

DEBS

FREEDOM MONTHLY

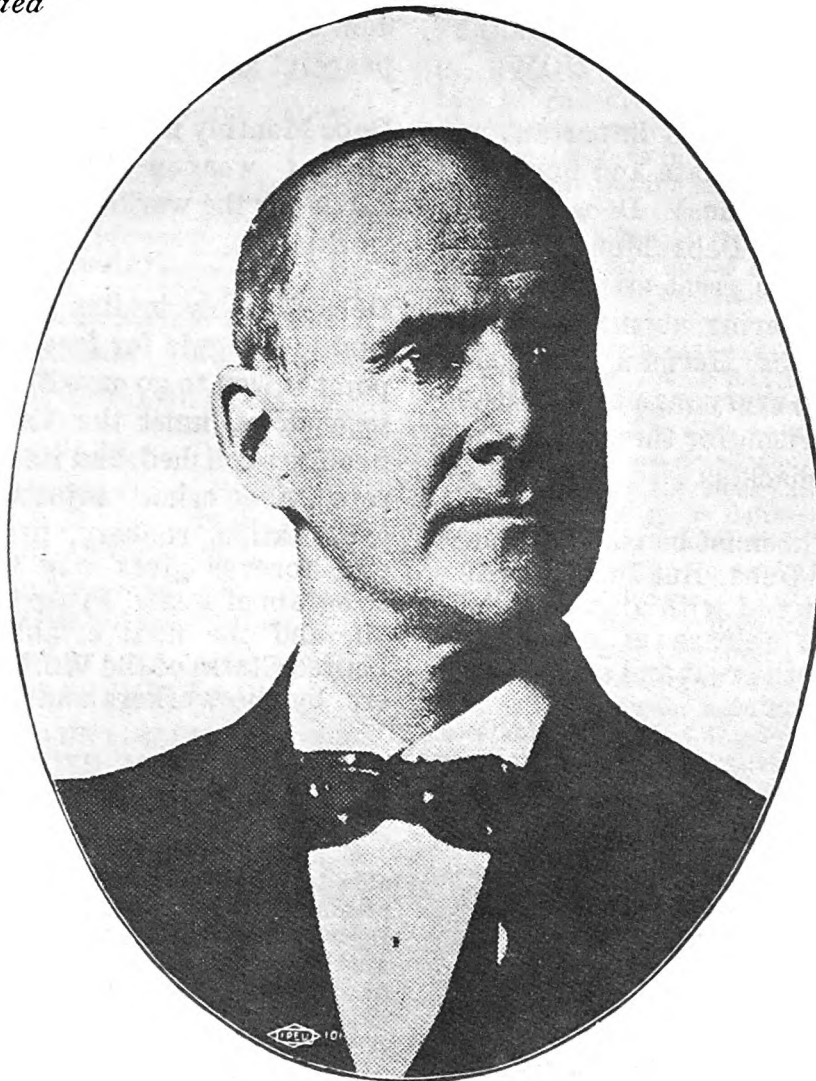
Vol. I

AUGUST, 1921

No. I

*"He has sounded
fourth the
trumpet*

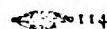
*That shall
never call
retreat"*



The Prisoner of Atlanta

Fifteen
Cents
a Copy

One Dollar
and a Half
a Year



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OUR PURPOSE.

Debs Freedom Monthly is here to meet a vital need and perform a great service to the Workingclass. While its ultimate aim is the overthrow of the Capitalist System and the establishment in America of the Socialist Republic it will make every effort to obtain for the workers the full measure of justice possible, NOW.

Without question the most important issue today, is the immediate and unconditional release of Eugene V. Debs and all political prisoners. Debs Monthly will take the lead in this great struggle, and will not cease battering at the doors of Congress until Debs, Herman, Coldwell, Mollie Steiner and every man and woman now confined in prison for their ideas, are freed from their shackles.

Naturally this fight must be made around the personality of Debs. But Debs Monthly will not be satisfied with anything but the unconditional release of each and every Comrade, both great and small, both prominent and obscure.

This is the crying demand of the hour, and we intend to carry the fight thru to a finish in such a way that the profiteers of America will be compelled to live up to the fundamental rights of the toilers, and will never again interfere with freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and peaceful assemblage.

Debs Monthly is here to stay! It is a permanent weapon formed expressly to battle for the workers of America and the world.

Debs Monthly invites you to join in this titanic struggle for freedom. When this point is won to go on with us from victory to victory, until the Capitalist System itself is abolished, and its chamber of horrors, vice, crime, injustice, oppression, exploitation, robbery, prostitution, war, etc., forever gives way to the Socialist Program of Peace, Prosperity, Justice for all, and the final establishment of the United States of the World,—of the workers, by the workers and for the workers.

