

Etchings

By JEANNETTE D. PEARL

I
The Fighter

HE was a little shriveled up old man—a Jew—with a timid, shrinking look. He was all huddled up, his hands in his pockets, walking along like a conscious trespasser, hesitatingly, as if presuming on other's space.

The rowdies on the street corner spied him and sized upon him for their sport. They hurled missiles at him, scratching their chins in derision at his beard, while all the time mocking with their coarse brutal laughter.

The poor man in bewilderment sought to shield his body with his now swiftly moving arms. Then he began to run, to find himself hemmed in. For a second he stopped still, like an animal at bay. Then, dashing down upon his pursuers with surprising fierceness, he captured one of the gang, furiously beating him. The rest took to their heels, the old man making after, panting heavily, his lean arms striking out into space.

His frenzy soon spent itself and he ran around and around without sense of direction, like a top before toppling over. His hat fell to the pavement. His open coat and tousled hair flying in the wind, his eyes wide and confused, with distended nostrils, he emitted rasping sounds, to the merriment of an increasing crowd.

II

An Idiot

It was pitiable the way he jerked and twisted his little body, to amuse and get at the baby in its cart. His antics were so queer, so morbid, and continued with such dogged persistence, I had to stop on the curb to watch.

He suggested a child of ten. His features were as if melted, and ran one into the other much like an unfinished picture exposed to heat. His

eyes were crooked and in a stare looking a long way off for a child. The nose was long and hooked, with restricted nostrils. The mouth was a wide opening from which the tongue hung out like that of a panting dog, without the animal vigor; while with his sleeve he kept wiping the saliva dripping from his mouth. His chin hung loose, somewhat elongating an otherwise round face.

His clothes fell about him like a collapsed balloon, and flapped as he jerked and jumped up and down, while in the air there dangled, with sickening limpness, arms, legs, head, and even his flesh twitched and quivered. Then, these movements would cease, and his body curve forward as, with outstretched arms and feverish lust, he struggled to get at the baby.

His attempt to get the baby was blocked by a woman's watchfulness. The grief in her resignation indicated a relative. He paid no heed to her obstruction, as if it were not at all aimed against him. He persisted, unperturbed, stretching out his limp arms, annoyed, emitting blunt incoherent sounds of vexatious desire.

And as he reached out for the baby there spread over his face a lascivious grin, the glow of morbid possession. His eyes widened and rolled. The crooked one teared as it greedily peered on what he wanted.

As desire reached its height, the contortions of his body increased, his breathing became labored; while in his throat gurgled sounds of sinister pleasure, the pleasure of gratification. Then he stopped, exhausted, but not satisfied. The pause was brief. Precipitately his contortions began again. So he continued over and over, his lewd reaching out followed by his perverse glee in the imaginary enjoyment of actual possession.

Passers-by viewed him with disgust, amusement, inquisitiveness. "An idiot," a hatless one sympathetically volunteered: "what is there to look at?"

Sixteen-year-old Miss _____, daughter of the late _____, appeared in Surrogate's Court yesterday and asked for a yearly allowance of \$15,178 from her father's estate, since her present annual income of \$2,878.67 is not sufficient.—News Item.

It is interesting, as a matter of record and a study in contrast, to reprint the resolution adopted at the Emergency National Convention of the Socialist party and the proposed resolution of the Socialist Propaganda League.

The resolution of the League was introduced in committee, but rejected, although some of its proposals were incorporated in the majority report subsequently adopted by the Convention. This is the resolution of the Socialist Propaganda League:

I.

The Socialist movement is not neutral in a war, nor does it simply adopt passive measures of protest; it fights the war, continually, relentlessly, and by all the means of action in its power.

Realizing that there is a division in the International movement on the problem of action against war; realizing, moreover, that this problem is crucial in the reconstruction of Socialism, the Socialist party declares against participation in a war waged under any and all conditions of Imperialistic Capitalism, including wars of national defense and democracy, so-called.

The Socialist party cannot compromise its unrelenting opposition to war; it seeks to use every opportunity that may arise to transform a war into the Social Revolution of the proletariat.

