

Proletariat

OUR A.M:
EDUCATION,
ORGANIZATION,
CO-OPERATIVE,
COMMONWEALTH

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P'u Yi

P'u Yi has become chih-cheng of Manchoukuo, which, being interpreted, means that "the boy emperor" is dictator of Manchuria and Inner Mongolia. Twice before he has ruled a larger empire that contained this territory, but now there is a fair chance that he may stay, because fifteen Japanese officials were present at his installation.

Twenty years ago, P'u Yi was Emperor of China. Facing revolution, he confessed that he had not been a very good ruler.

"I have reigned three years... I have not employed men properly... Much of the people's money has been taken, but nothing to benefit the people has been achieved... People are grumbling, yet I do not know. Disasters loom ahead, but I do not see."

This remarkable statement was the more extraordinary because the emperor was only six years old at the time. Poor puppet, figurehead of a decaying feudalism, whose terrified lords spoke for him! Four months later he was deposed.

Puppet once more, P'u Yi, a trembling child of twelve, was dragged from his bed and restored to the throne of China by the war lord Chang Hsung. His second reign lasted seven days.

Puppet still, the human symbol of the old Chinese feudalism becomes now the living mouthpiece of the new Japanese capitalism.

Puppet? Well, two political groups in our own country have marionettes in office. One bunch is backed by Raskob-Du Pont-General Motors and is called "Democratic"; the other is backed by Mellon-National City-Standard Oil and is called "Republican". Both hold power because workers have not built their own democratically managed and financed party to take over the government. For the time being, the Republican dummies will speak the words of their ventriloquist owners, safe in the center of the political stage—which does not alter the truth of the words that our own "chih-cheng" might well repeat after P'u Yi:

"I have reigned three years... I have not employed men properly... Much of the people's money has been taken, but nothing to benefit the people has been achieved... People are grumbling, yet I do not know. Disasters loom ahead, but I do not see."

Doctoring the Capitalist System

A survey of the foreign tariff situation made by the department of commerce reveals the anarchy that dominates the policies of the ruling classes of the world. The capitalist system is like an old watch. It works fairly well when it is new, but eventually it goes to pieces. Based upon increasing exploitation of workers, capitalism heaves up more values than the masses can buy. A crisis follows. But in addition to this, there are the stupid policies of the ruling politicians of the various capitalist countries.

The department report points out that the ruling clique in each nation strives to export as much as possible and to import as little as possible. It increases import duties, establishes quota limitations, import restrictions, gold embargoes and exchange controls and the report forecasts further barriers and restrictions for this year. The very life of capitalism depends upon trade, yet each inflow is checked and each outgo is stimulated, but the first policy nullifies the second!

All this is like the physician who is called to dress a gaping wound but instead of doing this he rubs salt into it. For the capitalist system an individual crisis is the wound and our doctors at Washington have the honor of having set the pace in this stupidity.

The obvious conclusion is that the ruling politicians of the world do not have sufficient intelligence to take care of the capitalist interests entrusted to them. The system is industrially sick while its doctors are mentally incompetent. Socialist specialists are urgently needed to reorganize it on an intelligent basis.

—The New Leader.

Taxing Waistlines

The administration calls doles "reconstruction loans" and unemployment insurance "doles". It calls a bad debt a "moratorium" and inflation "reflation".

Now with the sales tax coming on, which will reduce by two per cent the amount of potatoes, beans, soup-bones, and butter we can get for our money, we suggest they call it the "waistline reduction" or "dieting" tax.

Perfect honesty, however, would call it hunger taxation. If they don't starve us by unemployment, they'll do it with a tax.

—The American Guardian.

SEARCHLIGHT

The primary elections in Milwaukee are over. Socialist candidates made remarkable gains and the citizens value the work of Mayor Hoan to the extent of an absolute majority. In the face of all the lies and bunk exploded by the non-partisans the people of Milwaukee showed plainly that they value honesty and efficiency. It is no easy matter to out do these money interests but gradually the people are realizing that there is a difference between the interests of big business and those of the workers. Peacefully thru education Milwaukee has become the one and only large city in the country to have an outstanding governing body. The Socialists because of their incessant efforts have educated the people to demand good government. That is one of our beliefs. That is one of our main pillars upon which we expect to build a new order. And what has been possible in Milwaukee we are positive, is also possible in every other community in the country.

