

The "Forward" and the "Nation"
An Answer to Oswald Garrison Villard

By A. B. MAGIL. Several weeks ago there appeared among the editorial comments of "The Nation" a message of congratulation to the "Forward" on its thirtieth anniversary. "The Nation" doesn't always agree with the methods of this Yiddish socialist daily, the editorial said, but the "Forward" continues, nevertheless, an admirable journalistic achievement on a non-profit making basis.

Just Before the Row Started—Senators Look at Flood Map

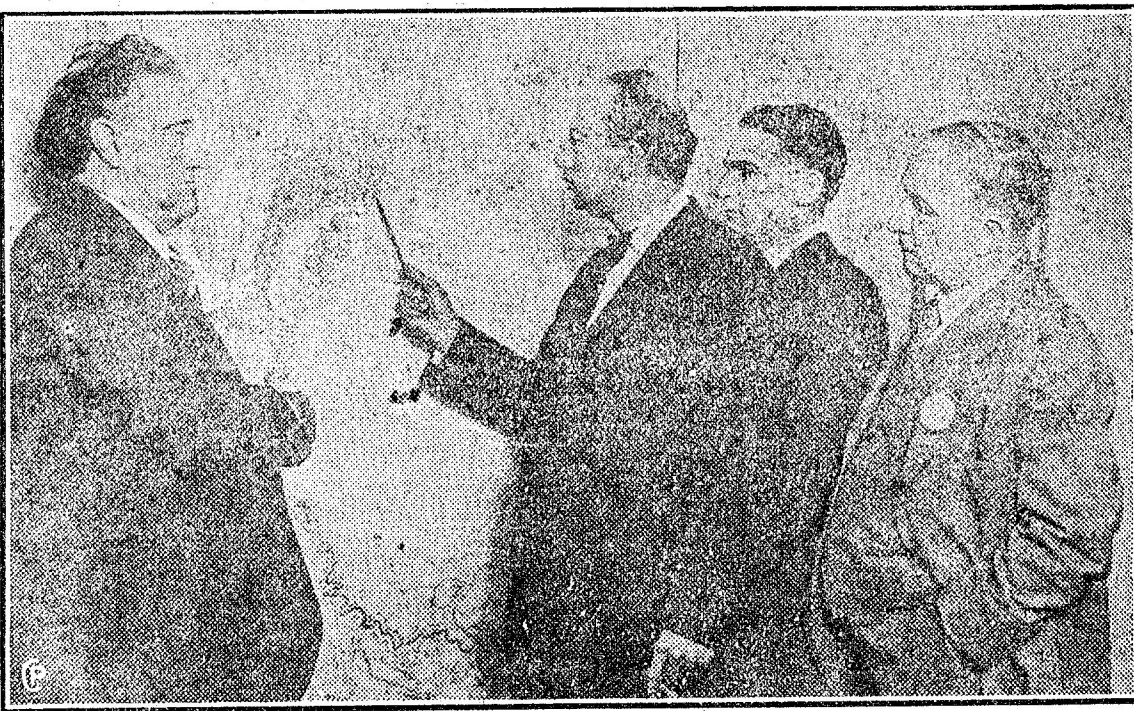


Photo shows United States senators, at a conference of Mississippi valley citizens and public officials in Chicago on flood control problems, going over a map of the Mississippi river. Left to right, they are: Senators James E. Watson, Indiana; Pat Harrison, Mississippi; Gerald P. Nye, North Dakota; and Representative Carl R. Chindblom, Illinois. Mayor Wm. H. Thompson of Chicago explained the purpose of the conference as the laying out of "some plan to cure the situation which is a continuing menace to the Mississippi valley and a reproach to the nation."

PROFESSIONAL PATRIOTS

(Continued from yesterday) American Defense Society

This organization has operated both from New York and Washington. During the two years that R. M. Whitney represented it at Washington, up to his death in 1924, and while William J. Burns was head of the Bureau of Investigation of the United States Department of Justice, Mr. Whitney was the chief spokesman of its activities. The Washington office has not since figured publicly and is now reported to be closed.

principles advocated or recommended?..... b. The recall of judges and judicial decisions?..... c. Initiative or direct legislation by the people?..... d. The right of the people as a whole to the earnings of the individual?.....