DEBS HAS REFUSED A PARDON

many times. He depends only upon the workers of America to make the prison doors swing outward. Is he depending upon you in vain? Or have you done your bit to secure his release and the freedom of all your comrades? These comrades have sacrificed much for you. It is now your turn to work for them. Fill the enclosed subscription blank with names of workers or "plutes" that need awakening. Leave the rest to DEBS MONTHLY. We need circulation! 100,000 subscribers for DEBS MONTHLY means the unconditional liberation of Debs and the Comrades! All you send in ten names, today?

DEBS FREEDOM FUND!

Many requests have been made by persons unable to take an active part in the liberation of prisoners, that a popular fund be established by Debs Monthly, of voluntary contributions to be used in paying the expenses of this great fight. As money will be badly needed to carry on this vital work we have decided to act on these suggestions. We therefore invite our readers to contribute what they can to this fund, and particularly bring it to the attention of those who are not actively helping otherwise. All contributions will be published from month to month.

Contributions.

Alex. Howat, Kansas.....	\$4.00
Dr. Amelia Gates, California.....	4.00
Total to date.....	<u>\$8.00</u>

DEBS

FREEDOM MONTHLY

A HERALD OF THE DAWN

Volume 1.

CHICAGO, ILL., AUGUST, 1921.

No. 1.

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PROGRAM

- 1—IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF EUGENE V. DEBS AND ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS.
- 2—ABSOLUTE RESTORATION OF THE RIGHTS OF FREE SPEECH, FREE PRESS AND PEACEABLE ASSEMBLAGE.
- 3—COLLECTIVE OWNERSHIP AND DEMOCRATIC MANAGEMENT OF INDUSTRY.
- 4—COMPLETE RECOGNITION OF THE RUSSIAN SOVIET GOVERNMENT NOW.
- 5—CEASELESS AND UNYIELDING OPPOSITION TO MILITARISM AND WAR.
- 6—CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR THE ADEQUATE EMPLOYMENT OF ALL WORKERS.
- 7—SUPPORT OF THE WORKERS IN EVERY STRUGGLE TO BETTER THEIR CONDITION.
- 8—RETURN OF IDLE LANDS TO THE PEOPLE, MAKING USE THE SOLE RIGHT TO POSSESSION.

FOREWORD

Owing to the white terror during and after the war, a terror that is not altogether dead, as the activities of the American Legion prove, and to the controversy that has been raging in the Socialist movement, and which has resulted in the

disintegration of that movement, the political prisoners of the United States have to a very great extent been abandoned to their fate.

This is not to say that the various factions of the Socialist movement and other organizations have not endeavored to the limit of their ability to release these prisoners of opinion, but it is to say that the divisions in the movement have so weakened it that the influence usually commanded by a unified organization has been lost.

DEBS FREEDOM MONTHLY will work consistently to unite larger and ever larger sections of the American people on the issue of the unconditional liberation of our political prisoners. In stressing the Debs case and the liberation of Debs, we will not detract an iota from the sacrifice for principle made by the hundreds of others well known and obscure, who were indicted, and many of whom were convicted and imprisoned.

We emphasize the Debs case because it stands by itself. Debs spoke deliberately. He opposed the war. He contended that as a citizen of the United States he had a perfect right to do so under the Constitution.

Liberty without vindication for the principle of free press and free speech in war as well as in peace means nothing to Debs.

He is in prison for a purpose. That purpose is to establish the right of every citizen to speak his opinions without interference from any source whatever.

The fight is as old as history. The Debs case represents the last ditch in the fight of the American people to retain their civil liberties.

Every subscriber to the DEBS FREEDOM MONTHLY becomes thereby a Debs Minute Man, a fighter for the re-establishment of free press, free speech and peaceable assemblage.

There will be work for these Minute Men. Work every day. This work will be outlined month by month in this magazine. Literature must be distributed broadcast, every congressional district must have its committee of Minute Men, Washington, D. C., must hear from the people back home, not once, but day after day, until the dignified law makers realize that the American people have not come to beg, but to demand; and that they will not sit idly by while the liberties for which their fathers fought and died are stolen from them.

America and the Next War.

More lies are told in the shortest war than in the longest peace.

When we were in the midst of the world war and our president was smashing the morale of the German people with his fourteen points, we were told many fairy tales.

That was a war to end all wars forever. It was a war to liberate oppressed nationalities. It was to make the whole world safe for democracy. It was to wipe out militarism.

Those fairy tales are natural. They are necessary to keep up the morale of the people to the end that the business of death shall go on to a victorious conclusion.

War has always been the greatest scourge to which the human race has been subject.

Just as the means of production have improved throughout the ages from the crooked stick used to stir the soil, to the crude hand tools of a few hundred years ago and thence to the wonder working machinery of the present age, so the instruments of destruction, the means with which war is made have been improved.

War has been the pastime of kings, the sport of autocrats, and the business of ruling classes ever since the dawn of civilization.

