

PROFITS—THAT'S ALL

The following item from the Oakland World of California, ought to help some people to see the utter hopelessness of trying to make any headway in food conservation as long as the greedy monsters of capitalism are permitted to conduct themselves like vandals; the utter foolishness of asking harassed mothers to save a slice of bread per day so the masters can steal it. The item:

"In one week 30 tons of fish were dumped into San Francisco Bay, although thousands of families would gladly have consumed the fish if prices had been dropped within reach. But to have reduced prices would have endangered the extremely large profits of the fish trust in the future. So the fish were destroyed and the catch probably will be considerably reduced for some time to come, in order to stabilize the market. It is very well to urge the people of the nation to conserve food, fuel, etc., but something ought to be done speedily to send the anarchistic destroyers to a place where dogs won't bite them."

Also the following from the Oregonian of yesterday:

Chicago, Nov. 3.—Report was made to the police tonight of the finding of several hundred carloads of potatoes, cabbage, onions and sugar beets that have been allowed to freeze and rot in the railroad yards here, being held, detectives assigned to the case assert, to force a higher market. Food Administrator Hoover, Harry A. Wheeler, representing the federal food commission in Illinois and the department of justice have been advised of the discovery.

In the railroad yards they said they found many freight cars bearing no destination tickets and marked "hold spuds." They also discovered that in moving the decayed vegetables to the dumping grounds the cars were marked "rubbish" and the contents were covered with a thin layer of dirt and sticks.

The report showed that between 300 and 500 carloads of decayed vegetables were found in the yards with orders that they were not to be moved. All were marked "hold."

FEMINISM AND SOCIALISM

(By Louise W. Kneeland)

The Socialist who is not a feminist lacks breadth. The Feminist who is not a Socialist is lacking in strategy. To the narrow-minded Socialist who says: "Socialism is a working class movement for the freedom of the working class, with woman as woman we have nothing to do," the far-sighted Feminist will reply: "The Socialist movement is the only means whereby woman as woman can obtain real freedom. Therefore I must work for it." Granted the Socialist is not necessarily a Feminist, nevertheless the bona fide Feminist must be, or become, a Socialist as an analysis of the conditions will prove.

Feminism has been called a middle class movement. And so it is, in its origin. The reason is not far to seek. The machine that binds the working class woman and her children to its wheels sets the middle class woman free from the drudgery of the old-time home and gives her unwonted leisure. A leisure hers, not in the sterile, enervating environment of an Eastern harem, but in the complex, stimulating surroundings of modern civilization. But this of itself would be of no value to her without the ability to profit by these advantages. That this ability is hers, woman's place in the larger social life of today gives sufficient testimony. The home no longer absorbs all her energies. She reaches out after a broader life. She struggles for what she wants and develops her capabilities, becomes ever more conscious of her

power and desirous of wider fields for its exercise, at the same time arousing in her working class sister an uneasy consciousness of like demands.

Feminism is the result of human energy set free by machinery to find new outlets in a rapidly developing civilization. That its most striking manifestation takes the form of a Votes for Women campaign is but natural, considering that the movement itself is a middle class product and that political power is the most effective weapon the middle class possesses for the attainment of its ends. The ends in this case are the enlargement of individual opportunity for middle class women and an influential voice in matters that affect the general status of women as well as in the enactment and administration of humanitarian reforms. And in conjunction with this we must not forget that political power offers many opportunities for efficient self-support, which a constantly increasing economic pressure makes desirable to some of these rebels in a class accustomed to comfortable incomes.

This middle class origin and character it is that accounts for much of the antagonism to the Feminist movement among the timid and cautious Socialists in and out of the Party. We should expect, of course, that a working class movement would be more or less hostile to middle class activity of any kind, especially when that activity seeks an extension of political power. And if middle class men fear and dislike the incursion of women of their own class into the working class movement. A few such women, it is true, are a valuable asset, because of their energy and ability. But the acquisition of any considerable number of them must be regarded with even more apprehension than an infusion of middle class men. The latter give to the Party, as it is well known, a reformist cast that weakens and confuses it, and this tendency would be still further complicated and aggravated by Feminist activities which would tend to divide the movement on sex lines.

Not until the Socialist movement has reached such a degree of maturity as renders it stable enough to absorb, or co-operate with, this by-product of capitalism without danger to itself, can Feminism expect a friendly helping hand from Socialistic organizations. In Germany that degree of maturity seems to have been reached, and in several of the smaller European countries as well. Where this stage of development has not yet been attained Feminism is apt to become violent, as in England, although there these conditions are aggravated by the outnumbering of the men by the women and the consequent fear on the part of some of the men of a reversal of the present sex domination.

