

WHO SHALL PAY FOR THE WAR? IS ALL-ABSORBING QUESTION

Copy of Memorandum Sent To All Members of Congress.—Issued
By American Committee on War Finance

Four thousand millions of dollars, \$4,000,000,000, have already been appropriated for war purposes. The additional amount necessary depends upon the duration of the conflict. Whatever the total sum of debt incurred, it must be paid, first or last, out of the pockets of American citizens. How shall these billions be paid, and by whom?

As to coal, the "Black Diamond Magazine" and the "Coal Trade Journal" show that the average retail price of anthracite range coal in New York was \$5.00 a ton in January, 1915, and \$8.75 a ton in January, 1917. Soft coal at the mines was from \$0.80 to \$1.65 a ton in December, 1914, and from \$4.75 to \$6.50 a ton in January, 1917; this in the face of yearly increasing output.

Two Principles of War Service

War is here; it is a hard experience for all the people. It demands universal sacrifice; but this sacrifice should be equitably apportioned. It should not fall upon one man in a way that means actual want and suffering, and leave another man practically untouched.

Justice in taxation does not mean equality in the amount of money paid; it means equality in the effect of the tax upon the actual conditions of life of the people who pay it. It may be a greater sacrifice for a man of small means to be taxed a few dollars, so that he has to forgo all luxuries and many necessities, than for a man of wealth to be taxed his whole income, and even a part of his capital as well. This is the first principle on which is based the public appeal for large war taxes for people with surplus wealth and small ones for people with no surplus at all.

The second principle is that conscription of men cannot be defended if unaccompanied by conscription of incomes. If the government has the right to ask some men to fight and give their lives to their country, it certainly has the right to ask other men to give their surplus wealth to the nation's cause.

Cost of Living
War conditions and war prices have already placed the average American in a financial position where he cannot decently be asked to pay for the war.

The twenty-five most common and necessary articles of family use have almost doubled in price in the last two years.

Dun's index figures show price increases, as follows:

"Between April 1, 1914, and April 1, 1917, Dairy and Garden Products increased 84 per cent, Meat, 46 per cent, Clothing 49 per cent, metals 69 per cent, and Foodstuffs 105 per cent.

A few days ago the Old Dutch Market, Inc., of Washington, D. C., which operates a large string of stores, selling meats, canned goods, eggs, vegetables, etc., published a comparison of prices in April 1914, and April, 1917. It deals in all with sixty table necessities. The average increase on all items listed is \$5.32 per cent during that period.

As a corollary to this we have the report issued on April 26th of the Food Committee appointed by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia. "Interesting figures were obtained," says the Committee, "from the proprietors of some of the smaller stores, whose business is with the poorer people. They show clearly that the poor have been compelled to resort to the strictest economy in order to provide food, on account of high prices. Their purchases are of the cheapest possible articles and in smaller quantities than heretofore. The sale of ordinary cuts of meat in this class of stores seems to have been discontinued and the meat now purchased consists of hog livers, hog kidneys, neck bones, hog faces, etc."

Following the food riots in New York, Miss Helen M. Todd was appointed to make an investigation of the effect on school children of the high cost of food. She reported last week that, in the poorer districts, diet has been so cut down that the children's scholarship has suffered materially through malnutrition, and that public school teachers complain that the children are unable to maintain their grades.

"The Review" of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics for April, 1917, tells the same story. In the four years from February 15, 1913, to February 15, 1917, flour increased in price 69 percent, eggs 61 percent, potatoes, 22 percent. A 16-ounce loaf of bread cost on February 15, 1914, \$0.055; on February 15, 1915, \$0.063; on February 15, 1916,

\$0.062; and on February 15, 1917, \$0.071. Bread today is 10 cents a loaf. As this goes to press wheat is \$3 a bushel in the western markets.

