

EUGENE V. DEBS AND 28 OTHERS GIVEN LIBERTY Executive Commutes Sentence of Aged Socialist Leader.

Continued from Page One. restored by a later action of the President. This, it was indicated, will not be long delayed. Debs was convicted at Cleveland, Ohio, of violating the espionage act and sentenced September 4, 1918, to ten years in the State penitentiary at Moundsville, W. Va. An appeal was taken to the Supreme Court of the United States, where the judgment was affirmed March 10, 1919, and Debs began his sentence April 12, 1919, in the West Virginia penitentiary, but was later transferred to the United States penitentiary at Atlanta, Ga., where he has since been confined. He will be eligible for parole August 11, 1922. His term, with allowances for good conduct, will expire December 24, 1923.

Reasons for Release. "It is impossible," said a statement from the Justice Department, "in a limited compass, to review all the facts in this case or the representations that have been made both in and out of court against the release of this prisoner. There is, however, no question of his guilt, and that he actively and purposefully obstructed the draft. In fact, he admitted it at the trial, and sought to justify his action. He was by no means, however, as rabid and outspoken in his expressions as many others, and but for his prominence and the resultant far-reaching effect of his words, very probably might not have received the sentence he did. He is an old man, and strong physically. He is a man of much personal and intellectual resources, and his qualifications make him a dangerous man calculated to mislead the unthinking and affording excuse for those with criminal intent.

Debs has now been in prison over two years and eight months and will be eligible for parole next August. Very few, probably, would regard a commutation to six years or even five, as unwarranted. Under such a sentence he could be paroled at once. Under all the circumstances it was believed that the act of justice would be sufficiently met, and it would be a gracious act of mercy to relieve this prisoner from further confinement. Accordingly, the sentence was commuted to expire at once.

Ends War Course. The long list of other prisoners, whose sentences were commuted by the President, constitutes the closing chapter in this government's firm course toward those who were held for obstructing war activity. Charles Ashleigh was convicted at Chicago of conspiracy to violate the espionage act, and was sentenced August 20, 1918, to ten years in the United States penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kans., and to pay a fine of \$30,000. His term, with the allowances for good conduct, will expire April 10, 1922. He was a member of the "Big Bill" Haywood in connection with the I. W. W. He was a writer and speaker who had no overt act on his part, he co-operated with leading I. W. W.'s up to and immediately following the declaration of war by this country. It is earnestly claimed in his behalf that his participation failed to introduce any evidence connecting him with wrongdoing. Very little is shown concerning his activities after the war began, and he asked to be released and deported to his native land. He has been confined in all approximately two years, and the sentence is accordingly commuted to expire at once upon condition that he be deported.

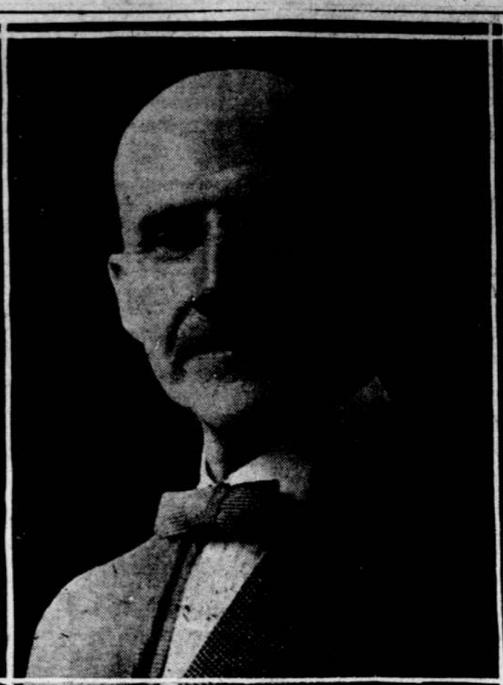
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Agent for Reds. Baldazzi was a paid organizer for the I. W. W. and manager and subscription agent for the "Ippocritico," an Italian I. W. W. newspaper. He wrote articles for this publication. A warrant for his deportation has been issued and the Department of Labor advises that it would be desirable to deport him. The sentence, accordingly, has been commuted to expire at once upon condition that he is immediately deported to Italy.