The question now arises how in spite of all the opposition and antagonism to their movement, Feminists may proceed to obtain the political power they must have and what the ultimate outcome will be. Their main lines of attack are four. First, the appeal to woman as woman, that is, practically, to woman as a class in the sense that she as a mother performs certain special work for society which has resulted in her being treated as different from, if not inferior to men. It is on the ground of freeing her from such discriminations and also of enabling her to protect herself and her children that this appeal is made. Second, the appeal to all those who are susceptible to the influence of a high social ideal. Third, the appeal to those to whose advantage on the political field the influence and activity of the movement can be used. Fourth, the appeal through terrorism to those who are obdurate to every other argument or influence. Who can doubt the success of efforts as

varied and appeals as powerful as these when made by determined and capable women growing ever more skillful in the use of their tools?

Say, then, the vote is won. What next? The application of political power to the enlargement of opportunities for women of the middle class; the removal of all sex discriminations against woman as woman; and the carrying out of such social reforms as are possible under capitalism. And then? Then the true condition of affairs is made clear. Then it is plainly seen that the working class woman is still a working class woman who has but helped her more favored middle class sister to obtain still greater advantages, but remains herself, together with her children, in spite of all middle class reforms and the removal of sex discriminations, a slave to the capitalist machine. From this slavery there is but one thing that can set her free—Socialism, the common ownership of the means of production and distribution. And further, as the ever

increasing economic pressure forces numerous members of the middle class down into the working class and accentuates competition among the remaining members of the middle class, Feminists will come to see that in spite of all the freedom they have won, and the development of their ability, middle class women have become nothing more than upper class servants of capitalism into whose hands is confided largely (but under strict supervision) the care of the health, morals, education and recreation of the rising generation and to a considerable extent of the public in general. A sorry task that of keeping slaves in good condition so that they may be all the more thoroughly plundered by capitalist parasites! What, considering all the circumstances can the bona fide Feminist do but turn to Socialism?

THE COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

Neither the United States nor any other country can carry on a war which will make the world safe for democracy and for plutocracy at the same time. If the war is to serve God it cannot serve Mammon. And any man who tries to make it do both is not merely attempting the impossible; he is fighting his own country in the most effective way. As St. Paul says, "There is a natural body and there is a spiritual body." All the resources of the country, all the armies, navies, ammunition, food and other physical assets we can muster, will not make the war a success unless there is also a sound spiritual body of popular faith to carry the nation through these times of unparalleled suffering and sacrifice. It is this spiritual side of the situation which is being very unfortunately and needlessly weakened, because Congress is refusing to protect the war from the swarm of hungry profiteers who are daily tearing at it.

But what makes it more serious and this is the condition to which I want to call your attention, is that some of our principal financiers and captains of industry, who have been called by the government to serve upon the council of national defense are the main offenders in the unpatriotic business of discrediting the war by commercializing it. In close cooperation with the government, in daily conferences with our highest executive officers, these men are combining two irreconcilable functions. They are sitting in the morning as foremost patriots, actively directing the mobilization of America's resources and they are spending their afternoons in taking advantage of the necessity of the people and the government by making legalized, but none the less destructive, financial raids upon them—raids so profitable as to make us look back, almost with gratitude, at the comparative moderation of American profiteers during the Civil War.

The gentlemen on the council of national defense were placed in positions of immense influence and power. They were not placed there for the purpose of exploiting the public and the government. On the contrary, they were appointed to save the public and the government from exploitation. The members of the council of national defense cannot serve the United States and the pockets of the corporations of which they are officers or directors at the same time; at least not in the way they have so far chosen. It is clearly up to them to decide which they are going to serve, and this decision cannot be delayed, if the war is to have the confidence of the country.

Either they should go to their fellow stockholders and fellow directors and persuade them to furnish the necessities of life and war at reasonable prices postponing usurious depredations until the conflict is over; or else they should resign from their positions as officers and directors and devote their time to single-minded cooperation with the government. Or falling in both the above courses they should yield their places on the council of national defense to men whose presence there cannot be used as an indictment of the war. It ought not take a profound statesman or a professor of logic to understand this. The question whether a man should represent two clients and make money out of the one at the expense of the

other has often been decided in a court of chancery. It is especially plain when one of his clients is himself. There is nothing occult about the proposition. It ought to be as clear as sunlight that as long as these gentlemen remain in their dual capacity of morning patriots and afternoon pirates, the war will be a mark for suspicion and hostile criticism, both at home and abroad.

