

## Here and There

IN an editorial under the caption "The American Offense Society", *The New York Call* emits a whine about the way in which the American Defense Society quotes Hillquit. "One item listed is a small pamphlet, entitled 'The Immediate Issue', by Morris Hillquit, which is a reprint from *The Call*," says the editorial. "From this pamphlet these patrioters quote the following:

"Shall the socialization of industries and national life be attempted by one master stroke, or shall it be carried out gradually and slowly?"

"This article appeared a few weeks ago in the columns of this paper, and the extract quoted above is taken from it. It deals with a controversy within the Socialist Party and answered this question by affirming that no great social change is possible in this country by 'one master stroke.' (*Call's italics*). It is an answer to some heated individuals who think that a social revolution is imminent in this country."

*The Call* then becomes indignant at what it terms the "mendacity" of the American Defense Society. It waxes virtuous, denounces the methods pursued by such organizations and assures the world that Hillquit is very much against "master strokes."

The correct title for this editorial would be: "Please, Mr., it wasn't me, it was the other fellow." *The Call* denounces the American Defense Society's methods in one line, and in the next it commits an offense a thousand times worse—trying to save its own skin by blaming some one else. It objects to the American Defense Society tearing Hillquit's sentence from the context in order to make it appear to mean something other than Hillquit intended, and then it deliberately lies about the Left Wing, which it camouflages under the term "heated individuals." Hillquit's article was directed against the Left Wing specifically and so the "heated individuals" can mean nothing else than the Left Wing.

It happens to suit *The Call* to assume that the Left Wing is composed of a collection of hot-headed individuals who think that the social revolution in America is just round the corner, and so it points to the Left Wing in the hope that it will divert attention from itself.

As a matter of fact if the American Defense Society and kindred organizations were intelligent enough to learn from what is happening in the world today, they would leave *The Call* and its friends alone. The Berlin *Vorwärts* came in very useful to the German prototypes of the American Defense Society.

The hypocrisy of the righteous wrath of this editorial is so much propaganda for our position. We do not claim to have all the virtues in the Left Wing, but at least we have got rid of the most obnoxious vices. We may have a few hot-headed individuals in our ranks, but, at least, they are preferable to the cold-footed variety of which this *Call* editorial furnishes such an excellent example.

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Peace has been signed at least two weeks. The Peace which is supposed to conclude a war which took nearly five years of fighting to bring an armistice, the Peace, the formation of whose actual provisions took over seven months. And already the liberal bourgeoisie of all the victorious nations are discovering that the treaty is literally bristling with the bayonets of the shock troops of future wars.

*The New Republic* is in a terrible state. She feels that she has been betrayed, that her character is gone. She feels that her very name is in itself a jeer at her proud announcements of yesterday; the building of a new world, the safeguarding of democracy, the war to end war and the beautiful vision of a Capitalism wherein the soldier, the machine gun, the bombing plane, the battleship and the submarine would be as rare as a prohibitionist on Broadway. She is gradually awakening to the fact that there ain't no New Republic, but only the old republics, up to their old tricks, under new names. That is excluding Russia and Hungary, and our once proud contemporary could not, of course, have anything to do with them. Why, she has not even been introduced. Besides their language is coarse and plain. They talk of dictatorship, iron discipline, and proletarian might, when everybody who is anybody is at least mentioning democracy, rule of majorities, and plebiscites even in the drawing-rooms.

In the last issue *The New Republic*, in a burst of indignation, announces to the world the enormity of her betrayal. The alliance with France, blows the League of Nations to atoms, proves that Mr. Wilson did not always mean what he said, or say what he meant, lays the foundations for new wars, and shows that France and England are scheming for what got Germany into trouble—the domination of the world.

We are inclined to think that all the things *The New Republic* attributes to the alliance with France are exactly what those who framed the pact intended. France is dreaming of the rebirth of the First Empire and undoubtedly England never had any idea of forswearing her taste for salt water.

But what did *The New Republic* expect? Surely she knew that statesmen never did wage wars for slogans—that has always been the special privilege of the hoi-polloi. One would think she really believed in Santa Claus!

These are hard days for the liberal bourgeoisie. All the returning soldiers tell us that No-man's-land was the worst place in the whole war—one got it from both trenches.

## Special Convention Stamps

The National Executive Committee provided for payment of the expenses of the National Emergency Convention by issuing voluntary assessment stamps to be sold at 50 cents. The Left Wing members and locals still within the regular party organization will neither want to evade responsibility for their portion of the Convention expenses, nor will they want to finance the old N. E. C. in their deliberate attempt to wreck the party.

In this situation the National Left Wing Council has adopted the following motion: That we advise all party members who support the Left Wing to pay this Convention assessment in trust to the State Secretary of Ohio, at 3207 Clark Ave., Cleveland, Ohio, the Convention fund thus accumulated to be finally disposed of by the National Left Wing Council on September 1st, 1919.

NATIONAL COUNCIL, LEFT WING

I. E. FERGUSON, National Sec'y

## Bolshevikjabs

THE Right Wing in Local Kings, N. Y. at a meeting the other night decided to form an *English Branch* in one of the districts—"Comrades Oshinsky, Shiplakoff, Weil, Pavlov and Sheinblum were elected."

We understand that the formation of a *foreign speaking Branch* is contemplated and would suggest the election of Comrades Lincoln, Washington, Jefferson, Adams and Hancock.

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A delegation of merchants, teachers and students visited Peking palace the other day and attempted to commit suicide in the presence of President Hsu Shih-chang as a protest against the transfer of Shantung to Japan by the Peace Treaty. This method of protest is said to have the unqualified approval of Japan.

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Judging from the speeches which the President has delivered since his return from abroad the chief purpose of his visit to Europe was, not to make peace, but to find out just to what length the Europeans were going in their admiration of America.

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The chief advantage of this interpretation of his mission lies in the fact that even the most carping senator cannot very well find fault with being told that the Europeans are prostrating themselves in adoration before America.

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It is said that President Wilson has a *penchant* for the number "13," and that he considers it his lucky number. Perhaps this is one way of telling us that he does not consider "14" particularly fortunate.

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Enver Pasha, Talaat Bey, and Djemal Pasha, Turkish leaders during the war, have been sentenced to death by a Turkish court-martial. We hope that the Allies will frown on the establishment of any such dangerous precedent.

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Physicians plan to make New York the medical capital of the world—and the New York City administration will do its best to keep the physicians well supplied with material.

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We notice that Senator Moses is among those who oppose the League. Apparently he is not satisfied that it leads to the promised land.

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Samuel Gompers has left for Europe—going back for more, but we understand that he does not contemplate visiting Italy this time.

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"Wilson cited as the only friend Chinese had at Paris Parley" says a headline. Now the Chinese will understand the import of the Caucasian saying: "Save us from our friends."

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"France is curbing big labor strike" say the papers—which merely goes to show how important it was that democracy should emerge triumphant in the world war.

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If autocracy had been victorious, it is practically certain that labor strikes would be suppressed.