

Thomas Jefferson believed that the only censorship that was safe, if our liberties were to be preserved, was the right of the people to censor the government. His successors have reversed the process. Now the government seeks to censor the utterances of the people. As one of its officials has put it—"Keep your mouth shut." Jefferson showed that the only way to keep our liberties was to do just the opposite. Here is what he said about censorship:

"NO GOVERNMENT OUGHT TO BE WITHOUT CENSORS, AND WHERE THE PRESS IS FREE NO ONE EVER WILL."

WHERE DO THE GERMS ORIGINATE?

"It's a pretty healthy, harmful germ that can remain alive on peddlers' goods. The merit in the scare lies in stopping patronage to make the peddler go to work. Buy the goods in the stores that sell them."

From the foregoing, which is from the Oregonian, one will evidently gain the idea, that the germs carried in peddlers' goods were in the peddler's possession, for it is implied that the danger would be avoided by stopping patronage.

Could anyone think of a better shield for those deriving huge profits from sweatshop slaves!

If the goods are produced under sanitary conditions, there are no germs carried with them. And if they are not so produced, no matter how they are distributed, they are germ-infested.

The "merit in the scare" does not lie in refusing to patronize a peddler, but in stopping the use of sweatshop products, no matter where offered for sale.

Demand union wages and buy only union made goods and you need not fear the germs contracted in sweatshops, the places most favorable for the procreation of germs.

THE HIGH PRICES

Who would like to accept the responsibility for them? The regulation of food prices in our country has been contrary to that in every other country at war. "Regulation" in other countries means fixing of the highest price limit not to be transgressed by anybody with impunity; by us the lowest price is limited, so that nobody is allowed to buy any goods for less than that minimum price. Nevertheless, Mr. Hoover, our food administrator, announces that owing to his activities the prices are on the decline—inexplicable enough, besides being incredible because we or no other mortal has been able to mark any indication of such decline. On the contrary all prices are bound to go upwards as steadily as ever. Mr. Hoover declares that the wholesale prices are going down, but that the retailers have not cut their prices, preferring to gather enormous profits. These retail dealers ought to be controlled "with the whip of public opinion," he says, for he has no authority over them. Congress has given him the power to regulate wholesale prices only, not retail prices.

Good luck! How careless the Congress is, anyway! It gave gag-power in unlimited quantity, but left the food director with his hands bound so tight that with the best will in the world he is wholly unable to protect those in direst need of his protection—those who buy from the retailers, the hand-to-mouth living workers!

They are past masters of their game, those gentlemen. A business expert as Mr. Hoover is, professes the fullest ignorance of the fact that the wholesaler absolutely controls, and in most cases practically owns, the retail business. If they are forced to reduce their wholesale prices, they very well can keep the retail prices as high as they like, and pocket their former profits by that roundabout way. In the event the retail prices must be reduced, there would soon appear some awfully urgent reason for advancing the wholesale prices to such an extent that retail prices cannot be kept down. If the authority of the food administrator in fact does not

reach the retail dealer, it only proves that there has been no true meaning behind all this noise; purposely a back door has been left for the food manipulator to sneak off. Should any of the manipulators have overlooked that back door, the "warning" issued by Mr. Hoover should guide even the most stupid to that door.

A SYMPTOM OF AN IRRATIONAL SYSTEM

A short news item states that there are about five million women employed in gainful industry in Great Britain. Much as the truthfulness of the news in the capitalistic press is questionable, it is often true to the extent that the question involved may have taken place in some form.

In this case we may take it for granted that so many women are employed in the industries, that we have to discount about its gainfulness. But even the fact that such a vast number of women are working in the industries in a country where women's political rights are not recognized—which, not considering the United States, is a condition rarely existing—speaks strongly against the present social system.

Knowing that there are hosts of men in every country idle and others employed in useless production, we can see this social obsession fully exposed. Millions of men are employed in every country in useless production, while vast numbers of men do not produce anything at all, but are getting their living by burdening others. It is to the interest of this class, that necessitates the socially non-productive as well as the socially detrimental industry in which men are employed, and compels women into factories.

Such is the result of an irrational social system; it is a condition which even the best hopes fail to change unless the entire system is changed.