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LIBERTY AT LAST



EUGENE VICTOR DEBS, Who along with twenty-seven others, was pardoned by President Harding yesterday in a holiday list of pardons. Debs was convicted of violation of the espionage act in September, 1918, and sentenced to ten years imprisonment by United States Judge Westenhaver. Decision was sustained by the Supreme Court, March 10, 1919. He entered prison at Atlanta, Ga., April 13, 1919.

Thomas Carey was convicted at San Francisco, together with Daniel O'Connell and Carl F. Wacker, of conspiracy to violate the selective service act and the espionage act and was sentenced September 29, 1917, to imprisonment for two years at McNeil Island, Washington. Carey was a laborer and a member of the "American Patriots." After attending some pacifist and anti-draft meetings he decided to refuse to be drafted and advised others not to submit to it to join the "American Patriots" and avail themselves of the services of O'Connell, who would prevent them from being drafted. He was regarded as far less guilty than O'Connell. He has nearly completed his term, and under the circumstances it was thought that his sentence might properly be commuted to expire at once.

J. T. Cumble was convicted at Oklahoma City for violation of the espionage act and sentenced November 26, 1918, to six years at Leavenworth and a fine of \$1,000 and costs. After serving about two years and a half he was released on parole June 23, 1921. Cumble was a farmer and one of the organizers of the "Universal Union," a socialist organization composed chiefly of the poor farmers of Oklahoma. He was a member of the I. W. W. and other radical organizations revived this universal union with the idea of having them enforce the expiration of the selective service act, and both the United States attorney and the judge declined to recommend clemency but stated that they saw no reason why the prisoner should not be paroled. He has been confined in all approximately two years, and the sentence is accordingly commuted to expire at once upon condition that he be deported.

Joseph M. Coldwell was convicted at Providence, R. I., of obstructing the selective service act and sentenced July 1, 1918, to three years at Atlanta. Coldwell was an insistent advocate of resistance to the selective service act, and both the United States attorney and the judge declined to recommend clemency but stated that they saw no reason why the prisoner should not be paroled. He has been confined in all approximately two years, and the sentence is accordingly commuted to expire at once upon condition that he be deported.

Walter Phillips was convicted with others at Oklahoma City, of conspiracy to prevent, hinder and delay the execution of the Selective Service Act, and sentenced October 5, 1917, to six years at Leavenworth, and a fine of \$100. On July 17, 1920, former President Wilson commuted the sentence to four years. The prisoner was released on parole January 19, 1921. Phillips was one of a number of farmers in Oklahoma who organized for the purpose of spreading armed resistance and open rebellion against the Selective Service law.

Jose Prado was indicted at Santa Fe, New Mexico, of unlawfully entering and bringing aliens into the United States in time of war in violation of the act of May 22, 1918, and section 8 of the act of February 5, 1917; pleaded guilty, and was sentenced October 8, 1920, to two years at Atlanta, Ga., and a fine of \$100. Prado claimed that he was a hard working man in search of work, and without realizing the seriousness of the offense, was induced to help other poor working men across the line into this country. He has been in prison since October 8, 1920.

Mojik Fleron (alias Moylech Fleron) was convicted at Detroit, of violation of the espionage act and sentenced August 7, 1918, to twenty years at Leavenworth, Kansas, and a fine of \$10,000. Sentence commuted by President Wilson May 24, 1918, to five years.

Fleron was formerly an officer in the Austrian army and it was charged that prior to and after the declaration of war he urged men not to enlist in the United States army. These charges he has persistently denied and tried to explain and insists that he was and is loyal to this country, but admits that under the evidence presented the

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THIS CHRISTMAS HAPPIEST, SAYS MRS. DEBS, ILL

Wife and City Eagerly Awaiting Homecoming Of Socialist.

TERRE HAUTE, Ind., Dec. 23.—This Christmas will be my happiest. This is what the homecoming of Eugene V. Debs will mean to his wife, who is seriously ill at her home here from heart trouble. The news of the probable freeing of her husband, who has been serving a ten-year sentence at the Federal penitentiary at Atlanta, was kept from Mrs. Debs until it was officially announced. It was feared that a last-minute disappointment might prove fatal.

Reporter Gives News. But when the official news that President Harding had commuted the sentence was received, a reporter was allowed to see her. She is a small and retiring little lady with a gentle smile. She thanked the reporter quietly for his news, but it will be very quiet, it was stated, because both Debs and his wife will visit it so.

