

The Internationalist

Published by the
Socialist Propaganda League of
America

Alfred S. Edwards . . . Editor

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GENERAL OFFICE INFORMATION

The office of The Internationalist is
at 2107 Washington St., Boston,
Mass.

The mail address is Box 23, Rox-
bury Sta., Boston, Mass. To this
address all correspondence for the
League and the paper should be sent.

The following comrades will serve
as the National Committee until their
successors are chosen: Simon Ber-
gis, C. W. Fitzgerald, J. Francis
Mullen, J. A. Perry, Louis Velleman,
John D. Williams, A. S. Zartarian.

The committee has chosen as sec-
retary C. W. Fitzgerald and for as-
sistant secretary Alfred S. Edwards (who
is serving as office editor), and for
treasurer Louis Velleman. To the last
named all checks and money orders,
covering subscriptions, contributions
to "sustaining fund," or donations,
should be made payable.

What Can I Do?

WE CAN almost hear the Left
Wingers throughout the
United States asking the
question "What can I do?" Indeed
we do not have to listen very hard,
for the letters coming every day are
audible with a demand from those
who have passed the stage of "pas-
sive expectation," and want to know
what is to be done. They see the
dawn of a new period for Socialism
and desire to share in the work of
preparation for it. Of primary im-
portance, then, is the organizational
effort we are to make. In respect to
organization, anything submitted in
this number of The Internationalist
is to be regarded as operative only
until such time as the members of the
League by their mass action, in con-
vention or through the referendum,
shall change it. The constitution
printed elsewhere is put forth by the
National Committee with that under-
standing; it is a trial document, made
as short and as free from technical-
ities as possible. Look it over, consid-
er it carefully and decide whether its
form and its contents will, in your
judgment, be equal to the require-
ments likely to arise in the League's
development.

Note that it excludes from our
scheme the old state organizations,
state secretaries and state commit-
tees. Every branch or group of the
League will be related to the General
(as the constitution says the "Na-
tional") Office. There, we didn't in-
tend starting a revision of the docu-
ment right now; but why not? And
again why? Why should we say "na-
tional committee," or "national sec-
retary," or "national treasurer?"
Why should we not, in an organization
of "internationalists" say "general
committee," and "general secretary,"
and "general treasurer?" But let
these matters be left with the gen-
eral membership when the body is
ready to act.

What we really started out to say
under the caption "What can I do?"
is this: First, get together five per-
sons in your community who unre-
servedly endorse the League and or-
ganize a local assembly or branch.

Second, if you endorse the League
but do not know of others, join as a
Member-at-large affiliated directly
with the general office.

Third, send your order for sub-
cards of The Internationalist, now
printed and ready to forward the
same day your order is received.

N. B.—Preliminary to taking ac-
tion read the constitution of the
League in another part of the paper.

Isn't it refreshing to you to know
that the railroads of the country,
after several months of denying their
ability to pay more wages to rail-
road workers, have made during the
year a net income of \$1,098,000,000?
One billion and ninety-eight millions
of dollars profit for the year! Of
course it makes your "patriotic"
breast swell with pride when you
think about it.

AS TO OUR PAPER

THIS, the initial and trial number of "The Internationalist," is sent forth to the Socialist and working class of the country in response to a "hurry-up" call received since the 29th of November from more than a dozen states and three Canadian provinces. The insistent demand of Left Wing socialists for action beginning with the new year, the need for wide-spread distribution of the "Manifesto of the Socialist Propaganda League of America," and the urgency for quick action in securing a subscription list at the earliest time possible, these considerations combine to speed up the venture and induce us to issue the paper sooner than a month ago was intended.

In doing this we are putting into the hands of the comrades the means by which they can do practical work in making known the purposes of the League and extending its influence. With the paper in evidence, the canvass for subscribers will be helped and the organizational work promoted. We confidently expect that every Socialist who realizes conditions and is not closing his eyes to facts will forthwith get on the job of mailing subscriptions for "The Internationalist." That is the near-end job, necessary to the development we are looking for. The year's subscription is \$1.00; six months, 50 cents; three months, 25 cents. Send short-time subs if you must; make them long-time ones if you can. Send orders with money to Box 23, Roxbury Sta., Boston, Mass.

Comrades, "it is up to you." We are fully aware of the imperfections in this number; but come along with your suggestions and criticisms. Above all get the subs and we'll all "get there" together. The continuous publication of the paper weekly depends upon revolutionary Socialists, upon those who want the Revolution so much that they have to work for it. And we'll bank on their ability and energy to make good. The next issue of the paper will go to press as soon as your response with subscribers meets the situation.

And remember this: We are just beginning the fight!

Slaves! Reach Out Your Hands! Open Your Mouths! Eat!