Wages

The increase in wages and incomes has been insignificant in comparison with the enormous rise in prices. Undoubtedly wages have advanced sharply since the war began. In some industries they have risen in a spectacular manner, yet the average wage increase since 1912 has been small, even in union labor, when compared with the rise in the prices in necessities of life. The index figures published in the April "Review" of the United States Bureau of Labor statistics show that in the large field of union labor there has been a rise of only nine points from 1912 to 1916, inclusive. Index figures for 1917 are not yet available; but, even if we were to assume that wages have risen as much in the first four months of 1917 as they rose in the whole period from 1912 to 1916 (which would be a quite extravagant estimate) we should only have a rise of 18 per cent from 1912 to 1917; while according to Dun certain particularly important food products and necessities have risen from 46 per cent to 105 per cent in the last three years, and according to the "Times Analyst" the cost of the food budget of the average American family has gone up 74 per cent in the last two years.

Keeping in mind these figures, we cannot but accept the unwelcome fact that the average American has not in reality shared in the prosperity of the country during the war period. On the contrary, he has lost ground in the economic struggle, in spite of the nation's advancing aggregate wealth. Wages and incomes have no doubt increased, but there has been at the same time such an inflation in the price of things people must buy in order to live that the average citizen's purchasing power has been steadily diminished. He has been handed more in his pay envelope; he has received a larger salary check, and made better earnings from his farm or his business, but in turning the money he has made into food, fuel, rent, household furnishings, etc., he has found that it does not go so far as in times when wages and earnings were much smaller.

(Continued Next Week.)

IS THIS SOMETHING NEW?

This United States has more courts and more kinds of courts than any other country in the world. Here's something new. A Wilmington Delaware Telegram says: "A poor man's court" will be established in this city under authority of a law passed by the last legislature. The court will have jurisdiction over non-criminal cases and damage cases ranging as high as \$500. Matters of damages involving only a few dollars can be called at once, the difficulty be set forth in a statement to the judge, witnesses called the hearing given and everything settled in at most 30 days. Heavy expenses of the trial and a huge fee to a lawyer are avoided. It is not necessary to have a jury, but one varying in size from three to five members may be called as in a referee's court.

"Unlike the supreme court and court of general sessions the 'poor man's court' will be in session all the time except in July and August. It may sit then. The judge will be one of the regular state judges."

This "poor man's court" will be watched with interest and with the hope that the new scheme will work out all right.

AWARDS IN CONTEST OF RED CROSS SEALS SALE

Results of the recent sale of Red Cross Seals and awards in the prize contest have just been announced by the Washington Association for the Prevention and Relief of Tuberculosis, under whose auspices the state-wide sale was conducted. All records were broken, the total number of seals sold being 981, 758 compared with 598, 787 in 1913, the best record up to this time. The anti-tuberculosis leagues, and all co-operating agencies are jubilant over the result and several aggressive local campaigns are being planned to secure either a visiting tuberculosis nurse or a sanatorium.

Competition for the prizes offered by the association was keen and in many cases very close. To Wematchee goes the first prize—a three number lecture course. Her per capita record is 1.48 seals. Pullman a close second with 1.47 and South Bend third with 1.23 for each resident. Goldendale among competitors of 1,000 to 2,000 population, is easily victor with 1.98 seals for each person. Davenport second with 1.36 per capita and Leavenworth third with 1.28 to her credit. Among villages below 1,000 population Coupeville leads easily selling 3.87 per capita, a record which puts her on the Honor Roll as well. Harrington, which won both these honors last year comes second with 2.91 seals and Wilson Creek follows with 2.11 per capita.

Much of the success of the sale is due to the mail sale which was employed for the first time this year, several thousand letters bear a few seals being sent to prospective buyers. Many replies of good cheer and gratitude at the opportunity to help in the cause were received by the association as against some half dozen complaints. Considering the magnitude of the undertaking, this is little short of marvelous and proves fully that the little Red Cross Seal has shown its worth as a means of financing the tuberculosis fight and has firmly established itself in the affection of the public.

With its share of the proceeds of the sale, the association is planning to interest as many new localities as possible in the work, to assist the leagues in a wise expenditure of their portion, and above all to unify to the fullest the anti-tuberculosis forces of the state to meet the increased and somewhat varied activities made necessary by war conditions.

Address: 916 Cobb building, Seattle.

POOR PROPOSITION

Much has been said in the press about compelling bums, loafers, drunkards and able-bodied beggars to leave the cities and work on the farms. Nonsense. Has not the farmer already enough handicaps without this? If this class of humanity must be made to work let their labor be done in the cities where the compulsory part of the program can be carried out. The farms need willing workers, the least capable of whom being at the least able to earn their board.