But thousands of labor leaders, Socialist friends and other citizens of Terre Haute know Gene Debs as a firm friend, political conviction notwithstanding, and will give him a notable greeting. Hundreds will come from Chicago and other cities to swell the reception.

Quiet Christmas Day. There will be a quiet celebration at the home, but it will be very quiet, it was stated, because both Debs and his wife will visit it so. But thousands of labor leaders, Socialist friends and other citizens of Terre Haute know Gene Debs as a firm friend, political conviction notwithstanding, and will give him a notable greeting. Hundreds will come from Chicago and other cities to swell the reception.

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Xmas Fete Today At St. Elizabeth's

War Mothers Also Plan Musical for Mt. Alto Hospital.

The national American War Mothers, District of Columbia Chapter, will give a Christmas entertainment this afternoon at 3 o'clock at St. Elizabeth's Asylum. There will be a musical program of Christmas carols and distribution of fruit and candy.

Plans were made at a meeting of the War Mothers in Thomson School last night to give a New Year musical to the patients at Mount Alto Hospital on Friday. Mrs. E. Wagner and Mrs. G. Dieste are in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Mary Warfield, retiring president, was presented last night with a gold star in appreciation of her executive work. A program of music was given by Mrs. E. K. B. Jones and Mrs. E. Shulze, with a piano solo by Miss Wilhelmina Gude.

5 AUTO MISHAPS CAUSED BY SNOW

Girl Cut by Flying Glass and Sent to Hospital—Motor Hits Trolley.

Five traffic casualties, two of which sent a girl and an aged man to hospitals, resulted from Washington's snow-covered streets yesterday.

Miss Grace Myers, 112 Twelfth street northeast, was cut above the right eye by flying glass, when the automobile in which she was riding, operated by Barrett Knock, Fourteenth street northwest, collided with the machine driven by James R. Bank, 2405 Pennsylvania avenue northwest at Seventeenth and B streets northwest. She was removed to Emergency Hospital in a passing automobile.

Richard Wade, colored, 61 years old, of Arlington, Va., suffered body bruises and cuts about the face when he was knocked down by an automobile, which failed to stop, as he left the curb near Thirty-fourth and M streets northwest yesterday. He walked to the Georgetown Hospital.

Crashing together at Eighteenth and R streets northwest, automobiles belonging to J. L. Talbert, 908 Eighth street northeast, and C. H. Morgan, 815 Tenth street northwest, were damaged, both drivers escaped injury.

The automobile of George A. Fletcher, 4814 1/2 Chappin lane northwest, collided with that owned by Jesse R. Harris, 4907 Howard street northwest, and operated by Paul H. G. Randall, 4522 Wisconsin avenue northwest, damaging both machines, at Chesapeake street and Grant road yesterday.

H. O. Robinson, 1208 B street southwest, operating the automobile of E. F. Grigg, 1131 Seventeenth street northwest, collided with a street car at Ninth and I streets northwest, damaging his machine but escaping personal injury.

Vicari Says Farewell. Gen. Giuseppe Vicari, of the Italian army, and his staff called yesterday at the District Building to bid farewell to the District Commissioners before leaving for Italy. In the absence of Commissioner Rudolph, they were received by Commissioners Oyster and Keller and warmly greeted on behalf of the City of Washington.

espionage act and sentenced June 23, 1919, to two years at Leavenworth. He began his sentence January 21, 1921, and his term will expire August 23, 1922. He is a native of Ireland, a Socialist, and it is said that his public address during the war were very pronounced. Sentence was commuted to expire at once upon condition that he be deported.

Ed. Hamilton was convicted at Chicago of conspiracy and violation of the espionage act, and was sentenced August 30, 1918, to ten years in the United States penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kans., and a fine of \$20,000.

Hamilton was a member of the I. W. W. from April 8, 1917, to date of indictment and was also a delegate and organizer. He wrote an article, entitled "After the War, What?" which was printed September 1, 1917, in Solidarity. There was no serious overt act committed by this defendant, though the speeches and writings attributed to him were regarded as serious at that time.

Jack Law was convicted at Chicago of conspiracy to obstruct the selective service act and violation of the espionage act and was sentenced October 30, 1918, to imprisonment for ten years and a fine of \$20,000.

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ASKS GUARANTEES CONCERNING USE OF LOANS BY CHINA

Japan Points to Need of Supervision of Expenditures.

