THE LABOR WORLD

WILLIAM E. McEWEN, PUBLISHER.

Advertising Rates Made Known on Application.
Entered at Postoffice at Duluth, Minn., as Second-class Matter.

LABOR DAY, 1918, OFFICIAL NUMBER.

"WIN THE WAR FOR FREEDOM"

Published under the auspices of the Federated Trades Assembly and the Union Labor Pavilion Association of Duluth.

Endorsed by the Trades and Labor Assembly of Virgnia, Minn.

Published Every Saturday.
Established in 1896 by Sabrie G. Aitkin.

Business Office
Suite 610 Manhattan Building, Duluth, Minn.

Subscriptions.

One Year in advance	$1.00
Six Months in advance	.50
Three Months in advance	.25

Single Copies 2 Cents.

THE PLEDGE OF AMERICAN LABOR.

On this Labor day, the day on which America gives formal pause to her endeavors to pay homage to her sons of toil, through whose creative energy the great machinery of her industries is evolved and guided, we, the working people of America, make this declaration to our native land:

We are engaged in a great war for the presenvation of our democratic institutions and for all the opportunities that lie only in democracy.

In this great struggle we know no cause but our nation's cause, we know no allegiance but to America.

We value above everything the Liberty for which America stands and we declared that no sacrifice is too great for the safeguarding of that Liberty.

We pay high tribute to the valiant American army in France and it is our great pride that thousands in that army have come from our own ranks.

We, in the work places of America, constitute the industrial army of our land and we know full well the importance of this service. We know full well, also, the honor and dignity and responsibility of this service.

We declare it to be our inflexible purpose to so order our conduct that our service may be of the highest value to our nation at war and we hold it to be a fixed principle that conduct which cannot be justified to our brothers on the firing line is intolerable and cannot be condoned.

We set above life itself the cause for which America has entered this war, and we proclaim our condemnation of all men and agencies which set themselves in the way of our course of victory.

We declare that the cause of America is the cause of humanity everywhere and that he who obstructs the defense of this cause by word or act is traitor to humankind.

We, the working people of America, on this Labor day, renew our pledge and covenant to humanity, for the everlasting freedom of humanity through the institutions of democracy made safe from encroachment.

WHAT THE CRITICS OVERLOOK.

A number of "highbrow" critics and "interpreters" of organized labor have been busying themselves a good bit of late pointing out what they believe are points on which American organized labor differs with organized labor in other countries, notably Great Britain.

These "highbrows" deem it highly important, it seems, to make much of every point of difference—or every point on which they THINK there is difference of opinion.

Of course, most of this criticism leads these "highbrows" to conclude that American labor is all wrong. That which is far away looks very good to these critics.

But the important thing, remembering that this is war time, is to find the points on which the various organized labor movements are IN AGREEMENT.. Upon that point these "highbrow" critics have been silent. For that reason their criticism is not helpful and tends to cast doubt over the motives back of the criticism.

Let us point out this fact: The overwhelming majority of organized labor in every nation now at war with Germany IS AGREED UPON WAR AIMS. That is the big, central fact. Perhaps critics with much perpendicular skull wall don't care a great deal about that fact; but it is the biggest fact in the whole education.

ALLIED LABOR IS AGREED ON WAR AIMS!

Allied labor knows what it wants done to Germany—to Prussianism, junkerism, militarism, satanism.

President Wilson's war aims fill the bill for allied labor, with the exception of minorities that have no power to fix policies or determine action—little, ineffective, disjointed minorities.

THERE IS UNITY ON THE BIG, MAIN POINT!

And the critic of labor who, from an atmosphere of serene detachment spills upon a helpless public his yards of lofty "analysis" and "interpretation" and "explanation" showing how this labore movement doesn't agree with that one on some abstraction or other, and doges a statement of the absolute unity of tht great, overwhelming mass of labor on the chief point of all—well, what about that person? Has he any right to the confidence of anybody? He has not. He is not helping America's cause.

