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## Close Upon the Heels of Its Supreme Triumph Ruling Class Civilization Plunges Into the Throes of Collapse and Ruin

"Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad." Four years ago the ruling class of the world went violently insane. Its madness and blind fury contaminated the weak intellects of those over whom its rule was exercised, and whole nations became as mad as their rulers. The earth was made hideous with the deluge of blood that followed. The fair landscape was smeared with human flesh and entrails and blasted and burned with the fire and fury of a man-made hell. Of all the mad orgies of a centuries-old slave civilization, this was by far the greatest, the grandest, the most overwhelmingly magnificent spectacle of ruling class power and glory, that was ever staged in all history.

This outburst of madness, of insane fury, was interpreted by some who were perhaps not so blind as the average, as being the prelude to the final dissolution of this civilization that is based upon the enslavement and torture of the wealth producers of the earth. It was the preliminary act to the suicide of that civilization. It was its own unconscious act of self-destruction. That was the prediction and the interpretation. And now even the most cursory glance at world events as they are following each other in swift procession across the stage of current history, brings one to the unalterable conclusion that, in its madness, this ruling class civilization has driven the knife to its own heart and is even now in the throes of final dissolution.

That which has been pulled off in Europe during the last four years, and which was participated in by the entire civilized world, represents the climax of all that is possible in a civilization based upon human slavery and that is equipped with mechanical tools and instruments of both exploitation and murder. It afforded the most triumphant and convincing justification of the beneficent role played by machinery in human affairs. It was a machine war; the machine applied to mass murder and world devastation. And that is not only the highest purpose but the sole purpose to which the machine can be applied in human affairs. It is what the so-called industrial development inevitably leads up to. And when that is realized in all its fullness, as during the last four years, it spells the death of any civilization based upon that so-called industrialism. The machine itself is the dagger the ruling class drives into the vitals of its own civilization in its final suicide.

All the powers of the ruling class were at once turned to the noble purpose of war, from the moment of its outbreak. The much-touted machinery of production from that moment performed no other function than that of human

slaughter and devastation. And right well it did its work. The good and welfare of men, women and children were lost sight of in order to further the main purpose, the noble purpose of butchering, maiming and destroying. While the respective sides to the valiant struggle were zealously trying to destroy each other, little did they think that they were really destroying the slave civilization of which they were a part and their loyalty to which had never been questioned. This was due to the fact that they did not know that they were mad. They did not know that "the gods" had thus prepared them for the job in hand.

No sooner was the armistice signed than signs of distress began to appear all along the economic horizon. Everything having been turned to the noble art of killing and devastating by machinery, lo and behold, once the killing stopped somehow or other the machinery that had now become accustomed to turn only for war purposes did no longer fit the purposes of peace. And besides this no peace is yet assured in spite of the fact of the armistice. As the operation of the machinery of the ruling class, in the processes of murder by the factory method, brings no profit to its owners, its long continued operation for such purpose brings inevitable bankruptcy. In fact the four years struggle has practically bankrupted all the nations that participated to any extent in it. War being ended, or at least the wholesale killing being temporarily stopped, there is no longer any call for such intense activity in industry as was the case before the armistice. Hence there is a swift and drastic slowing down in all lines of production, as practically all lines were, in some manner or other, made a part of the war process.

There is now a huge unemployed problem pressing upon every country of the earth. The chief ruling class industry, war, being for the moment closed down, and the efforts of the past few years having brought all of the participants in this delightful business to the verge of bankruptcy, small wonder that there is a most pronounced stagnation in business all along the line. The labor situation is bad in all lands. It is becoming worse as rapidly as the armies are demobilized and the men sent home. Strikes, riots and turbulence are in evidence and increasing around all industrial centres. Little or no news comes through the press dispatches regarding what is going on in the European countries, but we know just enough about conditions there to be sure they are even worse than with us. The big strikes now on in the British Isles give some indication of the general unrest prevailing and unrest comes only from economic causes.

The machinery of capitalism can no longer be used in such a manner as to satisfy the requirements of humankind. The capitalists, the rulers, are as powerless in the matter as the slaves themselves. Ruling class industrialism is not designed for the purpose of producing those things that are essential to the comfort and sustenance of the working people. It has been designed for the purpose of exploiting slaves and its processes are carried on almost in their entirety for the production of those things that possess a use value only for the ruling class itself. And all of this production culminates in war and the appliances of war. Now that the grand war has been fought, the supreme culmination of a hundred centuries of class rule, and the ruling class reduced to both financial and intellectual bankruptcy, its industrial civilization, that civilization which is based upon human slavery, is crumbling to ruins. The masters of industry, the capitalists, cannot employ all of the slaves for the very simple reason that it is no longer possible to dispose of their products profitably. Glorious were the opportunities for so doing while the war was on and right nobly did every labor skinner of that delectable ruling class rise to the occasion. But now it is different. Everything threatens to collapse. Markets are no longer available since Mars, the greatest customer ever, has taken a lay off. And out of the confusion and chaos into which class rule has thrown the world rises the threatening form of revolution. Things look serious in all lands.

In face of this world situation the rul-



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ing class stands impotent and helpless. It knows no remedy but violence in any case and violence will settle no problem that now presents itself. The spokesmen and so-called statesmen of the ruling class babble like infants; its priestly skypilots turn pious eyes heavenward and mumble stereotyped prayers; its press scatters innuendos and falsehoods broadcast, while its editorial columns reek with vacuity, and peace congress delegates impersonate the activities of frightened hens in a henhouse when there is a skunk around the premises, but each and all are as impotent and helpless as was good Mrs. Partington in combatting the tide with her broom. They have nothing to offer wherewith to put new life into the patient, for they are each and all as intellectually bankrupt, as stupidly blind to what is happening in the world, and as stone deaf to the voice of history and progress as the bargain-hunting, profit-chasing, labor-skinning class whose lick-spittles, toadies and apologists they are. They have nothing to offer because there is nothing to offer.

In view of the world situation and the part the workers of Great Britain must and will take in clearing it up, Mr. Lloyd George made the mistake of his life in being elected for another term of office. He will not be a twelvemonth older until he will be convinced of that mistake. Perhaps he is convinced of it now. Mr. Wilson will not be a twelvemonth older before he will have lost the tinsel gilding he now enjoys and stand uncovered as an ordinary member of the light-weight brigade of politicians of capitalism whose mission is, unconsciously perhaps, to enliven the obsequies of a dying civilization by the profuse use of a ponderous phraseology that is far more resonant than profound. Whatever is done to bring order out of the chaos that a ruling class has brought upon the world; whatever may be done to rescue human society from the ruin wrought by ruling class industrialism whose highest expression is war and devastation, will be done, and can only be done, by the revolutionary working class of all lands. The term revolution is used advisedly, for there is no other method known to humanity than that of forcing its way along the pathway of progress against all obstructions that may be placed in its way. The whirlwind of revolution clears away the rubbish of the old in order to make way for the new structure to follow. As Marx has said, "force is the midwife of progress." The revolution spells force, the force of a new, an oncoming order of society, against the old and now obsolete order. Its triumph completes the obsequies of the old, in the present case the civilization that suicided.

## The Present Russian Situation

**I**N SPITE of the tall lying of the capitalist press and the platform acrobats of class rule and plunder, it is still possible to visualize the situation in Russia with a reasonable degree of accuracy. One needs but read between the lines of the press dispatches and to note the recent action of the alleged peace congress officials in regard to their changed attitude towards the revolution, to be convinced that things are not going altogether to the liking of the reactionary elements in Russian political life. In spite of the oft repeated assertions of the press correspondents that the Bolsheviks is losing its grip and its total collapse is imminent, there is much to show that the very contrary is the case and that it is the reaction, the counter revolution, that is surely approaching its Waterloo. And there are very good reasons for it. Russia has never yet had a powerful capitalist class. Her ruling class has been of the same type as that which has ruled Prussia, namely a powerful landholding or Junker class. It is a pure feudal survival. It should not be forgotten that so-called freeing of the serfs in Russia took place well within the memory of many now living, and the freeing of the serf did by no means free the means whereby the serf made his living. The land still remained the property of the feudal baron, the familiar "von" of Prussian Junker fame. Thus the serfs, though nominally "free," were just as completely at the mercy of the land baron as before. They were just as brutally driven and mercilessly exploited. Sooner or later revolt against such conditions must come. And it did come in 1905, right upon the heels of the war with Japan.

A tremendously large percentage of the big landholders of Russia were Germans of the regular Prussian Junker type, a type that for sheer brutality and complete lack of all redeeming qualities stands in a class by itself. These great land barons held countless thousands of acres of land, many individual holdings running from 25,000 acres up. Among the land barons of Russia proper, and more especially the western part thereof, the German Junkers very largely predominated. The revolt of 1905 was ruthlessly crushed. Those who took part in it were slaughtered without mercy. Some escaped to other lands. Husbands and fathers were butchered, their farms (where they had individual holdings either in fee or leased) were burned and their wives and children driven forth to starve and die. Instances are recorded where mothers, upon their knees were pleading that their belongings might be spared in order that their offspring might not perish, were kicked to death by the enraged Junkers themselves while a brutal and servile soldiery murdered their husbands, fathers, brothers and sons. And it is not a matter of record that any ruling class press of those days went into hysterics over the "awful atrocities" that were then being perpetrated in Russia. That press has saved its hysterics for the day when the workers and peasants should successfully rise against their brutal rulers and become masters of the situation. And in Russia the revolution against this ruthless rule and robbery had to come by violence, for there was no other road. The people had no political rights. No other course was open to them than that of seizing the first favorable opportunity that offered and breaking the stranglehold of their feudal oppressors. Out of the late delightful scrap between antagonistic sections of the ruling class arose the opportunity. Seized first by the bourgeoisie of Russia for the purpose of satisfying its longings and realizing its "national aspirations," the opportunity subsequently passed over to the workers and peasants who seized it

for the purpose of breaking once and for all the class rule and robbery that was made of the earth a shambles and its history but a bloody crime for the last ten thousand years.

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For more than a year have the workers and peasants of Russia, against all of the opposition that it has been possible to develop within that country and in spite of all the lying and misrepresentation, the scheming and conniving, the shrieking and cursing of the entire christian world outside, have steadfastly and honorably held the proud position of being the advance guard in the army of a world liberation from the age long curse of slavery and its bloody shambles of war, eternal war

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In spite of the noisy lying of the prospective press of capitalism it is but necessary to give a little thought to the Russian problem and situation to be able to grasp the significance of the fact that the Bolsheviks has been able to maintain its command of the situation and gain strength as the days go by. The only source of possible opposition against the program of the workers and peasants is the land barons who are dispossessed of their holdings and power, the bourgeoisie whose factory and trade schemes of exploitation are nipped in the bud, and generals and similar cut-throats who find themselves with neither armies nor other serious powers of mischief. As in numbers these three sections of the community cut an insignificant figure in comparison to the immense population of the country, it is quite easy to see why there is such a frantic demand by these worthy interests for intervention by the entente allies and other brigand nations of the outside world. No further evidence is required to prove that the Bolsheviks has the overwhelming support of the Russian people than the mere fact of this noisy appeal for assistance by the reactionary elements, the remaining monarchists, the land barons, the bourgeoisie and the generals without armies. If the reaction, the counter revolution, had sufficient strength within the country to justify its existence, it would not be necessary to cry for help from the outside.