OXMAN FREED ON HABEAS WRIT

SAN FRANCISCO, May 16.—The state supreme court late today granted a writ of habeas corpus in the case of Frank Oxman, the Oregon cattleman, charged with attempted subornation of perjury, in connection with Thomas Mooney's trial. The writ is returnable May 24. The defendant was released on \$1,000 bail. The appellate court today dismissed a similar application.

SHINGLE WEAVERS SPECIAL

Shingle Weavers Local No. 2 will hold a special meeting next Sunday afternoon. All members are urged to attend.

The Japanese employed by the Great Northern Railway are on a strike for a wage increase of 25c per day. The probability is they will win.

He that would help the enemies of his country by demanding exorbitant prices for any of the necessities of life should shake himself to ascertain whether he has a conscience.

TRADES COUNCIL NEWS

Wednesday, May 16, 1917.

Credentials of Bros. Ingalls and Billstine of the Teamsters' Union were presented and the delegates seated to take the places of Bros. Rose and Zook.

A communication was received from the Building Trades Council saying that body had placed R. D. Garner on the Unfair List at the request of Painters Local No. 339. The action was concurred in.

A communication from the New York Allied Printing Trades Council was read protesting against the increased rates in second class postage, and asking that the Council send letters of protest to Washington. The Council complied with the request.

The Legislative Committee reported the following resolutions, which are self explanatory:

Whereas, a campaign is being carried on to ask congress to amend the exclusion law so as to admit Orientals into this country on the plea of a shortage of labor, and

Whereas, the parties most interested in this scheme appear to be the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association, an organization whose aim is to pay low wages, work men long hours under poor conditions, and

Whereas the farmers, on whose behalf this exclusion law is supposed to be made, have not asked for this amendment neither do they desire it, and

Whereas, the flooding of this country with Oriental labor will be for the express purpose of reducing the American standard of living, and

Whereas we, the wealth producers of this country have not experienced any hardship from the supposed shortage of labor, neither do we anticipate any, and

Whereas, there are hundreds of thousands of men in this country who are performing no other function other than stock gambling, selling real estate, acting as middlemen between producer and consumer, clipping coupons and drawing dividends, etc., and

Whereas such men should be compelled to fill the gap made by any shortage of labor before throwing down the bars to the Oriental labor, and

Whereas, we have no ill feeling toward the Orientals but object to the veiled purpose for which they will be brought here, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Everett Trades Council, representing the organized workers of the city of Everett strenuously object to any amending of the exclusion law on any ground whatever, and be it

Further resolved, that we are in favor of the closing down of all Boards of Trade, Stock Exchanges, Real Estate offices and Commission houses in order that the traders therein can be put to work on the farms "doing their bit," and be it

Further resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Senators and Congress of this district and to the daily and labor press.

Fraternally submitted,

H. W. WATTS
A. W. STANLEY,
W. F. GEARD.

Manager Howarth of the Everett Paper Mill and Rev. E. E. Flint visited the Council and addressed the delegates on Red Cross organization. Mr. Howarth made a good talk explaining the organization program and impressing his hearers with the duty which had been placed upon the people of the country by war. Mr. Howarth has been appointed the financial head of the Red Cross in Everett and vicinity.

Mr. Flint followed with remarks of good fellowship and amplified the Red Cross program set forth by Mr. Howarth.

A meeting of Red Cross officials was called for Friday morning, at which further organization plans are to be carried out.

Brother R. H. Mills was appointed to represent the Council at that meeting.

Next Sunday the drive for Red

Cross membership will begin, to be continued for a week.

Reports of Unions
Carpenters reported a good meeting and one initiation.

Electrical Workers had a good meeting and one initiation.

Plumbers had a fair meeting. Shingleweavers, Teamsters, Building Trades Council and Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen reported good meetings.

Bro. J. B. Moncur asked to be relieved from the Committee on organization. His request was granted, and as his retirement made two vacancies on the committee Bros. Pilon and Rennell were appointed to fill them. Bro. H. W. Watts, on request for volunteers, offered his services as an alternate committee-man, accepted.

Council adjourned.

