

Devoted to
the Cause
of the
Left Wing
Socialists

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Workers of the
World, Unite!
You have
a World
to Gain!

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I Refuse!

By LOUIS C. FRAINA.

I refuse to compromise my ideals of liberty and fraternity. I refuse to drag these ideals in the mud and blood of brutal slaughter.

I refuse my moral and physical support to the great enemy of progress and the destroyer of the race.

In a day when all the forces of rapacity and tyranny are organized to crush the ideals and conscience of the individual, I shall not allow myself to be crushed.

I refuse to fight for a ruling class that oppresses and kills us in the days of peace, and now insists that we fight and die to protect its interests.

I recognize no loyalty but the loyalty to my class—no war but the international war against Capitalism—no ideals but the ideals of revolutionary Socialism—no duty but the duty to my conscience.

They are using the lives and aspirations, the courage and enthusiasm of our youth as fertilizer for the sinister business interests that promoted this war and which alone will profit by it.

I shall fight for life and love, beauty and freedom. But I shall not fight for death and profits, business and tyranny.

I refuse to acquiesce in the accomplished fact of war. I refuse to submit to the reaction, and to the extinction of freedom.

They shall not have my cooperation for

my mind, my courage and enthusiasm.

I refuse to shoulder a gun, and tramp, tramp, tramp in the march of destruction.

I shall never use a gun to kill another man; a man whom I do not know and with whom I have no quarrel; a man whom if I did know I might love for his faults and ideals, and his joy in life.

I shall never stick the cold, sharp steel of the bayonet in the soft, unresisting guts of a human being, see him collapse in agony and the warm blood of life spurting out of his sagging body, hear the wail of the dying and the murmurs of farewell to dear ones who will never see him again.

I refuse to feed the guns that spurt out death, as if death were the all-absorbing business of life.

I refuse to shatter the body of a man that a mother agonized to bring forth for life and love.

I refuse to shatter the body of a man that has warmed a sweetheart, to cripple hands that have fondled a child, to smash the mouth that has kissed a mother.

I refuse to blind eyes that have gazed lovingly upon life, and hoped for happiness in spite of misery and death.

I refuse to make corpses that rot, cripples that suffer, and men and women that weep.

You say these things are necessary? That they are sacrifices for our ideals? You lie, gentlemen! Your ideals are to make money, to acquire power, to insure your financial supremacy. The ideals of democracy and civilization that you pretend to fight for are a fraud.

I refuse to fight for these ideals! I shall not tolerate compulsion! I shall not shed blood in your infamous cause!

You may punish me, you may break me physically. You cannot break my spirit and my conscience!

Others may palter, and acquiesce. I refuse!

New York City has become the center of the no-conscription agitation. There are many conscientious objectors, both men and women, who mean to protest and to act against the law, not only in the South, but also in the East. The city where public opinion is to be greatest against the law is Kansas City, but there are also groups in Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Milwaukee who will refuse to be drafted.—New York Mail.

CENSORSHIP!

For ways that are dark the "heathen Chinese" has nothing on the representatives of "law and order" in this country.

Here is the proof:

An original cartoon by Maurice Becker was to have appeared in this space—a magnificent expression of the courageous spirit of the Conscientious Objector.

We were all ready to go to press, when the printer informs us that he dares not print the cartoon for fear of prosecution by the government!

Similarly, the police do not prohibit meetings, but owners of halls are indirectly influenced and they refuse.

It's a mere trifle that the Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and assemblage. It's a mere trifle that no Censorship law has as yet been passed.

Three cheers for Democracy—in Russia!

Repeal the Conscription Act!

All our activity and propoganda in this particular crisis is to have Congress repeal the Conscription Act.

The Conscription Act violates Section I of the Thirteenth Amendment to the constitution, which reads: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been dully convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

We have a right to demand that the Government live up to its own fundamental law. We have a right to agitate against the invasion of our liberty.

This agitation is not illegal, but the attempts of the Government to prevent this agitation are illegal.

The will of the people alone is law in a democracy, and Congress must express the will of the people.

It is not simply a question of human rights, but of legal rights.

Gentlemen of the Congress, the people demand the repeal of the Conscription Act!

In the meanwhile, all men of conscriptive age, conscientiously opposed to war, may express their convictions by claiming exemption as Conscientious Objectors. So state in your registration form.

Do not argue with anyone. Do not allow anyone to provoke you into a fight. That is precisely what they want.

In reporting the great meeting at Madison Square Garden, the New York Evening Post says: "The only disturbance came from a group of soldiers and sailors who sat in a body directly opposite the platform and interrupted the meeting at intervals with yells and cat-calls."

Do not allow them to provoke you—we believe in peace, it is our opponents who want violence.

Remember: this is not a problem of the individual alone: it is a social issue. Organize and work for the repeal of the Conscription Act!

The Revolt Against Conscription

THE news from all sections of the country the past two weeks indicate a spontaneous and powerful movement to resist conscription. This is not a statement in the nature of the wish being father to the thought, but is a fact emphasized by the press and the government.

A dispatch from Washington dated May 30 said:

"Government heads hoped to-day, though did not fully believe, that they had crushed anti-conscription plots. Riots like those of civil war days were still regarded as possible."

This statement was preceded by news of arrests throughout the country of men and women active in the fight against conscription. Socialist party headquarters in Pittsburgh had been raided, no-conscription literature seized, and many comrades arrested. In Texas, the president of the Farmers' and Laborers' Protective Association of America, which it is alleged has organized a movement to resist conscription, had been arrested, along with a score of other men. It is said the government will demand the death penalty. An aggravation in this case is that the despicable employing class of Texas is using the opportunity to crush a movement against its interests.

It was determined to crush the no-conscription movement, came the arrest of men and women throughout the country on charges of treason and conspiracy to violate the conscription law.

In New York City, three members of the Collegiate Anti-Militarism League, Owen Cattell, Charles Francis Phillips and Eleanor Wilson Parker, were arrested on the charge of conspiring to violate the conscription law by advising r en not to register.

In Columbus, Ohio, charges of treason were filed by the United States District Attorney against Ammon A. Hennacy, a college student and Socialist; Harry E. Townley, a printer, and Cecil W. Bailey, a mechanic. "None of the three charged with treason winced when reminded at their arraignment that conviction on the charge of treason may mean death," says the newspaper report. Others are under arrest for investigation.

In Topeka, Kansas, Dr. Eva Harding and I. Goldberg, who had attended an anti-conscription meeting, were arrested on the charge of conspiring to defeat the draft. Newman, a carpenter, who was chairman of the meeting, was also arrested. Professor George W. Kleihege, former Socialist candidate for Governor, was arrested in Lawrence, also on the charge of conspiracy.

In Kansas City, two men who had appealed to the courts for an injunction to restrain the operation of the draft, were arrested after their proceedings were dismissed.

In New York City and in all sections of the country the police are being ordered to show no mercy. The secret service machinery of the government is actively on the job to round up objectors. Stenographic reports are being made of all speeches at no-conscription meetings. A dominant phase of the movement seems to be the determination not to register, and secret censuses are being instituted to check up on young men of conscriptive age. Others will register as conscientious objectors.

The government, through Attorney-General Gregory, has carried on a regular propaganda to warn men of conscriptive age of the drastic penalty attached to any activity against conscription. In spite of the warning, these men apparently are organizing, prepared to make an issue of the whole thing.

(Continued on page 4, col. 3)