

Skygac's Column

The heading on the front page was "Reels advance on all fronts."

Bolsheviki successes said to be treating to engulf vast areas. On the editorial page it was headed "Back to Normal" and it told how the success of Lenin and Trotsky once again proved the theories of Communism impractical. It seems that Lenin and Trotsky, rather than be deprived of their power, are bringing their government around to a conformity with workable ideals that will meet with the approval of democratic governments. It is funny enough to make a brass goose shed its pinfeathers.

The same paper carried the news that the Soviet Government of Russia had been the highest bidder on an assortment of shoes advertised for sale to the highest bidder by the war department. The bid was rejected on the ground that the goods offered for sale were not to be exported. Of course now if England had been the highest bidder — But, why worry? Economic determinism will force the American capitalists to seek Russian markets, regardless of ideas or opinions of the politicians.

That is one redeeming feature of Capitalism. It is forced to cut its "tomorrow" throat in order to live thru today.

Hooray! "The red storm has passed over. God's in his Heaven, All's well with the world." It must be so. The "Herald" said so.

Col. Henry J. Reilly headlined in the Chicago Tribune as "U. S. Expert" says, "Russian (Bolshevik) officers are well paid on the one hand and on the other are shot if unfaithful." Well? Does he mean to imply that American officers are not well paid? Or is the treatment different in case they are unfaithful?

Kemper Hall an exclusive church school for young women under the charge of the sisters of St. Mary recently ousted four girl students and two teachers. It was not for crap shooting altho it was rumored that rolling the bones was a popular pastime. "It was not for smoking cigarettes" said a newspaper write-up, "altho it was admitted that the girls smoked, but as their mothers also smoked nothing could be said about it." "Stories circulated among the students hinted that the expulsions resulted from the discovery that they had been connected with the manufacture of alcoholic liquor" said the newspaper, adding a line that the story was not confirmed by the officials. Just a little home-brew affair! Oh well—what can one expect from a church school? At any rate, I'm glad I'm not religious.

"Medicine with 55% 'kick' seized in raid." "What is the matter — Palmer out of liquor?"

"Meat prices drop 4c". In the newspaper not in the market!

"Where is the spirit of unrest leading to?" asks Hearst. You tell 'em Hearst. Now if it was the spirit of unrest you asked about — but you never will!

The spirit of unrest is heading the country helibent for communism and no power on earth can stop it.

What is communism? Practical socialism in practice.

Have you initiative enough to organize a study class, or are you one of the great majority who want one but are waiting for George to do it?

All right. Prove it.

Study classes ought to go big now since Ludwig C. A. K. Alphabet Martens has demonstrated their effectiveness. Martens was working un-

TROTSKY'S VIEW OF MILITARISM
"Immediate demobilization is obligatory with us as soon as hostilities cease. The workers and peasants will insist, once the revolution is no longer in peril, on returning to their factories and farms and making Russia a fit land to live in."

"Frontier guards will be maintained, of course. The framework of our organization must also be preserved in order that with the experience the men have received in the last eighteen months our proletarian fighting machine can be remodeled in two or three months if the need arise. There will be besides, some form of military training for the working class, that it may always be ready to defend itself against the bourgeoisie."

"Militarism, striking as it does at the very roots of communism, cannot possibly exist in soviet Russia, the only truly pacific country in the world."

der a serious handicap too, as he had U. S. Congressmen for students.

We are technically at war with Germany, Austria and Turkey, yet the state department will issue a passport to those countries. We are not at war with Russia, Lithuania or the Ukraine, but the state department will issue no passports to those countries. "There's a reason! The interests of capitalism!"

A report recently made public by Miss Helen Todd a prominent social worker says that the assistants of the department of Justice justified their red raids by saying, "It made the victims believe in God".

God must be pretty badly up-against the department of justice for aid in making converts.

Was it not Esau who traded his birthright for a mess of pottage? We in this generation have traded ours for poverty and respectability.

Bernard Shaw said that in his day a clerk never expected to long remain a clerk, but move on up into the employing class. Now the days of opportunity are over. Once a clerk, always a clerk or other wage-laborer. Now the only hope for clerks is to join with others of their class.

That is good advice. Either get out of the working class or else join a working-class organization.