Not only are women employed in industry, but the children as well. The rising youth which should be in schools, is in factories, degenerating there even physically so that the entire human race is suffering.

We must get into a different state of society, in which every member of the society is socially employed, but in which the production is carried on to satisfy the needs of everybody. Such conditions can be realized under the Socialist mode of production only.

BEST KNOWN PERSECUTOR OF LABOR IN THE WORLD

By Robert Minor.

The most celebrated district attorney in the world is Mr. Charles M. Fickert of San Francisco. To say nothing of all the highways and byways of these United States, meetings are being held in Fairbanks, Alaska and men are talking on the street corners in Buenos Aires of the doings of Charles M. Fickert. His reputation extends from Honolulu to Petrograd, in which latter city big-nosed peasant delegates from farms off the Trans-Siberian railway are earnestly discussing Mr. Charles Fickert with the American ambassador.

While fame has long been sought by Mr. Fickert, the particular KIND of reputation he has, has been somewhat thrust upon him.

Readers of history will remember the stories of the decline of the Venetian Republic—will remember the fame that some renowned office-holders of that unfortunate city had attained in their battle to hold political control. The most celebrated politicians of that regime accomplished their diplomacy by hiring murder by the knife in the back; the most noted "district attorneys" won their cases by hiring women to administer the poisoned cup.

Different—but the same. And how does the district attorney of the Venice-like city of San Francisco work? The knife-man has become the gunman; and instead of hiring murder by the poison-cup, life is taken just as surely and almost as swiftly by hiring perjurers to swear to lies. This is hardly even

denied; do you remember the words of Cunha in the Survey Magazine, "If I knew that every single witness that testified against Mooney perjured himself in his testimony, I would not lift a finger to get him a new trial?"

It is brazenly admitted in the high-bourgeois club rooms of San Francisco (how like the drawing-rooms of poison- and dagger-ridden Venice in the sixteenth century!) that "Mooney didn't blow up the preparedness parade; but he's done enough other things that we can't get evidence on to deserve hanging. He damn near ruined business with his strikes; what if a little perjury is used? If it's against Mooney it's pretty near true, anyhow."

He's Also Gun Man.

During Fickert's negotiations to purchase Oxman to kill Mooney with perjury, Oxman asked the district attorney, "If ALL of the witnesses are framed and the people find it out, what'll they do to us?" Fickert replied, "The people will be glad to get rid of Mooney at any price."

So much for the perjury. How about the gunmen? With some of the thousands of dollars poured by the Chamber of Commerce into the killing of Mooney, three large societies of gunmen have been employed. These societies advertise under the name of "detective agencies" and are recruited from the lowest class of the criminal world—that rank where men and women lose the last human virtue—human sympathy. Three armies of these thugs have for one year and more preyed upon such workmen as have dared to defend the labor prisoners.

But our famous district attorney doesn't leave it all to hirelings. He took the stand and testified for Oxman. Note his testimony in the Oxman perjury-subornation case and compare his oath there with some of his previous statements and explanations.

What Will People Do?

And as for the trade of gunman! No swaggar gambler of a '49 mining camp ever carried a heavy gun more constantly or belligerently. None ever was quicker to stick his chin over the face of a smaller, unarmed man, with ham-like fist swung back to his gun pocket.

On Thursday, the 27th day of September, Fickert summoned one Selig Schulberg to the grand jury room. Schulberg is a comparatively small man—about two heads shorter than Fickert—and, of course, was unarmed. Schulberg was forced to attend, to enter the hallway of the so-called hall of justice alone and stand among the dozen or more of Fickert's armed retainers.

While Schulberg was waiting in the corridor, Fickert walked up to him and beat him. Knocking Schulberg's glasses off, Fickert pummelled the witness with his fists.

As soon as he got through beating Schulberg, the surrounding group of grand jurors and policemen adjourned, and Schulberg was dragged to the grand-jury room to testify.

'JERUSALEM THE GOLDEN' COMES TRUE AS SUGAR SELLS FOR \$2 A POUND

By Pippa.

In years past, New England churches would resonate with the hymn, "Jerusalem the Golden," never dreaming that such would be the case.

According to refugees from Palestine who arrived yesterday at the Hebrew Sheltering house, sugar is \$2 a pound, and bread and potatoes have gone up 400 per cent in Jerusalem. Now, indeed, the "golden."

