

American Workingmen Have Not Demanded it

Recently received information from England states that the labor federations among the allies in Europe have urged the immediate adoption of workingmen's health insurance in the United States.

At the conference in Leeds, England, to formulate minimum standards for labor to be incorporated in the peace treaties at the end of the war, reports the United States bureau of labor statistics, the following resolution was adopted:

"Countries which have not yet enacted insurance laws regarding sickness, invalidity, old age and unemployment, should pledge themselves to do so within the shortest period."

The delegates to this conference represented the trade unions federations of England, Italy, Belgium and France.

The piteous condition of workingmen in this country is beginning to worry the laboring class in Europe, for they are aware of the fact that so long as exploiters in this country can treat the workers as they see fit, the workers in Europe can not raise their standard of living much higher than it is here, as the production is for international consumption. The products of women and child labor of this country are competing with the products of the European countries there as well as elsewhere.

Capitalism being international the laws intended for labor's protection ought to be similar in every country, but such has not been the case heretofore. It is as Gompers said after his return from Europe in 1909, "We are, in the United States, not less than two decades behind many of the European countries in the protection of the life, limbs and health of the workers."

But who is to blame for such a condition here? No one else but labor itself, for it has for many years followed such political circus managers as Roosevelt and his ilk. It has always voted the old party tickets and as often been betrayed. The old parties have asked for a lease of power on the strength of promises much larger than the protective measures enjoyed by the European working class, but those promises have never been fulfilled: never intended for that even. The politicians of this country know full well that the platform is not to stand on, but to get in on. And there is no exception to that.

We can not have any protective labor laws until after the working class of this country wakes to the necessity of acting as an independent political unit, conscious of the class interests that are always in conflict. The national program of the Socialist party is the only political program by which the workers may attain what they want, for the entire Socialist party is at their command, fighting for the interest of the laboring class, all other parties being against them.

It is worth your serious consideration, fellow workers.

The Real and the Ideal

"We have seen a good many singular things happen lately. We have been told that it is unpatriotic to criticize public action. Well, if it is, then there is a deep disgrace resting upon the origin of this nation. This nation originated in the sharpest sort of criticism of public policy. We originated, to put it in the vernacular, in a kick; and if it be unpatriotic to kick, why, then, the grown man is unlike the child. We have forgotten the very principle of our origin if we have forgotten how to object, how to resist, how to agitate, how to pull down and build up, even to the extent of revolution-

ary practices, if it be necessary to readjust matters. I have forgotten my history if this be not true history."

Who said that? Why, President Woodrow Wilson.

And he's all wrong. That idea has been superseded by apparently a greater than he. Listen to this:

"There is a limit. And that limit is reached when it begins to say that the government got in the war wrong, that it is in for wrong purposes, or anything that will impugn the motives of the government for going into the war. They cannot say that this government is the tool of Wall Street or the munition makers. That kind of thing makes for insubordination in the army and navy and breeds a spirit of disloyalty throughout the country. It is a false statement and a lie, and it will not be permitted. And nothing can be said inciting people to resist the law. There can be no campaign against conscription and the draft law—nothing that will interfere with enlistments or the raising of an army. There can be nothing said to hamper and obstruct the government in the prosecution of the war."

Who said that? Postmaster-General Burleson. And it supercedes what President Wilson has said. Wilson is wrong—now; though he might have been right before.

And he is also wrong in saying we have "forgotten." We have not. We remember, all right. The trouble is, we are not allowed to say the things that the president declares are inseparably connected with the principle of our origin. But we have not forgotten them. It is not a fault of memory—it is the wearing of a muzzle.

President Wilson is speaking of what "ought" to be. Burleson is speaking of what "is." The first is merely an "abstract right"; the second, a concrete edict.

What Burleson says goes; what President Wilson says don't go.

Let us clear our minds of cant. The first expression is applicable only in time of peace; in time of war it is superseded by the second. There is a limit to freedom of speech or press in war time. Why should we pretend there "is" not, because we imagine there "ought" not to be? Let us face the fact. Let us see the world as it is—the real, material world; the world that actually exists, instead of an ideal world that has no existence. We shall lose nothing by doing so, except certain self-deceptions, which we are far better off without.—The Call.

Woman Suffrage a National Necessity

Woman suffrage is a necessity, both from a political and an economic standpoint. Women are a part of the demos—of the people. They are the other half. We never can have democratic rule until we let the women vote. We never can have real freedom until the women are free. To quote the immortal Lincoln on slavery, we cannot endure as a nation half free and half unfree.

