

# The Communist

All Power To The Workers!

Vol. 1. No. 12.

DECEMBER 20th, 1919

Five Cents



The Modern King Canute

## Civilization and Revolution.

VIENNA has long been suggestive of gayety, exquisite artistry, civic beauty—art capitol of the world. Abysmal degradation of human life going with the world war, staggering atavism rampant everywhere, has dulled the mind to new sensations of horror. Yet to read of cannibalism in Vienna, as the second decade of the 20th century draws to a close, makes the mind reel. Can it be that these five years of the highest development of bourgeois civilization have not hopelessly crushed the human spirit and destroyed all sanity? What is there left to give balance to life?

It is past belief that there is still so profound and universal a fearfulness over the cost of revolution. All the revolutions of all of history have not cost more than the losses of a few days of the warfare which is the life principle of bourgeois civilization, the technically advanced warfare of the machine age. After the war—then the peace of starvation and cannibalism!

Yet so many can yield their minds and souls to small purposes, lest their pittance of miserable possession be ever so remotely endangered.

The calculation was made of only those

killed in battle these years of highest civilization that, marching in columns of ten, at the rate of ten columns a minute—6,000 an hour—the young dead, stopping neither day nor night, would require sixty-three days to pass a given point! There is no way for the mind really to grasp the destructiveness of these years, a destructiveness which will not spend itself for generations. A destructiveness that will be refreshed with new cataclysms so long as the effective causes remain active.

This civilization demands that men shall pay it homage or stop their mouths and minds! Oh, the cringing cowardice of the tens of millions who bow in submissiveness! Oh, the revolting pettiness of those who see in all this only their own small purposes of immediate security!

To be respected within the social scheme of this civilization is to be marked with approval of its savageries and bestialities. There are no free souls in the world today—except in the ranks of the revolution! The noblest of all are in the bourgeois prisons. The noblest are meeting death in the revolutionary struggle.

At one period and another, out of the

abysmal depths of the dark mass life comes a new momentum, a new power, a new progress of life. Revolution is the life principle of society. From one revolution to the next some threads are carried over, and out of these threads, saved against all storms and mishaps, is woven a pattern of life ascendant.

Well then, men will speak and women will speak in bitter scorn of this murder-civilization, and in rapturous hope of the new human life that comes now out of the heart of the great new working masses, the workers banded in armies for machine manoeuvres. They will hurl the challenge of destruction against the mad system of destructiveness; and these voices will prove to be the prophetic prelude of the slow but ponderous gestures of the dark masses—dark but with inner light of the new Civilization.

With the proletarian revolution will come the release of the material and intellectual powers of the 20th century to the service of a social system which seeks, not profits, but highest human potentialities.

Only the Communist revolution can save us from capitalistic destructiveness.