"I had in my school at the beginning of the year 550 children ranging from 5 to 17 years. There are now left 55, for almost 300 of them died of starvation."

This statement came from Jacob Davidson, the assistant principal of a school in Jerusalem, called the Tree of Life. That conditions throughout the other countries where the refugees topped are appalling can be gathered by questioning any one of the new arrivals. The children, with their wan faces, are reminders of famine-stricken districts.

According to another of the refugees, Leo Levinsohn, an ambitious druggist, medicine cannot be bought. With the German entry, a quantity of guanine came, but the prices were prohibitive. In addition, the families had to give to the Turks dishes, jackets, clothing, etc., or suffer the consequences.

"At the most I never could spend more than \$150 a week," said Levinsohn. At his side stood his young wife and baby, listening to his words, the stamp of their experiences not yet off their faces.

The Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, at its recent session, adopted a resolution recommending that the workers join in forming a Labor party along the lines of the Labor party of Great Britain. It was suggested that the largest political working class organization in each Province call a conference at some convenient place of all bodies entitled to join a Labor party, and that arrangements be made through these to secure the political cooperation that is desired. It is expected that the whole Dominion will be organized by the time the parliamentary elections are held.

The old slave master would not allow the slaves to be taught to read. The masters today care not how much the workers read so long as they furnish the reading matter.

One-man power is disastrous in a weak man and despotic in a strong man.

MUNICIPAL LINE A HUGE SUCCESS

While the water-logged United Railroads of San Francisco pleads poverty as an excuse for refusing the reasonable demands of its platform men, the Municipal Railways, paying the identical scale demanded of the private corporation, continues to show net profits. This is due not only to the fact that it is not over-capitalized, but, according to figures just given out, is the result of better management, as revealed by the cost of operation, which the Municipal accountants place at 1.063 per car-hour for the city lines, as against 1.745 on the United Railroads.

The net profit for the fiscal year which ended June 30 was \$42,855 for the system, as against \$74,767 for the preceding twelve months. The difference is chargeable to the falling off in traffic after the close of the fiscal year and the high receipts of the Union-street line owing to the small number of troops at the Presidio last year, that line showing a loss for the first year of its operation by the city.

Several factors promise to make the year to come a prosperous one for the Municipal Railways. Already a handsome start has been made owing to the heavy traffic consequent to the wretched service of the United Railroads and public sympathy with the striking platform men; the receipts for August totaling \$228,648—within \$8,000 of the greatest month in the history of the system, August, 1915, when the Exposition was at its height.

Traffic on the new Church street line has been very heavy, and the opening of the lines through Twin Peaks tunnel and along the full length of Market street will add immensely to the service and importance of the system. The quartering of large bodies of troops at the Presidio has brought the Union-street line into prominence and put it on a profitable basis.

All in all, the Municipal Railways is distinctly prosperous. The reserve funds in its treasury amount to \$1,249,511. In the depreciation fund there are \$547,643 worth of bonds and \$267,692 cash. The investment fund is \$290,000 and the balance is represented by the interest on bonds and the sum set aside for injury insurance. The bonded indebtedness is being retired at the rate of \$100,000 a year, which will be increased to \$200,000 a year after 1918.

The gross revenue of the municipal system, since the first cars on Geary street started operating in December, 1912, up to the end of June of this year, was \$6,096,457. Operating expenses for the same period amounted to \$3,525,516, bond interest to \$809,584 and bond redemptions to \$363,960. During the same period a total of \$355,761 was transferred out of the Municipal Railway fund by the supervisors for expenditures in connection with the Stockton street, Church street, Union street, and Twin Peaks tunnel lines and for other purposes. But for the fact that the municipal lines are being expanded from the earnings of those already in operation, the treasury would show a much larger sum on hand than at present.

For the fiscal year ended June 30 last the passenger revenue on the Municipal Railway, was \$1,470,706, and its revenue from advertising was \$19,358. The operating expenses were \$951,504, leaving a net operating income of \$558,560. Of this \$264,727 was set aside for the depreciation fund and \$17,071 for employees' insurance. The net operating income, then, was \$256,801, or but slightly in excess of the year's bond interest requirements, which amounted to \$255,054. But the railway is credited for the year with an income of \$22,108 on the bonds it owns and \$19,000 interest on its capital investment in the Church street line, making the actual book profit for the year up to \$42,855.