First came the club, then the stone ax and knife, the spear, the bow and arrow, gun powder, the musket, the improved rifle, the bayonet, the cannon, the long range gun, the machine gun, T. N. T., big Bertha, the cruiser, dreadnaught, super-dreadnaught, the submarine, the airship and poison gas.

And war has always been over the question of possession. Hunting grounds, territory, colonies, concessions, spheres of influence, trade routes, markets. These have been the things that at bottom have caused every war and determined the nature of every peace.

It is not admitted nor will it ever be. The truth about war would be fatal to war. War is built on a tissue of lies and to tell the truth or to permit the truth to be told would doom it to death.

War eats up the substance of a people. Military preparation makes social progress impossible and prevents social legislation of the utmost importance to the race.

Militarism instills the idea of discipline and obedience and destroys the ideas of independence and rebellion against wrong.

Militarism at home is but a reflex of imperialism abroad.

War brutalizes the race, destroys civil liberties, engenders the mob spirit and elevates fear as the god of the people.

War is cowardice organized. Men don't go to war because they are brave, but because they fear being shot for refusal to go.

Democracy gained nothing by the late war. It lost all along the line.

The war did not end war. It was not designed to end war. War can never end war any more than force can put an end to force. Other wars are in preparation. The same old causes are still operating. The struggle for markets east and west, north and south goes on. The concession seekers are still on the job. And the causes that led to the war just ended will lead to the war for which the nations are now preparing.

A few of the former oppressed nationalities have set up governments of their own. But these governments are the creatures of ruling classes and obediently oppress the workers. They have had a change of masters and they paid a fearful price for the change.

The war did not end militarism. Battleships are building. America is striving for the greatest navy on the earth. The boast is now made that the United States has perfected a gun that will shoot a five-ton projectile 300 miles. The cursed submarine, super airplanes and poison gas are the order of the day.

The peace treaty was not designed to maintain the peace of the world. The allies took everything that was loose in Germany, as Germany would have done had she been the victor. Justice is dead with our modern statesmen. Justice to them means everything the other fellow has that they can get away with.

France is ready to crush Germany. England is prepared to maintain her imperial sway and command of the seas. The United States has hounds on the trail of Mexico and South America. It already controls Haiti and the adjacent islands. Its eyes are turned toward Asia and the Oriental markets, the hunting grounds of Japan, ready to meet all comers on a moment's notice.

Gun thunder will shake the world again and again. To talk of peace while the divisions engendered by capitalist ownership of industry endure is to speak the idle twaddle of the feeble minded.

There can be no concert of free peoples because there are no free peoples. The workers of the world are the slaves of the owners of the earth. The ruling classes of every nation determine the policies and destiny of that nation. From them there is no appeal. They must be dethroned before a concert of nations to end war becomes possible.

COLUMBUS.

By Joaquin Miller.

Behind him lay the gray Azores,
 Behind the Gates of Hercules;
 Before him not the ghost of shores,
 Before him only shoreless seas.
 The good mate said: "Now must we pray,
 For lo! the very stars are gone.
 Brave Admiral, speak, what shall I say?"
 "Why, say, 'Sail on! sail on! and on!'"

"My men grow mutinous day by day;
 My men grow ghastly wan and weak."
 The stout mate thought of home; a spray
 Of salt wave washed his swarthy cheek.
 "What shall I say, brave Admiral, say,
 If we sight naught but seas at dawn?"
 "Why, you shall say at break of day,
 'Sail on! sail on! sail on! and on!'"

They sailed and sailed, as winds might
 blow,
 Until at last the blanched mate said:
 "Why, now not even God would know
 Should I and all my men fall dead.
 These very winds forget their way,
 For God from these dread seas is gone.
 Now speak, brave admiral, speak and
 say—"

He said: "Sail on! sail on! and on!"

They sailed. They sailed. Then spake
 the mate:
 "This mad sea shows its teeth tonight.
 He curls his lip, he lies in wait,
 With lifted teeth, as if to bite!
 Brave Admiral, say but one good word:
 What shall we do when hope is gone?"
 The words leapt like a leaping sword:
 "Sail on! sail on! sail on! and on!"

Then, pale and worn, he kept his deck,
 And peered thru darkness. Ah, that
 night
 Of all dark nights! And then a speck—
 A light! A light! A light! A light!
 It grew, a starlight flag unfurled!
 It grew to be time's burst of dawn.
 He gained a world; he gave that world
 Its grandest lesson: "On! sail on!"

Current Comment.