Women are now citizens in all but the main expression of citizenship—the exercise of the vote. They need this power to round and complete their citizenship. Already they have this power in some of the states of the union. They must have it in all the states in order that their rights and powers of citizenship may be equal everywhere within the nation.

In political matters they have much the same interests that the men have. In state and national issues their interests differ little, if at all, from our interests. In municipal questions they have an even greater interest than we

have. All the complex questions of housing, schooling, policing, sanitation and kindred matters are peculiarly the interests of women as the home maker and the rearer of children. Women need and must have the ballot, by which to protect their interests in these political and administrative questions.

The economic argument for woman suffrage is yet stronger. Economics play an increasingly important part in all our lives, and political power is absolutely necessary to obtain for women the possibility of decent conditions of living. The low pay and hard conditions of working women are largely due to their disfranchisement. Skilled women who do the same work as men for lower pay could enforce with the ballot an equal wage rate.

The ideal woman of the men of past generations was the housewife—the woman who could cook, scrub, wash, knit the stockings, make dresses for herself and children, and take good care of the house. That ideal has become impossible. Those good old days, if they ever were good, are gone forever.

The housewife used to wash. Now the laundry has taken away her wash tub and does the work better and cheaper. The "hausfrau" used to knit stockings. Now the knitting factory does her knitting. The frugal housewife can buy two pairs of stockings for a quarter. She can buy dresses cheaper and better than she can make them.

Even the scrubbing, ironing and housecleaning are now done by electricity. In many of the large apartment houses in New York and Washington no cooking in apartments is permitted. Instead, there is one restaurant where usually they have a man cook. And the workingman, as a rule, eats only a meal a day, or at the best, two meals a day, at home. The kitchen is slipping away from the woman.

In the good old days, moreover, the woman was supported by her father first, and later by her husband. The situation is entirely different now. The woman has to go to work, often when she is no more than 14 years old. She surely has to go to work some time, if she belongs to the working class. She must make her own living in the factory, the store, the office, or in the schoolroom. She must work to support herself, and often must also support her family.

The economic basis of the life of a woman has changed in America as well as in England and Germany. And, therefore, the argument that a woman should not vote because she ought to stay at home and take care of her family is an argument the basis for which has been destroyed. She cannot stay at home, whether she wants to or not. She must go to work to take care of her family. She has acquired the economic function of the man, and she ought also to acquire the franchise. Without that franchise she cannot protect her interests as a wage earner.

It is often maintained that women are, as a rule, ignorant of politics, and that they would make a mess of it if the franchise were given them. It cannot, however, be asserted that men have made so brilliant a success of politics as to warrant them in doubting the political capacity of women. Women, no doubt are, as a rule, untrained in politics. Their ignorance, however, is due to lack of training. When the vote is first given them, they blunder with it, of course. So, often, do the young men of 21. With more experience, with the consciousness of having the ballot and of its power for good and evil, women soon learn to use it—for the protection of their political and economic interests.

That is the history of women suffrage in the western states.—By Victor Berger.

OUR CANADIAN SINS

The censor has spoken.

When the Toveri was barred from Canada we asked, just for fun, why the postal authorities of Canada had taken such a course, at the same time referring to the inconvenience ensuing therefrom to the Finns living in Canada who are now left without any Finnish newspaper. For the purpose of securing an answer, we, in our simplicity, put in a question whether the present bi-lingual Toveri was affected by the measure, as the document handed us by the postal authorities was expressly referring to a "Finnish" Toveri.

Our questions have now been answered by a certain Ernest J. Chambers, who asserts being a lieutenant colonel, though he for some unknown reason keeps aloof from military service and holds the office of chief press censor for Canada.

The communication is addressed to our business manager and reads as follows:

"Confidential (we on our part do not propose to have any secrets with a censor.—Ed.)

Ottawa, Ont., October 26, 1917.—Sir: I beg to inform you that your letter of October 16th addressed to the Honourable the Postmaster General of Canada has been referred to me.

In reply to your inquiry contained in said communication, I wish to state that the possession of or circulation in any way in Canada of "Toveri" is forbidden by Warrant issued by the Honourable the Secretary of State of Canada under the Consolidated Orders Respecting Censorship based upon the War Measures Act.

