

The Butte Daily Bulletin
 Issued Every Evening, Except Sunday, by the Bulletin Publishing Co.
 Entered as Second Class Matter, December 18, 1917, at the Postoffice at Butte, Montana, Under Act of March 3, 1879.
 PHONES: BUSINESS OFFICE, 32; EDITORIAL ROOMS, 232.
 BUSINESS OFFICE AND EDITORIAL ROOMS, 101 S. IDAHO ST.
 SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
 One Month \$1.00 Six Months \$5.00
 Three Months \$2.75 By the Year \$25.00
 OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
 Montana State Federation of Labor; Metal Trades Council of Butte;
 Silver Bow Trades and Labor Assembly; State Metal Trades Council;
 Montana World War Veterans, Inc.
 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1920.

The Poverty-Stricken Railroads

The passage of the Esch-Cummins bill, returning the railroads to private ownership and guaranteeing them a 6 per cent return on a capitalization of approximately \$19,000,000,000 was enough to warn the people of the United States that there is no limit to the greed of the railway financiers. According to Washington dispatches, the railroad managements are preparing for another raid on the public treasury, and this in the face of the fact that their failure to earn the 6 per cent rate is a public confession of inefficiency. It will be remembered that the proponents of the Esch-Cummins bill insisted with a unanimity truly remarkable, that all the troubles of the carriers arose from the fact that they were and had been under government control. Once the roads were returned to the captains of industry, said the lobbyists—on the floor and in the lobby—the financial problems of the roads would be solved with that well-known constructive ability for which captains of industry are famous. It now appears, however, that the executives of the railways have been unable to fulfill their glowing promises and the businessmen who object to "government business" and insist on "business in government," are asking that in accordance with the provisions of the Esch-Cummins bill, the government make-up their deficits out of the public treasury.

It seems that in the month of September, the roads only came within \$29,000,000 of earning their 6 per cent; in October they were \$20,000,000 short and while the reports for the subsequent months are not yet compiled, it is admitted that these will also show deficits.

It is said that the roads, with wonderful forbearance, will not ask for increased rates. They already have the highest freight and passenger rates in history and the public protest that still arises over the granting of recent increases may have something to do with their timid attitude. They are not without hope, however. Congressman Esch, one of the sponsors of the bill, comes forward with the suggestion that under the provisions of the act it is mandatory upon the interstate commerce commission to grant increases that will allow the railroads to make up their deficit whether the roads ask for a raise or not. Workingmen, who suffer from the high cost of living and whose family budget shows a deficit on Saturday night, will please notice that the railroads do not even have to ask for an increase in income, but that a beneficent government stands ready to make up any discrepancy between income and expense. It is in little matters of this kind that the railroad magnates differ from the men who really run the roads—the railway employees.

It is well to remark here, since the pitiable plight of the railroads calls it to mind, that when the Esch-Cummins bill was before congress, disgruntled representatives of labor stated that the capitalization of the roads—\$19,000,000,000—was about \$8,000,000,000 in excess of their actual value and that it was impossible for the roads to earn 6 per cent interest on that immense sum. These throwers of monkey wrenches into the legislative machinery were howled down by the kept press and the propaganda bureaus of the railroads and the Esch-Cummins bill was passed amid much rejoicing. The result is as outlined above.

There is not much doubt that congress will give the roads whatever they want. It would not surprise us if a representative of the railroads was put in charge of the treasury with instructions to pay out whatever sums the railway executives demand in order to save them the embarrassment of appearing before congress and exposing their poverty to the unfeeling gaze of the coarse workers who can never understand that the railroads are the arteries of the nation and that their wants must be carefully attended to, even though it costs us several times what it is worth. It should also be remembered that railroad investors can now buy foreign bonds bearing 8 per cent interest and better, and that unless they are able to get more than 6 per cent from railroad securities, they may withdraw their funds and leave us only the rolling stock, the roadbeds and other equipment which is operated and cared for by the workers. Of course, without the stockholders, the railroads would cease to be of any use. In view of this fact, it is probable that congress will take steps to increase the income of the roads in order that the railway employees may continue to have jobs. If this necessitates another increase in freight rates, we must bear the burden cheerfully knowing as good Americans that dividends come first.

