

SMUG PATRIOTEERING

It appears to be a general law of capitalist politics in this country that when a dirty group in power and its regime is questioned it turns to piety and patriotism. Who does not recall the swarm of grafters who, under the cover of the flag, put over the greatest thefts in our history during the two Grant administrations? Who does not remember the latest war for "American ideals" with its Hardings, Daughertys, Falls, Sinclairs and Dohenys? Patriots all, while many of their enemies went to jail.

Mayor Walker, in his answer to charges, runs true to the politics of chicane and loot. Defending some members of his administration, he mentions one who lost his leg in the late war in defense of "American ideals". Defending others, he affirms that they were "not slackers, defeatists or traitors." The implication is that critics of holy Tammany are a bad crowd of miscreants.

The truth is that those who made the real fight for what is best in "American ideals" were not those who lost a leg in France but those who did not lose their heads in the United States. Moreover, they fought a battle here that required more courage than was required to march with unthinking mobs cheering them on. The Walkers and their ilk did not care two whoops in a Queens sewer about democracy at home or abroad. In fact, at home they, as a rule, cooperated in a policy to transform the masses into permanent conscripts in expression of views. They warred against the Prussian idea of the goosestep in Europe in the hope of importing a permanent "American ideals".

Oozing with the slime of capitalistic politics, this smug patrioteering must amuse the grafters of the Grant era who occupy reserved seats in the nether regions.

The New Leader.

Man's Inhumanity to Man

Are you proud to be a human being?

When you see the cattle grazing quietly upon the hills—or the bees peacefully storing away their sweets—are you not a little bit ashamed of your species?

Man's record in this world is filled with horrors.

As we look back over the centuries—as far as we can see—there is injustice, hatred, and bloodshed. "Man's inhumanity to man" is not only evident on all sides, but it is a very conspicuous feature of the record.

One is almost led to wonder why the human race ever came into existence at all. If the condition that has previously existed—and the condition that now exists—were destined to be continuous, it would be a good thing if some catastrophe would come along and wreck the race.

But the condition is not to be continued.

Upon very close inspection of the past we find that there has been a slight but constant upward trend throughout the whole course of human development.

There have been lapses, but, speaking largely, the upward urge has been constant.

It is not alone intellectually, either, that the race has grown. It has developed all the higher qualities. Little by little, almost imperceptibly, the selfish and brutal have been discarded, and the unselfish and fraternal have been taken on.

As raw and imperfect as the race undoubtedly is at this moment, it has nevertheless reached the point where great numbers of the people long for peaceful and brotherly relations with each other.

They not only long for the total abolition of war, but they long for peace during peace—if you will pardon the paradox. They long to live together in harmony, rather than to have to strive and struggle against one another—as they now have to do in order to live at all.

In short, they are ready for the crude beginnings of the reign of love.

The reign of love is another name for Socialism.

When we get Socialism, we shall no longer have reason to be ashamed of our species. We shall have reason to be proud of it.

NO USE DENYING IT

There is a ridiculous opinion, born of deliberate propaganda by business interests, to the effect that there have been few, if any, wage cuts until recently and still fewer strikes during this depression. As a matter of fact, my guess is that majority of white collar workers have got a wage cut or its equivalent during this depression. Of wage cuts general enough to be noticed, the Labor Bureau reported 770 in 1930 as against 57 in 1929. There have been 519 in 1931 in the first three months of the year.

Norman Thomas.

Our Doings Here and There

By JOHN RAK

Thursday evening, May 14, will be the regular meeting of the English Division of branch No. 1 JSF Chicago. Important discussions on various subjects will be led by several members who have prepared themselves for this occasion. A delegate is to be elected to represent our English Division at the district conference for Wisconsin and Illinois. Plans will also be outlined for a Bunco Party or social in the near future. All members are asked to be present.

