

Some Jobs At The Passing Show of Capitalism

DISTANCE LENDS ENCHANTMENT

It is rumored in reliable quarters that the NATION is going out of business, before long. It is said that Villard, the owner, declared to friends that he "cannot afford the losses" the printing and circulation entails. He was quoted as saying that he wishes to "save enough to leave the family a decent inheritance."

It is a no-natural bourgeois desire. Only those workers will be disappointed who expect anything more from "liberalism."

In the glow of enthusiasm for a revolution thousands of miles away, no doubt Mr. Henry Villard, who is the NATION, did valiant service toward creating a better understanding of Soviet Russia. It cannot be denied that he has done a good job, so far as he has gone. The trouble is, we think, that he doesn't want to go any further. This, again, is perfectly natural, for Villard is not a proletarian. He is, on the contrary, a man of wealth, belonging to the upper bourgeoisie. A revolution in Russia appealed to him as an ideal, stirred his imagination. He took fire at the idea of Russia as a great laboratory. A new system could there be evolved, from which other countries could benefit. The Marxian theory of Socialism, developed by Lenin into practice, could then safely and slowly be incorporated into the life of other people—of the American people. But changes come, not as bourgeois liberal gentlemen desire, nor even as the revolutionary proletariat desire, but as the collapsing capitalist system impels.

With the rapidly disintegrating system here, discontent deepens, becomes more wide-spread; capital seeing its end in sight, grows more desperate; there is greater repression. Underneath, the fires of revolt smoulder. The class conflict rolls up toward crisis. A "liberal" like Villard finds all the signs of impending revolution here in his own country—not in Russia, not in Germany, not in Hungary, whose changes a gentleman can think of, and even support, with pleasure—but here in America! at home!—where one gets chills and fever thinking of one's bank account—of stocks and bonds, real estate, business generally!

Here before his very eyes are the two classes—the only two classes that matter in this conflict—lining up for battle; already the skirmishes are developed into good sized, important engagements. And where does a liberal gentleman (with liberal sympathies for revolutions where he is not!) find himself? Why, in the only position possible for him: In the political, economic No-Man's-Land, with shot and shell from both fronts bursting all around him!

A revolution in Russia? Glorious! But a revolution in America? Well, you see, he lives in America!

Paul N. Milyukov, leader of the Constitutional Democrats, the party of the bourgeoisie, declared some months before the great Russian revolt, "If victory can be secured only by means of a revolution, then we don't want any victory."

We can picture this declaration on the cover of the last issue of the NATION, Mr. Villard using the editorial "we." It might be the most fitting word of farewell to its "faithful readers."

JOHN'S QUALIFICATIONS

"From the time of the Bolshevik coup d'etat in Russia, and the development here of a propaganda in favor of similar methods, I have given some part of every day to the fight against it. I hate and abhor Bolshevism and all its works, because I am a Socialist."—John Spargo, in the Call.

After this declaration of principles and tactics, there should be nothing in the way of John's rejoicing the Socialist Party.

COMPLETING THE JOB

Our own American White Guards, the American Legion, have received a gift of a half million dollars from the pious Y. M. C. A. It is claimed that this gift represents the earnings of the Canteens during the war. This reminds us of stories of this Christian organization's profiteering "over there," brought back by thousands upon thousands of uniformed workers. There were burning tales of outrageous prices charged for everything—candy, tobacco, cigarettes, newspapers, something-to-drink, something-to-eat,—in short, anything they had that the soldier boy wanted. Especially the profit-making in cigarettes rankled. We have no doubt that some of our saviors of "democracy" returned more "bolshevik" than "democratic" because of the "undemocratic" proceeds that accrued to the godly canteens from the sale of cigarettes. Now it seems like pouring salt upon an open wound to use this money for the up-building of the White Guard! A half-million dollars profit wrung from the "boys" who enjoyed their "coffin-nails"—now to be used in attempt to nail down in the coffin of reaction, the hopes and the aspirations of the workers!

The workers who answered the call to war for "democracy," never dreamed how far the fight would be carried. They themselves may have stopped fighting and smoking canteen cigarettes long ago; but the canteen profits go marching on, to complete the job here so patriotically begun "over there!"

We remember, too, with what tears and protestations the Y. M. C. A. denied that they had ever sold anything for more than cost. The announcement, therefore that this \$500,000 represents the "earnings of the Y. M. C. A. canteens during the war," is equivalent to admitting that they lied. But that is not surprising—we told them so!

What will the White Guards do with the money?

"The Executive Committee has decided that the amount be held as a trust fund for a period of five years, the principal sum to be invested and reinvested."

Before the war, men had the habit of saying "for a period of fifty years"—even a hundred. Like ninety-nine year franchises, they were long-term affairs. Often the term was indefinitely long—as the life, they thought, of the capitalist system.

Now they show proper modesty. Events may yet prove them not modest enough. Their tottering system may collapse much sooner than is apparent. Nevertheless, such modesty, considering their historic blindness, is commendable. If they stand to lose before the five years are quite over, Dr. John R. Mott, general secretary of the Y. M. C. A., who was reported at one time to have dabbled a little in Socialism, may have the satisfaction of knowing that the fund found its way back to the class to which the "boys" who were gouged of the sum, belong—the working-class of America.

