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16 SPECIAL FEATURES 16
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A FUTILE MEETING

A federation of American organizations, collectively known as the Friends of Peace, have issued a call for a National Peace Convention to be held in the city of Chicago September 4th and 5th, 1915, culminating in what is expected to be a very impressive Peace Demonstration on Labor Day, September 5th.

The object of the convention will be to voice existing sentiment against America's participation in the present world conflict, to demonstrate the falsity of the claim set up by the jingo press that it represents public opinion, to reaffirm principles of strict neutrality, and to urge the early convening of congress for the purpose of considering an embargo on the exportation of war supplies to belligerents during the present war and enacting such other legislation as may be deemed advisable to bring the war to a speedy termination.

It is the conviction of THE FRIENDS OF PEACE that unless firm action be taken soon, the continued efforts of parties financially interested through covert acts, involve this country in the war, against the people's will.

In this "conviction" the Friends of Peace are partly right. There are certain groups of profit-mongers who are "financially interested" in seeing this country involved in war, some preferring a conflict with Germany, others working for a war on Mexico. Still other human vultures would wish a war with both of these countries. Possibly all of these saintly groups will be satisfied within the next six months, or a year. "Business is business," of course.

As might reasonably be expected, most of the active members of the Friends of Peace are Germans, or persons of German descent. Seventeen out of a list of 26 chairmen of committees have Teutonic names.

We do not point out the Teutonic background of this proposed National Peace Convention with any desire to reflect upon the disinterested motives of its organizers. But such work would naturally help the Fatherland some, and the Germans are a thoroughly race-conscious and patriotic people, wherever one finds them. The American people could not logically find fault with the German immigrant because he is patriotic. But the convention will accomplish nothing of importance.

We regard the proposed convention as utterly futile, so far as preventing war is concerned, for the very simple reason that not one member of its committee has any desire or intention of helping to remove any of the fundamental causes of wars.

Nor has a single one of their advertised orators any true conception of the basic causes of wars. And even if they did themselves understand what are the real causes of wars and the cure for wars, not one of them would

dare speak out plainly and tell what he knows.

Take a glance at the list of speakers invited to address the convention: Hon. William Jennings Bryan, ex-secretary of state; Hon. Charles Nagel, ex-secretary of commerce and labor; Senator Hoke Smith of Georgia, Works of California, Hitchcock of Nebraska, and Clapp of Minnesota, Congressman Mann and Buchanan of Illinois, and Congressman Porter and ex-Governor Pennypacker of Pennsylvania; "Cyclone" Davis of Texas, Miss Jane Addams of Chicago, "and many divines and scholars of national reputation."

There is not one name in this list of famous honorables that has ever evidenced the least gleam of intelligence as to the real solution of the problems of war and peace, whether between nation and nation, or as between capital and labor.

If any one of this bunch of worthies has ever glimpsed the true cause and cure of race and class conflicts, foreign or domestic, he has very successfully hidden his light under a bushel.

It may be that some one among the speakers at this great convention will realize that no nation can find Peace by chasing Profits; if he does his tongue will discourse on some other topic. For truth in regard to profit-mongering and its concomitant exploitation of the working class, is taboo, almost everywhere.

To sum up: Since the Profit System is the cause of all wars, political and industrial, national and international, and since not one of the invited speakers at the Peace (?) Convention will dare utter this simple truth, their efforts will be oratorical only, and result in no feasible plan for peace; nor will they even throw ever so dim a light on the real problems at issue.

Fellow workers, you will soon be called upon to fight in Capitalism's international scramble for Profits. What are you going to do about it? You working people, you who hold the power of peace and war, of life and death in your strong hands, what will you do with your vast potential strength? Will ye waste your power in individual squabbles and isolated protest, or will you combine as a class, and announce to the suffering world this: The working class of the United States wants no foreign wars, and will furnish no men for cannon fodder, to satisfy pride or greed.

Let your slogan be: Millions of men for peaceful constructive purposes, but not one man for war!

In the strong hands of Labor lies the only hope of peace. Brothers, refuse as one man to fight, and there will be no clash with Germany, nor with Mexico. The world awaits your answer. What is it to be, peace or war?

