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SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1919.

CAPITALISM'S VICTIM SPEAKS

In these stirring days when the hypocritical reverence of the ruling class for their own laws has been replaced by a brazen disregard for legal forms, it is rather unpopular to speak of "constitutional rights," "equality before the law," "fundamental privileges of citizenship," "the presumption of innocence" or any of the fine sounding phrases with which the beneficiaries of the profit system used to cajole us before they embarked upon the blood-red sea of armed suppression and cast overboard the democratic catchwords and concepts of the old liberal school.

Any thinking person who studies the recent developments of a society dominated by the blood-and-iron policy of imperialism, must finally conclude that in protesting to our rulers against the newly inaugurated plan of throwing in jail anyone who, believing that the constitution is still in force, exercises the right given him by that document, to criticize the elected officials of this nation or their policies, or who rebukes them for some especially flagrant filching of the people's precious liberties, he is wasting his breath.

Appeals must therefore be directed to those who are suffering from this tyranny, or who while not yet victims, may, if drastic measures are not soon taken, be added to the rapidly growing list.

There are very many persons who still believe that the rights of citizens must be respected by the constituted authorities; there are many people who do not know that a little clique of bureaucrats—the tools of the exploiting interests of this nation—are exercising powers that the German kaiser nor the Russian czar ever dared to arrogate to themselves.

There are thousands of people who do not know that here in America has been established a system of espionage, a system that makes use of the "agent provocateur," a system that covers the land with a net-work of spies and stool-pigeons.

For no other reason than that the gigantic financial combinations, the industrial lords and the financial barons, may be able to persecute and remove anyone who questions their right to enslave the American workers.

This damnable system never in pre-revolutionary Russia, reached the perfection to which it has been brought in this land of the free.

The department of justice, the department of labor, the department of immigration, the army intelligence bureau, the naval intelligence bureau, all have their secret agents and it is against the workers that all efforts appear to be directed.

Under the espionage act—the act that sets the constitution at naught—the act that was supposedly passed to curb the activity of German agents, there has not been a single conviction of a German spy or a spy of any other nationality.

But—and it is a great, big, emphatic but, as far as we are concerned—some fifteen hundred or two thousand working men have been imprisoned for expressing their opinions; not a shadow of evidence or even suspicion that these men and women aided or favored the German cause; on the contrary, almost without exception, they were bitter opponents of the Prussian autocracy and all autocracies; they were spokesmen for the working class.

The conclusion is inescapable; the espionage act functions for the preservation of an industrial system that decrees that millions must live in poverty while a few live without labor, on the labor of others.

It is for this reason that we publish the following letter in full; not because we expect that the ossified hearts of the exponents of a brutal capitalism will be touched thereat; not because we believe that the naked misery of an innocent worker and his family arouses any pity in the breasts of an officialdom, who have proved their willingness to do the dirty work of capitalism, but because we wish everyone whom we can reach to know that democracy, that even simple justice has passed from this land, because we wish to convince the doubters that only the power of an intelligent, class-conscious and aroused working class can wipe out this type of persecution that is, after all, only a consequence of exploitation of one class by another.

It will continue and also continue to increase in horror and brutality until the workers, conscious of their strength, strip from a tyrannical master class, the last vestige of their economic power.

Read this letter! Read and think!
U. S. Federal Penitentiary,
Leavenworth, Kansas,
April 12, 1919.

Mr. W. F. Dunn,
Butte Daily Bulletin.

Dear Sir and Brother:
Through the courtesy of some of the inmates of this institution, I have been able to read your paper and noticed with a sense of pleasure and satisfaction the stand you have taken in the vital topics.

Knowing that you have never failed nor ceased to raise your voice, whenever actions and proceedings warranted it, I take the liberty of sending you the following with a desire to notify the working class of America of what is taking place today and will be repeated in a large scale tomorrow unless a stay is enforced.

I am 29 years of age. I arrived at New York City from Italy on the S. S. "Liguria" on November 3, 1907, and declared my intention to become a citizen of the United States in the winter of 1908, at Oakland, Cal.

On May 22, 1913, I was married to an American born girl at San Rafael, Marin county, California, by the justice of the peace of said township.

On either the 21st or the 23rd day of July, 1913, I was granted my second and final citizenship papers at Oakland, in the superior court of Alameda county, state of California.

From my marriage a boy was born in said city of Oakland, Cal., on July 13, 1915.

A federal grand jury at Chicago, Ill., had on the 28th day of September, 1917, returned an indictment against 166 alleged

members of the I. W. W. Said indictment contained my name, and amongst other charges and legal phrases set forth that in the period of time between the 6th of April, 1917, and the 28th of September, 1917, I had been a member of the Industrial Workers of the World.

