

The Butte Daily Bulletin

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Has your local union contributed to the new workmen's compensation fund? If not, take the matter up at your next meeting. All contributions should be sent to the Cascade Trades and Labor Assembly, Great Falls, Mont. See that the petitions are signed up and sent in as soon as possible.

FOR AND AGAINST UNIVERSAL MILITARY TRAINING.

Universal military training will become an issue during the present session of congress as part of the measures that are planned to place this nation on a military basis.

Many and various are the arguments that will be arrayed against this policy that is so foreign to American tradition.

Of the entire galaxy there is just one that will stand the test of reason and that is the fact that wars are fought to enhance the interests of the great exploiting financial groups and that the workers at the end of each war find themselves in a worse position than before, after having sent their tens of thousands to the slaughter-pens of international warfare to secure a place in the sun for the groups that oppress and exploit them with added zest after the holocaust is over.

The liberals and the humanitarians may denounce war until they are black in the face. They may point out its horrors and cruelties; they may appeal to the maternal instinct of the mothers of the race and urge them to refuse to send their offspring to the shambles. They can insist, as they do, on the settling of international disputes by arbitration.

They may say that it is un-Christian and denounce the followers of the Carpenter of Nazareth for co-operating with their governments in time of war, yet the fact remains that the last struggle was a war of Christian nations.

Wars will still continue to be fought for generations if these are the strongest arguments that can be raised against them.

To attack war from this standpoint is foolish; it is like trying to heal a gunshot wound with salve applied to the surface while the bullet festers at the bottom.

If one allows the premise that a system of production for private profit is the best that has yet been devised, if one agrees that it must continue and that it cannot be replaced by a saner system, then one has no right to criticize any measure that is designed to fit a nation for combat brought about by the exigencies of the system itself.

Under capitalism, and especially in its later phase—imperialism—wars between rival financial groups are as inevitable as the rising and setting of the sun.

For a nation—under imperialism—to retain its favored position or to secure a more advantageous position, certain material things are necessary. In a previous epoch, nations needed gold. In a later period they needed coal and iron. Today, while they still need coal and iron, the need for fuel-oil is paramount.

The life of the workers in a nation that has secured its place in the sun is no better and no worse than in nations that are struggling for supremacy. Indeed, it may be said, that the working class of nations that have achieved commercial supremacy is more miserable than the working class of nations that are struggling for first place.

Before the world-war, Great Britain was the mistress of the seas and the dominant influence in international finance. Her working class was unutterably miserable; in the British Isles only 200,000 of the population of about 40,000,000 owned their own homes; the poverty of the masses has been described by writer after writer.

As a government, Great Britain has been bankrupted by the war, yet the conditions of the workers—social, economic and political—is steadily improving.

In the United States before the war the social and economic status of the workers was, perhaps, the best in the world; their standard of living was relatively high, although unemployment worked tremendous hardship.

Since the war, the position of the American and British worker has been reversed. The oppressive legislation that the ruling caste of Great Britain was forced to discard years ago is just coming into favor with American rulers. The cost of living has risen until the dollar has no meaning as a term of value.

Yet the war was fought by the American workers for certain abstract ideals that have not been translated into deeds by officialdom. Oppressive measures, subversive of all liberty are the order of the day.

On top of all comes the demand for universal military training to fit the youth of the land for warfare, having no purpose but to preserve a system that breeds unending wars, is urged.

War is cruel. Yes. War is destructive. Yes. War is useless. Yes. War lowers the ethical and physical standard. Yes. War debauches humanity. Yes.

Thus speak the humanitarians, but the crowning indictment of war is that it is caused by the brutal greed of the rival international cliques and that the masses are forced to fight to satisfy the ambition of industrial despots who oppress foreigners and native-born alike that they may continue to pile up the wealth over whose ownership the toilers are forced slaughter one another.

To prevent wars of aggression, and consequently, wars of defense—all wars fall into one of these categories—the system that makes war between nations and groups of nations inevitable must be destroyed.

German militarism with its system of universal military training was bad, but Germany was avowedly a military nation. American militarism with a system of universal military training is worse, because, in addition to the evils inherent in

Let us not be frightened by threats of danger to the country or of dungeons for ourselves, but let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us go forward to do our duty as God discloses it to us.—Abraham Lincoln.

the system itself, our rulers would add the vice of hypocrisy. We are to pretend a holy horror of war and militarism while actively encouraging the children to worship both.