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The stories so noisily told about the horrible atrocities being perpetrated in Russia will be heavily discounted by all who have read their history. It is not a matter of record that slaves have ever been guilty of an indulgence in atrocities except in case of intolerable provocation. When the brutalities of masters have been pressed upon them for ages and until endurance has become no longer possible they have at times rascals who have tortured and oppressed upon particularly brutal and obnoxious rascals who have tortured and oppressed them. But even at the worst the great slave uprisings in history have never been marked by a tithe of the atrocities and brutalities that have been dealt out daily to slaves by the master class. The atrocities did come however when those uprisings were suppressed. For four years Spartacus and his followers waged open and honorable warfare against the powers of Rome, in the effort to break the chains of their slavery and regain their freedom. When the power of Spartacus was broken the surrendering remnants of his army were butchered to the last man. Each side of the Appian Way leading into Rome was for miles upon miles lined with his soldiers nailed upon crosses, as Christ was nailed to the cross upon Calvary, the ignominious death that was decreed to slaves under the Roman law. In 1848 the French drove out King Louis Philippe and started a republic. The bourgeoisie got the upper hand and the workers revolted. This revolt was crushed by the iron hand of

the military and the gutters of Paris ran full with the blood of 60,000 workers killed. In 1871 the workmen of Paris took control of that city in the name of the Commune and called an election at once ratifying their acts. The Commune was drowned in the blood of the Parisian workmen. The government troops butchered 50,000 of them after they had thrown up their hands in token of surrender. The total casualties suffered by the government forces during that struggle amounted to less than 1,000. And the identical tales of atrocities were then spread throughout the civilized world by the press and other agencies of the ruling class that are now being so persistently peddled about the atrocities of the Bolsheviks of Russia. Only a few days since M. Pichon, a member of the French government shed crocodile tears as large as doorknobs, in the Chamber of Deputies at Paris, because of the "awful atrocities" being perpetrated by the Bolsheviks in Russia. Had the consummate hypocrite even read French history of quite recent times he could have saved his tears and also experienced the consolation that no matter what the Russian Bolsheviks might accomplish in the way of atrocities it would not stand much of a chance of taking the laurel leaf of accomplishment away from his own dear France in that particular line. For every act of atrocity perpetrated by the Russian workers and peasants during the present revolution it is safe to assume that ten thousand have been committed during the long and brutal reign of the Czars. For every land baron either killed or chased out of the country, the old regime butchered its thousands and drove its millions to Siberian exile and torture. Any complaints about atrocities upon the part of slaves in the day of their revolt come with ill grace from that section of human society whose entire history it that of an atrocity, and the very breath of life in whose nostrils is brutality, violence and crime. Of course we know what constitutes the atrocity of which the Russian workers and peasants are guilty. It is the stripping from the monarchists, land barons and military ruffians their power to longer rule, rob, murder and commit all other unmentionable atrocities upon these mudsills of civilization who produce the wealth of the world. That is the atrocity, and there can be none greater. It is that alone that causes the wail of anguish to rise from the throats of the precious souls who are thus losing their power and privilege to rule and rob the rest. And what greater atrocity could be perpetrated upon them than that? And what more natural than that those who live and rule only by violence, brutality and atrocity, should charge those who may oppose them with the self same crimes and atrocious acts of which they themselves are guilty? They whose creed of life consists solely of violence, brutality and atrocious conduct, cannot well conceive of any other code of ethics and logically must accuse others of indulging in the same crimes that constitute the very breath of life in their own vulgar existence. Evidently they also instinctively realize that nothing can be more atrocious and reprehensible than to kill, torture and destroy, else why do they accuse those who offend by fastening or attempting to fasten upon them these crimes? And yet it solely by these crimes that they live and have their being. It is solely by violence, by enslavement and murder, that they live and thrive. No wonder they howl with anguish when their ethical and moral code is violated by an uprising of their slave victims.

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From a careful survey of the Russian situation, as set forth through such avenues of information and misinformation as are available, it clearly appears that there is no opposition in Russia to the Bolsheviks, that does not rest solely upon Allied bayonets. There appears to be no centres of reactionary or counter

revolutionary purpose outside of those points that are held by British, French, Japanese and American forces. Vladivostok, where the duly elected Soviet officials were murdered by a foreign soldiery and the reactionary element is now held in power by their bayonets; Omsk, where a monarchist general is kept in power by British troops; Archangel, held for the reaction by British and American guns; Odessa, held by French ruffians in uniform—these constitute practically all there is of the much touted opposition to the Soviet Republic of the workmen and peasants of Russia. Internal peace will speedily come to Russia if the impudent and unwarranted invasion of Russian soil by foreign troops, upon mercenary purpose bent, is ended by the withdrawal of such troops. With such withdrawal the much touted opposition of the "constructive forces" of Russia will disappear as the dew before the morning sun. The real constructive force of the country, the working class of Russia will soon perfect that order that are so patiently furthering now, against all the anarchy and confusion that the baneful and sinister interests and influences both inside of the country and outside, are persistently trying to stir up. And it should be the emphatically expressed demand of all true democrats and all progressive organizations throughout the earth, that all attempts from the outside to crush the revolution be stopped at once that all foreign troops be withdrawn forthwith; that all restrictions to free intercourse and communication between Russia and the rest of the world be removed, and the settlement of the internal affairs of that land be left entirely to those who inhabit it. The action of the Germans in invading Belgium and forcing its people to brook such brutal and impudent interference with their own affairs has been justly and widely condemned as the one supreme crime of the age. But it was neither jot nor tittle more criminal, more reprehensible, more execrable, nor more to be condemned than the invasion for similar purpose of Russian territory by the bandied national brigands of other lands. And those nations that are guilty of participation in such a base purpose need not point the fingers of scorn at even the wicked "Hun" for the crimes that he has been guilty of, for they are individually and collectively guilty of the same crimes, and doubtless in every particular. As they cannot come into court with clean hands, their case should be thrown out. Hands off Russia! Her workmen and peasants will cleanse the Augean stables and make the land a fit habitation for free men and women. Hands off!

It is reported that a very large number of so-called enemy aliens have expressed their willingness to return to their native countries in Europe, if the Canadian authorities will allow them to do so, and they are willing to pay their own passage. It is not to be wondered at that they should be so minded in view of the fact that at least some semblance of democracy has been attained in those countries from which they came, while military service acts, press censorship, the gagging and even breaking up of public meetings, persecutions because of nationality, war time election acts, espionage acts, and many other similar complete denials of democracy and evidences of a low standard of intelligence are still prevalent upon this western continent. No wonder these aliens want to get out of it. And who can blame them?

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Organize public meetings and sell literature—then organize for election day!

## Russia as Seen in New Role

IT IS reported that the United States and the Allies are considering the dispatch of a commission to Russia, ostensibly for the purpose of obtaining reliable information upon which the peace conference may base its action. Two of the members suggested are widely known as friends of the Soviet Government. Now it is inconceivable that the governments concerned do not know already all that they need to know about Russia in order to make up their minds. A very large amount of authentic information regarding that country has for a long time been available. In addition to the confidential data which government agents have gathered, there is a large volume of printed material of great importance. The Russian official documents, selections from which have been published by The Nation, The Dial, and other journals, are very numerous; and there are also the Russian newspapers, significant extracts from which have for months been regularly published by the British War Office. The French Embassy in Russia has to its credit a long list of bulletins, covering the revolutionary period, prepared for the information of the French Foreign Office. In addition, a number of very important collections of Russian material, the property of Americans who have returned from Russia, have been confiscated by agents of the American Government and held for months, obviously with full opportunity for detailed examination. If a commission is now to be sent to Russia to ascertain the facts about that country and its people, it is far less because the Allied and American Governments do not know the facts than because they have refused to act in accordance with them, and now need a commission to camouflage their guilt.

The suggestion of such a commission, however, is strikingly significant of the new turn which the Russian situation has taken. The plain fact of the matter, apparently, is that the United States and the Allies need Russia, and that they need it even more than Russia needs them. They are very anxious to have Russia seated with them at the peace table, and to give it some kind of a share in the proceedings. Having treated Russia with aloofness and contempt for a year or more, they now very much want her back in the family of nations. Having misrepresented that country, and lied about it, and clapped the censorship upon it, and persecuted a considerable number of individuals and news journals which were trying to tell the public the truth about it, they are now, it would seem, desirous of "learning the facts" and "getting an unbiased opinion" in order to set the whole business right. That they are really a good deal concerned about the Russian situation is further evidenced—quite convincingly, one would think—by the reports that the troops which were sent into Russia to put an end to German influence, extricate the hybrid forces of the Czecho-Slovaks and relieve the Russian people from the oppression of the Soviet Government and the Bolshevik party, are now to be withdrawn.

The immediate incitement to this change of heart is, no doubt, the ominous spread of the world-wide movement labelled Bolshevism. We pointed out last week, in an editorial on that subject, that so-called Bolshevism owes but a part of its inspiration to the Russian Bolsheviks, and that the movement itself is in reality an extraordinary and violent outbreaking of the long-time demand of the masses everywhere for better living conditions, and for an economic system and a form of government which the workers shall control. The

main incitement, however, is not Bolshevism, but Russia itself. Hateful as the results of the Russian revolution have been to upholders of class control in Western Europe and the United States, the obvious fact is that the new Russia, in spite of the enormous difficulties with which it has had to contend at home and abroad, has nevertheless succeeded in holding its ground. This stubborn fact the Allies, apparently, have begun to realize. In spite of their repeated insistence that there was nothing to take hold of in Russia, and that the people of that benighted country would be only too glad to welcome a deliverer, they seem at last to have perceived that Russia is a weighty factor in world politics, and that there will be no world peace unless Russia is made a part of it. Russia, in other words, is conquering a place for herself and her peculiar institutions; and the dark shadow of a Russianized Germany, with the German and Russian peoples united in spirit, if not in terms, to resist the Allies and spread their own ideas throughout the world, obscures for the moment all other issues before the peace conference. Only superficial reading of the daily press is needed to show that it is not Russia which is proclaiming its anxiety to have the world think well of it, or which is seeking eagerly for recognition at Paris. It is the Allies and the United States that are anxiously seeking a way to make their peace with Russia.