Current Cant

"Fortunes were made on every hand. A wave of wealth swept over the country. Huts became houses and houses became palaces adorned with expensive works of art. The Kansas farmer came to New York city, too, and bought his jewelry at Tiffany's. The laboring man went to and from his work in a limousine. The poor tasted of the luxuries of wealth."

Thus speaks Geo. Roberts, vice-president National City Bank of New York.

"Ex-Senator Theodore E. Burton's recent remarks are well worth quoting: "This present condition of prices is more than a banking condition. It cannot be cured by lower rates of money. It touches the whole industrial and commercial fabric, all the ramifications of trade. I hope for, and in fact expect, a very material improvement after Jan. 1st, but I do not think it well for us to be too sanguine."

The only real cure is increased production. The only way to accumulate wealth is by work. This fact, temporarily lost sight of during and since the war, is now being forced home to the attention of the people. It is as true of the nation as a whole as it is for any individual."

The above is an extract from an editorial appearing in the current issue of the "Magazine of Wall Street."

Disarmament

The utter failure of the pacifists to dip down below the surface of things makes them the willing tools of all astute politicians, but then, if the pacifists did dip below the surface they would not be pacifists. In a world that is torn with strife and chaos, produced by a decaying system, men come before the suffering masses with their pleas for disarmament. Their attitude is similar to that of the person who prescribes morphine for a patient, whose system is being slowly eaten away by cancer.

What is the world situation? Britain, France, Japan and America are building larger armies and navies. Is it because they are possessed of a quarrelsome disposition or is it due to economic circumstance? It is to be noted that the European nations, also Japan, are suffering from heavy debts contracted during, and since the war. Therefore it is hardly possible that they would allow their quarrelsome disposition to lead them into further debt. Then we must be correct in assuming that they are being compelled to build greater armies and navies because of economic necessity. What are the economic circumstances? The nations of the world must engage in trade, in order that they might restore their lost fortunes, and provide employment for the great masses of the unemployed that threaten their citadels. To engage in the world struggle they must be in a position to produce their commodities at the lowest possible cost of production. This means that they must obtain control of the major amount of the oil of the world, due to the fact that oil, being cheaper and more convenient, is gradually replacing the use of coal as a means of producing motive-power. The fight for control of oil is the cause for increasing armaments.

Until the oil question, which practically means the trade question, is settled, we cannot discuss the disarmament question, that is if we really mean to engage in propaganda that is worthwhile. Of course, if we want to shirk real issues, and use a sticking plaster instead of the surgeon's scalpel, then we will discuss the disarmament question. But fortunately, there are people who want to engage in work that is worthwhile and they are not wasting time discussing questions, which in the last analysis are only being used to hide real issues.

We have heard vigorous denunciations of the Turk. The voice of every imperialist statesman on the side of the allies, has been raised in behalf of suffering Armenia. The Turk has received condemnation, of a worse kind, than that ever received by the Germans. Is it because we love the Armenians? Why should England love the Armenians and tyrannize over the Irish? Why should America love Armenia, and tyrannize over the Haitians? Why should the French grow enthusiastic in their love for the Armenians and cruelly oppress the Algerians?