By FRANK BOHN.
(For "The Internationalist")

OUR American capitalists have,
so far, made \$25,000,000,000
out of the war. Of this over \$4,000,-
000,000 have been secured through
direct trade with Europe. The re-
mainder they have made through the
enormous rise of prices at home. If
you, you great mass of American
working people, were industrially or-
ganized today you could get almost
any wages you would demand. The
exporting capitalists loan money to
the European nations at from 5 to
7 per cent. In marketing the bonds
they reduce the price to the borrow-
ers from 2 to 5 per cent below par.
Of course they send not a dollar to
Europe. The money they loan is
spent here in America. They get it
back directly by making, very often,
a hundred per cent profit. Never, in
the history of the world, was there
such easy graft—not a half or a quar-
ter of the chance. But measured by
the food and clothing it will buy, your
wages are lower than before the war
began.

Stretch out your hands, you slug-
gards, and get some of this graft.
Tens of millions of you don't get food
enough to keep flesh on your miser-
able bones. There has just been built,
on a single fashionable street of New
York City, eighteen apartment houses
for the upper middle class. These
eighteen apartment houses include at
least six hundred luxurious apart-
ments, each renting from \$1500 to
\$4000 a year. The upper middle class,
the corporation lawyers, the middle-
men who corner and gamble in food,
they are all getting THEIRS. Now
for God's sake, you wage slaves, put
up some sort of fight and get YOURS.
This nation is lousy with money. A
new-rich multimillionaire came into
New York from a munitions town in
Pennsylvania some time ago and be-
gan to drop his coin up and down
Broadway. He brought in his friends
by the carload and spent his money
on them. His tips to waiters were
FIFTY DOLLAR BILLS. Did you
ever SEE A FIFTY DOLLAR BILL?

Nobody else is going to help you.
You've got to help yourselves. Don't
wait until next year. Get a bunch
of live men together in the place
where you work and get busy. Find
out how much profits the corporation
you work for paid out in interest on
its bonds, in profits on its stock and
in new equipment last year. Then go
all of you to your boss with one hand
in your pocket and the other stretched
toward the money drawer and say
that you want more. Stand around
in the shop and don't do a tap till you
get more. You've got the drop on
the boss. Three years ago there
were not enough jobs to go round.
Now there are not enough slaves to
fill the jobs.

If under the conditions which we
have described you don't have butter
on your baked potatoes then you
don't deserve butter. You deserve a
pinch of salt. If you have to plug
up a hole in your shoe with a piece
of an old shirt it is because you think
with your feet. Strike and get a 20
per cent increase in wages and then
next month strike again and get an-
other 20 per cent. It can be done. It
is being done. Let everybody do it
everywhere in every shop and depart-
ment store and laundry. The capital-

ist despises you, everybody despises
you, because you despise yourself. If
you come home next Saturday night
without an increase in pay your wife
and your children ought to lock the
door on you.

Now's the day and now's the hour
Stiffen up your backs. Stir your slug-
gish blood. Reach out your hands
and take. Open your mouths. Eat!

CRAFT UNIONISM NOT REVOLUTIONARY

The unions have not made any
revolutionary attack upon the exist-
ing system and the proletarianism
which is to destroy it obviously does
not proceed from them. Their polit-
ical and even their economic action
is vitiated by the recognition of their
crafts as a property. They make their
fight against the capitalist enemy in
terms of that property, and thus in
terms of the present system. As if
it were possible to upset a system in
terms of the legal and political
notions on which that system actually
itself depends!—Austin Lewis.

GET THEM BOTH FOR THE YEAR

If you have The Internationalist
(weekly) and The International So-
cialist Review (monthly) come to your
address for the year, you will miss
nothing worth knowing about the
Left Wing movement in the United
States and the development of the
Socialist Propaganda League of Amer-
ica. The "Review" is the one pub-
lication that has stood four-square
to all the suggestions and influences
of compromise during the years that
are behind us. We have arranged
with the publishers to offer both The
Internationalist and the International
Social Review at the clubbing
rate of \$1.50. No commissions will
be allowed on this clubbing offer. Send
check or money order for \$1.50 and
both publications will be sent to your
address for a year.

THE OPEN FORUM

It is intended that The Internationalist shall have as one of its features an "Open Forum" from which no Socialist who has something of value and interest to say shall be excluded. We want all questions of real importance discussed freely. Personalities must be omitted, except when they serve to aid the cause and elucidate principles. Letters must be brief and none should exceed five hundred words. Writers must sign their own names. The decision as to what is valuable and interesting will be made by the Press Committee. "The Open Forum" may be expected in the next number of the paper.—Editor.