SLAVE PSYCHOLOGY

"There is no reason why a man should not be a manager, if he thinks manager thoughts, as a man thinks, so he is."—E. St. Elmo Lewis.

This phrase is familiar. We remember a phrase in circulation while at school, about "Every boy having a chance of some day become the president of the United States. This was repeated so often that most of the boys, at that time, actually believed it, but it required only a few years' work in factories, etc., attempting to earn their 'keep' to convince them that it was all unbecome and to-day there is hardly a school boy in any part of this country that will not accept it as the stalest kind of a joke.

The phrase used by Mr. Lewis is, if possible, a greater joke than the one just mentioned, still it is accepted by a large number of people who call themselves sane and intelligent, and not only believe in it but act accordingly. If for a moment, they stopped and exhibited an ounce of horse-sense, they would readily discover the humor, if such it can be called, embodied in this phraseology. Supposing all workers were to think manager thoughts and become managers, who will they have to manage? This phrase made the rounds in another form a few years ago, and in some fossilized minds it still holds good. "That anyone can become a boss if he tries." If all tried and became bosses who will there be left to boss?

It is this kind of platitude the American workers are treated to in newspapers, periodicals and other educational institutions that has created in their minds a slave psychology and this slave psychology has, from the viewpoint of class solidarity, brought about a condition where the American working class as a whole, is far inferior to that of the workers of any other nation. For it is usually this 'free-born' American worker who scabs when a strike is on,

WOMEN AND THE WAR.

It is pathetic the way Great Britain is pleading with women to help out in the industrial activities of that country.

There is not an agricultural district in which the farmers are not hampered by want of more or less experienced help. Next year the scarcity of agricultural labor is expected to be still more serious and widespread.

City corporations are being put to it to obtain men for the common activities of city work. The Glasgow corporation lighting department is "experimenting with women as stair lamp-lighters." At first 10 women only were engaged, "but the results were so satisfactory as to induce the department to extend the system."

The women do the same work as was formerly done by men, and are paid the minimum wage heretofore paid to men beginners.

The whole European world has awakened to the fact that the difference between a surplus and a scarcity of labor is, even in normal times, so slight, and, too, the difference between the capacity of men and women to bear industrial burdens so little, that hereafter women will take a much more prominent part in both the industry and the politics of the nations. They can no longer be ignored.

But what jobs will be left for the "patriots" who survive the war?

THE JEWS AND "SOCIAL JUSTICE"

Aabbi Jacob H. Kaplan, of Cincinnati, believes that Judaism accords with social justice, which, in his opinion has three aspects:

It involves a doctrine, a method and a sentiment.

As a doctrine it implies that it is a right of the poor to have their condition improved.

As a method it opposes almsgiving, and insists on fair wages and good housing.

As a sentiment Judaism opposes selfishness and indifference regarding the trouble of the poor.

It is a well recognized fact that the wage-earning Jews are inclined to socialistic efforts to improve labor's condition, and that middle-class or trading Jews are more easily made converts to the idea of site-value taxation, than are their gentile competitors. And it is a further fact that the Jews are especially solicitous regarding the economic and social welfare of their race generally.

While the Jews may have rejected their spiritual Saviour—Jesus, they seem inclined to look upon Karl Marx as an economic Saviour.

UNION RECORD GETS LARKIN

The Seattle Union Record is to be congratulated for getting James Larkin to speak in Seattle. It must have recognized the value of Larkin to the workers' cause for it has rented the largest auditorium in the city, the Dreamland Pavilion, for the lecture. Larkin is being extensively advertised and we hope that the place is filled, for he will drive home to the workers their true position in human society. Once again we congratulate the Seattle Union Record for the efforts they are putting forth for the cause of working class education.

REMEMBER THE NAME.

