

# The Day of the People

By Eugene V. Debs

From "The Class Struggle"

UPON his release from the Kaiser's bastille—the doors of which were torn from their hinges by the proletarian revolution—Karl Liebknecht, heroic leader of the rising hosts, exclaimed: "The Day of the People has arrived!" It was a magnificent challenge to the Junkers and an inspiring battle-cry to the aroused workers.

From that day to this Liebknecht, Rosa Luxemburg and other true leaders of the German proletariat have stood bravely at the front, appealing to the workers to join the revolution and make it complete by destroying what remained of the criminal and corrupt old regime and ushering in the day of the people. Then arose the cry that the people were not yet ready for their day, and Ebert and Scheidemann and their crowd of white-livered reactionaries, with the sanction and support of the fugitive Kaiser, the infamous Junkers and all the allied powers, now in beautiful alliance, proceeded to prove that the people were not yet ready to rule themselves by setting up a bourgeois government under which the working class should remain in substantially the same state of slavish subjection they were in at the beginning of the war.

And now upon that issue—as to whether the terrible war has brought the people their day or whether its appalling sacrifices have all been in vain—the battle is raging in Germany as in Russia, and the near future will determine whether revolution has for once been really triumphant or whether sudden reaction has again won the day.

In the struggle in Russia the revolution has thus far triumphed for the reason that it has not compromised. The career of Kerensky was cut short when he attempted to turn the revolutionary tide into reactionary bourgeois channels.

Lenine and Trotzky were the men of the hour and under their fearless, incorruptible and uncompromising leadership the Russian proletariat has held the fort against the combined assaults of all the ruling class powers of earth. It is a magnificent spectacle. It stirs the blood and warms the heart of every revolutionist, and it challenges the admiration of all the world.

So far as the Russian proletariat is concerned, the day of the people has arrived, and they are fighting and dying as only heroes and martyrs can fight and die to usher in the day of the people not only in Russia but in all the nations on the globe.

In every revolution of the past the false and cowardly plea that the people were "not yet ready" has

prevailed. Some intermediate class invariably supplanted the class that was overthrown and "the people" remained at the bottom where they have been since the beginning of history. They have never been "ready" to rid themselves of their despots, robbers and parasites. All they have ever been ready for has been to exchange one brood of vampires for another to drain their veins and fatten in their misery.

That was Kerensky's doctrine in Russia and it is Scheidemann's doctrine in Germany. They are both false prophets of the people and traitors to the working class, and woe be to their deluded followers if their vicious reaction triumphs, for then indeed will the yokes be fastened upon their scarred and bleeding necks for another generation.

When Kerensky attempted to side-track the revolution in Russia by joining forces with the bourgeoisie he was lauded by the capitalist press of the whole world. When Scheidemann patriotically rushed to the support of the Kaiser and the Junkers at the beginning of the war, the same press denounced him as the betrayer of Socialism and the enemy of the people. And now this very press lauds him to the heavens as the savior of the German nation! Think of it! Scheidemann the traitor has become Scheidemann the hero of the bourgeoisie. Could it be for any other reason on earth than that Scheidemann is doing the dirty work of the capitalist class?

And all this time the prostitute press of the robber regime of the whole world is shrieking hideously against Bolshevism. "It is worse than Kaiserism" is the burden of their cry. Certainly it is. They would a thousand times rather have the Kaiser restored to his throne than to see the working class rise to power. In the latter event they cease to rule, their graft is gone and their class disappears, and well do they know it. That is what we said from the beginning and for which we have been sentenced as disloyalists and traitors.

Scheidemann and his breed do not believe that the day of the people has arrived. According to them the war and the revolution have brought the day of the bourgeoisie. Mr. Bourgeois is now to take the place of Mr. Junker—to evolve into another Junker himself by and by—while Mr. Wage-Slave remains where he was before, under the heels of his master, and all he gets out of the carnage in which his blood

dyed the whole earth is a new set of heels to grind into his exploited bones and a fresh and lusty vampire to drain his life-blood.

Away with all such perfidious doctrines; forever away with such a vicious subterfuge and treacherous betrayal!

The people are ready for their day. THE PEOPLE, I say. Yes, the people!

Who are the people? The people are the working class, the lower class, the robbed, the oppressed, the impoverished, the great majority of the earth. They and those who sympathize with them are THE PEOPLE, and they who exploit the working class, and the mercenaries and menials who aid and abet the exploiters, are the enemies of the people.

That is the attitude of Lenine and Trotzky in Russia and was of Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg in Germany, and this accounts for the flood of falsehood and calumny which poured upon the heads of the brave leaders and their revolutionary movement from the filthy mouthpieces of the robber regime of criminal Capitalism throughout the world.

The rise of the working-class is the red spectre in the bourgeois horizon. The red cock shall never crow. Anything but that! The Kaiser himself will be pitied and forgiven if he will but roll his eyes heavenward, proclaim the menace of Bolshevism, and appeal to humanity to rise in its wrath and stamp out this curse to civilization.

