

In Bad Company

Throughout the past six years Socialists, in their opposition to and criticism of New Deal policies and objectives have been painfully aware that they were frequently in bad company. We were against Roosevelt and so were the most reactionary elements of the Republican political machine.

Now, as opponents of any policy which will embroil the United States in a European war, we again find ourselves in the company of—of all people!—the Nazi Bund element which is organizing in this country.

Naturally, the Bund doesn't want America to be mixed up in a war in Europe. However, it should not be necessary for us to point out that their efforts to keep America at peace are motivated by vastly different considerations than those which are important to us.

We take the class attitude. We assert that the threat of war which hangs over Europe today is the result of imperialistic rivalries with which the American masses, who will be called upon to fight and die if this nation joins the bloody party, have no interest. The Bundsmen, on the other hand, want to keep America out of war because they see that if this nation participates it will be as an ally of Germany's foes.

We are therefore constrained to again emphasize that the Socialist position is based upon a positive philosophy. Mr. Roosevelt wants to preserve the private profit system and is making concessions to the principle of government control for the purpose of keeping that system from collapsing. We Socialists want the profit system to be replaced by a co-operative commonwealth in which capital will be socially owned and wealth will be produced for use instead of for the profit of an owning class.

Our attitude on war is not merely one of opposition. On the contrary, we present a program for peace by advocating an economic order under which the exploitation of workers and the creation of unsaleable surpluses in the hands of a favored class—which is the basic cause of modern wars—will cease to exist.

If standing by our social principles and our economic philosophy seems to put us in bad company, that merely emphasizes the terrible mess into which the entire world has been plunged by the contradictions of the capitalist system.

PUBLIC CONTROL

The enactment of a law to provide wage-earners with workmen's compensation is not the end of a movement to establish a right of these citizens, but only a step toward that end. The opposition to a law in effect is just as vigorous as in the beginning and has acquired skill.

The first decision with regard to workmen's compensation which either clears the field or complicates it is between setting up an exclusive state fund or commercial insurance companies for paying benefits for the victims of accidents and occupational diseases.

The second fundamental is a blanket provision for compensation against all industrial injuries—occupational diseases as well as accidents. It is important that occupational diseases should not be separated from workmen's compensation as a "model" bill sponsored by accident insurance companies seeks to do.

seems to be allied with the movement to separate industrial hygiene from departments of labor and administration of the rights of labor. To assure workers of benefits under workmen's compensation a governmental agency must prove the existence of industrial hazards only an agency understanding labor problems and workers' rights is in a position to give this service.

PASS THE SPY BILL

Growing out of the hearings held by the La Follette investigating committee is the bill introduced by Senators La Follette and Thomas to prevent and penalize the use of labor spies, strikebreakers, private armies and munitions, armed guards off the premises, etc.

As stated by the two senators, the bill is several decades overdue. For half a century, and more, the laboring contingent of the employers have run riot with oppressive labor practices, taking the law into their own hands and in innumerable instances bludgeoning the employees into submission and wrecking the unions by undermining them with spies or by sheer violence or both.

VISITORS

Mr. and Mrs. Valentine Stroj of Indianapolis, Ind., and their daughter Stanis, a Purdue student this Fall, visited at the Slovene Labor Center this week.

Branch 1 Meeting Well Attended—M. Krueger Speaks on "Future of the Socialist Party"

CHICAGO. — Numerous questions were asked prior to the meeting of Branch 1, last Friday, about the timely subject scheduled for discussion that evening—"Future of the Socialist Party," by Prof. Maynard C. Krueger, member of the National Executive Committee. And, despite the fact that many members were out of town, the meeting was fairly well attended.

Comrade Krueger analyzed the American political scene prior to and since the "New Deal," with its unemployment insurance, old age pensions, the Wagner act, and other such mild reforms.

"Even the basic causes of unemployment have not been touched, many people have accepted the New Deal for what they expected to get through Socialism," he said.