TOWARD THE SOVIETS

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pel it to adopt a certain course of action, force it along a certain road, but it is apt to make many compromises along the road before it learns that there is but one way in which it can break the chains of capitalism—the organization of its own power, the disestablishment of capitalists and the transformation of the capitalist system.

This lesson workers are bound to learn through experience. They learned it in Russia. They are

SOCIALISTS SEEK PLATFORM HINTS

—N. Y. Call Headline.

In view of the declaration of party position by the spokesman of the S. P. during the trial of the five self-declared, but unappreciated, patriots at Albany, we trust that a suggestion or two from a one-time party member will not be taken unkindly.

We mean to be helpful and trust our efforts in this direction will be appreciated by the noble S. E. C. of the Socialist Party—at least by the spokesman aforementioned, to-wit: Morris Hillquit and Seymour Stedman.

Plank 1. The Socialist Party is absolutely opposed to any and all wars 4,000 miles away, even 3,000. A war so far away as that, is none of "our" business. The farther away it is, the less business of "ours" it is. Conversely, a war on our very border is decidedly "our" business. The Socialist Party therefore is not opposed to a war with Mexico or Canada.

Plank 2. The S. P. favors the organization of a Pink Army to fight the Russian Red Army, when the Bolsheviks come over to "our" shores to destroy "our" Galorious government and institutions.

Plank 3. We stand for absolute law and order.

Plank 4. We believe in EVolution, and repudiate REVolution, and pledge ourselves to slap it on the wrists whenever it should raise its red head.

Plank 5. The Socialist Party swears by the "public" and damns the proletariat.

Plank 6. We oppose the idea of the Proletarian Dictatorship with the greater idea of the Golden Rule. Rich and poor, exploiter and exploited, should love one another and live in peace and harmony. Once the Socialists are captured by the Bourgeois State, we pledged ourselves to work to this end.

Plank 7. We pledge ourselves to uphold the Law and the Constitution as laid down by OUR fathers. Now that we have purged our party of the alien element, we can truly and proudly say "OUR."

Plank 8. We stand for America for the American and the S. P. for America.

Plank 9. We are unalterably opposed to the Communists of America. We know what's coming to us when they get strong enough. We believe in the Bourgeois State; they believe in the Proletarian Dictatorship. There can be nothing in common between us respectable, law-abiding citizens, and the lawless, ignorant masses. They believe in mass-action; we believe in ass-action. The difference is clear to every patriotic American.

It is rumored that the German Kaiser has a little ditty with which he regales himself when chopping wood. It goes like this: "How much kol could a Kolchuk chuk, if a Kolchuk could chuk kol?"

learning it in Germany. They will learn it in the other countries of Europe and even in the United States. The tasks of the Communists is to constantly emphasize this goal and in the final struggle to assume the direction and leadership of the working masses.

If the capitalist masters of the world expected that with the peace negotiations with Russia under way and the German revolution evidently dead, they were assured a new lease of life, they have had a rude awakening by the events in Germany. They will have more rude awakening in

'IS ROYAL 'IGHNESS AND THE S. P.

Arthur Gleason, writing in the Pittsburg Dispatch, says, "Britain will probably have a labor government long before it touches the king. Indeed, it is quite possible we shall see in Britain a Socialist monarchy."

He is quite right. King George may some day forget the slight he suffered at the hands of John Burns, who refused to attend his garden party, and attend with pleasure a Socialist Party meeting. Should Comrade King George, and the local London Branch of the S. P. like each other well, 'is Royal 'ighness may forget another historic slight—when Kier Hardie refused to wear a top hat in the House of Commons—and wear his crown at the next Branch meeting. We are sure that every little peanut politician in the S. P. would be flattered and pleased. As for the big politicians—!!! (No word for it). No, there is nothing incompatible in the idea. Since the S. P. can use the King's parliament for its purposes, why can't the King use the local branch meeting for his?

American industrial kings, please take notice.

THE FINANCE CORDIALE

The real Allied Council is meeting in Japan, as may be seen from the following despatch:

TOKIO, Japan, March 26.—A generally hearty accord in views has been shown by the eighteen bankers representing the leading financial houses of Japan in the discussions of the past two weeks with Thomas W. Lamont of J. P. Morgan & Co., who is here representing the American group in the proposed consortium. In addition to the proposed loan to China, other general financial matters relative to the Orient, especially China, were discussed. The Lamont party has been cordially entertained with a constant whirl of receptions and banquets. The social feature, however, has not interfered with serious work on the big undertaking, which will possibly mean much in the future relations of Japan, France, Britain and the United States, as well as China.

It is reported that Allied Imperialism, with its hands tied, is still suffering from the Yuden-itch, and inquiring politely if Deni-kin scratch. Lloyd-George says he kin. But only when the Big Fear becomes the Big Four again, which may never be.

Sergt.-Major Weber, leader of the Spartacist forces in the Ruhr district, was once an errand boy for Ludendorff, and is now putting into effect strategy he learned at German headquarters when he was a non-commissioned officer attached to the General's staff.

the days to come. The victory of the Soviets in Russia, the coming victory in Germany is only the beginning of the struggle which will continue until the workers everywhere triumph. There may be periods of quiescence in this struggle, such as the last year in Germany, but the struggle will go on until the bourgeois power in the world is broken completely and the proletarian rule is established.

Germany is the second episode in the world social revolution.

HAIL THE COMING SOVIET REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.