

Proletarian

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

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The Only Cure

A field worker for the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers) reports a terrible condition in the coal fields of West Virginia and Kentucky. At least 25,000 children are in need of food and warm clothing, to say nothing of their parents and other adults. Thousands of children are unable to attend school for lack of clothing. Some of the children are barefoot in midwinter. Many families live in tents. Of course, sickness takes a heavy toll. The administration and the congress look at this tragedy and do nothing. They not only do nothing to prevent the immediate suffering, but they do nothing to solve the coal problem for the future. Coal mining is a sick industry. Its ailment is private ownership. The private ownership of mines has ruined the industry. It needs a genuine cure—and there is no cure except public ownership.

Press Soft Pedaling on Fascism

Dispatches from Rome state that the deficit of the Fascist government of Italy is much greater in 1931 than the year previous. Many industries are working at only 50 per cent capacity, unemployment is increasing, 878,000 workers were idle Nov. 30, and 240,000 of these are drawing the "dole". Remember that all dispatches from Italy are censored, and that the chief job of any censor is to suppress unpleasant truth. When such news came from Britain a short time ago while that country had a Labor government, it was plastered on the front page of every capitalist daily, and made the text for a hundred editorials lamenting the "excesses of Socialism." But coming from Italy, it goes to an inside page, where only careful readers will see it. It is not made a text for editorial sermons on the collapse of Fascism; on the contrary, the reactionary press loses no opportunity to picture the tyrant Mussolini as a superman. It makes a deal of difference whose ox is gored. The money barons of this country hate and fear anything suggestive of liberalism, while many of them are ignorant and shortsighted enough to believe that they would be helped by Fascism—which is a dictatorship like Communism with the financiers and industrialists running the show, but with certain disaster ahead. —The Milwaukee Leader.

FINE PROGRESS

The statement of audit of the Los Angeles bureau of power and light, made by Price, Waterhouse and Co. for the year ending June 30, 1930, has just come to our hands. It shows, as every previous audit has shown, the gratifying financial progress and sound condition of these great public projects. The net income of these plants, according to this audit, for the year ending June 30, 1930, "before interest and depreciation", is \$7,533,631.77. Deducting the interest paid and accrued, and allowing provision for depreciation of the plant and equipment the "net income" of these great projects for the year is \$4,224,498.82. Can anyone read year after year such stirring and almost amazing statements of this kind and yet have the slightest doubt as to the soundness or practicability, the efficiency and economy, of public ownership? Read these figures again—"net income" for one year, \$4,224,498.82. —Public Ownership.

Why This Delay?

"There is not an existing institution in the world of civilized humanity which cannot be profoundly modified of altered or abolished in a generation. There is no form or order of government or of the dominion of force which cannot be removed out of the world within a generation. There is no ideal in conformity with the principles of civilization dreamed of by any dreamer or idealist which cannot be realized within the lifetime of those around him."—Benjamin Kidd.

STATISTICS ON SAFETY

Commissioned army officers are rated by the insurance companies on the same plan as ministers, business men and professional people. But army nurses are on a par with firemen, and plain soldiers are twice the risk of hook and ladder men.

More accidents result from the highway loafer than from the highway speeder.—P. P.

SEARCHLIGHT

Constant hammering has finally brought some results to the cause of Mooney and Billings, the two labor leaders convicted on perjured testimony. Pardon boards, governors and commissions have studied, reviewed and considered the imprisonment of these two men and none had the backbone to relate the truth. Finally, the famous Wickersham subcommittee was brave enough to go into detail and bring the truth to the people. But even that was indirect for the report in its original was suppressed by President Hoover. It was not until the senate called for it that same was presented with hesitation. And what did it uncover? Exactly the story that we and all other labor organizations and publications had printed. There is no question about the gross conspiracy and frameup, the report is clear in that.

There is not a single doubt now, just as there has never been in the eyes of real justice, that Mooney and Billings are innocent. And the prosecutors knew it as well. They feared the day when the truth would be unfurled before the whole world that Mooney and Billings were unjustly kept in jail for sixteen years. But the day has come and the people now know more assuredly than ever, that it was another dirty frameup with the public officials at the instigation of the power barons as the chief offenders. Does the governor of California still want to ponder about the case? Does he still need further enlightenment and advice? If so, who is going to give him the needed advice? Those dirty low down politicians who dare frame innocent men to the electric chair? Or, perhaps, it's going to be the robbing industrial barons, the captains of industry, who disliked the organizing ability of Mooney and Billings?

California now has a clear issue. This year they are to show their wares again. Are the people of California going to let the political scoundrels of the republican and democratic parties, who conspired to convict these men, run the State of California? Or are they going to join with the rest of the organized labor and Socialist forces to oust the real criminals? If ever an issue was open, this one is, the labor leaders on the short end and the crooked grafting politicians on the long end. What has happened, to Mooney and Billings can happen to any worker seeking bread and butter, unless the workers organize and unite in a workers political party, which will have for its main object the emancipation of the workers from the present day slavery, drugery and corruption.

