

The Agrarian Struggle in Italy

By GIOVANNI GIGLIO.

(Staff Correspondent for The Federated Press.)

Rome, Italy, Sept. 9.—Italy's country districts are the theater of a continuous and growing series of agitations, which often end in violent and sanguinary conflicts between the peasants and the police.

With the object of putting a bridge on the homicidal feud against the peasants and workers which dominates the carabinieri, the Socialist deputy, Cicotti-Scozze, presented two projects the other day, which will shortly be discussed: the first proposes to divest the carabinieri of the quality of impunity in the case that they kill while in the performance of their duty; the second proposes the granting of a pension or indemnity to the relatives of the victims in a conflict.

These two projects of law presented by a Socialist deputy are undoubtedly in open contradiction to the principle of violence accepted by the Italian Socialist party, but they serve to demonstrate the gravity of the use of violence in the class struggle in Italy.

I went today to interrogate some friends of the National Federation of Workers on the Lands, which has a branch office in Rome, on the situation.

"What is the object of the present agitations in the country?" I asked one of them.

"At this moment our peasants are fighting for different objects," replied my friend, "objects which vary according to the economic and geographical conditions in which their struggle is being carried on. There are some regions, for instance, in which the peasant is still compelled to struggle for a small increase of the old wage. Fortunately, the regions where the conditions of labor are so out of date are very few and are limited to the south of Italy; where the Socialist propaganda has not yet succeeded in educating the masses.

"In middle and upper Italy our peasant is fighting for much higher aims. The fierce struggle being carried on in the province of Bologna is characterized by the fact that the peasants refuse to recognize the organization of the masters, and also by the fact that they want, through the labor bureaus, to constitute a kind of trust of labor, which will allow them to regulate the wage question in accordance with the exigencies of unemployment."

"But in a general way, the goal towards which our peasants are working is the conquest of the land. Our country has made enormous progress in this field. We have hundreds of groups of collective tenants who work the land on their own account. The practical results of this form of direct administration of the land and of their own labor by the peasants have been in every respect excellent."

"Do you think," I asked, "that our peasants really feel the communist spirit now? Do you think

passive attitude in the face of the peasants' invasions. "As to the destruction of the harvests by the peasants; it has sometimes happened that, in order to conquer the resistance of the masters, the peasant has had to have recourse to the extreme measure of not gathering in that part of the produce which belonged to the master, with the consequence that a good part of the harvest has been lost this year, because it was left lying in the fields. But we are a war today, and we are bound to fight."

CHRISTENSEN IS TORMENTOR OF JUNKERS

Gets Under the Skins of Cox, Harding and Lloyd George; Beastly Nuisance Doncherknow!

(By the Federated Press.) Chicago, Sept. 9.—Parley Parker Christensen, presidential candidate of the farmer-labor party, has issued a new challenge to Harding and Cox, and one to Premier Lloyd George of England. To Harding and Cox he wrore:

"In your speeches you have emphasized your adherence to the principles of free speech and free press. As editor and owner of a newspaper you are now afforded a striking opportunity to confirm in these basic principles of freedom and democracy."

"I suggest that you lead the way by according to each party in this campaign one column of space each day until November 2 for publication of facts, views and statements from the respective national committees."

Christensen cabled Lloyd George as follows: "You have appalled the world's thinking people by your callous indifference to the death throes of the heroic lord mayor of Cork. His admirable fortitude and bravery should convince you of the pitiful impotence of military might when marshalled against the spirit of liberty and justice. I urge you in the name of countless American freemen to remove the mask of pretended legality and spare the life of this proven patriot."

"The slayers of Joan of Arc had excuses such as wars, and so too did the executioners of Robert Emmet and the hangmen of Nathan Hale. If the Lloyd George government is not a tyrant prove it by freeing Terrence McDermoney and withdrawing your murderous army from the soil of the Irish republic."

REGISTER NOW — Registration books close Friday, Sept. 17, at 5 p. m.