They are redoubling their efforts to get in communication with the dead and I am anxiously awaiting the outcome, for if ever they DO establish a line of communication I want to get the opinion of Franklin, Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson on present day claimants of hundredpercent Americanism.

With immigration almost nil and the foreign-born population leaving in droves the American manufacturers are beginning to see a new light. Open disapproval of the activities of the Attorney General are to be found in various papers. Likewise those same causes are the forces back of the agitation for a repeal of the prohibition amendment.

A writer in the PUBLIC LEDGER speaking of Russian affairs says "any peace established now between soviet authority and governments of the bourgeois cannot be more than a brief truce, because socialism and capitalism can not exist side by side." He goes on to state that "neither can be suppressed without warfare." He might have gone one step further and said that experience had demonstrated to the bourgeois of the world that socialism can not be suppressed with or without warfare!

The Bolsheviki are reported as carrying on two vitally important campaigns. Here is hoping that they are successful in both, even if I do risk a charge of sedition or treason in so stating my hopes. The two vitally important campaigns are one against disease and the other against ignorance.

What a glorious world it will be when all campaigns will be conducted not with armies against other armies for the purpose of ascertaining which nation has the superior killing equipment here could only be cussin' for the and ignorance!

Seven universities under the czar and seventeen under the soviets. Comment here could only be cussin' for the opponents of soviet rule.

Education in Sovietland is compulsory. All children from eight to sixteen are not only taught but fed clothed and housed at the expense of the state. Are not those Bolshevists the backward people tho?

Well, somebody is.

LONDON.—Returned soldiers would literally rather starve than dig graves for a living, it has been discovered. Scores of jobs have been offered the men at a 150 per cent increase in wages, but in spite of the great unemployment in this country, the veterans have refused them.

One London undertaker expressed his verdict of the situation as follows: "They've seen enough dead men to last them the rest of their lives. They've had enough."

BOLSHEVIKS WIN IN MOSCOW.
LONDON.—Of the 719 deputies chosen in the recent Moscow election 650 were communists, twenty four were sympathizers with communism, thirty-seven were nonpartisan and eight were mensheviks, according to a wireless dispatch from Moscow. Eighty deputies were women, seventy of whom were communists and ten nonpartisans.

I. W. W. WITNESSES NOT ALLOWED TO TESTIFY

— By John Nicholas Boffel. —

MONTESANO, WASH.—The enigmatic action of Judge John N. Wilson in shutting off all testimony showing why the I. W. W. in Centralia had reason to fear a raid, has shortened by several days the presentation of direct evidence by the defense in Centralia labor case.

Elmer Sturt Smith, recalled to the stand, was asked by George F. Vanderveer, attorney for the defense, what he thought would happen when the threatened raid on the I. W. W. hall was carried out.

"I believed that the boys would be taken from the hall, perhaps lynched, or at least tarred and feathered," he replied.

"Why did you believe that?" asked Vanderveer.

Here Special Prosecutor Cunningham and Abel objected loudly, saying, this was immaterial. The court sustained the objection declaring that the defense must show a direct connection between Warren Grimm, slain parader, and the overt act in the Armistice Day tragedy, before it could have witnesses explain why the I. W. W. expected violence.

"That is not the law," replied Vanderveer. "The law says that to prove self-defense, we need only show substantial reasons for apprehension. If the defendants had reason to believe they were to be attacked by a crowd including Grimm, they had a right to prepare to defend themselves and their property."

Judge Wilson's ruling has been made in the face of a mass of testimony showing that Grimm, or a large man answering his description, was close to the I. W. W. hall — even at its very doorway — during the raid; and that this man was wounded in the abdomen, and held both hands upon his stomach. Grimm saw the only man thus wounded. This accumulative evidence has been held insufficient by the court.

When Dr. Frank Bickford was called as a witness by the defense, and reiterated the damaging statements against the Centralia mob given at the coroner's inquest, the prosecution failed to shake his testimony. Dr. Bickford, who is a dignified man about 50, swore that when the marching soldiers stopped before the I. W. W. hall, he offered to lead a raid upon the place if enough would follow; but that others pushed ahead of him. They forced the door, he declared; and then shots came from inside.