Recognition of some sort there will of course eventually be, and whether or not it follows upon the favorable report of a commission or is due to some other impetus will not greatly matter. The sobering reflection, however, is that the future relations between Russia and the other powers will be influenced far more by what has preceded recognition than by recognition itself. The needs of Russia are admittedly very great. In the organization of its novel political system, as well as in the development of all the varied branches of its economic and social life, it has still a long distance to travel before the conditions of an orderly and enlightened civilization shall have been generally attained. The legitimate opportunities for trade with other countries, and for the intellectual interchange which alone can keep a people from becoming provincial, are boundless so far as Russia is concerned. What Russia is likely most to remember, however, and to cherish with deepest resentment, is that in the time of its greatest trial is received no help. In its tragic struggle to realize the democracy to which the statesmen of the western world did obedience, and to apply the self-determination which the peoples everywhere acclaimed, it met from other nations only ridicule, denunciation and invasion. These are the things and not an eleventh-hour recognition grudgingly accorded, that are likely to bulk largest in the Russian memory.

One cannot but wonder that the United States, with its instinctive sympathy for free peoples and with the lofty sentiments of President Wilson ringing in its ears, should have been so willing an agent in this great calamity. One wonders, too, how long the peace will stand with Russia in this mood. A league of nations may or may not come out of the deliberations at Paris; the old idea of balances and alliances may be repudiated or may prevail. What is necessary, however, if peace is to endure, is that the free peoples of the world shall work together in comradeship, organizing their national lives, to be sure, in such manner as they shall severally prefer,

## HOW SOVIET RUSSIA CONQUERED GERMANY

[By John Reed]

Emissaries were sent out to visit all the German prison camps in Russia and Siberia, and encourage the formation of socialist organizations. For this work there were men who spoke German, Hungarian, Rumanian, Polish, Yiddish, Turkish, Croatian, Czecho-Slovak and Bulgarian. The response was immediate. In Moscow, for example, 10,000 German and Austrian prisoners organized along Bolshevik lines and started active propaganda among their countrymen. Newspapers for the prisoners, started up all over Russia and Siberia. The money was furnished by the Soviet government and the whole work was controlled by the bureau of war prisoners attached to the ministry of foreign affairs. This work was so effective that when prisoners were returned to Austria and Germany they were confined for 30 days in "political quarantine camps," fed and treated well, and "educated" with government promises, patriotic literature and majority social-democratic propaganda.

We immediately began publication of a series of daily propaganda newspapers. The first of these was in German, Die Fackel (The Torch), issued in editions of half million a day, and sent by special train to the central army committees in Minsk, Kiev, and other cities, which, in turn, by special automobiles, distributed them to different towns along the front, where a regularly organized system of couriers brought them to the front trenches for distribution.

During the daytime, at the official fraternization points, bundles of the papers were ostentatiously carried and they were always confiscated by the German officers. But at night the real work of distribution began. In isolated spots there were continually secret meetings, at which the bundles of propaganda literature were put into the hands of German soldiers. At other points Russian soldiers buried bundles of papers in places agreed upon, where they were dug up by the Germans.

## HOW THE NEWS IS CENSORED

Fortunate indeed is the lot of he who lives during these grand days when it is only necessary to pick up the daily paper to be fully informed of all that is going on throughout the length and breadth of the earth. It is not so very long ago that months were required for the news of the happenings upon one continent to reach the residents of another. But now, owing to the marvellous development of the modern means of communication, almost every part of the known world can be kept fully informed of all that is happening daily in all other parts thereof. The cable and the wireless has obliterated oceans; the printing press and the linotype have tremendously increased the printed age, and along with the world-wide news gathering agencies that have sprung into existence, have made it an easy matter to disseminate information widely throughout the earth, thus keeping each and all in close touch with events as they occur even in the remotest quarters of the globe. All of which is very nice as far as it goes, but there is another aspect of the matter that perchance escapes the notice of many amongst us. While it is true that the modern press and its news gathering adjuncts is capable of widely spreading the news of the world, it is also unhappily true that no more powerful

but holding always to mutual esteem for the benefit of the common good. For the attainment of such an international mind the treatment of Russia has been indeed a sorry preparation.—The Nation.

means for disseminating falsehood and error has yet been devised by the cunning brain of the human rogue. The press has been grandiloquently referred to as the "great molder of public opinion," but it should not be overlooked that public opinion may be quite as readily molded by the dissemination of that which is false as by that which is true.

It is doubtful whether the press of any other land can outdo, or even keep abreast of that of Canada, in the matter of downright lying, to say nothing of lesser violations of the truth. If there has been a word of truth uttered by the capitalist press in connection with the present war, and more especially in regard to the revolutionary events and uprisings that are following in its wake, it must have gotten into its columns by accident rather than by intent. The very highest achievements in lying have, however, been reached in connection with the reporting of Russian events since the advent of the Bolsheviks upon the revolutionary stage. Every word of truth that has been uttered about the Bolsheviks has crept in either accidentally or surreptitiously, and, as a rule, has either been suppressed as soon as discovered by the censor, or smothered under an avalanche of falsehood concocted in the editorial sanctum of the offending publication. No more brazen lying was ever indulged in by human beings than daily appears in the editorial and correspondence columns of the capitalist press of this dominion. While the censorship at Ottawa has been blamed for all of the stifling of the truth in regard to current happenings elsewhere, and the associated press has been loudly condemned for its part in it, many things are occurring to lead to the conclusion that the chief offender in the miserable business of spreading falsehood broadcast, is the daily paper itself. This is perhaps done according to instructions that have been given by those interests which virtually own and control these "great molders of public opinion." Whether this bears heavily upon the conscience of the cheap prostitutes who are employed to do such dirty work, deponent knoweth not. It seems that whatever news comes through, over the press wires, that does not suit the fancy of the interests involved, is cut out, no matter how valuable it might be to those who constitute the readers of these vile sheets. Only such matter is allowed to appear as will so color world events as to suit the schemes of the rulers and further the purposes they may have in view. No more baneful influence exists in modern society than the "kept press" of the ruling class. Its mission is to mold public opinion in the direction of the continuance of the present regime of rule and robbery, by the copious application of misrepresentation, deceit, falsehood, insinuation, and downright lying to the victims of the detestable game. And right well does it fulfill its purpose; right well does it earn its "thirty pieces of silver."

A petition was presented to Premier Lloyd George, the greatest "democrat" in the world, with one exception, on January 3, asking for the release of 1,500 conscientious objectors to participating in military and naval butchery. This petition was signed by men such as Viscount Bryce, Lord Buckmaster, Marquis of Crewe, Lord Loreburn, Reginald McKenna, Viscount Morley, Sir John Simon, Arthur Henderson, Augustine Birrell, and seventeen bishops. Did any one yet hear of any such an impudent request being made upon behalf of similarly outraged persons in Canada or the United States? Evidently where "democracy" really exists no one has the courage to make such a request, or every one knows full well that it would do no good.



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### AN INTERESTING SITUATION

MANY interesting things are happening these days. Much of the glam and pretense of former days is being stripped from the affairs of this busy world and the opportunity is being offered, to those who have eyes wherewith to see and ears wherewith to hear, to get an insight into things as they really are rather than what they have previously appeared to be. For instance we were not so long ago told of the horrible state we would have been in if the wicked "Hun" had succeeded in conquering his neighbors in Europe and would then have turned his attention, as he undoubtedly would, to the conquest of Canada and the U. S., more especially the former. In such case the good people of this eminently great and prosperous Canada would be enslaved by the conquerors and untold misery would no doubt be their portion from that time on. And there is little doubt that all of this and more would have fallen to our lot in case of such an unhappy outcome of the great war that was fought for liberty, the "rights of small nations," the self determination of peoples and to "make the world safe for democracy." Fortunately the "Hun" met with defeat, owing to the justness of our cause and the valor of our arms. Those who went forth to "fight for us" gained the victory. Some have returned to us and many more are to follow. Thousands gave their lives in the gallant struggle, thus being cheated by hard fate out of a joyous participation in the enjoyment of that which they so heroically fought to save. But by a strange freak of fate, however, the heritage left in Canada for those who survived the glorious struggle has been made all the richer because of the awful slaughter of their mates who went forth with them to the call of king and country. Had all returned matters would now be less rosy for the returned ones because there would have been many more of them to have participated in the patrimony and the share of each would have been correspondingly smaller. And now as to the patrimony.

There are many working men and women in Canada. A very large percentage of them have no means of self-employment. They own no means of wealth production, that is they possess primarily no land from which to bring forth the food, etc., they needs must have or starve. They possess no tools or implements of industry, whereby they might produce food, etc., even if they did have a piece of land upon which to operate. In fact they are absolutely helpless; they are denied by force of circumstances over which they have no control, any and all means of sustaining life, except they surrender themselves and all of which they are capable in the matter of the production of wealth, into the hands of some individual or concern that does own, possess and hold dominion over land and the implements of industry peculiar to these times. In short these men and women can only exist by surrendering to others all that slaves were ever con-

pelled to submit to their owners and masters, and that is their liberty and their power to labor. When the men of Canada went forth to do battle in Europe for Canada and the empire of which it is a part, they evidently fought to save from destruction at the hands of the "Huns" Canada as it is at the present time.

Well the result of the war is that Canada is saved. Those who were fortunate enough to escape from the conflict with their lives are returning to enjoy their patrimony in that which they saved from destruction at the hands of the fiends of central Europe. But evidently their battle is not yet finished. The conflict is not yet ended. According to news from Winnipeg it has now become necessary for these returned heroes to go over the top in order to secure the rich patrimony they thought they were fighting for upon the bloody fields of Europe. They are now compelled to fight for a job in this great democracy in order to get something to eat. And the only way they can succeed in getting the coveted job is by driving some other workingman out of it, for sad to relate there are not jobs sufficient in number to satisfy the demand. There are more slaves than there are jobs to fit them into. The masters cannot employ all of them and, consequently some must go without sustenance, that is without the much coveted job. And it seems as if those heroic souls who went so valorously over the top in Flanders field feel as though after having saved the jobs in Canada from being destroyed by the fiendish "Hun" they ought to have some of those precious jobs for their own edification and, incidentally, for their own sustenance. In other words they want that for which they waged the most glorious struggle of all history. And it would appear to the impartial critic as though they ought to have them. Who should be better entitled to good steady jobs, hard jobs if you please, than those who have freely risked their lives and limbs for the preservation of a country and a nation whose prosperity, grandeur and democracy rests solely upon a foundation of jobs and slaves to fill them. Of course it is a trifle hard upon those who are driven from employment in order to make room for the returned heroes, but that is no fault of the heroes. They should not reasonably be expected to fight for any more jobs than there are in existence, and to tell the immortal truth there was nothing else to fight for, at least that lay within the narrow vision of the countless millions who so nobly fought the great fight.

But the most sorrowful thing about the whole performance is that there are not jobs enough to satisfy the soulful aspirations of every slave in existence. If that were the case, however, the danger might be that no slave would become sufficiently saturated with the necessary patriotic dope to long for heroism upon the bloody battlefields of his masters. And life would be a dull and drab monotony if slaves could no longer be made drunk enough to shed one another's guts to make a ruling class holiday.