In conformity with and applying these general principles, the Socialist party of America lays down the following program of action during the war:

1. Representatives of the Socialist party in the various governing bodies shall refuse to vote for war credits or any other measures of war. Action shall immediately be taken to expel party members violating this decision.

2. We pledge ourselves and our organization to resist all efforts at recruiting, by means of meetings, an aggressive educational propaganda, mass demonstrations, and by any other means in accord with revolutionary Socialist principles and tactics.

3. We call upon the working class, organized and unorganized, to institute strikes against the mobilization of industry and military forces, under the guise of which the ruling class deprives the people of its civil and industrial rights; and we pledge ourselves to encourage and support these strikes, and to develop them into a general revolutionary movement against war and Capitalism.

4. In the event of conscription being forced upon the people of this country by the ruling class, we shall initiate a movement for the refusal of military service; moreover, we shall support all mass movements of the people against conscription and the temporary military service.

Aside from these special measures against the war, we declare that we shall not allow the class struggle to relax; moreover, we affirm that the general revolutionary class struggle shall proceed with new vigor and increased intensity during the period of war along the lines of general mass action of the working class.

The Socialist party of America, in short, declares war upon the war and the measures adopted by the government for purposes of war. No "Civil Peace!" No truce with the ruling class! War does not change the issue, but emphasizes it: War against Capitalism. On with the class struggle!

We declare that we shall carry on this propaganda and action even should the government declare it illegal—if not legally, then illegally!

II.

Contrast this with the majority resolution which was adopted as follows:

1. The Socialist party of the United States, in the present grave crisis, solemnly reaffirms its allegiance to the principle of internationalism and working class solidarity the world over, and proclaims its unalterable opposition to the war just declared by the government of the United States.

Modern wars, as a rule, have been caused by the commercial and financial rivalry and intrigues of the capitalist interests in the different countries. Whether they have been frankly waged as wars of aggression or have been hypocritically represented as wars of "defense," they have always been made by the classes and fought by the masses. Wars bring wealth and power to the ruling classes, and suffering, death and demoralization to the workers.

They breed a sinister spirit of passion, unreason, race hatred and false patriotism. They obscure the struggle of the workers for life, liberty and social justice. They tend to sever the vital bonds of solidarity between them and their brothers in other countries, to destroy their organizations and to curtail their civil and political rights and liberties.

2. The Socialist party of the United States is unalterably opposed to the system of exploitation and class rule which is upheld and strengthened by military power and sham national patriotism. We, therefore, call upon the workers of all countries to refuse support to their governments in their wars. The wars of the contending national groups of capitalists are not the concern of the workers. And we particularly warn the workers against the snare and delusion of so-called defensive warfare.

The only struggle which would justify the workers in taking up arms is the great struggle of the working class of the world to free itself from economic exploitation and political oppression. As against the false doctrine of national patriotism, we uphold the ideal of international working class solidarity. In support of capitalism we will not willingly give

The Resolution adopted by the Emergency Convention of the Party, and the proposed Resolution of the Socialist Propaganda League

a single life or a single dollar; in support of the struggle of the workers for freedom we pledge our all.

3. The mad orgy of death and destruction which is now convulsing unfortunate Europe was caused by the conflict of capitalist interests in the European countries.

In each of these countries the workers were oppressed and exploited. They produced enormous wealth, but the bulk of it was withheld from them by the owners of the industries. The workers were thus deprived of the means to repurchase the wealth which they themselves had created.

The capitalist class of each country was forced to look for foreign markets to dispose of the accumulated "surplus" wealth. The huge profits made by the capitalists could no longer be profitably reinvested in their own countries, hence they were driven to look for foreign fields of investments. The geographical boundaries of each modern capitalist country thus became too narrow for the industrial and commercial operations of its capitalist class.

The efforts of the capitalists of all leading nations were, therefore, centered upon the domination of the world markets. Imperialism became the dominant note in the policies of Europe. The acquisition of colonial possessions and the extension of spheres of commercial and political influence became the object of diplomatic intrigues and the cause of constant clashes between nations.

The acute competition between the capitalist powers of the earth, their jealousies and distrust of one another, and the fear of the rising power of the working class, forced them to arm to the teeth. This led to the mad rivalry of armament, which years before the outbreak of the present war had turned leading countries of Europe into armed camps, with standing armies of many millions, and equipped for war in times of "peace."

