

# THE NORTHWEST WORKER

SPOKESMAN FOR THE ONLY USEFUL CLASS IN SOCIETY—THE WORKING CLASS

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## A CANADIAN MOTHER ON THE CRUELTY OF CONSCRIPTION

The following letter is taken from the Canadian Forward. We reprint it just as it appeared:

**The Cruelty of Conscription**  
A Letter to Women.  
Who made the Law that man should die in meadows?  
Who spoke the Word that blood should splash in lanes?  
Who gave it forth that gardens should be boneyards?  
Who spread the hills with flesh and blood and brains?  
Who made the Law?

Who made the Law that death should stalk in valleys?  
Who spake the Word to kill among the sheaves?  
Who gave it forth that Death should lurk in hedgerows?  
Who flung the dead amid the fallen leaves?

Who made the Law?  
The above lines were found on the body of the author, a young soldier, who died on the field of battle. He was killed in the Somme fighting last October.

Well may he ask, "Who made the Law?"—the law that drives such boys as these to death, with sorrow and wonder in their hearts.

Women of Canada—in Ottawa today they are planning to thrust upon us this cursed law. Perhaps the hellish deed will be accomplished before your eyes fall upon this page!

What shall we do? Are we calmly to submit when our boys are driven out to the slaughter?

Do you realize what Conscription means? Oh, women, women with mother-hearts, this war was arranged and is dominated by the blood-stained capitalists of the world, not by any means those of our nation only!

Their hands, red with the murder of the flower of earth's youth, are held up by the apostate "ministers" of the sweetest Teacher of Love and Brotherhood this world has ever

known, Christ the Toiler, Christ the Carpenter. Who gave back the sick and the dead, healed and restored to their loved ones.

The world is submerged in a sea of madness. And so, I send forth from my breaking heart a call to Canada's women. Do you realize that they will make of your own sons, not only soldiers, but slaves. Militarism is already enslaving men all over the Empire. The poor people of India are dragged to the colors, or to indentured labor. In England, after serving terms of imprisonment, those who from Christian or Socialist motives refuse to submit are offered "alternative service"—a dignified name for a most degrading condition. Here, men are treated worse than convicts—men of the higher refinement—placed under the control of unthinkable brutes, mocked, forced to labor under conditions that would shame Negro slavery. Of course, many refuse this "alternative" and are returned to prison; though the law of England expressly states that the "genuine" conscientious objector is entitled to absolute exemption. But militarism knows no law. The best and noblest men in England and Germany today are behind prison bars.

Are we going to endure this here? Three times the women of Germany, massed in the thousands, have stoned the palace of the Hohenzollerns, demanding that the slaughter of the men shall cease. Bayoneted, sabred, shot—they are for all time the example to all true motherhood. Women of Canada, shall we arise and save our men?

From my little farm house where I weep and pray and suffer, I call to the women with mother-hearts. If you will help, write to me, inclosing a stamped, addressed envelope; and let us form our plans to resist this accursed slavery.

(MRS.) GERTRUDE RICHARDSON,  
Swan River, Manitoba.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**OTTAWA**—Plans of the Canadian government for the nationalization of the railways in the Dominion on a larger scale were announced in parliament by Sir Thomas White, finance minister.

While encouraging our officials in equipping armies and navies and ambulance corps, let us encourage them also in steps of peace, steps that will avoid the heavy toll of lives that war exacts.—Detroit News.

Vegetarians, the basis of whose belief is that no animate thing be killed, be it human being, fish, flesh or fowl, are not to be exempt from military service on the ground of conscience. Though their creed more nearly resembles that of the Quakers than any other religious sect, they are not recognized by law.

**OMAHA**—Big Business is fighting organized labor in Omaha with a million dollar fund, much of which is being spent on advertisements in the capitalist press attacking workers as unpatriotic because they demand enough pay on which to live.

**AMSTERDAM**—Russia and Austria are "on the verge of an understanding," according to the declaration attributed to President Huysmans of the International Socialist Bureau.

**NEW YORK**—More than 75 per cent of the Americans called for national army examinations so far claim exemption, according to reports from all parts of the country.

Workingmen of Russia are not only organizing in the political, but also on the economic field. Having gained control of the government, they are now trying to gain the upper hand in the industrial blocs. With this point in view, they have organized a trade union congress, now in session in Petrograd.

**PITTSBURG**—The proposed People's Council meeting at which Senator Robert La Follette and C. E. Rothenberg of Ohio were to speak, was stopped by the police of this city.