Democracies are no more immune from the military virus than are autocracies, and we have the living example of what militarism did to Germany before our eyes.

Fortunately for the workers the rulers are always even blinder than they are.

THE EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION AND THE PLUMBERS.

In a news item carried by our morning contemporaries it is gravely stated that if the present wage scale of the plumbers union were adopted that it would cost the householder \$15 per day to employ a plumber.

The wage-scale of the plumbers calls for \$10 per day. If the cost to the householder is \$15 per day, it simply means that when the plumber goes out to work on a job, the contracting plumber, sitting in his office, collects \$5 per day or 50 per cent of the wages of the man who does the work because he is good enough to allow him to work.

Of course, Mr. McIntosh, business agent of the Employers' association, in his noble task of protecting the public welfare, has forgotten to mention this fact.

It appears to us, however, that if there is going to be a general outburst of rage against the working plumber that the contractor who does no work whatever, but who has the crust to add a 50-per cent charge to the labor-cost because he employs a plumber should come in for most of the censure.

Ten dollars per day is only a decent living wage in these days and no hypocritical pretense of protecting the public interest can disguise the fact.

It will be recalled that during the war, Mr. McIntosh accused the plumbers and electricians employed on the Y. M. C. A. and K. of C. buildings of hampering the prosecution of that struggle because they went on strike for more wages.

The war is over, but still the Employers' association would have us believe that labor threatens civilization and, in its hypocritical attitude, pretends to be protecting the "public" against labor, while its representative, Mr. McIntosh, organizes the Montana Development association, a band of profiteers, to resist legislation that requires them to place the cost-marks on the articles they sell. The cost of labor is known to every employer. Why, if they and their representatives have the public interest at heart, should they object to having the cost of their wares made known to the purchaser?

We are not the spokesman of the plumbers' union, but we would like to challenge Mr. McIntosh to debate this issue with us before a gathering of the residents of this community.

We would be willing to leave the decision to the audience. If anyone thinks that this is unfair, they should remember that there are only about forty plumbers in the city of Butte; that if the sentiment against them is as strong as Mr. McIntosh says it is, that he should have but little difficulty in enlisting the sympathies of the down-trodden "lower-paid workmen" that he mentions in support of his cause.

ON THE ROCKS—TO MOST ANY SENATOR.

Honorable Senator: Your attention is respectfully called to the following points: The government's habitual disregard of constitutional rights; the bullying lawlessness of members of the American Legion; the usurpations of the federal courts (these "Thieves of jurisdiction"—Jefferson); and the defense of all these phases of lawlessness by a venal press, are driving directly toward revolution. Every "radical" manhandled and "suppressed" in an unlawful way, means a hundred more radicals, and a country full of radicals, stirred by a sense of being outlawed, will not wait on the slow processes of political evolution.

Official "dragnets," "blanket" arrests, suppression of papers, "go-the-limit" orders; "raid headquarters"; "round up the reds"; blatant speeches in congress; bills for "suppression"; operating a spy and suspect system (as in old Russia under the czar); rabid denunciation by the press; fabricated news; and mendacious lies; these are the seeds of violence. An injunction on a technically against 400,000 workmen means a million more radicals; while the practice of brigandage against Russia, acquiesced in by congress, stamps the government as an enemy of liberty and democracy. Thus the government furnishes proofs of radical arguments, and thus is augmented the psychology of discontent.

The espionage law has created more suspicion, stirred up and equipped more radicalism than all the "reds" could have effected in many years. That congress should have enacted such a law, and that the supreme court should have sustained it, when every intelligent man and woman outside the court knows it is unconstitutional, destroys faith in the honesty of the government. The wonder is not that there are many radicals, but that there are not many more, not that some of them incline to "direct action," but that as a class they are yet so peaceful.

But the ultimate fate of the government hangs in abalance. It can turn toward constitutional liberty, re-declare the right of free discussion, open the prison doors for the release of political and opinion "offenders," and become a free republic, or it can go on toward autocratic despotism, and invite soviet democracy as a rival for place and power.

For no amount of railing can conceal the fact that the soviet (elective council) system of ownership and operation of industry, and administration of government, is the most democratic system yet devised, and altogether the most satisfactory to the masses of the people.

