















### The Farmer's Problem

Agriculture has always been a problem for Socialists in every country. Its trend has not been the same as that in industry. In capitalist industry the tendency has always been to enlarge the business until through consolidation and elimination of the small capitalist and creation of a working class with interests antagonistic to the owners of industry.

In agriculture the tendency towards large capital and large holdings has not been evident till in recent years the factorized farms have appeared. The persistence of small holdings has also been striking with the result that small owners have the psychology of an intermediate class. They fear the class above them and dread being reduced to a wage status. So long as they own a few acres they feel that they have a stake in capitalism. They may rebel against some phases of capitalist extortion and yet not see that it is the whole capitalist system that is their enemy.

Today hundreds of thousands have lost their land while those who still possess some cannot wring an existence from the soil. Senator Capper shows what 25 cent wheat means to him. A farmer pays the price of five bushels of wheat for a pair of boy's knickers; he pays one bushel for a loaf of bread; one bushel for five pounds of flour, and one bushel for a pound of ham. This rightful inequity in exchange is a constant reminder that a few acres of land no longer mean independence but serfdom.

There is no final and satisfactory solution of this problem for the farmer within the capitalist system. Socialism should make a strong appeal at least to some of them despite a hangover of individualist views.  
— The New Leader.

### The Nature of American Radicalism

Nowhere is the lack of constructive forces more evident than in the United States. No Communist can beat Kansas farmers in cursing Wall Street and the government now. We have plenty of discontent in America but it is economically almost illiterate. Little merchants are disheartened enough but their remedy is to smash chain stores. That is no remedy at all for the masses as consumers. Indeed chain stores may be making the job of socialization easier. The farmers want what they ought to have—a decent price for their products—but the owning farmers don't want to think about getting rid of tenant farming, and few farmers bother with the general economic situation, especially in its international aspects. The oil producers who have been given under our system a right to oil which ought to have been reserved for the public, now suffer from overproduction, talk radicalism, and ask for nothing bigger than an embargo on foreign oil and a few other arrangements to give them more of the gravy! Some of the worst Negro baiters in the South are fine radicals when it comes to cursing Wall Street.

The worst part of it all is that the workers themselves are fooled by these self interested proponents of quack remedies. The failure of the A. F. of L. in this crisis is a disgrace and a tragedy. Matt Woll talks conferences with employers and world boycotts against Russia. Meanwhile the A. F. of L. has no machinery for financing important strikes and no philosophy and no program adequate to the situation. It plays with the old parties, neither of which has any real program even for the relief of unemployment.

Why do I say these things? Not to discourage labor organization on the political or economic fields, but to encourage it. The only answer to economic illiteracy for farmers and workers is Socialism. We can get a hearing. We must be aggressively on our job.  
— Norman Thomas.

### Is This a Dole?

More than \$40,000,000 were expended for relief of needy families in 100 American cities during 1930, reports the children's bureau of the department of labor. This was twice the amount of the previous year, and did not include some expended by missions, lodging houses and other provisions for temporary shelter; nor did it include mothers' pensions or mothers' allowances from public funds.

### The Motor Juggernaut

According to an analysis prepared by the Travelers Insurance Co. there were in the United States, during the year 1930, 835,250 automobile accidents, which resulted in 32,590 deaths and 962,325 injuries. Collisions with pedestrians caused almost 50 per cent of the deaths while collisions with other automobiles were responsible for 49.2 per cent of the injuries resulting from motor accidents.

## SEARCHLIGHT

By DONALD J. LOTRICH

The cotton farmers of the south have been told to turn one third of their crop back into the ground because the market is flooded with cotton from the past year and they fear that an abundant crop will bring the price still lower. A short while ago Russia wanted to take a good deal of this surplus cotton off their hands but the government not allow them fearing that Russia was going to use it in the manufacture of ammunition. What a nutty world. Here we have more cotton than we know what to do with but still there are hundreds of thousands running around in rags. Not a winter passes but that great numbers of inhabitants do not have to freeze from lack of clothing. Why shouldn't the government take the cotton and make cotton goods to distribute among the needy. There is every reason, right now, to believe that only government ownership of the cotton industry can save it from complete bankruptcy. Let the government operate the mills, give employment to the jobless, pay a sufficient wage to enable the workers to buy back the finished products and the situation is solved. Why go thru every other process but the right one?

