

—The—  
**Co-Operative News**  
"Each For All, And All For Each"

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**PATRIOTIC LYNCHING**

BUFFALO—Of course, the Illinois mob that lynched the German sympathizer did the wrong thing. But deep down in his heart what real American is inclined to waste tears on the death of such an individual who stood little chance of meeting his deserts at the hands of regular constituted law, however, richly he deserved it?—Commercial.

Thus does the "patriotic" press of this country adroitly pat the lynchers on the back and covertly fan the mob flame. It is hypocritically deceitful for any one to say that "Pro-Germans" are not likely to meet their deserts at a time when Federal authorities are arresting people right and left, with and without warrant, are holding them for indefinite periods of time without trial or charge, and are imposing outrageous sentences for trivial offenses, and on flimsy evidence.

And the kept press would have us believe that it is the "real American" who sympathizes with lynchings and mob rule.

**KU KLUX ORGANIZED IN MINNESOTA TO OPPOSE NONPARTISAN LEAGUE**

ST. PAUL—A Ku Klux clan is being organized in Minnesota to oppose activities of the National Nonpartisan league.

Appeals are to be made to join the Ku Klux clan upon the ground that it is patriotic. The public will not be told that the real object of the organization is purely political, camouflaged behind pretended loyalty.

The new organization is said to have progressed particularly well in Wabasha county.

Financial and moral support is alleged to have been given by the Minnesota public safety commission, which has \$1,000,000 of taxpayers' money to use as it sees fit.

The parasitic money interests of Minnesota are taking the same attitude and stand regarding the farmer that the farmer takes in regard to his milk cows. The farmer will not allow anyone to interfere with his milk cows to cause them to give less milk; the moneyed parasites will move heaven and earth to prevent the farmer from asserting independence and showing a desire to throw off the parasites. Big Biz appears to think they have a

vested interest in the farmer.

It cannot be asserted truthfully that the farmers are unpatriotic, for they have subscribed liberally to War Bonds, etc., and have taken a firm stand in favor of the administration. Nevertheless old party politicians (at the behest of their masters) have indulged in unlimited vilification of the farmers in an effort to break up their organization. That they would stoop to the organization of a Ku Klux Clan shows that there is nothing too low for them to undertake in order to maintain their hold as parasites on the farmers.

**STRIKE**

The strike of 4,000 employees of the Savage Arms company, engaged on government contracts, is the most glaringly unpatriotic movement that has yet occurred outside the ranks of the I. W. W. The suggestion that it was directly instigated by German agents is worth investigating.—Buffalo Express.

The authorities would come nearer to doing justice if they would investigate the Savage Arms Company, to see if it was actuated by German Gold when it refused to grant its workers their demand for a higher wage. If the Company was not influenced by German Gold it was at least influenced by a DESIRE for German Lucre. It is notorious that all manufacturers of arms and munitions have made millions and billions; but they refuse to give their laborers a higher wage in the face of the rising cost of living. If anything is "glaringly unpatriotic" it is the labor oppressing policy of the Savage Arms Co. The workers are at a distinct disadvantage at the present time in their fights with the master class, since they are always called unpatriotic and seditious by the "kept press" while the employers are exempt from such abuse because they generally control the press.

**SOCIALISM AND THE WAR**

With the pendulum of world government swinging downward or upward, according to your personal opinion, toward Socialism, the Socialists of America have split into two factions.

It is one of the most remarkable political phenomena of our history that at time when the Socialistic movement of many years seemed nearest fruition, the Socialist should fall out among themselves, occupy hostile camps more irreconcilable than Republicans and Democrats on the night before presidential elections.

The dissenters, headed by Charles Edward Russell, contend that the Socialists' anti-war campaign is anti-American and pro-German. Whereupon the other faction reads Charles Edward Russell and his followers out of the Socialist party.

The patriotism issue among the Socialists is merely a battle cry for the mob.

The real cause of the party split is the belief of the rebels

that the war is a good thing for the Socialists; the government, as a war measure, is being compelled to do what the Socialists have for years been agitating—take over the big basic industries; that it will work so well in war time the people will permit reversion to the old order.

The stand-pat Socialists continue with the propaganda that all wars are capitalistic and against the interests of the masses.

Both sides are undoubtedly sincere.

From Murphy to Food Controller Hoover, the best politicians predict the advent of Socialism in our government as a powerful factor shortly to be reckoned with.

It isn't so much a question whether the voters will want to drop socialistic measures after the war. They may not be able to. To compete with socialistic efficiency abroad, when peace comes, we may have to fight it with its own weapons. The indications are for more, rather than less, Socialism in America after the war—whether we like it or not. — Editorial in Popular Magazine.

**CAUSES OF WAR**

The People's Council has recently issued a leaflet containing a very clear statement of the causes of war. It reads in part as follows:

"Those who precipitated the world war have their own horrible responsibility and must answer for it. So in our determination to punish those who may be individually responsible for the universal horror, we must look deeper than individual responsibility. We must find the causes that make for war, the conditions that make war possible, that make war unavoidable, that make the individual or individuals act as they did.

"Under our present system of doing things, governments cannot always avoid war. If they were not destroyed from without, they would be destroyed from within—and for the same motive. Some other government or set of men within, paving the way for commercial advantage, would overthrow the government that refused to make war.

"To avoid war we must remove war's causes. "Our governments" as Henry Morgenthau, formerly United States Ambassador to Turkey, points out in a letter to the New York Times, on December 19, 1917, "have hitherto generally devoted themselves to the protection of property rights. Their means of authority have been of same materials as the objects of that authority." Mr. Morgenthau, urging everyone to contribute to the Red Cross, explained why governments cannot do the work of repairing the "ravages of nature or of human error." In so doing he put his finger upon the reason why the world is at war. Remember what he said about nations protecting property rights, keep in mind the ruthless way in which Big Business goes after profits. And keep in mind too that profits are "property rights." Remember, also, that in this world crisis you have your responsibility just as much as the Kaiser, the deposed Czar, the rulers of England or the President of the United States.

"In protecting property rights abroad, governments find themselves, as a matter of course, defending the same Big Business that is making billions out of the war, and multiplying the number of millionaires. Big Business is no more scrupulous abroad than it is at home—it is after profits

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"When Big Business overflows national boundaries it not only exchanges commodities with the people of so-called independent nations, but it also deals with subordinate peoples and in these dealings it has special privileges. These subordinate peoples live in colonies, dependencies, "protected nations" and "spheres of influence." The special privileges may be secured by tariff regulations, actual limitation of commerce, unofficial government favoritism, official government aid, subsidies, or "investments for development" under the protection of the navies and armies of the nation which the Big Business group lives.

"Whatever their nature, these special privileges are constantly demanded by Big Business for some pleasant sounding reason; they are usually given and always protected by the armed forces of the stronger nation, these armed forces being supported by general taxation. So also is Big Business always demanding for apparently good reason, the extension of colonies, dependencies, "spheres of influence" and the like. Thus the struggle for profits between the Big Business groups of one nation and the Big Business groups of another, brings the nations into conflict, and under color of "protecting the lives and property of citizens" into war. While governments continue to "devote themselves to the protection of property rights," as pointed out by Mr. Morgenthau, it is impossible, without surrendering prestige, to avoid war. For Big Business can command government protection and Big Business is always in trouble."

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