And still the "curse" continues to spread—like a raging conflagration it leaps from shore to shore. The reign of Capitalism and militarism has made of all peoples inflammable material. They are ripe and ready for the change, the great change which means the rise and triumph of the workers, the end of exploitation, of war and plunder, and the emancipation of the race. Let it come! Let us all help its coming and pave the way for it by organizing the workers industrially and politically to conquer Capitalism and usher in the day of the people.

In Russia and Germany our valiant comrades are leading the proletarian revolution, which knows no race, no color, no sex, and no boundary lines. They are setting the heroic example for world-wide emulation. Let us, like them, scorn and repudiate the cowardly compromisers within our own ranks, challenge and defy the robber-class power, and fight it out on that line to victory or death!

From the crown of my head to the soles of my feet I am Bolshevik, and proud of it.

"The Day of the People has arrived!"

## The Revolutionary Strike Movement

By A. Nyemanov

THE spirit of revolt, larger and more intense, is seizing upon the workers of the world. Neither threats nor curses issued by the high priests of bourgeois society can repress the pressure of the proletarian masses. Even in countries where the revolution is not yet in action and has not unfurled the Red Flag, where the demon-gods of bourgeois society have not yet been hurled from their pedestals,—even there the growing protest of the working masses may any day flare up into action, colored by a red light.

The big British strikes, at Belfast and in the Glasgow district, and the strike movement in London, were stern warnings to the British bourgeoisie. They are at an end, but they are still a threat, and new strikes are developing. The press organs of British plutocracy are shouting at the top of their voices that Bolshevism is entrenching itself in the minds of the workers, and that the events in Belfast and Glasgow are warnings that Red Days may come as they did in Petrograd and Berlin.

The labor movement in England is slipping away from the control of the official and reactionary trades unionism. The leadership of the movement is passing into the hands of the factory-committees (Shop Stewards) and these representatives of the workers declare openly that the Russian methods are their own.

In Paris, under the very nose of the Peace Conference, a strike was recently declared by the workers and employees of almost all the city transportation system. Whether this strike was crushed by the police and the military, we do not know; we are in the dark, for the vigilant eye of the censor allows only fragmentary news to pass concerning the workers' movement in Europe. But a New York paper the other day printed a Paris dispatch—which we are ready to believe—that the germs of Bolshevism are penetrating the "capital of the world."

No wonder, therefore, that even the Peace Con-

ference is discussing the "solution" of the "labor" problem. Even the aristocratic diplomats will have to get busy with "dirty work."

Difficult times have come for the bourgeoisie, dangerous and fraught with great events.

### Industrialism in Australia

The conference of the One Big Union, the name under which the Industrial Union movement is making great strides in the Commonwealth, held at Sydney a short time ago issued an appeal to the returning soldiers and sailors. The manifesto deals with the conditions which will confront these men on their return and points out that their only hope lies in organization in co-operation with the workers, along the lines of the Russian Soviets and the councils of Workers and Soldiers which are developing so rapidly in many European countries. The concluding paragraphs of the document are as follows:

"The only means to redress these evils is strong and effective industrial organization. The One Big Union is the one form of organization which will enable us to resist the continuance of profiteering and insure for all a decent livelihood.

"We, therefore, appeal to you to link up with the industrial organizations without delay. Attempts are being made by the employing class, against which we most emphatically warn you, to divide the workers into antagonistic camps, with the view of reducing wages and still further plundering all other sections of the community. We live in critical times, when events are moving rapidly. We can, by united effort, secure more complete economic and social freedom than we have ever before possessed. Should we neglect our present opportunities the shackles of industrial servitude will be riveted upon us and upon you, and the forces of reaction triumph."

Then there have been great strikes in Brussels, in Sweden and Switzerland, and in far-off India. In the Central Powers the revolutionary movement is still active. Events in Spain have so shaken the bourgeoisie that the report comes—of Lenin being in Barcelona! South America is a-tremble with strikes and revolutionary agitation.

The old capitalist world is writhing in mortal agony. A new life is bursting forth. And even where the movement has not yet assumed the stormy form of revolutionary protest, the troubled conscience of the masters of bourgeois society sees the red hand of the proletarian revolution which is writing on the wall the stern words prophesying the coming end of our present social system.

And things are not at all calm in the United States. The American Senate, this college of pontifical priests, runs here and there in search for culprits who are disturbing social peace. Bankers and merchants are lavishly spending money to fight the Bolshevik menace. The Department of Justice is alert. Hundreds of fighters in the cause of labor are being thrown into jail; others are being deported. The Espionage Act is still in force—but strikes and revolutionary agitation multiply.

The American bourgeoisie expects, and is preparing for, the advent of stormy weather. Strikes assume revolutionary character.

The American bourgeoisie hears the thunder peals of the coming storm. Obeying the instinct of self-preservation, it resorts to the use of the old methods in hope of crushing the movement. The capitalists are strong and organized, while the American working class is still learning, still not adept in mass action. Strikes are still isolated in character. But it is developing. The revolutionary strike movement developing all over the world is having its expression in our country. The European methods of proletarian struggle must become international, are becoming international.