Chicago has been the scene of a young riot. Three negroes have been killed and a number injured as a consequence. Stirred by communist agitators, hungry and penniless tenants battled police and sheriffs when eviction orders were carried out. The communists may or may not have led the uprising because hungry and penniless people on the verge of starvation need no communist leaders to resist and to battle. Fearing further trouble other eviction orders have been recalled and so the poor may remain in dwellings for a while longer. How much longer the capitalist system will be intact we can't say but we can say that the capitalists are tightening up their reins to prevent any possible outbreak. For, once they begin, they will have a task to quiet them. This is being said to show that human nature will fight and resist when it is pressed and exploited to the limit.

Labor Age is quick to grasp another opportunity to lace the Socialist Party. In particular, the July issue, is devoted to Morris Hillquit the National Executive Committee Chairman of the Socialist Party and his legal representation in an international case. Why we should have so much concern about personal matters I don't know. It is my opinion that Morris Hillquit had a right to represent the oil interests. Hillquit gave his explanation on the matter. But it seems that we have revolutionists who want it to the dot, who however will overlook more serious matters. I feel that it is the duty of us Socialists to rally behind Hillquit and not let every "in and out" reflect with intentions of discrediting him and the Party.

We have many places of interest in Chicago. For those who have not taken the time as yet we recommend the Planetarium. You will marvel at the skies and what they disclose. Every star, visible thru large telescopic instruments is placed in its relative position at the planetarium. With it you can learn why the sun shines for long intervals at the pole, about the Milky Way and the entire solar system. It is educational. It is worth seeing. On Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays there is no admission charge. Other days the charge is 25 cents. The lecture starts at 11 A. M. but you must get there early if you want to get in. Adlers Planetarium is located on the Island off of Roosevelt Road and Lak. Michigan.

We had a good time at Sava's picnic last Saturday. The attendance too was good. This gave the singers increased enthusiasm. They are now going about to prepare the best concert they ever had. Next Sunday Aug. 23 they are due to give a selection at the SNPJ Federation picnic. Chicagoans must not miss next Sunday's picnic. It will be held at Kegel's Grove, Willow Springs. We have already written a lot about it in previous issues. It will not hurt to repeat that it is for a good cause and deserves the support of everyone of us. Quite a number of Detroiters will be down to help swell the crowd. You will want to meet them. The picnic is being given by the Chicago District Federation of SNPJ.

We want the coal miners to win this strike against starvation wages. We want to see that they will not starve or freeze during the coming winter. We want to see their morale upheld. Splendid. One way to make certain that we want to see all this is to attend the Educational Bureau Labor Sunday Manifestation and Outing of which one half of the net proceeds will go to the Miners relief. It will be held Sunday Sept. 6, at Waukegan, Ill. Wide interest has already been attracted for this outing. It will be a manifestation of Yugoslav workers. You as one, should be there.

Four young folks were brutally murdered near Ypsilanti, Mich., last week, with no clues whatsoever by which the attackers might be comprehended. However it took the

officials only a short while to secure evidence and information from inhabitants and jail the killers. In our State individuals do not help in the hunt for offenders for fear of their lives and it is good to know that inhabitants in some states have no intimidation fears. There was no excuse for the killings except that these men have been brought up in a Society which has taught them to steal and kill. They have followed the true course of their learning. Let this government spend one half of its armament appropriations on peace propaganda and give work to the unemployed, that will stem these brutal killings.

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### Our Doings Here and There

By JOHN RAK  
One new member joined the English Division of branch No. 1 JSF, Chicago, at the last regular meeting. Plans for the debate between the Detroit and Chicago youth groups were made. The date, place and subject will be announced as soon as we hear from the Detroit comrades. An interesting biography of comrade Victor L. Berger, his life and work for the Socialist Party, was given and followed by a general discussion.

Due to the absence of the comrades who were to speak on the Socialist Party and its affiliation with the Farmer-Labor Party of Illinois at our last branch meeting, the same three comrades are obliged to speak on this subject Friday, August 25, at the regular meeting of branch No. 1. Considerable comment was already heard for and against the action taken at a mass meeting of the Cook County Socialists, therefore, an interesting discussion is promised at our next meeting. The speakers are comrades Frank Alesh, Anton Garden and Chas. Pogorelec. Invite your friends to attend.

Comrade Anton Vivic, Proletarec's subscription solicitor, has returned from his tour downstate and St. Louis, Missouri. In spite of the industrial depression the work of comrade Vivic has given Proletarec a larger circulation in Southern Illinois. Many of the small coal mining towns now have a nice number of subscribers. St. Louis, where there was not a single subscriber, now carries a list of about twenty families that receive a copy of Proletarec each week. Vivic tells us that throughout his tour he found working conditions to be very bad and that in several places there are good prospects of organizing branches for the JSF.

In Cleveland, Ohio, branch No. 27 JSF has recently lost one of its most active members, comrade Frank Jerina. He was well known among the Slovenes and played an important part in the life of the branch and lodges of which he was member. He will be greatly missed by our movement and his many friends.