If there is such a dearth of employment now that returned soldiers are forced to resort to lawlessness and violence against other slaves in order to secure to themselves sustenance in this glorious land for which they so nobly fought and died by the thousands, and but a comparatively small part of the survivors have as yet returned, what is to be the condition when the thousands still overseas have returned to this rich dominion of which such fairy tales have been peddled throughout the earth? How much, either better or worse, could it have been had the execrable "Hun" succeeded in his reckless venture to conquer and enslave the earth? And what

has been saved from his wicked clutches other than the very social conditions that are expressed in that vulgar fight for jobs that was not only pulled off in Winnipeg recently, but the world struggle for the same worthy object in which a world of slaves is continually engaged, under our precious ruling class civilization? If the best that Canada can now offer to its returned heroes is a fight for jobs, what in the name of all that is good and great was the use of those heroes going all the way over to Europe to fight the bloody battles pulled off there? It seems that they ought to feel that they have in some manner been swindled by those who doped them up with patriotism for the purpose in hand. We wonder if any of them do so feel. In fact the more the matter is studied the more interesting the situation becomes. It also becomes increasingly perplexing. It most certainly does.

### A STRANGE HALLUCINATION

AT A RECENT meeting held in Winnipeg one of the speakers is accredited with the statement, that "during the four years of war the wealth of Canada has increased from eight and a half billion to nineteen and a half billion, in spite of its being the most destructive period in the world's history." As the speaker belongs to a certain organization that heralds from the housetops its unimpeachable scientific accuracy upon all matters both spiritual and mundane, it ill behooves us to cast a doubt upon the scientific accuracy of his statement. The very fact of his appearance upon the platform of the organization in question, for the purpose of correctly instructing the dull and unscientific public in the way it should go, affords ample attestation of his capability and qualification as a master of scientific attainment. Were he not scientific he would not be allowed upon such a platform, for the organization referred to abhors that which is unscientific at a greater pressure per square inch than an entente christian abhors a "Hun" or nature a vacuum. At any rate, however, it is pleasing to know that the wealth of this "Canada of ours" is increasing at such a terrific rate, or it would be so if it were true. But unhappily it is not true. There is no more wealth either in Canada or elsewhere now than there was before the ruling class family row broke out in 1914. In fact there is convincing evidence to show that there must now be even less than four years ago, for during that time countless millions of alleged human beings have been busily working overtime destroying each other and incidentally destroying many other things of real value. While engaged in this noble pursuit they cannot be justly charged with creating any wealth. Now it so happens that enslaved human beings constitute the sole wealth producing power ever known to a master class civilization. The products they bring forth, and which make their appearance in the marts of valuation and exchange, constitute all there is of the much talked about wealth of the world.

There is no accumulation of wealth in the world. There may be an accumulation of knowledge, but in view of the many wierd utterances that frequently fall from the lips of alleged custodians of scientific information, such accumulation is evidently a very slow and laborious process, or it has mighty poor soil to work upon. Wealth must consist of food, clothing, shelter, furniture, tools and the many other products of labor that are called into existence by the existing order of society. All of this wealth, whether it consists of things essential to human sustenance, comfort and well being or merely satisfies some idle and capricious whim or caprice of rulers and masters, is consumed as fast as it is produced. It never accumulates. It is either eaten up, worn out, or otherwise destroyed, from day to day and year to year in exactly the same ratio

that it is produced. Even the most stable buildings and built of the most durable materials, last but a comparatively short time and even then at the expense of still further labor put into them in the way of repairs and other care. The food crop of a season is all consumed within the next succeeding period, and so it is with everything else that constitutes so-called wealth. Even the wealth that is embodied in the slaves of production—and that is the basis of all wealth—wears out in time and makes way for the next succeeding crop. At times there does accrue an accumulation of slaves, that is the crop exceeds the ability of the market to assimilate, but no one ever proudly refers to such a condition as an evidence of a great increase of wealth in the country. That sort of an accumulation is usually looked upon as a nuisance to be abated rather than an evidence of wealth to boast about.

Robinson Crusoe, after being a long time alone upon his island, one day discovered a strange footprint in the sand. The good man became filled with vague fears. He did not sleep well at nights. His dreams were disturbed by imaginary savages lurking in the shadows. He could hear strange sounds in the adjacent bush. In fact he was considerably disturbed and wrought up because of the fancy or suspicion that his island was peopled by others who might prove to be dangerous to his peace and security. But, strange to say, the footprint that he discovered was not a man, a savage. It was only the track of one who had been there. Crusoe's fears were groundless. He was not encompassed by savages. He had been merely frightened by the tracks they had left behind. Surface skimmers and scientific searchlights in human form get similarly mixed up about wealth. They see great columns of figures supposed to represent the wealth of the world and great is their amaze thereat. Immediately they plunge into learned and abstruse disquisitions about the magnitude of wealth and its tremendous increase in volume since "the war broke out." And all they have been considering as wealth is nothing but figures, the tracks left behind by wealth that has been, but is no more because it has all been consumed. Footprints left in the sands of ignorance by the savage rogues and robbers of the past. Notes, bills, currency, bonds, stocks, debentures, loans, mortgages, deeds, judgments, investments of all kinds are counted as wealth, and each and all are merely evidences of wealth that has been consumed in the past and payment for which remains as a fixed charge against the future. These tracks left behind by the robbers of the past constitute the wealth, the capital of the present and a deadly clutch upon the future. The sum total of this hoary old swindle runs into prodigious figures. It is about time that scientific ignoramuses got rid of some of their wierd hallucinations.

The U. S. Shipping Board proposes to write off from 30 per cent. to 40 per cent. of the value of its shipping in order to reduce the expenses represented by interest and depreciation on investment, thereby making it possible to make rates in competition with foreign-owned shipping. This write-off will amount to \$1,000,000,000 on ships worth three times that amount. It does beat all how easy it is to get rid of debt after all. When it can be gotten rid of by such a simple process as writing it off—which is equivalent to wiping it off the slate—it is a wonder that the practice does not become general. But come to think of it that would not do, for by the same act all the wealth of the world would be destroyed, for these figures of debt are what is termed wealth by our great financiers. It also seems that the reckless manner of repudiating debt adopted by the shipping board might act as an encouragement to the Bolsheviks to pay the Russian debt in the same way.

### THE MEASURE OF PROGRESS

**T**HE THINGS that are really essential to the material well being and comfort of human beings are comparatively few. Food they must have. Clothing, although the wearing of it is an acquired habit, also is a necessity. The clothing habit has long since become so firmly fixed upon us that we cannot now dispense with it although it is slowly but surely destroying the race. That is it is doing it in connection with other equally as pernicious and dangerous habits, too numerous to be mentioned here. Shelter must also be had or we perish from cold and exposure. This is also largely in consequence of acquired habit. But when all of the real essentials of life are totalled up it is a matter of considerable surprise that they are so few. In fact they are so few and it is actually such a comparatively simple matter to provide them, even by resort to what are termed the most primitive methods, that it is a matter of grave wonder why and how it is that the greater the development of the methods and mechanism of industry, the harder it becomes for the producers of these essential things to get a living for themselves and their families. At no period in history has it required more unremitting labor upon the part of the producer of wealth to make a living for himself and family than now. And we are told that the power of production was never so great; that never before was it possible to turn out such an enormous volume of wealth with such a small expenditure of human energy as at present. But in spite of all of this tall talk the outstanding fact of today is the distress, misery, penury, privation, uncertainty of the future, unrest, discontent, turmoil and threatening revolution that prevails throughout the so-called civilized world. Either all signs fall or the most gigantic upheaval of the ages is about due. Capitalist industry is absolutely powerless to employ all of its slaves. The army of unemployed is rapidly on the increase. This boasted industrial civilization is breaking down. Its complete collapse is inevitable. And there is a reason for it. Whether its collapse be catastrophic or its remains disposed of by the orderly processes of intelligent action and wise judgment depends upon the swift triumph of the revolutionary forces that are now gathering in all lands where slaves are driven under the ruling class lash of exploitation.

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The reason why this industrial civilization is doomed is not far to seek. Its mechanical factors have been devised and designed solely for the purpose of increasing the productive power of its slaves along the line of ruling class requirements. The sole motive behind it all has been, and still is, the the enlargement of the ruling class empire of material things, things that are absolutely nonessential to any part of human society outside of its ruling class. Great railway and other transportation systems, great factories and mills, miles upon miles of city streets lined with warehouses, skyscrapers, stores, gaudy palaces, huts of poverty, houses of prostitution and financial bagnios, wharves, docks, tunnels, bridges, canals, gun foundries, powder mills, poison gas and bomb factories, arsenals, forts, battle-ships, submarines, airplanes, and on top of all this a tremendous volume of governmental paraphernalia of oppression and repression, these constitute in part the enormous mass of useless and even harmful things that have been wrung from the unpaid sweat of slaves by means of the boasted industrial mechanism of this age, and which is many times greater in volume than ever it was possible for a ruling class to acquire prior to the advent of the machine into the processes of exploitation. The vast bulk of this junk comes under the euphonious title of investments and is supposed to bring to its owners a revenue, that is something gotten for nothing, just the same as was the principal

But this "investment" has now become so great that it is becoming increasingly impossible to longer make it bring returns and the field for investment is consequently becoming crowded. As the opportunity for still further investments becomes narrowed it becomes more and more impossible to keep all the slaves employed. The rulers are as powerless to cope with the situation as are the slaves themselves. As no provisions are at all possible whereby the slaves may be fed while they are out of employment, sooner or later anarchy will run riot and there will be the very devil to pay. It does not require a very keen vision to see its swift approach at this very moment. One needs but read any edition of the daily press of dying capitalism to distinctly hear the approaching tread of revolution in every land.

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All that can be termed progress in the evolution of ruling class civilization during the past ages has been a progress backward as far as the producers of the essential things of life are concerned. Every step in the development of the machinery of ruling class production has been a step in the higher evolution of the art of exploiting slaves. At each step the percentage of slaves engaged in the production of the essential things of life, food, clothing, etc., has been lessened and the percentage employed in the production of purely ruling class junk correspondingly increased. There is more of the really essential things of life, food, etc., produced per capita now than was the case 500 or 1,000 years ago. There is, however, a tremendously increased amount of ruling class paraphernalia and junk produced, as compared to that produced before the age of machinery. And that, coupled with the forcing upon the shoulders of an ever lessening percentage of the producers the task of producing sufficient food, etc., for all and the consequent transference of a continually increasing percentage of the workers to the production of ruling class requirements, constitutes the measure of progress that has been registered since what is improperly termed collective industry was invented by the ruling class. It is slave industry, though some are still so misguided or misinformed as to persist in denominating it "social production," in spite of the fact that slavery is anti-social, and eventually destructive of all social ties. A slave civilization is held together by brute force and not by ties of social relationship. A slave civilization must have a police force, an army, clubs, bayonets and guns, and its slaves be driven under the lash of either brute force or necessity. And there has indeed been some progress along that line during the past centuries. We must all admit that.

