

The Revolutionary Age

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May Day--and the Revolution

MAY Day is the day of the workers.

This day is the day when the conscious workers, who are not mental slaves to the ideas of the masters, express their determination for a new life, for a new world.

May day is revolutionary Labor Day.

American Labor—that is to say, those workers who do not see beyond their noses, those small increases of wages—celebrates Labor Day on the first Monday of September.

But what is celebrated on "Labor Day" is the day of the masters—it is the day of the wage-slaves, not of conscious rebels.

"Labor Day" was granted the American workers by the capitalists, as a toy to play with, as a means of fooling the workers.

American Labor Day has no working class importance, no revolutionary meaning. It is a day to maintain the workers' suicidal confidence in the capitalist exploiters.

"American Labor Day" represents the old order, with its oppression of the poor by the rich, of the workers by the employers; with its small wages and hard hours, its employment and economic insecurity, its misery for the majority of the people and its fabulous luxury for the few.

International May Day represents the new society which is coming — the society of free men and women, in which labor will control its own means of making a living, in which there will be no masters and no poverty—economic security and peace shall prevail.

International May Day represents that great working class struggle to unite the workers of the world against the capitalists of the world,—against poverty, against oppression, against wars, against Capitalism, for the freedom of the masses.

International May Day is the day when the conscious workers cease their labor, *down tools in all shops*, to prove to themselves and to their masters the strength that is in them, eager for the day when the great struggle shall flare up into revolutionary action, *end Capitalism*, and establish a world for the workers.

On the first Monday of September, the masters of industry do not fear proletarian action; they know that their workers are in bondage; they await Tuesday, when the workers will return to their shops, to sweat agony and blood in *satisfaction* for starvation wages while the masters enjoy ease and luxury.

On International Labor Day—*May Day*—the masters tremble. May Day in Europe is the day when the masters expect revolutionary upheavals. They await in dread. It is the day of revolt.

On previous May Days, the storm did not break; and gradually the masters began to believe that the storm would never break—the storm of the workers' accumulated wrath at their misery, oppression and injustice—the storm which would sweep Capitalism out of existence.

But the day *did come*.

This year, May Day is a promise fulfilled. *This* May Day sees the proletariat of the world in action against Capitalism.

In Russia, May Day is greeted by millions upon millions of workers who have overthrown the rule of Capitalism, who have seized power, who are actually organizing the new society of communist labor and fraternity of the workers. They have completed their revolution, these Russian worker-comrades of ours, amid blood and tears and smoke, amid the attacks of the whole capitalist world, but they held grimly, they refused to submit to international Capitalism and their revolutionary challenge, flaming through the world, has brought response in other nations, among the workers of the world. The cause of revolution—Russia is the cause of the workers of the world.

Capitalism is being smashed. The workers are conquering. May Day is coming into its own.

In Hungary and Bavaria, the workers are in control. They have established a Soviet Government, which means in every-day language a government of the poor against the rich, of the workers against the capitalists, of peace against war, of joy against misery, of life against death.

In Germany, the revolutionary workers, betrayed, threatened by the Allies, starving and butchered, are

Call for a National Conference of the Left Wing

Call for a National Conference of the Left Wing of the American Socialist Party, issued by Local Boston, Local Cleveland and the Left Wing Section of the Socialist Party of New York City.

The international situation and the crisis in the American Socialist Party; the sabotage the party bureaucracy has practiced on the emergency national convention; the N. E. C. aligning our party with the social-patriots at Berne, with the Congress of the Great Betrayal; the necessity of reconstructing our policy in accord with revolutionary events,—all this, and more, makes it necessary that the revolutionary forces in the Socialist Party get together for counsel and action.

This call is therefore issued, for the holding of a National Conference of the Left Wing of the American Socialist Party, to discuss:

- 1.—The crisis in the party, and action thereon; the conquest of the party for the party, for revolutionary Socialism.
- 2.—The New International; ways and means to prevent the party aligning itself with the "International" of the social-patriots, of the Ebert-Scheidemann gangsters, and the wavering centre; affiliation with the Bolshevik-Spartan International alone.
- 3.—The formulation of a declaration of principles and purposes of a national scope of the Left Wing of the American Socialist Party.
- 4.—Forming some sort of a national council or bureau of the Left Wing, for propaganda, securing of information and spreading information.
- 5.—To express and draw together the revolutionary forces in the party; to consider other means of furthering the cause of revolutionary Socialism.

