



# Goodwin's Weekly

## EDITORIALS

At last the authorities have been aroused to action. The government itself has finally decided to take a hand in the suppression of the I. W. W. agitation. It is late in the day to undertake to deal with the menace but in this instance it is better late than

never. Now that Uncle Sam has started to smoke the vermin out of their holes, it is to be hoped that he does a thorough job of it. No effort or expense should be spared to run the outlaws to earth and no mercy should be shown when they are apprehended. If this nation is to survive it must first put its own house in order. This requires summary action—it may even require some wholesale shooting before the evil is effectually stamped out; but whatever course is pursued, all good citizens will stand solidly behind the government.

It has become apparent that the propagandists have infinitely more in mind than simply to paralyze the industries of the country at this particular time. The sinister scheme which they are hatching out has for its ultimate object the overthrow of the government and the institution of a reign of terror. Certain of their literature has recently come to our attention and reveals their utter contempt for personal and property rights. Much as they would seem to oppose war on the grounds of "conscience," their damnable creed in reality contemplates militant action whenever they deem that the time has come to strike.

For instance, one of their pamphlets states that the I. W. W. "aims to get the results sought with the least expenditure of time and energy. The tactics used are determined solely by the power of the organization to make good their use." This writer also goes on to say that "the question of 'right' and 'wrong' does not concern us." Another quotes W. D. Haywood as saying: "I hope to see the day when we lock the bosses out and run the factories ourselves. That is our program and we will do it."

A third pamphlet threatens that when the crisis comes there will be "a general 'help yourself' on the part of the workers." A fourth speaks of the day when "not a wheel shall move on any railroad, not a bit of machinery shall be run in any mill, factory, or smelter, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Great Lakes to the Gulf, until it is understood distinctly by the people of America that the tools belong of right to the workers of the nation." And still another writer prophesies the advent of a universal strike when the workers will "remain within the industrial institutions and lock the owners out for good."

But the most vicious publication of all that has come to our attention is a pamphlet called "The Crack of Doom, or the Fall of Capitalism." Herein one reads the damaging doctrine that "no worker or set of workers in any craft or branch of an industry can make a contract with an employer which he must consider sacred." Then note this threat: "When the workers who make the great industries possible get ready for action they will no longer beg for some master to give them enough to live on, but will take what belongs to them."

In view of the foregoing disclosures it is not at all surprising that the country is alarmed over the outlook. We have just reason for feeling disturbed, for the enemy that has been unearthed from within is more deadly than the foe that besets us from without. And the most damaging feature of the whole situation is that the poison has permeated the ranks of many of the so-called "legitimate" labor organizations. The authorities assure us that while they propose to deal vigorously with the I. W. W. agitators, they will make a clear distinction between them and the legitimate labor organizations. In

many instances, we fear, they will find this a distinction without a difference. Also we fear that unless the government succeeds in bringing the rank and file of labor to its senses without further delay, we will soon hear the crack of doom.

\* \* \*

### BLOOD WILL TELL.

IN view of the universal failure of the volunteer system to fill the ranks of the army and the hundreds of thousands of exemptions that have been claimed under the draft system, it is somewhat surprising to learn that the "lawless mountaineers" of eastern Kentucky have proved the single exception to the rule. Those two counties, "Bloody Breathitt and Lee," have so long defied the revenue officers of the government, and bred so many bitter feuds, as to be generally regarded as being altogether outside the pale of law and order and utterly lacking in the rudiments of good citizenship. Nevertheless, we are told that the fighting men of these two counties responded so nobly to the country's call for volunteers that no draft will be necessary in either one.

At first blush it seems difficult to account for this unusual situation. That these notorious "moonshiners" should outstride all other Americans in rushing to the defense of the colors is indeed a sad commentary on the loyalty of the average citizen. And still, come to think of it, there has never been any lapse in their patriotism. None did more than they to force the frontier westward in the early days. They fought like fury in the French and Indian war. They had no superiors, and few equals, in the Revolutionary war, and it was in this conflict that the sharp reports of their muskets gained them the name of "crackers." They served with distinction in the War of 1812 and the Civil War produced no finer fighters. The mountaineers of eastern Kentucky were also among the very first to volunteer for service in Cuba in '98. And so, in view of this splendid record of service, stretching as it does without a break over a period of two and a half centuries, it is not strange that they should respond once more when their country calls to them.

In recent years it has been the custom of certain writers to color their compositions by referring to these simple mountain folk as the only pure-blooded American stock now remaining upon the continent. This furnished most interesting reading, but few there were who gave the matter a second thought. Still when one reflects upon their characteristics, they seem to possess more of the marked traits of the old stock than any other type of American today. Their vices spring from ignorance and not from intention and, taken as a whole, they display far more of virtue than of vice. They have certainly preserved many of the fine old traditions of the early days. They are deeply religious; hold women in high regard; deal honestly with each other and are genuinely hospitable to strangers. They hate sham and are the natural foes of aristocracy and autocracy. Simple-minded as children in some ways—and criminals many times, in the eyes of the law—they have nevertheless demonstrated time and again their capacity to rise to the heights when the opportunity is afforded them.

These rough mountaineers have long had our sympathy, and sometimes our censure; we who have been closely associated with the advance of modern "civilization." Who knows but that we might learn much from a closer study of these simple people. Certainly they are pointing the way in the present crisis. We can at least afford to emulate their transcendent Americanism in these trying times. Lincoln came from these people. What more need one say?