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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1920.

The Great Delusion

Why do men and women work for wages?
Working for wages, selling oneself to an individual or a corporation for so many hours per day is not pleasant, nor is it profitable. The average return to the wage-earner is his or her cost of subsistence and as competition for jobs increases the employers in addition to specifying the kind and the amount of labor to be performed during the work-period proper also dictate to a large extent what their employees shall do in their leisure moments. Economic slavery is thus made to mean political slavery; the wage-earner has but small measure of freedom and this freedom is confined to matters that affect only in a slight degree or not at all the make-up of existing social forms.

Why then do men and women continue to work for wages and surrender their social and economic freedom? It is not because they like this method of gaining a livelihood, but because it is the only method available.

This condition did not always exist, but so effectively has the ruling class prevented the workers from acquiring any knowledge detrimental to the present system that but few workers know that in order to bring the wage-system into existence the rulers found it necessary to deprive the workers of access to the land. Just before the capitalist system came into being, heralded by the invention of labor-saving machinery, the workers were on land. They made their living from the soil. They kept a few domestic animals and produced the things they used or by a simple system of barter were able to get the few things they did not raise or make themselves.

The profits to be made by forcing the agricultural laborer into the factory, applying his labor-power to certain natural resources with the aid of machinery induced the rulers of that time to take the land from the workers. Deprived of access to the soil the worker was compelled to sell himself at the factory gates and the modern wage-earner came into existence. He has been here ever since, existing in varying stages of misery, dependent upon the state of the labor-market, which, thanks to the wondrous inventions of the workers themselves, is generally overstocked.

It is true that in most countries the workers have the right of franchise, the theoretical right to select their rulers.

It is probable that the capitalist class would be much pleased if this right had never been won by the workers, but it does not cause them a great deal of worry as long as they still retain control of the mines and factories, of the water-power, the railways and the mills. Able to give or deny employment, controlling the sources of information they can generally prevent any drastic changes in parliamentary procedure and generally either retain or again secure control of the machinery of government. The last election furnished a striking example of the power of capitalism on the parliamentary field.

In their excursions into politics the wage-earners discover that their friends are few and far between, that with exceptions, which serve only to prove the rule, the other members of society are solidly aligned against them. There is a reason for this. From the little group of capitalists who control the policies of government down to the most servile hanger-on of the regime, all are living on the backs of the workers, all are beneficiaries of the wage system and want no change that might rob them of their privileges. It follows then that the working masses can depend upon no one but themselves. Like the chattel-slave of old, who could find no one not a slave to sympathize with his sufferings, the modern wage-slave will soon discover that he is in a class apart, in a division created not by himself, but by his rulers. The taint of labor is upon him and his wants are supplied only when he can be used at a profit and at no other time.

If the worker demands more than a subsistence wage he threatens the system by which all of the immense army of non-producers exist—the profit system. He threatens the institution of private property, which has come to mean the right of a few individuals to dictate to the mass by virtue of their control of the means of life. It is to protect the wage-system that all of the wondrous machinery of modern government has been erected. This is what armies and navies are for. This is what courts and judges are for. It is the divine right of the wage-system to exist that is taught in the schools and thundered from the pulpits. All of these institutions have come into being at the behest of a privileged class in order that the workers may be persuaded or forced to a continued acceptance of the wage-system—a system whereby he receives but a small portion of the product of his toil—the rest going to the capitalist class and its hangers-on.

All of the above is by way of pointing out the utter absurdity of the tactics followed by the great bulk of the wage-earners of this nation—organized and unorganized—tactics that are founded upon the false idea that a ruling-class can be fooled into doing something that will end its rule. This is the great delusion.

International Situation

The international situation is fast developing an atmosphere similar to that of the days of 1914. In a recent issue of "Engineering," the organ of the steel and iron trades of Britain, the following statement appeared:

"On the eve of the war France was making 5,000,000 tons a year of pig-iron, with steel in proportion, against our 9,500,000 tons, and Germany's 13,000,000 tons a year of pig-iron, with steel and engineering products in proportion. This would substitute France for Germany as our leading competitor in the iron and steel trades."

We shall witness in England a rehash of the stories of the French revolution, that were told by the fleeing royalists. Marie Antoniette will take the place of Joan of Arc. These

English manufacturers who are now lachrymose over the sufferings of France will grow hot over her competition.

Evidence of this growing spirit of trade jealousy between England and France may be found in the recent actions of Lloyd George. It is Lloyd George who is secretly aiding and abetting Germany in her desire to escape paying France her war indemnity. Lloyd George, with the assistance of the British press, is sounding the note of making Germany pay all that "she is able to pay." If Germany does not pay her war indemnity to France, it means the crippling of French industries, which is what Lloyd George desires. It was Lloyd George who suggested that the army of occupation be withdrawn from Germany.