WHAT IS THIS WE SEE HERE?

The "Workers' Liberty Defense League," which does not represent the workers, is not fighting for Liberty, and is not a league, has held a conference in which orators of various types spent much time in bewailing what it termed a passing of the workers' rights at home.

This precious league is angry at "wholesale and unfounded prosecutions" under the espionage act and rails at all other attempts to bring pro-German propagandists to the end of their mischievous ways.

Recently, according to representatives o fthe American Alliance for Labor and Democracy, labor officials in Detroit stated that a man claiming to represent this alleged league appeared in Detroit asking Detroit labor to indorse the alleged league and to contribute money to it, stating that the New York Central Federated Union had voted its indorsement of the organization. According to the alliance, Secretary Bohm of the New York Central Federated Union denies that any such indorsement was ever voted, or is likely to be.

As far as can be leared, the "Workers' Liberty Defense League" which is attempting to carry on a propaganda of criticism of the United States government, is merely another name for the collection of pacifists, pro-Germans and irreconcilables who composed the notorious and now defunct people's council. All that is necessary to say is that if the working people understand what this new organization is they will attend to the route it shall travel. No organization that does not help America win the war can claim to be defending liberty and get away with it.

MORE LIGHT ON THE KAISER.

More light on the kaiser and his plottings and ambitions is shed by former Ambassador Jayne Hill, writing of his experiences at the Hun court in Harper's. Dr. Hill's ambassadorship began in 1908 and it is of that period he writes when he gives us this illuminating passage:

"Nothing can be more certain than that William II earnestly desired to maintain friendship with the United States, but he did not wish the American system to gain a foothold in Europe, or that international relations should be made to rest upon a body of well-defined law and a tribunal with authority to interpret and apply it. Such a system would inevitably, in time, if logically carried out, diminish the necessity for armies, and what would then become of the war loard? If the people—manufacturers, shipowners and traders, doing business internationally—could carry their wrongs to a court of justice, it could not fail to affect the status of kings and emperors as well as of armies and navies."

So it is. When democracy comes in kings go out. When the people rule individual despots have no power.

The kaiser didn't want international relationships to rest upon treaties that would have to be respected. He didn't want international affairs to be determined by clear-cut, well-defined law. He wanted them to rest upon the whim of an autocrat, he being that autocrat! He wanted to keep on being an autocrat!

If there could be no wars THERE COULD BE NO WAR LORDS!

When the war lord made this war he thought he was perpetuating this war lord business—making safe the institution of autocracy.

But the free people of the world have willed otherwise. They have had to accept the war lord's gauge of battle in order that war lordism may be crushed. By his own methods will the autocrat be vanquished forever.

The war lord feared popular institutions, hated freedom for the people, fought to retain his mastery and his position. Now all is in the fire. And the white-hot rage of civilization is burning up the whole hated business. He ordered his hosts to attack Liberty and Liberty has sounded for him the crack of doom.

The kind of government that makes of one man master and the rest slaves must give way to the kind that makes all men free and that gives all men equal opportunity for individual development and growth.

When Dr. Hill first met the kaiser the Hun chieftain was in shining white armor, like an operatic hero. But the rust is on his trappings and the fury of the world is sweeping them and the hideous thing they symbolize into oblivion. In the dust from whence they came they shall be buried.

"He did not wish the American system to gain a foothold in Europe," says Dr. Hill. His retreating armies bear testimony to the death of his hopes.

SOCIALIST CYNICISM.

"Most of us are under indictments, so how are we to be scared into modifying the St. Louis platform?"—Victor L. Berger, in statement quoted in newspapers following conference in Chicago of Socialist party officials and leaders.

There has been some talk to the effect that the Socialist party would like to get out from under the stigma of the St. Louis platform. There has been some talk to the effect that the party no longer holds belief in the St. Louis platform, though it remains the official platform.

Now we have seen some evidence that such is not the case. We have seen a conference of Socialist party state secretaries—men who surely know party sentiment in their states—deliberately elect to stand by the outrageous St. Louis platform.