Sunday, August 23, the Slovenes and their friends of Chicago will have the opportunity of attending the picnic given by the SNPJ Federation. The place is Kegel's Grove, Willow Springs. There is no doubt but what another hard winter will be witnessed by the unemployed and funds will be needed to carry out relief work. The committee has worked hard to make this affair both enjoyable and interesting. Lodge Delavec will have charge of the barbecued lamb. The ladies lodge Nada will oppose the women members of Slavia in a tug-of-war. Sava, singing chorus of branch No. 1, is scheduled to sing a few selections. Baseball games between the Young Americans and Pioneer girls teams will be played. For transportation the committee has arranged to have trucks, leave from the SNPJ Hall at 9 and 11 A. M. and 1:30 in the afternoon. Admission: 35c in advance and 50c at the gate.

It will be for the first time this year that the members of branches JSF and lodges affiliated with its Educational Bureau of the Illinois and Wisconsin district will meet at a joint Labor Manifestation held Sunday, September 6, in Waukegan. Speakers for that day the committee has secured comrades Al Benson, sheriff of Milwaukee, Wm. Swoboda, mayor of Racine, Wisconsin and Frank Zaitz, editor of Proletarec. Two singing choirs, a baseball game and other amusements are listed for the all-day program. Half of the net proceeds will go to the striking miners. Transportation arrangements are also being made for the Chicago comrades and friends.

### Poor Hubby

He— Another new dress! Where am I to get the money to pay for it?  
She — I don't know. I'm your wife, not your financial advisor.

### FRAGMENTS

We would like to take a census of the working class voters of this country who voted for "prosperity" in 1928, urging them to write on their ballots what they think of it, but we would not guarantee to publish the answers for fear of offending the postal authorities.—New Leader.

So the purpose of prisons is to reform men? What hope have outside reformers if it takes a prison 20 years?

A good citizens is one who breaks the right laws.

New York carries millions of rats to the city's island dump, but seldom, alas! the right ones.

Good times, it would appear from Herbert's speeches, are caused by the shrewdness and wisdom of statesmen; bad times by natural laws over which men have no control. Milwaukee Leader.

Education pays everybody except the educators.

That Oregon man given six months for using profanity on the radio will have sense enough to confine himself to the drama hereafter.

### Boulder Dam

In our issue of June 24 we published an article on Boulder Dam, which is being built by six western firms under open shop conditions. In this article it was suggested that the contractors, having underbid their nearest competitor by \$5,000,000, would rush the work through as cheaply and with as little attention to the safety and welfare of the workers as they possibly could. Already five workers have been killed on the job and according to an article in this month's Journal of Electrical Workers and Operators, at least 200 men are likely to be killed before the dam is finished.

Though every large construction of this kind requires a certain amount of human sacrifice, it is said that the refusal of the six firms to meet the demands of organized labor will make the sacrifice much greater than it should be. But however many lives are lost during the process of construction. Secretary Wilbur must bear a heavy share of the responsibility, for it was he who insisted that the job be done by private contractors and not by the reclamation service whose record for care of the lives and welfare of its workers has, in the various large constructions it has undertaken in the past, always been an enviable one.  
—The New Republic.

### Why Not?

The ridiculousness of the tragedy in which America finds itself — starvation in the midst of plenty — should be enough to jolt the people loose from the system which causes this paradox. Factories and other industries shut down or run on short time because there is too much of everything. Too much, in the sense that there is more than the people can buy. With this super-abundance staring them in the face, millions of men, women and children are enduring the pangs of hell for lack of the bare necessities of life. They are being depleted physically and mentally. Physically on account of want and worry. Mentally, because of worry, despair, the blackness of the prospect.

Why should this be?  
There is no reason at all—only an excuse. The excuse is that the industries are owned by private corporations and private individuals who run them for their own private profit. If there is no profit for a given period, they don't run them during that period; or they curtail them enough to pay a profit. This throws the workers out of employment. The profit system, capitalism, is the only excuse there is for the ridiculous tragedy. If that system is to be continued the tragedy will continue intermittently. Things will get better, no doubt, but there will be a million or more of unemployed in so-called prosperous times; and when the cycle runs its course there will be another depression, with millions idle. It is the nature of the system.  
But, at any time when this ridiculous tragedy — starvation in the midst of plenty — jolts the minds of the people loose from their reverence for the profit system, they can alter it so to stop depressions and also stop unemployment. Replace the profit system with the co-operative system—and the trick is done.  
Why not? — Milwaukee Leader.

