

WE SHALL SUSPEND

On next Saturday, the 10th, we shall issue our last edition of the English section of the Toveri (Comrade). The support we have received does not warrant a continuation, and rather than incur a deficit, we shall retire from the field. All those whose subscriptions do not expire on the 10th, will have the balance of their subscriptions refunded.

We understand that a move is on foot to start a daily labor paper in Astoria, but we are not in a position to verify this. If one should start, it will doubtless be an all-English paper.

As for the present paper, we feel we filled a purpose in publishing authentic news of the late strike, and as a great many of our union supporters have left town and what remain do not exhibit any very great desire to see the English Toveri continue, we shall conclude our brief appearance next Saturday.

INTIMIDATING SENTENCES

Among several other recently rendered sentences one worth special mention is that by which Comrade Fred Krafft was committed to prison for five years in Trenton, N. J., and fined one thousand dollars. This unreasonably severe punishment was meted out for the alleged violation of the espionage law. He was charged with inducing, in one of his Newark speeches, the soldiers and marines to disobedience—the complaint being based upon his holding the constitutionality of sending American soldiers to fight outside of the borders of this country questionable; a fact mentioned in several newspapers at the time it was under discussion, without intending to hinder the prosecution of the war at all. It was generally understood at one time that the question was to be decided in the courts, although nothing has come of it.

The case reminds one of the sentence imposed on Pat Quinlan as a result of his activity in the Patterson silk mill workers' strike. Quinlan was sentenced to the penitentiary for a speech which he never made. In Krafft's case the jury held the testimony of a couple of militiamen weightier than the counter-active statements of twice the number of reputable impartial civilians, who were not even Socialists, but had happened to be present at the meeting in which Krafft was alleged to have made the speech. Upon the testimony of these two militiamen Krafft was convicted and sentenced for five years. It may be reasonably alleged that Krafft was sentenced for a statement put in his mouth, for utterances he had never made and would not utter under any circumstances.

This allegation is reasonable because Krafft bore allegiance to the minority which in the St. Louis convention, and even after, up to the time the Socialist party had adopted the majority report by referendum, held that after the declaration of war the party should refrain from all opposition to the war and conform our demands to a program of fighting for better conditions for labor only. This was the opinion advanced by him in the papers as well as in the meetings held either in English or in German, and in which he was always in a negligible minority. His persistency in this fight which was doomed to failure provoked the suspicion of a number of comrades, though others held him in high respect for his unwavering conviction, yet all were conscious of his attitude in the matter. Neither the judge nor jury should have had any doubt about it necessarily. Krafft, whose intention apparently was to save the party through his activities from the persecution to which he himself fell a victim, feels in his own

body that militarism knows no pity, but gags ruthlessly even the humblest manifestation of free thought.

About a couple of weeks before Krafft was sentenced a group of irate militiamen had clubbed a man dead in a recruiting meeting in Brooklyn, claiming that he had spoken disparagingly of the army, the flag and of America. Afterwards, however, the man was identified as the person in charge of the recruiting ship at Union Square, one who had served forty years in the navy and at the beginning of the war had offered his services again. Had the victim been some of the common rank the papers all over the country and the general public would have been sure that some of his careless utterances had been the cause of his fate. In the judgment of fanatical patriots he would have been held guilty just as Krafft was held guilty by the judge and jury. The case of Comrade Krafft has been appealed, so that there is still a faint hope of securing his freedom.

Comparable in severity to the above-mentioned sentences is the one rendered a few days ago in Sioux Falls, S. D., where 27 young Socialists were sent to prison for signing and forwarding to the officials—to the governor of their state among others—a declaration in protest against the enforcing of the draft law. August Friedrich, who was charged with being the instigator and the leader was sentenced for five years and fined one thousand dollars, the same as Krafft. The others were sentenced for from one to two years and fined from \$300 to \$1000. The report states that all those convicted are sons of German farmers, in addition to several of them being within the draft age. Their "socialistic principles," we presume, are of Dakotan farmers' kind, which has always appeared to be rather harmless and unassuming. When persons are given such sentences for the open expression of their honest opinion—which expressions are not even alleged to have led to any treasonable act, it is self-evident that the purpose of such sentences is more to intimidate others that are possibly relishing the same opinions, than to punish and "lead to right again" those now convicted. Such usage of the power of courts and its practicability may lead to different opinions. We think that there is nothing more dangerous and deteriorating to organized society than such a course of court procedure. And we could cite numberless instances to corroborate our opinion in modern as well as ancient history.

"There are rights which it is useless to surrender to the government, and which governments have yet always been found to invade. Among these are the rights of thinking and publishing thoughts."—Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence and claimed to be the founder of the Democratic party.