One hundred and forty-five years ago, the fathers of this republic declared their independence of the British Crown. Approximately four million free born American citizens celebrated their independence from work July 4, 1921. Those best situated to know claim that about this number of workers are jobless with prospects that the number will increase. In 1776 the people of the Thirteen Colonies had something to celebrate. Their independence was based on the fact that the simple hand tools then in use belonged to the fellow that used them and everything he produced belonged to him. Land was almost as free in those days as air is now, and it was next to impossible to make a slave out of a man. It's different today. The worker of today is dependent, not independent. He depends upon the owners of modern industries for a job. He can no longer go west and take up a claim. He can no longer get a kit of tools together and work for himself. Vast numbers are employed in the mills, mines and factories which belong to a few capitalists. These capitalists manipulate industry to line their pocketbooks. The freedom of old can be acquired by the workers of today when they acquire ownership of industry and not before.

Wage reductions seem to be the order of the day. The four-hundred-million-dollar wage reduction of the railroad workers is only one instance of how the capitalist owners of our industries hand it to the workers when the opportunity offers. After Government operation of the railroads during the war, at which time they were rehabilitated, the roads were handed back to their former owners spick and span. The owners immediately began to show their appreciation by throwing thousands of men out of work and reducing wages all along the line. Such is private ownership.

Germany has so far paid 8 billion marks indemnity. The cost of maintaining the French and American armies which collected the indemnity is 7 billion marks. Suppose a man owed you \$8 and the bill collector charged you \$7 to collect it. Would you consider yourself ahead on the deal? France is depriving herself of the productive labor of her army of nearly 750,000 men in order to gouge out of Germany this wasteful "reparation." No wonder that when Germany agreed to pay the indemnity French exchange dropped with a thud while that of Germany went up with a bound.

Alexander Howat has again run foul of the

Kansas Court of Industrial Relations. The law creating this court prohibits strikes without first submitting the matter to the court for adjudication. Howat has contended from the beginning that to submit any proposal to this court would recognize the right of the court not merely to pass on the issues involved, but to prohibit a strike if it so desired. Howat contends that any recognition of this or any similar legal body results in involuntary servitude, abridges the right of the workers to assert their power by leaving their work in a body, and violates the Constitution of the State of Kansas and of the United States. It is a good thing for the working class that there are a few such men left as Alexander Howat. The fight in which he has been the central figure for the last three years is of first importance and should have the united support of the labor and socialist movement.

At the time of the armistice, a great deal was said about the trial of the German Kaiser. All preparations were made (on paper) to bring the "Beast of Berlin" to trial. But as time passed this talk grew less and less until it died away in a whisper. The truth is the allies never had any intention of bringing the ex-Kaiser to trial. They were not at all interested in having the diplomatic secrets, the private telegrams and conversations, that preceded the outbreak of the world war made public. It would have been altogether too much like placing themselves on trial. The Kaiser was a crook, but he knew many other crooks and they did not all live in Germany by any means.

There is some talk of disarmament, of a "Naval Holiday," now going the rounds of the press. This talk is old. It has been talked before, between wars and after every war. It is not worth the paper it is written on. Side by side with this talk, the work of preparation for the next war goes on. The whole theory of disarmament is predicated on a false idea. The idea that if we could only get rid of the present flock of battleships and disband the armies all would be peace and brotherhood. Nothing of the kind. Men fought before there were battleships, before the long range run, rifle and machine gun. They fought with clubs, knives, spears, axes and bows and arrows, and always for possession. Sink every fleet if you will, destroy every modern implement of war if you can and leave the present system of private ownership intact, and men will continue to fight, war will follow war and all the brutalities of modern murder will be enacted

again and again. The matter is not so simple. The causes that motive military preparation and war must be removed. The struggle for markets, for concessions, for trade routes must be done away with. The class that profits by these things must be abolished. In a word, the present system must be cast aside and social ownership and administration of industry introduced. Socialism is the remedy for war. There is no other.

The drive for the open shop received a serious set back when it endeavored to down the Amalgamated Clothing Workers' of America. The far-sighted employers bit off more than they could chew with the result that the Amalgamated after twenty-four weeks came out of the fray with colors flying. That is the kind of unionism that counts.

Out in the stock yards where workingmen skin hogs and bigger hogs skin the workingmen, the poor packers are weeping crocodile tears because they failed to put through their latest demand on the arbitrator for a new wage reduction. How they came to fail is what puzzles us. Nor can we understand how these poor packers and their poverty-stricken families will get through the winter.

The Capitalist press spilled barrels of perfectly good ink over the Stillman scandal and gave column after column of space to "Peggy" Hopkins Joyce's attempt to trim her millionaire husband. A very small paragraph away down in the most obscure corner was enough to describe the struggle of the miners in West Virginia for a bare existence.

The conference of Premiers of Great Britain and her dependencies meeting in London represents an attempt to arrive at a policy by which the Empire can be sustained, the foundation for new conquests provided and methods of aggression and defense prepared. There is little left for Great Britain to gain by conquest. She already owns the most favorable lands and is now interested more in consolidating her Empire, and especially those additions gained by the World War. Japan and the United States stand out as the only real commercial rivals of England. There is not room for these three, any more than there was room for Germany and England before the war. The same conditions prevail now as then. Armies of unemployed are on the march in every country. It has been found impossible to get back to normal. Militarism is stronger in the victorious countries than ever. Everything is being made ready for the next great war.