### HOW THE BURDEN IS LIFTED

**T**HERE lived in Greece some thousands of years ago a somewhat loquacious chap by the name of Aristotle. He is dead now, but while he lived he was by no means ill qualified to offer due and proper apologies for the existence of human slavery. The reason he felt called upon to apologize for that delightful and uplifting institution was no doubt due to the fact that the blessed civilization of his time was based upon it, and it thus became his duty to offer up apologies therefor, very much the same as is now done by the preachers, professors, politicians, press pundits and other intellectual scum of this delightfully progressive age. From what little we know of this Aristotle, when it came down to the matter of peddling hypocritical bull con in fluent language and uplifting phrase, he was hard to beat. In fact it is held by some that were living at this day even Woodrow Wilson would not be entirely alone in a class by himself. Be that as it may, however, the respective merit of the two distinguished persons who lived so many centuries apart is not for the moment a vital matter. The

one now living is amply qualified for the immediate task in hand, that of making democracy safe for the ruling class world. At least his 14 points point that way.

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Aristotle is credited with having said that "human slavery is necessary and will prevail until man shall have learned how to harness the forces of nature to do his bidding and be his slave." That in itself is no slouch of an apology for the parent of all crime, or at least it would be if there was any virtue in it. But man has persistently pursued the pleasing avocation of learning how to harness the forces of nature to do somebody's bidding and be somebody's slave, but instead of the burden of toil being lessened upon human shoulders it has continually been increased in exact proportion to the advancement made in harnessing those forces. The progress made in this line since the days of Aristotle is prodigious. The world is now full of machinery of a power undreamed of during Aristotle's time. The most gigantic production of wealth the world ever saw is now carried on as a daily and hourly matter of fact. And the burden of toil upon human shoulders was never so great as at present. Never were the workers of the world compelled to endure more unremitting toil in order to maintain themselves and their families than during these glorious days when every known force of nature has been in some manner harnessed to "do the bidding of man and be his slave." Every step in the advance of industrial development in the affairs of ruling class civilization has been marked by a corresponding increase of the burden placed upon the backs of its slaves. And the development of a ruling class civilization could be expressed in no other manner. Anything introduced into such a civilization that tended to lessen the burden imposed upon slaves, either by lightening their labors or expanding their recompense, would not measure the progress of such civilization, but on the contrary its retrogression. The slave class has always gotten all that was possible for it to get out of the civilization of which it was, and still is, the cornerstone.

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One illuminating illustration of the way the burden of toil is lessened for the slaves under the harnessing of nature's forces to do the bidding of man, is afforded by the figures indicating the volume of railway traffic in the United States during the year just ended. During 1918 the freight traffic of that country amounted approximately to 400,000,000,000 tons moved one mile. This would be close to 4,000 tons per person or 22,350 tons per family, for the entire population of the country. This refers to railway traffic alone. The figures for water-borne traffic are not at hand. It is of course assumed that this tremendous haulage was necessary or it would not have been done, but it will no doubt be a matter of surprise to many to know that the essential requirements of a family really called for an amount of haulage per annum equivalent to that of transporting one ton a distance nearly equal to the circumference of the earth at the equator. Once this is realized, however, the importance of the family in the great scheme of things terrestrial will be tremendously enlarged. Now if the comfort, sustenance and welfare of each family requires such an enormous volume of transportation as that implied in the haulage of a ton of freight 22,350 miles per annum and the modern method of industry and transportation spells an economy over the methods that prevailed before the forces of nature had been "harnessed to do the bidding of man and be his slave," it becomes a matter of wonder, both prodigious and profound, how in the world our primitive forebears ever packed their heart breaking load. To have packed 23,500 tons of food, clothing, etc., a distance of one mile per annum upon their backs or

to have transported it with an ox team and cart must have necessitated the putting in of a good deal of overtime. But, now that it is done for us by machinery it makes all the difference in the world. It is an inconsequential matter. It may be looked upon as an evidence of the remarkable progress made since the days of our primitive ancestors.

The entire transportation system of the world is an instrument and incident of the enslavement and plunder of the producers of all wealth, the working people. It has no other purpose than that of taking from the producers that which they produce and safely conveying and appropriating it to the purposes of the class that rules and robs. Along with the balance of the mighty industrial mechanism of modern society it represents the ultimate achievement of the ages of ruling class civilization in the art of speeding slaves to the limit and as swiftly and completely separating them from the things they bring forth. The gigantic mechanism of the modern world performs no other service than that of enlarging and rendering more powerful and magnificent the empire of masters over slaves. Not a mechanical device ever introduced into ruling class industry or service ever yet lightened the burden of toil upon the shoulders of the slaves or in any manner made their slavery more tolerable. No such device ever yet saved any human labor. At no time in the history of man, of which we have any account, did it ever require more labor, measured by time, to produce the essential things of life than now. Instead of the mechanical devices of modern civilization being denominated as "labor saving" they should be termed labor increasing devices, in so far as they relate to the production of the essential things of life such as food, clothing, shelter, etc. It is no doubt true that many things can be done with a smaller expenditure of human labor than was once the case, but a close scrutiny will disclose the fact that this applies solely to the production of things essential only to the ruling class. Many things are now done that at one time were impossible, but these also are found to be as essentially ruling class requirements as the pyramids upon the banks of the Nile. Prior to the advent of the industrial mechanism of modern society that has been especially designed for the purpose of expeditiously and efficiently exploiting slaves, it was impossible to build steel skyscrapers that pierce the clouds, cannon that would slay and trading and trafficking in the ton more than thirty miles, or battle-ships half a mile long. These and many more similar extravagances are now every day achievements, and a long felt want in the souls of cruelly exploited and tortured slaves is thus happily filled. And by this token is the glory and grandeur of this machine age made to overshadow that of the ancient world even as a 50,000 candle power searchlight outshines a tallow dip. But outside of that the less that is said about the benefit accruing from the introduction of mechanical appliances into the delightful ruling class game of exploiting slaves and trading and trafficking in the plunder, the better. But that 23,350 ton miles per family, per annum, sure spells some economy in transportation over the pack mule or ox team of the long ago. But the slave does not appear to be any better off in consequence. And come to think of it how could he be when the entire ruling class shebang has been designed for the purpose of skinning him instead of fattening him?

General Wood of the U. S. A. is advocating "universal military training as insurance against war." In view of the satisfactory manner in which "universal military training" safeguarded Europe against war it is scarcely to be expected that the "General" will meet with any serious opposition to his "insurance" scheme. That which worked out so satisfactorily in Europe ought to work out right over here.

# A Size-up of the World Situation---The Result of the War

By E. T. KINGSLEY

(This Series of Articles Will Be Issued in Pamphlet Form as Soon as Concluded.—Editor Labor Star.)

THE feudal survival of Central Europe has fallen. Capitalism stands triumphant over its fallen foe. The absolutism of open brutality has been broken; the absolutism of cant and hypocrisy is now in the saddle. But its reign promises to be short; for the Morning Star of Labor is rising red in the east, proclaiming the approach of Freedom's dawn. The Red Spectre that has long disturbed the dreams of kingly ruffians; has sorely affrighted political clowns and diplomatic mountebanks and terrorized the bargain-hunting bourgeoisie, is looming ever more threateningly in the foreground. The proletarian hosts, awakening to consciousness, are rising in every land. The Red Flag of human brotherhood is flung defiantly to the breeze and with the songs of revolution upon their lips ever increasing millions are marching beneath its folds, to the overthrow of the ruling class state; to the release of its victims from the thralldom of exploitation and torture; to the ending of the long, dark night of Slavery and the ushering in of Freedom's morning.

With the signing of the armistice by the Central Powers the real trouble of the ruling class the world over begins. The social atmosphere is already surcharged with the electricity of the coming storm that shall wreck this slave civilization and sweep its ruins into oblivion. The gathering of the hungry vultures of exploitation and its aftermath of trade, commerce and finance, at the victor's banquet board to invoice the assets and apportion the plunder, will not calm the storm, but increase its fury. The disbanding of armies and the incitement of an ignorant soldiery and an equally ignorant citizenry to deeds of violence against those who raise their voices against tyranny, oppression and murderous brutality, will not exorcise the ghost of retribution that persistently camps upon the trail of the callous and bloodthirsty class that still rules and robs the world. The frantic lying of the scurrilous press of the ruling class; the unblushing hypocrisy and deceit of its alleged statesmen and diplomats; the canting sophistry and hollow prayers of its priests; the utterly false teachings of its professors; the deliberate swindling of its economists and financiers, and, on top of it all, the ruthless use of the military and police powers of the ruling class State, will not still the furious elements nor bring peace to the troubled waters.

Nothing in the history of governments has been more unprincipled, impudent, vicious and intentionally destructive of all human liberty, than the orders-in-council, military service acts, war time election acts, espionage acts, and other similarly sinister federal edicts promulgated by the self-touted democracies of this western hemisphere since the breaking out of the ruling class family row in Europe in 1914. Never were more deadly blows struck at democracy. Never were more complete and sweeping repudiations of all liberty and democracy registered among nations. Not even in the black and bloody history of the British Isles—and candor compels the admission that it has been black and bloody enough—has anything ever been recorded to equal in infamy the "espionage act" in the U. S., or the "orders-in-council" wiping out and destroying the freedom of speech and press in Canada. The banning of scientific literature, much of which has been long and universally acknowledged to be of the utmost value, is a distinction in intellectual bankruptcy and vulgar reaction without other justification, that has been left to the brilliant statesmen at Ottawa, who hold their high office by virtue of their deliberately concocted "War Time Election Act," and not by the freely expressed will of the Canadian electorate. It is but fair to acknowledge that even the unscrupulous and brutal Kaiser of Germany and his autocratic school of "kultur," never put anything over that was any more viciously criminal and destructive of all liberty and democracy, than have our own precious political tools of the ruling class, on a continent may justly lay claim to being. In that, as in most everything else, this west is in the lead.

What a grand and harmonious chorus of deliberate lying is now rising full-throated from the kept-press prostitutes of our rulers and masters, in regard to world events, more especially as they appertain to the actions of the enslaved working class of the earth. Alongside of such achievements old Ananias himself belongs in the George Washington class of falsifiers. It is doubtful, it is much more than doubtful, if a single word of truth in regard to the so-called European Bolsheviki has intentionally found its way into the columns of the lying press of capitalism, since the Russian Revolution occurred. Although the term "Bolsheviki" means nothing more dangerous and dreadful than the "majority", and has been adopted to signify the majority faction in the Socialist movement of Russia, it has been magnified

and distorted into a word of terror by the defenders and stool pigeons of the ruling class, and is especially used to arouse the prejudice and incite the ignorance of the unthinking mob to deeds of violence against those who battle against autocracy, tyranny and oppression, and on behalf of real democracy and freedom. In loyal response to the incitement ignorant blackguards and cowardly ruffians answer the call and are acclaimed as heroic souls who spontaneously rose in defense of king and country and chastised the seditious. Any brutality and infamy may be safely pulled off at a moment's notice, provided it be done in the name of patriotism and its victims be accused of "sedition."