The said Warrant was issued in accordance with a recommendation contained in a Report from the undersigned to the Secretary of State in which it was pointed out that "Toveri" was in the habit of publishing "objectionable" matter as defined and described in the Consolidated Orders Respecting Censorship already referred to. As to the classes of "objectionable" matter published in "Toveri," translations accompanying the Report of the undersigned clearly establish that Toveri published:

(a) False reports and false statements concerning the causes and the operations of the present war;

(b) Reports and statements intended or likely to cause disaffection to the established Government of the Dominion of Canada;

(c) Reports and statements intended or likely to prejudice His Majesty's (Borden's—eh?—Ed.) relations with Foreign Powers;

(d) Reports and statements intended or likely to interfere with the operation or administration of the Order-in-Council concerning National Service;

(e) Reports and statements intended, or likely to prejudice the operation of the Military Service Act, 1917.

The offenses against the Censorship Laws discovered by the examination of a considerable number of issues of the "Toveri" were so numerous and persistent as to establish the deliberate purpose of those who concerned in the publication of this newspaper, to oppose by all means in their power the successful prosecution of the present War for Liberty and Justice, and this proof was so complete that the undersigned would under no consideration think of recommending the cancellation of the Warrant issued by the Secretary of State or the granting of permission to circulate in Canada any publications with which those identified with "Toveri" might be associated.

I note your reference to the fact that the "Toveri" is at present subjected to censorship at Astoria in compliance with the new ruling applying to foreign language publications printed in the United States, but you will realize that conditions in Canada and in the United States are quite dissimilar and the standards of Censorship in the United States are not the same as in this Country.

As you seem to be under a misapprehension on this point, I would respectfully draw your attention to the fact that not only is "Toveri" forbidden transmission through the Canadian mails, but its circulation in any shape in Canada is forbidden and its possession by anyone resident in Canada is an offense punishable by both fine and imprisonment.

I should add that you are mistaken in assuming that the "Toveri" was the only Finnish newspaper the Canadian Finlanders who do not understand the English language could read, for there is a newspaper published in the Finnish language in Canada already, and another is about to be established. In order that there may be no misunderstanding whatever, I repeat that under no consideration will I consider the withdrawal of my Report to the Secretary of State and I am led to take this stand not merely by my duty to suppress the circulation of dangerous literature but by my desire to protect the Finns who have made their homes in Canada, from being misled.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,

(Signed) ERNEST J. CHAMBERS, Lieut.-Col., Chief Press Censor for Canada.

The only thing we deplore is that the gallant colonel missed this opportunity to solicit subs for the Finnish-Canadian sheet edited by an escaped convict, a sheet we, of course, deliberately omitted in speaking of newspapers published for honest people.

"Drink is the anaesthetic which enables the working class to endure the painful operation of living."—George Bernard Shaw.

The earth and its resources should be for all men, not for a few monopolists.

SEEADLER BURNED UP, SAYS CAPTAIN; TELLS OF CRUISE

Count von Luckner Declares He Destroyed 25 Ships; Used Wireless Ruse.

A Pacific Port, Oct.—Count von Luckner, commander of the German raider Seeadler, told Fiji Island newspaper correspondents, when he was captured near the Fijis recently, that the raider was destroyed by fire 2000 miles from land, according to officers of a vessel which arrived here yesterday with details of the count's capture.

The count also asserted, according to the steamer's officers, that the Seeadler destroyed 25 vessels on its piratical cruise. Five of the captured craft, all sailing vessels, were sunk in the Pacific. All the crews were sent ashore.

A favorite plan of his, he was reported to have said, was to send out a wireless message asking for the time. Someone would oblige him and often the ship supplying the time was tracked and sunk.

Count von Luckner's story of the burning of the Seeadler does not agree with previous reports, which said the vessel was wrecked on the Mopeha Island in the South Pacific several months ago.

Count von Luckner and five members of the Seeadler's crew were captured September 21 by Fijian constabulary. The Germans were in an armed power boat, planning to prey on commerce, and the constables were aboard the unarmed steamer Amra. Luckner asserted he surrendered because he thought the Amra was armed. The Germans were disgusted, he added, when they learned the police craft carried no guns.

BRITISH DUDES SEND OUT S. O. S. "SAVE OUR STYLES"

London, Oct.—The British government is working on plans to standardize the clothes of the stay-at-homes to save wool.

Up on Saville row, the habitat of the dudes—the British for them is "nuts"—there is fear and trembling. If the dread decree goes into effect how is one to be distinguished from one's valet?

Already the government has a scheme completed to produce a standard cloth for civilian wear at a standard price, the same as potatoes, wheat or sugar.

And the nuts are sending out the S. O. S. call—save our styles.

LITTLE GIRLS WORTH \$1 IN A CAPITALIST COURT

Vancouver, Oct.—The Canadian Collieries Company Ltd., in Vancouver lost its defense of an action brought against the company for damages in the matter of the death of John Casino, by her father, and a judgment of \$1 was entered against the company, found guilty of negligence.