The Bolsheviks understanding with the Turkish leader Kemal Pasha is causing the old-fashioned

statesmen no end of trouble. The powers would do almost anything to break the connection between the Turks and Soviet Russia, but don't exactly like to pay the price asked. The victorious powers took everything that was loose in Turkey at the conclusion of the war and drove the Turks into the arms of the Bolsheviks. Their only hope of getting the good-will of Kemal Pasha is to give back the plunder, and this of course is hard for them to do in addition to the complications it would cause in that particular part of the world.

American war ships have again dropped into Mexican ports uninvited. Thousands and hundreds of thousands of workers have been thrown out of employment by the action of the oil companies in closing down their plants in the hope of stirring up trouble sufficient to justify intervention. It may not work this time, but sooner or later the necessary excuse will be found, or created, and intervention and conquest will follow.

The capitalist press is getting the stage set for the coming war with Japan. This war is just as sure to come as a river is to flow to the sea, unless the American working class wakes up and gets mighty busy. Then you will hear how the Japs stole all the land in California and what a miserable bunch of brutes they are. Just as you were educated to hate the Germans so you will be educated to hate the Japs. It's all a part of the game.

Chicago is rampant with crime! Battles between police and bandits occur daily and nightly in the city's streets. Citizens are held up in front of the city hall itself. The town is wide open for all criminals and victims of the system to ply their nefarious callings. New York is even worse, if such can be possible. In this chaos of crime outside and inside our national and city governments, laden with corruption, the capitalist press is forced to admit that Milwaukee is 85 per cent free from crime and disorder. Of course the fact that Socialists have charge of the city and county governments there has nothing to do with the case. Wonder what would happen if those wicked Socialists, home breakers, anti-religionists, traitors, ad infinitum, should sweep into power in all the large cities of America? Ask Dad, he knows!

THE KANSAS MINER'S WAR.

Fighting Alex Howat of Kansas will prepare a special feature article for the September Number of Debs Monthly. You cannot afford to miss this big story. Alex. Howat is generously endowed with the spirit of liberty in full measure. He has been in jail and may be there again before you read these lines. Watch for this startling article on the Kansas Fight against Gov. Allen's Industrial Court.

Echoes of the Great War.

By IRWIN ST. JOHN TUCKER

I.

On July 2, 1921, President Harding signed the declaration of peace with Germany. Thus, two years and a half after the fighting stopped, the United States backed out of the war.

The tide returns sullenly from its high lashing on the beach; but the wreckage that has been left behind will take many a year to clear away.

After every tempest the land is strewn with broken battered boats, with seaweed and logs, with wrecked remains of houses and wharves; and with worse things than these—with abhorrent monsters of the deep cast up out of their oozy beds by the convulsions of the sea.

So has it been with us. We went into the war to destroy Prussianism; and as Dr. Glenn Frank, commencement orator at Northwestern University, Chicago, declared in his oration, "we loosed Germany from Prussianism only to Prussianize ourselves." We went into the world war to defend democracy; and never did democracy receive a more deadly blow than when Woodrow Wilson, defender of democracy, became an Emperor more absolute than the German Kaiser.

Here at home the signs of war are steadily disappearing. All the German spies have been released. Poisoners of cattle, makers of bombs, scuttlers of ships—all these have long ago been freed from their prisons. Violators of military discipline, deserters from the camps—these have long since been set free.

There is but one class, one group, against whom wrath still burns, and whose freedom is still denied. Prison walls know no mercy for those Americans who, in storm and stress of war, did really believe in the truth.

There is mercy for the enemies who sought to overthrow our Republic, but there is none for those who believed in her. There is pity and pardon for the poisoners of meat, but none for those whose faith was staked in the purity of their ideals. All of the profiteers have been given benediction and blessing. The United States Supreme Court has decided that our half-hearted endeavor to defend ourselves against loot hungry vampires who cornered meat and grain running them up to prohibitive prices, is unconstitutional. It has held the Lever Act, meant to defend the pantries of the poor against thievish raids, to be null and void. But for those who sought to defend the poor in their hard won rights—for these there is no mercy.

Von Bopp, Von Rintelen, Dorsey, the profiteers—all these are released or exonerated—but Debs is still in prison!

Eugene V. Debs, best beloved of Americans; a

man whose life has been sacrificed even to the uttermost for the children of the poor—Debs still lies locked behind those harsh steel bars, pent within gray granite walls in the intense summer heat of Atlanta. Debs and Coldwell and one hundred and fifty others, champions of truth and freedom, are still held, although the real criminals have been released.

