

"It is a right to be maintained in peace or war. It is a right that cannot be invaded without destroying constitutional liberty. Hence this right should be guarded and protected by the free men of this country with a zealous care, unless they are prepared for chains or anarchy.—Daniel Webster on Free Speech.

THE MAN WITH A MESSAGE

One of the latest curiosities which has come to settle the shipyard strike in Astoria is "Three-Fingered" Jack Godwin. He has been going about the world for a long time making amends for his earlier wickedness, he says, and in order to further atone for his past sins he has come here to plead with the strikers to be good dogs and go back to their chains. He calls this wrestling with the devil. So far, the devil has the best of it.

The capitalist press and the local powers are exerting themselves to promote his bunk, which, like the spiel of the street fakir, is varied and sensational enough to appeal to the thoughtless of all classes and cloud the issue. The employers and Jack seem to understand each other, and the workers understand them both. He would be run out of town inside an hour if he said anything sensible.

Of course, the depravity of human nature in general and that of the I. W. W., in particular, is his long suit. He has evidently never heard of the discovery long ago of economic laws which affect the lives of us all and even determine the conduct of nations; that the price of flour, and not the devil, is what makes a red-light district; and that, if he did know it and talked very much about it he would soon find himself in jail for the fifty-seventh time.

To be sure, Godwin does not overlook the patriotic stunt. He points to the flag about half the time when speaking, as though one should be enraged all the while in order to be patriotic. "Work for nothing but bread and butter," he shouts to the workers in his audience, while the ship contractors and mill owners clap their pudgy hands in glee.

Contrary to advance notices, though, he has so far failed to adjust the differences between capital and labor, to redeem Astoria from sin or eat any "wobblies." Perhaps a blight has fallen on his faculties. Or perhaps his talk is merely the same old bunk.

THE CLOSED SHOP

The closed shop means what it means and not what the mouth-pieces of capitalism say it means. It is not a monster with horns, standing ever ready to gore and toss the employer about whenever its anger may be aroused. It is no dreadful invention of a labor union to force incompetent workmen upon the boss or to make the union delegate a superintendent of industry.

The closed shop means that the employer of labor shall recognize the union of the men working for him and shall treat with them as a unit and not as individuals. That is what it means and about all that it means—the right of the working class to negotiate collectively.

Is it unreasonable or unbusinesslike for a body of men who have labor to sell to negotiate through a representative? Do not the corporations have a representative to purchase labor for them? Or does each member of a corporation go out promiscuously and hire labor for the industry in which he may own stock? If it is good business for the corporation, why not for a labor union?

The ship contractors who are so persistently opposing the closed shop haven't a leg to stand on. Their claim that collective bargaining would foster incompetence and destroy discipline among the workers is merely an excuse for retaining the old system of "every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost" by which they for years have been able to demand servility on pain of being discharged. Above the neck of the individual worker this sword has ever hung, and the general effect has been to make him endure vile conditions or see his family facing hunger and want. Individually one must submit to wrongs which collectively they might alleviate.

No employer who intends to be fair to his men need fear a closed shop. In fact he should welcome it as a simpler and more efficient way of dealing with a body of men. Grievances would be discussed in the union and relief sought through chosen representatives. And no employer who does not glory in making cravens of those who feed him and his children with their labor would want to make the lot of the laborer's

children less secure than it of necessity is.

For weeks now the ship contractors, who are waxing rich in their ship building plants, have held out against this purely human right of labor to deal as a unit—to sell their labor and skill through representatives. And not even the exigencies of war or the stability of the nation which is enriching them is a factor strong enough to move their obstinate and greedy hearts.

And the carpenters, who are only asking for decent conditions for their families while they serve their country as mechanics, are reminded of their patriotic duty—of their duty to trust to the hazards of the open shop and the mercy of their employers, said mercies being something which is fresh in their memories and not likely to be forgotten.

And the shipyard owners, who will be rich when their workmen are poor, who are making a hundred dollars to a mechanic's ten, where families are in no danger of want whatever, who are and have been consuming the cream of the earth, have the colossal gaul to indicate that they are prevented from turning out ships because the closed shop is unreasonable.

When they deal with the men they deal on the closed shop plan. They are simply denying to labor the rights they institute for themselves, are hampering production and inviting defeat of the nation at arms. If they do not hastily give in, their yards should be commandeered by the government and they apprehended as traitors and dealt with as traitors deserve.

**Caught With The Goods
—Or the Story of
3,780,000 Bananas**

The United Fruit Co., the fruit trust, is one of the big food profiteers that has taken advantage of the war to boost prices. Its profits during 1913, the year before the war, were \$5,315,631. Last year, 1916, its profits had more than doubled, amounting to \$11,943,151.

This fruit trust handles the bananas as one of its chief staples. Have you noticed that the price of bananas has been going up? The banana man no doubt told you that it was due to the war; the banana trees down in Central America were not fighting as hard producing bananas because of the fighting in Europe.

If we followed the line of reason usually pursued by the jingo press, we would immediately scent a plot, and demand a firing squad for the traitors and seditionists who told the banana trees there is war on the other side of the ocean.