Jean Casino lost her life while crossing a flume on the defendant's property, bridged by a plank which gave way precipitating her to her death. In delivering his charge Mr. Justice Murphy told the jury that on the question of damages, the plaintiff, John Casino, father of the girl, was entitled to only such damages as would compensate for the actual pecuniary loss sustained from the death of the girl.

COURSE OF LECTURES BY SOCIALIST PARTY

H. M. Wicks, formerly lecturer for the Workers' University Extension Society, of Detroit, Mich., and a well known lecturer, writer and educator throughout the East, will lecture in Portland this winter under the direction of the Socialist party. The first series of lectures will be given at Arion Hall, Second and Oak streets, Sunday evenings at 8 o'clock. The first lecture was given Sunday, October 28. The subject was "Did Man Reach His Present Condition Through Prayer." As that date was set aside as a day of prayer throughout the United States the answer to the question should have proven very interesting.

The lectures are free to all, and the hall seats about a thousand people.

FOES OF DRAFT ARE SENTENCED

Sioux Falls, S. D., Nov. 2.—Twenty-seven German Socialists were sentenced to the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan., today by Judge Youmans for conspiracy to obstruct the selective draft. August Friedrich, alleged leader, was fined \$1000 and sentenced to five years. Other sentences ranged from a year and a day to two years, with fines of from \$300 to \$1000.

The 27 Socialists, mostly farmers, were arrested near Tripp, S. D., last August after having addressed several intimidating petitions to county and state officers administering the draft. One of the petitions was sent to Governor Norbeck.

ANTI-PICKET LAW WILL BE TESTED ON NOV. 7

The Oregon Supreme Court last Thursday issued a writ of habeas corpus directing N. F. Johnson, Portland chief of police, to appear in court November 7 with Earl Hall, who is serving a 40-day sentence for violating the anti-picketing ordinance to show cause why Hall should not be ordered released.

The proceeding is an attack on the constitutionality of the anti-picketing ordinance. Attorneys C. E. S. Wood and W. S. U'Ren, representing Hall, allege the ordinance is unconstitutional in nine different particulars, among them being the following:

Because it is general and not local, special, or municipal legislation; because it creates a criminal offense which may be committed by two or more persons beyond the city limits of Portland, and for which they may be punished if afterwards found within the city limits; Prescribes lower degree of proof than evidence sufficient to convince beyond reasonable doubt; because it attempts to prevent certain class of inhabitants from assembling to consult for their common good; because it attempts to restrain free expression of opinion; because it attempts to abridge freedom of speech, and because it deprives a jury of the constitutional right of being the sole judge of facts and law in criminal cases.

Hall was convicted in the municipal court, Tuesday, of violating the ordinance, and was given a jail sentence of 40 days.

TWENTY-NINE RESISTERS SENTENCED

Ardmore, Okla., Nov. 2.—Sentence has been passed by Judge Ralph E. Campbell in federal court on 29 draft resisters who had entered pleas of guilty. H. H. Munson, H. C. Spence and J. L. Benefield, considered ring leaders in Seminole, Hughes and Pontoco counties in August, were assessed penalties of 10 years each in the federal prison at Leavenworth. The remainder were given sentences ranging from six months to six years.

Eleven men received from one to nine months in jail and the remainder from one year and one day to 10 years at the big federal prison. The remainder of the 200 involved will be tried November 30 at Muskogee.

SOLDIERS VOTED FOR HILLQUIT.

The last issue of the New York Call, received here, tells how the New York World had published a news item under the caption "Hillquit Leads in Camp Upton Vote." This item was published in an early edition, but is missing from the later editions of the day.

Camp Upton is a training camp. In one section of the camp a straw vote was taken with the result that Hillquit received 61 votes, Mitchell 52, Hyland 49, and Bennett 4 votes. As soon as this result was made known eleven "fusionist" agitators were sent to the camp to convert the soldiers. The commander of the camp, General Bell, had previously denied Hillquit admission to the camp when the latter had asked for permission to speak to the soldiers.

GERMANS MUTINY AND KILL OFFICERS ON 2 BATTLESHIPS

London, Nov. 2.—Three officers and a number of sailors of the German navy were killed in "another mutiny" at Kiel early in September, according to a dispatch from Amsterdam to the Daily Express. The outbreak occurred aboard the battleships Kronprinz and Schleswig-Holstein and started when the men revolted against being drafted into the submarine service.