He mentioned the possibility of a big political turnover in 1940, or, certainly in 1944—as we have seen in 1920 and 1932—when millions of disappointed voters will be unloading from the Democratic band wagon and doing the traditional thing among American voters—changing from one major capitalist party to the other.

"Socialists should be in the field with their candidates and a program that will win over these disappointed voters leaving the Democratic bandwagon for reasons which we, ourselves, as Socialists, propose. If we are unable to offer them such a program we are definitely to be written off as a political factor, altho I do not believe that will be so," he stated.

Under the old constitutional regime La Scala flourished in its artistic enterprises; left free and independent of any government interference, it could engage the best talents and satisfy the public demands without fear of incurring the displeasure of the political authorities.

What are the real reasons for the crisis in the La Scala theatre? According to the "Menestrel," a Paris newspaper, the reasons are numerous and of varied nature, the most important, however, are political.

At this meeting a report on our July 4th picnic, sponsored for the benefit of the sustaining fund of Proletarec, was read, showing that a profit of about \$200 was realized from this, our most successful venture of the summer.

SAVA'S PICNIC

CHICAGO. — Kobal's Grove in Clarendon Hills will be the scene of gay activity Sunday, August 27, when "Sava" will picnic there. The chorus had dismissed rehearsals during the hot summer months, but will resume again Tues. Aug. 8. Preparations for this annual get-together of all members and friends are progressing to a nicety, with all indications pointing to a jolly good time.

Labor Center Bowling Courts Abuzz Nightly

Chicago. — Installation of night lighting at the Slovene Labor Center bowling courts is proving magical drawing power, as the courts hum with a gay sportive atmosphere each evening. Nor is the game confined to the male sex either. The women folk have a number of teams organized for whom the courts are reserved each week.

Guns Before Pants

The German government has banned the use of such terms as breeches, knickerbockers and shorts because of their foreign origin. We understand, the next move will be to ban the use of these indispensable articles themselves.

THE WISCONSIN PEOPLE DO NOT WANT A SALES TAX

Ever since the weekend when the reactionaries at Madison sounded out the people on the subject of a general sales tax, and dropped it like a hot coal when they discovered the almost universal opposition, it has been rumored that the general sales tax would be maneuvered into the picture again.

The people will have to look out for that, and keep on letting the reactionaries know they will not stand for a general sales tax. Other means of raising revenue can be found if the myopic reactionaries are willing to look for them.

What can happen to music, opera and all arts in any country when a free government elected by the governed is superseded by a fascist "brutalitarian" regime, is best illustrated by the deplorable condition in which "La Scala" of Milan, Italy, finds itself.

LOVERS OF MUSIC, TAKE NOTICE!

By RIGHT, in "La Parola"

Under the old constitutional regime La Scala flourished in its artistic enterprises; left free and independent of any government interference, it could engage the best talents and satisfy the public demands without fear of incurring the displeasure of the political authorities.

La Scala is now decaying. Its spectacles are poorly attended; the financial deficit is mounting every day, while the standard of its artistic performance is so low as to invite the condemnation of none other than Mr. Francesco Abbiate, the musical critic of the largest Italian daily, "Il Corriere della Sera" of Milan.

Whenever and wherever liberty is denied, not only the political progress, but the free exercise of intellectual and artistic enterprise of a people is stopped.

And in Italy today under Fascism this is the case. Mussolini's tyranny has killed that which was the pride of Italian Art.

MOTHER WEPT

Mother wept, and father sighed; With delight a glow Cried the lad, "Tomorrow," cried "To the pit I go."

ENEMIES IN WAR—COMRADES IN DEATH



LETTERS TO JUDD—

(An American Working Man)

My Dear Judd:

When I was a youth, trying to find out about my country, one of the first things I learned was that its politics were corrupt. I lived in New York City, and saw that corruption all about me, and the hideous ruin of human lives; naturally I tried to figure out why these things had to be.