But we want to be considered sane. And we do not want to cast any reflections on the hard working banana trees.

WE ARE glad therefore, supremely overjoyed, to know that the United Fruit Co. has been caught with the goods.

Perhaps the aroused public sentiment of the nation forced the authorities at Boston, Mass., to do something they might not otherwise have done; stopped the United Fruit Co. from dumping an entire steamship load of bananas; 30,000 bunches, 3,780,000 bananas, into the ocean to keep up prices.

We don't know which to pity most, the overworked banana trees, that had to produce those 30,000 bunches only to see them dumped into the ocean, or sheepish humanity that permits the wastage of food in this wholesale fashion. But there is no need of pity this time. The bananas were saved!

The Boston, Mass., authorities evidently had their ears close to the ground and they no doubt concluded that there would be an awful reckoning, if those millions of bananas went into the ocean.

SO THEY suddenly became righteous officials, who might otherwise have accepted a little hush money and remained num, demanding in words that were heard on the front pages of all the Boston newspapers, why these bananas must go into the ocean.

The fruit trust grew confused and stuttered its reply. The excuse was that the refrigeration machinery had broken down

and the bananas had spoiled and were no good anyway. But an examination of the ship-load proved that the bananas were still very good eating.

Then the food profiteers went into executive session. They decided to white wash themselves of this great crime of food wastage, to deck themselves forth as good Samaritans, and offered to give the alleged "spoiled" bananas away FREE.

THE HUNGRY populace mobbed the banana ship in their efforts to get the free eats. For the time being proletarian tongues severed acquaintanceship with tasteless black bread and enjoyed the luscious fruit of the tropics.

While the free bananas were fast disappearing another ship came up the bay, with another load of bananas, the property of the United Fruit Co. These were sold at the same high price that had previously prevailed.

WE DON'T believe in free bananas any more than we do in high priced bananas. We don't believe in the "coffee and" of the breadline any more than we do in the \$10 dinner. Yet the one begets the other just as the boulevard breeds the slum.

Socialism would abolish both the free and the high priced bananas. By the socialization of bananas, as well as all other food, the cost to the consumer would be the cost of production and distribution. And the banana trees would go on producing under Socialism just as willingly as they do at present. They would be no more affected by a change in our social system than they are by the world-war. The only difference would be that the fruit trust, using every possible excuse to increase the price of food, would be wiped out of existence. It would disappear along with profits.

With the socialization of food the people as a whole will sit down to a square meal for the first time; because there will be no one to exploit the human appetite.

There will be plenty for all, because we will then get all that we produce, and there is enough human energy in the world to produce more than enough for all.

THE UNITED FRUIT CO. planned to throw nearly four million bananas into the ocean at Boston, Mass.

The people were wide awake for once and as a result got a free feed. It is hoped that they will not be satisfied with this bit of charity. Before they get hungry again let them cast the present profit system into the discard.

We need the bananas. We

don't need profits in food or anything else.

Let us socialize food as our next step toward Socialism.

Let us throw profits in food overboard as our first step in ridding ourselves of the present capitalist system of society.—The Eye Opener.

A Plea for Socialism

Few people know anything about the importance of the theory of Socialism. Some imagine it is some sort of dividing up scheme that puts every one on a financial level, and its followers are a gang of law-breakers who do not believe in war.

This vague idea of the Socialist theory is the result of the wealthy class (now in control) not permitting the people to be educated in the schools or by the press along this line, because they imagine it would be against their interests.

Let this be as it may. It is good to be wise. I would therefore advise every one to study the theory, because it is the world's only hope for a permanent peace. Because it aims to undermine the cause of strife and selfishness among men, which is primarily private ownership of wealth and the power of money.

The universal adoption of Socialism would make every poor man rich, and relieve the rich of the care of their riches without impoverishing them. It puts a premium on National Service, justice, and equality among all people. It stands for everything that is moral, pure and good, but nothing religious. Its teaching is in perfect harmony with Christ's teaching, as well as being economical and democratic.

In commerce it advocates co-operation in place of competition, and universal brotherhood of man in place of strife and war. Its study gives one an education in actual facts or the pure truth, thereby exposing the weakness of our present social capital and political systems.

It points us to the millenium or a higher form of civilization than the world is prepared to accept to-day, but through a process of changes, will have to come sooner or later. It is therefore wise to know how to conduct our affairs as the dawn of a revolution approaches.—H. Webster. (In the Canadian Forward).

The Real Sex Revolt

The Battalions of Death

(By Ida Crouch-Hazlett, in New York "Call.")

Merrily, the new things have come and the old are passing away. Some recent expressions of a feminist writer have a tendency to deplore the entrance of the Russian women into the battle lines as a breaking down of all the ideals of the new heaven and the new earth that would be here when woman evolved into her own. Women are to be the doves of peace, the angels of mercy, the destroyers of war, the preservers of life.

However delightful it may be to dwell on this apotheosis and final canonization of womanhood, it makes me think of the slogan of the early suffragists—"When women vote there won't be any saloons." For years there were only four states that had the suffrage, and saloons were running in them full blast, while the prohibition states were those in which women did not vote. This showed clearly that, while women in their deeper nature probably abhorred the saloon, the economic reasons that called for the saloon were stronger than the sentimental prejudices of women.