THE NEWSPAPER

It lives only a day. But in that brief interval it lives intensely. And though it disappears to give place the next day to something that looks just like it, what it leaves behind may live on for years, perhaps forever, working good or ill.

People often speak of it disparagingly. And yet they act as if they could hardly live without it. Each day they seize it eagerly and sit before it absorbed. They echo the opinions with approval or contempt. Often they pass those opinions off as their own.

It is astonishing what it does to them while they are hardly aware. They will throw it aside and trample on it till it looks like a soiled rag, fit only for the fire. Away it goes to be forgotten by them in their absorption with things they consider far more important. But silently it follows them, hidden away in their brain cells. It gives them a large part of the material in their minds. It even tells them what to feel. It controls many of their acts. It in-

fluences their morals and their health.

You know, of course, how a man is judged by the company he keeps. There are those who go so far as to say that he actually is the company he keeps. Who is it that says every one we meet leaves something of himself in our consciousness?

Then think of what the newspaper does. It establishes an intimacy of a particularly close kind. You may not think of it as an intimacy at all.

"What? That vile sheet! Why, I only read it because it makes me mad. I just want to see what it—"

Yes, but you read it.

And each day you become familiar with its ideas.

And those ideas sink into your mind.

Many of them become a part of you.

Some of them may establish themselves in you as prejudices.

Then they own you. They make you feel and think whatever they please, no matter how foolish it may be.

At the very times when you are most confident and authoritative they will show you up as a mean little thing.

On the other hand some of the ideas may be far bigger than you could ever have worked out for yourself.

They may be bigger than the little world you ordinarily live in.

They widen the horizon for you.

They release your spirit into a finer world.

They give you glimpses of what life might be if men would only use their opportunities.

For this sheet, as you must know, even when it lies underfoot or in the ash barrel, is glowing. Someone may draw it from the ash barrel, smooth it out and enter into communion with the spirits behind it, the minds that give it life. Till it becomes indecipherable or goes up in smoke it remains alive.

In fact, there are already those who are quite canny in this regard.

They will glance over a sheet, throw it down violently, get up and walk away. If we could read their thoughts we should know they were saying something like, "I don't want to have anything to do with such ideas."

What they reject may be evil. But it may also be good, something that would start them on the way to salvation.

What people are most inclined to reject, as every newspaper editor will tell you, is the unfamiliar in thought.

A new idea can be a terrifying thing. The reason is simple enough: There is no knowing what it may do to the other ideas one has and what it may lead to.

It may be fearfully upsetting. It may be revolutionary.

It may throw open the doors to the truth.

And the truth is what most of us fear, exactly as the old-fashioned religious people feared the devil.

So a newspaper has to be careful about printing new ideas.

Now and then, however, a newspaper dares.

It is sure to receive a severe punishment.

Suppose it persists, taking its medicine heroically.

Some people, used to thinking boldly for themselves, will find the new ideas interesting and stimulating. Others will combat them with fury and impute base motives.

But gradually the ideas, by growing more familiar, will seem less bad.

After a time, they may get into current thought. Then, instead of seeming bad, they will be correct, that is, good.

By this time the paper may be dead. But it will have done its work, even if it has carried down with it a few reputations.—John D. Barry in Milwaukee Leader.

A CANADIAN VIEWPOINT

The following editorial from the B. C. Federationist is quite typical of the Canadian viewpoint of the labor question. It follows:

"To that brilliant galaxy of labor leaders who under the astute generalship of Samuel Gompers, is doing all it can to deliver the rank and file of labor, completely shackled and suitably docile, into the hands of the most impudent and unscrupulous reaction that ever gambled with the liberties of a people and spat upon their democracy; to the stupid rank and file that is allowing itself to be led to its own undoing by being used as the chief instrument in the complete destruction of its own poor freedom and democracy; to that mediocre and execrable press that has the conscienceless gall to masquerade in the name of democracy while zealously boosting every scheme either military, financial or political that is calculated to emasculate the labor movement and reduce the wage slaves of today to the condition of servile submission to autocratic authority and the brutalities and miseries of merciless exploitations, that marked the

reign of the ancient chattel slave empires of other days, the following, from a recent editorial in the Washington Post, should be especially dedicated. It is a public acknowledgment of the glorious work they are doing in making democracy so safe throughout the world that every slave upon this continent will bear eloquent testimony to the fact, by either wearing the military or the industrial garb of abject slavery in the service of the most reckless and impudent class of profit mongering labor skimmers and commercial brigands and sandbaggers ever recorded in history.