Capitalism, imperialism and militarism thus laid the foundation of an inevitable general conflict in Europe. The ghastly war Europe was not caused by an accidental war, nor by the policy or institutions of any one nation. It was the logical outcome of the competitive capitalist system.

The 6,000,000 men of all countries and to who have been ruthlessly slain in the thirty months of this war, the millions of others who have been crippled and maimed, the vast treasures of wealth that have been destroyed and the untold misery and suffering of Europe have not been sacrificed in vain. They have been sacrificed for the sake of a few capitalists and a few imperialists.

When Belgium was invaded the government enjoined upon the people of this country the duty of remaining neutral, thus clearly demonstrating that the "dictates of humanity" and the fate of small nations and of democratic institutions, were matters that did not concern it. But when our enormous war tra-

fic is seriously threatened our government calls upon us to rally to the "defense of democracy and civilization."

Our entrance into the European war was instigated by the predatory capitalists in the United States, who boast of the enormous profit of \$7,000,000,000 from the manufacture and sale of munitions and war supplies and from the exportation of American foodstuffs and other necessities. They are also deeply interested in the continuance of war and the success of the allied arms through their huge loans to the governments of the allied powers and through their commercial ties. It is the same interests which strive for imperialistic domination of the western hemisphere.

The war of the United States against Germany cannot be justified even on the plea that it is a war in defense of American rights or American "honor." Ruthless as the unrestricted submarine war policy of the German government was and is, it is not an invasion of the rights of the American people as such, but only an interference with the opportunity of certain groups of American capitalists to coin cold profits out of the blood and sufferings of our fellow men in the warring countries of Europe.

It is not a war against the militarist regime of the central powers. Militarism can never be abolished by militarism.

It is not a war to advance the cause of democracy in Europe. Democracy can never be imposed upon any country by a foreign power by force of arms.

It is cant and hypocrisy to say that the war is not directed against the German people, but against the imperial government of Germany. If we send an armed force to the battlefields of Europe, its cannon will mow down the masses of the German people and not the Imperial German government.

Our entrance into the European conflict at this time will serve only to multiply the horrors of the war, to increase the toll of death and destruction and to prolong the fiendish slaughter. It will bring death, suffering and destitution to the people of the United States and particularly to the working class. It will give the powers of reaction in this country the pretext for an attempt to throttle our rights and to crush our democratic institutions and to fasten upon the country a permanent militarism.

The working class of the United States has no quarrel with the working class of Germany or of any other country. The American people have no quarrel with the German people. They are all victims of the same system.

The ruling class of the country through its representatives in the national administration and national Congress, its demagogic agitators, its subsidized press, and other servile instruments of public expression.

We brand the declaration of war by our government as a crime against the people of the United States and against the nations of the world.

Perpetual Peace r Perpetual Battle?

The World Patriots are united for purpose of promoting Peace and Freedom (at a time when these benefits seem to be fast disappearing from the so-called civilized portions of the globe) at home and abroad. They desire to banish all hatred and fear and remove the causes of racial jealousies and suspicion and to replace justice, privilege and oppression by brotherhood in co-operation.

They believe that as long as people are willing to kill their fellowmen there can be no end of war. That to kill one man even in order to save another is wrong—and that no good has ever resulted from the use of violence.

They consider American guns a menace to our lives and liberties than those of any foreign enemy; for the mere presence, as an invitation that may create an enemy.

Also, these same guns may any day be turned on those who are endeavoring to resist injustices in their daily occupations.

They realize that war, poverty, and most diseases are unnecessary, as there is plenty in the world for everyone to live in luxury and comfort—that these evils are due to the concentration of most of the wealth and resources of this country (as well as that of other countries) in the hands of a few people who are thus able to control the lives of the majority of the population, to keep them ignorant of their power of betterment.

They believe, as it has been proved the world tragedy across the sea, that war cannot conquer war nor can military be conquered by more militarism and the real issue is permanent liberty or permanent bondage, perpetual peace or perpetual battle.