In the course of a recent conversation with intimate friends who have not seen reason to affiliate with our cause we came upon a discussion of the terrible conditions in Chicago; we spoke of conditions existing thruout the country. Naturally, we were

What Will Become of Lawyers Under Socialism

An anxious lawyer friend—and I still count several of them as my friends—wants to know what will become of him when Socialism becomes the established order. There is one thing certain, with the abolition of private ownership of industry, the occupation of the lawyer as we know it today will be gone. Under the present regime, the profession of the law produces nothing but expensive lawsuits, heart-aches, sorrow, poverty, suicide and starvation. Socialism will abolish that sort of productivity. It looks as though the lawyer, in the new order, will have just about as much of a job as the stage driver has today. Still, the average lawyer is a pretty intelligent chap, and his physical and mental powers might be usefully employed if given an opportunity.—Fred D. Warren.

Not Educated

Thinking his sight was failing, a man dropped into an optician's shop to get advice about it. "Can you read that?" asked the optician, pointing to a card placed on the wall. "No," replied the old man. The optician accordingly gave him stronger glasses. "Well," he inquired, "can you read it now?" The old fellow shook his head. "No, not a word," he said. After repeating this performance several times, the optician was about to give him up in despair, when the old man quietly explained. "You see, sir, I never learned to read."

Our Doings Here and There

Tonight, Thursday Jan. 14, the English Division of branch No. 1 JSF will hold its regular meeting in the lower SNPJ hall. All members are urgently requested to be present and to invite their friends. A talk on Socialism by comrade Kopach will be the general topic for discussion. A committee is to be elected to take charge of English programs and plays and balloting will take place for our next convention city. These important items make it necessary for every member to be present and take an active part in our future activities. Senior comrades of branch No. 1 JSF are also welcome.

Comrade James H. Maurer will be in Chicago Thursday January 28 and speak at the SNPJ Hall. Branch No. 1 JSF and the Bohemian comrades have arranged for this mass-meeting. We hope that an overflowing crowd will come out and listen to Maurer describe the reasons for depressions, causes for them and what remedy workers could use to abolish conditions that makes life miserable. Comrade Maurer is a very able speaker and served for one term as a Socialist alderman in the city government of Reading, Slovenia of Chicago are asked to reserve this date and invite their friends to attend this meeting. Admission will be free.

"We are trying to increase the membership of our English Division," writes comrade John Gabrenja from Johnstown in this week's issue. It is not a light matter to interest the young people about problems which concern the workers today and the unemployment question with which youth itself is affected. The young people are more amused in comic strips, sport pages, good times and parties than with economic issues or ideas of how to better their living conditions for the future. But in spite the

The Moratorium, Debts and Reparations

It is good that Congress finally passed the bill for legalizing the moratorium, a bill to which the majority of its members were already pledged. It is bad that it accompanied this act with a lot of oratory unnecessarily offensive to foreign ears and with a declaration against any further reduction or cancellation of debts. Some excuse may be found for Congress in the mistakes both of President Hoover and the great bankers. Mr. Hoover never properly educated the public on the significance of debts and reparations and he proposed a moratorium without calling Congress in session to discuss the matter. The banks ran wild in floating all sorts of foreign loans which Wall Street promptly unloaded on Main Street after having made a more than generous commission. Today some New York banks which hold comparatively little in long term loans have advanced so much to Germany on short term credit for commercial transactions that complete German default on these credits might imperil some strong banks and start a general banking run in America of incalculable consequence. In these circumstances the big bankers do not look like disinterested preachers of forgiveness of those debts owed to the American government which ultimately will have to be paid by American taxpayers.

Nevertheless the main sufferers in the present world situation are not bankers but farmers and workers, European and American. Blind insistence that Germany must pay reparations has put every possible difficulty in the way of social democracy in Germany. It has played into the hands of the Hitlerites. It has terribly reduced German wages and has been a factor not only in German unemployment but in world depression. England, France and Italy are not likely to forgive German reparations if they have to pay debts incurred by all the allies in a war in which we were foolish enough to take part. For the most part none of these debts arising out of the war can be paid except in goods which all nations prove that they don't want by putting up tariff walls. Partly justly and partly unjustly but wholly naturally, all these debtor nations look on their debts with a degree of psychological irritation greater even than the actual economic hurt that they impose. We Americans fool ourselves if we think that the present schedule of reparations and debts ever will be paid or that the Allies will pay us and forgive any large share of those German reparations now under discussion. It is very significant that the neutral nations through their representatives at the Basle Conference on Germany's capacity to pay have all declared for wiping out reparations, or at least that part of them which is now conditional under the Young Plan. They are in a position to see things fairly. We might as well make a virtue out of forgiving what we can't collect anyhow.