However, the people of San Francisco are not particularly interested in piling up big profits. They have demonstrated that municipal operation is an entire success. The city's lines are paying for themselves, without a dollar of expense to the taxpayers; the cars are clean, well-maintained and in good repair; the service is satisfactory; the men receive the highest rate of wages paid to street-car employes anywhere, work but eight hours a day, and are contented. The system is being extended rapidly and in a few years will have absorbed all competing lines.

Is it any wonder that San Franciscans are enthusiastic "boosters" for municipal ownership of public utilities?—The Star.

ARMY DISORGANIZED.

More and more it is becoming apparent that there is rapidly growing disorganization in the German army. Captured officers are well informed on the recent naval mutiny and do not hesitate to admit that such a split is spreading in the army, too.

Conditions are said to especially bad among the Bavarian units, until recently the best troops in the Kaiser's army. Bavarian units had been served with the winter clothing, with the prospect of spending an easy time this winter on the Russian front. Then the British drive became serious, and their officers had great trouble to put down open mutiny when their troops were sent back into the deadly Tyres sector. The men of one battalion openly threatened to kill their commander.

Magnesium is the chief ingredient in a French alloy that weighs about two-thirds as much as cast aluminum.

AFTER ALL, WHAT IS COURAGE?

"Should I select something that shows how war depraves, or something that shows how it ennobles? If the latter I think I would choose that beautiful incident of the sailor on the Formidable."

He had won by ballot a place in one of the boats. The ship was going down, but he was to be saved. One picture the scene: The boat is waiting to take him to the shore and safety. He looks at the old comrades who have lost in the ballot and who stand there doomed to death. He feels the passion for life surging within him. He sees the cold dark sea waiting to engulf its victims.

"And in that great moment the greatest moment that can come to any man—he makes the triumphant choice. He turns to one of his comrades, 'You've got parents,' he says, 'I haven't.' And with that word—so heroic in its simplicity—he makes the other take his place in the boat and signs his own death warrant."

"I see him on the deck among his doomed fellows, watching the disappearing boat until the final plunge comes and all is over. The sea never took a braver man to its bosom! 'Greater love hath no man than this.'"

"Mark Twain was once talking to a friend of mine on the subject of courage in a man, and spoke of a man whose name is associated with a book that has become a classic! 'I knew him well,' he said, 'and I knew him as a brave man. Yet he would not do a most physical thing I have ever heard of any man. He was in a shipwreck, and as the ship was going down he snatched a life-belt from a woman passenger and put it on himself. He was saved and she was drowned. And in spite of that frightful act I think he was not a coward. I knew there was not a day of his life afterwards when he would not willingly and in cold blood have given his life to recall that shameful act.'"

"It is no uncommon thing for a man to have in him the elements of both hero and coward. You remember that delightful remark of Mrs. Disraeli, one of the most characteristic of the many quaint sayings attributed to that strange woman. 'Dizzy,' she said, 'has wonderful moral courage, but no physical courage. I always have to null the spring of his shower bath! It is a capital illustration of that conflict of the coward and the brave man that takes place in most of us. Dizzy's moral courage carried him to the bath, but there his physical courage failed him. ... The bathroom is rich in such secrets, and life teems with them.'"

SWEEPING SOCIALIST VICTORIES

We are daily receiving encouraging news from the "Eastern Front" somewhere in U. S. We are informed that the sweeping Socialist vote in the Dayton primary, a city of 100,000, caused considerable uneasiness in Washington and Wall street, and was accepted as a resumption of the invasion of constitutional rights. From other states, where elections will be held this fall, we get very encouraging reports. In some places the Democrats and the Republicans are either considering fusing or have done so. In spite of all of the oppressive measures exercised upon us by the Democratic administration, we have every reason to feel hopeful, and we should exert every atom of energy to make our Party stronger, and that we might be able to achieve still greater victories.

Received telegrams stating that New Castle, Pa., and Toledo, O., are being swept by the current of Socialism. And to top the climax comes a telegram from James H. Maurer, Reading, Pa., which reads as follows:

"Socialist candidates win in the primary election today. Stump, Socialist for council heads ticket by over 700. All other Socialist candidates for council win places on ballot. Great Socialist victory. My position on war is vindicated."

