

The Revolution in Prison

HEAR ye! Hear ye! We have a cause to uphold opinions and ideas to express—so, dear reader, lend us your ear while we unburden ourselves.

Tho there are bars to the right of us, bars to the left of us, behind us and in front of us, tool-proof steel above us and concrete underneath us, our hearts and minds dwell in the outer world where the armed hosts of the Proletariat are wresting their bright, Mother Earth, from the grasp of the master class.

It is mainly in the light of the experience and tactics of the Revolutionary Proletariat of Europe in relation to the propaganda and activities of the radicals in our dearly beloved United States with which our opinions and ideas will deal. It must be manifest to the European Proletariat in action that the new conditions to be faced in these United States, require a change of tactics in meeting the enemy. Believing in hitting the bourgeoisie where it hurts, our board of strategy will publish from time to time what is considered the most efficient means.

While there is unity of opinion among the politicals in Pima County Bastile on a great many questions, they differ strongly on some. Occasionally, during discussions when they cast off their philosophical calm a wordy explosion occurs, followed by days of deep silence. In future issues we shall endeavor to give an account of these discussions.

Our readers will find us both serious and humorous. We shall publish sketches and poetry and try to make the magazine as attractive as possible. Who our poet will be no one knows; but we expect to develop one.

Thus, sans advertising, sans subscribers, not caring a rap about such trivialities as free press, free speech, laws and conventions, we name thee Bastile and send thee forth on the troubled waters.

SHALL AMERICA BE LAST?

THUS spake certain wise men unto their slaves: "America First." But I say unto you, be not deceived. Gaze over yonder whence you brethren who manipulate the levers amidst the clanging of great machines, who plow the earth, sow the seed and reap the harvest, who burrow like moles in the bowels of the earth—hear them as they hurl defiance at the masters in slave-bound lands, "We are the First."

Arouse yourselves, ye rebels, lest it be said "America was Last." Cast off your time worn methods which you fondly believed, and perhaps still believe, will emancipate the workers. What have petitions, resolutions, and delegations accomplished? What has voting and participation in bourgeois parliaments accomplished?

Consider petitions, resolutions, and delegations. It is not necessary to cite what happened on innumerable occasions when these instruments were employed to protest against obnoxious legislation, or when during a strike, or as the result of a frame up, a champion of labor was imprisoned. They weren't worth the energy and money spent upon them.

Consider now the political field. In the labyrinth of politics labor has been shamelessly betrayed time after time. Their representatives, tainted by bourgeois associations and opportunism, deserted their principles when the war was declared. It is here by means legal and extra-legal that the bourgeoisie can nullify any radical legislation. Here the bourgeoisie is all-powerful.

Nay, politics is not the logical field for proletarian activity. They have no interest in the political state, they have no interest in changing its laws. Their interest lies in a fundamental economic change, the abolition of the wages system, the abolition of private ownership of the means of production. This can only be accomplished by direct action on the economic field thru industrial organization, where no worker is disfranchised, where every worker has a voice. On the industrial field the proletariat is all-powerful.

The I. W. W. whose shibboleth is "Abolition of the wage system" is working along direct lines. Radicals must lend their energy to improve its organization and extend its dominion in the East. In the West the I. W. W. have become a powerful faction on the economic field and soon the A. F. of L. will dwindle to the proportion of a Wednesday evening prayer meeting.

Vigorous propaganda campaigns must be carried on. The numerous Labor Defenders, newspapers and periodicals established in the interest of the I. W. W. on trial or in jail must be placed on a permanent basis under the editorial direction of capable and experienced propagandists.

So arouse yourself, ye rebels, or it will surely be said "America was Last." Help to organize and agitate for the O. B. U.—One Big Union. The masters fear this organization more than a House of Repre-

In the Pima County Jail there are a number of "politicals" who issue a little "Magazine." The cover is in ink; the inside pages in pencil (apparently ink is scarce). We print extracts with one comment; the emphasis on "economic action" is not in accord with the new conceptions of the Revolution.

sentatives composed of Socialists. Yea, the O. B. U. strikes at the heart of social injustice.

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*"Double, double, toil and trouble:
Fire burn and cauldron bubble."*

SINCE the signing of the armistice we have witnessed the capitalist class using a combination of its three methods of combating revolutionary ideas. During normal times they used these singly.