In spite of all efforts of the apologists and defenders of the present order, to justify its existence and bolster up its regime of slavery and rapine, its perpetuation becomes more and more impossible. It becomes more and more unsteady upon its legs. No sooner is the bloody deluge of war halted by an armistice and the certainty of peace assured, than there sets in a veritable financial and commercial delirium tremens that threatens to culminate in an industrial collapse, and bring our boasted civilization tumbling in ruins about our ears. Even the greatest financiers stand appalled at the impending bankruptcy of the capitalist world. The accursed thing that has grown from the shackling of the first slave and the rise of the first master, to the stupendous world-dominating and world-terrifying force that now so sorely afflicts the earth; the slave civilization that has made of the earth a shambles and a torture chamber for the last ten thousand years, has now become a veritable Frankenstein Monster, that is destined to destroy its creator by tumbling in one common ruin both the ruling class and its enginery of exploitation, slaughter and rapine.

Turn which way they will the rulers of all lands are faced with overwhelming disaster. They can neither maintain great standing armies nor yet disband them. To maintain them spells the swift completion of the bankruptcy that is already imminent; to disband them brings immediately in its train the greatest industrial collapse imaginable with its accompaniment of huge armies of unemployed, that are almost as costly and far more dangerous than armies of war. In either case bankruptcy and collapse will quickly ensue. The liquidation of slavery is inevitable; the maudlin and meaningless talk about "reconstruction"; the utterly impossible speculations about huge indemnities to be collected from enemies that are already bankrupt; the blind fury of the military maniacs and the insipid vacuity of the utterances of the alleged statesmen and ridiculous diplomats of these glorious days, heralds to the world that this slave civilization is already on the rocks of adversity and pounding to pieces under stress of a storm it can not weather. As the rotten old hulk has neither chart, compass nor rudder, and the crew can neither navigate nor swim, small wonder that signals of distress are being sent up and wiled calls for help are heard.

What is slavery? It is that social condition wherein one part of the population is robbed of that which it produces, by the other part of the population. Chattel slavery, feudalism, and the present so-called system of "free labor," are identical in that one respect. Under each the producers of wealth were robbed by their masters. Nothing was left to the producers beyond just sufficient upon the average to keep them in working condition. The slave was the cornerstone of civilization down to the collapse of the Roman Empire. Feudalism rose from the ruins of that Empire, and slavery was its cornerstone. The slave was termed a serf. Capitalism was born from the loins of feudalism, and the slave was, and still is, its cornerstone. The slave is now termed a free laborer or an independent producer, but he is none the less a slave. He is more completely and ruthlessly exploited than ever was chattel slave or feudal serf, for the gigantic industrialism of this age represents the very apex of the development of human slavery, the highest achievement in the exploitation of slaves for the profit and glory of their owners and masters. It represents the utmost that it has been possible to attain during the ten thousand or more years of the evolution of human slavery from its primitive beginnings to its now well nigh perfect state.

What is freedom? It is the opposite of slavery. It is that social condition wherein there is neither exploiter nor exploited, where there is neither robber nor robbed. It is the complete negation of all that exists under this civilization. It is the message of the Revolution. And that message will be delivered.

## CAPITALIST CIVILIZATION

IF WE are to believe what the spokesmen and apostles of the present order tell us, civilization has been saved from the forces of evil that sought to destroy it. It seems that while the death of one man upon the cross was all that was required to save humanity from paying the penalty of its transgressions and sins, it has cost the lives of more than ten million, the mutilation of probably twenty million more and the misery and agony of a countless multitude besides, to save this glorious civilization from the fell designs of a certain Mr. Hohenzollern, who, however, has thus been happily frustrated in his wicked purpose. Now, if it be true that this glorious civilization has been saved, it would perhaps be well to know what it has really been saved from, and for how long a period that salvation may be assured.

Capitalist civilization is the third stage in the evolution of human slavery, that form of human society that has followed in the footsteps of what has been termed barbarism. The first stage of that evolution is commonly referred to as chattel slavery. During that period the slave was owned openly and outright by the master, just like a horse, an ass, or an ox. For thousands of years that type of slavery and the civilization built upon it held sway. Its reign extended over practically all of the then known world. Great empires rose from the toil, sweat and agony of the cruelly-driven slaves of those times, and each in turn crumbled to decay. All fell to ruin through the corruption and rottenness bred from the foul crime of slavery upon which they were built. Human institutions, human society, a civilization based upon that parent of all lesser crimes, slavery, can be no less criminal than that from which they spring. That which is based upon crime cannot long survive. It will inevitably perish from its own poison and corruption if not sooner brought to its end by other means, it will eventually meet dissolution by its own hand if it be not otherwise destroyed. Practically the last trace of chattel slave civilization has long since passed away.

Let it be noted that the next succeeding form of slavery was not born from the womb of chattel slavery. It rose from the ruins of Roman civilization when that rotten old slave empire had fallen to complete decay. Out of the ruin and chaos eventually arose the new slavery, but between the downfall of the old and the birth of the new a considerable period elapsed, that is all but a blank in human history. The new slavery was not a child of the old, but was rather a resurrection of its spirit garbed in more deceitful habiliments. Though changed in outward appearance its essence was the same. The slaves were either trimmed of the result of their labor in times of peace or fed into the furnace of hell in times of war, by their overlords and owners, just as had been the lot of their predecessors the chattel slaves.

The second stage of slavery is known as feudalism. The slavery of the toilers was thinly camouflaged under the guise of being attached to the land and bound by ties of fealty to the lord thereof. Feudal serfs were not sold from hand to hand as were chattel slaves. They remained within their lord's domain, however, and were not allowed outside thereof without proper permission. Within that domain they were allowed certain privileges and so-called rights that were unknown to their chattel slave predecessors. But like the latter they were compelled to work for their feudal lord without payment therefor. Out of their unpaid toil and sweat the pomp and magnificence of feudal civilization was built. In time that stage of development of human slavery passed away and the era of capitalism followed. The late delightful ruling class family row in Europe, and which is perhaps not yet entirely finished, is but a part of the cleaning-up process that is sweeping away the surviving remnants of the old feudal regime that preceded capitalism. The mid-European survival of feudalism having been tumbled to ruins under the lusty strokes of the child of its own loins, practically clears the world stage of the last feudal rubbish, with the exception of an oriental remnant that is now courting the same fate. Capitalism is now supreme in so far as its erstwhile feudal parent is concerned. Capitalist civilization has thus been saved from being strangled by its wicked progenitor. All this talk about France and other allies having "found their souls" in the late bloodfest is pure nonsense, but they did at last find the requisite stranglehold to prevent the wicked parent from destroying its virtuous offspring.

It has been left to the third stage of slavery—capitalist civilization—to put the last and finishing touch to the art of exploiting slaves to the supreme limit. Alongside of the achievements in this line of the last hundred or so years, those of ancient

chattel slavery and the feudalism of the medieval age appear like the work of unskilled amateurs. Never before were such gigantic undertakings accomplished; never were such tremendous fortunes garnered; never were such magnificent and luxurious military spectacles of slaughter and rapine possible; never before was it within the power of the ruling class to recklessly and deliberately cast ten million slaves to the slaughter and cripple and damage probably twice as many more, without suffering any material loss. The highest efficiency of a civilization based upon human slavery is measured by the stern repression and exploitation of slaves in times of peace and their wholesale conscription and slaughter in times of war. Ruling class efficiency can be expressed in no other manner. The high-water mark of achievement in this line has easily been attained by the splendidly-efficient ruling class of this most glorious age. Never in all of its bloody history did a ruling class ever succeed in pulling off such a magnificent spectacle of blood, guts, gore and devastation as that staged during the past four years. And there is every reason why it should have been a grand spectacle for it represents all the knowledge the ruling class has been enabled to acquire during the last hundred centuries in the noble art of human butchery, rapine and devastation. It is a splendid display of the full flower and fruitage of a crime ten thousand years old. That countless millions of slaves could thus be made to go gallily forth to kill and be killed, for no more noble purpose than that of perpetuating their own slavery and incidentally composing the quarrels of their bloodthirsty and unscrupulous owners and masters, speaks volumes for the efficiency of the ruling class in training slaves to act as good slaves ought to act, when the word of command is spoken by authority. Under no form of slavery were the slaves more docile and well behaved than under capitalism, and at no period in history were they so productive of wealth and grandeur for their owners and masters. Especially is this true of the slaves of this western continent. All of which is no doubt due to the fact that their slavery is so completely camouflaged with the outward appearance of freedom that the slaves actually believe they are free indeed.

## WEALTH PRODUCTION UNDER CAPITALISM

THE SO-CALLED wealth of the world today is estimated in figures that are staggering in their magnitude. It is a common boast that the power to produce wealth has been multiplied many times within the last couple of centuries and that as compared to our forefathers of long ago we are infinitely better off in so far as obtaining the necessary things of life is concerned. In fact the history of the past, and more especially that of the last few centuries, is commonly spoken of by those who pass for the economic wiseacres of our time, as the story of the uplift of the human race from the penury of slow and laborious production of the things of life by the primitive methods once in vogue, to that lofty pinnacle of affluence that has now been reached through the advent of power-driven machinery and socially-organized labor into the productive processes. And, according to the wise ones, as the present capitalist system of property in slaves and driving of these slaves in production for the sole purpose of bringing gain into their owners and masters, the capitalists, grew out of the preceding, or feudal system of slavery, it logically follows that the next succeeding order of society must likewise grow out of the present one and carry on the glorious work of evolution and uplift of the race to still higher planes of civilization. It is particularly noticeable that almost without exception, if not entirely so, the advanced thinkers of the world along economic lines, look upon chattel slavery, feudalism and capitalism merely as evolutionary stages in the growth and development of the human race from the so-called savagery and barbarism of the past, to something infinitely higher and better in the perhaps dim beyond, and whether we term it Socialism or "Bolshevism" it must be based upon the method of production in vogue today, i.e., the giant industrialism of the capitalist regime. Lenin, the present head of the Russian Soviet Republic, has so stated the case quite recently, and no objection thereto has yet been heard.

There is one weakness that is universal among the sons of men, and that is to accept the average plausible statement as the gospel truth, and having learned to parrot it nicely, proceed to promulgate it as an indisputable fact. We are altogether too prone to parrot the conclusions of others rather than to be put to the bother of doing a little thinking on our own account. But, however, if we do thus fall into error and such error has eventually been disclosed to us either through our own efforts or by that of others, it is our

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first duty to acknowledge our mistakes and be henceforth more careful where we tread. He who takes the precaution to weigh most carefully the premises and conclusions of others before accepting them, will stand a much better chance of not getting lost in the fog and confusion that blind ignorance often stirs up around matters and problems that are in themselves quite simple.

