

Commencement—of What?

Graduation should be the occasion of much joy and pride in accomplishment.

Yet this year the event seems almost a tragedy in the lives of the fine young men and women who have devoted several years of their lives toward getting an education and preparing themselves for the problems of life.

They face a tragic situation in which the world has no place for them, no jobs to offer, no work to be done, although there is limitless work to do. Of the many thousands who are finishing their studies at high schools, colleges and universities, only a few are assured of jobs. The rest must enlist in the army of the unemployed.

Is it any wonder that, confronted by such an outlook, students these days are beginning to question the entrenched order of things and join those who are agitating for change in the organization of society?

The ultra-conservative heads of such educational institutions as Columbia, Northwestern, Ohio State, Pittsburgh, and others, are shocked at the seeming "radicalism" among students who are finding fault with a system that condemns millions to want and hunger when warehouses are bulging with food and a huge surplus of the necessities of life; but the radicalism of students is a healthy sign.

The conventional advice to the graduates this year would sound hollow and meaningless. We are not envious of the task of college prexies and other monitors who must stand before their student graduate audiences and present passports to hardship and unemployment to the thousands of students who have worked long and earnestly for an education. The old platitudes won't go. "Hard work, enterprise, devotion to one's duty," are empty admonishments when one has no duty and no work.

The best advice to the graduates this year is that they preserve the vigorous mental habits which they have acquired in attacking their school problems, that they turn the spotlight of inquiry and research upon the theories and beliefs which will be thrust at them in the outside world.

Let them continue to challenge and to question, and to assert their doubts.

Attacked by young and vigorous minds, unspoiled by profits and property, present day problems and injustices must give way to solution.

If this be "radicalism", let them be radical. The world has had too many of the "yes-man" type of graduate. We don't believe that the school generation of 1932 can be so classified, and we are glad of it.

—The Milwaukee Leader.

Poverty and Sickness

The Committee on Cost of Medical Care reports that poverty and sickness go together. Not only does sickness visit the very poor oftener than the well-to-do, but the poor suffer from a greater proportion of long-lasting illnesses.

At least three-quarters of the families forced to apply for help since the depression began have one and often two members requiring medical service. In studies made by social welfare agencies in St. Louis and Minneapolis, families with illness present numbered nearly 81 per cent of all applying for relief.

The committee will make a full report in November. One hopes it will help to put a quietus on the smug complacency of some highly placed officials who have been telling us, in substance, that hunger makes for good health. It is a pity that the preachers of that doctrine cannot be required to show, by personal experience, just how it works.

More Dole

The day before the balancing-the-budget tax bill went into force, the Associated Press broadcast the following glad tidings:

"Leading tire and rubber companies will observe the inauguration of new federal excise tax schedules tomorrow by marking prices up from 11 to 15 per cent. This will take care of the new 10 per cent tax, and leave a little over for added sales profits."

Ain't that nice? First we pay for the tire and the profit on the tire. Now we pay a profit on the tax on the tire, and if we buy tires on the "easy" payment plan, we pay interest on the profit on the tax on the tire.

—The American Guardian.

Travel broadens, they say. Well, after the years of the Great Hitch-Hike, America should be the broadest-minded country on earth.

SEARCHLIGHT

By DONALD J. LOTRICH

An appeal for funds has been mailed out last week to all Slovene Fraternal Lodges including the English Speaking Lodge movement. What money will be realized shall go into the campaign fund of the Socialist Party to provide speakers and literature in carrying out the present election campaign. It is not enough to merely read the message. We urge every lodge to contribute and then to pass the list around for individual contributions. Every contribution, however small, shall be gratefully received and acknowledged. Every penny of the money collected shall be used to further the candidacy of working class candidates, in the interest of the workers, in your behalf. Our folks are asked to urge their lodge members who, after all are also workers, to give according to their means.

