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FARMERS SAVE CIVILIZATION FROM DISASTER

(By W. A. Stone in Literary Digest.)

"No country in the world today compares with the United States in the adoption of mechanical energy for agricultural purposes. Not even Germany, in her heyday, held a candle to the tillers of our soil, who, instead of being crowded on to small acreages, for the most part possess land as far as the eye can reach. This wide expansion of land-holding gave our farmers the wider production vision as well as wider governmental viewpoint. Tractors are the direct result of this conception.

"The United States would be placed at a great disadvantage, as a military power, were there not tractors to step in and take the place of the men and horses gone to war. Tractors have demonstrated their ability to not only do this, but a single machine will do the work of several teams and men at a lower cost and in quicker time. The tractor is the most efficient power confined to a small, portable area, in existence. It is the development, in its modern form, of the best mechanical brains of American genius.

"Each day finds the tractor performing some new and important work in the welfare of the country. If it is not aiding in increasing the sugar-production of Hawaii, then it is in the wheat fields of the northwest, or, possibly, in the corn belt of the middle west. Our present food emergency, unprecedented in our history, is to be solved by the tractor. The 1918 food crisis is more acute than that of 1917. Not only must our farmers till 330,000,000 acres of staple food crops this year, but they must produce on this enormous area more than $20,000,000,000 worth of farm products if they are to meet the demands of the allied nations.

"Without the tractor it would have been little short of an idle dream to undertake such a great undertaking, facing a great labor shortage and a shortage of horse power. If the farm boy or hired man has not gone to war, he has, in the majority of cases, answered the call of high wages in munition, steel and war-order shops. Then the farmer faces a shortage of farm implements. It is only by the increased efficiency of the tractor that the present supply of these is to be made useful."

Armed with a tractor, one man can do the work that required 50 men in the time of Napoleon. In Kansas, altho more than 50,000 men, mostly farmers, are in military service, 9,500,000 acres were seeded to wheat last fall. The farmers planted more than 24,000,000 acres to crops this spring. This means that approximately 35,000,000 acres of crops were harvested. Under ordinary conditions between 60,000 and 70,000 transient laborers come into the state to help harvest, but this year the enormous acreage was handled with tractors. The secretary of the Kansas board of agriculture is quoted as saying:

"The tractor is doing the work of 18,000 to 20,000 men in Kansas. In the past two years the farmers of the state have increased their ownership of tractors by 100 per cent, so satisfactory have been the results. The tractor operator can raise larger crops because he plows deeper, can make a better seed-bed, can cultivate and till the soil more and better after the crop has been planted; he can double his output—that is, he can tend more than twice as much land, and he can do it better and with less labor and with less expense. Therefore, he can make more crops grow on the same area that he heretofore farmed with horses, but in addition he can accomplish this same result over more than twice the area."

Mr. Stone goes on to say:

"The acreage sown to crops in the uninvaded portion of France was one-fourth less in 1917 than in 1913. The total crop production in France last year was almost 40 per cent less than in 1913. As long as France and other countries whose production has been greatly decreased by the war could purchase necessary supplies from America the situation was not serious. But with America in the war and our own man-power and horse-power being heavily drawn upon, the situation assumes a different aspect. There is no source from which we can purchase the supply of food products which we must have. It is imperative that we grow enough for our own 110,000,000, our fighting men, and also supply a large share of the decreased production of those who are helping to fight our battles. It is only the tractor that can answer this urgent call for food.

"Not only are present cultivated acreages being worked with the tractor, but also increased acreages under the same management. Many farmers are managing from 400 to 800 acres with tractors who a few years ago were operating but 100 to 160 acres."

A REAL LEAGUER.

D. C. DORMAN,
Great Falls, Montana.
Dear Sir and Brother:—

Inclosed please find petition with my name and that of my neighbors. I hope every Leaguer sends their petition so we can have our paper. I will send one dollar for renewal for Montana Nonpartisan as soon as I can. I would send in $16.00 for renewal of membership too, if I could get the money but haven't had any crop for the last two years and won't be able to raise the money this fall but if I can get a crop next year, I sure will be there with the kale. I did all I could to get my neighbors to go and register so that they could vote and they promised to do so but I know some who did not, and over half of those who were registered did not go to vote. I can't understand why some people don't take more interest in voting of course, it was storming and the roads were heavy, but my wife and I went, and we had ten miles to go. We went in a farm wagon too and most everyone else has an auto. The election officers did not expect over twenty-five votes on account of the roads and there was 125 registered in our precinct.