Is there active propaganda among the students or faculty for further reduction of the size of the army or navy?..... If so, is such propaganda based on the idea that military preparedness tends to produce war and that disarmament by this country is the first step toward permanent peace?.....

Are any of the above principles or theories offered as a subject for debates between the students and, if so, to what extent?..... In 1920 when the fear of Reds was at its height, the American Defense Society took the lead in proposing direct action along lines not dissimilar to Fascist tactics in Italy. It was headed "A Call to Arms," and among other points said:

"Citizens Committees of Defense have been formed and are in the process of formation in a number of towns and cities! A practical plan for organization and operation has been worked out by the society, and leaders are instructed as to how to meet the situation in their respective communities."

American Legion.

It is difficult to characterize the American Legion in the same way as the other organizations, whose direction is centralized. The legion is made up of virtually independent local organizations cooperating through state and national conventions and officers. National policies are fixed at the national conventions; but the local posts are free to take such action in their communities as they feel consistent with the Legion's aims.

Hot After Pacifists.

Their extensive activities in propaganda are directed chiefly against pacifists, and occasionally against radicals. In several communities the Legion has been stirred into action by the regular professional patriotic societies who have felt that the patriotic appeal of the ex-soldier would be more effective than their own. During 1926 two such instances occurred—one in Massachusetts, where the Legion was active in opposing a meeting of the Fellowship of Youth for Peace at Concord, inspired by the Industrial Defense Association; and in Los Angeles and Pasadena, Cal., where the Legion, inspired by the Better American Federation, endeavored to prevent Roger N. Baldwin from speaking before the City Club and the State Conference of Social Work, and succeeded in canceling the City Club engagement.

(To be continued.)

MEMORIAL DAY

On Memorial Day the paunches of the bourgeoisie sway gently in the sun, bend over, place wreaths upon the graves of those who died that the paunches of the bourgeoisie might sway gently in the sun.

—A. B. MAGIL.

SEND IN YOUR LETTERS

The DAILY WORKER is anxious to receive letters from its readers stating their views on the issues confronting the labor movement. It is our hope to develop a "Letter Box" department that will be of wide interest to all members of The DAILY WORKER family. Send in your letter today to "The Letter Box," The DAILY WORKER, 38 First street, New York City.

BOOKS
A CORRECTION. As a result of unfortunate proof-reading, the price of American Communism, by James Oneal was given as \$4.50 in a review of the book in this department last Friday. The correct price is \$1.50. The book is published by the Rand Book Store.

THE QUINTESENCE OF OTTO H. KAHN

OF MANY THINGS, by Otto H. Kahn. Boni & Liveright. \$5. If money talks, every one of Otto H. Kahn's dollars is garrulous. The words "I don't know" have no place in his repertoire of commonplaces. On any or no provocation he proffers advice and "views" on international affairs, student suicides, how to make a million dollars, revision of the taxes and the drama, etc. No ifs or buts or soul-searchings. For every problem a neat solution.

This book is a collection of speeches, "papers," and casual pronouncements on the world's affairs. At first one is bewildered by the diversity and breadth of the territory covered—or at least touched upon—and the diversity of the opinions. One seeks for some principle of unity, some thread upon which to string these paste-pearls of wisdom. And finally one finds it. The quintessence of Kahn is a deep and broad and all-inclusive optimism. He likes the world as it is. Its slight imperfections are a delicious sauce to flavor the mess, enabling him and other "idealists" to exercise their idealism.

Kahn believes—or at any rate says—that there is no imperialism. That there is no class war. That "the royal road to popular success is to demonstrate courage and independence and to stand-up man-fashion for one's convictions." That "it has never been typical of the American to seek dollars for the sake of mere selfish accumulation." That there is a great and glorious future for Bach, Wagner and jazz. That the movies are "laying the basis for the manifestation and growth of a new and genuine American art."