The British manufacturers, who spoke so highly of the liberty-loving French, have engaged in trade with Germany to the extent of \$100,000,000, during the last six months. They have also received German gold in payment of debts. On the other hand, France is not receiving one-tenth of her war indemnity. France realizes, that at the present time she is partly dependent upon the good graces of England, but she also realizes that she must prepare for future emergencies. That is why she has made a secret military agreement with Belgium. England and Germany are going to make an alliance, together with Japan, the American steel and oil interests have already allied themselves with the French oil and steel interests. War is due to make its re-appearance, as may be seen from the following dispatch sent to the London "Times," by its New York correspondent:

"If the United States is involved in another great war, every one of its soldiers will carry a package of poison gas as part of his equipment. The Chemical Warfare society, with which the American Chemical society is actively co-operating, has perfected a process for solidifying poison gas so that it can be carried in a man's pocket."

Before the ink is dry on the parchment, containing the peace terms of the last war, the soil of Europe will be wet with the blood of the working class. Imperialism in order to live must have the means whereby it lives, i. e., trade. In the obtaining of trade it must engage in a struggle with contending nations. War is the final means by which nations settle their disputes. You may protest against war, but your protest will not avail, unless you control the means by which nations declare war. That means that you must EDUCATE, AGITATE and ORGANIZE!

Industrial Unionism

The discovery of the steam-engine marked the genesis of departure from hand production to machine production, and brought into being the capitalist mode of production. In its earliest stages capitalism manifested itself in small workshops with the prevailing simple forms of production. Individualism was the prevailing form of capitalist ownership. During this period the worker dominated the machine. It was at this period that craft unionism came into existence. Due to the worker occupying the dominant position in industry, it was a simple matter for him to organize into craft unions and demand higher wages, shorter hours and a higher standard of living. But the world moves on!

With the advance of the machine in industry, labor began to lose its position as the dominant factor in industry. Whilst it is true that with the accumulation of capital a greater army of workers was called into existence, yet it was also true that the ever-increasing perfection that was taking place in machine-production was in comparison creating a less demand for labor. The introduction of machinery also witnessed the coming together of small firms into joint-stock companies, until we now have the huge trust dominating the world. The result being that craft unions now find themselves helpless when confronted with these selfsame huge trusts. Recent strikes have proven how helpless craft unions are when confronted with centralized capital.

Unfortunately the workers are notoriously slow in their appreciation and grasp of the things that really count. They will bend their energies, their enthusiasm, their all, into channels which bear them into the stagnant backwash of puerilities and the non-essentials of capitalist society, whilst the great ocean of life itself calls in vain for them to come and take possession. The various working-class unions must learn the lesson that their masters have taught them. They must also learn that the biologic law, "adapt or die," applies with greater force to the labor movement than to any other. Just as the big consolidated world-wide corporations of the capitalist class are the natural outcome of the small workshops of earlier capitalist days, so is industrial unionism the inevitable evolution of the craft union.

Industrial unionism is the organized class expression of the working class struggling for economic freedom. It is the only means by which the working class can hope to retain its hold upon what it has obtained in the past, and realize what it hopes to obtain in the future. Industrial unionism is dreaded and viciously fought by the exploiters of labor, it is labor's greatest and all-conquering weapon.

The old systems are in the melting pot, and change is the order of the day. Trade unionism cannot remain stagnant and live; it must press forward, and the only way open whereby the workers and their unions can survive the storm and attain their legitimate desires is through the consummation of true industrial unionism.

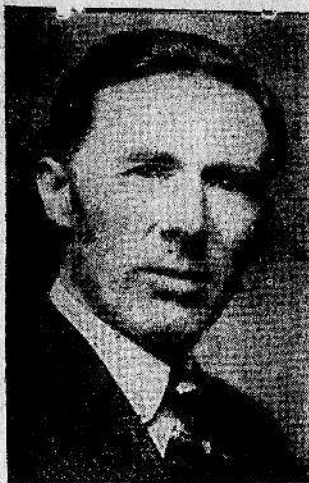
Those Vanderlip Concessions

An eastern financial journal has the following to say regarding the Siberian concessions granted to Washington D. Vanderlip:

The important American concessions in Siberia reported by Washington D. Vanderlip are apparently as welcome to competition as a return of influenza to the world public. At home, where support and encouragement should be expected, authoritative voices are heard to effect that the project is "a visionary dream," that the opportunity had already been turned down by better informed interests, and that the concession may have arisen from Soviets confusing the agent with Frank A. Vanderlip. Objections recall fact that American "visions" have already hastened world progress on more than one occasion, that Fulton's steamboat was "turned down" by Napoleon with subsequent failure of his English invasion because of head winds, and as Mr. Vanderlip doubtless carried full credentials as to person and connections, he would be as readily mistaken for the other Vanderlip and for the other Washington.