Well, hoping you can continue publishing the Nonpartisan, I am
Yours very truly,

WORLD WAR MAY PROVE GREAT BLESSING

Has a new weapon of battle been forged out of the European conflict, and is this new weapon to be the principal reliance of the contending social forces in the greater battle of reconstruction which began yesterday? A series of amazing developments during the war seem to have laid the foundation for an entirely new method of warfare, says a writer in the Grand Forks, N. D., American, and, paradoxical as it may sound, it is not unlikely that the very war which has been the most striking exemplification of military might and has ended in one of the most complete military victories ever recorded, has laid the foundation for greater victories by entirely different methods.

In spite of the fact that this war has employed the biggest guns and the most guns of any war, it has relied more on political maneuvering and the spread of ideas to defeat the foe than any other war. This latter method is a tribute to a changed condition in this world that has become apparent in spite of the terrific destructive power of guns; for in spite of our modern guns, we has discovered that in this changed humanity we have to rely more on ideas to win victories than ever before.

While sending shot and shell and modern high explosives into the ranks of the enemies, the belligerents have had to depend more and more on bombing the enemy morale by the dissemination of political and social ideas. Who ever would have dreamed that perfectly good shells would be used to enclose documents instead of TNT, both sides used shells of this kind that would open with a mild explosion and scatter dangerous propaganda behind the enemy lines. When powder is burned to shoot ideas into an enemy instead of destruction, the world has advanced a step, in spite of appearances, and we have unconsciously bowed to the superiority of the idea to conquer.

Another method employed by both sides extensively was airplane bombing" operations where ideas, political and social, were the bombs dropped on the unprotected heads of the enemy. France, parts of England and Italy, and Germany and Austria have been repeatedly sown with the germs of opposing ideas and systems in this great war of words and thought. How fatal the use of such "explosives" has been, it is difficult to say, but it is another tribute to the power of ideas that they were used instead of regular TNT bombs when the latter were plentiful.

Perhaps the climax in drum fires and barrages with thoughts as the missles was reached when D'Annunzio, the Italian poet, risked his life and a perfectly good battle plane to bury Trieste under his latest patriotic poem. Had it, in this instance, been a lesser poet than D'Annunzio we are sure that the poems would have caused a greater loss of morale than a similar weight of TNT could have possible caused.

But Trotsky and Lenine we will have to award the prize in this line of warfare, no matter how grudgingly we do this. These two international adventures actually started out with the idea that they were destined to conquer the whole world by the free use of this kind of assorted shells and bombs. A capsule loaded with propaganda and fired from a cannon or dropped from an airplane or surreptitiously smuggled across the enemy lines became the main reliance in the achievement of this rather large order.

Their first notable victory was the defeat of Korniloff. If you will take the trouble to look up the details, you will find that we are not exaggertating in the least when we say that Korniloff and his cossacks were put absolutely out of business by the free use of Bolshevik propaganda. They started out with all the pomp and price of a conquering army to march on Petrograd. The Bolshevik leaflet did the rest. Before Korniloff had an opportunity to test the mettle of his own ,supposedly faithful cossacks on the reds, he had no army left. His soldiers were marching arm in arm with red guards and calling them by the endearing title of "comrade" or "tovarish", as the Russians say.

Then Lenine and Trotsky turned their attention to Finland, where the reactionary white guard had set up a strong and menacing power. In a little while these little pellets of socialistic literature had almost vanquished the white guard army and a red guard army was rapidly driving it back when Germany stepped in. But Lenine and Trotsky smiled and winked at each other and swore to put Germany under a barrage of ideas. But their plans did not mature in Germany as soon as they expected.

In the meantime ,the cossacks had set up a powerful counter-revolutionary government on the Don. Thither went the surety Bolshevik agents, loaded with literature and their little spiel. And what happened? Why, nothing, except the cossacks workingmen themselves overthrew the very government they had helped to set up.