The Japanese will continue to insist upon adequate guarantees from the Chinese that all money advanced will be used for purposes for which it is loaned, which will mean a form of scrutiny over Chinese financial affairs.

This was made clear yesterday by Masumoku Odagiri, financial adviser to the Japanese delegation in Washington, one of the best known experts on Chinese internal finances. Mr. Odagiri explained that while the consortium was not included in the agenda for the conference on Far East affairs, it was necessary that the position of Japan be put before the public in view of statements published in the press in the United States.

The formal statement follows: Issues Official Statement. The present consortium, as Thomas W. Lamont, of the American Banking Group, has recently written, was formed at the instance of the governments of the United States, Great Britain, France and Japan, with a view to ending competition in the furnishing of public funds to China. The object of creating a friendly co-operation among the bankers of those countries was with the hope that this action would contribute to the restoration of a healthier and more stable economic and financial condition in China. When these four countries saw that China was in serious financial difficulties, they got together in an effort to help her avoid what might become a calamity. Other nations have been wrecked by unlimited borrowing, and it was desired to save China from such a fate.

Unable to Avoid Difficulties. "Under existing internal handicaps, the Chinese government has been unable up to the present to extricate the country from its difficulties. Some of the government officials have not exemplified the conditions of honesty which made the Chinese merchants of the nineteenth century notable in their dealings with foreigners. The record of Chinese credit, up to recent times, is one of the best examples in history of the highly profitable character of a reputation for honesty, though the integrity of the merchants has not extended fully to the governing classes. The moment it should become clear that money loaned in China would be honestly and effectively used, the need for precautions on the part of foreign bankers and foreign governments would disappear.

China Needs Big Loans. "No nation alone could furnish the capital for China's gigantic construction and reorganization needs. In the case only of communications, the requirement is for billions of dollars. There are approximately only 8,000 miles of railway in China, though her territory is considerably larger than the United States and the population is believed to be 400,000,000. In the United States there are over 270,000 miles of railway.

Loans of such size as China's needs involve are not made by capitalists. The capitalists only underwrite them for disposal to investors. The bonds cannot be sold successfully unless they are absolutely secure, and the income from them is attractive. A prime requisite for such security is a condition of respect for property rights.

Rainbow Vets Plan Cheer For Disabled Comrades. Wounded veterans of the Rainbow Division who are in the vicinity of Washington are to be remembered by their war-time comrades during Christmas week. Committees were appointed last night by the District Chapter of Rainbow Division Veterans to visit each man personally.

The plans for these visits include the bringing of gifts and cheer and the talking over of events overseas.

HEADACHES FROM SLIGHT COLDS. Laxative BISMOX QUININE Tablets relieve the headache by curing the cold. A non-laxative and germ destroyer. The genuine bears the signature of E. W. Grove. (Be sure you get BISMOX.) 30c.—Adv.

Highest Quality Lowest Prices. RAINCOATS for Men, Women and Children. UNITED RUBBER CO. 1436 N.Y. AVE. N.W.

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David T. Blodgett was convicted at Des Moines of causing insubordination, mutiny and disloyalty, etc., and interfering with enlistment and recruiting. In violation of the espionage act and sentenced January 5, 1918, to twenty years at Leavenworth. He began his sentence in the Leavenworth Penitentiary, but was afterwards transferred to St. Elizabeth's Hospital for the Insane, this city, and from there transferred to the Atlanta Penitentiary, where he is now confined.

Opposed to War. Blodgett wrote pamphlets opposing the war with Germany and alleging that the selective service act was unconstitutional. These pamphlets were advocated in the pamphlet.

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Caught Dumping Mash Into Sewer

Negro Arrested; 15-Gallon Still Seized at His Residence.

While dumping a bucket of mash into a sewer, early yesterday morning, Burrill Johnson, colored, 37 years old, of 2303 Tenth street northwest, was arrested, and a 150-gallon mash and a gallon and a half of the finished corn whisky were seized at his home. Johnson's house was raided by

Hotel Insures Employee. Frank S. Hight, manager of the New Willard Hotel, announced yesterday that employees of that hotel had been presented with a life insurance policy as a Christmas gift. The insurance applies to all who have completed six months' service with the hotel.

Internal Revenue Officer Lintley B. ans, Lieut. Reilly, Sergt. Halder, Precinct Detective W. F. Burke and Policemen C. D. Poole, W. S. Betts and J. J. Fisher, of the Eighth precinct.

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