J. G. FOX & CO., BOTTLERS, TRY TO BULLDOZE EMPLOYEES INTO TAKING 25 PER CENT CUT IN THEIR SALARIES.

J. G. Fox & Co., of Seattle, manufacturers of carbonated drinks products and bottled drinks, have refused to renew the agreement with the Brewery Workers' organization which terminated June 1, without a 25 per cent wage reduction, says the Union Record. The Brewery Workers walked out, pending a settlement, on June 17. The Fox products are now on the unfair lists of all labor bodies in this part of the country, the company having, up to this date, refused to entertain any agreement with the union. The Fox concern has been built up chiefly by the efforts of the union employes who took great interest in the business. The soft drinks industry, it is thought, will absorb a considerable number of the thousands of brewery workers who are thrown out of employment by the prohibition law which goes into effect next January. The Fox company evidently attempted to take advantage of unstable conditions in the industry and made an effort to drive the wages down. Organized labor, however, is loyally backing up the Brewery Workers in their fight and a speedy finish for Mr. Fox is predicted.

Everett workers should remember the name when the oyster cocktail and clam season rolls around again: J. G. Fox & Co.

Don't forget the James Larkin meeting Tuesday evening.

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The LABOR JOURNAL

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R. H. MILLS, Vice-President Timberworkers
M. T. ALLIMAN, Secretary-Treasurer Barbers

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TRADES COUNCIL NEWS

Credentials were received from the Everett Building Trades Council for Brothers J. Anderson and Vincent Small as regularly elected delegates to the Everett Trades Council. Bro. Frank O'Brien was duly seated as a delegate from the Int. Association of Machinists, Everett Lodge No. 130. Bro. J. F. McDonald was seated as a delegate to the Council from United Association of Plumbers and Steam Fitters, Local Union No. 265.

After the routine business of the evening was disposed of, the matter of the adoption of a new set of by-laws for the Everett Labor Journal's Board of Control was brought before the Council, and then referred back to the Board of Control for further deliberation.

It was moved, seconded and carried, that the Harris Barber Shop, in the American National Bank Bldg., be placed on the unfair list.

Timberworkers reported that Mother Jones had been engaged for a series of speeches and a period of organization work, beginning in October.

Owing to his absence for three consecutive meetings, Brother Giblin's seat on the Labor Journal Board of Control was declared vacant, and Bro. W. F. McCormack was elected in his place.

WOMEN'S MINIMUM WAGE.

BOSTON.—The state minimum wage commission has ordered that women store clerks in this state who are over 18 years of age and who have been employed one year or more shall receive a wage not lower than \$8.50 a week. Women having less than one year's experience shall be paid not less than \$7. Girls between 17 and 18 are to receive a minimum of \$6 a week and those under 17 years not less than \$5. The decision is not mandatory as the law is based on the theory of moral suasion.

WELSH MINERS' VICTORY.

Contrary to general opinion on this side of the Atlantic, the Welsh coal miners' strike was no sudden ebullition of discontent with wages, or a suddenly conceived determination to take advantage of the country's predicament and demand more pay. Last April the miners gave three months' notice to terminate the wage agreement which mine owners wished to see remain in force until the end of the war. The price of coal was soaring, the cost of living was soaring, yet it was insisted by employers that wages remain stationary.

The miners demanded a new standard rate, consisting of the 1879 rate plus 50 per cent. They got it.

They demanded a new standard wage for day wage workmen, consisting of the wage and rates plus 50 per cent. They got it.

They asked for a minimum rate for surface men of \$1.37 1/2 cents a day (5s. 6d.), and they were given \$1.25 a day.

They wanted extra pay for afternoon and night work at the rate of "a turn and one fifth for each shift." The award gave them six turns' pay for each five performed.

There was a demand for a uniform rate of pay for all hauliers, with the raising of the minimum from 25 per cent to 65 per cent of the standard rates for 1879, and they demanded the abolition of the maximum pay. While the new minimum demand was refused, a new procedure was proposed leading to the abolition of the maximum wage.

The miners still insist on all their demands, but they have agreed to continue work at the new wage rates from day to day until a final settlement is reached and a new agreement has been ratified by the membership.

In the negotiations the government practically ignored the mine owners. And the government has also practically decided the price to be charged for the coal mined. This is government regulation almost to the vanishing point of the private ownership of Wales' coal mines.

VOTE TO AFFILIATE.

GREAT FALLS, Mont.—The Farmers' Society of Equity, which met in this city, voted to affiliate with the Montana State Federation of Labor