Britain is faced with a problem in the East that can only be settled by the use of brute force. The far Eastern races are waking up to the fact that the Workers' Republic of Russia has more to offer them than the imperialist government of Great Britain. That is why the four trans-Caucasian states—Armenia, Kurdistan, Azerbaijan and Georgia—are passing over to the Bolsheviks; why Anatolia, from Erzerum to Smyrna, is ruled by a Turkish rebel, who has expressed his sympathy and support with the Bolsheviks; why Greece, disgusted with the policy that was pursued by Venizelos, has turned from the allied cause to the cause of the struggling races of the far East. This complete change of policy in the far East is undermining the rule of Britain. No amount of reasoning will swing the far Eastern races from their present point of view. If they retain their point of view then the British empire is faced with internal disaster. It therefore becomes necessary for England to increase her naval and military strength, in order to make the far East safe for British democracy—which means in world war parlance—trade. The French with the rise of Turkey are without the necessary means of attacking Russia and forcing Lenin to pay the late Czar's debts of \$1,500,000,000. Britain also would like to use Turkey, in order that she might retain control of Mesopotamia. The present Turkish government will be fought and a new Turkey might be created to serve the aims of France and Britain. Does any pacifist think that you can turn a nation of liberty-loving people into a tool of imperialists by the use of reasoning? Of course not. Then force is the next weapon to be used, and it will be used.

Again, in the struggle for oil, suppose that the oilfields of Mexico fall into the hands of one of our competitors, would we allow Mexico to hand over their oilfields to a competitor? If the pacifist is frank enough to admit it, he knows that Mexico will have to reserve her oil for America, or we shall be compelled to seize it. By the use of reason? No! Just a little persuasion, backed up by the United States army and navy.

The problems of the world are of too serious a nature as to warrant there being settled at a round table conference. Nations are forming themselves into an offensive alliance against other nations. Their objective being the trade of the world. There is no compromise in a life and death struggle. It is the old story of the biological law that rules supreme in the forest. That law which says to man or beast, either adapt yourself to your social conditions or die. It sounds brutal to the pacifist, but it is a living fact, because it is a fact we must accept it and adapt ourselves accordingly. The worker organizes into unions, and supports them out of his hard-earned wages. He does not do this because he loves to fight. He does it because he knows that he has to fight. The employer who goes into business does all manner of shady things, in order that he might succeed. His success compels him to adopt tactics, which in the quietude of his own home he despises. But he knows that without the use of them he must surrender and go bankrupt. As with worker and employer, so with nations.

We all are opposed to armaments. But we are not going to allow ourselves to be fooled by the astute politicians, who behind their pleas for disarmament, watch the building of dreadnaught after dreadnaught. The wars that we thought were past and gone, live to curse us still. They will always be here, so long as the system that produces economic antagonisms remains with us. We must accept the truth, as Walter Frank states it in his wonderful work, "Our America":

"We must go through a period of static suffering, of inner cultivation. We must break our impotent habit of constant issuance into petty deed. We must begin to generate within ourselves the energy which is love of life. For that energy, to whatever form the mind consign it, is religious. Its act is creation. And in a dying world, creation is revolution."

Gold Production Lags

By A. L. DAHL.

Will the world run short of gold? This is a question that is bothering economists and the answer is not reassuring as it might be. Individuals have grown accustomed to the absence of the golden eagle from their pockets, but they had the vague comfort of believing that there was a big pot of gold somewhere in the world, and that being a basic metal it would be impossible to lose permanently. But an analysis of the world's statistics shows that gold production is not keeping pace with the demands, and that unless its use for the arts and sciences is restricted, there will not be enough to support the tremendous expansion of credit which is based upon the gold standard.

In the last 425 years of which we have records of gold production, the total amount of the precious metal taken from the earth and added to the world's supply was only a little more than seventeen billion dollars. Of this production over half was mined in the last 25 years, during which period the average annual production of new gold is approximately \$375,000,000. Of this the United States produces less than \$100,000,000, and this production is gradually diminishing from various causes.

