

Communism and American Psychology

THESE has been much casuistry about the unique variety of working-class "psychology" in these United States. The Communists have patiently retorted that the "psychology" will come along all right; that capitalism will take care of that.

From the coal district of Illinois comes the verification of all that the Communists have said about American working-class psychology, in the accounts of Ben Hecht (Chicago Daily News) of interviews with "the tall gawky down-state citizens who look like Abe Lincoln and talk like Nikolai Lenin."

"Ed Norton is the heart of the miners' strike. He repeats when he talks the day by day gossip that goes on under the dull glow of the carbide lamps in the pit. Ed and his fellows have figured out in the last two years that the world was changing and that the time was coming when labor would 'do all the talking.'

"I'm no red, m'lud. I'm talking to you as one American to another. Now, what 's government? It's a sort of scattered institution that can't help a man. It's too sort o' cumbersome.

Take the unions, now. They're different. You can get action through the union. Down state here nobody thinks much o' government. We all have our unions, and the government is sort o' out of it.

I guess as how there's going to be a general strike soon and as how the unions are going to win out all over and take charge of affairs. Then, believe me, you won't be payin' no 20 cents a pound for sugar or no 40 cents a pound for beef.

Now, I hope you're convinced. Why, my father was postmaster in this same city thirty years ago, and what I've been tellin' you is what every American's thinkin' right this moment. Now, you go put that in your paper and give folks the truth once."

The reporter also interviewed the town banker.

"I have no love for the mine operators," said the banker. "The boys are pretty near right in asking what they are. But it isn't

the strike so much that worries me. It's what's behind and underneath the strike. I've been staying pretty close to Virden the last few years, and I don't know about the rest of the country. But if the way Ed Norton and those boys talk is a sample of the general talk, why things are pretty bad."

Which is to say, pretty bad for the usury business.

We do not think our friend Ed Norton would object to enlarging the union idea so as to let in the 90% of the wage-workers as yet unorganized—and the council or soviet idea undoubtedly would meet his ready acceptance for this purpose. Nor would Ed Norton object to a Central Administration by the unions and soviets, with suffrage limited to wage-workers, and with the avowed program of making an end of the profit system which accounts for the present price of sugar and beef. Ed Norton would quickly catch the points involved in the Dictatorship of the Proletariat, which is the working-class organ of control to replace the government which "is sort o' out of it"—except for purposes such as are plainly revealed in the strikes now going on.

Ed Norton would probably allow that the general strike sufficient for the purposes of making the big change would be of a broader and somewhat more positive nature than the ordinary unionist understanding of the general strike. It would include hundreds of thousands, millions of unorganized workers. It would proceed to build out of itself organs of permanent administration to supplement the unions, as the strike gets beyond the goal of a stoppage of work to coerce wage and hour concessions from employers, as the strike takes over the social functions usually performed by the capitalistic

agencies crippled by the strike. There isn't much question out that Ed Norton, if he set his mind upon the problem of just how it is all going to happen—what he expects to happen soon—would accept the Communist conception of *mass action*.

It is Ed Norton and his fellows who are going to give living definition to the whole program of Communism.

There is plenty of red blood in the American working class. And red blood pumping through the hearts of millions upon millions of workers denied life and light for themselves and their children is bound to produce red thinking. That's why Communism meets the American psychology. It is of the red of love of life and freedom; red of a united humanity.

When Ed Norton understands that the same kind of a fight faces the working class in every country; when he understands what methods will be used against his fellows in this fight, as evidenced by the butcheries of workingmen whose demands are not based upon a high degree of organization and are demands which really challenge the perpetuity of the profit system; when he gets the vision and the feeling of the class struggle as a revolutionary conflict now in full swing, not only in Europe but in darkest America with its political imprisonments and deportations, and military suppression of strikes, then Ed Norton will not be so quick to disclaim the red color, the common banner of this world-wide fight.

There is plenty of red in the American psychology.

Law and Order in Hungary

COMMUNISM has been pat down and law and order again rages in Hungary. Some extracts from special correspondence to the "Manchester Guardian" are here reprinted:

"The Rumanians are stripping the whole land as they go, leaving not one span of oxen to the peasants, taking even bedding, and the rings from the fingers of the women.