Official Bulletin Held Up.

The official bulletin issued by the National Office at Chicago has been held up by the postal authorities. Same are now being shipped direct to all state secretaries, and I will forward them at once to all branch and local secretaries throughout the state.

Entire Socialist Press Threatened.

Danger to the entire Socialist press is threatened by the new censorship bestowed by congress upon Postmaster General Burleson, according to the officials of the Free Press Defense League.

As you perhaps know The American Socialist was suppressed by the postal authorities. The National Executive committee then made a contract with the Eye Opener to take over our subscription list and fill unexpired subscriptions. The Eye Opener has the second class mailing privileges. The publisher of The Eye Opener is contemplating getting out the paper in the regular American Socialist size and henceforth I would suggest that all the comrades throughout the state should solicit subscriptions for that paper. And the only way the post office department can prevent the people in getting and printing the truth is by the suppression of that paper.

THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ANIMALS

A Linn County man was mulcted \$200 for killing an elk on his farm. Strikers are shot by scores, and hundreds of negroes hanged without a dog barking at the perpetrators of such crimes. And this country goes by the name of an organized human society!

ITALY'S STANDPATTERS ALARMED BY SOCIALISTS

Rome, Oct. 22.—The conservative element of the country is greatly alarmed over Socialist anti-war propaganda. There is fear that the agitators aim to undermine the military power of the nation. This would lead to a situation similar to that prevailing in Russia.

Following disclosures about Socialist plots in the Giornale d'Italia, organ of Foreign Minister Baron Sonnino, the patriotic press has started a campaign against Minister of the Interior Orlando, demanding that drastic measures be taken to counteract the Socialist propaganda.

DEDUCT WAGE OF DRAFTED

Anderson, Ind., Oct. 17.—At the convention of the Indiana state federation of labor officers were instructed to take up with the state council of defense the 10 per cent deduction of wages of drafted men by the Terre Haute coal operators.

The men were ordered to report before pay day, and when they asked for wages due them 10 per cent was missing. The transaction reimbursed the operators for their Red Cross contributions.

GUNS FOR COSSACKS.

Denver, Oct. 24.—The state department of safety is advertising for bids to arm Colorado's newly-created cossack troop, which will be equipped equal to General Pershing's soldiers in France. The list includes:

Three hundred carbines and 60,000 cartridges, 200 scabbards, 600 revolvers and 120,000 smokeless powder cartridges, 300 holsters, 300 belts and 50 handcuts.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS GAIN

Kewanee, Ill., Oct. 24.—The Consolidated Light and Power company of this city has accepted a new wage agreement of the Electrical Workers' union. The work day is reduced one hour and wages are increased \$12.50 a month.

DOLLAR BUYS LESS.

Philadelphia, Oct. 24.—Teachers in this city are demanding higher wages. One of their committees report that \$1 today has exactly the purchasing power of 40 cents two years ago.

SOCIALIST PARTY POSITION ON WAR UPHeld BY JURY

(Continued from Page One)

violates no law of the nation passed since the declaration of the war.

Fourth.—It is not a crime to circulate the leaflet, "The Price We Pay," although the post office censorship and local authorities who recognize no law except that of the club, have so declared and caused many Socialists to suffer as a result.

Fifth.—This means that a federal jury has found, practically, that it is perfectly legal to distribute Socialist literature, since if the two leaflets attacked at Grand Rapids are alleged to be the worst, other Socialist literature would certainly pass muster.

Sixth.—Freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of assemblage, constitutional rights outrageously abused since the inauguration of the war, have found an abiding place at last in a federal court, and there are justifiable grounds for the ardent hope that the reaction will now set in that will enthrone these liberties, never again to be overthrown.

Seventh.—If the post office censorship of the press can be placed on trial in a similar manner it is hoped that this gag may be removed in the not distant future.

The persecution of the Socialist Party, its members and its press, went to a referendum of the people in that federal court room at Grand Rapids and it was unanimously repudiated. Socialists will now be enabled to face the terrorists everywhere and beat back prejudice, ignorance, hysteria and misrepresentation with this court verdict of "Not Guilty!"