The new Golden Rule—rule yourself.

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HERE'S YOUR UNION

AND WHERE IT MEETS

Notice to Union Officials!

The Bulletin is publishing a directory of unions with the names of officers, place and time of meetings. This directory will keep your union constantly before the public and your members. It is a short-cut road to well attended meeting nights and greater interest in your organization. Your union should be represented in this column. The rate is very low. Write to our Labor Editor or Advertising Department for rates.

The Bulletin is the official organ of the State Metal Trades Council.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS' HELPERS, No. 88—Meets first and third Friday evenings at I. O. G. T. hall, 215 N. Main st., at 7:30 p. m. E. L. Decco, president; R. H. Dunstan, rec. sec.; J. K. Powell, financial secretary.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS, No. 88—Meets every Thursday evening at K. of P. hall, South Main st. L. G. Dawson, financial secretary; J. F. O'Brien, business agent, Carpenters' hall.

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYEES AND MOVING PICTURE MACHINE OPERATORS OF U. S. C. LOCAL 94—Meets the second Monday in the month at 10:30 a. m., at T. M. A. hall, 41 North Wyoming street. Sam Spiegel, Sec. P. O. Box 137.

BROTHERHOOD OF BOILERMAKERS, IRON SHIPBUILDERS' and HELPERS' Local No. 130—Secretary, Walter Goodland, Jr., 1818 Whitman ave. Meets second and fourth Tuesdays at 215 N. Main st.

RUBBER AND TIRE WORKERS' UNION, NO. 16,483—Meeting every second and fourth Monday at 224 E. Park street; Cecil Larson, Secretary, 1133 Utah Ave.

METAL MINE WORKERS OF America, Unit A of the One Big Union—Meets every Tuesday evening at 8 p. m. Hall 101 South Idaho street, Butte, Mont. Fred G. Clough, secretary

BUTTE TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION, No. 126—Meets second Sunday in the month at I. O. G. T. hall, 215 North Main st. Secretary, Jeremiah Hegarty, Box 555.

BLACKSMITHS AND HELPERS No. 456, postoffice box 838—Meets every Friday at 7:30 at Boucher's hall, 29 West Park street. President, Wm. Doorian; recording secretary, Ed A. Davis, 1901 Roberts ave.; business agent, Wm. McGowan, Carpenters' Union Hall

BROTHERHOOD RAILWAY CARMEN OF AMERICA, Copper Lodge No. 480—Meets second and fourth Wednesdays of each month Odd Fellows' hall, Front street.

CENTRAL PIPE FITTERS' UNION No. 710—Meets first and third Mondays in each month, at K. of P. hall, J. P. Edwards, secretary, 3138 Busch st., Butte. Executive committee meets every Monday night.

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, inside wiremen, local No. 628, meets every Monday night at 8 o'clock in basement of Acoma Hotel on East Broadway.

BUTTE STREET CAR MEN'S UNION, Division No. 381—Meets every first and third Wednesday at Moose hall, President Clarence Blewett; Vice President, M. Y. Daniels; Financial Secretary, Tim Kearny; Recording Secretary, W. A. Hoar; Treasurer, L. W. Morgan.

MILL, SMELTER AND SURFACE WORKERS' UNION.—Affiliated with One Big Union of Wage Workers. Holds regular meetings each Friday evening at 101 South Idaho street. All Mill, Smelter and Surface Workers are requested to attend. M. D. Smith, Treasurer.

UNITED ASSOCIATION OF PLUMBERS AND STEAM FITTERS, Local No. 41—Meets every Monday, 8 p. m., Moose Hall. Secretary, M. J. Dignan, Box 740.

SHEET METAL WORKERS' UNION—Meets second and fourth Tuesdays in each month, at Moose hall, Maurice P. Rowe, secretary, Box 196, Butte.

CASCADE COUNTY TRADES AND LABOR ASSEMBLY—Meets every Friday night at 8 o'clock at Carpenters' hall. A. Budden, president; G. A. Bosley, secretary, Box 560. Phone 6834.

MUSICIANS' UNION—Meets third Tuesday in each month; board of directors meets first Tuesday. Herbert A. Rosner, president; Earl C. Simmons, secretary, 116 Hamilton st. Tel. 2558-W.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL UNION No. 65—Meets every Friday evening at 8 p. m., Moose Hall East Park street. President, E. Whitford; vice president, W. H. Duggan; recording secretary W. H. Foley; financial sec'y and business agent, W. C. Medhurst. Secretary's office room 106 Penn. Bldg.

BUTTE METAL TRADES COUNCIL—Meets every Wednesday evening at 101 S. Idaho. President, James F. O'Brien; secretary, J. P. Buckley; treasurer, Fred Allen; postoffice box 770 Telephone 2085