











## SOME PRIMARY PRINCIPLES

If people could get the basic fact that capitalism is a system of producing commodities and understand what a commodity is, they would be able to understand why industry becomes stagnant. Take a shoe. It is made not to use but to sell. It has value in exchange and a use value. Its use value is not realized until it passes through exchange to the user. Its exchange value is not realized until it is sold.

A commodity may be very useful and have little exchange value or have much exchange value and be of little use. An apple to a man who is starving is in the first category and a diamond is in the second category. A starving man can eat the apple and live, but if he ate the diamond he would die. In the one case the utility is enormous and the exchange value is small; in the second case the exchange value is enormous and the utility is small.

Labor produces commodities, exchange values, but they are useless until they reach the consumer. To realize their use value, one must have the medium of exchange—money. No money, no shoes, no food, no use values. Now it is the use of things that is essential to human welfare and happiness, but capitalism is a system of producing values for exchange, not use. In an industrial crisis commodities remain in the exchange phase of production and do not reach the use phase. Exchange suffers from a glut of commodities and as exchange becomes clogged production slows down. The use value of commodities is thus not realized.

The working masses constitute the great source of consuming use values. Their labor power is also a commodity. It has exchange value and use value, like any other commodity. The capitalist buys it and realizes its use value. The worker realizes its exchange value in the market—a wage. The capitalist uses labor power because the worker will produce more values than what it cost in the market. A surplus accumulates in the hands of the capitalist. Eventually the surplus becomes a glut. Exchange becomes clogged. Like a blood clot in the brain, paralysis follows. The paralysis may have its beginning in the upper range of financial gambling or below in production and exchange. In any event, a depression is inevitable.

Eliminate production for exchange, produce use values to satisfy human wants and the problem is solved. But this also means elimination of private owners of industry and substitution of collective ownership—Socialism. Utility will then be the primary motive in production, the only motive that should prevail in a civilized society.—M. L.

## PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT AND HIS FORTY HOUR PROPOSAL

By Louise B. Jursey

The President's proposal of a 40-hour maximum work week and forty cents an hour as the minimum wage is of course a step taken wisely and of great social importance. While the President has many faults, yet, nevertheless there are many things which he would like to have adjusted. And his proposal of establishing maximum hours and minimum wages is one of them.

As the mater now stands, many manufacturers in the North are buying finished material and products from the South. The wages there being exceptionally low for all workers and most of the work being done by child labor, cannot compete with the wages paid in the North. As a result, manufacturers are finding it more profitable to buy goods from the South and resell them for the price of northern manufactured goods.

It is for this reason that the establishing of maximum hours and a minimum wage is of great social importance. It would, I believe auto-

matically wipe out child labor if it is passed. But the President should see also that the price of living commodities remain more static. We all know for a fact that if wages have increased slightly the price of necessary living commodities has gone sky high. How about a little adjustment on that too.

## THOMAS BLAMES WAR ON HITLER, IL DUCE

Reichsfuehrer Hitler and Premier Mussolini are waging war "with particular frightfulness" on the Spanish people "in a struggle which they themselves secretly fomented," Norman Thomas, American Socialist leader, declared.

He asserted the insurgent air bombardment of Valencia which occurred while he was there, was "an act of war by German and Italian fliers under the direct control of their governments."

## MILWAUKEE'S BRAG

The Milwaukee Journal on its editorial page printed a fine piece entitled "Milwaukee Has a Right to Brag."

It was written by Walter A. Terpenning, professor of sociology, of the Western State college, Kalamazoo, Mich., Prof. Terpenning attended the Milwaukee public forum for seven weeks. In his article he said that there are some few things about which Milwaukee citizens ought to hang their heads in shame, but even in those it doesn't compare unfavorably with other cities. Among Milwaukee's good points, Prof. Terpenning listed the following:

Milwaukee has an efficient, economical department for the removal of ashes and rubbish.