NATIONAL WOMAN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE

The National Women's Trade Union League of America, will be held at Kansas City, Mo., June 4th to 9th.

Matters of great importance to women in industry will be considered at this meeting.

Many women of national note will be in attendance, including members of the women in industry committee of the National Council of Defense.

The importance of a working women's convention at this time cannot be overestimated. In spite of the heavy burdens of a nearly three years war the trade unionists of England, France and Australia are planning to send representatives to the Sixth Biennial Convention of the National Women's Trade Union League.

The English trade unionists look upon the convention as of such importance that they are sending as their delegate Miss Mary MacArthur, secretary of the British Women's Trade Union League. Miss MacArthur is one of the women serving in the war councils of England. As a result of the interview granted by the Queen of England in the early days of the war, Miss MacArthur was made chairman of the Central Committee on Women's Employment for England and Wales. On this committee of thirteen members there are six trade union women.

The French trade unionists have chosen as their representative Mme. G. Duchene, of Paris, who is expected to attend the convention as a delegate; while Australia is planning to send one of their trade union women to join with America's working women in facing the industrial problems now before the world.

That these delegates are planning to attend this convention in the face of the dangers of travel and the difficulties of the present crisis in the world's history shows the seriousness and the greatness of the questions to be considered. America's working women will give their best to the working out of the many grave and difficult problems which will come before the convention.

THIS IS HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT DAY FOR FARM SERVICE

The Immigration and Employment Service of the United States Department of Labor, through Henry M. White immigration commissioner, at Seattle, offered high school students of the several states an opportunity to earn something during vacation and at the same time lessen the shortage of agricultural help so necessary to the production of food in the present war crisis.

The Department of Labor has sent to Commissioner White enrollment cards equal in number to the high school students within his jurisdiction (there are about 35,000 in this state.) These cards have been sent by the commissioner to the county school superintendents to be distributed to those who wish to secure the work and help the cause. Mrs. R. A. Small, Snohomish county superintendent, will furnish these cards to the high schools of this county and fully explain the program.

SHORT STRIKE WINS

The refusal of the Crown Lumber company of Mukilteo to grant an increase in pay of 50 cents a day caused a walkout of all employees Monday morning. The strikers number about 250 of whom 100 are Japanese. The company conceded the demands, raised the wages and the men returned to work Tuesday morning. This was a short and sweet one.

THE LAND QUESTION AS IT AFFECTS THE COST OF LIVING AND WAGES

(People's News Service)

To many members of even the strongest and most successful unions the past twelve months has been in some respects a discouraging one. Many a wage earner has struggled and sacrificed for the success of his union only to find that the cost of living had risen as fast or faster than wages. It has been a year of unexampled prosperity. Work has been steadier and wages higher than in years past. Yet at the end of the month it is just as hard to make both ends meet.

What conclusion is to be drawn from this? That higher wages are not worth the effort? Hardly. For any honest economist will tell you that the cost of living would have gone up regardless of wage increases in any particular industry. And the wage earner would be worse off by the amount of the increase that his organization has secured. Higher wages must continue to be the first goal of unionism. But—

Government figures show that increasing wages have not kept up with rising prices, taking the country as a whole. This has been so even in some of the most thoroughly organized trades. In others wages have just kept up with prices, and the margin has remained the same.

No wonder some men get the idea that wage increases are worthless. Employers and controlled newspapers lose no opportunity to foster the idea that there is a connection between the fatter pay envelope and the higher figures on the grocery bill. Of course there is some connection, but in most instances it is slight. Putting a stop to wage increases would not keep the prices down, and the wage earner

would be infinitely worse off than he is now.

So the first task for organized labor is to keep what it has already won, by insisting on higher wages. But no healthy labor movement can be content merely to remain stationary. It must advance or lose hope and courage.

How can the unionist provide that a 10 per cent increase in wages shall mean a 10 per cent increase in the comfort and well-being of himself and his family? How can he prevent the landlord and the grocer and the clothing merchant from taking it away from him in the form of higher rents and higher prices?

An answer to these questions will be attempted in the articles that are to follow. They will show not only how labor can keep what it gets in the form of wage increases, but how it can get those increases in more generous measure and with half the struggle and sacrifice now demanded. And in showing how labor can accomplish these things for itself, it will show how the organized labor movement can at the same time benefit all humanity.

