

A Yugoslav Weekly Devoted to the Interest of the Workers OFFICIAL ORGAN OF J. S. F. And Its Educational Bureau

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We Withhold Our Cheers

We stick out our neck to confess our disapproval and shame for a certain type of propaganda which is currently directed against Nazi Germany.

What we are heading toward is a discussion of a news letter which came to us from England on a letterhead captioned "Labor News From Britain."

The story we read was that standards of living are vastly better in Britain than in Germany.

We're not glad that the people of Germany are worse off than we are. We're not happy when we read that the density of population in mountainous Japan is ten times that of our own richly-endowed country.

Such conditions may be desirable as a cruel war measure. But they are never worth cheering about when we think as human beings.

Moreover, that very disparity of possessions of the necessities of life, about which the better-off nations are gloating, must be recognized as one of the causes of war and mass slaughter and a threat to the existence of civilization itself.

There is, also, another angle to this business of material possessions. We Americans have always had the highest living standards on earth. And yet, it is also a fact that we have been the most-exploited of workers when the difference between what workers produce and what they receive is taken as a measuring-stick.

What we would like workers of the better-favored nations to consider, even in time of war, is not only what they receive but how much they are robbed of by their own native-born profit-takers.

Being Socialists, we favor a world economy. For the same reason we favor a world brotherhood. We know that there is enough of everything for everybody and that all that is lacking is a decent economic system to produce and distribute abundance.

No, when we are told that fellow men and women in other lands have less than we have we do not swell with pride. On the contrary, we feel ashamed.—Reading Labor Advocate.

Herman Lieberman Dead

Herman Lieberman, Polish Minister of Justice, one of the foremost leaders of Polish labor, died on the 21st of October in London, at the age of 71.

After the war he became a member of the Polish Parliament, serving until 1932. He was one of the best orators in the Parliament and was highly esteemed for his independence of spirit and strength of character.

There he joined the recently organized Polish government of General Sikorski and became a member and deputy chairman of the Polish National Council, of which I. J. Paderevski was president.

for a future Poland. After France fell, Lieberman went to London, where he was named Minister of Justice in the Polish Government in Exile.

Fortunately the unions are not showing any disposition to wrap their arms around the Communists here in this country just because they, the unions, sympathize with the Russians who are fighting the Nazis over there.

The unions have had too many sad experiences with Communist devilment in their organizations in the last 10 or 20 years.

While the unions are onto those tactics and are prepared to avoid them, they will still have to look out, for the Communists are capable of using new tactics which may be baffling at first.

A Lesson in Economics

Fred Kelly, who writes a good deal, says: "I'm often shocked over how little I remember of all I was supposed to learn in school.

There is no history worthy of attention save that of free nations; the history of nations under the sway of despotism is no more than a collection of anecdotes.—Chamfort.

THE MARCH OF LABOR



PROFESSOR WALTER K. REABODT, WHO TEACHES LABOR RELATIONS AT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, FOUND HIS CLASS OF 40 STUDENTS ON STRIKE AGAINST HIM BECAUSE HE GAVE THEM UNANNOUNCED EXAMINATIONS!



AN ACT OF CONGRESS PROVIDES THAT ALL LICENSED OFFICERS AND PILOTS, AS WELL AS 75% OF THE CREW, OF U.S. VESSELS MUST BE AMERICAN CITIZENS.

A plaque of E. V. Debs

By John M. Wodk

There are many plaques of Eugene V. Debs. The plaster of Paris plaques can be purchased for fifty cents and are worth it.

A few months ago we printed a letter from Joe, who lives in Providence, R. I. Some writer had assumed that Gene Debs, if living, would take the same attitude toward the present European war that he took toward the First World War.

I sent a clipping of my letter to Joe and enclosed a tiny note of greeting. Had I not enclosed the note of greeting, which gave my address, the chances are that I never would have heard of the plaque.

He replied to my note, saying that he was sending a plaque of Debs to me under separate cover and he wanted me to present it to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen to be hung in the office of the grand secretary, the position Debs once held.