Milwaukee's handling of the relief problem "must mean a high degree of popular self-respect, adequate care of dependents, alert police surveillance, respect for the vagrancy law, or a general prosperity."

Milwaukee has a low crime rate; only one murder in 1935 and six murders in 1936. England, Scotland and Wales do no better in the suppression of crimes of violence than Milwaukee.

Milwaukee's police department is not in politics. Criminals in that city are 25 times as likely to get to jail as in New York, and residents there are 125 per cent safer than those in Chicago and St. Louis.

Milwaukee for three years has had the lowest motor vehicle death rate among cities of more than 500,000 population.

Milwaukee, by educative leisure time activities in schools, in gymnasiums and on playgrounds, keeps adults out of trouble and children out of danger. "Economizing on play is extravagant and asinine stinginess," be-

cause it is bound to show up in crime costs.

There is much more about Milwaukee as a model city. Professor Terpenning forgot to mention one thing. Milwaukee has had a socialist mayor for 21 years. His name is Daniel Webster Hoan. His ancestors came from Ireland, where the family name was Horan.

## SCRAP STEEL, SCRAP LIFE

Old, dead automobiles, moldering in roadside graveyards, have long been a worrisome sight in this country. We peer into glade and glen, and find bodies decomposing there, stripped of tires and batteries. Foreigners, visiting us, are appalled at the spectacle, and write letters home to their papers, about American wealth and waste.

But today these carcasses lie uneasily in their burial grounds, preyed upon by grave robbers of a new sort. The price of scrap iron and steel has risen tremendously — it seems there is a European demand: Iron is wanted for the wars, and the stealthy junkman arrives to pluck the ancient Overland from the carcass of raspberry vine and nettle. At his approach, field mice flee their nest in the cushions. Iron for the wars! Somewhere a peasant saves his broken spade for the government collector; somewhere a bride melts down her wedding ring for God and country; somewhere someone's old family sedan goes to its great adventure.

The iron we could not quite destroy will serve destruction yet. Scrap iron, scrap steel, scrap gold. Scrap life.—"New Yorker."

## Annual Picnic of Branch 27 JSF, Sub-branch and "Zarja"

Branch 27 JSF, Socialist Singing society "Zarja", and Sub-branch 27 JSF, will sponsor their annual picnic this year on Sunday, June 20, at Pintar's farm. Transportation will be provided by Sedmak, from the end of the car line to the farm, during the afternoon, beginning at 1 o'clock.

Directions to the farm are simple: Take a Nottingham car to the end of the line and wait for the truck. The return trip will be managed in the same way, by truck to the car line. To get there by auto, take St. Clair Avenue to 260 St., turn left, and follow the pointers from there.

Refreshments (beer, drinks, sandwiches, etc.) Dancing to Eddie Barbic's orchestra, balinea, and further entertainment will furnish the interest during the afternoon.

There will also be an added feature on June 20, and that will be the giving away of a blanket. This program should make everyone attending feel that his time was well spent.

Sophie Turkman.

## Our Doings Here and There

By Joseph Drasler

Just as the Socialist Party of America is putting special efforts back of building up its official organ, The Socialist Call, we, as members of the JSF should put our time and efforts into building up the circulation of our official organ, Proletarec. Too many of our members are devoting their time to gathering subs for the Socialist Call where they should be devoting it to our own publication.

A big time is in store for the members of Branch 27 JSF, the English Sub-branch, the singing society "Zarja" along with their friends Sunday, June 20, at Pintar's farm. This is to be a picnic with all the trimmings. Plenty of beer and sandwiches, dancing and other games and sports. Everyone is invited and welcome to spend the day with the members of Branch 27 at Pintar's farm. Sophie Turkman gives you the directions to the farm in her article elsewhere on this page.

Reports on the JSF Symposium, the mass meeting held during the SNPJ Convention and the Convention itself should be forthcoming from Cleveland comrades. Andy Turkman who was chairman of the Symposium should favor us with a complete report of all that transpired at that meet.