It has been stressed often that the Democrats and Republican receive their campaign boost from the super rich. It is logical to understand, therefore, why millionaires and big business receive financial support and favoritism from the elected officials. If workers were only half mindful of their duty they would raise a vast campaign fund to conduct a proper campaign and after they would elect working class officials they could expect their just due, not only in proper relief for the unemployed but also jobs with better pay. So it is very imperative that our folks respond as liberally as possible.

The Cook County Socialist picnic was held last Sunday at the Elm Tree Grove. Although the weather was ideal the attendance was only fair due probably to the lack of energy expended. Nevertheless some two thousand people were present to hear the messages. Leo Krzycki of Milwaukee was the main speaker and drew great applause.

Garner who is now the democratic vice-presidential candidate is having a tilt with Herbert Hoover the republican. You see, all of a sudden, Garner discovered that this country was in a panic. For nearly three years Garner must have been sleeping while the unemployed have been pleading for help. Now, Garner comes out with a proposal to help the unemployed and Hoover knowing that it's only a political trick to serve as bait in the coming election swears by all the Stars in heaven that Garner shan't get away with it. And since Hoover has the last say so he'll undoubtedly make Garner rile with anger. It wouldn't do for Hoover to help the big bankers and Garner to attempt to help the unemployed. There are more unemployed workers with votes than there are rich bankers, especially since so many banks

have crashed. So the tilt is on and the foolish workers will think that Garner's move is genuine. We question it because the panic is nearly three years old and neither of the two high officials have made any attempt hitherto to help the needy.

Incidentally we might tell our readers that 39 banks were closed in Chicago during the month of June 1932, making a total of 101 bank failures in Chicago since the depression set in. We can safely say that 60% of the frozen deposits will never reach their original depositors. If this isn't a reason for a strong Socialist movement, what is?

The gentlemen from Connecticut was speaking for Herbert Hoover on the radio last Saturday night and told us that the Reconstruction Finance Corporation was set in motion to help the people. It is not true, he said, that we only helped the bankers. The very life of the country was at stake, he continued, because the great railroads, the large insurance companies and the big bankers have thousands of stockholders and policyholders who would lose terribly. Then I happened to think how lucky we poor workers are. We have nothing so we can't lose it. At the same time while this sponsor of Hoovers spoke for helping thousands of big businessmen I couldn't help but ask myself. Are a few thousand businessmen more important than 40 million needy workers? They were, according to this man of men who has been an oldtimer in Congress.

What fools workers are. Instead of getting lined up to fight the existing conditions and oppose both of the two crooked major parties they are literally flocking to the beer camp as if that's going to get them beer. Before the 18th amendment can be repealed 2/3 of the States must so vote for repeal. Despite tabulations of various kinds, showing a great wet sentiment, it shall be quite some time before the 18th amendment shall be repealed. Let's speed up our education of these poor creatures who cannot see the political trick to capture their votes.

We haven't said anything about our corrupt politicians for quite some time. In the recent months our building commissioner and city sealer of the former administration have been tried and found guilty. Our courts have been flooded with all sorts of legal tangles pertaining to thefts and abuses or mismanagement in public office. The new administration isn't much better accept that the city has been broke and they could not steal as openly as before.

Socialists to the Bonus

"Army"

The following statement, signed by Norman Thomas and Mayor Dan Hoan of Milwaukee was recently circulated among the bonus "army" at Washington: "We address you not only as veterans of the World War but also as veterans of that larger and unending war against poverty—a war which has now become more acute than ever, and which finds millions of workers facing starvation in the midst of plenty. . . . Why do you put to work—for a system of unemployment insurance to take care of you and your fellow workers when you are thrown upon the scrap heap by your employers—for a five-day week in industry—for direct relief to all who are in distress, the veterans of industry as well as the veterans of war?"