It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the indictments were originally secured as the result of a well planned anti-Socialist campaign conducted by the daily press of Grand Rapids, during which the government prosecutor came in for his share of cudgeling for not responding quickly enough and doing his share to carry out the carefully conceived and diabolical program.

The verdict was a heavy wallop in the face for every organ of reaction that sets itself up as the mouthpiece of the established order and the spokesman for things as they claim they should be.

That verdict left in its wake a crowd of sickly, plutocracy-inspired editors in Grand Rapids, Mich., who could not possibly have felt worse if the Socialists had carried the city overwhelmingly in a duel contest. The Associated Press carried the sad news in as few words as possible to every sheet in the land, and these

all promptly buried what the masses of the people were waiting to learn, either in the back pages or in the waste basket.

The verdict, "Not Guilty!" of conspiring against the government of the land, was greeted with tears of joy by the wives, sisters and sweethearts of the defendants; by cheers and loud applause from the faithful gathering of friends and relatives of those on trial, who did not waver for an instant during the ten days of the trying inquisition.

When Adolph Germer was declared "Not Guilty" the charge of conspiracy against the St. Louis Socialist convention was wiped out and the charge of sending out "reasonable" literature, against the National Socialist Party was effectively hit on the head.

When Rev. Daniel Roy Freeman, pastor of the Grand Rapids All Souls' church was declared "Not Guilty," the right of a non-Socialist to distribute Socialist literature for educational purposes was upheld. Rev. Freeman's only crime was getting 100 copies of the Socialist "War Proclamation" and placing them at the disposal of the members of his church.

When Miss Viva Flaherty, social and church worker, was declared "Not Guilty," the right to co-operate with Socialists in the distribution of literature was upheld. Her only crime was preparing and having printed 15,000 copies of a leaflet containing extracts of the speeches of Sherwood of Ohio; Huddleston of Alabama; Vardaman of Mississippi, and others in the U. S. Senate, against conscription and getting members of the Grand Rapids Socialist Local to distribute it.

Rev. Kians Oosterhuis, pastor of the Holland Unitarian church, and Vernon Kilpatrick, an advertising solicitor for a local newspaper, had been dismissed before the jury returned with its verdict, their only crime being that they had joined the Socialist Party since the beginning of the war. It was evident that no attempt should be made to punish them for this, although the regrets of the government attorney and the courts did not restore to them the jobs they had taken from them and the persecution they had suffered.

When the members of the Socialist local, eight of them, heard the verdict of "Not Guilty!" returned, they knew that it had been made safe and declared legal in war time, for Socialists everywhere over the land to stand by their party and carry on its propaganda and build up its organization.

There was Charles G. Taylor, former Socialist member of the Grand Rapids school board; Dr. Martin H. Flzinga, a veterinary surgeon, who takes his children out in an automobile when they go distributing Socialist literature; James W. Clement Sr., a manufacturer, who talks Socialism in his shop and is bringing up his son to be a Socialist; Charles J. Callaghan, a mail carrier; Benjamin Faulkner, employed by the Grand Rapids Board of Public Works; Glen H. Pangborn, former secretary of the Socialist local; Benjamin Blumenberg, lecturer and organizer; and Glen G. Fleser, stenographer.

The human element entered big into the trial on the second day when Mrs. Fleser brought a little baby girl into the world, the first to arrive in this Socialist home. Fleser is of registration age, 26 years old. One of the charges against him was that he had stated he would not register. He did register and escaped the draft. The verdict of "Not Guilty!" sent him back to his wife and baby girl; resolved more than ever to struggle valiantly in the cause of Socialism.

All through the trial the prospects of a "Guilty" verdict and its consequences seemed to have no terrors for the indicted Socialists. They knew they had done no wrong, committed no crime, and they were ready to suffer for their cause.

Upon his return to Chicago, National Secretary Adolph Germer received many telegrams of congratulation from every section of the country.

CART BEFORE THE HORSE

New York, Oct. 24.—To provide nourishment for the thousands of underfed school children in this city, the association for improving the condition of the poor announces that it will establish a lunch room service in the public schools.

A trade unionist suggests that the association has the cart before the horse and that it should stand for a living wage that fathers could feed their children.

But, of course, this would never do. The professional charity industry must be protected.