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LOOK FOR THE PROTECTION SEAL-IT IS NOT REAL GRAVELLY WITHOUT THIS SEAL.

POLITICAL PRISONERS

In 1901 Peter Kropotkin, on his visit to America, addressed a letter to Alexander Berkman, then in Western Penitentiary, "Political Prisoner." The warden erased the letter and wrote across the envelope: "No political prisoners in a Democracy."

That a prison warden should not know that Democracy, like autocracy, creates political opposition need not surprise us. Besides there were few political offenders in America in 1901. To be sure, John Brown and Mrs. Surrat were political offenders, so were the Chicago Anarchists, but they had been put out of the way. Those who were sent to prison were isolated and then forgotten.

Since 1901, and especially since the war, every city has contributed its share of men and women who have been sent to prison for periods of thirty days to forty-five years for their political opinions. But even to this day America refuses to recognize the existence of political prisoners.

When the women pickets were forcibly fed in Washington Jail, they were told by a gentleman from Congress that if they would stop hunger striking, they would be given all the privileges of political prisoners but would not be recognized as such, for that would automatically establish a political status which a Democracy could not tolerate. So for Democracy's sake men and women, guilty of the great crime of holding non-conformist views on social and political questions, are given outrageous sentences and are treated as common felons.

Nothing like this condition exists anywhere in the civilized world. Even under the autocratic rule of the Tsar distinction was made between the political and common offender. Imperialistic Germany distinguishes between the political prisoner and the so-called criminal. France and all the Latin countries were the first to recognize the distinction.

From time to time political prisoners are released in these countries by the declaration of General Amnesty. In fact in Italy and Spain Political prisoners who are elected to office, even while serving their sentences, are immediately released. Even England grants political Amnesty. The Sinn Feiners who had been sentenced to death and later had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment are now free through the declaration of a political amnesty.

Only Democracy has so far refused to face the fact that those sentenced to war, or conscription, those who under no circumstance would raise a gun against their brothers, those who for social and economic reasons cannot subscribe to militarism—that these men and women are not common felons but people of deep conviction. They have learned from history that institutions which have outgrown human need are subject to change and that the change can only be worth while if it is fundamental and from the bottom up.

Now, this may not be pleasant to the powers that be, but they must nevertheless learn to draw the distinction between men and women of ideals, the forerunners of the future, and the unfortunate victims who are forced by an outworn social system into crime.—Emma Goldman.

Socialism at its worst couldn't be more desirable than capitalism at its best.

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"FICKERT IS GUILTY," SAYS GOVERNMENT

By Ed Gammons

The Federal Commission, appointed by President Woodrow Wilson to investigate the San Francisco Frame-ups, has found Fickert GUILTY AS CHARGED.

There is no other interpretation of the report. It is as clear as day. It states that the Mooney case was a Labor case, despite the lies of Fickert's satellites who masquerade as Labor men; it states that the plain import of the Oxman letters was subornation of perjury; it states that the public utilities who feared Mooney sought "to get" him; it states that Billings and Mooney were tried in an "impregnating atmosphere of hate, engendered by an attitude of passion stimulated by all the arts of modern journalism"; it states that when Oxman was discredited, the verdict against Mooney was discredited; it states that the police authorities neglected the most important clue viz(the warning letters sent the different papers before the explosion occurred; it states that Billings was tried first in the hope that he would implicate Mooney; it states that Swanson tried to railroad Mooney on a false charge of dynamiting and that the effort failed only because Billings and Weinberg refused to be bribed.

What more scathing indictment could be penned of the activities of the Fickert-Swanson gang than this document given the public—not by any biased source—but by a Federal Commission appointed by President Woodrow Wilson?

The Frame-up gang has answered already. It is a cry of defiance. It is the last yelp of the Chamber of Perjury murder-band. They can't fight the government of the United States. They can't fight the intelligence of the nation which is now convinced of the innocence of all the defendants. They can't fight the proven facts of the case, in other words they can't fight TRUTH.

"Truth crushed to earth will rise again, The eternal years are hers."

Not the least of the reasons why autocracy must go is that it is inevitably a war breeder.

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