Made panicky by the onslaughts of the defense, the lumber corporation attorneys now are prosecuting this case against organized labor, have resorted to old stage tricks. They got the governor to send troops here without consulting the trial judge, though both the judge and the sheriff agreed there was no need for soldiers. This was in keeping with the prosecution's efforts to throw an atmosphere of violence around the defendants.

Then they had two defense witnesses arrested for alleged perjury. One of these, Guy Bray, 16, is a relative of Lieut. Frank Van Gilder, second in command in the parade. Bray declared that he saw Van Gilder and a large man in uniform within 5 or 10 feet from the I. W. W. hall during the raid. Van Gilder had previously told Bray that this large man was Grimm. The latter had been wounded in the abdomen, Bray said, and was holding both hands over his stomach.

Jay Cook, rancher, 50, was the other witness arrested. He and his brother testified that they saw the paraders attack the hall; and a large man answering Grimm's description was close to the hall at that time.

This trick of arresting witnesses for alleged perjury, was employed against Vanderveer in the Chicago I. W. W. case, but none of those witnesses were ever prosecuted and Vanderveer declares none will ever be persecuted here. In each instance he recalled the witness to the stand and had him tell about his arrest, the defense counsel holding this up to the jury as a device used to intimidate these and other witnesses.

Vanderveer has asked Judge Wilson for a warrant for a Mrs. Carpenter of Centralia, who approached a defense witness, 13 year old Helen Martini, and asked her if she "couldn't forget some of the testimony that she intended to give." Repeatedly emissaries for the Centralia commercial interests have smuggled their way into the defense witness room, and have learned what witness were to testify. Then this information would be transmitted to the prosecutors through the several attorneys who act as errand boys for them.

Bitter antagonism prevades the courtroom as the defense hammers at the foundation of the state's case. The newspaper men have become divided into two camps. Some of them try to be fair, but several are playing the story in favor of the prosecution, no matter which way the trial develops. The defense has rested its case and it is expected that before this issue reaches its readers the case will have been placed in the hands of the jury.

REPRESENTS SOVIETS ONLY

WASHINGTON—in a further effort to prove that Ludwig Martens, soviet representative in the United States, has been a member of and controlled by the Russian Socialist federation in efforts to overthrow the American government, Atty. Wade B. Ellis, for the senate committee, cross-examined Martens severely about an alleged courier of the Russian Communist party, who was caught in Biga while en route from Moscow.

Martens denied having any knowledge of the courier incident except what he read in The New York Times several weeks ago.

In reply to the general accusation that he was subject to the control of Russian revolutionists in America, Martens submitted a copy of a letter written Aug. 29 last to the central executive committee of the Russian Socialist federation by the commissar for foreign affairs at Moscow. The letter reads in part:

"Esteemed comrades: A letter from you has reached us, demanding establishment of your control over Comrade Martens. It presents a number of misconceptions of the most gross character. First, you have a wrong conception of the position of Comrade Martens, who is the representative of the people's commissariat for foreign affairs, and not of the Communist party nor of the third international, and whose duties are determined accordingly.

"You have also an altogether perverted conception of the interrelation between soviet authorities and the local organizations of the Communist party of Russia.

"Your attacks upon the official representative of the soviet government in America have a very detrimental and disintegrating effect. You are discrediting the soviet government in the person of its local representative, and thereby you seriously damage its political interests."

Suit against The Washington Post for criminal libel has been filed by Ludwig Martens, representative of the Russian soviet government, who has been testifying before a senate committee of inquiry for the past two months.

Martens' suit is based on a news story and an editorial which appeared in a recent issue of The Post and which charged, among other things, that Martens had admitted before the senate committee that he was a member of the American Communist party, had directed secret organizations aiming at the overthrow of the American government, had "associated with and incited criminal anarchists to crime, had attended an unlawful and secret meeting of anarchists in Detroit and that he is a German revolutionist."

AKRON DEFENSE LEAGUE NOTES.

Attorney Jacob Margolis of Pittsburgh, Pa. gave a lecture under the auspices of the Workers Defense League at G. A. R. Hall, 50 South Howard Street Sunday afternoon February 22nd. Mr. Margolis spoke on AMERICAN LIBERTY and the masterful way in which he handled his subject was keenly appreciated by the audience that over taxed the capacity of the hall causing many people to be turned away. Mr. Margolis has a message every Liberty loving American and particularly every WORKINGMAN should hear, and his lecture has caused a popular demand for his return to Akron in the near future.