Nothing that the council of national defense can do will change this situation until its members change their practices. It will be useless for them to try to hide their assaults upon the people and the government under a cloud of patriotic utterances. There is only one way for them to save the war from legitimate criticism, and that is by ceasing to carry on economic warfare against their own country and concentrating their efforts on fighting Germany. If they will not do this voluntarily, it will not be hard to make them. It is within the power of Congress to make a law requiring every man who serves upon the council of national defense to file with the clerk of the House or Senate, a statement of his connection with war-profiting corporations and of the earnings, gross and net, which these corporations have made since the war and in the pre-war period; also a statement of the stocks owned by them, in any corporation, whether standing in their own names or in the names of others in their behalf.

For their own protection, as well as that of the public, they should be likewise required to file a statement of all their purchases or sales of stocks of any of the corporations which, through the action of the council, may become the recipients of government contracts; such statements to be public property and obtainable upon the application of any FILLERS—BANGS Jk-ybvm

If it is a crime to make profits in war time, what will it be in peace times?

HURLING DEMOCRACY AT THE ENEMY

An inventor in Detroit, Mich., has invented a novel projectile, which shoots barbed wire instead of bullets. The inventor claims that his projectile will distribute masses of barbed wire over a large area, encompassing a whole company of troops.

Briefly, the projectile consists of a stem which fits the barrel of a trench mortar; a central chamber containing the explosive charge, into which chamber the stem fits; and several hollow caps which carry the coils of barbed wire, the inner ends of which are secured to the body of the shell. When the projectile is exploded, the caps containing the barbed wire shoot out like bullets, distributing the wire in tangled masses. A time fuse is provided so that the distance can be gauged.

VERY INTERESTING

Very interesting indeed is the story of the military adventures of the valiant soldier who carried the first American flag in attack against the Germans in France, as told by himself through the columns of the press recently. In the course of his somewhat adventurous career along the battlefield during the last three years, he was, according to his own confession, shot through the head three times without injury to his mentality.—Exchange.

War Excuse To Enslave Labor, Nearing Shows

CAPITALISTS, UNDER GUISE OF "PATRIOTISM," ARE ESTABLISHING INDUSTRIAL TYRANNY.

The American business interests are taking advantage of the war crisis to wipe out the "effective part of the American labor movement," is the charge made recently by Scott Nearing, chairman of the national executive committee of the People's Council, in the fourth of a series of open letters to the New York Times. The letter reads:

"To the New York Times: In my previous letters to you I tried to point out that the American business interests had reaped huge profits from the three years of barbarism that have desolated Europe, making their loathsome profits, under the guise of 'patriotism,' upon everything that the American troops were using on the battlefields of France.

"Now I am going one step further. I accuse the American business interests of using the war crisis as an excuse to wipe out the effective part of the American labor movement and to set up an industrial tyranny in the United States.

"American industry is organized as a plutocracy—wealth and not people control it. The stockholders rule—because they are stockholders. The wage-earners and clerks, who make up six-sevenths of the people engaged in industrial enterprise, have no say in the selection of their superiors and no say in the deciding of business policies.

"The workers work. The stockholders and their representatives decide. The owners of American wealth—the plutocrats, rule American economic life just as the owners of the land, the aristocrats, ruled feudal Europe. There is not a single important industry in the United States which approaches 'government of the people, by the people and for the people.'

"Since the beginning of the war, the American plutocrats have outdone themselves—committing their savage industrial crimes behind the folds of the American flag, and draping their attacks upon civil and economic liberty in the language of patriotism.

"The National Security league, the state councils of defense, the vigilantes and the other 'patriotic' organizations of business and professional men have reviled, attacked, denounced. They have proclaimed that their opponents should be 'stood up against the wall at sunrise'; that certain editors 'ought to be shot,' and that 'labor agitators deserve hanging.'

"How easy it would have been for a district attorney to send some of these men to prison for life after Frank Little's body was cut down from the railroad trestle at Butte! These business men, lawyers, editors, statesmen—inciting to murder! "A group of lawless plutocrat-hirelings could not have invaded a thousand homes, abused women and children and shipped 1200 men out into the desert in cattle cars if the war had not been on.

"The law sleeps during the war. From Oregon, Arizona, Indiana and Montana, from Bisbee and Butte, echo the blows struck by the economic masters. 'Now or never,' they cry.