They deny the privilege of parents to visit their sins on their children and to mortgage the minds, bodies and souls of coming generations for the empty title of "National Honor."

They desire to "call the bluff" of those patriots who are endeavoring to enforce conscription for purposes of home defense and at the same time are planning to send thousands of American men away from home to fight across the seas.

They therefore demand that America be kept out of active warfare and the immediate termination of the carnage overseas.

They further demand that the work of the country be returned to the people thereof so that all who are willing to work may live and enjoy and not be forced to kill or starve.

Remember there is enough in the world (and more) for all people alive today. Trouble comes because a few people own all that makes for the necessities and comforts of life and allows them to amass wealth while the masses of the people are wanting and thus obliged to obey the few who own the country.

Demand that land be given peacefully same, with instruction and care until such land is productive. The World threatened with a shortage of food (resulting from the millions engaged in the work of destruction instead of that of production).

Demand mothers' pensions so that those who bring life may be rewarded instead of those who extinguish it.

It is in your power, you, who are a people, to force this program.

Easily paid for from the people's money now in Washington Treasury instead of one week's war expenses.

Wanted: Sons and daughters of a living Revolution—a patriotism unconfined by narrow boundaries, a larger conception of the words, "Love thy neighbor," which includes the people across the world as well as those across the street. Remember there is no compromise in the work.

Men and women, will you sign a pledge in the name of humanity not to kill and help in killing any human being?

Help conquer war with peace.

Write to your Senator, your Congressman, your President, demanding their practical aid to carry out this program. Act now. Tomorrow may be too late.

I will not kill nor help kill my fellowmen.

Send to Mrs. J. S. Cram Room 908, 28 Union Square, N. Y. April 11, 1917

In all modern history there has been no war more unjustifiable than the war in which we are about to engage.

No greater dishonor has ever been forced upon a people than that which the capitalist class is forcing upon this nation against its will.

In harmony with these principles, the Socialist party emphatically rejects the proposal that in time of war the workers should suspend their struggle for better conditions. On the contrary, the acute situation created by war calls for an even more vigorous prosecution of the class struggle, and we recommend to the workers and pledge ourselves to the following course of action:

1. Continuous active and public opposition to the war, through demonstrations, mass petitions and all other means within our power.

2. Unyielding opposition to all proposed legislation for military or industrial conscription. Should such conscription be forced upon the people, we pledge ourselves to continuous efforts for the repeal of such laws and to the support of all mass movements in opposition to conscription. We pledge ourselves to oppose with all our strength any attempt to raise money for the payment of war expenses by taxing the necessities of life or issuing bonds which will put the burden upon future generations. We demand that the capitalist class, which is responsible for the war, pay its cost. Let those who kindle the fire furnish the fuel.

3. Vigorous resistance to all reactionary measures, such as censorship of press and mails, restriction of the right of free speech, assembly and organization, or compulsory arbitration and limitation of the right of strike.

4. Consistent propaganda against military training and militaristic teaching in the public schools.

5. Extension of the campaign of education among the workers to organize them into strong, class-conscious and closely unified political and industrial organizations, to enable them, by concerted and harmonious mass action, to shorten this war and to establish lasting peace.

6. Widespread educational propaganda to enlighten the masses as to the true relation between capitalism and war, and to arouse and organize them for action, not only against present war evils, but for the prevention of future wars and for the destruction of the causes of war.

7. To protect the masses of the American people from the pressing danger of starvation which the war in Europe has brought upon them, and which the entry of the United States has already aggravated, we demand:

a. The nationalization of the food supply, of maximum prices, and whatever measures may be necessary to prevent the food speculators from holding back the supplies now in their hands.

b. The socialization and democratic management of the great industries concerned with the production, transportation, storage and the marketing of food and other necessities of life.

c. The socialization and democratic management of all natural resources which are now held out of use for monopolistic or speculative profit.

These measures are presented as means of protecting the workers against the evil results of the present war. The danger of recurrence of war will exist as long as the capitalist system of industry remains in existence. The end of war will come with the establishment of socialized industry and industrial democracy the world over. The Socialist party calls upon all the workers to join it in its struggle to reach this goal and thus bring into the world a new society in which peace, fraternity and human brotherhood will be the dominant ideals.