While the quantity of gold in the arts has increased by leaps and bounds until now it amounts to about \$40,000,000 annually in the United States alone. It is estimated that there is about \$9,000,000,000 in gold in the national and bank reserves of the world, and of this amount the United States holds over one-third, or an increase of more than two billion dollars since 1914. In spite of the fact that gold is distributed in every continent and is mined in about 60 different countries, its production has never been considerable in any one locality, with a few possible exceptions. The gold fields of the Transvaal, South Africa, are the heaviest producers, and now yield about 40 per cent of the world's gold, as against about 20 per cent only a few years ago. The Transvaal mines employ 200,000 natives and 20,000 white men, or more than are employed in all the milliferous mines in the United States. In the United States, gold production, although constantly diminishing, has been kept up to present figures largely through the operation of gold dredges, which extract the grains of gold from leads incapable of being profitably mined by other methods. The gold output of the world seems to have passed its zenith and to be on the decline. Existing ore bodies are being worked out and few new ore bodies of importance have been added to the gold and silver producers in recent years. Much of the gold now produced is taken from low-grade ore that are profitably worked only because of the improved technique in mining and metallurgy developed by engineers. The yields and costs vary in different districts and in different mines in each district. The greatest gold producers have been mines of low or moderate yield per ton, but with great mass occurrence and good conditions for economical working. For example, the Homestake mine in South Dakota, which has been working since 1875 and has produced over \$147,000,000, has operated entirely in low-grade ore averaging not over \$4 per ton, and yet this mine has made a profit of over \$40,000,000, or 27 per cent of its output. Another famous mine, that of Alaska Treadwell group in Alaska, has crushed and treated 26,000,000 tons of ore, yielding \$63,000,000, or \$2.37 per ton, and at a cost of \$1.42 per ton. Another Alaska mine is reported to have worked over 2,000,000 tons of ore giving a yield of less than \$1 per ton, and yet made a profit, but this is only possible by a combination of unusually favorable natural conditions and a most efficient organization backed by ample capital.

Since the beginning of gold mining in the Witwatersrand district, South Africa, in 1887, there has been produced there a total of \$2,571,922,355, with a gross profit of over \$600,000,000, but while production is holding up pretty well in this district there is no present likelihood of developing new and unknown deposits, and a steady decline is looked for in the African fields.

Australia reached the maximum of its production in 1903, when \$87,600,000 in gold was mined, but since then it has gradually declined, until in 1916 the returns were only about \$33,000,000. Canada, too, has declined from a production of \$28,000,000 in 1900 to less than \$15,000,000 in 1917. Russia and Siberia in 1914 mined about \$28,000,000 of gold, but in 1918 this figure had dropped to \$12,000,000. The same story is told of all other gold producing countries, including the United States, for in 1919 the world produced but \$350,000,000 in gold—\$31,000,000 or 8.1 per cent less than for the preceding year. With this loss for 1919, the total amount of the decline in the world's gold production for the past four years was \$119,000,000 or over 25 per cent.

The United States has been, probably, the largest gold producing country on earth, for up to 1917 it had mined a total of \$3,912,708,000. In 1915 it produced over \$101,000,000, but in the following years it has gradually declined in production until in 1918 the gold amounted to only \$68,648,709. There are six states and the territory of Alaska that have for the 50 six years produced approximately 70 per cent of the gold of this country. They are in the order of their production, California, Colorado, Alaska, Nevada, South Dakota, Arizona and Montana. For the last two years all of these states have shown marked declines in the amount of gold produced, and the tide of quartz mines have shown the greatest falling off, largely due to the increased cost of mining compared with the fixed value of the gold recovered. California and Alaska have maintained their output largely through the operation of gold dredges, which, though feeling the effects of the increased cost of production, had to keep operating on account of the maintenance of their organizations and the inability that would be sustained by closing down. The principal causes