Books! Sure you're interested in good books. Write for our catalog.

Ernest Dreshnar, Falcon Editor, reports that the Falcons summer vacation will begin on June 12th. That will be the date of their last Falcon meeting for the summer and by that time school will probably be out too, making it really the beginning of happy vacation days for the Falcons. Before dismissing the class for the summer the Falcons plan on having another outing. Their last outing a few weeks ago was a trip to Clarendon Hills. This trip included hiking, playing baseball and other games, snapping pictures, singing, eating ice cream, telling ghost stories around the camp fire and a visit to the public school in Clarendon Hills. Boy! Oh! Boy! They must have had a good time.

Members of the Social Study Club of Branch 1, will meet at the Slovene Labor Center Wednesday evening, June 9 at 7:30. Transportation will be furnished from there out to the place where the meeting will be held — Contigne Woods.

## MENTAL DYNAMITE USED IN SPANISH WAR ALSO

During the last two weeks of April, Loyalist airplanes dropped 30,000,000 pieces of propaganda over and behind the Rebel lines, according to Agence Espagne, Government news agency.

Among these tracts, which were printed in Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, Italian and German, were more than 5,000,000 copies of the recent Government decree guaranteeing any Insurgent soldier or officer who deserts to the Loyalists his original rank in the army and his full civil rights.

The incandescent lamp. It is quite convenient in the winter when our fingers are stiff from the frost, for we warm them by holding our hands close to the bulb for a few moments. In the summer, however, we shut the lights off at intervals to try to escape the intense heat.

There is an opening in the office which looks into the workshop. Here the employer can sit concealed for hours listening to the complaining going on between the workers, and watching us at work at our daily, monotonous task. — M. L.

## My Friend and the Storm

By Victor Poverk

The other day I met an old acquaintance of mine who is well read up on national and international affairs, in fact I can truthfully say he is class conscious but nobody knows about it. That is the reason I am writing this article. As I have been guilty of the same crime against the working class I know it takes more than an article or two to break the bars of passivity, but my hopes of awakening this lad are very high.

At a time when the laboring class is surging forward, great economic struggles spreading throughout the land and the class consciousness of the workers rising to higher levels my friend has his head buried in the sand trying to evade the problems of his people—the working class.

Across the sea, the Spanish people are engaged in a life and death battle with fascism. The black shirts of Mussolini and the Stormtroopers of Hitler are not passive and silent, they are aiding the Franco murderers to the fullest extent to batter down a duly elected government. We in America must do our part but very little we can do by "playing ostrich". Even if my friend is not conscious of the international role of fascism or the connections between Wall-street and Franco, the heroic spirit of the Asturian miners should activate young miners and especially my friend who has some knowledge of the class issue.

My friend graduated from high school with honors some years ago, today he earns his bread and butter far below the earth's surface. This month hundreds of thousands of young boys and girls will be released upon the labor market. The schools and colleges will vomit their colossal flood of machine fodder and tramping the streets they will go. Should we allow this "lost generation" to find its way into the ranks of fascism or should we lead them toward a progressive future?

If my friend was deprived of an education this should be all the more reasons for him to fight for the rights of the young people; for the right to learn.

My friend has his books, he worships good literature. I don't mean that he is a bookworm, but for a coal digger he is cultured. I wonder if he ever heard of the book burnings in 1933 which took place in Nazi Germany in which the best literary works in the world went into ashes—the books of Einstein, Mann, Ludwig and other were replaced by fascist propaganda.

So my friend, the forces of democracy need you especially here in the coal fields. We must not only be in the vanguard of the union organ-

izational drives in this country, we must blaze the way for a progressive America, a country free from black reaction and you must help us. Either fascism wins and civilization degrades, or democracy remains and labor marches forward. We must not allow our country to go through a period of Dark Ages.

Do you want to be guilty of a crime against humanity? No, you don't, so snap out of it. There is plenty to do, thousands of people are doing Jimmie Higgins work, they are going to make a future and your place is in their ranks.