1. We recommend that the convention instruct our elected representatives in Congress, in the state legislatures and in local bodies, to vote against all proposed appropriations or loans for military, naval and other war purposes.

2. We recommend that this convention instruct the National Executive committee to extend and improve the propaganda among women, because they as housewives and as mothers, are now particularly ready to accept our message.

3. We recommend that the convention instruct the National Executive committee to initiate an organized movement of Socialists, organized workers and other anti-war forces for concerted action along the lines of our program.

The fundamental differences in the spirit and practice of these resolutions will play a great part in the movement for Socialist reconstruction when peace allows the International to function once again.

Notice to Members of Local Kings County, N. Y.

At a meeting of Local Kings County, Socialist Party, it was decided to answer questions No. 50 and 51 of the military census as follows:

Question No. 50: Do you claim exemption from military service? Answer: Yes.

Question No. 51: Why? Answer: I am a conscientious objector.

To a Contemporary Bunk Shooter

By CARL SANDBURG

(From "Chicago Poems")

YOU come along . . . tearing your shirt . . . yelling about Jesus.

Where do you get that stuff?

What do you know about Jesus?

Jesus had a way of talking soft, and outside of a few bankers and higher-ups among the con men of Jerusalem everybody liked to have that Jesus around because he never made any fake passes, and everything he said went, and he helped the sick and gave the people hope.

You come along squirting words at us, shaking your fist and calling us all damn fools, so fierce the froth slobbers over your lips . . . always blabbing we're all going to hell straight off and you know all about it.

I've read Jesus' words. I know what he said. You don't throw any scare into me. I've got your number. I know how much you know about Jesus.

He never came near clean people or dirty people, but they felt cleaner because he came along. It was your crowd of bankers and business men and lawyers, hired slugs and murderers who put Jesus out of the running.

I say the same bunch backing you nailed the nails into the hands of this Jesus of Nazareth. He had lined up against him the same crooks and strong-arm men now lined up with you paying your way.

This Jesus was good to look at, smelled good, listened good. He threw out something fresh and beautiful from the skin of his body and the touch of his hands wherever he passed along.

You slimy bunkshooter, you put a smut on every human blossom in reach of your rotten breath, belching about hell-fire and hiccupping about this Man who lived a clean life in Galilee.

When are you going to quit making the carpenters build emergency hospitals for women and girls driven crazy with wrecked nerves from your gibberish?

Go ahead and bust all the chairs you want to. Smash a whole wagon load of furniture at every performance. Turn sixty somersaults and stand on your nutty head. If it wasn't for the way you scare the women and kids I'd feel sorry for you and pass the hat.

I like to watch a good four-flusher work, but not when he starts people puking and calling for the doctors.

I like a man that's got nerve and can pull off a great original performance, but you—you're only a bug-house peddler of second-hand gospel—you're only shoving out a phoney imitation of the goods this Jesus wanted free as air and sunlight.

You tell people living in shanties Jesus is going to fix it up all right with them by giving them mansions in the skies after they're dead and the worms have eaten 'em.

You tell \$6 a week department store girls all they need is Jesus; you take a steel trust wop, dead without having lived, gray and shrunk at forty years of age, and you tell him to look at Jesus on the cross and he'll be all right.

You tell poor people they don't need any more money on pay day and even if it's fierce to be out of a job, Jesus'll fix that up all right, all right—all they've got to do is take Jesus the way you say.

I'm telling you, Jesus wouldn't stand for the stuff you're handing out. Jesus played it different. The bankers and lawyers of Jerusalem got their slugs and murderers to go after Jesus just because Jesus wouldn't play their game. He didn't sit in with the big thieves.

I don't want a lot of gab from a bunkshooter in my religion.

I won't take my religion from any man who never works except with his mouth and never cherishes any memory except the face of the woman on the American silver dollar.

I ask you to come through and show me where you're pouring out the blood of your life.

I've been to this suburb of Jerusalem they call Golgotha, where they nailed Him, and I know if the story is straight it was real blood that ran from His hands and the nail-holes, and it was real blood that spurted in red drops where the spear of the Roman soldier rammed in between the ribs of this Jesus of Nazareth.