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The Communist

All Power To The Workers!

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Reaping the Whirlwind

SAVAGERY is becoming the normal of civilized life; legal savagery, the mob violence of the "respectables".

A guerilla civil war is being precipitated by those who with nervous eagerness have unsheathed the sword of might against shadow hordes.

Capitalism has reached a dizzy apex of power. It can no longer play hide and seek, pretending that its colossal tolls of interest and profit are part of a competitive system wherein the best men win. The whole social system shows every day more clearly the sharp line between the two classes.

Most of the great American fortunes are now inherited fortunes, and the mere passing of time, so far as the owners are concerned, brings the multiplication of riches. But there is great labor during this time, the heavy toil of the masses, living in stupidity.

The miners of today are the sons of miners. The workers in steel are the sons of workingmen. Out of the hundreds and thousands and the millions of wage-workers there, a few hundred obtain competence for old age, a sustenance sufficient for the education of their children to the higher forms of wage-slavery, the technical and professional servitude to ownership.

The class lines are drawn, and there can be no more concealment. And terror has seized upon the class of privilege that the light is about to dawn upon the working masses—the light of their deprivations for profits, the light of the power of the working masses to end this inhuman system.

The vision of an angry, rebellious, overwhelming array of working class power disturbs and maddens the exploiters and their vassals, the flunkey judges, prosecutors, professional militarists and politicians. The vision has tangible reality in the example of Russia; in the temporary success of the Hungarian workers; in the recent railroad strike in England; in the potential general strike in the United States.

What is to be done by the vassals of the barons of coal and of steel and of land rentals? Suppression is the answer. Suppress the truth. Suppress the avenues of enlightenment. Suppress the individual who may awaken understanding and the determination to conquer freedom among his fellow-workers.

What is all the nervousness about? Why is that our newspapers carry daily column upon column, page upon page, of silly rot and vile perversion in order to discredit the agitators? And especially the alien agitators? Why do they deliberately incite and encourage acts of violence on the part of the hoodlums of respectability against the radicals? Why is this guerilla civil war brought upon us in the name of law and order?

BECAUSE OF THE WORKING CLASS ARRAY WHICH IS TO COME!

It is the uprising of the millions and tens of millions which the exploiters dread. It is the imminence of this overwhelming power which drives them to mad destructiveness.

Not the Communist Party. Not the I. W. W. These are organizations which publish openly and constantly all the facts about their membership, about their small revenues, about their struggling papers and magazines. They are not large organizations, considering the enormous numbers of the workers. They have no plans and purposes which are not dependent upon the will and action of the millions and tens of millions of workers.

The fear is that the many millions are about to make their demands in the language of the program of the Communist Party! The fear is that millions of workers are about to adopt the industrial unionism which is imbued with the understanding that the real struggle is the class struggle, the struggle by which the workers must establish a new society rid of capitalist exploitation!

The agitators, native and alien, the suppressed papers, the programs branded as illegal, the red flag, the exhibition of which is made a most serious felony, the quiet parades and meetings of the workers—these are hated as the living symbols of—the working class array which is to come!

Especially the alien agitators—and why? Because far more than half of the workers in the basic industries are of foreign birth. Because, as the government statisticians have recently announced, 8,500,000 workers in this country understand only a foreign language.

And there is special concern that there shall be no agitation among the negroes. Prejudice is quick to respond, and prejudice has its lodgment as well within the ranks of the laboring masses.

A Hearst editorial openly brags that there is nothing to fear because there are so many inter-racial hatreds to keep the workers of America apart.

The Steel Strike—in a dozen different languages—is the answer. And the Communist Party, with ten language federations, is another answer.

Workers, do you not realize that all this suppression of agitation is the proof of its danger to the exploiting system? If the Communist program was something fanciful, something that wouldn't work, once the workers accept it, why would there be such desperate measures to suppress its teaching—and its living demonstration in Russia?

Do you not realize that a government which turns its powers to such end—to the suppression of the enlightenment of the working masses—is a government which is nothing more than a tool of the ruling class?

Do you not realize that the newspapers

which are stirring up mob violence against agitators, against meetings, parades and even the property found in the meeting places—do you not realize that these newspapers are the dirty, lying, bestial agencies of capitalism?

There will be more of the violence of cold-blooded starvation of women and children, such as the pious hypocrite at Washington sanctions as against the tens of millions of Russia.

But behind and underneath this provocative brutality, the working class array goes on, gaining not only in strength of organization, but in the realization of new and decisive purposes—the purposes of a working class domination of society to bring in the Communist order, the order of socialized industry and of its administration by the workers.

No fakes of Plumb plans, with eternal perpetuation of the profit system, with special privileges to special labor groups; no taxers of government. Up, with the government in the plant service of Wall Street; but the real article of a workers industrialism which has no place for any profit tributes, and no place for any politician agents of capitalism, but which is an affair of the workers from bottom to top.

That is the program of Communism—and that is what all the nervousness is about. It can be done. The working class can achieve this economic system of their own within a short time if they organize for this purpose. They are coming to see this, under the stress of their miserable wage slavery.

The wind is being sown—the wind of persecution, petty violence, mob frenzy against the meetings of the workers, jailing and lynching and massacre—of brazen use of the military against strikes heretofore given legal sanction, when they did not appear so threatening,—and the whirlwind is to be reaped.

The oppressions of capitalistic exploitation are completing the cycle of the former systems of exploitation. The last act is the use of institutionalized violence against—the new ideal!

There is no way out of it, no way to end the guerilla civil war, no way to end many years of the savagery which is now all that capitalism has to offer to civilization—no way except by the quick and decisive victory of the working class.

The wind has been sown, and the whirlwind is upon us; and after the storm, the organized and victorious working class will produce the dream of the centuries, a social system without classes, a system wherein all shall be owners and workers alike, a system wherein the benefits of science, of culture, of art, shall be the common heritage of all mankind.