"The war is on and the nation is in peril. The tocsin sounds; the hearts of the people are stirred to their depths. The guns roll. Men by tens of millions are suffering. By millions they are dying! To work, plutocrats! Be quick, while the chance offers! Snatch a dollar here and a hundred there. Rob the widows; starve the orphan; reap profits from the broken bodies of boys and men, and meanwhile set the screws of industrial oppression a little harder. Suppress discussion; crush out opportunity; laugh at the law; tear up the constitution. Get a stronger hold on resources, factories, bank and railroads; cement your power. Make assurance doubly sure, and hide the end!

"Autocrats! Despots! Plutocratic oligarchs! Setting the iron heel of your industrial tyranny upon the neck of a people that once boasted of its freedom!

"Beware! Each tomorrow is a new day, and there are many tomorrows!"

POWER OF THE WORKERS' PARTY GROWING IN ALL COUNTRIES—TO SHARE IN BRINGING PEACE

LONDON.—The biggest factor in European politics today is the Socialists. They are influencing the whole course of the war, and they intend, and are determined, to play a big part in making peace.

There is not a single European belligerent which today fails to realize the power of Socialism.

In at least four countries—Russia, Germany, France and Italy—the Socialists have precipitated an acute political crisis, while in the other countries the passivity of the So-

cialists must not be interpreted as a sign of weakness or somnolism. The word Socialism must be used in a broad sense, and be allowed to cover all factions which, for one reason or another, have swung to the left, until now the whole tendency of Europe is in that direction.

It must include for the present moment in the world's history, the regular Socialists, laborites and all other factions which are filled with dissatisfaction, unrest and the desire to end the war as soon as possible.

There is now no longer any real attempt made to stop or fight the movement. The moderates of yesterday now find themselves conservatives, though they have not moved a hairs-breadth. Other moderates have thrown away all their old conservatism and have joined the ranks of the left.

Sweep Toward the Left.

In Russia, the radicals of 1916 have become the extreme conservatives of 1917. Milukoff, who dethroned the czar by his Duma speech, is now classed as much too conservative for a country, where the sweep toward the left ran almost into anarchy. In Germany, the Government attempted to stop Socialism, and now the government is tottering. Not only the Socialist but also the liberal press is calling down indignation upon Michaelis, Capelle, and Helfferich. Below has been recalled to Berlin, and the politicians forecast the return of the chancellor who, back in 1908, told the kaiser he must talk with greater reserve, and suffered political banishment for his warning.

By an overwhelming vote the Socialist conference at Wuerzburg has just decided that its Reichstag representatives must unite every move toward peace. The Germans are anxious to get a victorious peace out of the war and trust in the power of the classes now striving to check the leftward movement by promising successes in the East which will permit them to make concessions in the West.

Regarding the position of the French Socialists, Ribot tried to prop up the tottering government by using the Socialists and failed to gain their support. Then Painleve constructed a cabinet without any Socialists, and it crumbled from the start. The Socialists' policy dates back to the refusal of the Ribot government to issue Stockholm passports.

Unlike the majority of Russian Socialists, who, in their anxiety for peace, are trying to cripple the war machine, the French majority Socialists are making their campaign upon vigorous prosecution of the war. The Bordeaux Socialist congress authorized its members to enter any ministry which guarantees to prosecute the war energetically.

Italian Socialists Active.

The opening session of the Italian Chamber was enlivened by a Socialist attack on the government. Censure of the government arose over a technicality, but it showed rather plainly that the political atmosphere is highly charged, and that the government is in for a troublesome session.

In Italy, unsatisfactory economic conditions are largely responsible for the political unrest, and the Socialists are using this as a powerful weapon in England, if the labor party joins hands with the Socialists, a powerful political factor will be formed, and the tendency is in that direction.

The movement is less violent here, largely because economic conditions are better than in other countries, and because there is little check on free speech. But that the left wing is increasing in power no one denies.

"LABOR SCARCE ONLY WHERE 1914 STANDARDS PREVAIL"

"There is no labor shortage in this territory except for those employers who insist on standards of the year 1914," writes A. W. Jones, director of the Portland (Oregon) public employment bureau, to J. W. Sullivan, assistant to Samuel Gompers, of the advisory commission, council of national defense.