Senator Fall may throw fits at the spectre of bolshevism from Mexico, but fits of that sort no longer count. The things that threaten our social order are not in Mexico. The government is driving to issue here, autocratic despotism versus free popular government. Even a reactionary senator ought to see where the common man will stand on that issue.

The conviction of Russell, strike leader, in Winnipeg for sedition, merely confirms the assertion, made years ago, that Winnipeg had adopted American ways.

Is it possible that the striking steel workers and the railroad workers have not observed the improved conditions since the "red special" left our shores?

The Students' Corner

Having completed "Shop Talks on Economics," we begin a study of "Evolution—Social and Organic," by Arthur M. Lewis. Students will find in this work the explanation for many natural phenomena, whose causes have escaped them. It deals with and explains the various changes and theories of existence that have arisen from time to time and contains much information not found in the ordinary text-books. It should be carefully studied for the reason that a thorough understanding of evolution is necessary for a true knowledge of life and labor, the most important factor in life. Editor's Note.

(Continued from yesterday.) Mutual aid is very conspicuous among pelicans. They always go fishing in numerous bands and after having chosen an appropriate bay, they form a wide half circle in face of the shore, and narrow it by padding towards the shore, catching all the fish that happen to be enclosed in the narrow rivers and canals they even divide into two parties, each of which draws up on a half circle, and both paddle to meet each other, just as if two parties of men dragging two long nets should advance to capture all the fish taken between the nets when both parties come to meet."

Our familiar friend, the house sparrow, is not overlooked and is said to have practiced mutual aid to such an extent as to be recognized even by the ancient Greeks. Kropotkin quotes from memory, the Greek orator who exclaimed: "While I am speaking to you a sparrow has come to tell other sparrows that a slave has dropped on the floor a sack of corn, and they all go there to feed on the grain." Sparrows also maintain social discipline: "If a lazy sparrow intends appropriating the nest a comrade is building, or even steals from it a few straws of straw, the group interferences against the lazy comrade." Kropotkin presents a number of well authenticated observations of the great compassion and sympathy prevailing among these wild creatures, which are popularly supposed to be always flying at each others' throats: J. C. Woods' narrative "of a wessel which came to pick up and carry away an injured comrade." Brehm, who "happened to see two crows feeding in a hole, one a blind crow which had a wound several weeks old." Captain Stansbury, on his journey to Utah, as quoted by Darwin, "saw a blind pelican which was fed, and well fed, by other pelicans upon fishes which had to be brought a distance of 30 miles."

From these and a multitude of similar cases Kropotkin concludes that while "no naturalist will doubt that the idea of a struggle for life, carried on through organic nature, is the greatest generalization of our country, that struggle is very often collective, against adverse circumstances."

Kropotkin in concluding his consideration of animals, immensely strengthens his position by pointing out various methods by which new species may develop or old ones disappear, without the operation of a deadly competition between individuals. "The squirrels, for instance, when there is a scarcity of cones in the larch forests, remove to the fir tree forests, and this change of food has certain well known physiological effects on squirrels. If this change of habits does not last—if next year the cones are again plentiful in the dark larch wood—no new variety of squirrels will evidently arise from this cause. But if part of the wide area occupied by the squirrels begins to have its physical characters altered—in consequence of, let us say, a milder climate or desiccation, (changing up) which both bring about an increase of the pine forests in proportion to the larch woods—and if some other conditions occur to induce squirrels to dwell on the outskirts of the desiccating region—we shall then have a new, i. e., an independent new species of squirrels. A better adapted variety would survive each year, and the intermediate links would die in the course of time, without having been started out by Malthusian competitors."

Again: "If we take the horses and cattle which are grazing all the winter through in the steppes of Transbaikalia, we find them very lean and exhausted at the end of the winter. But if they are exhausted not because there is not enough food for all of them—the grass buried under a thin sheet of snow is everywhere in abundance—but because of the difficulty of getting it from beneath the snow and this difficulty is the same for all horses alike. We can safely say that their number are not kept down by competition; that at no time of the year they need struggle for food and that if they need to search anything approaching over-population, the cause is in the climate, and not in competition."