And the crime for which they are held is that they believe in America's fidelity to her fundamental pledge, that this is a government of the people, by the people and for the people, and that what a man believed in his heart, that he had a right to speak!

A panic of distress hovers over the land. Unemployment sweeps the foundations from under millions of homes. Credit collapses, export trade has vanished, industries close down plunging unnumbered families into distress; the men who risked their lives and left their shattered limbs upon the battlefields are unable to earn enough to live upon.

And these things come upon us for our cowardice. For we dare not face the facts, and those who do so dare we threaten and punish.

This is the task which now confronts America; to vindicate her honor by restoring to our own land the spirit of human freedom which we promised to give to all mankind.

II.

Yet there is more ahead of us than simply cleaning up the wreckage of the late war. A duty deeper, sterner, more terrible yet, presses upon our consciences. It is to prevent the outbreak of a war, more horrible, wilder and ten times more deadly than the last.

All over the world the air is full of the rumblings and tremors of this new world war; statesmen deplore it, high officials of the countries of the world fear it and warn us against it; and yet the rumblings grow louder and louder.

For the next war will be as much more destructive than the Great War of 1914, as that was more deadly than the Balkan Wars of 1912.

When the late war began, nothing excited more horror than the German use of poison gas. We were told that the use of poison gas marked the Germans as utter barbarians, as beyond the scope alike of human feeling and of divine redemption. And yet now the United States is busily manufacturing a poison gas nine times more deadly than that the Germans used. Our mustard gas is so much worse than their chlorine gas that a glass vial of it dropped from an aeroplane above a sleeping village, will kill not only every man, woman and child in that village, but also will

wipe out the shrubbery and the grass, so powerful and so deadly is the venom of America's new war weapon.

The use of German submarines, we are told, drove us into the war; for the submarine is a pirate vessel, and the nation which uses it is a pirate and beyond the limits of human fellowship. Yet we are now manufacturing submarines almost as speedily as is England.

All of these things are being done by every "civilized" nation of the world. In spite of high professions of honor and love, of worldwide championship of the rights of smaller peoples, in spite of glowing words of fellowship and peace: behind the smoke-screen of honeyed words the work of murder is being perfected. Day by day, and night by night, the work of preparation goes on, of preparation for a carnival of crime yet more horrible than the last.

How shall we prevent it? How guard against these plagues so terrible and vast that even now are being prepared to be loosed against the world?

III.

America has the deciding voice. All other nations came out of the war wrecked, enfeebled, shattered, weak. America came out of it strengthened, unified, imperial. As we give our voice the world shall go. How shall America direct the world?

We have made great pretensions which we are unwilling to keep for ourselves. While exporting democracy abroad we have called upon the torch, the whip, tar-and-feather and the jails to prevent expression of opinion at home, when that opinion differed from the views held in high places. The annals of our war years are black with the tortures inflicted upon men and women who raised their voices in the general turmoil to ask what was our goal and whither we were drifting. In the name of the Republic we have adopted the oppressions of an empire.

There were many who refused to bow the knee and close the mouth before the imperial one. There were among us men who, knowing that they endangered their lives, dared to stand up in the name of our ancient liberties and speak the things that millions thought, but were afraid to say. There were men and women who dared to question the general madness, dared to stand athwart the general drift. At that time the howl of rage was directed against them, and they were branded as traitors to their country. Prison gates closed behind them, and the stain of convict was placed across their names.

But in the years since the warfare ceased, these things have changed. The black stain has begun to give out a glowing glory. The prison gates have become as the holy doors of a sacred shrine.

In no case has this reversal been more wonderful than in the cases of Woodrow Wilson and Eugene V. Debs.

In 1918, Woodrow Wilson was hailed as a demigod, as a savior, as a being greater than man, as semi-divine. Eugene V. Debs was reviled and hated and hissed. Wilson held a place of honor higher than that of any human being in all history; Debs was thrust into the place of ignominy and shame.

But since then Wilson has fallen like a meteor: rather, like a rocket whose powder is burnt out, and whose cold and blackened husk plunges into the dust unnoticed. Debs has gone up and up in the world's esteem, his name greater and more glorious with every passing month. And this not for what he has said or done, but for what he stood for. America has come to know that her honor rested in the keeping of the man who dared and endured a prison sentence that he might say the truth which his conscience held to be true.

With such men as Debs the freedom of the world—indeed its very life—will stand or fall. For unless men who see and know the truth in human affairs shall stand and proclaim that which they know, then there is no hope of averting the world horror which impends.

IV

All the forces that were at work to bring about the Great War of 1914, and the lesser wars which preceded it, are yet at work.

Commercial rivalry between groups of exporting houses for foreign markets; speculative rivalry between competing groups of financial houses: quarrels over oil wells, over cable routes and landings, over preferential tariffs; quarrels over export and import duties; quarrels over marketing privileges and steamship lines—all of these things, which brought on the Great War, are still at work to bring on another.