"The labor problem comes on apace. It cannot be dodged. Congress must face it and master it. When 1,000,000 conscripted American boys are facing bullets in France, their fathers and brothers will not tolerate a condition at home that might mean the useless slaughter of the soldiers. The nation will demand that abjected men shall be conscripted for labor, each according to his ability and training. This labor will wear the uniform of the United States. Laboring men will be the foremost in making this demand for universal liability to industrial service because this system will insure a square deal to labor. Under the selective draft of labor the United States government can easily build 6,000,000 tons of shipping every year, or even twice that amount."

When such pronouncements are made by no less an authority than the capitalist press, and when it is well-known that the policy therein hinted at is directly in line with that of military conscription itself, and that policy has been approved by the so-called labor leaders, their fulsome press, and has not been repudiated by the dull and dumb rank and file, the glorious prospects lying just ahead, should bring joy to the heart of every slave who is truly patriotic and expects salvation from the saddle galls of his slavery at the hands of the government, he so loyally supports in its struggles in his behalf. Every advocate of government ownership as a highway to the millennium, should hail with glad acclaim, both military and industrial conscription, for therein lies all there is or can be to government ownership. And why should not the latter follow the former? Why should the slave who welcomes the abnegation of all democracy by hailing the advent of military servitude, offer any serious objection to industrial conscription and at the same rate of pay? If he is endowed with reason, he should voluntarily admit that the military slave is the one who should have the larger pay, inasmuch as his is by far the more dangerous service. If he is not sufficiently endowed with reason and a sense of fairness to grant the contention without coercion, he should be compelled to accept. And he may rest assured that the governmental guardians of his democracy and liberty will eventually see that he is so compelled. Being a patriot and strictly loyal, how can he consistently object? Having gladly accepted the proud privilege of being conscripted for the only purpose a slave was ever armed, that of buttressing and bulwarking the regime of his masters, why should he not with equal joy accept similar conscripted servitude in industry for the same noble purpose? So long as his vision extends no farther than a government of, by and for his masters, and a slave's job under it for himself and his class, far be it from the Federationist to even attempt to pour gall and wormwood into the cup of joy that so sweetens his intellectual repast.

And there is no question about the "square deal" that labor will get at the hands of government, once the proud industrial conscripts are safely ensconced in the "uniform" of state. Slaves have always experienced the same sort of a "square deal," slavery was born. Ground into plunder in times of peace and shot to hell in times of war, all for the gratification and glorification of rulers and masters, vilified, outraged, lied about, spat upon, persecuted, cheated and robbed, in season and out of season, his existence has been a continual round of sordid poverty and vulgar misery, that could not have been forced upon him by any other means than that of government. The "square deal" he gets and always will get at the hands of government, is the square deal of his conscienceless and brutal exploiters and masters. To hold him to that "square deal" is the object and purpose of every institution and movement within modern society, that exists by and with the approval of government. And this by no means excludes those so-called labor movements that are nursed and nurtured by the powers of the state. Stick a pin there, you sons of toil who are still so blind as to follow your much touted leaders wherever they choose to lead, without so much as questioning their motives, taking note of the interests with which they

are continually in counsel or heeding the danger signals upon every hand, that warn you of the pitfalls and quagmires in the pathway of such folly."

KHAT—"THE FLOWER OF PARADISE"

"When the European is weary he calls for alcohol to revive him; when he is joyful he takes wine, that he may have more joy. In like manner the Chinese woos his 'white lady,' the poppy flower, the Indian chews bhanga, the West African seeks surcease in kola.

"Khat is more to the Yemen Arab than any of these to its devotees. It is no narcotic, wooing sleep, but a stimulant, like alcohol. Unlike alcohol, it conceals no demon, but a fairy. The khat eater will tell you that when he follows this fairy it takes him into regions overlooking paradise. He calls the plant the 'flower of paradise.'"

"How and when khat came into the Yemen is not certain. Botanists say that it was brought over from Harrar, in Abyssinia, many centuries ago. There is a tradition among the wise men of the East that the sheikh Ibrahim Abou Zarbayn introduced it into Hodeidah from Ethiopia about 1430. But ask any Yemen Arab and he will tell you 'It has been always. Allah gave it to us in the beginning, to make us forget labor and pain.'"

"Contrary to the general opinion held by those who pretend to know anything about it at all, khat is never used as a beverage in the Yemen, but the fresh leaves are invariably chewed. The youngest leaves are the best. They have a sweetish, slightly astringent taste, not unpleasant to the European palate, but certainly not alluring. When brewed, they lose most of their strength and the flavor of the decoction is much like that of those 'grapevine cigarettes' which most of us enjoyed (?) in boyhood days. The old leaves are tough and ought to tan a leathern tongue.