On September 30, 1917, I was arrested at Miami, Ariz., where I was then living, taken to the county jail at Globe, Ariz., kept for 16 days "incommunicado," then given a hurry-up hearing and ordered to Chicago, Ill., for trial.

Although one of the counts of the indictment charged me with having conspired to obstruct the registration for the selective draft, I proved while on the witness stand, during the trial, with my registration card that I had duly registered at Miami, Ariz., on June 5, 1917, and that I did not claim exemption, although I had legal grounds to do so.

Not one of the half score of government agents and officials that came to testify from the Globe-Miami district said a single word about me or my activities there during the time covered by the indictment.

During the direct and cross-examination I stated that I was an American citizen and I established that prior to October 29, 1917, I had only been a member in good standing of two international unions, both affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, as I had joined the I. W. W. in the Cook county jail, Chicago, Ill., on that date exactly one month after I had been indicted and arrested as an I. W. W.

This government, or ruling class, before I was found guilty, thus while the United States constitution granted me the presumption of innocence, saw fit to hold me in a foul and vile dungeon, some thousand miles away from my home and friends for over 10 consecutive months, without giving a single thought to the more innocent victims, my wife and child.

While I was incarcerated in the Cook county jail, awaiting trial, legally innocent, according to the United States constitution, government officials and agents deliberately seized letters addressed to my wife, containing nothing but a check sent her as relief by the general defense committee. Some of said letters were registered, but even that did not protect her mail. I was finally compelled to appeal to Judge Landis and thus succeeded in having her receive letters that had been registered and mailed on February 16, 1918, on the very significant and self-explanatory date of July 31, 1918.

My wife and child, both American born and certainly innocent of the charges against me, thus entitled to the protection and rights to them granted by the United States constitution—for which the forefathers of this country shed their blood—have instead been subjected and forced to suffer untold miseries through deprivation of their only support on account of my unjust incarceration since September 30, 1917.

My trial ended after nearly five months with a verdict of "guilty as charged," arrived at in the vertiginous speed of little over half an hour, notwithstanding it involved over 100 defendants and four different and distinct counts! As a result, I was sentenced to serve one year and one day in this penitentiary. If I maintain my good behavior my sentence will expire on June 19, 1919.

On April 7, 1919, an immigration inspector from Chicago, Ill., read me a warrant for deportation, issued by the department of labor. He informed me that I would be given a hearing at a later date and that at the expiration of my sentence I would be held in default of \$3,000 bail!

I am now asking the following:
In virtue of what right and by which due process of law is the secretary of labor challenging my right to be at liberty in these United States at the expiration of my sentence on June 19, 1919?

What right has W. B. Wilson, or any other government official to demand a bail of \$3,000 for my liberty, lest he shall again deprive me of my liberty and my wife and child of their husband, father and supporter?

I intend to protest most emphatically against such autocratic and Prussianized methods and if necessary contest it before the highest tribunal of the land.

If that would be without avail, I shall then only be deported to my native land, Italy (or any other where there is democracy) which years ago I renounced to adopt the one thought to be the symbol and personification of—freedom?

Am I to tell my wife that her native country has only such justice and democracy for her citizens?
Am I to rear my child in such circumstances and teach him the deeds of his native land?

Am I to understand that when I registered for the draft and waived exemption, I was offering myself (probably at the prospect of depriving my wife, my child and my dear old father and mother, in far away Italy, of their loved one forever) to import in some other shores such a brand of freedom and democracy as they are now bestowing upon me?

Am I, with wife and later with my son, to understand and be assured that the United States constitution in the hands and behest of the hirelings and henchmen of Wall street has been reduced to a mere "scrap of paper?"

Even during the darkest days of the Russia of the "Little Father," such flagrant and monstrous rape of justice and civil liberties would not have been permitted.

What have the boys that went across to shed their red blood, lose their arms, limbs and lives, sacrificed themselves for?

Thanking you very sincerely for your kindness and hoping to soon see the working class of America wake up and follow the lead, I beg to remain, for freedom and democracy at home,
Respectfully yours,

ROMOLO BOBBA,
Political Prisoner No. 13184.

AID THE LAWRENCE STRIKERS

On Feb. 3, of this year, 30,000 textile workers in Lawrence, Mass.—men, women and many, many children went on strike against the mill-owners to enforce a 48-hour week with 54 hours' pay.

Slaves of the whirring looms, these men, women and children of Lawrence are the victims of the most horrible form of capitalistic exploitation; the product of their labor, their miserably paid labor, has made millions for the scions of our best families.