Good progress is shown in the sub-diggers column this week by our subscription solicitors. Anton Vicić now touring Wisconsin leads the list with 108. In Milwaukee, several of our comrades have enabled him to reach this high score. Our faithful Joseph Snoy of Bridgeport, O., is never omitted from the list, and while visiting several of the cities in Pennsylvania he has credit himself with 47½. In Cleveland, Anton Jankovich, always a great booster for Proletarec has scored 40. John Zornik of Detroit has sent in 13. Besides Vicić, who has spent several days in Milwaukee, Joseph Vidmar of the same city sends in 9 more. West Newton, Pa., is also represented in our list this week with Joseph Zorko sending 7. A letter from John Zupancich from Helper, Utah, contained 5 more. Then in Sheboygan, Wis., Frank Nagode has raised this week's total for 5 points. Many others, as listed in the report, have helped to make this good showing. In spite of these bad times, this and the past reports have shown what can be accomplished with a little effort to increase the circulation of Proletarec.

Several important discussions will take place at the district conference of Prosvetna Matica for Illinois and Wisconsin. Comrade Bernik will outline the cultural activities of our branches. A report on social legislation will be made by Anton Garden. The executive secretary Chas. Pogorelec will talk in behalf of the Federation and Frank Zaitz will outline the problems and prospects of a home and club rooms for the Federation and branch No. 1. Representatives of the English Divisions will also give short talks on the importance of their movement. To cover the expense of the conference, a social will be held in the evening. The date and place is Saturday, May 30, at the Lawndale Masonic Temple. All branches and lodges affiliated with the Educational Bureau of this district should send delegates.

The library of branch No. 1 carries a good supply of English books. Members, especially those of the English Division, are welcome to their use. Anyone wishing to secure these books can get them at the office of Proletarec.

Branch No. 11 JSF of Bridgeport, Ohio and their singing society "Naprej" will give a program and dance Saturday May 16. Two short plays will be produced; one of them in

MORE ENGLISH
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SEARCHLIGHT

By DONALD J. LOTRICH

"Unemployment And Its Remedies" are treated in a pamphlet by Dr. Harry W. Laidler, printed in 1929. They come up to expectations and are particularly handy now that legislation for unemployment insurance is being pressed in several States. Dr. Laidler outlines the need for a true statement of how many men are really out of work. His outline embodies government employment exchanges, a program of public works, unemployment insurance, reduction of working hours and community control of vital industries, as the basis of security to the wage earner. Note that it was written in 1929, (a most prosperous year). It is an effective bit of reasoning and can become equally as effective a weapon for its fulfillment.

Our Yugoslav Lodges in Illinois have received appeals to work for the unemployment insurance bill.

English. Recitations in both Slovene and English languages will be made and a few numbers will be sung by the chorus "Naprej". Following their program a dance will take place with music furnished by a good orchestra. The admission tickets are 35c for men and 25c for the ladies. "Everybody is welcome", the committee says.

In Girard, Ohio, a dance will be given Saturday, May 23, by the comrades of branch No. 222 JSF. The proceeds of this affair will be used to cover the expense of the conference of branches and lodges in the Ohio district held the next day, Sunday, May 24, at the Slovene Home. The committee assures a good time to all.

Reports were received of another important conference to be held in Glencoe, Ohio. Among other speakers young Victor Tushiek from Power Point, Ohio, will also give a short talk in English. All branches and lodges in that district are requested to send delegates.

before the state legislature. Some have already adopted resolutions asking the Insurance Committee to report the bill out favorably. A public hearing is being urged. The next meeting of the State Conference for Unemployment Insurance will be held this coming Sunday, May 17, at the Labor Lyceum, 3200 Ogden and Kedzie Aves. The Yugoslavs were well represented at the last meeting. We look forward to a larger delegation at this meeting.

Regardless of what else you may do this Sunday do not fail to attend the banquet which is being tendered in honor of Norman Thomas at the Labor Lyceum, Kedzie Ave. and Ogden. Be on time at 6:00 P. M. and help us give our Socialist leader a rousing welcome. Norman Thomas travels much. He therefore can speak of facts from his personal experiences. Such will be his talk Sunday May 17. At the same hall only at a different time. The Conference for Unemployment Insurance will also meet this coming Sunday.