"Happy Days"

A New York bank proudly boasts that where it now stands was once a slave mart, where black men were bought and sold. As late as 1822 there were 518 slaves in New York City, all of whom had jobs! Today the black men and his white brother tramp the street of New York looking for a master! In the old days the master looked for the slave, and when he was found, took him home and gave him food and shelter. Those were happy days for the slave, and there are in this land today men who remember the days when the black toiler had no fear of being evicted from his long cabin, and there was always food to be had. And we boast of the progress the nation has made in dealing with its working class!

Our Doings Here and There

By JOHN RAK

New readers for Proletarec can still be obtained in spite of the depression. This has been proven in Detroit where Zornik and Benedict, our subscription solicitors have recently procured several new readers. From Milwaukee we occasionally hear from Rozic, Alpner and Ambrozich who make the rounds and accomplish favorable results. Cleveland was not listed in the last week's report, although Jankovich has since then sent in 18 renewals. Comrade Vici while in Sheboygan secured 18. What these and other comrades can accomplish, you can do the same, if you try. Now is the time to do it and with a little effort and will power, results will be certain.

On Sunday, July 24, branch 1 of Chicago will hold its first outing on the hill just above Stezinar's Grove in Willow Springs. The proceeds of this affair will be contributed to the Socialist party campaign fund. For an afternoon of enjoyment, we urge our comrades and friends to join us and make merry with the rest of the crowd.

A meeting of the English Section of branch 1 will be held Thursday, July 14, at the lower SNPJ Hall. It is imperative that all members be present as there are important problems and other organization activities to be discussed. For the discussion period comrade Lotrich will give a review of the Mooney and Billings case. Invite your friends to attend.

In Moon Run, Pa., a conference of branches and lodges, affiliated with the Educational Bureau of JSF will take place on Sunday, July 31. The meeting will start at 9 A. M. Branches and lodges of that district not having as yet elected delegates are urged to do so as the problems and other business matter to be discussed are of vital importance. At 2 P. M. comrade Anna P. Krasna will give a lecture and there-

after a picnic held of which the entire proceeds will be contributed to the Socialist party campaign fund.

The street corner meetings conducted at 26th St., and Millard Ave., every week by the English Section of branch 1 attract quite a large audience. Considerable literature is distributed and contacts made with prospective members to join the party. The organizing of 22nd ward branch will be undertaken by the Slovene and Bohemian comrades. In the meantime all comrades are urged to attend the street meetings promptly at 8 P. M. and help in every way to make them a success.

We still have a few sets of The Little Library of Socialism left. These booklets are just the thing for our young comrades to acquaint themselves more about the principles and ideals of Socialism. They come in sets of twenty books and are written by some of the most prominent leaders in the Socialist movement. The price is only one dollar. Order them from Proletarec.

In Bridgeport, Ohio, before long an English branch of the Socialist party may be organized as can be surmised from the reports of comrade Snoy. "Greater interest for Socialism is being heard among the workers and we expect a number of them to attend our regular branch meeting Sunday, July 17," says comrade Snoy in his last week's report. People are today more willing to listen to socialists than in the days of "prosperity". Let's take advantage of it comrades, do our share in building up a new society for the working class.

Poor Billy

Teacher (answering phone)—You say Billy Smith has a bad cold and can't come to school? Who is this speaking?
Voice (with assumed hoarseness)—This is my father.

FICTION AND FACT

I HAVE THE BOOBS THINKING THAT I AM CARRYING MY POOR OLD UNCLE!



TO READ THE REACTIONARY NEWSPAPERS ONE WOULD THINK THE MONEY TRUST CARRIES UNCLE SAM—

I HOPE THEY DON'T DISCOVER THAT UNCLE SAM IS CARRYING ME!



—WHILE IN REALITY, THROUGH LOANS AND INTEREST ON BOND ISSUES, UNCLE SAM CARRIES THE MONEY TRUST

The Trend Towards Industrial Oligarchy

Perhaps we are to eventually have a servile code for workers in the greater American industries. We have its beginnings in the company union and company welfare plans. Slave owners once had a slave code more or less general based upon the Virginia model and this spread throughout the South. The same thing is emerging in modern American industry and the Swope Plan may become the modern model.