The letter bristles with denials of the claims by cheap-labor advocates, who are charged with attempting to lower working standards and destroy the American labor movement. Director Jones says:

"For the past several years, up to the year 1917, employers of labor in this territory have simply had to say, we want a given number of men at a certain price and under certain conditions, regardless of price and conditions, and their order could have been readily filled. This condition was brought about by the scarcity of work and the dread of unemployment, and its attendant train of evils, and not at all due to the fact that there was any very great amount of available labor, more than at the present time.

"We have at this time, and in fact, during all of this present year, as many men applying for employment as in any of the years since 1914, but we do notice this change in conditions of men: They use a great deal more discrimination in the selection of the job. Owing to the fact that work is more plentiful, men will not sign up for employment unless the wage and other conditions are reasonably satisfactory, but will wait for something better to offer.

"During the early part of the present year, certain associations in this territory, having in mind the possibility of an upward trend of wages, raised the hue and cry of labor shortage with the object of attracting workers from other districts to this territory.

"My experience has taught me that the average large employer of labor figures that in order that wages may be maintained to the point of his satisfaction, that there should be two workers for every job. This condi-

tion is to him, ideal, as the 50 per cent unemployed can be used to keep down the wages of the 50 who are in employment, and can be made to bid against their more fortunate brother for the right to work and live. Whenever the percentage of unemployed, for any reasons, becomes less than 50 per cent and the worker refuses to bid against his fellow in already underpaid positions, the employer cries 'labor shortage,' as he is not accustomed to a condition where men may dare to refuse work at whatever price may be offered them.

"We can positively state that at no time this year have we been unable to fill any position where the wages and working conditions are at all reasonable. We, however, had considerable difficulty in filling positions at the 1914 wage scale in view of the cost of 1917 living conditions.

"To our mind there has been shown absolutely no reason why the 10-hour work day law, protecting women, should be set aside. On the contrary, we think that better service might be given were this reduced to eight hours.

"We have seen no reason why the age limit protecting children should be reduced.

"We have seen no time, regardless of the tremendous activity in ship building on the coast, where plenty of mechanics could not be secured. As an illustration, we will call your attention to the fact that no particular difficulty was experienced in securing several thousand mechanics for temporary employment in the erection of the army cantonment at American Lake during the very height of the ship building season. Hence, we fail to see the necessity of the dilution of skilled labor by unskilled.

"Summing up, I agree with you fully that there is no labor shortage. There is, however, a shortage of men willing to work under unjust, un-American, and improper conditions and for wages less than will produce and maintain a decent standard of living.

"I agree with you, that this movement to create the idea that a shortage of labor exists is a movement on the part of those who would destroy the American labor movement, from the A. F. of L. down, and would welcome a return of the old conditions from which these bulwarks of modern democracy have served to rescue us."

DOMESTIC SERVICE WORKERS ORGANIZE

Portland, Oregon, November 3.—Secretary E. J. Stack, of the Oregon State Federation of Labor, and J. Rosen were called upon to help organize a union of domestic servants.

As a result of some splendid preliminary work done by some of the servants themselves there was a good attendance when the first night's meeting was called to order.

Mr. Stack and Mr. Rosen were called on and responded with talks on the subject of organization of the workers.

A number of the workers present spoke on the conditions of employment surrounding the domestics, bringing out the fact that many of the domestics are compelled to work under conditions and for wages that are a disgrace to a civilized country. The average hours of labor were shown to be about 14 per day.

A temporary organization was formed with Edna Berg as president and Thora Hansen as secretary and a large majority of those present signed an application to the A. F. of L. for a charter.

The organization will be known as the Domestic Service Employees. Another meeting will be held in the near future.

EXTRADITION SOUGHT OF RUSSIAN PRIEST

Governor Stephens of California telegraphed to Secretary of State Lansing to cause the arrest in Buenos Aires of Vasilii Dvornikof, former Russian priest of San Francisco under felony indictment for eloping with Mrs. Rose V. Alexandroff, wife of Vladimir V. Alexandroff, Russian arch priest, the embezzlement of \$19,000, and the theft of 450 pairs of shoes belonging to a San Francisco firm. Following the arrest of Dvornikof, to be made by the Buenos Aires police proceedings will be completed to extradite the Russian priest for trial in San Francisco.

DATE OF CANADIAN ELECTION FIXED

Ottawa, Ont.—Writs were issued calling for a general election on Monday, December 17. Nomination day is fixed for Monday, November 19. This applies to all constituencies except Yukon Territory. The Yukon nomination day will be December 31, and polling day four weeks later, on Monday, January 28.

All writs are returnable on February 27, 1918, and parliament is summoned to meet on the day following. Military and naval polls will have to