It happened that I had a certain relative—I won't tell his name, suffice it that he was a financial man, on his way to becoming one of our great millionaires. He wanted to break into New York, so he opened an office, and gave a big block of stock to Richard Croker, at that time boss of Tammany Hall; he made another Tammany chieftain the head of his New York office—and that was all there was to it, he was "in," and his firm took over the city's business along that line, and all city officials and employees were given to understand that they must patronize it.

Thus I saw the game from the inside, and little by little I came to understand it. Yes, it was true that the boss paid the ignorant foreigners for their votes; but where did the boss get the money for that purpose? The answer, though painful, was plain; he got it from my relative; he got it from all such business men, seeking all such favors and privileges from the state.

And in the old days of the Tweed ring, the politicians used to steal our money outright; but that is over now, because every politician knows, just as every business man knows, that it is so much better to "make" money than to steal it; you can "make" so much more, and there is no danger of being sent to jail.

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A "Light Sentence"

In a Barcelona court-martial, Julian Besteiro is sentenced to serve 30 years in prison for having been loyal to his country and for having defended it against the criminals who now rule it.

Not Yet, But Soon

Finally the day arrived when automatic machines made the machines that raised and made all things automatically. This naturally cut off all wages, salaries and farm income. So everybody naturally went into business selling goods and services to each other.

IN FRANCO'S SPAIN

At least 35 journalists have been executed in Spain in the mopping up ordered by Franco since he entered Madrid, a former correspondent in Spain says he learns from a trusted source here.

of interest to that little fish, but it does not change the social system. The "masses" remain, and by their labor produce the wealth, and the "classes" take it away from them.

What I am trying to make clear to you, friend Judd, is that when you admire the possessor of a bit of juicy graft, what you are really admiring is the power to rob you; because it is your wealth the robber is getting, there is no other wealth for him to get. The old-fashioned criminal graft came out of the tax-payers; and the new fashioned "honest graft" comes out of the consumers of gas and electricity and telephones and transportation and all other services.

And so here is a sentence to paste in your hat, Judd: Not only do they rob you; they make you want to be robbed, and they make you pay them for teaching you to want to be robbed!

A DENTIST ON HEALTH INSURANCE

Undoubtedly the convention of the American Dental association, which met in Milwaukee recently, was fruitful of much good to the profession. Unfortunately much of its publicity was concerned with objections to proposed health measures.

We do not believe that all the dentists are opposed to such measures. Dr. Alfred J. Agis, member of the faculty of the New York university college of dentistry, is quoted in Labor, the weekly organ of the railway brotherhoods, as saying that compulsory health insurance would benefit the doctors quite as much as the patients.

The doctor says that at least 75 per cent of the children in this country and two-thirds of the adults do not receive proper dental attention. He says the reason is that the dentists have failed to take modern social conditions into account; and he says the only practical solution is a system of health insurance "patterned on modern principles, adapted to American standards of service and befitting the temperament of the American people."

"To a laymen," says the editor of Labor, "that sounds like remarkably sound advice. But will dentists accept it?"

We think they will—before long. Milwaukee Post.

Newspaper Guild Parley Reopens Again

Chicago.—For the third time in three months, negotiations were in progress between spokesmen for the struck Hearst Herald and Examiner and Evening American and the Guild. The talks began on July 20, as the strike was nearing the end of its eighth month.

As a result of their previous experiences with "negotiations" which evidently had as their aim the breaking of morals, the strikers took the present conferences in their stride, and intensified their activities.

Republican Journalist Are Executed

At least 35 journalists have been executed in Spain in the mopping up ordered by Franco since he entered Madrid, a former correspondent in Spain says he learns from a trusted source here.

Among the 35 shot was Javoer Bueno, former editor of the Avance of Oviedo, one of the great newspapers in Spain. Bueno was a Socialist and after the 1934 Republican-Socialist rebellion against the government of Lerroux and the clericals, he was condemned to 30 years imprisonment and fined some fantastic number of millions of pesetas of having been "ideologically responsible" for the rebellion.