And the cynical Austrian-born Victor Berger says, in effect, "They have indicted us; they can't scare us any further, so why should we change our position?

This, surely, is Teutonic!

We are to believe from Victor Berger that if the Socialist party could be sufficiently scared by dire threats it might change front. But inasmuch as this country doesn't resort to the brutality of Prussia, but is a rather tolerant place, they'll go on stabbing it in the back.

Victor Berger tells us that the Socialist party operates on a basis of what it can "get away with." It will climb porches as long as it is allowed to, which is much different from the description of Socialist party methods that we used to get when there was no war and when Victor Berger was a congressman boasting of his intimacy with Washington officialdom.

War is bringing out a lot of truths that unsuspecting folk didn't use to dream of!

WE'RE SOLDIERS ALL FOR LIBERTY.

You're a soldier in the cause of Freedom, whether you wear blue overalls or olive drab.

You're a soldier on your job. Every morning you can say, "This day I do the best work I know how for my country's cause, for what I do here makes it possible for the men to fight in France."

You're a soldier when you take home your pay envelope. Every week you can say, "This week I put every cent I can spare into Thrift Stamps, for Thrift Stamps help to pay the cost of fighting the fight which is my fight and the fight of every other American.

You're a soldier three times a day when you sit down to your meals. You can say, "This is my chance to help. I will follow the rules of the food administration, wise rules which are made to give plenty to us all and too little to none, here or among our allies."

You're a soldier when you're talking with your fellows. You can say, "In my conversation my words shall be words of strength to our cause, of faith in our nation and its purpose and of confidence in our righteousness and in our democracy."

While this war lasts we are ALL soldiers. Let us live like soldiers, serving our country like soldiers, glad and proud that we can so serve.

LEARN TO GET ALONG WITHOUT SUGAR.

It has been done before. A hundred years ago refined sugar was unknown. Our ancestors used honey and you can use honey also. Besides there are syrups. The natural sugars of fruits will serve today as they did centuries ago. You will get all the sugar you need in this way. The allies do it now. England, which before the war used more sugar than we did, has but two pounds per head per month now; France one and a half pounds, and Italy only one. Show yourself a patriotic American and use less than your ration. This is but a slight sacrifice as compared with all that the allies are doing. Do it yourself.

THE GROANING BOARD GETS A REST.

Farmers' Grange at Medina, Ohio, has resolved to eliminate all between-meal eating at farmers' gatherings, in order that the food supply maye be conserved.

This indicates that the farmers are deserting the "groaning board" which has been proverbial at their gatherings.

In a number of cases labor has taken the stand. And it is well.

While the war lasts let useless feeding cease.

If you like the Labor World and it appeals to you, why not place your name on our subscription list?

AMERICA'S NEW SPIRIT RECOGNIZED.

"Desiring to act in full accord with the officials of the national government," says the Washington (D. C.) Railway and Electric company is assigning the reason for recognizing the right of its employes to organize. That and "because of the conditions brought about by the war."

This is about as frank an admission as there has been of the new spirit that has come to America. The age of brutal refusal of fundamental rights to working men and women has passed. If there remain here and there fringes of the old spirit it means that only the ragged edge is left. The body of that old philosophy is dead.

And it is good. Fighting for freedom, as we are, we must recognize the true principles of freedom in our dealings one with the other at home. And it is in that spirit of recognition that we as a nation are able now to attain to the zenith of our power. It is in that spirit that America is able to show the world such a united front, such a oneness of spirit, such an adamant determination.

The announcement of the Washington Railway and Electric company is a tribute to the vision of the national administration, and a tribute to the spirit of America as a nation—a tribute because it is recognition of the inevitable.

"COMING THROUGH" WITH THE COAL.

President Wilson's appeal to the coal miners will not fall on deaf ears for two reasons:

First, the coal miners of America are in full accord with the American people in determination to carry the war to victory.

Second, they know that without a sufficient coal production there can be no full speed in the rest of the war machinery.