British Labor Gets a Blow in the Face

(By MAX WORTH.)

(European Staff Writer for the Federated Press.)

Paris, Aug. 23. (By Mail).—Adamson and Gosling, two capable men, were sent by the special convention of British workers to inform their French fellow workers of the organization of their council of action for the prevention of war and the defense of the workers' government of Russia.

"They were received by the workers of France, who were eager to hear what means the British workers were prepared to take to accomplish these ends. On the same day that they reached Paris, Adamson and Gosling were ordered to quit it. They came as the guests of French labor. They went at the behest of the French government."

The situation is of vast significance. No sooner were there signs of a renewal of hostilities (over the Polish issue) than the workers of the two countries most immediately concerned came together. They did not come together as socialists, nor communists, nor representatives of any other particular group, but as representatives of the great masses who fight wars and pay for them.

This action was historic. The speed with which the labor force was organized in Great Britain, and the rapidity with which they acted betokens the vast increase of power that has come to them with the war. The instinctive way in which the workers of France and Great Britain came to the defense of the workers of Russia was no less important. The workers of the countries of war-ridden Europe were uniting to stop war!

"What was to be done?" The British government bowed before the storm. Lloyd George told the people of Great Britain that the British government had no intention of making war on anyone—let alone Russia.

The French government met the movement in the best imperialist style, with an order for expulsion. Le Temps approves the step, voicing the opinion of conservative France: "The measure taken against two delegates of British labor, who came to Paris in order to confer with the directors of the united socialist party and of the federation of labor is fully justified. It is, in fact, impossible that we should permit foreign agitators to interfere in the affairs of France, and to attempt to impose a line of conduct on the French government."

The labor and socialist press is outraged, describing the incident as an affront to the whole labor movement of Great Britain. The socialist members of the chamber of deputies have sent a message to the speaker, demanding an immediate convocation of the chamber.

Needless to say, nothing of the kind will be done. The policy of the French government in this instance is quite in line with its policy during the strikes of last spring. The French government is out to fight French labor to a finish. The government won the opening skirmish, in May. It has expelled the guests of the workers now. The French government is sowing the wind. It is only a question of time before it must begin to reap.

UNDER.

(By HESTER B. DICKINSON.)

"Down all the stretch of Hell to its last Gulf There is no steeper more terrible than this."

Look into that "last Gulf," O poet, I pray thee, Down, down where its nether cave leans, And find there, God help us, a "shape" to gainst thee, A "shape" that affrighteth the fiends, And listen! O listen! for through all the thunder,

A voice cries—heavy with woe: "I am the woman! the woman's that's under The heel of 'The Man with the Hoe.'"

"I am the begotten of derelict ages; Of systems senescent the flow; I am the forgotten of poets and sages, The creature of Lust and of Law, A breeder of burdens, of sorrows unspoken, Condemned—without power of appeal, I am the Spirit of Womanhood, broken, On the Centuries' Juggernaut wheel."

"They'didde wrote of me: 'She is more evil Than waves where the cataracts dwell.' Jerome: 'She is only inspired of the Devil.' St. John: 'She's the entrance to Hell.'"

The Hebrew, the Christian—O they plowed the furrows In faces God meant to be fair, And down the long ages kept building the burrows That silenced the voice of Despair.

"Yet somewhere the Day is—and somewhere the burden Shall fall from the spirit of man; And Justice be Justice! for Love giveth guardion, And Life hath its Infinite Plan. The tale of the 'Terror,' the 'Ox's' brute brother, Can never be told overmuch, But oh, for the vassal and woe for the mother The thrice accursed mother of such."

Look into that "last Gulf," thou newest evanxel, Thou builder of ladders for man, And find there the pale, pleading face of an Angel, That woos thee, thou Prince of the Pen!

And, sometimes, a little, though half the world wonder, And critics cry high and cry low, Sing thou for the woman! the woman that's under that's under "The Man with the Hoe."