Anyway I complied with his request and wrote a letter to the brotherhood's convention at Denver, which was in a five-week session, long enough to look after lots of details, and offered the plaque.

In about three weeks I got a letter from D. B. Robertson, president of the brotherhood, who apparently had not brought the matter to the attention of the convention at all, respecting it on the ground that Debs "was charged with having undertaken to disrupt our brotherhood by the organization of the ARU in 1894."

"Debs was not only the most distinguished member the brotherhood ever had, but he was also its most useful member. During the years of his official connection with the brotherhood, in addition to his secretarial and editorial duties, he was an untiring organizer, turning up in engine cars and meetings, here, there and everywhere, and getting splendid results.

Live and learn

Labor unions have always been interested in many things besides the details of their own affairs. They have interested themselves in the general betterment of the lot of humanity. The public school system is largely their creation, as it was virtually created at the behest of early labor organizations.

but he was noble and courageous, modest and unselfish. Furthermore, he was an idealist who looked forward and tried to make the world better for his having lived in it.

Reporting to Joe Caldwell I offered to return the plaque to him or to send it wherever he wanted it. I also suggested that we ought to think of some gallery or museum which would like to have it and where it would be seen, over the years, by millions of people; and I told him that in the meantime I was sure that the Socialist party of Milwaukee would be glad to have temporary custody of it.

He came back with a letter offering the Socialist party the permanent custody of the plaque.

He wrote, "I can think of no more appropriate place for the plaque than in the headquarters of the Socialist party of Milwaukee. It was Victor L. Berger who took advantage of Gene's imprisonment in Woodstock jail to supply him with Socialist literature. When Gene was released from jail he was given the greatest reception that any private individual of his time had received in Chicago. It was in that memorable speech that he declared his allegiance to Socialism. These must be many comrades in and around Milwaukee who knew Gene personally. The artist who modeled the likeness is William E. Klinefelder, of Cranston, R. I. The man who did the finishing is Hugh C. Dunbar, of North Attleboro, Mass. These comrades knew Gene Debs through their membership in the Socialist party, and credit is due them for the love and devotion to the memory of Comrade Debs which they put into their work."

He suggested that we have a memorial meeting and that I pinch hit for him by making the presentation. Such a meeting was tentatively arranged to be held on or around Debs' birthday, but the plan fell through on account of the state membership meeting. So I just brought the plaque down and laid it on the desk in the party office. It now hangs on the wall. Naturally Joe Caldwell has a deep affection for it. He will be pleased to know that it hangs where Gene's gentle eyes look upon all who enter.—Milwaukee Post.

Serve with a perfect heart, and a willing mind.—Bible.

SAVA NOTES

By SAVANKA

The concert date, November 30th, is drawing near, and every Sava member is busy with final rehearsals, and will be in tune for another fine Slovene program.

Our "fantje" are certainly getting some practice at being "Ponocnjaki." It will be most amusing and entertaining to hear and witness their first rare interpretations and abilities in performing their respective parts.

It is a good thing Savana are having colds a few weeks before the concert, so that all the coughing and sneezing can be done before the concert date, but it was unfortunate that the cold epidemic prevented us from appearing on the 10th Anniversary concert of "Hrvatska" singing society, November 2nd.

There have been a few changes of faces since our previous concert in the Spring; some few singers are gone and a few new replace the old, but as a whole, we are the same group of singers, and are all ready for an exceptionally fine performance on our next concert date — November 30th.

From the article of Leo Poljsak that appeared in Prosveta last week, a very fine concert will be given by our sister chorus "Zarja" of Cleveland on Thanksgiving Day.

Dr. Arch Not Among Sponsors of the American Slav Congress

I noticed in your comments in last week's Proletarec that my name appeared as a sponsor of the American Slav Congress to be held in Pittsburgh. For your information I wish to state that I am not a sponsor of this congress nor did any person have my permission to use my name.