The sailors on the Kronprinz threw Admiral Schmidt overboard and stabbed and threw overboard Lieutenant Raul, the admiral's aide, and another officer. A battle on the ship's deck between the officers and sailors followed. Three officers and a number of sailors were killed. Similar scenes occurred on the Schleswig-Holstein.

Admiral Schmidt was rescued, but it was necessary for him to leave Kiel. All the surviving mutineers were arrested.

Vice Admiral von Capelle, German minister of marine, announced in the reichstag on October 9 the discovery of a plot in the German navy. Dispatches from Amsterdam and London reported that the crews of four battleships of the German fleet had taken part in a mutinous outbreak at Wilhelmshaven. Three of the ring leaders were shot, while heavy sentences were imposed on the others. This outbreak was said to have occurred about six weeks earlier, or about the 1st of September. Admiral von Capelle accused three Radical Socialist deputies of taking part in the plot, but the German government has not taken any action against the members of the reichstag.

COAL MINERS AND OPERATORS FIX WAGE SCALE

Seattle, Wash.—Washington coal operators and miners recently in Seattle agreed upon a new wage schedule, to take effect as soon as approved by the federal fuel administrator and to run during the period of the war, or until September 1, 1920. The agreement grants a flat raise of \$1.40 per day to day laborers; \$1 a day to boys; 15 per cent advance on prevailing yardage, room turning, etc.; 12½ cents a ton to contract miners and provides a fine system for men laying off without permission from the pit boss or foreman. Coal operators insist these concessions will increase the price of coal nearly 70 cents a ton.

Local Notes

SOCIAL DANCE TONIGHT

The Finnish Socialist Club will give a dance tonight in their hall in Uniontown. Music will be furnished by a full orchestra. Admission 25 cents for men; ladies free.

WANT HIM TO EXPLAIN

Charles A. Niemela, bookkeeper and collector for the Seaborg Transfer company, is reported to have left for California last Thursday evening. The company's cash book cannot be found and Niemela is being sought to explain its disappearance as well as his own.

So far, it is not known that Niemela actually appropriated any money belonging to the company, but suspicion has naturally attended the disappearance of the cash book.

TWO ARRESTED FOR FAILURE TO REGISTER

George Muller, a German of about 30 years of age, and Shotaro Otani, a Japanese, were arrested as a result of the search made by the authorities for unregistered men.

In a hearing held later, Otani stated that he had been fishing far away in the north and had never heard of the registration until he arrived here. His explanation satisfied the authorities and he was released.

Muller still remains in the county jail pending the receipt of instructions from the federal authorities in Portland. He is a former sailor, having deserted from a German ship years ago, it is said. In an examination he admitted not having registered and expressed a desire to go out of town, to a logging camp, if freed. He may be turned over to the federal grand jury in Portland.

The search made Thursday evening is reported to have covered the entire town, not only Uniontown.

TEACHERS' INSTITUTE SOON

Clatsop county teachers' yearly institute will take place in Astoria on the 7, 8 and 9th of the present month. State Superintendent Churchill, Professor Kilpatrick of the University of Oregon and Dr. H. R. Marsh, will be present and address the gathering.

YOUNGSTERS TO BE TRIED

The case of four juveniles, whose names are withheld, will be heard before Judge Cornelius in the juvenile court Monday. The charge against the boys is that of having burglarized a bakery; whether from hunger or plain devilry will appear at the trial.

TO BE TRIED MONDAY

The case of the State of Oregon versus H. S. Gilnett, in which the defendant is charged with obtaining money under false pretenses, will come to trial before a jury in the circuit court Monday morning. Gilnett was formerly engaged in the automobile business in Astoria under the name of the Rowan Auto Company. He has been at liberty on bail since his arrest for the alleged offense.

LOGGER DIES IN CAMP

Louie Moscovich, an Austrian 28 years of age, died in a logging camp near Skamokawa yesterday afternoon from unexplained causes. The body was brought to Astoria by steamer and is awaiting burial at the Hughes undertaking parlors. The deceased has no known relatives in this country.

MEN GET ANOTHER CALL

The local exemption board has notified the following men to appear before the board to furnish additional data to support their claims for exemption which are now pending before the district board: Leonard James Smith Richardson, Frederick W. Otto, Gay a Yedd, Henry Coles, William L. Corrigan, George Thim, Otto Nafzger, Ahmad Ali, George Perkin, William F. Gustafson, Jyoichi Nonga, Cedric R. Berry, William Heins, John Hegg, Ingvald Lind, Matsuyri Komoto, Joseph L. McDonald, Franz Ivar Keränen, Ludwig B. Elle.