Some of our younger members in our Federation are often at want of what to do at their meetings. They probably have an order of the day which they follow but that is often too short and there is too much time which goes for naught. At various times we have emphasized some of the more important and interesting things our clubs should attempt. Studying the philosophy of the movement, the work of the party, the works of some of its most active leaders, the autobiography of such men as Debs, Berger and even Lincoln, all that has been urged. To that they should add a few good songs. Singing will put a more friendly tinge to everything. We tried it a couple of weeks ago in Kenmore, Ohio, and the disposition was improved greatly. Everybody unloaded their daily cares and worries, most everybody chimed in and the first thing you know, we were surprised ourselves what we really were capable of doing with our voices. We Socialists need song and everything that goes with it equally as much as we need the fundamental knowledge of our principles. Try it at your club meeting sometimes.

These elections were only primary. The final decision of the voters is to be made on April 5, and our comrades are confident of a decisive victory. So far as the Socialists are concerned no primary is necessary. We nominate only one good man for each position, but the greed for power makes other parties place numerous candidates, which shows that there is no discipline in their organizations. The aim of the Milwaukee Socialists is to elect at least 15 aldermen to support the actions of Mayor Hoan. If this majority can be secured in the common council you can expect to hear a great deal more of Milwaukee. The fact that 20 Socialist candidates have come thru the primary with flying colors in 20 different wards gives every indication that the common council will take on an entirely new complexion after April 5. A most bitter campaign is now being waged by the non-partisans to retain control of the rapidly crumbling order. They stop at no evils to attain their aim. But the citizenry has awakened and a new era is about to dawn.

The good work of Milwaukee is spreading into West Allis and Racine nearby cities and the outlook in these towns is mighty promising also. In West Allis one of our own countrymen has come thru the primary on top and is out waging an uphill battle to overthrow the money interests for the benefit of the workers.

Peaceful demonstrations of the unemployed have met the brutal force of armed guards and police in Detroit and Chicago. The unemployed, hungry and ragged, were subdued, naturally. It is folly on the part of any leaders to urge defenseless

A celebration of victory will be held Saturday, March 26, at the Lawndale Masonic Temple by the Pioneers in honor of their winning the Greater Chicago A. A. U. basketball title. The admission is only 25 cents, in advance.

Capitalism and Peace

H. N. Brailsford, writing in The New Leader, organ of the Independent Labor party of England, says the Russian delegation at Geneva struck a tender spot when they proposed total disarmament:

The Russian proposal of total disarmament is perhaps the most effective stroke of satire ever leveled at a world founded on force. It sets one asking how much of the present world-order would subsist if this proposal could be realized. The Versailles frontiers would soon be as flexible as a surveyor's chain. India would lift her head to freedom overnight. Who would trouble even to mention reparations? And how long would Capitalism endure, if strikers need fear no longer the machine guns and the bombing planes?

Well said! And we add that those militarists who shout "Bolshevik" at well-meaning peace workers who think they are horrified by such things as Industrial Democracy, Socialism, Collectivism, and Communism, come closer to truth than the gentle peace-folk suspect. In other words, if they get lasting peace they will have to get Socialism; and if they want to keep Capitalism, they will have to keep war.

A Puzzler

Bobby went to church with his mother one night. An old baldheaded gentleman with long whiskers sat down in front of them and Bobby sized him up quite awhile.

"Mother," the little fellow whispered finally, "has that man got his head on upside down?"

Our Doings Here and There

Sunday, March 27, the Slovenes of Chicago are invited to attend the program sponsored for the benefit of unemployed members by the SNPJ District Federation. A well planned variety program will be presented. The admission is only 40c in advance and 50c at the door. Two plays, singing, speakers, musical numbers, a duet and other entertainment are included for the afternoon performances. Plan to be there and invite your friends.

The regular meeting of branch 1 takes place Friday night, March 25, at the lower SNPJ Hall. Delegates will be elected for the district conference and convention to be held in Milwaukee. Therefore, it is important that all members attend. A discussion on dictatorship led by comrade Joseph Oven will follow the regular order of business.

Our comrades and friends of branch 27 Cleveland are in store for a good time Saturday, March 26. A dance and social will be held in the lower SND Hall on St. Clair Ave. Barbich's orchestra will supply the rhythm and prizes given to the best waltz couples. The admission is only 25c.