This is typical of the whole history of the Bolshevik regime, from the time it was set up until it was proclaimed 5,000 miles to the east, in Vladivostick. Then the allies stepped in.

Now let us return to Germany and central Europe. The world has just swakened to the fact that it is the Soviet, the Russian, or Lenine-Trotksy form of organization, that is sweeping over all Germany, Austria, Hungary, Poland and Bulgaria. Those little propaganda pellets have been raining down on central Europe for eight months. Lenine and Trotzky have been avenged on the German slaughters of the red guards; they have planted their red flag over all central Europe, by means of a propaganda drum fire.

What will be the end of all this? What will be the effect if this barrage of ideas is thrown into the allied countries across the pond?

TOWNLEY TALKS ON WARS END

Says Democracy Will Triumph and War Cease For All Time

The greatest task which the people of the world now face, since the close of the war, is to rebuild that which was good and which has been destroyed and to complete and perfect the democracy which the people of all the world now have the power to establish, according to astatement made by A. C. Townley, president of the National Nonpartisan league for the Leader.

In speaking of the signing of the armistice and after he had been shown the reports of the conditions imposed on the Central powers, Mr. Townley said:

"The day for inflicting wounds is past. The day for healing wounds is in the full blaze of its noon day.

"The battle flags are furled. The Red Cross now leads the way. The world war for democracy has been triumphant.

"This will not be a peace without vitory.

"It will be the coming of peace for the first time in the history of the world when war will end with victory for the masses on both sides of the battle line.

"This world war will not achieve the purpose of the autocrats who caused it.

"It will achieve the purpose of the democrats who have been its victims.

"These democrats have fought its battles. They have transformed its issues while under fire. They will have for themselves the friuts of this final victory.

"The great task for all the world is to rebuild all that was good which this war has destroyed and to complete and to perfect the democracy which the peoples of all the world now have the power to establish.

"As our country was the last to have a share in this world conflict and has suffered least, let it be the first in the use of all its resources and of all its powers for its survivors, to reclaim the wasted places and to complete and to perfect the building of a world democracy."

How many deaths can you lay to the door of Arthur LeSeuer on the strength of those letters being published by the "danger commission?" How many can you lay to the door of A. C. Townley for being president of the Nonpartisan league? And how many can you lay to the door of Governor Burnquist and his "danger commission" for playing politics instead of heeding the warning of Forest Ranger Swedberg's letter?—DASSEL (MINN.) ANCHOR.

RULE OF PEOPLE RILES PLUTES

ATTEMPTS WILL BE MADE TO DISCREDIT GAINS BY WORKING CLASSES ABROAD.

(By W. G. Roylance)

Peace has come with the signing of the armistice, and central Europe is ablaze with revolution—"red' 'revolution, as our own reactionary press describe it. This same reactionary press a few days ago was warning us that we had no assurance that the new government in Germany really represented the people. Now they are attempting to prepare the public mind for a propaganda to show that the German revolution is bolshevist, and therefore to be opposed in the interest of all that is safe and sane and respectable. Our plutocatic classes doubtless were sincere in their support of a war to the bitter end with Germany. There may even have been an element of sincerity in their professions of riendliness to a revolution that would overthrow the autocracy; but what they wanted and hoped for was a thoroughly respectable, frock-coat and high-hat revolution, that would have chief regard for the "sacred rights of property," and that would not impair the united power of capitalism to stem the rising tide of industrial as well as political democracy in other countries. "Red' 'revolution—any kind of revolution with the life and soul of the people in it—was the last thing they would have sought.

WORKERS IN GERMANY

Does the German revolution represent the people? The flight of the Hohenzollerns, the diplomatic retirement of Prince Max, the prompt and courageous action of the men who for half a century have thought and fought for social and economic freedom in Germany, the growing fear of that revolution expressed by the plutocracies and the "ain't-it-awful," self-respected middle classes everywhere are conclusive proof that it does. There is much grim humor in the situation, and the joke is decidedly on the plutocratic bitter-enders, the men who among us assumed the attitude of super-patriots and arrogated to themselves the responsibility of holding the supposedly reluctant workers to the task of continuing the war until German militarism was thoroughly beaten. So blinded were they by narrow self-interest that they could not see that defeat of German militarism would be followed immediately by the uprising of the eGrman people, who would pull down and thrust out all that remained of privilege, whether of birth or wealth or social prestige; that the people would not be content merely to substitute one set of masters for another.