The British Empire holds 520,000,000 people, only 65,000,000 of whom are white, and of these only 30,000,000 have the right to vote. This is possibly why we so often hear of our part in this war for democracy.—Maoriland Worker.

## A BIG BURDEN

Senator Smooth has told the Senate that the appropriations of the government for the present fiscal year will be about \$17,000,000,000, or over \$150 for every man, woman and child in the United States. This means an average burden of \$750 for every family of five persons.

## BIG PROFITS ON CANTONMENT WORK

"The most interesting features, perhaps, of the form of contract for army cantonment construction are those governing the financial relations between the government and the contractor. The latter is to be paid his expenses, and a percentage of their total amount out of which he must meet his overhead costs. The contractor's profit will come in the difference between this percentage and overhead expenses. The maximum amount of such profit on any contract is fixed at \$250,000.

Patriotism and profits must not be mentioned in the same breath. That is why so little mention is made, in the capitalist press, of the profits in this cantonment job.

## AUSTRIAN SOCIALIST PARTY ATTACKS U-BOAT WARFARE

**AMSTERDAM**—The Socialist party organ at Vienna, the Arbeiter Zeitung, argues not only that the German campaign of submarine ruthlessness will not hasten the end of the war, but was not undertaken to that end, but to give the Germans a shipping advantage in the after-war competition.

## PEOPLE'S COUNCIL WOULD AID PEACE MOVE IN GERMANY

**NEW YORK**—Urging that "it is imperative that the democratic forces of Germany be encouraged from this country," the organizing committee of the People's Council has applied to the state department at Washington for aid in transmitting a message of greeting to the majority bloc of the reichstag.

The majority of the reichstag July 19 forced through a resolution favoring substantially the Russian peace formula.

This formula also will be one of the principal topics of discussion when the constituent assembly of the People's Council of America is formed in Minneapolis in September.

## Lansing Keeps Silent

Secretary Lansing has made no reply to the committee's request, which was made in a letter of July 23, signed by Dr. J. L. Magnes, Morris Hillquit, Prof. H. W. L. Dana and Max Eastman. The committee decided to make both the letter and the proposed cablegram public. The cablegram has not been sent.

A message of cheer to the forces in Germany which are fighting for peace on terms laid down in the beginning by the new Russia would have "its good effect in Russia," the letter to Secretary Lansing points out. Russia, it is stated, is not yet convinced that the allies will accept her peace terms, and, if America seeks to encourage Germany to come to those terms, it will constitute evidence that the American people themselves are in favor of the Russian formula.

Interpreting the reichstag peace resolution to mean that "the great masses of the German people have responded to the appeal of the Russian democracy for a 'peace without forcible annexations, no punitive indemnities and with the free development of all nationalities,'" the cablegram expresses regret "that the peace forces are not yet strong enough to have compelled the new German chancellor to have accepted unequivocally your resolution."

## Letter to Lansing

The letter to Lansing reads: "The organizing committee of the People's Council of America is desirous of sending the inclosed cablegram to the majority bloc of the German reichstag. We are asking the help of the state department in securing the transmission of this dispatch.

"We should, of course, prefer that the congress representing the American people send such a message. But since no specific statement has been made concerning the diplomatic policy of this country, we assume that there may be reasons why it may appear inadvisable to have the congress send such message at the present time.

"On the other hand, it is imperative that the democratic forces of Germany; and if this can not, for whatever reason, be done officially,

there is every reason why this should be done by the council of organizations such as those we represent.

## Would Aid Russia

"Furthermore, it hardly would seem necessary for us to point out that such encouragement of the democratic forces of Germany would have its good effect in Russia. The prime reason why so many Russian regiments are not ready to fight is that they are not yet convinced that the allies of Russia are ready to make peace upon Russian terms, namely, no forcible annexations, no punitive indemnities, the free development of all nationalities.

"It must be clear that everything possible should be done by the government and people of the United States to assure the Russian government and people that we are with them in their peace program, and to encourage the democratic forces of Germany in their advocacy of the same program."

## The cablegram follows:

## Cable to Germans

"The organizing committee of the People's Council of America, representing large numbers of workmen's, Socialist and other democratic organizations, sends greetings to the majority bloc of the German reichstag, which carried the peace resolution on July 19—'peace without forcible acquisitions of territory, without political, economic and financial violations, with a mutual understanding and lasting reconciliation among the nations, and with the creation of international juridical organizations.'