In connection with the Conference of the Educational Bureau of JSF for this territory on Decoration Day May 30, a social has been scheduled, the purpose of which is twofold. First to have a good sociable time and second as a means of raising some money for the treasury of the Conference. It will take place at the Lawndale Masonic Temple and 35 cents has been set as the admission price. Johnny Kochevsky boys are slated to play.

"Hans von Smash" is to be played again in Chicago. The comedy brought so much laughter and satisfaction when produced in February that the committee sponsoring the Pioneer Spring Festival for Sunday May 31 has requested its replantment. It will be the main attraction of an afternoon of good performances. It will be a day of achievements for the Pioneers as their athletes will share in honors of the day: After the completion of the program Johnny Kochevsky boys will play and dancing will follow until midnight.

A ten day Jubilee for Chicago in the hope that it will usher in business has commenced this week. Bands, parades, musical exhibitions, displays and sales are enlisted towards the return of prosperity. This Jubilee is also supposed to show up Chicago

before the outside world in a better light. A great thing all right, but those that have the money are holding on to it while the unfortunates without money cannot spend any. So all this "Jubilee" isn't going to put any great number of people back to their jobs. The American people like rallies and parades and bands and floats. They also love to see baseball games and flag waving. For, when they see all these they forget that they are hungry.

Our new Mayor can do much to redeem the good name of Chicago and put thousands of unemployed to work if he only will. He ought to start right in and insist on reduction of taxes, gas and electric light, street car fares, etc. The Tribune has been reporting how much cheaper everything is, about the drop in the cost of foods and clothing and it would seem that taxes and public utilities should drop in proportion. Our Mayor can halt the politicians and racketeers from dividing the funds of the city on public contracts and thereby save enough to put thousands of idle men to cleaning, repairing and resurfacing many of Chicago's broken up pavements. Of course the Jubilee week may be good and perhaps necessary but our new Mayor must not forget that thousands of workers voted for him because they knew Thompson would give them nothing. Mr. Cermak coming up from the ranks of the workers should know and understand their conditions. The working people are easily satisfied with just a little, but Mr. Cermak can do much to help them out of their present hardships.

It is amazing what the two Socialist Representatives have been able to do in the Pennsylvania Legislature. True, none of their bills have been passed. The majority is still too dormant to pass upon 20th century legislation. But it is a great satisfaction to know that these two Socialists have been responsible for introducing more workers' legislation in this one session than Pennsylvania has seen in a hundred years. What is even more outstanding is that these "money dreamers" had to awaken to the roll call of Socialists on several occasions and that Socialism and the theories of working class emancipation have resounded thru the chambers of Pennsylvania's Representatives. Hoopes and Wilson can return to their constituents and face them squarely with no apologies, but with the firm assurance that they have done their best even though the odds were too great against them and that more Socialist Representatives should be returned to Harrisburg at the next elections.

Jim Maurer Proud of His Party's Record in Reading

Socialist success in Reading, Pa., which has carried it in three years from just another American city to one of the five healthiest cities of its size in the country; accomplishments in the relief of unemployment; the successful battle against graft and corruption; the winning fight against juvenile delinquency; the constant struggle against the forces of reaction, were vividly pictured for Brookwood Labor College directors, teachers and students by Commissioner James H. Maurer of Reading, life-long fighter for working-class emancipation and president of the Brookwood Executive Board.

Maurer described the rotten conditions in the city administration when the first Socialist commissioners took office: the payroll padding, gross negligence and mishandling of accounts.

DESCRIBES GRAFT OF PREDECESSORS

"I found one city official buying pencils by the dozen. They'd buy ink by the quart and electric light globes in half dozen lots, and at retail prices! When we Socialists came to City Hall we inherited the results of former incompetency, debts and binding obligations of over a million dollars," he said.