On Tuesday evening February 17th Comrade N. Yourkovitch was released on \$10,000 bond by the Federal authorities through the efforts of the Workers Defense League. Comrade Yourkovitch was the last of the workers remaining in Jail here as the result of the raids on the Union of Russian Workers here November 7th last.

Dances will be given for the benefit of the League on Saturday evening's March 13th and 20th at Zeigler Hall.

George R. Kirkpatrick will speak in Akron under the auspices of the League in the near future.

Every workers' organization in this vicinity is entitled to representation by two delegates and all organizations not affiliated with the League should elect delegates immediately and notify the secretary of the League at the address below.

Yours for Industrial Freedom,
James B. O'Brien,
Secretary-Treasurer,
Box 253, Akron, O.

COMRADES ATTENTION!
Old Postage Stamps or original envelopes or entire stamp collections bought at highest prices, if you have anything to offer, call at the office of the Toiler or phone Harvard 3639.

GENOSSEN!
Ich kaufe und zahle die hoechsten Preise fuer alte Briefmarken und Briefmarken-Sammlungen. Im Falle Sie etwas zu offerieren haben, kommen oder schreiben Sie zur Redaktion dieser Zeitung, oder rufen Sie Harvard 3639.

The Black Sheep.

Chapt. XXII
HIS WAY IN THE WORLD.

Anderson had no sooner reached his office than he called up the judge on the telephone. He never went back on his word with his daughter, altho he sometimes put his own interpretation upon it, when it came to execution. He had promised to see to it that that boy was set free, but he also saw to it or at least he thought he did, that all complications were forestalled, by fixing it so that it would be impossible for her to meet him. He knew human nature well enough to recognize that the impressions which this strange jail bird had made upon his child were deeper than a mere soul saving interest. He feared lest she should one's interests but his own. He made unstances, and the enthusiasm which she now manifested might develop into something more serious.

With these facts in mind he laid his plans and as was his custom prepared for swift and effective action. His judgment was generally good when dealing with the merely economic aspect of life. He never considered any ones interests but his own. He made up his mind and then drove ahead on rule or ruin basis, like most successful business men do.

This time however he was doomed to disappointment. He was not dealing with chattles or real estate. He was dealing with basic human emotions and ideals; things of which Gus Anderson knew next to nothing. They were elements which for thirty years he had tried, and without success, to obliterate from his being. There was only one flower left in his garden, dwarfed and gnarled by the influence of his hopelessly materialistic creed but yet struggling alive; it was his love for his daughter. If it had not been for the influence of Olive on his life he would perhaps have been entirely bruttled. It must not be understood that he victimized people the less for his daughter's sake; on the contrary he aimed to exploit them the fiercer. A wolf is most ferocious when she has cubs. What it did for him was to soften his native roughness into a sort of boistrous gentleness. He lived for his child or as nearly for his child as his business would let him, and his child had lived for him until now.

In his love for her he had tried to raise her in such a way that she should not be aware of the claw and fang processes of modern civilization. With this in mind he had left her under the guardianship of her mother and the church. For it must be remembered that Anderson's antagonism was to the church and not against religion. It was not founded on any intellectual conviction as to the truth or falsehood of it's teaching. His was an attitude of indifference, if it had not been for the fact that he had despised all sanctimonious pretense he might have been a christian. He robbed his victim within the law and openly boasted of it. He was not unlike the buccaner who sat down in the cabin of his ship with his fellow pirates and lit a pan of sulphur saying that he was going to see which of them could make himself the most comfortable in hell. The story then relates how this old marauder was indignantly pleased when he found that he could outstay all the others. He defied hell for his chosen profession's sake, and so did Gus Anderson. He swore to defy the power which at heart he believed existed. He even encouraged his wife to give to the church in somewhat the same spirit that a Chinaman prostitutes the devil. He was too honest to worship what he conceived to be the christian God and work the civilized business game.

Gus Anderson was honestly dishonest. He was irreligiously religious. He believed in God and the Devil, and dealt in farms and cattle. He thought the practice of beliefs cost him money, business made him money. So he decided that business was the easier way thru the world. He forgot the creed of his fathers and left the spiritual life of his daughter in the care of Mrs. Anderson whom he considered temperamentally well fitted for the work.