of decline in gold mining in this country are the high wages, the decreased efficiency of that labor and the great increase in the cost of supplies. Since the outbreak of the war, prices of all commodities have increased greatly except that of gold, which as the standard of value is fixed at \$20.67 per ounce. In other lines of activity where the cost of production has increased the price paid for the particular product to meet the excess cost, but the miner could only obtain \$20.67 for an ounce of gold, even though the cost of producing it had doubled. Under the circumstances many times have been compelled to close and await more favorable conditions. Those mines that have continued operations have been able to do so only by practicing the most rigid economies and by the curtailment of development work. The increased freight rates and car shortage have seriously interfered with the production of those mines compelled to transport their ore by railroad to distant smelters, and in the case of the dredging companies in California and Oregon the shortage of electric power has been so great that they have been compelled to suspend operations entirely for several months in the summer or "dry" season, or else to operate under a decreased schedule, which raised their operating costs to a point where it was no longer possible to mine at a profit. Many dredges have been started in districts where the successful operation of the boat depends primarily on low running costs and a large yardage, for there is only a certain value in each cubic yard of gravel and it must be extracted at a cost below that value if a loss is not to be sustained. The adding of a cent or two to the cost of handling a cubic yard of gravel often wipes out the margin of profit. Many of the smaller dredging companies found it necessary to shut down their operations, but the big ones, running a number of boats, find it so necessary to keep their trained men together that they cannot afford to suspend, and these companies have continued producing gold at the expense of greatly diminished profits.

To meet the situation confronting the gold miners in the United States a number of suggestions have been made for providing them against adverse economic conditions. It has been suggested that a bonus per ounce be given to gold producers until such time as economic conditions will return to normal. The American Mining congress and many other public organizations have adopted resolutions calling upon the government to pass some legislation favorable to the mining industry, but to date these plans have not passed beyond the talking stage.

In connection with the suggested bonus on gold it is interesting to note that the same subject is being brought to the attention of the authorities in South Africa and Australia, and is now under discussion in England. The British government has appointed a committee of experts to make a sweeping inquiry into the conditions at gold mines and to suggest possible measures of relief. Especial attention is being given the desirability of granting the demands of the gold producers for a revision of the selling price of their product to compensate for the increased cost of labor and supplies, to means of encouraging the mining of low-grade ores, and of stimulating the production of gold in general. According to a statement issued by the Chairman of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines, out of 48 companies operating in the Transvaal, 15 were running at a loss and 16 were barely paying expenses and it is said that a large number of the mines on the Rand will have to shut down unless given some relief.—Scientific American.

BIRTH CONTROL

(Continued from Page One.)

is likely to produce an outburst of the same nature as the European struggle that in four years laid a world in ruin. We shall come to find ourselves in the same position as Japan of today, a real enemy of the most conservative press the ominous portent of her overwhelming and rising tide of population. There are those who even prophesy that a war is looming anew because of Japan's struggle to support this overcrowded condition of society. There will be the same excuses as those of Germany for her aggressive efforts at conquest—a place for her population—but a second disaster will be infinitely more terrible and death-dealing.

"Nature's method of birth control has always been in operation. Ruthlessly she limits the population by famine, wars and pestilence. She sweeps the diseased, the weakling and the feeble-minded to the wall with the great gestures that clean the world for the fit and strong."

"What does humanity do? With our humane consideration we rescue the diseased, the feeble-minded and the weaklings. We erect enormous institutions for them and fill them with their progeny. Our laws are all passed in support of the same blind system—the effort to cure rather than to prevent.

"We ignore the fundamental ill, overcrowding and increasing the weak. We study conditions, but make no effort to prevent the same conditions in the future."

"Then you think there is no danger of an undesirable limiting of population through birth control?" I asked her. "No danger that the civilization which we regard as superior might be menaced by it?"

"The world has always been led by a superior minority," she replied. "Besides the general dissemination of birth control knowledge would not tend to reduce the population below its present mark. The saving in the mortality of mothers and babies, as well as in deaths that result from disease due to bad economic conditions, would be enormous. Besides, if the middle class, which is the great class that voluntarily limits its numbers at present, were relieved from the financial strain of the excess

babies of the poor, which have to be cared for through charities and state institutions, there would be a larger number of children in well-to-do families.