Recently the National Electrical Manufacturers Association adopted this plan. There are some 300 member companies in the association with a total output comprising from 85 to 90 per cent of the electrical output of the nation. About 200,000 workers will ultimately be affected by this feudal arrangement which provides job insurance for these workers.

Of the details of the plan we are not concerned. It is in the hands of company executives and runs with the trend towards industrial oligarchy. It does not differ from the benevolent plans of slave owners who set aside a patch of land for Negro families and contributed to slave celebrations of Christmas. The motive is the same, espionage over the lives of the workers and "welfare" sob stuff that will advertise exploiters as stewards of their "hands".

—The New Leader.

The Great Question

The great question which all men and women all boys and girls, should ask themselves, is this: How can I do the most good in the world?

It is all right to look out for your personal needs first. You would die if you didn't.

But, after your personal needs are supplied, the question of living presents itself. Supplying the personal needs is not living; it is merely a preparation for living. The quality of your life—the success or nonsuccess of it—depends upon how you spend the rest of your time.

You can spend it in trying to get ahead in the world, as the saying goes. It is an apt saying. "Get ahead in the world!" Think of it! Why should one want to get ahead in the world? It means getting ahead of other people. Not only that, but it means getting ahead of them by shoving them back. You have an opportunity to try that game if you want to. The chances are that you will lose, but you can try it.

Such a life is not worth living, however. It gets you nowhere. It gets nobody else anywhere. It does not assist the human race onward and upward. On the other hand, you can spend your spare time unselfishly. You can use it for the good of others. You can make it count in the conscious evolution of the race.

Such a life is the kind that is worth living. Although it is not lived for the purpose of seeking personal satisfaction, it is nevertheless the only kind of life that affords genuine happiness. It is the old story: he who loses his life shall save it. By forgetting yourself, you bring joys to yourself which a selfish person never experiences.

But that, of course, is not the object. If it were the object, you would be selfish, and the joys would not come. Your object should be to help the human race onward toward the golden age—not for any reward that may come to you, but because it is the right thing to do.—The Milwaukee Leader.

Change of Management

The Socialists claim that the reserve army of labor, known as the unemployed, is the result of private ownership of the means of production and distribution by a few individuals for their own private profit and benefits. Reforms are merely temporary measures of relief. Insurance, public works, pensions will not permanently settle unemployment. What is necessary is a complete change in the management of industry. Only in that way can a condition of harmony and satisfaction result.

Although Socialism, which means the ownership of the tools of production by the people and the democratic management thereof, can furnish the only real and permanent remedy for unemployment, there are certain immediate affairs with which we must deal. The gaining of Socialism is not going to be a spasmodic or volcanic affair. There will be efforts made as time goes on to improve conditions. Relief measures will be taken up, when the powers-that-be see the threatening air and desperate conditions of those bound up in the coils of penury, starvation and want. We should not neglect opportunities at hand to help the unemployed. But let us not forget or rest satisfied until the day Socialism is ushered into being.

The Six

Six Cincinnati (Ohio) City Hall employes whose total salaries are \$8,000 a year have been let go for economy's sake. And a citizen writes in to the local paper asking: "Is this economy? It is economy that saves \$8,000 at the City Hall while it increases the burden of social misery that is already heavy on the city?"

What is gained when six more men (whose wages were never large) are at this date cast adrift in a world in which the tens of thousands hunt in vain for work? What will be gained if any of them is reduced to charity at the expense of the community?

Oh, the city saved \$8,000 out of a \$9,000,000 budget. The citizen who writes the latter says he is willing, as a taxpayer, that this \$8,000 be not saved, if saving it will make havoc of six more lives and their dependents. Economy, indeed! Is charity economy? It is the greatest of all the wastes. The depression is an enormous waste of time lost from work, of wealth of morale and happiness. Why strain at \$8,800? —The Industrial Democrat.