"Just what is the exact toxic effect of khat on the human system has never yet been ascertained. It is certainly a stimulant with a lively and nearly immediate effect upon the brain and nerve cells; the gloomiest man becomes cheerful under its influence, the most enervated active. Withal, I have been unable to learn of a single case of immediate or harmful reaction such as invariably follows the use of other stimulants.—National Geographical Magazine.

HOMES OF RICH ARE BARRED TO FOOD CANVASS

Thirteen thousand voluntary workers, nine-tenths of them women, who have received instruction from Arthur Williams, federal food administrator for this district, started on a house-to-house canvass of the entire city in the interest of food conservation.

About two hours after they had begun the work some of the canvassers telephoned Williams, who is making his headquarters at 124 East 15th street, N. Y., they were having much difficulty in getting into homes in Central Park West, Riverside Drive and other wealthy districts.

Williams said he would institute an immediate investigation to ascertain why the homes of the rich were barred to these women. Those who telephoned said that in most cases the superintendents of the residences refused to permit them to go inside.

WHY DO THEY STRIKE?

In large advertisements in the daily papers of Seattle the telephone company is asking for scabs to take the places of the strikers, holding out to them the bait of "Good wages; regular and frequent increases; steady and permanent positions; pleasant, light, clean work; light and airy central offices; comfortable rest and recreation rooms; first class lunch served at less than cost; annual vacations with pay; sick benefits, death benefits, pensions, without cost to employees."

These things all "listen good" and if they are advantages which were enjoyed by all the girls on strike—then why have they quit their work? The company answers that a few agitators got in amongst them and they have foolishly followed them.

But it is a fact that no agitator that ever lived has ever been able to instill discontent in the minds of workers who were satisfied with their conditions of labor. There always had to be some reason for discontent before the agitator could get in his or her work.

The underlying cause of the strike is the struggle for industrial democracy that is going on all over the nation and making progress by leaps and bounds. The girls have struck for better conditions than the company was willing to give, and for higher wages, it is true, but the underlying cause for their discontent has been the constant prevention by a vicious system of spying on the organization of the workers in unions. The girls as well as the men involved have realized that their only hope for a betterment of con-

ditions or a continuation of conditions that may be relatively good lay in the maintenance of a healthy organization under their own control that would have its part in the making of conditions, and they have struck to secure and maintain their right to organize.

That is the fundamental demand of the workers, and that is the thing for which they will stick till the last dog is hung. The right to organize must be recognized, and though the telephone trust is a big outfit the workers will do the David act again and bring the giant to earth.

Long life to you, girls; we're all with you!—Seattle Record.

ISN'T THIS IRRESPONSIBLE AGITATION?

In their fury against the advocates for peace, the Vigilantes in their recent incendiary article employ the following kind of language:

"Put them where their maudlin sentimentality will not work against OUR WAR nor their un-American propaganda irritate the true patriot. . . . Put them out of business, make this affair of aiding Germany unpopular to a degree that carries terror to the breast of the propagandist. How? In any way that seems fitting. With good horny knuckles, driven hard and straight, with prison cells, with heavy fines, with long terms as road builders under guard. Aye, even with the firing squad in the extreme cases, but stop it FOREVER!"

—While this sort of open relentless excitement to violence is tolerated, nobody ought to wonder, that we frequently hear of many Hunnish acts committed against respectable peaceful citizens. A wilder Hun sentiment can nowhere be inflamed than what the Vigilantes are doing their best to incite.

HOW THE VIGILANTES ARE REASONING

The American black-hundred organization "The Vigilantes," has sent to a war-fanatic press the following flash of genius:

"When a few days ago, John Edgar Manning, scarcely eighteen years of age, cut short his college education to join Battery A, 316th Field Artillery, this made the fifth son of Governor and Mrs. Richard I. Manning of South Carolina to enter the United States army. His next older brother, about two years below the age requirements for the draft, is serving as a private. The three other sons of the Governor, Wyndham, Bernard and William, all married, are in the service, two of them sacrificing a handsome salary to volunteer."

And they say this is a Rich Man's War!"

—Had the Vigilantes reasoned logically, their question should read: "If this were not a rich man's war, would you think the sons of a rich governor, two of whom already were on the good road to wealth of their own, would have joined the army without compulsion? Which do you think they would prefer—going to war for or against the poor?"