But "can the people be fooled again?" Many credulously ask. The people can always be fooled. Not all of them—no; but if the great majority who are fooled can be whipped into an ungovernable rage against those who cannot be fooled, so that the fooled will destroy or silence the unfooled—then the effect is the same.

Abraham Lincoln said, and said truly: "You can fool all of the people some of the time and some of the people all of the time; but you can't fool all of the people all of the time."

But if you can use the fever of war time to pass espionage laws by which the fools will consider it a virtue to cripple and kill the unfooled, what difference does it make?

Then all that is needed will be for a commercial quarrel over foreign trade to be invested with the sanctity of patriotism and honor: and the boys will march again to the slaughter, and their mothers will send them to be killed with a look of pride over an aching heart.

There is but one hope: and that is that such men as Debs, who dared to speak the truth when

Continued on page 21

Through Prison Walls His Voice Still Calls.

Articles in this Department by EUGENE V. DEBS.

LIBERTY

It does not matter that the creator has sown with stars the fields of ether and decked the earth with countless beauties for man's enjoyment. It does not matter that air and ocean teem with the wonders of innumerable forms of life to challenge man's admiration and investigation. It does not matter that nature spreads forth all her scenes of beauty and gladness and pours forth the melodies of her myriad tongued voice for man's delectation. If liberty is ostracised and exiled, man is a slave, and the world rolls in space and whirls around the sun a gilded prison, a doomed dungeon, and though painted in all the enchanting hues that infinite art could command, it must still stand forth a blotch amidst the shining spheres of the sidereal heavens.

Strike the fetters from the slave, give him liberty and he becomes an inhabitant of a new world. He looks abroad and beholds life and joy in all things around him. His soul expands beyond all boundaries. Emancipated by the genius of liberty, he aspires to communion with all that is noble and beautiful, feels himself allied to all the higher order of intelligence, and walks abroad, redeemed from animalism, ignorance and superstition, a new being throbbing with glorious life.

What pen or tongue from primeval man to the loftiest intellect of the present generation has been able to fittingly anathematize the more than satanic crime of stealing the jewel of liberty from the crown of manhood and reducing the victim of the burglary to slavery or prison, to gratify those monsters of iniquity who for some inscrutable reason are given breath to contaminate the atmosphere and poison every fountain and stream designed to bless the world.

Liberty is not a word of modern coinage. Liberty and slavery are primal words, like good and evil, right and wrong: they are opposites and co-existent.

There has been no liberty in the world since the gift, like sunshine and rain, came down from

heaven, for the maintainance of which man has not been required to fight, and man's complete degradation is secured only when subjugation and slavery have sapped him of the last spark of the noble attributes of his nature and reduced him to the unresisting inertness of a clod.

For the first time in the records of all the ages, the inalienable rights of man, "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," were proclaimed July 4, 1776.

It was then that crowns, sceptres, thrones and the divine right of Kings to rule sunk together and man expanded to glorious liberty and sovereignty. It was then that the genius of liberty, speaking to all men, bade them assert their prerogatives and emancipate themselves from bondage. It was a proclamation countersigned by the infinite—and man stood forth the cornated sovereign of the world, free as the tides that flow, free as the winds that blow, and on that primal morning when creation was complete, the morning stars and the sons of God, in anthem chorus, sang the song of liberty.

As Americans, we have boasted of our liberties and continue to boast of them. They were once our glory, and if some have vanished, it is well to remember that a remnant still remains. . . . Liberty, be it known, is for those only who dare strike the blow to secure and retain the priceless boon. . . . What is the duty of American Workmen whose liberties have been abridged. They are not hereditary bondsmen. Their fathers were free born—their sovereignty none denied and their children still have the ballot. It has been called "a weapon that executes a free man's will as lightning does the will of God." It can sweep away trusts, syndicates, corporations, monopolies, and every other evil designed to abridge the liberties of workingmen. . . . It can give our civilization its crowning glory—the co-operative commonwealth.

The Money Power.

The people have long been familiar with such expressions as "money talks," "money rules," and they have seen the effects of its power in legislatures and congress. . . . They have tracked this money power, this behemoth beast of prey, into every corporate enterprise evolved

by our modern civilization, as hunters track tigers in Indian jungles.

The people have seen this money power enter the church, touch the robed priest at the altar, blotch his soul, freeze his heart and make him a traitor to his consecrated vows and send him

forth a Judas with a bag containing the price of his treason; or, if true to his convictions, ideas and ideals, to suffer the penalty of ostracism, to be blacklisted and to seek in vain for a sanctuary in which to expound Christ's doctrine of the brotherhood of man.