Women abhor war and long for peace because war takes their loved ones from them. But when their homes and their loved ones can only be preserved through war they have never wavered in courage and intrepidity of spirit. The Spartan mothers, when their cities were in the death-throes with Athens, told their sons to return with their shields or upon them.

It was the German women leaving their homes and fighting by the side of their husbands that turned back the tide of the Roman legions and saved the world for civilization. The fe-

male of every species is the most aggressive, terrible, relentless. Verily, the female of the species is more deadly than the male.

To expect that women will place peace above every other consideration is like expecting that we must have peace to get Socialism, whereas it appears that the world cataclysm, which is shaking existing systems to their foundations, is the whirlwind sweeping away the debris of capitalism, while the new order emerges in its strength and glory.

These Russian girls have shattered the sentimental traditions about women with their bayonets. They have leaped the last barrier between women and humanity—that is, the human state. They are no longer male or female; they are human beings throwing their all, themselves, into the struggle for ultimate liberty, for universal freedom for every one. Russia must be free in order that the ideals of human destiny may be free. The men are wavering; war lords on each side threaten destruction, and forth the banners of the women go.

But there is something deeper and more potential than the final war consummation in this stepping of women from the fireside to the trenches. Remember that wells said, "Compared to this secular transformation of women, the war is merely jolts and incidents." When women stepped to the front and seized the battle standard, when they opened their arms to death and said, "We are ready," and took his name and superscription as theirs, with the sword of the life destroyer they severed forever the cords of bondage that had bound their sex to the barem psychology, namely, that women cannot back up their independence with physical force.

Women have always known they could do it; in fact, we may say that all along the line they have really done so, but they have never been able to force the admission from the old slave regime. The Russian women have made the demonstration so that all ages may see. They have literally bought the freedom of all women with their blood.

And other women will follow, if the war lasts, till the men shall say: To this slaughter pen have we brought the best and dearest that the world has; it is time that we all quit and try some other plan.

And, behold, how the womanly nature shows its superiority to the less developed personality of men. They showed no fear as the battle signal sounded. They went forward with joy to meet their fate. Men—the vast majority of them, at any rate—are afraid. They lack moral courage; they lack almost every kind of courage. They have ruled by power, not by desert.

Women have faced continually death and worse than death. They face death every time a human life comes into the world. Men's only contribution to that event is pleasure. They face

worse than death whenever they are forced to submit their body and the sacred functions of love, by law, necessity, physical compulsion or any other power, to a man whom they despise. Going into battle must have been a glorious exaltation compared to that.

In comparison, how did the Russian men shame themselves—the Russian soldiers? Where they have heralded to the world that they went forth to the sacred field of honor they looked upon the women, even in their sacrificial role, as instruments of lust, and could only be forced back to their proper places by the bayonet. They would have assaulted the girls at their bath had it not been for the same grim decree of steel.

The Russian girls have vindicated womankind forever from the disabling implication of impotency and subordination. No more man-rule for Russia, nor anywhere else in civilization.

But, in spite of women giving their bodies to be destroyed in the universal deluge of destruction that men have brought upon the world, their mission as the preservers of life shall not vanish away. Through their blood they hasten the advent of a free world—free men, free women, free society—that shall have peace because it has the condition of peace.

NEW LAW SHUTS MOUTH OF THE NEWSPAPERS

(Continued from Page One)

special interests. Publication of any news calculated to urge the people to violate law will be considered grounds for drastic action. We will not tolerate campaigns against conscription, enlistment, sale of securities or revenue collections. We will not permit the publication or circulation of anything hampering the war's prosecution, or attacking improperly our allies.

Mr. Burleson explained that the policy of foreign language newspapers would be judged by their past utterances and not by newly announced intentions.

"We have files of these papers, and whether we license them or not depends on our inspection of the files," he said.

German newspapers not licensed will be required to publish English translations.

Mr. Burleson said no socialist paper would be barred from the mails unless it contained treasonable or seditious matter.

When times are "normal," that is to say, when prices are not inflated, the average working man's resources, in the event of sickness or idleness resulting from unemployment, do not last over three weeks. This fact has repeatedly been demonstrated. No strike would last three weeks if the capitalist class were not aware of this "improvident" trait of the laboring class.

"United We Stand, Divided We Fall"

The time has arrived when the workingmen of the country must unite! Organized capital is strongly united in its efforts to crush the rightful demands of the workers. The so-called capitalist papers are always trying to form public opinion against the workingmen. They publish news and articles in the interest of the master class only.

The workingmen of Astoria and vicinity know this to be an absolute fact. The workingmen of this community can see there is only one paper in Astoria that is publishing the facts about the strike and that paper is "the Daily Toveri" (The Daily Comrade).

This paper has been published in the Finnish language only, for about ten years, but we saw the urgent need of a paper that could be read by the English-speaking people also, so we decided to do all we could to let all the people know the real facts about the strikes and all other matters important to the workingmen, which are kept dark by other papers.

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