## DEGREES

Every year the higher educational institutions seek widened influence and cheap notoriety by handing out honorary degrees to celebrities. The celebrity upon whom the degrees is to be conferred is expected to appear on the campus at commencement time and march around with a Mother Hubbard gown and a sailor hat. He then gets a degree proclaiming to all and sundry that he is a very, very wise man. In case he has endowed the institution with a wad of money that endows him with exceptional wisdom and he gets a degree of doctor of laws or doctor of philosophy.

The doctor's degree is the highest. The master's degree comes next. All things are comparative, but it would seem that a master of science, for example, ought to be a master of science; yet we doubt if even Albert Einstein would claim to be a master of science.

The bachelor's degree is the lowest and the least pretentious, and it is one of the few that are ever really earned. A doctor of laws may, if he has a chance, doctor the laws, but he does not and can not know all of the law. A doctor or a master of laws, if you ask him what the law is on a given subject, unless it is a simple question with no complications, will go to a bookcase and take down a big volume bound in calfskin and blow the dust off the top of it and proceed to look in it and find out what the law is. Master of laws! No one can possibly be a master of laws, much less a doctor of laws.

Then why do men crave honorary degrees? All men are more or less children. They crave degrees for the same reason that a baby craves a bright ribbon or a rattle.

The chief danger to the world right now is the fact that public opinion is taking too long to jell in the right way.

## SEARCHLIGHT

By DONALD J. LOTRICH

It will take quite some time for city. Little domination was attempted many people to understand where allied by any group. Most of us worked, that supposed opposition at the SNPJ understanding, together because we convention wilted. Generally, we were interested in gaining further pay little attention to rumors. But knowledge and in getting the extra-comes coming from the camp of the experiences of this convention to bring so-called reactionary consolidation back home to their respective units. were so numerous and certainly so there are still some young people widespread, prior to the convention, who don't understand our working-class ideology. Others, too, know about it faintly. That poisonous atmosphere did not prevail, however, as prevailed at the English Speaking Conference in 1935. On these intelligent young people the future course of our whole national life depends. Whether we progress will depend on their ability to grasp the real issues firmly and intelligently. Whether they stall on our old traditions depends on our ability to teach them to reason for themselves. But whatever else we can say it must be said that we had a fine young peoples delegation at this convention.

Some are inclined to believe that the religious elements can take the credit for uniting the delegation so uniformly and I am inclined to agree with them. Had that opposition developed within the Society, and it is a certainty that such was not the case, then it might have amounted to something altogether different. It was good for the SNPJ to know that his choice representatives will stand shoulder to shoulder when the need arises. But I do hope that the false alarm will not send them back to slumberland. Those who seek to make inroads into the SNPJ will not stop at a blowout. Nay, they will labor more earnestly for the next opportunity to upset the apple. Hence, it is of great enough importance for the alert minds to stay alert and to preach the true gospel of honesty, righteousness, justice and freedom, from the standpoint of the working-man everyday of the year. Though Socialists make no effort to control the convention and the SNPJ the friendliest of relations were seen to exist.

I am happy to say that we had the best delegation of young people ever. Only a limited number of young Socialist but the non-affiliates were intelligent folks willing to participate and promote the progress of the So-

Some seem to think that the time honored traditions are to be used as a measure for all times. I disagree. I firmly believe that the old scares are a means of guidance alright. They are not to stop us from progressing more and more. We can't and don't want to change the past history of the SNPJ. But we should want to improve at every turn, every ingredient that goes to make up our national life. The SNPJ is recognized as the leader in this field. It is for us, to add to it more Socialist ingredients to help give the members and followers the true and honest picture of life. If we can do that, and we should be able, than the new social order which we seek will become a reality, much sooner.

Nada's Bunco Party last Friday night had a full house at the Slovene Labor Center. We are happy to learn that the net results were reasonably good, too.

## NOTE

More English reports and Articles on Page 5.