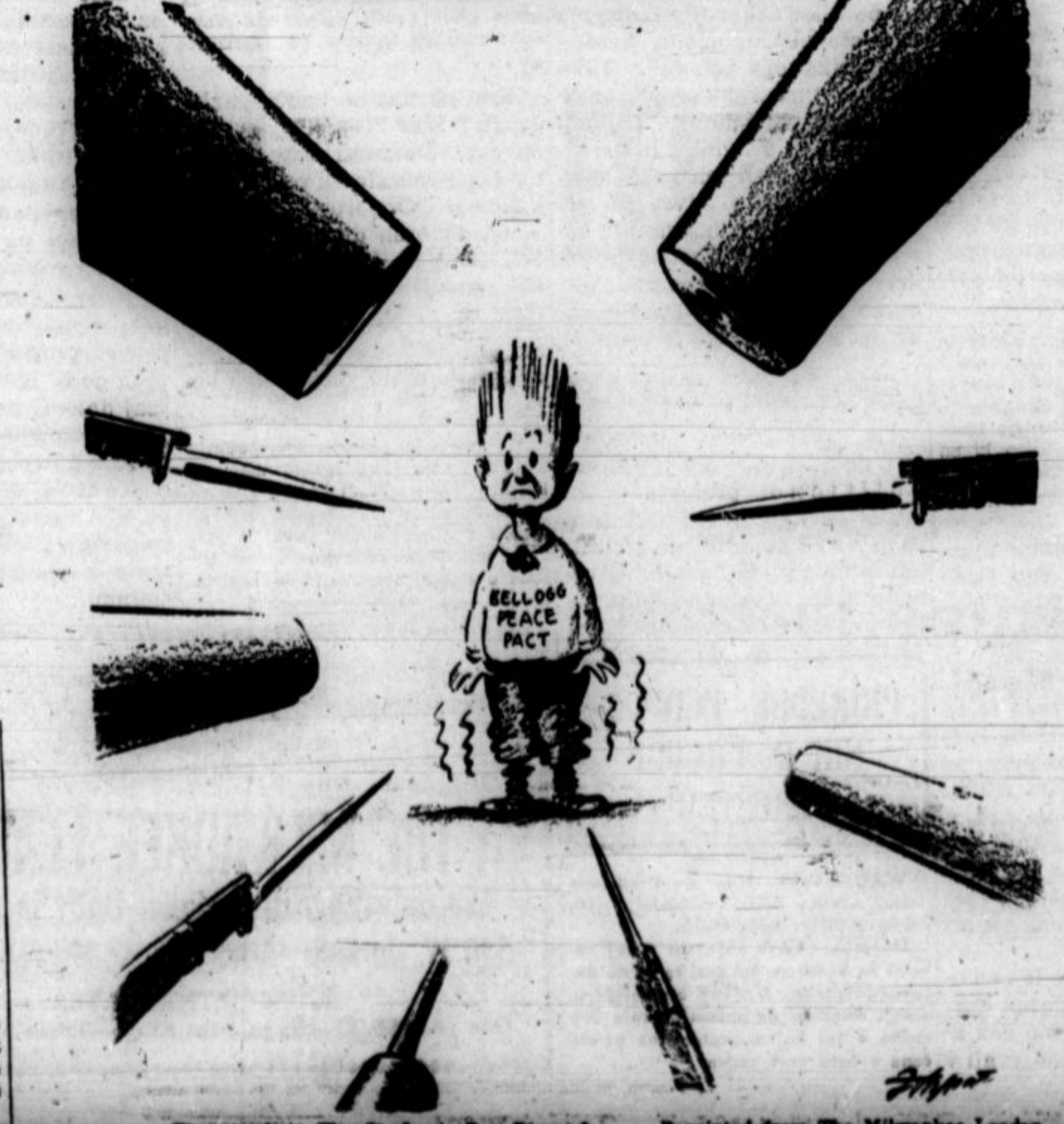
To American forgiveness of interallied debts there should be three conditions: (1) As a matter of course German reparations should be wiped out; (2) Not one cent should go to support Europe's extravagant armaments which must be reduced; and (3) What the United States loses or seems to lose should be covered by a surtax on the incomes of that class which profited, if anybody did, out of the war and out of those private foreign securities which though they have shrunk in value will not be forgiven and, indeed, cannot be forgiven short of general collapse of the whole economic structure. That general collapse would not be a bad thing if we had ready another system to put in its place. A chaotic collapse arising out of a refusal or inability of Europe to pay anything on any of the money it has borrowed since the war for peaceful purposes is another matter. Moreover it should be observed that these private debts do not involve that hate or danger of war involved in the public debt, and finally that many of them may automatically shrink—or have shrunk—as fixed public debts cannot.

Fail To Get Down To Brass Tacks

The daily welfare and security of every man, woman and child must be the first object of government. What have politicians done in this crisis of overproduction, and no distribution? They can only suggest curtailment and destruction in a hungry world, never getting at fundamentals.—Kate Crane-Garts.

If Hoover's moratorium to Germany doesn't work any better than the spontaneous moratoriums we Americans work off on each other, the Germans are in dutch for sure.—A. G.

OVER THREE YEARS OLD



Fitzpatrick in The St. Louis Post-Dispatch. — Reprinted from The Milwaukee Leader.