Two Scotchmen entered a train and sat behind a very pretty girl. "That's a bonnie lassie in front," remarked one of them. "Shall we speak to her?" "Nay, mon, wait till she pays her fare."

Lying "Ads" Only "Harmless Puffery"

Members of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association are a queer lot. Apparently they feel the Constitution places them in a position analogous to that of the ancient kings, who could do no wrong.

The publishers' last outburst has to do with advertising. The Federal Trade Commission and other government agencies have taken the position that "ads" must be reasonably truthful and accurate; in other words, that lies should be barred.

Of course, if these government agencies have their way, newspaper revenues may decrease. Therefore, the publishers are very indignant. They speak of lies as "harmless puffery." That's a new one. Old Ananias would love it!

Hitlerism Must Be Defeated

New York City.—The world conference of the International Labor Organization adopted unanimously a resolution submitted by the United States delegation, headed by Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor, asserting that the defeat of totalitarian aggressors in the war is vital and calling for immediate action toward the post-war reconstruction of Europe.

The resolution demanded planning at once "for the feeding of peoples in need, for the reconstruction of the devastated countries, for the provision and transportation of raw materials and capital equipment necessary for the restoration of economic activity, for the reopening of trade outlets, for the resettlement of workers and their families under circumstances in which they can work in freedom and security and hope for the changing over of industry to the needs of peace, for the maintenance of employment, and for the raising of standards of living throughout the world."

Secretary Perkins, following the seconding of the resolution by delegates from numerous countries and the unanimous vote in its favor by the spokesmen of thirty-five nations, asserted that the document would receive the unanimous favor of the American people, whether isolationist or interventionist. She said: "As an American I am deeply gratified that this resolution has been adopted by this conference, and particularly as it represents a truly American point of view, a view that unites us rather than a view that separates us as a people. It is not merely the view of the American delegates in this convention; it is not merely the view of the government or of the present Administration of the United States."

"The items and details which are discussed, for example, in Paragraph 2 are the kind of objective and the kind of program which unite the American people, and this, I think, will find a ready response in all groups of people, all groups who are not here today but who represent the real meaning of American life. It is the objective of people who are extreme pacifists, of those who are in favor of the immediate entrance of the United States and participation in the war, it is the view of those who agree with the President, and it is the view of those who do not take his position. . . . for we are at heart a very humanitarian people."

Statement by American Slav Congress Committee

On Postponement of Congress. The arrangements committee of the American Slav Congress at its meeting Nov. 13th has decided to postpone the American Slav Congress scheduled to be held in Pittsburgh, Pa., Nov. 21-23, 1941.

Since the participation of the main Slav-American organizations is indispensable for any Congress of a national all-Slav character and since in the absence of a number of such organizations the committee does not wish the Congress called by it to serve as an obstacle in anyway to the broadest all-Slav unity which it is certain can be achieved or to give rise to misunderstandings or divisions as between participating and non-participating bodies within the various Slav groups, the committee has decided upon a postponement of the Congress in order to enable all Slav anti-Hitler forces in our country to find a common basis for assuring a genuinely representative Congress of all Slav Americans interested in supporting the struggle against Hitler.

Workers Not To Blame

Premier Churchill makes public Viscount Gort's elaborate report showing why Hitler won the "Battle of Flanders" and overwhelmed France.

There is nothing in the story to indicate that the workers of the European democracy were in any way responsible for the debacle. On the contrary, it shows shocking stupidity at the top.

The armies of France and Britain were sent into battle without modern equipment. There was utter lack of co-ordination between the Allies. When Weygand made his final effort to snatch victory from defeat, he found he was addressing his orders to disorganized mobs.

The rulling classes of Britain and France and their military chieftains were responsible for all of this. They had the necessary resources and manpower, but right under their noses they permitted Hitler to build up the best equipped military force of all time.

What makes a great thought is when a thing is said which reveals a great number of others, and which enables us to discover suddenly that for which we could not hope except after long study.—Montesquieu.