Chattel slavery, feudalism and capitalism are, no doubt steps or stages of evolution, but it is the evolution of human slavery from the crude and simple to the efficient and complex. There is no clear connection between the two former stages, other than that they are in essence alike. As has already been mentioned, the one did not issue from the womb of its predecessor, but rose from its ruins and ashes at a considerable period after its dissolution. Capitalism, however, is the direct and legitimate child of feudalism, its foundations were laid in the bosom of the parent and the child came forth in due course and has carried forward the development of human slavery to what appears to be the very zenith of its growth and power. But that the evolution of slavery has anything to do with the attainment of freedom, except that it may sometime crumble to ruins because it can evolve no farther, as was evidently the case with the ancient slavery of Roman days, or be destroyed by a slave revolt and thus enable the race to regain its ancient freedom, is so ridiculous as to scarce be a matter for discussion. That a society of free people, call it Socialism or what we will, can be based upon the methods and mechanism of production that have been designed and brought into being solely for the purpose of exploiting slaves and erecting a ruling class empire of material substance out of the plunder, is, to say the least, a conception bordering upon the grotesque. Under any form of society based upon the exploitation of robbery of the wealth producers, every institution, whether economic, political, spiritual or educational must have for its life principle the same motive and purpose of that from which it springs. The method of industry must be made to conform to that purpose. Nothing which could in any manner lessen the slavery of its exploited victims and, thereby, enlarge their freedom, could be for a moment incorporated into the mechanism, methods, and institutions of such a civilization, for to do so would be equivalent to allowing that which would eventually nullify the very purpose of such a civilization and destroy it. Institutions, methods and mechanism of industry calculated to serve the purposes of a ruling class, cannot be made to conserve the interests of a society of free men. Slavery and freedom are direct opposites. The one is the complete denial and negation of the other. Consequently the institutions, of whatever character, the methods of industry, the very mechanism thereof, the morals, the ethics of the one, must be an equally complete denial and abnegation of the institutions, methods of industry, the morals and the ethics of the other.

Every institution in ruling class civilization, as well as that of civilization itself, is a complete denial of all liberty upon the part of the wealth producers of the world. Every institution, whether it be government itself, that institution into which all others merge, or those of power subsidiary thereto, is a complete denial of freedom and an emphatic affirmation of human slavery as the corner stone upon which they all rest. And this is no less true of the method and machinery of capitalist industry than of any of the balance of the paraphernalia of the grand process of ruling and robbing slaves. In every sense of the term wealth production under the present or capitalist regime is production carried on by enslaved human beings for the enrichment and aggrandizement of rulers and masters. Nothing is or can be produced under such a regime that does not in some manner conserve the interests of those rulers and masters and add to their power over their victims, the slaves. If perchance something, along educational lines for instance, does surreptitiously creep in, it is soon expelled by the censor. Not a mechanical device has been invented, adopted and incorporated into the industrial and murder mechanism of ruling class society since its birth, that did not add to the power of rulers and intensify the slavery and misery of their exploited victims. It has evidently been the mission of the capitalist era to bring the development of slaves by machinery to its highest possible stage of development. Let our revolutionists, who expect to base their Socialism upon the gigantic industrialism of today not overlook the fact that this industrialism, with all of its powerful and complicated machinery and methods, has been designed from its very inception for the specific purpose of exploiting slaves, and not for the purpose of emancipating them from their chains.

**PRODUCTION OF ESSENTIAL THINGS**

THE ESSENTIAL things of life, those things which are actually requisite to the comfort and welfare of every human being, and which must be forthcoming before the production and enjoyment of superfluous things may or can be realized, do not really constitute a very lengthy list.

Food, clothing, housing, household utensils and furniture and the tools and animals requisite for their maintenance pretty well cover the list. With the knowledge long since acquired by the human race of how to domesticate, breed and care for the useful animals, till the soil and convert its products into articles of domestic use, and with a suitable allotment of land upon which to operate, the matter of providing an ample and healthful living for the average family would be an extremely simple and easy matter, if it could be done without the family being compelled to surrender any part of its products to others who take no part in the production thereof. In other words, if the production of the essential things of life was carried on solely for the purpose of providing the producers thereof with those essential things, all that is or can properly be implied by the term human freedom would be realized. The freedom enjoyed by our primitive savage and barbaric ancestors, before the glorious institution of slavery was born, consisted solely of freedom from exploitation, which is but a polite way of saying, freedom from being robbed. Exploitation and robbery are synonymous terms, but the former is less shocking to the ears of the class that exists only by ruling and robbing slaves.

Now there is something that is strikingly peculiar to the production of the essential things of life, that seems to have been overlooked by the average student and observer of things economic, and that is, that there has been but little if any improvement in the production of such essentials during the last five hundred or more years. Of course the surface skimmer will immediately be thrown into high dudgeon at the assertion, but let him calm himself for a moment and make at least a cursory examination of the facts before passing judgment as to the sanity or otherwise of he who makes the assertion. It is a fact easily of demonstration that horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry, vegetables, fruits, etc., are not and cannot be raised by machinery. It is also a fact that the production of wheat, oats, rye, barley, corn, buckwheat, cotton, wool, leather, etc., is expeditious only to an insignificant extent through the application of machinery to the productive process, and it can be clearly proven beyond all reasonable doubt that with the application of machinery, the cost of production is increased rather than lessened. If the production of these essentials was carried on for use instead of for the present ruling class purpose, the use of complicated and costly machinery would be absolutely barred because of the tremendously increased cost of production that would result therefrom. As an illustration of the case in point the following may be of use.

Thirty-five bushels of wheat will considerably more than bread the average family for one year. In fact twenty-five bushels will amply suffice, but it is better to be sure than sorry. Thirty-five bushels is a small crop to be gathered from two acres of ground in any wheat country. To plow two acres of ground is an easy day's work for a man and team. The plow is a simple, and consequently cheap tool. It used to be made by the village blacksmith and it was never made more cheaply by any other means. To sow the seed and harrow it in, is about half a day's work, the seeding being done by hand and harrowed in with a horse or team. The harrow is a tool that can easily be made by the farmer himself without any cost other than perhaps an hour or two of his time. To reap and bind two acres of wheat with a cradle and a hand rake is two ordinary day's work for one man. To haul the crop into the barn would require a half day, and to thresh it with the flail, the threshing machine, used even unto this day in many parts of the earth, would require another two day's work. For six days labor the producer would have at least six barrels of flour, 600 lbs. of bran and shorts and two or three tons of straw for his stock, and that too after allowing for the grist miller's toll of one-eighth for grinding the wheat. The average wage slave cannot purchase that amount of flour alone in any part of this western continent at the present time for less than four or more week's wages. The farmer who is now producing wheat with the modern machinery in use, and sells his wheat and buys his flour, does not get off any easier, that is if he does his own work. If he hires slaves to do it for him he then, of course, passes it on to them. But the difference between the cost of raising wheat by the producer for his own use and by means of what are now termed out of date tools and methods, and the cost of flour when produced by the capitalist method tells the whole tale of the economy that has really resulted from the application of capitalist machinery and methods to that line of production. And what is true in regard to the production of wheat and flour is also true of practically all of the essential things of life.

A pound of anything like good woolen yarn will cost in Vancouver today from three to four dollars, and a yard of men's suitings of first quality will cost close up to ten dollars. Just what the producer of wool got for his product the past season is carefully hidden from view, but it is a safe bet that he did not average fifty cents per lb. And yet the old time weaver with hand card, spinning wheel and loom, would have soon accumulated a fortune could he have gotten

**RUBAIYAT OF LOST CONTENT**

Sitting at eve within my desert tent,  
Mine eyes on ancient lore and legend bent;  
There came upon the air a mellow song,  
A song of love and wine and merriment.

A hermit I no more will dwell I thought;  
So love's abode with joyous steps I sought;  
But love would none of me, for I  
Nor name, nor fame, nor wealth had brought.

Then to the distant palace haste I made,  
And at the Sultan's service placed my blade;  
And by brave deeds and noble struggle won  
Fame, favor, wealth—all I assayed.

Love then again I sought and spent  
My days and nights with mirth and merriment;  
Until full fed with love and pleasure, I  
Again bethought me of my desert tent.

But now my tent is ragged and my lore  
And legend old—by which such store  
I set—is stale and musty, and the  
wilderness  
Has lost its solitary charm of yore.

So now where is love, laughter, wine  
and merriment?  
And where is wealth, where fame and  
whither went?  
And where the wise philosophy of other  
days,  
Now to requite me for my lost content?  
—D. G. McKenzie.

but one quarter of the difference between fifty cents and ten dollars for converting each pound of wool into a yard of cloth. It is no doubt true that a modern textile mill can turn out a much greater quantity of cloth in a given length of time with a given number of employees than could be turned out by a similar number of hand spinners and weavers, but it should not be forgotten that the present method of producing cloth and other things entails the services of a vast number of slaves outside of those directly employed in the cloth mills and other factories. A vast number are involved in the making of the machinery and the transportation and handling incidental to the factory processes. If all the labor that is involved in the making of cloth is counted in it would no doubt be made plain why the cost per yard is greater than it was in the days when its production was merely a hand process. At least in so far as the production of the essential things of life are concerned the introduction of machinery into the process has had the opposite effect to that of economy.

It is a perfectly safe conclusion that there has as yet been no way devised by man whereby the essential things of life; food, clothing, shelter, etc., can be more easily and cheaply obtained by the producer than by confining himself to the production of that which is necessary to satisfy his own needs and that of his family, and doing so by the use of only such tools and implements as he may be able to operate with his own hands. At no period in human history has the producer so easily supplied himself with these essentials as he did before slavery was born and machinery invented. While it is true that a man could dig up the ground and plant potatoes to better advantage with a spade and hoe than he could with a sharp stick, it is by no means true that he could still further improve upon his methods by equipping himself with a steam plow and a high power potato planter, that is if his purpose was to raise spuds for his own use. It would cost far more labor to thus equip himself than it would to raise all the potatoes he would require during a lifetime. And so it is with all other essential production. The amount of labor required, that is provided the laborer be not robbed, in order to produce all the essential things for himself and family is so small, that he can ill afford to expend a greater amount of labor in providing himself with tools and machines that can only make his task the harder. Just who invented the term "labor saving" for the machines of capitalist exploitation is not known, but he at least must have possessed a certain sense of humor. He evidently knew the peculiar psychology of the slave, and fully realizing his overmastering propensity to absolutely believe the impossible and the false, Lows and machinery invented. While it is rather that the possible and the true, our inventor dubbed his contraption a "labor saver" which it is not, rather than a labor waster which it usually is. The real purpose of machinery and the part it plays in the capitalist empire of plunder, magnificence and slaughter, is not generally understood.

According to press dispatches there is great alarm among the "constructive elements," the "upper classes," in Siberia over the possible withdrawal of Allied troops from that country in the spring or summer. "Prominent men of many shades of political opinion declare there will be a carnival of murder" inaugurated as soon as the Allied troops are gone. "War of extermination between the upper classes and the Bolsheviks" is predicted. It will not be difficult to specify the various "shades of political opinion" among the affrightees. There will be a few land barons of the regular German type, though they will probably have dropped the "von." The 400 of them who were very carefully conveyed by the British navy from Riga to Denmark not long since, did drop it anyhow, although it is to be supposed they are still Germans and of course alien enemies, saved by the British from the bad Bolsheviks. Then there will be found a comparatively small number of that bargain-hunting, profit-hungry tribe of vermin known as bourgeoisie—some of them big and some of them little, or as the French would say, petty. A joblot of monarchists of the old Czarist regime and everybody ought to know by this time what sort of vermin they are. The balance of the "shades of political opinion" will no doubt consist of generals without armies the ragtag and bobtail of old Romanoff's military circus and bawdy show. That would constitute about all there could be of the opposition to the Bolsheviks, the working people and the peasants. A war of extermination between the two would indeed be an interesting sight. But what would be far more interesting would be to see what the "upper classes" of these varying "shades of political opinion" would live on in case they should exterminate the Bolsheviks. Could lice live upon the carcass of that which they had killed, or otherwise exterminated? Hardly. Lice, human and trench, live and thrive on live animals, not dead ones.

Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler is credited with saying, in a speech at New York recently, that "under the Bolshevik system neither the man who works nor the man who has saved can expect any quarter unless he accepts the degrading, anarchistic doctrine that might makes right and that the least competent shall organize the government and set the pace for the state." Butler is president of Columbia University, one of the most noted brain-embalming institutions in the U. S. As the learned Dr. in thus accusing the Bolsheviks has very accurately described the basis upon which the state of the present is built and has also with equal accuracy described the personnel of the state, and has done all of that evidently without knowing it, we beg to suggest that in case the "Bolshevik system" wins out he should stand a very good chance of being appointed to "organize the government and set the pace for the state." He clearly shows that he possesses all the requisite qualifications.

It may be remembered that one of the happy results of the recent fracas in Europe is that "France found her soul" in the great conflict. At least it was so affirmed by numerous writers and loquacious jawsmiths who were there at the time and supposed to be in the know. Late developments at the peace congress confirm the find, and also disclose the interesting fact that when "France found her soul" it was discovered to be wrapped up in the Russian loan. Hence her ill feeling against the Bolsheviks.

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# The Sole Function of Government

By DR. W. J. CURRY

Many well-informed people consider government synonymous with social administration, and any suggestion of a community of people without the strong arm of the law, the policeman's club and the judge and jailer, at once calls up a vision of mad anarchy and destruction.

So much for training and education fostered for generations by the agents of that class whose very existence depends on a perverted mentality and a distrust of human nature and the laws of life and happiness.

That sin which the same privileged class teaches through their theological agents to be the first and greatest, is "disobedience" and they tell us that the cause of all death and suffering was through disobedience and the desire on the part of Eve "to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge." For ages privilege through its priests, editors and teachers, have taught the masses the slave virtues of obedience, contentment, diligence and humility, from the cradle to the grave. Is there any wonder we are afraid of the light?

Our race has been governed so long and so thoroughly that some who even read this will be shocked at the ideas here expressed. Free thought even today is something to shun, and free thinkers are objects of suspicion in the opinion of our "best citizens." Government and social administration, although intimately associated, are nevertheless distinct functions, and we will have more of the latter as we have less of the former. "He governs best who governs least," and under true democracy government, as we understand it, will be conspicuous by its absence. But there will be social service and co-ordination and even force to protect society from vicious and reactionary individuals or classes. Any attempt to administer socially, to run institutions such as industrial schools humanely, or to enforce prohibition acts honestly, must fall today, more or less.

Humanity and honesty cannot grow out of a system based on fraud and force, cannot be administered by a class or by officials supporting such a system.

"Men do not gather grapes or thorns or figs of thistles" under British Imperialism and universal wage slavery any more than they did under the chattel slavery of Imperial Rome. Christmas carols may be sung by white-robed choirs, insipid and pharisaical sermons may be preached by modern priests whose intentions may be excellent, but there can be no peace or brotherhood on earth until the government of a parasite class is overthrown and administration by the useful members of society takes place.

The lower animals, not possessing the divine attribute of reason, cannot be molded by precept, as we are, and the difference between a herd of wild horses, clean and strong, with flowing manes and lustrous eyes, galloping joyfully over the plains, and the dull and broken pack mule, or spavined stage hack, is government, and that alone.

Government is the science of coercion, or of persuading people and animals to do what they would naturally object to and what nature and the laws of life and happiness forbid.

Rulers imply subjects, and subjection and the effects of ruling class education are evidenced every time an assembly of loyal and respectable citizens is about to disperse.

No known animals would willingly submit to subjection, proving that Darwin's theory of the descent of man is more than a theory, and it is owing to our brain power that we have in some respects descended so far from our prehuman ancestors.

The wild horse resists capture and servitude. The North American Indian preferred death to slavery. Both rulers and subjects of all the great empires of antiquity, such as Babylon, Egypt and Rome, sickened and died through government and exploitation, just as the industrial classes of today, the people of the slums, the workers in the sweat shop, are today declining, and just as this civilization is sick unto death through war, famine, toil, disease, prostitution and government. Consider the fine types of men and women, the Maori of New Zealand and the Zulus of South Africa were, before civilization, with its white man's burden, came and destroyed them. Fifty years ago the Hyda Indians of Queen Charlotte Islands were steadily advancing upward; today their villages are almost deserted. The women are mostly prostitutes and the few men who are left are even more pitiable subjects of disease and exploitation than the white workers.

### Government Only Means to An End.

Our barbarian ancestors did not capture wild horses, cattle and hogs merely for the sake of ownership,

but in order that they might serve and supply food, and these animals were the slaves of men even before certain wise men discovered that the lash and club could also be used on the backs of men and women, to force them also to toil and to deliver to the wielder of the lash the products of their labors. And thus was born government and the powers of state.

There were neither classes nor individuals to blame for this. Slavery was a necessary stage in social evolution, and therefore, good in its way, and the various stages of exploitation and government have to be traversed ere men knew enough to enslave the forces of nature and to make it possible to free the bodies and minds of all from toil and poverty. Today we have reached that point. Man has been enslaved through his intellect, through his ability to comprehend the ideas of others, and this is the power that will ere long make him free.

What the police, the judge and jailer are to the body, the theologian teacher and editor are to the mind. We have been told that Christianity must be divine, for it is so universal. By the same rule many very desirable institutions of society must also be divine. The fact is that religion is one of the greatest auxiliaries of government and exploitation. It possesses enormous economic value to the masters. If horses and cattle could understand as we do and were taught as our children are taught, there would be little need of fences or tethers. Christianity followed or preceded our industrial systems to all lands for the same reason that traders, politicians, judges, jailers, teachers and editors did, because of their value to property rights. No ruling class could long rule through physical force alone.

We must, however, remember that conventional Christianity is not that social gospel of communism taught by the Nazarene, for which he was hanged for treason by the authorities of Rome, but it is rather that type founded by Paul, the Roman citizen, an endorser of slavery and slave virtues. Paul's commands were "inspired" by ruling class interests, and through them Christianity became the state religion of Rome. They are even today worth millions of clubs, bayonets and penitentiaries in keeping the harness on the back of labor and in protecting property. "Slaves obey your masters and be content with your wages." Even Canadian statesmen and the B. C. Electric will subscribe to that faith. "Servants be subject to your masters." No wonder that in many countries the church is directly supported by the state, and that the clergy so largely controls the institutions of learning. No wonder that Rockefeller and Morgan, and the ex-kaiser are devout Christians and support home and foreign missions.

### Social Injustice Makes Government Essential

Government is today indispensable. When a minute fraction of the population owns most of the nation's wealth and controls the means of life of nations, when the masses are never free from toil and poverty, the powers of the state to protect property and the owners of property are imperative.

Anarchy must result when government is abolished in a social system based on exploitation. It is simply a stampede of famished and enraged cattle into the green fields after the fence has been thrown down.

Why do we not have a policeman to keep order and prevent theft in our homes? Because there is usually an equality and fraternity there. The weaker children are not abused and starved, but are accorded special care and protection.

On two occasions I spent some weeks in Barkerville, up the Cariboo Road. There were several hundred people in that town, four saloons open day and night, no preacher, and one policeman with nothing to do and the jail empty. No one ever locked their doors in those days. Why was this? There was no poverty or real struggle for existence there at that time. The men all worked in the placer mines at good wages, there were no rich, and no drones, although conditions were far from ideal, yet human nature had a chance. The people were kindly and peaceable as people naturally are.

All normal men and women love love, and hate hate, and the discord and hate and hell today rampant in our "glorious Christian civilization" is because the law of the jungle still prevails in human relationships. At one time not long ago in countries such as Germany or Turkey, for instance, one was in danger of being arrested for treason, for even diagnosing, as I am, the case of society and tracing the symptoms back to the cause. Because in these countries especially the real traitors to humanity con-

trol the situation and rule through ignorance and brute force. Of course we have none of that in Canada or the U. S. A.

Some of us are proud of our Imperialism, but how do empires grow, except by invasion and annexation? Does the lamb ever ask to be devoured by the wolf? Are the weaker nations ever consulted in the matter by those empires which love them even as a lion loves a lamb? A few weeks ago our daily press, always true to its master's interests, lauded the idea that the gift of self-government would soon be bestowed upon portions of British India. Just think of the unconscious humor of the situation. A similar privilege will some day be granted Ireland, and it is now being thrust upon Russia, which apparently preferred to do without class government, having had about enough of the old one.

It now appears that through economic stress and the rising of Labor throughout the world the great crisis of class government is at hand.

It appears that when peace is declared the returned soldier will demand a settlement from those who made and managed the war and stayed at home to make money.

What will happen to the labor market when millions cease producing munitions and come home from the battle field?

Here is where social administration must replace government.

It looks as if privilege and profits must go down, and production for use and self-government begin.

That self-government will not be granted by an exploiting class as a gift to shackle the brain and blind the understanding of Labor, but will be a victory won by the united powers of the common people in the great class struggle now approaching its culmination.

Only through this can the establishment of true democracy and permanent peace be secured.

### CONFIDENTIAL CHAT

In Vancouver alone 2110 copies of the first issue of The Star were actually sold by Circulation Manager Michaelson. This besides a fairly representative mailing list sent out under the handicap of no newspaper mailing privileges—as yet, though application was made to the Ottawa authorities two weeks ago.

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### Socialism and Republicanism

[Toronto Daily Star]

One of our correspondents disagrees with us as to the manner of dealing with the social-democrats. We say that their opinions do not constitute a crime, and ought not to be the cause of criminal prosecutions. He says they commit a crime in trying to force their opinions on the people of the world. Very well, if they try to use physical force they will be met with the physical force of the State. But they have a perfect right to advocate their opinions, right or wrong, and to try to persuade others to join them in bringing about the economic changes they desire. Their platform does not advocate physical force.

Our correspondent thinks the socialists have designs upon the king, and would overthrow the monarchy and substitute a republic. There is no republican plank in their platform, and it could be carried out just as well under a monarchy as a republic. Besides advocating the abolition of capitalism they stand for reduction of hours of labor, elimination of child labor, universal suffrage, the initiative, the referendum, and the right of recall.

There is more socialism and more free expression of socialist opinion in monarchical England than in the American republic. There is more radical legislation in Australia and New Zealand than in the United States. Socialists aim at economic rather than political changes, and

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