PLUTOCRACY CAN NOT BE SAVED.

The plutocrats outside of central Europe might have been able to make over the power that fell from the hands of the vanquished Hohenzollerns, had they earlier consented to enter upon peace negotiations. They might have brought about peace on the basis of mutual concessions among the plutocracies of the separate groups, and opposed the united power of world plutocracy to popular revolt that was writing the doom of their rule. That might have been easy before America entered the war. It would have been possible before Chateau Thierry. Now it is forever impossible, and for that let every true lover of truth and liberty rejoice.

DISCREDITED DEMOCRACY ABROAD.

If the people of a number of European countries such as Bulgaria and Austria drive out their junkers and really take control of things in their own interests, all our kept press will begin to howl about terrible Socialists, blind bolshviki and outrageous anarchists. For the simple truth is that our own junkers do not want real democracy either here or abroad, and they will bring every bit of force and lying they can against any government in which the farmers and workers, the big majority of the population, have the say. They will try to make us believe that the working classes of other countries are villainous and that justice, truth, mercy and right can be found only in the rule of special privilege persons like themselves.

Our big press can not tell the truth about democracy abroad any better than it tells the truth about democracy at home.

"We want a dominant merchant marine, but one privately owned", declares Chairman Hays of the Republican national committee. In other words, the Republican party would take the ships built by the people's money an dhand them over for the enrichment of special interests—doubtless large subscribers to the Republican campaign fund.—BELLINGHAM (WASH.) JOURNAL.

It is a peculiar thing about the Nonpartisan league that few people have any criticism to offer on the League itself or its program. Many say "the League is all right, but we don't like their leaders". If those leaders have built up an organization that is all right and continue to conduct it along lines that are all right, why are not the leaders all right? It strikes us that they must be fairly good men. There are people who honestly disagree with the League in reard to their program and they are entitled to do so, but the farmers of North Dakota are firm in the belief that they are laying the foundations for real industrial and political democracy in this state and that they have opened the door to a new and better era when the concern of the state will be the welfare of the people to a greater extent than it has ever been before.—DONNYBROOK (N. D.) COURIER.

A LEAGUE OF PEOPLES

Organized labor of the western hemisphere has just held an epoch-making conference at Laredo, Texas. It is epoch-making not so much in what was done there as in the fact that labor of North and South America got together to talk things over. Heretofore the peoples of different countries have been generally content to talk to others through their governments. The workers of different countries have known each other with rare exception only through what diplomats and other government representatives report and through the big press. It is, therefore a big important step when labor of different countries meets directly as it has at Laredo.

Over in Europe much has been said of international conferences of workers and several more or less international have been help Governments in general, however, have been opposed, partly perhaps because direct contact of workers might reduce the importance of diplomats and more because all the governments we have today represent not merely labor but the great capitalistic interest as well. Because of labor's small share in actual government either here or abroad, the voice of the diplomat is the voice of the capitalist—and not all capitalists at that but those playing for some stake in the international field. The winning of these stakes may involve wholesale deception of the people at

Inasmuch as there is a large body of organized labor in every civilized country, why should these bodies not meet through accredited representatives for better mutual understanding? Capital meets and has international dealings, why not labor? There is only one answer. Until labor gets a predominant voice in government, there is great need for such airings of opinion lest capital, holding both its own cards and those of diplomatic power, deceive the country to its own selfish advantage.

Let us add to labor ,organized farmers and an yother organized group of common people not usually thought of as belonging to either of these classes . We may see dangers in a league of nations—as Roosevelt would plan it, it would be a blunder and a calamity for democracy—but there is no danger and great promise in an informal league of peoples.