Today labor is the one great organized force in society most capable of making this a happier and better world by abolishing injustice and privilege and tyranny. It can accomplish this without tying itself up with any political party or following the coat tails of any ambitious politician. It MUST find a way out for its own members, before they lose hope and decide that the puzzle is too much for them,—that what the exploiters give with one hand they take back with the other. A simple, practicable plan of action will be suggested in the articles that are to follow.

SOME FARMING OPPORTUNITIES

Doubtless there are some people in this state who would like to farm if they knew of a good opportunity.

Any state land suitable for farming that is not now under lease can be used for crop production without rental or any other cost. Anyone desiring to use such land should immediately write to Clarke V. Savidge, State Land Commissioner, at Olympia, and get authority from him to farm the land, whether it be acreage or town lots belonging to the state. Application for the use of city lots must be endorsed either by the Mayor or some other commissioners; those for outside tracts by at least one member of the Board of County Commissioners. Applications will receive prompt attention.

In the Yakima Valley several thousand acres of irrigable land can be put under cultivation if men and money can be secured to put it into crops. Two thousand acres come under the Indian Reservation canals and a considerable acreage of vacant land is available under the Sunnyside and Tieton canals. Anyone desiring to farm the Indian lands should communicate with Don. M. Carr, Indian Agent, Wapato, Wash. Anyone wishing to farm lands under the Government projects should apply to R. K. Tiffany, Project Manager, U. S. Reclamation Service, North Yakima.

In Okanogan county there are two irrigation projects where lands can be obtained under very liberal conditions. The Whitestone Irrigation & Power Company offers the free use of all vacant land under its project and agrees to furnish free water for the irrigation of the same. Competent supervision of farming under this project is guaranteed by Marvin Chase, of Loomis, Wash., the engineer and manager of the project, who is also a very practical farmer himself. These lands are good for corn, beans, root crops, grain, etc., and by irrigation they can be planted any time in May.

Several hundred acres suitable for crop production this year can be secured by anyone who will furnish the labor, and finance that labor, during this season. This donation of land and water by Mr. Chase gives a most advantageous opportunity to anyone with even very limited means.

The West Okanogan project, having about 7,000 acres of unused land under irrigation, offers the use of its unsold lands, of which about 1,000

acres are now available with water, upon payment of water maintenance cost and taxes. These charges are guaranteed to not exceed \$3.00 per acre. The owners of the project are willing to finance practical farmers who own their teams, by advancing money for ranch improvements, seed, and extra labor cost. Any farmers interested in this kind of a proposition should write to Andrew Kennedy, Colman Building, Seattle, Washington. These lands lie north of Lake Chelan.

This information regarding available lands, the use of which is practically donated at this time, is given out in the hope that they may be put to immediate use.

E. F. BENSON,
Commissioner of Agriculture.

SHINGLE WEAVERS' BALL

Next Tuesday the 22nd is the date of the Grand Shingle Weavers' ball to be given at Fraternal hall, under the auspices of Local No. 2, as a part of the entertainment of the International Convention of Shingle Weavers, which will meet in this city next Monday. The votaries of Tierschore will have a grand time at this dance. Tickets, 50c.

The women members and friends of organized labor can help the cause by lending aid and encouragement to the Woman's Card and Label League. If you would realize your power for good lend a hand to the league.

POSTMASTER COLE

Charles A. Cole received Tuesday afternoon his commission as postmaster of Everett, to succeed Hugh A. Nolan resigned. Mr. Cole has entered upon the performance of his duties. The Labor Journal believes Charles Cole will conduct the office with efficiency and satisfaction to the people of this city and the government. Charles is no chee-chaco in this town and state, having resided in Washington for more than a quarter of a century.

James G. Webster, the well known printer has secured a situation on the Concrete Herald, where he is operating a linotype machine. Jim's friends miss him much hereabouts.

Reine Van Dyke, is putting in his spare time on his ranch, patriotically relieving the food shortage. Reine can "wipe a joint" in a potato tree as good as any of 'em.

Try "BLUE RIBBON" Cigar, 5c.