly the brightest end of the spectrum denotes the traitor Socialists, Spargo and Russell, who have given such thorough proof of their capitalist serviceability as to be acceptable to the President. We beg to suggest that accuracy would demand that the reporter change his descriptive from "salmon pink" to just plain "yellow."

And, by the way, this Industrial Conference performance is so tame that even the A. F. of L. mossbacks are threatening to bolt!

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HERBERT HOOVER, food dispenser extraordinary, while enjoying balmy California luxury upon Asiatic profits, is now dispensing philosophy (in economical doses.) Consider the following:

"Nothing but political, moral and economic chaos, finally interpreting itself in loss of life on a scale hitherto undreamed of, is upon us, unless the world is to be returned to normal work. The economic impulse of the French and other revolutions of the 18th century was the better division of land. The economic impulse of the revolution of the past two years has been the better division of industrial production." . . . The wind-up is the usual plea for more production as the cure-all. . . .

The war casualty rate of 1914 to 1918 was about two million per annum slain and five million per annum maimed. This was all within the "normal work" of Capitalism; all part of its law-and-order. The peace casualties of Capitalism are not much less.

On the eve of the French Revolution the division of land was considerably better than is the present division of ownership of all sources of production in the United States today, terrible as was the deprivation of the 18th century peasants.

The economic impulse of the world revolution of today is intensified by the tremendously increased potentialities of wealth production, potentialities which cannot be turned to the mass use under the profit system.

Capitalism has come to the stage when its entire existence depends upon blood and iron; when its every day of life means perpetuation of "political, moral and economic chaos"; when it can only survive by "loss of life on a scale hitherto undreamed of."

Only revolution can return the world to normal work—with the new norm established of production to satisfy the human wants: To each according to his needs! From each according to his ability!

There can never be a world of "normal work" based upon satisfactory tabulations on the stock markets and in the counting rooms.

A SWISS political writer, Maurice Millioud, (by Universal Press Service cable), is authority for the statement that the Fiume controversy is explained by

these facts: that an Anglo-American shipping combine with a capital of \$35,000,000 is endeavoring to get a monopoly of Fiume harbor to control Adriatic commerce; that an American concern has already obtained exclusive operating rights on the Serbo-Croat-Slovene railways, but that the Roumanian government refused a similar proposition. The Vacuum Oil Company (a Standard Oil subsidiary) recently contracted with the Czecho-Slovak government to operate all the territory of this new self-determined nation, but again Standard Oil was refused the same monopoly control of the Roumanian oil fields.

Control of the Serbian and Roumanian railways means control of the Orient express, and thereby control of the land transport between the Black Sea and most of Europe. Control of these railways means the chance to concentrate the entire trade of Eastern Europe via Fiume and the Adriatic.

This is given as the explanation of the insistence upon giving Klagenfurt, the railway key point, to Serbia; because in this way the Austrian commerce can be cut off from Trieste in favor of Fiume.

This cable states that Colonel House favored giving Fiume to Italy, but was overruled, "thanks to the efforts of Warburg and other financial combines." Also, the leader of the party of Fiume autonomists has been an agent of the Vacuum Oil Company (Gotthardi). A Serbian Fiume or an autonomous Fiume will serve the purposes of this plan, but not an Italian Fiume.

Whether this statement is correct in detail we cannot say. But what is certain enough from the diplomatic history of a generation is that this is just exactly the kind of controversy which is at the bottom of all questions of revision of boundaries and of "self-determination", as viewed by the Allied Imperialists.

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SENATOR CUMMINS has put on the legislative calendar his bill to make a railroad strike illegal. There is much to consider in this, if the bill becomes a law. Meanwhile it is a striking testimonial, among many others, to the actual influence of the A. F. of L. at Washington that such a measure comes up for consideration. Servile unionism is bound to get its just deserts. It merits the contempt of both aggressive Capitalism and of aggressive labor.

With such a law on the books, and with unwillingness of the government to coddle the railroad workers, there might be such a thing as an illegal railroad strike. And then?

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HEARST'S Chicago paper boasts about this city's Americanism on the showing that there were 441 convictions obtained in this city under the Espionage and other war acts, with practically no acquittals, whereas there were conspicuous acquittals elsewhere!

The "impartial historian" who is yet to free Chicago's Americanism from "calumny" may have somewhat different notions about Americanism and the calumny thereof.

There is the additional boast of the gallows record after the Haymarket

bombing in 1886—(one of the most outrageous cases of judicial murder in all records of criminal law).

What a strange and ugly thing has this "Americanism" grown to be!

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AN EXTENSIVE study has just been completed by the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Labor on the "American standard of living." This study was extended to a dietary basis, that is, the energy value of the food consumed by the families under observation was computed. The startling result was that 50% to 75% of the families were found to be getting not enough food to provide sufficient nourishment for normal activity.

An adequate diet is not reached until the scale of family income goes to \$1800, and in some localities the necessary minimum is \$2000, though in a few cases \$1600 was found sufficient (these variations occurring in different parts of the country). An income of \$1300 was found enough for the nourishment of a husband and wife, and in most cases a husband, wife and child of 2. But this income was found deficient for husband, wife and three children aged 2, 5 and 11; and of course decidedly deficient in all cases with children aged 2, 5, 8, 11 and 14. With the five children the diet on the \$1300 basis was 65% normal.

Over half the families in the income class from \$1200-\$1500 receive less than adequate dietary. With the normal at 3500 calories, in Chicago over 25% of the families get under 2500 calories; and in New York, 33%; Boston, 23.5%, St. Louis, 21.5%, Denver, 20.9%, Providence, 41%, St. Paul and Minneapolis, 14.3%. This is a condition of extreme under-nourishment.

The "American standard of living" is not much to brag about. . . . The careful calculations of Oswald W. Knauth, in *The Dial* of September 6th, showed an annual surplus of some 30 billions in the United States—allowing a standard of minimum comfort to the entire population!

Starvation in the midst of fabulous wealth! And this is not demagogism, but hard fact developed by extensive study of the actual family living in about 90 typical cities from every section of the country.

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"AN INJUNCTION to restrain the publishers from further printing and distributing Thomas F. Millard's "Democracy and the Eastern Question" has been received by the Century Company. Some one in Washington thinks Mr. Millard has revealed private and confidential matters, though no charge is made that he broke faith with any official. He is not himself an official of the United States government. He is an American editor and owner of a periodical published in China, where he has lived many years. The book considers the present economic and political conditions of China. . . . He says that the promise of Japan is not to be trusted and that she means practically to take possession of China, and his ideas about the Shantung affair are violent and outspoken." (Chicago Tribune, September 28).