The miners will read with satisfaction that portion of the President's appeal calling upon the mine operators to provide working conditions fair to all, for they will know that under proper conditions only can they have the opportunity to provide full production.

That's all the miners want—the opportunity to throw full weight into the task of winning the war. It's all any worker wants.

And he wants that opportunity because he feels it his right to have the chance to make his own effort for Liberty and democracy count at 100 per cent.

The President will not be disappointed in the coal miners of the United States.

They'll "dig in!"

LET YOUR FACE SO SHINE

Out in Virginia City, Nev., there is an ancient Chinese storekeeper, Chung Kee by name, who for 40 celestial years has been one of Nevada's notably happy men. Good days and bad, you will find him sitting at his receipt of custom, and smiling on all comers like some time-worn but kindly Budha. He has made little money. Or what he has made he has given away again, or lost to debtors who wouldn't pay. And never has anyone been able to persuade him to get out an attachment for even the worst of them. Evidently he had some sort of philosophy. But just what it was, people wondered. And when, a few months ago, the town was to say goodby, with the proper ceremonies, to the thirteen young men of its first draft—who were also, almost all of them, on old Chung's books—people wondered, too, what would be done about that?

This is what he did: When, in his turn he walked down the line to say goodby, for each of the thirteen he was holding a $5 gold piece in his hand. And later he explained:

"Why I do that? 'They alla samee good boy.' They no want hurt me. I not goin' hurt them. All my life I neveh hurt nobody. That why, alla samee my face she shine. Bad fella', always you know him. Why? Alla same his face she don't shine. I'm prett' old man. 'Pree' soon I gotta go die. An' I want my face be alla samee shinin' when I'm dead.

There you have it. You can make money unfairly out of war if you want to. Its always been done. But next time you do, go and take a look at yourself in the mirror and see if you can find the shine. And while you are making your blood money, there are those dying today in Flanders and Picardy—yes, and those who are only able to fight the good fight here in America—whose faces are going to shine forevermore.—Baltimore Trade Unionist.

DO-AND-DARE-ABLE YANKS!

They walk through barrages as if they were rain;
They rush through the rivers pell-mell,
And the terrified Huns drop their jaws and their guns
At the sound of that wild, western yell.
In vain the machine guns spit hatred and death,
They keep coming up on the hop;
They have learned how to fight an offensive all right,
But neglected to learn how to stop.
Like so many wildcats just out of the woods,
They fall on the enemy's flanks—
The savage and terrible,
Wholly unscarable,
Fierce, do-and-dare-able
Yanks!

They walk through barrages as if they were rain;
They often forget to salute;
They're a little bit rough in the tactical stuff,
But they certainly know how to shoot.
And many a German who thought they were soft,
And never could count in the war,
In the combat and strife of a bellicose life
Will not take a hand any more,
While others are rushing like mad to the rear
In advance of oncoming ranks
Of the scowling and glowering,
Hun-overpowering,
Kaiser-devouring
Yanks!

They're lambs if you let them alone,
But their fury is dreadful to hear
When a Gotha slides by half a mile in the sky
And a hospital's bombed in the rear.
And if "riles" them clean through when a treacherous foe
Walks out with a smile of good cheer
And observes "Kamerad" while a camouflaged squad
Cuts loose with a gun in his rear.
It is then that they go through Von Hindenburg's lines
Like a squadron of armor-clad tanks,
With purpose unshakable,
With vengeance unslakable,
They're simply implacable
Yanks!

—James J. Montague, in Heard-Examiner.

Go to Fairmount park Labor day afternoon and hear Frank E. Wolfe and Mayor Magney.

Your wages are only as high, your working conditions only as good as your economic power is strong. The moral is to organize and pool your full labor strength.

Established in Duluth in 1881

For thirty-seven years this good old store has been fitting out the Men and Boys of Duluth and Surrounding Country with the Best Union Label Clothes, from head to foot.

Pretty good record, isn't it?

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