This call is issued to locals of the Socialist Party, branches and Left Wing groups within the party. The test of admission, provisionally, will be acceptance of the Manifesto of the Left Wing of the Socialist Party of Greater New York.

Left Wing locals are invited to send delegates officially. Where a local officially refuses to participate, branches or minority groups in the party accepting the principles of the Left Wing should send delegates.

Representation—one delegate for every 500 members. No local or group should send more than three delegates.

The conference will be held starting Saturday, June 21, at some central city to be decided after the distribution of delegates is considered.

Left Wing Locals and Branches, act! Send communications to Louis C. Fraina, 885 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.

securing new strength and are preparing for the new struggle against Capitalism and Imperialism on *May Day*—and this struggle of our German worker-Comrades against their own Capitalism is equally a struggle against *international* Capitalism and Imperialism.

In France, Italy and England, throughout the world, in every country, is unrest among the workers, preparation for struggle against Capitalism. The workers may not be completely conscious of what they struggle for; but experience teaches them that their struggle is a struggle to destroy Capitalism, to revolutionize the old world, to place industry in the control of the workers.

In our own country, May Day comes in the midst of general unrest. This unrest is tremendous, deep; but as yet it has not become conscious in action, except among those workers who have accepted Socialism—and May Day is the day of international Socialism.

On this May Day, the American workers face a serious crisis. The war "prosperity" — which was serious crisis. The war "prosperity" — which was crease; and as the soldiers are demobilized and industry in Europe resumes normal operations, this unemployment will increase by leaps and bounds. Wages are being reduced. During the war, they, the masters, smiled upon labor; now they fire labor if labor so much as opens its mouth to protest.

The economic crisis is awakening the American workers. They realize that things are wrong. They are accepting revolutionary ideas.

The capitalists and their government are scared. They fear the development of revolutionary Socialism among the working masses. They carry on a campaign against Bolshevik ideas. They pay to slander Socialism and the workers. They arrest Socialists and I. W. W.'s. They deport agitators. The law, the police and the army are being used against the workers and the rebels.

Hundreds of Socialists and labor agitators are in prison—among them Eugene Debs, William D. Haywood and Thomas Mooney. They are in prison because they stood by the workers, because they struggle against the oppression of the workers, because they are of the workers.

In jailing these men, the government of the capitalists is jailing the workers, is striking a blow at the struggle of the workers to secure economic freedom, peace and a new world.

They are going to crush the workers, if they can. They are going to use all means to smash the revolutionary movement—and in this they will smash the workers, for, workers, *the revolutionary movement is YOUR movement, the movement which alone represents your real interests.*

On this May Day, American Labor must resolve to throw away old ideas and old tactics. It must determine to struggle against the capitalists, who are *your* real enemies. It must determine to join with the class conscious workers of the world, who are engaged or preparing to engage in the final struggle against Capitalism—against unemployment, against misery and oppression, against war and those who profit from war.

You have power. You are in control of industry. You have the might to overcome the might of the capitalists, to break the power of the capitalists—the might of your industrial action.

The capitalists and the government of the capitalists are imprisoning your revolutionary representatives. These men and women in jail are calling upon you—they want to be with you in the great struggle that is coming. On this May Day, you must resolve to call at the earliest possible moment a general strike to compel the release of our imprisoned comrades.

This will mean much. It will mean a revolutionary act. It will fire the enthusiasm of the workers. It will prepare you for new and mightier struggles against the capitalists, until you break the power of Capitalism.

The old world is breaking to pieces. Amid the roar of cannons and the rattle of machine guns, a new world is being born, the world of the workers, —*your world, if you will have it.*

Workers! Do not trust the false promises of the masters. Do not depend upon words, but upon your own deeds.

Workers—men and women! May Day is your day, you *must* make it your day. *Down tools on May Day* and show your determination to conquer, to express your solidarity with your European comrades. Then prepare for a real general strike.

On this May Day—when the whole world is in Revolution — remember the workers of the world must unite to break the power of the capitalists, to break the power of those who make poverty, misery and war. Workers of all countries, unite for Socialism!