When in doubt, look up the Butte Daily Bulletin.

UNION STOCK HOLDERS IN THE BUTTE DAILY BULLETIN

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Light on Life of Seymour Stedman

(By the Federated Press.)

Chicago, Sept. 9.—Seymour Stedman is a Chicago lawyer whose professional career has been almost exclusively devoted to the defense of working class interests and who in his early life was that of a poor boy who had to struggle for existence and whose education was obtained under difficult conditions. He was born in Hartford, Conn., July 14, 1871. His ancestors were of revolutionary stock and among his great great grandfathers were Edmund Clarence Stedman and William Cullen Bryant.

The Stedman family was in moderate circumstances at first, but reverses led them to seek a foothold in Kansas. A series of droughts impoverished the family and young Seymour went to work for a few cents a month. When the family was in the family moved to Chicago and Seymour went to work at \$2 a week. He soon became a messenger boy and had his first strike experience in 1883—the boys protesting against intolerably long hours.

The Stedman were great readers and Seymour aspired to the law. He got a job as office boy in a Chicago law office. The partners were engaged in other parts and the office boy was free to study intensively his law and economics. Though he had withdrawn from school on completion of the third grade he was admitted to Northwestern university law school and made a scholastic record.

Being a convinced free-trader he was moved to speak for the democratic party. Before he was 20 he was known as one of the foremost orators of Chicago and at 20 he was made secretary of the executive committee of the democratic county campaign committee. He had already been admitted to the bar and tried his first case before Judge Altgeld.

The coming of the federal troops to quell the American Railway union strike at the order of Governor Cleveland and over the protest of Governor Altgeld moved Stedman to withdraw from the democratic party, never to return. The young lawyer offered his services to the strikers and became one of the leading speakers of the A. R. U. When Eugene Debs, leader of the strike, was sent to Woodstock jail for violating an injunction that would have deprived the workers of every one of their constitutional rights, Stedman visited him many times and from that time on he and Debs were co-workers.

In 1896 Stedman, together with most of the socialists of the middle west, was in the People's party. He started a boom for Debs for president and the next year helped in the movement to launch the social democracy, an issue of the

A. R. U., as the political party of socialism. In 1898 the social democratic party of America was organized with Debs, Stedman and Berger as leading spirits. Since then Stedman has been a delegate to practically every party convention and has been repeatedly nominated for office.

Stedman has served many unions as counsel. He investigated the Cherry mine disaster of 1909 and proved the responsibility of the company by showing 37 major and minor infractions of the law, leading directly to the explosion. In 1912 he investigated the West Virginia mine strike for the United Mine Workers and in 1914, the Calumet copper strike. He was a member of the Illinois legislature in 1912. During his service on the judiciary committee no bill was allowed to die in committee.

Since the war Stedman's work has been largely defending espionage cases. He had charge of the cases of Debs, the five Socialists, Rose Pastor Stokes, Scott Nearing, the American Socialist society, Max Eastman, and the other Anusovs editors. He was associated with Morris Hillquit in the Albany "trial" and he can boast that except for Debs none of his clients is in prison today.

At the outbreak of the war Stedman espoused the unpopular position of the party and wrote and spoke much on its anti-war stand. Since 1917 he has been a member of the national executive committee of the party. During the contest between the "left-wingers" and the national executive committee, Stedman voted for expulsion of the communists. At that very period he was defending the same communists in court.

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(By J. A. STEVENSON.)

Okahoma City, Sept. 9.—"What will you have?" said J. O. Goodwin county jailer, to a modest man who stood at the door of the county jail. "Put me in jail," was the reply. It seems that W. W. Lancaster was convicted May 13 of operating a still. He told U. S. Commissioner Ernest Chambers about his little farm and promised that if he would let him go and harvest his crop he'd come back and serve his time. And now the harvest is over and Lancaster is back to take up the burden imposed by his former transgressions.

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