Holland is the only country of Europe which has carried out a satisfactory experiment with scientific birth control, and the results there entirely bear out my contention. Holland, from her geographical position, knew that she must keep the numbers of her population within her means of supporting them if she wished to keep peace and retain her national integrity. Therefore, it is the only country in which the government authorities and the scientists and physicians have co-operated in the birth-control movement. Of course, Holland has been a sufferer through the influx of refugees who have poured in upon her. And it is the refugees who are now having the babies which are so hard to feed. But previous to the war the experience of Holland for the 35 years in which her birth control was carried out bears out my contention overwhelmingly. The death rate and infant mortality fell more rapidly than in any other country."

Mrs. Sanger spoke of the suffering of children in Germany, hundreds of thousands of whom were born since the beginning of the war. "This seems to me sheer stupidity," she said.

VIOLENCE HELD

(Continued from page one.)

incident board, and, without warning, struck a smashing blow on the attorney's face.

Wheeler, dazed by the blow, "Jed from a sneak," as the jargon of the street is, cowardly, cowardly attack, was unable to protect himself, strikers, who, according to his company's personal organ, "received the most notable decorations for valor of any man who served from Montana during the world war," displayed his valor by repeatedly striking the helpless attorney, while his body guard of policemen stood nearby, until a crossing policeman intervened and "requested" Stivers and his vicar to submit themselves to arrest.

Stivers, by the way, is said to have received a commission in the army due to the influences at Washington wielded by John D. Ryan of the Anaconda company. Stivers, however, secured his commission in the quartermaster's corps and not in a combatant branch of the service. It is said, however, he valorously fought in the "battle of Paris" and gained a notable strategic victory over a consignment of canned beans which he had isolated in a warehouse through his superior strategy of sneaking up on the Boston product when the beans were not looking.

According to eye-witnesses of the assault yesterday, Wheeler and Stivers called into play his strategy in the Battle of Beans and with a squad of heavily-armed gunmen at his rear as supporters, crept up on the unsuspecting Wheeler and delivered his main blow before Wheeler was aware of his proximity.

In police court this morning attended by Attorney John V. Dwyer and a squad of gunmen, Stivers assumed a belligerent attitude and openly admitted he was the aggressor in the assault on Wheeler and graphically told of how he crept up on Wheeler and struck him. "I struck him and struck him and struck him, and kept on hitting him until the officer interfered," boasted Stivers, who explained his reason for the assault to some reference made by Wheeler in a campaign speech from the Butte hotel balcony just prior to one of the recent elections. Stivers said he was unable to obtain legal redress for remarks he alleged Wheeler had made with reference to him and his gunmen, and said he had been awaiting an opportunity to vent his personal physical spleen on the defeated gubernatorial candidate.

Apparently awed by the presence of the notorious Stivers and his gunmen, Police Judge Grimes gave his commendation of the doctrine of violence when he said:

"There are extenuating circumstances in this case. Any man with red blood in his veins would have done the same. This case is dismissed."

Intimation that further violence against other citizens who had the temerity to oppose the Anaconda company politically in the recent elections was given by Stivers as he left the courtroom, accompanied by his advising attorney and gunmen.

"The next man to get it will be young Bonquin," Stivers was overheard to say. It is presumed this statement referred to County Attorney-elect George Bonquin.

At Attorney Wheeler's request the case of disturbance laid against him was postponed until Monday morning. Attorney Wheeler was not in police court this morning to appear against Stivers, due to injuries received during the brutal beating at the hands of Stivers yesterday.

CHINESE SOLDIERS REVOLT.
 Shanghai, Dec. 30.—Chinese troops at Yushow are rebelling against their officers and have terrorized this vicinity for the last two days with looting and incendiarism. The mutiny is said to have been caused by a delay in pay.

Bulletin Want Ads Bring Results. Phone 52.

NOTICE TO GREAT FALLS READERS

Where the Bulletin is sold:
 Oscar Prescott, 15 Second Street South.
 Ed Landgren, 408 First Avenue South.
 The World's News Company,
 Corner First National Bank Building
 Corner Fourth and Central, two regular newsmen.