Having lived a man's life in a man's world he had developed to an exaggerated degree the archaic notion that a woman has a definite sphere in life out of which she must never rise. That her place is in the home, and in the church, and in the sewing circle. And if she should by any chance step out the male approved environment, she did it at the peril of losing all that was good and pure in the world. He abhorred the woman who mingled in politics. "It is a dirty business," he would say. "The polls are no place for a lady." That a place where a lady cannot be seen is no place for a gentleman did not occur to him. He had but a hazy notion of what a gentleman was, he had that variety of the species hopelessly confounded with cisies and preachers and other more or less efeminate types. "A woman

ought to be a lady and a man, was one of the axioms of his philosophy.

It were these considerations of what he termed ideal womanhood which compelled him in his efforts to make his child as ethodocly perfect as possible. But he cannot teach a fish to walk, neither can you make a basically aggressive and radical brain conservative. There is no perfectly safe place for high explosives, and Anderson was about to learn it. His daughter was an off type, and types cannot be trained true to form. Since she had first spoken of that boy in jail, he had entertained a fear that this was so. And business man like he blamed the preacher for placing the girl in the way of an object which had detonated her radicalism. Business men frequently blame workers for the deficiency in the material they supply.

Recognizing that the spring of her power had been touched he decided to make an effort to stop the exploding process by removing what he conceived to be its cause. He did not know enough about high explosives to realize that once they have caught fire they are gone. You may rehabilitate some of the wreckage but you will never recover the charge. It is so with the radical mind types; you may keep them away from truth, and preserve them in a world of orthodoxy, but once let them get sight of it and away they go and nothing short of death will stop them. Anderson for once had decided to do the undable.

He had decided to tell the judge to release the boy and to see to it that he got out of town as soon as possible. That seemed simple. It would have been had he been dealing with ordinary matters and mortals, but this was not the case. He was dealing with life problems, and was therefore pitting his poor business brain against a woman's sex intuition a thing of which he or any other man can know nothing, because the faculty is that of woman, for woman's purposes and is possessed by man only in rudimentary form.

No sooner had he left the house that morning, than his daughter followed him secretly to his office, instead of going to school. This was a thing she had never done before. She hardly knew why she did it now. It was not that she distrusted her fathers' word. She knew that when he said that he would have that boy released that there was nothing that would stop him, and yet in spite of that assurance she felt that she had to be present, lest something might go wrong. And what was there that could go wrong? That boy's freedom was all that she wanted, she would have resented any insinuation that she even wanted to see him again. Still there was that in her mind which stirred deep laid emotional currents which alternately thrilled and frightened her, she was in the grasp of the cosmic urge which swept her on with the resistless power of a Niagara. Olive the woman was dominant, and hopelessly routed Olive the bourgeois. Under the influence of the biologic urge heredity triumphed over environment. The ghost of Eric the Red, arose in the body of the choir girl. The woman wanted the man, the lady wanted justice, and when on the fields of life a woman meets a lady, in the same body, then it goes hard with the lady. That is perhaps the reason she went to her father's office, she told herself that it was, simply to hear how he would manage to set that boy free; but in reality it was to see to it that he should not be spirited away from her. Consciously she formed her thoughts according to her training, subconsciously she shaped her acts according to the requirements of Biology.

This phenomena of mind is seen universally in the working class thru out the world under the influence of radical education. They speak in the terms of radicalism but when confronted by the real problems of life they act true to their slave heredity. Olive lived in a slave environment but reacted actvistically to her ancestral blood.

She sat in the outer office and over heard her father's conversation with the judge over the telephone. His part if it ran some-what like this:
"Hello—is this you Judge?"
"This is Gus—Gus Anderson. Can't you hear, or have you forgotten who I am?"

"Say I want you to turn that kid loose," at this the girl felt a thrill of joy. And then her father continued, "and see to it that he gets out of town P. D. Q." At this she felt her self rising as if to spring upon a deadly foe, but she checked herself. She hated her self for the emotion that so suddenly surged up with in her. For the moment she hated her father, for doing what she would, if asked, have approved. She was surprised, that she should side against her father in favor of a stranger.

Continued on page 4th.