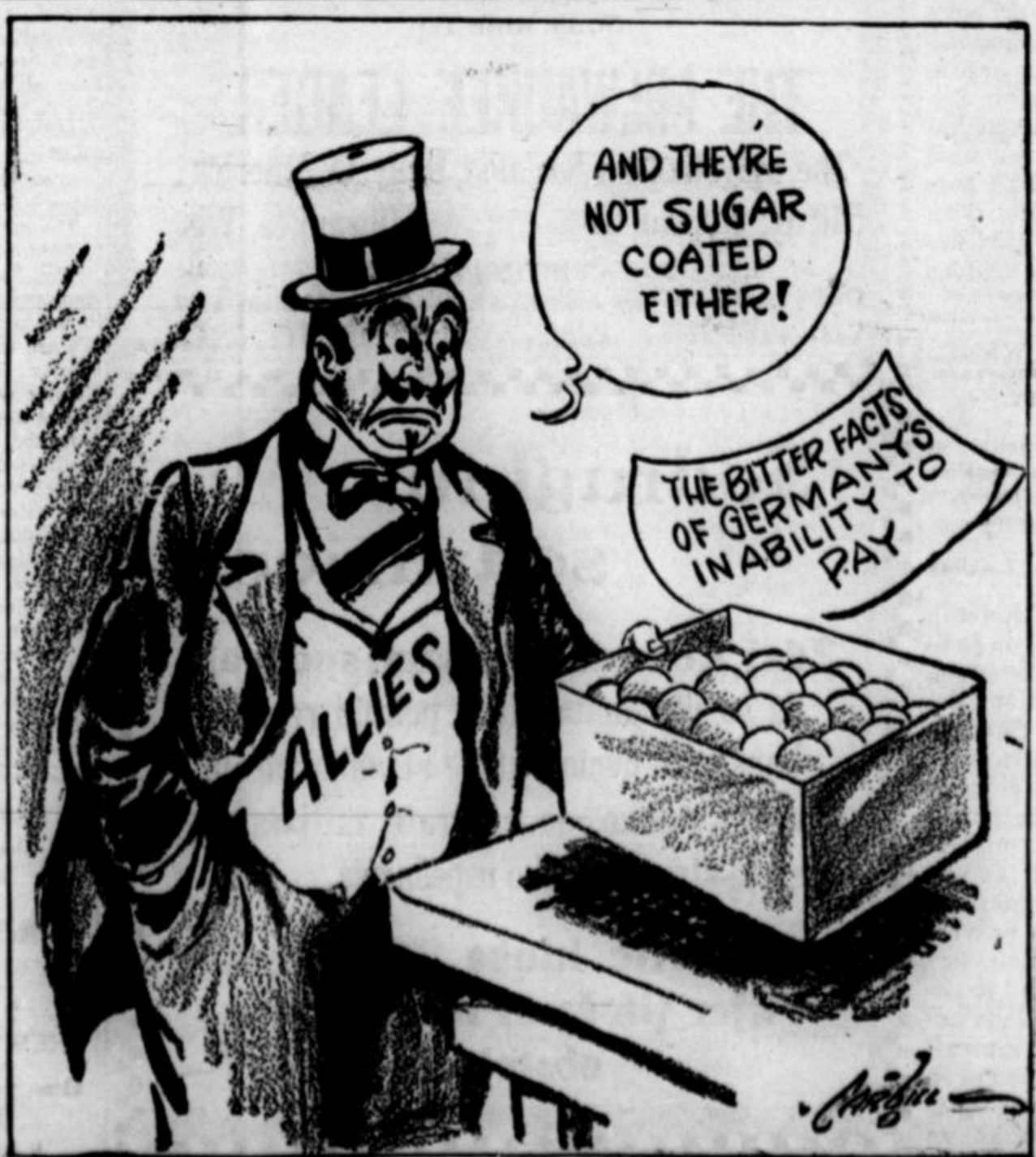
### Preference Law Unfair

Considerable controversy has been caused by the claims of ex-soldiers to first right to public employment, and the energetic stand taken by the ex-service men for preference.  
The law was passed as sop to the military element and places a premium on enlistment. The idea sought to convey is, that soldiers are entitled as a matter of right and merit to hold the reins of government.  
The military element in society would like to exalt war service above the more useful service in industry so that it will in the future be easy to get "fighting forces." The soldiers' preference law should be repealed as unjust and dangerous.—Minnesota Union Advocate.

### SHAW SEES JOBS

For my part I see no difficulty in finding work for the unemployed. Take the places they live in, for instance. There is the urgently necessary work of knocking these places down, burning their putrid debris, and replacing them with decent dwellings.  
— George Bernard Shaw.

### GOT TO SWALLOW THEM



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