DEFEND LABOR OSTRACISED SAY OLD GANG

How little the old gang in Minnesota are in sympathy with American ideals has seldom been shown up better than in Governor Burnquist's attack on Arthur LeSueur for defending men accused of crime in court. It is one of our most rock-ribbed traditions, much violated in recent years, that every accused person is entitled to a fair trial and legal defense. A really professional lawyer should be ready to defend all who call upon him for his talent. How then can we consider the interests that attempt to kill every lawyer professionally who dares to represent in court laboring men or farmers who have apposed special privilege? This vicious, un-American sabotage is so strong that now no big lawyer in our cities who hopes to keep his general practice dares to defend a labor union man or a Nonpartisan league leader or member. Yet he can add to his reputation by appearing for a notorious murderer.

The America of Washington and Thomas Jefferson which wrote our Constitution, fought for and wrote into the oConstitution that every person should have a fair trial before a jury of his peers. Now those such as Burnquist and other self-proclaimed defenders of American principles, declare in advance that certain persons are guilty and no reposnible lawyer must defend them. If the bar association of Minnesota is at all interested in professional ethics, if it wants to keep its profession honorable in the opinion of the people, why does it allow these dirty, un-American attacks on some of its fearless members to pass without comment or defense? Even I. W. W. are entitled to the services of lawyers and a fair trial when accused. Perhaps the people are right in their suspicion that the legal profession is controlled by the office boys of the special interests, and organized farmers and organizzed labor are probably on the right track in kicking them out of public office.

MILITARISTS TO SEEK CONTROL OF CHILD MIND

People Must Guard Schools Against Menace

PEOPLE MUST GUARD SCHOOLS AGAINST THE MENACE.

In the face of the tremendous howl for military training in our schools, the recent decision of the Britsh government to have none of it is at least interesting. England has just had a mighty awakening on the school question. A review of English trade experience in war production, showed up clearly the great handicap of a poorly educated people. Sonsequently England has decided to clean house thoroughly.

A new and sweeping educational act has just passed parliament providing for compulsory education of a better kind than has been available hitherto, to the age of 14 and up to 18 all must either be in school or attend the part-time continuation schools. Physical training is to be provided without stint, but of military training there is not to be a trace. The English minister declared that the question of militry drill for the secondary schools had been canvassed by the government and that the government had come to the opinion that the innovation had neither educational nor military value and would not be adopted.

But the interests behind the propaganda for militarism are not especially interested in the educational or military value of the "innovation." What they want is the development of the militaristic mind. They propose to use the means employed by the Geman junkers, namely, the poisoning of the children's minds before they are old enough to reason for themselves.

The parents of today will fail in their duty to their children if they do not set their faces against this beast which would warp their minds and which would waste the precious years of formal schooling which are much too short at best. Let us resolve to keep the schools democratic and to make them as efficient as possible.

FLYING WEDGE TO HELENA LEGISLATURE

(Continued from Page One)

League continued its way, surging steadily ahead adding to its membership and enlarging its influence.

Spite of "flu" or snow storm or deliberate violations of the election laws, it now begs leave to present to the people of Montana some twenty legislators and a swarm of county officers who are but the entering wedge of the force which shall sweep the old gang into oblivion, two years hence.

AN EFFORT REWARDED.

Faithful work has accomplished this and strict attention to the meaning and purpose of the League has brought this reward. Now it is shown as never before that the middle of the road policy is the only one the League can possibly follow and that the compromosing tactics which some sought to introduce in the vain hope that it was possible for the Leaguers to beat the Gang at its own game has nothing but disaster for its practitioners.

The League has everything to feel proud of and nothing to repine, for this we know that the flying wedge which we have elected will thrust deep and hard into the solid copper forces and a way be opened for sweeping victory two years hence.

The adoption of certain planks in the organized farmers' platform by reactionary politicians means "Let the gang do it"—a slogan not likely to become popular.

The politicians and profiteers who have nothing invested in the Nonpartisan league are very much worried about what becomes of the money.—GRANT COUNTY (S. D.) TRIBUNE

The farmers, of course, are pleased with the nice words coming from high places about their patriotic sacrifice, etc., but the farmers are not selfish. They would be much better pleased if the beef trust, the steel trust, the oil strust and sundry other trusts had been sharing the sacrifice with them.

LIVE STOCK

To get the highest price and best fill, ship your Cattle, Sheep and Hogs to the

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