After citing the rodents that combine to store food for the winter, or fall asleep about the time competition should set in; and the buffaloes which form immense herds to migrate across a continent to where food is plentiful; and beavers, which when they grow numerous, divide into two bands, and go, the old ones down the river, and the young ones up the river and avoid competition; after citing these and many others, he declares the mandate of nature to be: "Don't compete!—competition is always injurious to the species, and you have plenty of resources to avoid it!"

Therefore combine—practice mutual aid! That is the surest means for giving to each and to all the greatest safety, the best guarantee of existence and progress, bodily, intellectually, and morally."

The third chapter deals with "Mutual Aid Among Savages." Here we meet the question as to whether the family is an ancient institution, antedating the tribe and clan or whether it appeared at a much later date as an outgrowth of the clan. Kropotkin takes the latter view as advocated by Morgan, Bachofen, Maine, Lubbock, and Taylor, and rejects the former as presented by Frazer and Westermarck.

The savage of anthropological research is shown to be a very different creature from the blood-thirsty monster of popular tradition. "Sometimes he is a cannibal, it is true, but not often, and then it is closely associated with economic necessity, and is abandoned when food becomes plentiful." The custom of leaving old men in the woods to die, is bad enough, but not so bad as supposed. They usually carry the old man with them in their migrations until he himself grows tired of being a burden and begs to be killed. When this point is reached, he is given more than his share of food, and left in the woods to die, because no one has the heart to kill him. Infanticide is practiced from the same motive which induces savages to take all kinds of measures for diminishing the birth rate—they cannot rear all of their children. In times of plenty it disappears. It was when these customs were encloned in a religious halo and preserved as sacred ceremonies, after all necessity for them had disappeared, that they attained their most revolting characters.

He believed in revenge but it was to be strictly measured by the offense. It must be an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. He only killed his enemies, and he always, at all costs, defended the members of his own tribe. "Within the tribe everything is shared in common; every morsel of food is divided among all present; and if the savage is alone in the woods, he does not begin his meal until he has loudly shouted thrice his voice to share his meal." "If he infringes one of the smaller tribal rules, he is prosecuted by the mockeries of the women. "When he enters his neighbor's territory he must loudly announce his coming, and if he enters a house he must deposit his hatchet at the entrance. If one shows greediness when spoil is divided all the others give him his share to shame him." Scolding and scolding are greatly condemned. Their children are not very quarrelsome and very rarely fight. The most they may say is "Your mother does not know sewing," or "Your father is blind of one eye."

The savage identified his interests with those of his tribe, he was not individualist, and under no circumstances would he have consented to child labor.

(To Be Continued.)

GET READY FOR TRIALS OF TEUTON WAR CRIMES

London, Dec. 27.—Final lists of Germans accused of war crimes have been exchanged by Britain and France, it is reported. The accused will be tried in special courts in each country, it was stated. Those found guilty are to be tried by mixed courts-martial.

The procedure is to be determined later by the allies. French and British legal authorities have been in consultation on the method to bring about the punishment of the guilty Germans here this week.

Courts-martial will be established at Lille for France, at London for Britain and at Brussel and Liege, Belgium, it is reported.

at this time o' year, so this is sheep. "I understand," says the boss, and him and the cook both grinned.

Come dinner time the next day, the boss was goin' up to all his regular customers and askin' 'em if they wouldn't like to have a bit o' venison. Of course, it wasn't on the bill, he told 'em, but them that he knew could get it. He had paid an awful price for it and was takin' a chance in servin' it, but there wasn't nothing he wouldn't do to please his old customers, even to charin' 'em twice as much as he soaked 'em for beef.

Well, them fellers all ordered venison and they all got sore when they et it. But they kept still an' paid the bill, which is kind of an American custom. And the next day they all et at another restaurant, which is another American custom; that is, any time six ain't satisfactory you can take a half a dozen.

And the next day along comes Bill distributin' circulars he'd had charin' 'em told all about the venison that was shown on account of the law, and how the Spanish omelet was made outa rotten eggs in spite of the law. Also, they invited everybody to have something with Bill Pollard, which hadn't never had anything put over on him yet, an' which knowed that the only touchy spot in a grafter's makeup is his pocketbook.

Mister, I'm tellin' you the truth; that restaurant man was outa business before Bill got back to camp, an' Bill didn't stay long either. And the joke of it was, Bill hadn't hed about that venison. It was just what he said it was; it was sheep all the time.