"Your resolution, as we understand it, means that the great masses of German people have responded to the appeal of the Russian democracy for a 'peace with no forcible annexations, no punitive indemnities, and with the free development of all nationalities.'

## Urge Peace Move

"We regret that the democratic forces in the reichstag are not yet strong enough to have compelled the new German chancellor to accept unequivocally your resolutions.

"We sincerely hope, however, that the time is near when you will acquire the power to aid the world in bringing about a speedy, universal, democratic and lasting peace. We are hopeful that the American government will stand behind the Russian government, and that the governments of England, France and Italy may thus be persuaded that a peace upon the Russian terms, now accepted by you, is possible and desirable.

"We look forward confidently to the strengthening of all the democratic forces of Germany, and of America, and of all the nations, to the end that, with you, with our brothers in Russia, and with the common peoples of all nations, we may help in making all governments genuinely of the people, for the people and by the people."

## 11,000 BRITISH MINERS NOW OUT ON STRIKE

**LONDON**—The miners' strike has spread from West Monmouth to other districts. More than 11,000 men are now out.

## CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR FACES HIGH TREASON CHARGE

**DAVENPORT, Ia.**—Daniel H. Wallace, one of the organizers in Chicago recently of the League of Humanity, composed of conscientious objectors to war, was arrested here by deputy United States marshals on a charge of high treason.

Daniel H. Wallace is the author of "Shanghai Into the European War" which is sold by the Northwest Worker for fifteen cents.

## 2,200,000 AMERICANS TO DIE IN THIS WAR

Hudson Maxim, inventor, speaking at a Red Cross reception given by Thomas A. Edison's employees, declared that the United States will pay 1,000,000 lives in the war. He added that another war would follow the present one.

## FAILED TO REGISTER; SENTENCED TO ENLIST

**CARAOLLTON, Ky.**—George Thurman, a prominent citizen here, was arrested, having failed to register for the national army. He was given the choice of imprisonment or enlistment. He chose the latter, joining the regular army.

## 1,000,000 NOT THE LIMIT

Secretary Baker says that the government will not be limited to the first 500,000 and the second 500,000. Other men will be called to keep filled the ranks of those who go first.

## ANTI-WAR VICTOR RILEY'S NEPHEW

John M. Baer, civil engineer and cartoonist who was elected to Congress in North Dakota a couple of weeks ago, is a nephew of the late James Whitcomb Riley.

Mr. Baer was the candidate of the Non-Partisan League of Farmers, which put the old parties completely out of business in last fall's election, news of which sweeping victory was withheld by the kept press.

In pleading for election Baer announced himself as definitely and determinedly opposed to the war and in favor of the utmost effort looking toward an early conclusion of peace. He declared himself also against conscription.

## CANNY JOHN BULL

Though only a little over two score miles from France, wary England has 3,000,000 men within her border and 350,000 regulars scattered over Ireland that were better used along the firing line. Does she expect from other nations both the money and the men for her fight?—Kentucky Irish American.

## 5,000 ILLINOIS FARMERS CHEER ATTACK ON DRAFT

**CHICAGO**—Violent anti-draft propaganda, in which President Wilson was called a warring autocrat, was applauded last night by 5000 Kankakee and Will county farmers gathered on the farm of William Sitz, six miles southwest of Beecher, Ill.

The demonstration began during a speech by C. V. Cook, secretary and treasurer, Humanity League.

When Cook began his speech the automobiles of the wealthy farmers in his audience stretched for half a mile along the roadway on both sides of the Sitz farm.

A permanent local organization had been effected to carry on a campaign in opposition to the draft.

## FOOD ROTTING AS PRICES INCREASE

**NEW YORK**—While food is rotting on farms prices are soaring. The wastage of growing vegetables is due to the fact that middlemen will not pay enough to cover the cost of harvesting, according to

Commissioner John J. Dillon. His slogan is "buy direct" and steps are being taken to form "farmer to consumers" clubs.

In New Jersey the wholesaler and retailer divided a profit of 900 per cent on cabbages, according to a department bulletin issued by the state.

## CARL ULONSKA LECTURES SUNDAY IN THE FORUM

Local Everett No. 1 has secured Comrade Carl Ulonska to speak next Sunday evening, August 12, in The Forum, 1612 California St. He will give his new lecture, "The New Imperialism," with which he has already filled a number of dates in near-by towns.

Comrades from some of these places who have called at the office of The Northwest Worker, speak in the highest terms of our young comrade's lecture, and we are sure that anyone who misses hearing him next Sunday evening, will be missing a treat. Admission will be free. Come all, and bring your friends.