"The old City Hall was not only lousy and a disgrace to our city, but a fire trap," he said. "At an election in 1925 the people voted for a bond issue of \$750,000 to be used to build a new city hall. The old council, composed of four Democrats and one Republican, never availed themselves of this loan for two reasons. One was they could not agree on a site. Another that they all seemed to agree that \$750,000 was not enough. So nothing was done about it.

KEPT EMPLOYEES ON THE JOB

"Three years later we Socialists used this money and with it gave the city a city hall second to none of any third class city in the United States for beauty, service and size. And out of this same bond issue of \$750,000 we gave the city not only a wonderful city hall but the school board built two new schools besides all three buildings at a cost which our predecessors thought was not enough to build a city hall.

"With people being laid off all about us we have kept all municipal employees at work, given the unemployed a place to sleep, raised \$65,000 in cash and provided \$35,000 worth of food and clothing and done everything else we could to help. No Reading city employee is 'old at 40'; the average age of the city workers is around 50—and they're good workers, I can tell you.

"To fight juvenile delinquency we went to the toughest section of the city, condemned some old shacks, had them torn down and built a playground on the site. We tried teaching the children to play instead of fight," he said.

SHAMEFUL TREATMENT OF KIDS

"And in the new city hall comfortable detention rooms for children are provided instead of cells. They used to bring prostitutes, murderers, old souses and everything else in to trial with kids! Think of it!"

His voice vibrant with anger Maurer went on, "I say that anyone who does that sort of thing should be shot. We don't even allow the officer who brings children into court to wear a uniform. Why, all most of those kids want is human understanding—and we're giving them that. Delinquency has gone way down and the detention rooms are unused most of the time."

COMMERCIAL RADIO

On the same day two Washington news dispatches provided an interesting background for radio broadcasting in this country. Counsel for the Chicago Tribune was arrogant in his demand for increased power for Station WGN and attacked WCFL, the station of the Chicago Federation of Labor. He declared that Station WCFL broadcasted "quackery" and to give it a clear channel would be "a vicious piece of class legislation".

On the same day John H. McCracken of the National Committee on Education by Radio told the Radio Commission that educational stations are under constant attack by commercial stations whose objective is "to produce profits for their owners" and that the drift is "toward a commercial monopoly of all broadcasting channels". Counsel for the Tribune by his impudence illustrated the truth of this assertion.

Not only has Station WCFL been involved in a continuous struggle for existence. WEVD, the Debs Memorial Radio Station, has had and now has a similar experience. As for "quackery", we do not know of any daily in this country that markets more of that article than the Chicago Tribune. From an anti-slavery organ to a racketeering bugler of upper class goings is a long road to travel but the Tribune has made the journey.

The advances made in corporate control of the air within the past fifteen years show the folly of permitting capitalism to dominate the radio. Today most of our radio "education" is in the keeping of manufacturers of soap, pickles, oil and other commodities. A socialist order would end this absurdity at one stroke.

AMERICAN BOURBONS

Purchases in the United States by Russia have declined 44.8 per cent in the six months ending March 31 compared with the corresponding period of the previous year. This is due to the sanctimonious attitude of the administration and the propaganda of our professional defenders of capitalism.

Our racketeering civilization could deal with the old Russia of Jewish pogroms and with Turkey in the days of Armenian massacres. In can deal with the Italy of Mussolini and even accept his agent at Washington, but trade with the Russian would contaminate us. Recognition would be an unpardonable sin.

This policy is stupid, contradictory, dishonest, and simply adds to the number of our unemployed. Capitalists abroad display more intelligence and they will get the trade that is denied here. Like the Bourbon kings of France, our guardians at Washington never learn anything new and never forget anything old.

Wisconsin

Socialist candidates for two places on the School Commission and two County Supervisors in Sheboygan were without opposition in the recent election.

THE WAYS OF AMERICAN "PROSPERITY"