Out of the misery, the sweat and the suffering of the mill operatives of Lawrence is created the fortune that adds so much to the beauty and desirability of the Newport society belle; her jewels and her limousine, her thousand costumes and her army of servants are paid for by the labor of sleepy childish eyes, by the labor of the tired hands of children, the children of the workers, that never know the joys of childhood.

Officialdom of Lawrence is the officialdom of the ruling class, the officialdom of the mill owners.

Unbelievable brutalities have been perpetrated upon the strikers without regard for age or sex; the entire fabric of capitalistic society has been knitted together in a determined effort to crush the strike and break the spirit of the strikers; the jails of Lawrence are full, filled with men and women whose only crime is refusal to work any longer under conditions that would have shamed a southern slave owner.

The police and courts, always willing tools of the mill owners, have in this instance, surpassed the expectations of their masters; drunk with a mad blood-lust, they shoot and club and jail without provocation.

The kept press either lies fraudulently or says nothing. Thirty thousand men, women and children on strike for a living wage within 12 hours' ride of the capital of this country, but the politicians are silent; men and women are ridden down by the mounted police, beaten and thrown into filthy jails and—the kept press howls because the parasites of Russia are made to labor.

The mill owners made fabulous profits from the war; they



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cheered, with as much enthusiasm as their shrivelled souls could know, the men who were fighting their battles, the men who cleared the seas of the German submarines so that the product of their mills could be sent to the allies—at an enormous price—the risks of capital in time of war, you know!

The textile workers of Lawrence have not weakened, despite the terrible struggle; there is not a break in their ranks, but they realize that the battle against capitalist exploitation cannot be fought out within the limits of Lawrence.

They have issued a call for a general strike of all textile workers. We print it below:

Brother and Sister Workers of the Weaving and Yarn Mills:

Since February 3, 1919, at Lawrence, Mass., 30,000 men, women and children have been on strike for a 48-hour working week and 54 hours' pay. Prior to that they were on a 54-hour week, and the average wage was \$13.50 a week for two-thirds of the mill help, the unskilled workers. The greedy mill barons had the audacity to call this an excessive "war-time wage."

And when the agitation for an eight-hour day swept down upon the textile industry of the New England states and reached Lawrence, the mill masters granted it and placed their hands into the meager envelopes of their slaves and extracted therefrom six hours' pay, and—the strike was out!

Fellow workers! Throughout the industrial world, in every country, the working men and women are aroused; they are organizing and striking for human conditions. In Great Britain, for instance, many millions of miners and textile workers are in the field for a six-hour day, a five-day week with 30 per cent increase over the so-called "war-time wages." Their battle cry is: Down with drudgery! Down with slavery!

These struggles of our European brothers are kept in mind by the 30,000 striking men, women and children of Lawrence. They are determined to carry on their unrelenting fight until the master class are brought to terms, until the efforts of the strikers are crowned with victory.

But we make this appeal to you, brother and sister workers, to come to our aid in order to hasten the day of victory, not alone for the Lawrence workers, but for all the men and women in the great weaving and spinning industry. The master class have centered their guns against the Lawrence strikers to crush them for the next 10 years.

In this hour of great trial we urge you, all members of our class, to be prepared for a general walkout of all the shops and mills. Talk over the general strike in your homes, and with your friends and fellow workers everywhere. Organize a strike committee as soon as possible. Put on the committee representatives of the various nationalities in your city. Communicate at once with us in Lawrence. Let us know just what you have done and plan to do. Let us know what we can do for you. Take definite action at once.

We call your attention to the following:
The great woolen trust has started to operate its plants outside of Lawrence night and day in order to defeat your brother workers of Lawrence; for instance, in the woolen mills in the state of Maine, at Pullon, N. Y., and other places.

Are you willing to have the Lawrence strikers fight for you while the hirelings of the police department stain the pavements of Lawrence with the blood of your brothers?

Arouse then, ye men and women of the mills, of the looms and spinning frames. Be ready to stop work! Strike in great numbers, all and everyone of you.

Organize one big walkout and line up in battle array with the strikers of Lawrence for a shorter work day and more pay, in order to live and enjoy the good things of life.

Drudge no longer. Band together.

The master class are now receiving great orders and now is the time to act. Lend a hand to the Lawrence strikers. Send in funds for the needy and for the inevitable one big strike in the textile industry. Get ready for the time is ripe.

One big strike!
One big union!
One big victory!

The strikers are feeding the women and children in huge soup-kitchens and it takes money to buy food, lots of money in these days of high prices.

Send what you can spare and send it with the knowledge that it is your contribution to that mighty struggle that is shaking the foundations of capitalism; the struggle that is going to end in victory for the workers, the victory that will forever destroy wage-slavery, that will break forever the chains that bind us to the chariot of capitalism.