It is advisable for our branches to have discussions on problems confronting the Labor movement. Lectures and debates are always interesting. If proper subjects are selected, much can be attained. It is necessary to know that is happening in the Labor movement. However, it would be futile and a waste of time to discuss any topic that is contrary to our principles.

The JSF convention to be held the latter part of May will be very important for all branches and lodges affiliated with its Educational Bureau. The election of delegates is now underway and we urge

Organizing the Jobless

This dark era of a decaying capitalism imposes a grave responsibility upon members of the Socialist party. Together with Socialist education and obtaining members for the party there is need of going to the masses of the unemployed and enlisting them in unemployed organizations in every city. Jobless men and women can be associated together in local organizations to formulate relief programs, to carry on agitation for relief, to develop a spirit of solidarity, and eventually to arrange for disciplined demonstrations that will not play into the hands of police reaction.

The Socialist party was the first organization to outline this method of awakening the jobless masses to a sense of responsibility for their own welfare. Such organizations of the unemployed have been organized in a number of states and the work may well be expanded in New York City as well. Experience of one branch in Queens County has shown that the jobless will respond to an intelligent initiative and branches in other boroughs should undertake this work with a will.

Murder

If the words "criminal syndicalism" are reprinted until all the ink on earth is used, and the shout "Communism!" echoes at both poles, two facts will remain:

The men who were killed in the demonstration at the Ford plant were murdered. The crime is a direct result of this capitalist system in which one man can dictate the economic destinies of thousands of his fellows.

The Last Straw

When the tanner sells a finished hide to a shoe manufacturer, he sets the price at the original cost of the hide plus the labor cost, plus the selling cost, plus the overhead, plus the taxes, plus a profit. His property tax like the other costs, therefore, is passed on to the manufacturer.

But does the manufacturer of shoes pay this tax? Oh, no, no, he is in business too, and you don't go into business for your health. He passes on his own tax, plus the cost of the leather, (which includes the tanner's tax) his labor cost, overhead, etc., to the jobber.

And the jobber does the same to the wholesaler, the wholesaler passes his taxes on to the retailer, and the retailer passes them on to the consumer who pays them. The consumer thus pays the property taxes of every business through whose hand the article he buys has passed, including the railroads that transported them and the newspapers that advertised them. Business never pays a tax!

Don't believe it, huh? Well, what you want out of business is profit—that is, the difference between the cost price and the selling price, and certainly taxes are part of the cost of running a business, and both cost and profit are included in selling price, which the consumer pays. All right, you see, and it's a fine system, isn't it?

Now in addition to the taxes of the tanner, the manufacturer, the wholesaler, the railroad, and the retailer, you pay when you buy a pair of shoes, President Hoover and his buddies on the Democratic side of Congress plan to add a 2 1/2 per cent "sales tax" for you to pay. The sole object is to ease the taxation of big incomes and inheritances—taxation which is objected to because it can not be passed on by the way.

Well, 2 1/2 % on a \$6 pair of shoes is only 15 cents, but because the retailer will not be able to sell as big a volume at the reduced price, he will have to take more profit, and the shoes will probably be marked up to \$6.50.

Thus, at one stroke, the great and intelligent statesmen who are seeking a cure for depression, will decrease by 2 1/2 % and more the purchasing power of the country.

Ah, well, the people voted for the brilliant Democratic and Republican statesmen, and what they are going to get serves them right. Let us hope that it teaches a few of them that the only difference between the two parties is in name—and nothing more.

—The American Guardian.

Uruguay

The government of Uruguay is becoming one of the most progressive in the world and it is making its progress without a bloody revolution, simply because its people are being educated up to proper human relationships and a just economic system.

Truly, their method is somewhat slow, but I believe it is sure and one that is going to do its part in bringing about the new order. In Uruguay when the people want insurance on their lives, automobiles, or what they can buy it from their government. Government plants supply electricity for the homes and business operations and the radio. The government is preparing to sell gasoline, industrial alcohol and cement to her people and is now selling chemicals and phosphate fertilizer to two millions of people and is planning to take over street cars, telephones, water works and other public necessities.

There is a city, the capital of Uruguay, that has government ownership of hotels, cabarets, casinos and other attractions that draw visitors into the country.

It begins to look as though our South American neighbors are advancing more rapidly than we are in the United States and possibly the reason is because we have been educated up to the idea of "ragged individualism", which at this time is being condemned by many thinking people as a wrong slant on life, especially as it is being practiced in the United States.—George T. Pickett, in The Llano Colonist.