Unpaid Labor Is Surplus Value

The appropriations of unpaid labor is the basis of the capitalist mode of production and of the exploitation of the worker that occurs under it; even if the capitalist buys the labor-power of his laborer at its full value as a commodity on the market, he yet extracts more value from him than he paid for; and in the ultimate analysis this surplus-value forms those sums of value from which are heaped up the constantly increasing masses of capital in the hands of the pos-
sessing classes. Thus the genesis of capitalist production and the produc-
tion of capital are both explained.
—Frederick Engels.

Reaction and Revolutionary Ideals.

Three The years immediately behind us
Section are marked by inaction and re-
action in the Socialist party. A
true revolutionary spirit and action has
never been less in evidence among party
leaders than during the period of the war.
But before that calamity befel us we were
subjected to a flood of reformistic phrase-
mongering, muddling municipalism, boring
trade unions from within, captivating the
American Federation of Labor, cramming
the capitalist moral code down the necks of
revolutionists to get middle-class votes, in-
stead of staying on our own job with a con-
sistent propaganda for revolutionary ideals.
The four years of reformistic preaching and
preparation for chronicling the rise of
"socialist" votes to millions in 1916 have
proven abortive, while almost none of the
rosy predictions of political leaders have
materialized. Still, with a strange fatuity,
they cling to old forms and discredited
methods, blind to the fact: First, That the
organization we have is not adapted to de-
velop political power and the principal func-
tion of the Socialist movement is to partici-
pate in the class struggle in such a way, that
the workers are educated to realize that their
industrial power must back up a political or
general class fight, in which the masses are
to gain such a degree of organization and
understanding, that they can disorganize
the political supremacy of capitalism and
substitute the organization of the working
class, by the exercise of their own influence
on uncompromising Socialist principles. Is it
not high time for a thorough reorganization
of the party?

Our Socialist parties still fix their hopes
on winning seats in congresses and parlia-
ments, although the real and fixed location of
government has been transferred to money
exchanges and banking institutions of the
money kings. Sacrificing principles of in-
ternational brotherhood, they are fighting
in wars, not for the solidarity and independ-
ence of the workers of all nations, but for
the aggrandizement of their respective na-
tional capitals.

Failing to give support to the mass action
of the workers on the industrial field, as
evinced at Lawrence, McKees Rocks, the
Mesaba Range, and elsewhere in the United
States, and similarly in Germany, England
and Belgium, the reformers have also failed
by constant appeals to legality to crystallize
the revolutionary sentiment on the political
field.

Must Change With the Times—or Perish.

Section What, then, can be the duty of
Four present-day Socialists, except to re-
cognize the collapse of the old and
resolutely set to work building the new
alongside the industrial evolution and com-
plying with the requirements of the modern
and intensified class struggle? It is high time
for Socialists to abolish obsolete tactics,
abandon middle-class ideals, put away the
will-o'-the-wisps of reform, and proclaim a
working class program conforming with and
equal to the demands of industrial and com-
mercial development. The times change; we
must change with them—or perish.

The new aggressive policy of the capital-
ist class, which we call imperialism, has for
its primary object the appropriation of a
bigger share of the general surplus values.
Under the operation of this feature of cap-

Fraternally submitted

SOCIALIST PROPAGANDA LEAGUE OF AMERICA

C. W. Fitzgerald, Secretary

A. S. Edwards, Asst. Sec'y.

Office: 2107 Washington St.,

Roxbury Sta., Box 23.

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I hereby agree to contribute the sum of \$..... per month for
months to sustain The Internationalist during the period of its establishment. Find first
payment enclosed.....

SOCIALIST PROPAGANDA LEAGUE OF AMERICA,
BOX 23, ROXBURY STA., BOSTON, MASS.

For the amount enclosed, \$..... please send me

..... sub cards for "The Internationalist" as

follows: Yearly Six months.....

One year, \$1.00; Six months 50 cents.

Name

Street No.

P. O. State

SOCIALIST PROPAGANDA LEAGUE OF AMERICA,
BOX 23, ROXBURY STA., BOSTON, MASS.

For the amount enclosed, \$..... please send me

..... copies of the "Manifesto," printed in separate form

Name

Street No.

P. O. State

THE MATERIALIST CONCEPTION OF HISTORY

"The materialist conception of history starts from the proposition that the production of the means to support human life and, next to production, the exchange of things produced, is the basis of all social structure; that in every society that has appeared in history, the manner in which wealth is distributed and society divided into classes or orders is dependent upon what is produced, how it is produced, and how the products are exchanged. From this point of view the final cause of all social changes and political revolutions are to be sought, not in men's brains, not in men's better insight into eternal truth and justice, but in changes in the mode of production and exchange. They are to be sought not in the philosophy, but in the economics of each particular epoch."—Frederick Engels.