Send your contribution today to the strike committee, Lawrence, Mass.

The weekly report of the department of labor says that unemployment for the past week decreased from 123,605 to 97,000 and that the "principal decreases in labor surpluses were in Oakland, San Francisco and Butte." The local collaborator of the department of labor must have his desk in a light and airy room on the sixth floor of a large building above the crowd.

OPEN FORUM

This column is conducted for and written by Bulletin readers. If you have any suggestions to offer for the betterment of conditions in which the public is interested, the Bulletin offers you this opportunity for their expression and interchange of comment with your neighbors and friends. Properly to protect this Open Forum, all communications must be signed with the name and address of the writer, but anonymous signatures will be used in the column if requested. Address all communications to the editor of the Bulletin and please be brief and to the point.

WE JUST CAN'T.

Great Falls, Mont., April 9.
Editor Bulletin:
You seem to be unnecessarily harsh with the pampered and spoiled darlings of fortune who control the copper industry. Why should you rail at them? Why not simply turn thy other cheek to sinners?
You don't seem to realize that they had only three courses to choose from in the recent election and they did the natural thing. They followed the course of least resistance (and the one they could get away with the easiest).

They were forced to choose between the following, viz.:
1. See Dunn elected.
2. Take the vote away from the people, or
3. Take the people's candidate off the voting lists.

We may disregard No. 1. That would never do. That would be too horrible to even think of.

I imagine they thought long and seriously about No. 2, but finally came to the conclusion that although things are possible directly in proportion to a man's bank account, yet possibly in the minds of the "Great Unwashed" still smoldered a spark of love of freedom and possibly a remembrance of 1776, when we rose a mighty people and said "no taxation without representation." No! No. 2 would never do. Perhaps later, but not right now.

Now, dear editor, don't you realize that the only possible action left to "save the world for copper" was the third one? And why shouldn't they use it? It was their play and they were playing with a marked deck. There was no chance to lose.

For the love of Mike, be reasonable!
AN OUTSIDER.

YOU ARE RIGHT.

New York, April 7, 1919.

Editor Bulletin:
I would like you to publish the following article if it meets with your approval.

We have again, all organized labor and all radical organizations, been advocating another general strike on May 1 to free Debs. It seems to me that they are making a mistake in trying to pull off two general strikes, as it would only be two months between May 1 and July 4. At the labor convention held in Chicago by delegates of organized labor from all parts of the country on behalf of Tom Mooney, it was decided to call a general strike on July 4 to get him a new trial or his freedom.

I am sure that all organized labor and all radical organizations would make the general strike a greater success if they would only gather and force their differences of opinion and show more solidarity, and, instead of making the issue for Mooney and Debs only, demand the release of all labor's fighters and all political prisoners who are rotting in the jails, penitentiaries and detention stations of this country.

If organized labor is going to have a general strike it would be much better to strike May 1 for all labor's fighters than for one, for they have all been staunch and true to their class, and we will surely need them all in the coming struggle between capital and labor. Remember, united we stand, divided we fall.

Yours for industrial freedom,
S. H. DIXON.

Seattle, April 15, 1919.

Editor Bulletin:

Kindly allow me, if you please, a little space in your paper in the Open Forum. In last Saturday's issue I noticed quite an article from an electrical worker on the C. & N. P. railway. It was O. K. Now what I want to say is this. We, here in Seattle on the water front are being forced into a strike and we all realize that this move is but a beginning to smash all organized labor and we have been selected the first ones.

In my estimation, and I am not alone, I think it is just about time to get out of the organizations and organize into one big union, all over the country. We must do this, in order to save ourselves. Organize as a whole industrially under one card, one label and one transfer system. Further, it would also be a good plan to get all the workers lined up to collect a gigantic strike fund, ever ready and handy, in case of strikes or lock-outs. We cannot any more today trust ourselves to the mercy of craft organizations. The sooner the rank and file get together everywhere, and fix things for the coming battle the better. Delay is foolish and dangerous and it is high time we stopped all foolishness and get down to business. It is far better to fight in solid ranks than to let the master chew us up piece by piece. I trust the average man will realize this, and act upon it. If he don't he will know what's coming to him. Might is right with the capitalists. Let us show them the same spirit.

It is useless to argue or to wait for a political arbitrator. We cannot expect anything from them, and we all know where they stand. So after all we must by any and all means fight our own battles, and fight to a finish. The master class has forced this on us, so let us roll up our sleeves and dig in. In conclusion, I wish to state Seattle is swarming with idle men and anyone thinking of coming here had better stay where they are at.

Thanking you ever so much in advance, I remain sincerely yours,
A WAGE SLAVE.