Such superlative optimism—unless it is merely a machiavellian pose—is imbecilic. With Kahn it isn't a pose. He's really satisfied. Read in a comic spirit his collected opinions are worth the three bucks; being equal to cost of several visits to a vaudeville show. Here's a choice bit of his high-minded and serious humor, apropos of the unfortunate conflict between so-called labor and so-called capital:

"The labor unions in this country claim a membership of 4,500,000 (this was in 1921). If every member laid aside one dollar each week, the available sum at the end of one year would amount to \$234,000,000. That is a pretty tidy fund to start business with, in various lines. Personally, I should be glad to see the experiment tried and should welcome its success."

Mr. Kahn did not carry his argument far enough. After the union members had made good in business, it would be natural for the non-union workers to have their dollar a week and do likewise. Thus we should in time have a proletariat consisting only of the unemployed (those who couldn't save a dollar, that is) and Otto H. Kahn.

—EUGENE LYONS.

BIOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

JIM CONNOLLY AND IRISH FREEDOM, by G. Schuller. Daily Worker Publishing Company. \$10.

Here is an excellent sketch of the life of a great Irish revolutionary. Jim Connolly, a much neglected leader of the working class is brought to the notice of the international revolutionary movement. In deciding the tactics for a revolutionary party, Connolly's work cannot be overlooked. The Irish rising in 1916 was only made possible through the strategy of Connolly, who so often has been misunderstood. Whilst leading what was looked upon as a purely national rising, he stood definitely for the combination of the national revolutionary struggle and the revolutionary struggle of the working class.

"The whole age-long fight of the Irish people is a social question—the question of the Irish people against their oppressors resolves itself in the last analysis into a fight for the mastery of the means of life, the sources of production in Ireland."

"When the question of class interests are eliminated from public controversy, a victory is thereby gained for the possessing conservative class whose only hope of security lies in such elimination."

The founding of the Socialist Labor Party and his work in the trade unions, show Connolly to have been no impossibility—no separatist policy of the trade unions from the political movement would he tolerate. Like the true realist that he was, the peasants were not forgotten in his revolutionary fight.

"When the revolutionary nationalists threw in their lot with the Irish Land League, and made the land the basis for their warfare, they were not only placing themselves in touch once more with those inexhaustible quarries of material interests, but they were also, consciously or unconsciously placing themselves in accord with the principles which underlie and inspire the modern movement of labor."

Schuller has given a fine insight into Connolly's outlook on co-operatives, Labor Party, and trade unions. When asked how it happened that he understood so much about revolutions and military questions, Connolly replied: "You forget revolution is my business."

Easter week is given its correct perspective. Lenin himself wrote: "Those who can term such a rising a 'Putch' are either the worst kind of reactionaries or hopelessly doctrinaires incapable of imagining the social revolution as a living phenomenon."

In this period of confusion in the ranks of the workers, this little booklet is invaluable for its insight into a much neglected phase of revolutionary activity. Schuller correctly says: "The Labor Movement has not taken to heart Connolly's Leninist slogan, that in spite of the united front with the revolutionary nationalists the workers must retain their independence and their leading role."

—PAT DEVINE.

RED POETS' NIGHT.

Cascades of revolutionary poetry will stream in the Labor Temple, 14th St. and Second Ave., on Thursday evening. Designated by the committee in charge as "Red Poets' Nite," a large number of prominent writers will read from their verses—some published and some not.

Those who have been announced to appear on the program include Michael Gold, Joseph Freeman, Floyd Dell, Max Eastman, Genevieve Taggard, Lola Ridge, Babette Deutsch, Langston Hughes, Countee P. Cullen, Abraham Raisin, and H. Laveick, Yiddish poet and author of "Shop."

N. B.—Tickets are fifty cents and proceeds will go (quite appropriately) toward the \$500 fine which THE DAILY WORKER must pay for publishing the poem, "America."