I reckon I'll be hoofin' it along. This is a dandy cigar; hope I'll see you again.

Flour Gold

(Panned by Jim Seymour.) A prospectus of the Book of Knowledge (the Grolier society, New York), issued three years ago, says that "over half the world is now at war, and civilization has been set back a hundred years!" We all felt that way for awhile, but now we are not so sure.

The Book of Knowledge is for children, and we may as well remark that a child that receives his education partly therefrom will know war with considerably more horse sense than if it is confined to the public schools.

Nobody ever suffered wrongfully without instantly having ideas of justice.—Robt. Ingersoll.

Our New Dictionary. ELECTION DAY—An occasion upon which our proletarian population rallies to the support of the Darwinian theory.

OPPORTUNITY—That which knocks at every door and vouchsafes the information that there is room at the top for all of us to stand on the necks of those beneath.

OVERPRODUCTION—That which starves us by supplying us with an over-abundance of food.

QUADRUPLETS—One who possesses four bits.

QUITTER—One who refuses to compromise, to yield to pressure, or to "play the game" of prostituting his talents in order to eat. The successful man, he who eats because he capitulated at or before the first onslaught, is not a quitter.

REFLEXION—A document which must be possessed by the seller, though not by the buyer, of labor power in order to corroborate the statement that all men are free and equal.

REPORTER—One who is intelligent because he works on a newspaper.

They are working 24 hours a day in the mines, making small change; and they are talking several hours a day in Washington, making small changes.

"Tying up boats in anticipation of a storm," reads a Frisco news item. Wonder if the striking steredores have anything to do with it.

Ah Love! could you and I with Fate conspire To grasp this sorry Scheme of Things entire, Would not we shatter it to bits—and then Remould it nearer to the Heart's Desire! —Omar Khayyam.

Some of 'em Were in the Flesh Pots. When our president should turn been home in the melting pot he was attending star chamber proceedings in the Parisian Peace Pot.

A small town editor speaks of the American brand of democracy. This is sure good, but it might be better if he'd say "on democracy."

By the way, boys, don't read The Octopus, by Frank Norris.

Phonograms of Pneumatic Joe

(Recorded by Jim Seymour.) BILL GETS BACK AT A GRAFTER

Mister, there ain't no use talkin' I got to tell somebody about how my pardner, Bill Pollard, went to have it out with a restaurant man that sold him a Spanish omelet made with rotten eggs. You see, a hobo that had washed dishes in the place come along an' told Bill about it.

Of course, a man with a stomach like Bill's wasn't hurt none by a little thing like rotten eggs. Bill lives an outdoor life and don't do any too much work, so he's husky. But there's some things a feller don't like the thought of, and eatin' rotten eggs is one of 'em.

When I found out where Bill had gone I was poot worried, but I got mought of knowed he wouldn't get into any trouble, because Bill ain't no fool. If he was he couldn't be my pardner. I'm a little mite tender to some cripples, but I ain't got no sympathy for them that's crippled in the head. If there's anybody that's responsible for all the hell in this world it's the boneheads. An' Bill Pollard ain't one of 'em.

Well s'r, Bill rode up to that restaurant with Solomon, which is his parner, and a slab o' meat on his sack. Innocent like, Bill walked in and asked the boss would he like to buy the meat, he was goin' into town an' couldn't use it no more, so he would sell it cheap. Talkin' cheap is what gets a business man's attention; it's one thing he can savvy. So the boss called the cook and they looked at the meat.

"What kind is it?" says the boss. "Well s'r," says Bill, "yuh know it's against the law to have venison."

The Abuse of Words (By GEORGE D. COLEMAN.) The Jesuit and diplomatic casuist's adroit in the smoke screen and camouflage of words. July 17th, Winston Spencer Churchill in London at a club dinner declared the league of nations must AID Russia. Of course aided against her own self-determination. His exact words quoted by cable are, "The relieving of that country must be the first duty of the league of nations." Now he unmistakably means that the downfall of capitalism there should be "relieved." As a political administrator for capitalism he is both discreet and premature, for he is demonstrating, that as the holy alliance was a league of divine right princes pledged to suppress by force "all representative governments," and support autocracy, so the league