

# John Spargo, Socialist, Bolshevism's Most Telling Critic

## Convicted By Their Own Words The Evidence Is Gathered From Their Own Papers and Speeches

**J**OHAN SPARGO has done an amazing thing in his *The Greatest Failure in All History* (Harper's). He has succeeded in producing an anti-Bolshevist tract without indulging in the theatrical finger-shaking that is the basis of most discussions of contemporary Russian politics. Not once in the course of his stout volume does he picture Lenin and Trotsky as shaggy-bearded adventurers with spitting bombs in hand. With the spectacular elements of Bolshevism as they appear in newspaper cartoons Mr. Spargo has no traffic. He presents his argument without even asking the reader what he would do if his wife or his sister were to be nationalized. Despite Mr. Spargo's omission of these "sure-fire" outbursts, his book is fully as damning as any previous onslaughts on the Soviets; perhaps it is even more effective. It is frankly the summing up of the prosecution against Bolshevism, and it is an honest, intelligent forensic.

In its essence Mr. Spargo's book is a conviction of the Bolshevists "out of their own mouths," but it is more than a mere bit of literary opportunism, an adventuresome assortment of damaging admissions. Although Mr. Spargo assumes the rôle of prosecutor, he does not seek to win his case by incriminating utterances torn from their context. Decrees, speeches, regulations, official propaganda and quotations from recognized Bolshevist organs are printed with something like completeness. Bolshevist sympathizers doubtless will find retorts for many of Mr. Spargo's conclusions, but they cannot accuse him of disregarding the ethics of debate.

Mr. Spargo's attack hinges on the broken promises of the Bolshevists. His leit-motif is that the Soviet system, designed as a guaranty of freedom, has developed into an instrument of bureaucracy and oppression. Waiving the fact, as Mr. Spargo does, that a degree of tyranny is inevitable in war-torn lands, his argument is comprehensive, well documented and persuasive. He demonstrates conclusively the awkward structure of the present government; he makes pitilessly clear the wreck of industry; he exposes the bondage into which labor has been delivered; he drives home the corruption and the unreliability of the political rule. Of course, Mr. Spargo has limited his field to the matters that seemed best adapted for his purpose, but within that field he has been successful.

Unlike many anti-Bolshevist books, Mr. Spargo's work is not a condemnation of Russia at large. "The Russian people," he maintains, "live not because they have found good in Bolshevism, but because they have found means to circumvent Bolshevism and set it aside. What progress is being made in Russia to-day is not the result of Bolshevism, but of the growing power of those very qualities of mind and head which Bolshevism sought to destroy."

On this point, we think, Mr. Spargo is not wholly convincing. He does not illustrate how the Russian people have managed to defy their leaders. He does not dwell on the Russian character.

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**The Allen-Gompers Debate**  
The debate which took place last May at Carnegie Hall, New York, between Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, and Henry J. Allen, Governor of Kansas, will be published in book form shortly by E. P. Dutton & Co.



JOHN SPARGO, whose *The Greatest Failure in All History*, published by Harper & Bros., is a comprehensive arraignment of the Bolshevik government of Russia

## The Supreme Standard of Life

Dr. G. Stanley Hall Sees Morale as Most Important Influence in Character

**T**HE word "morale" was first brought into general use by the war. Dr. G. Stanley Hall analyzes many aspects of this quality in a work entitled *Morale* (Appleton). Some especially interesting features of Dr. Hall's book are indicated in the following quotations: "Is there any chief end of man, any goal or destiny supreme over all others? If so, and if found, we shall have in the degree of approximation to it the best of all scales on which to measure real progress in terms of which all human value are best stated and defined. I answer that there is such a goal, and that it took the awful psychic earthquake of war to reveal it in its true perspective and to show us its real scope. It is simply this: to keep ourselves, body and soul, and our environment, physical, social, industrial, etc., always at the very tip-top of condition. This super-hygienic is best designated as morale. It is the only true divine power that ever was or will be. Hence, it follows that morale thus conceived is the one and only true religion of the present and the future, and its doctrines are the only true theology."

**Morale Described**  
"When we awake after a sound and refreshing sleep, with every organ in tune and at concert pitch, and thank whatever gods we believe in that we are alive, well, young, strong, buoyant and exuberant with animal spirits at top notch; when we are full of joy that the world is so beautiful, that we can love our dear ones and can throw ourselves into our work with zest and abandon because we like it; when our problems seem not insoluble and the obstacles in our path not insuperable; when we feel that our enemies are either beaten or placated; in a word, when we face reality gladly and with a stout heart, even if it is grim and doubtful, and never doubt that it is good at the core and all evil is subordinate to good, that even if we are defeated and overwhelmed in a good cause all is not lost; when we feel for something that we would die for if need be—this is morale."

**Emerson's Essays**  
A volume of Emerson's Essays, edited by Arthur Hobson Quinn, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania, is being added this month to Charles Scribner's Sons Modern Student's Library.