The looting seems sheer "Schadenfreude" (pleasure in the trouble of others, especially of those whom one has formerly feared or envied), so stupidly and recklessly is it done. It is heartbreaking to see the giant lathes from the national arsenal at Raab, of English or German make, with base-plates wantonly smashed to get them into unsuitable waggons, or other parts wrenched off to enable them to pass under railway bridges. Parts from printing presses, lathes, borers, steel furnaces, and similar plant are piled up together in hopeless, unsortable confusion in one railway truck. The mechanical equipment of the national industry is being turned into scrap steel, the inevitable result of turning soldiers to such work, particularly such a vicious, ignorant instrument as the Rumanian army.

All telegraph apparatus at the General Post Office has been dismantled. Eight hundred locomotives, 31,000 waggons laden with loot, have already crossed the Theiss bridge to Rumania, leaving only 4,000 waggons for 6,000 kilometers of railway line in Hungary. A civilized nation is now without possibility of communication.

The Rumanians have commandeered 150 million crowns of Legation blue money from the Austro-Hungarian Bank, paying in return the same amount of now worthless Soviet so-called "white" money. This leaves the Treasury without money to pay State officials and completes State bankruptcy.

The British-American Missions here are believed to be recommending recognition by the Entente of the adventurer Friedrich and his anti-Semite, White-terroristic, incompetent, crime-stained Government. Not having the least understanding of political realities in Hungary, and obsessed by their thoroughly justified animosity and contempt towards the Rumanians, they are favorable

to Friedrich simply because he opposes a separate treaty with Roumania. Morally and politically such step would be a disastrous blunder.

Mexico and the Russian Blockade

THE following resolutions were unanimously adopted by Local Mexico City of the Communist Party of Mexico:

WHEREAS, The so-called League of Nations, which is in reality a league of imperialistic bandits using the governments of the victorious nations and the new tyrannical international government they have created, has issued to the government of Mexico an "invitation" to participate in the blockade of the people's government of Soviet Russia;

WHEREAS, This same League of Nations insolently refused Mexico admission as a member with other nations, thus denying the 16,000,000 Mexican people and their government a voice in its affairs;

WHEREAS, The unscrupulous financial interests which really own and dictate the acts of this League of Nations, are the same interests that are conducting a vile and slanderous newspaper campaign in the United States against the people of Mexico, in order to fan the flames of national prejudice into the hideous conflagration of another war;

WHEREAS, This same League of Nations has imposed on the helpless people of Germany the most brutal and inhuman terms of peace in the history of the world, taking from the German people one-fourth of the milk cows of that country and condemning 600,000 German babies to starvation;

WHEREAS, This same League of Nations has prevented the shipment of surgical instruments and anesthetics into Russia to be used in hospitals and recently stopped a Swedish Red Cross ship from taking food to the suffering children of Russia; and

WHEREAS, It is perfectly evident that this League of Nations is a criminal orga-

nization of international brigands and murderers, guilty of starving the babies of Germany, sending soldiers to kill the workmen of Russia and plotting to seize and enslave the people of Mexico;

BE IT RESOLVED, By Local Mexico City of the Communist Party of Mexico, in regular meeting assembled, Saturday evening, October 18, 1919, that it denounces the so-called "invitation" issued by the League of Nations to the government of Mexico, as an insult to the very government that this League is secretly and treacherously conspiring to overthrow—an insult to the intelligence of the Mexican government and Mexican people, implying that they are so stupid as to become instruments in the hands of their enemies, and an insult to the integrity and manhood of the Mexican government and Mexican people, implying that they are so deprived as to participate in such fiendish business; and

BE IT RESOLVED, That Local Mexico City of the Communist Party, while expressing complete confidence that neither President Carranza nor Secretary of State Berlanga nor any other official of the Mexican government will countenance this wicked and wanton proposal, will communicate this protest in writing to President Carranza, Secretary of State Berlanga and such other officials as may be deemed advisable; and further

BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of these resolutions be sent to L. C. A. K. Maizens, head of the office of the Russian Soviet Republic in New York, the Communist Parties of the world, the Communist and Socialist newspapers in Mexico, the United States and other countries, and to Nikolai Lenin, premier of the people's government in Russia.

Adopted, Mexico City, D. F., Mexico, October 18, 1919.

LIEBKNECHT'S BOOKS PROSCRIBED

That the revolution in Germany did not change anything but the personnel in the high positions, is proved by the prohibition and confiscation of Karl Liebknecht's book "Militarism". That is the kind of "democracy" the Allied governments favor for Germany. Very much like the American variety.