The forward moving revolutionary movement has thrown them into a fever of fear and caused them to resort to silence, ridicule and suppression—all in one beautiful mélange.

Bastile

**ISSUED by the
Politicals
confined in
Pima Co.
Bastile**



The following excerpt from a capitalist newspaper will illustrate what they are fearful of:

"Up thru the European chaos is surely creeping the menace of Bolshevism, not Socialism, but that Bolshevism which is the result of reckless modern materialism."

"That is why the league of nations is supremely important. If the league of nations is Utopian, then our spiritual strength is exhausted and civilization will go down in a welter of barbarous slaughter."

Forgetting his sophism regarding "civilization" and "barbarous slaughter" we will assure the writer of the above that there will be a league of nations.

In fact there will be two leagues of nations—one a combination of capitalist nations, the other of working class nations. And while they prate of peace we will say there can be no harmony, no concord, no peace until the whole world is resolved to a common basis—to a co-operative basis, where the means of production are the universal property of the workers of the world.

The same issue which contained the paragraphs quoted also carried an article ridiculing the amateurish attempt of the Spartacus group of Germany taking over several industrial plants. The author was in a jocular mood—he took their name, Spartacus, and constructed a pun in which he referred to them as the Sparticusses, Sparticides, Sparticustards and Sparticuspids. He tried to make them look very ridiculous. That's what his master wanted.

We have also had an example of how they apply silence. For instance, they did not inform us that a general strike was in progress in Switzerland, but they did inform us when the backbone of the movement was broken. They did not inform us that disorder

and unrest prevailed in France, but they did tell us that martial law had been proclaimed. And so the beast works.

In this country the U. S. Attorney General is preparing new measures for suppression and as usual it will be directed against the I. W. W., whom the master class fear more than any other organization.

Tho their most active members fill the penitentiaries the membership of the I. W. W. has remained on the job and as a result their organization grows.

This indomitable spirit counts and is absolutely necessary in the trying times ahead of us. The capitalist class is fully aware of what it is doing when it resorts to suppression. They know that suppression does suppress for a time—they know that it will defer the realization of our ideal.

Yea! a great many of us will return to jail again—our present bit isn't the last bit.

Onward with the task outside—agitate and organize on the job for the industrial republic. Organize and hasten true world peace!

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A SCRAP FROM A SCRAP OF PAPER

"In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial..."

U. S. Constitution.

THE politicals have now been confined three months in Pima County Bastile and a trial still seems as far off as ever.

Wobbly papers from the length and breath of the land disclose to us that we are not as unfortunate as many other political offenders. Nearly two-hundred I. W. W. are in jail in Omaha, Wichita, Fresno, Spokane and other places awaiting trial.

One group of wobblies has been incarcerated over one year without trial—held under the "spinach" act. Another group has been in the tank two years on another charge.

In the next issue we will picture a few Bastiles which shame the Black Hole of Calcutta and are a close seconds to the torture chambers of the Spanish Inquisition. News which radical papers in the east would probably consider unfit to print for fear of offending the authorities.

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The American Fakeration of Labor meets to decide on a general strike to obtain justice for Mooney. First they decide to strike one week, then they decide one day is sufficient, then one hour. Finally they decide on a five minute strike. Ye Gods! What we need is another John Brown to free Mooney—the A. F. of L. won't free him.

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FAMOUS SAYINGS BY GREAT MEN

"He kept us out of war"
"Too proud to fight"
"Peace without victory"
"Let's slaughter them all"

—Wilson.

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"I think we have had a fair trial."—Bill Haywood.
How a rebel can credit the courts of masters with giving a fair trial is beyond us. Fairness is not a virtue with the beast when a rebel is concerned.

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"Diplomacy shall proceed always frankly and in the public view."—Wilson.

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BASTILE BRIEFS

THIS month's cover of Bastile typifies the strength of the bars which surround us. It also reflects the rugged spirit of those confined within them. There is class solidarity in the lettering.

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M. Goldberg will shave soon so that we will be able to design a two-color cover the next number. It will show soldiers returning home with their guns silhou . . . but what the hell! wait until you get it.

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Send us a cake of red-orange water color and a brush, somebody—quick, we have an inspiration.

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Radical magazines and papers will be welcomed with joy by Bastile.