**FRANK PIERREPOINT GRAVES, dean of the School of Education of the University of Pennsylvania, who succeeds Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler as editor of The Educational Review. This publication, with the September issue, passes into the hands of the George H. Doran Company**

## Good Novel With a Bad Title

### True Love a Much Better Book Than Its Name Indicates

**T**RUE LOVE is a dreadful title. The most vivid tale fades to blank ingenuously under the mawkishness of it. A reviewer predisposed to pessimism faces a fearful struggle. It is, therefore, disconcerting to find a degree of real sophistication in Allan Monkhouse's novel of that title (Henry Holt).

Allan Monkhouse is a young Manchesterian—one of that group of young intellectuals brought up under the aegis of the august Guardian. Indeed, *The Herald*, the great Liberal paper which employs the talents and loyalty of the journalist hero of the story, seems to be the Guardian lightly disguised, as the hero's experiences in playwrighting may be Monkhouse's own with "Mary Broome."

Monkhouse writes in the intellectual idiom of that particular corner of England. The war's effect on the England of its time will never be half so well told in the histories as it is now being done in these contemporaneous novels with which young Englishmen are analyzing in retrospect their reactions to the war. Ephemeral and wasteful of words as a large part of this writing may be, it is vivid and eager, it holds the "emotional content of the experience as no formal account ever will.

Monkhouse's novel differs little from the others in pattern. It dramatizes

## The Man Who Lost Himself

A Case of Forgotten Identity Furnishes Theme for Basil King's Gripping Novel

**T**HE hero of Basil King's new novel, *The Thread of Flame* (Harper's), wakes up in mid-ocean without the slightest idea of who he is, where he came from or why he is on board the ship. Landing in New York, he struggles desperately to regain his identity, to find some point of contact with his family and friends. All his efforts are fruitless; his supply of money gives out and he is compelled to earn his living as a manual worker for two or three years. Then a chance meeting solves the mystery of his personality, and he is identified as Billy Harrowby, a wealthy Boston clubman, who enlisted in a French ambulance corps early in the war and suffered an acute case of shell shock.

Mr. King reserves the most subtle problems of his story for the concluding chapters, when Harrowby is brought back to his wife and his old circle of society friends. For ugly questions are asked about the genuine quality of his malady. It is hinted that his "shell shock" is really an excuse for running away from the front. And his wife, proud, high-spirited Violet Harrowby, who had been eager to make vicarious sacrifices of all her male relatives during the war, displays a marked inclination to prefer a dead hero to a living husband who rests under a disagreeable cloud of suspicion.

Harrowby is saved from shame and despair by a new faith that has come to him while he was working in humble circumstances. This faith is a belief in the abiding virtue and common sense of the everyday man and woman. He leaves his doubting wife and his sneering friends and goes back to the humble folk whom he met as a result of his lost identity. It is one of these friends, a boy who was blinded in the war and is struggling pluckily to carry on, who gives an excellent definition of Harrowby's own ideal of brotherhood and service:

"There are three or four big jobs through which we white Americans have got to save our country, and among them the free play of class contribution is almost the first. Say, these fellows that go jazzing about class welfare get my goat. Class cooperation is what we want, and it's what classes come into existence to give. You can't suppress classes, not yet awhile at any rate, in a country full of inequalities; but what we can do is to get the classes that form themselves spontaneously to take their gifts and pass 'em on to each other. Each works out something that another doesn't, and so can benefit the bunch all 'round."

The spiritual quality that is always associated with Mr. King's works is a marked characteristic of *The Thread of Flame*. Above the play of the narrative one is always conscious of the telepathy of men's and women's souls. And there is action, and love, and mystery—in short, all the ingredients of a first rate story. The present novel may well take rank as one of the very best books that Mr. King has written.

## Youth in Harley

### Gerould Gives an Idealized New England Picture

**I**N A sort of conjugal concordance of ideals Gordon Hall Gerould affirms his wife's criticism of American modes and morals by giving us in *Youth in Harley* (Scribner) an idealized picture of that New England culture whose passing Katharine Fullerton Gerould so spiritedly laments. *Harley* was American "to the core." It was in the '90s a village resplendent in white paint, nesting among its green fields, the abiding place of harmony and religion, happiness and purity. If any inhabitant ever deviated from virtue, Mr. Gerould looked the other way.

## A Bear Adventure

**B**LUEBERRY isn't a nice name for a little bear, and especially a boy bear, but we don't blame J. L. Sherard one bit for choosing Blueberry in preference to Bibi, as Mamma Bear first wanted to call the hero of his latest book published by the Thomas Y. Crowell Company. The story will thrill children. Blueberry, on his very first adventure out in the open fields, sees his father captured and carried away by animals' most bitter enemy—man. Left to care for his mother, the little bear braves the world and provides for her for nearly a year, when, partly through failure to heed his mother's warnings and partly through his own carelessness, he, too, is captured by a farmer and thrust into a dark prison. He is not very long in prison when he discovers his father. Being a very cunning bear, he soon plans their escape, and it is not long before the three bears are all very happy again in their home in the woods.

It goes without saying that Stephen's lies do not set the river on fire. A slight ripple breaks the calm when, in a momentary flare of missionary zeal, Cynthia aspires to become a doctor, but she soon sees the folly of desiring any nobler aim than that of being a good man's wife.

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