TREE-VACCINATION IS WORTHLESS FOR SCALE

Makers of "Fertilizing Scale Treatment" Fined \$100 in Federal Court

Washington, D. C., Nov. 6.—Claims that the insertion of a white capsule and a brown capsule, containing potassium cyanide and other substances, in the bark of fruit trees will kill scale on the trees, led to a fine of \$100 in the federal courts upon the makers of the "Fertilizing Scale Treatment," who pleaded guilty to the charge of misbranding and adulteration. This fine, reported in a recently published notice of judgment was imposed in the case of the United States versus Albert D. Kleckner, Maybelle E. Kleckner, and Emma Kleckner (Fertilizing Scale Co.), Allentown, Pa., brought under the Insecticide Act of 1910 at the instance of the United States department of Agriculture in the Eastern District Court, Pennsylvania.

The department tested these capsules for several years on fruit trees to determine whether their use had any deterrent effect on scale and whether the material also actually fertilized the trees as asserted by the makers. The department found that the capsules did not kill scale and did not fertilize the trees, but on the contrary, injured the trees causing large cankers through which rot fungi may enter and finally destroy the trees. The department's tests were further supplemented and confirmed by the scientists of the department who visited many orchards in Maryland and Pennsylvania and studied the trees which had been treated by the agents of the company.

The "Fertilizing Scale Treatment" has been advertised and sold also as a remedy for other insects and for various tree diseases. Department specialists fail to find any reason to believe that the potassium

cyanide and other substances inserted in trees in capsules have any value, whatever, in controlling plant pests.

IN HUMANITY'S NAME, POOR AND SICK ARE TO BE FED ON NOTHING

The following clipping from the Portland Telegram of last evening is so bad it's really good. The pious title given it is "County Tables to be Hooverized."

Portland, Or.—In accordance with a resolution passed by the county commissioners, Rufus C. Holman, chairman of the board, announces that all county institutions, including the jail, the poor farm, the county hospital and the detention home are to be Hooverized and are to be made to conform as much as possible to the conservation campaign instituted here by W. B. Ayer, Hoover's special representative.

M. Holman is today conferring with the heads of these institutions and will be assisted in arriving at the method to be followed by Miss Groves, head of the domestic science department of the Portland schools.

As a result of this determination of the county officials to aid the government in conservation, it is likely that meat, white bread and sugar will become more of a rarity on the menus of the county institutions than ever before.

The jail at present leads in the consumption of meat, each prisoner being allowed a little more than half a pound a day, of 10½ cents' worth. At the county hospital each inmate gets less than half a pound, or about 9 cents' worth a day. At the poor farm about 6½ cents' worth is provided for every ward. At the detention home, where the county's children wards are kept, only three cents a day is allowed each youngster for meat. Sugar and white bread consumed in the various institutions run in similar proportions.

LA FOLLETTE

(By Mark Sullivan, in Collier's)

Senator La Follette is what folks often call "a trying person." Last March and April he put himself in the forefront of public attention by a stubborn and spectacular effort to prevent our entrance into the war—a performance which flooded the press with execrations of him. Thereupon he retired from public view, passing four months with only infrequent participation in the debates. Now he emerges, and it turns out that he has been busy framing a tax measure which takes no account of the bills prepared by the committees, a piece of pioneering work which commands the respect even of persons who, politically, do not like him. Senator Lodge of Massachusetts said of it: "The Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. La Follette) has a bill on a different system from ours—a coherent system, but a different theory. I do not agree with the theory, but there is no doubt that it is a coherent and intelligent system of raising revenue."

It would be difficult to exaggerate the amount of devoted application, of midnight oil, involved in this self-imposed task. On the part of Senator La Follette, it is characteristic. His career has been divided between performances which can only be described as capricious obstinacy, and the successful performance of unique tasks, the solving of new problems born of changed economic conditions which could only be done through high intelligence, intense application, and real courage. Taking his more than thirty years of participation in public affairs as a whole, the balance is on the credit side.

Senator La Follette's tax bill drops all that long and complex business of imports on coffee, tea and other subjects of general consumption which formed the bulk of the bill originally written by the ways and means committee; he ignores that committee's arbitrary and unintelligent dip into an increased tariff of 10 per cent on imports. He makes no change in existing taxes except to increase those on incomes and liquors. He faces the business of paying for a war as a new problem. He proposes to pay it, logically, chiefly out of the excess profits made by those who will make and sell war supplies. It may turn out that no man in Congress will have made so useful a contribution to the conduct of the war as the one who most stubbornly resisted our entering it. Probably the ultimate form of the Revenue Bill will be some variation of Senator La Follette's idea. In any event, the ways and means committee is now utterly discredited.

Luther Burbank has discovered a new food plant, one that is said to contain very great nourishing qualities. Whether the capitalists of Wall Street have heard of the discovery or not has not been stated.