The people have seen this money power enter a university and grasp a professor and hurl him headlong into the street because every faculty of mind, redeemed by education and consecrated to truth, pointed out and illumined new pathways to the goal of human happiness and national glory.

The people have seen this money power prac-

ticing every art of duplicity, growing more arrogant and despotic as it robs one and crushes another, building its fortifications of the bones of its victims, and its palaces out of the profits of its piracies, until purple and fine linen on the one side and rags on the other side, define conditions as mountain ranges and rivers define the boundaries of nations—palaces on the hills with music and dancing and the luxuries of all climes, earth, air and sea—huts in the valley, dark and dismal, where the music is the dolorous "song of the shirt" and the luxuries, rags and crusts.

Profit and the Labor Movement.

The prime consideration in the present industrial system is profit. All other things are secondary. Profit is the life blood of capital—the vital current of the capitalist system, and when it shall cease to flow the system shall be dead.

The capitalist is the owner of the worker's tools. Before the latter can work he must have access to the capitalist's tool-house. What he produces with these tools belongs to the master, to whom he must sell his labor power at the market price. The owner of the tools is therefore master of the man.

Only when the capitalist can exact a satisfactory profit from his labor power is the worker given a job, or allowed to work at all.

Profit, first; labor, life, love, liberty—all these must take second place.

In such a system labor is in chains, and the standard of living, if such it may be called, is corner-stoned in crusts and rags.

Under such conditions ideas and ideals are not prolific among the sons and daughters of toil.

Slavery does not excite lofty aspirations nor inspire noble ideas.

The tendency is to sadden irresolution and brutish inertia.

But this very tendency nourishes the germ of resistance that ripens into the spirit of revolt.

The labor movement is the child of slavery—the offspring of oppression—in revolt against the misery and suffering that gave it birth.

Its splendid growth is the marvel of our time, the forerunner of freedom, the hope of mankind.

Ten thousand times has the labor movement stumbled and fallen and bruised itself, and risen again; been seized by the throat and choked and clubbed into insensibility; enjoined by courts, assaulted by thugs, charged by the militia, shot down by the regulars, traduced by the press, frowned upon by public opinion, fooled by politicians, threatened by priests, repudiated by renegades, preyed upon by grafters, infested by spies, deserted by cowards, betrayed by traitors, bled by leeches, and sold out by leaders, but, notwithstanding all this, and all these, it is today the most vital and potential power this planet has ever known, and its historic mission of emancipating the working class of the world from the thralldom of the ages is as certain of ultimate realization as the setting of the sun.

IT IS A CRIME

to let this copy of DEBS MONTHLY go to waste! Don't be a criminal! After you have read it, kindly pass it on to your neighbor, in the shop, field or counting house. Then secure his subscription to DEBS MONTHLY for at least Eight Months, on the enclosed subscription blank. The freedom of Debs and all prisoners depends upon publicity, and you alone can help them win their liberty. Yours for Debs and Freedom,

The Editor.

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DEBS MONTHLY

59 East Van Buren Street, Chicago, Ill.,

DEBS MONTHLY

ORGANIZE EDUCATE

Men and Women of America! Do you realize that more than two and one-half years after hostilities with Germany have ceased, Eugene V. Debs and several hundred of our nation's noblest souls are still confined like desperate criminals, in the fetid, foul, dungeons of the capitalist class?

Do you realize that the only offense of these intrepid soldiers of the common good, is that they remained sane and sensible when the rest of the world had gone mad with war?

Do you understand and appreciate that these comrades have made their heartrending sacrifices not only for society in general, but they have made them that you personally might be free?

Do you take any comfort in the fact that many brave comrades have already given their lives in prison that the Cause you love might be defended to the last ditch?

Does it ever impress you forcibly that the grandest champion the workingclass ever had, "Gene" Debs, and the brave comrades at his side, may make the last supreme sacrifice for this great Cause at their post, their lives throttled by the grasping hands of greed?

Do you understand that the brand of an unspeakable and everlasting shame has been placed upon the record of this great country, by imprisoning and torturing these sublime patriots for their fidelity, and loyalty to the ideals of liberty and justice?

Do you know that this colossal crime is only equalled by a far greater offense against comradeship and brotherhood—a brutal and stupid indifference of the workers of this nation as to the fate of these brave souls of the New Day?

Do you feel at peace when you see that the political prisoners of all other warring countries have been set free long since, and your own brothers and sisters still repine in dungeons dark because of your selfish inactivity?

Do you want to retrieve the honor of the American workingclass and prove your right to be called a comrade of the immortal Debs, by compelling the immediate release of Our 'Gene and all war-time prisoners of opinion?

Do you want to bring these dear comrades out of their living hell, to fight again by your side, to love and cheer you on your way from victory to victory, until criminal Capitalism collapses and you build in its place the Workers' Republic, founded upon the rock of Universal Brotherhood?

Do you appreciate that you are the real men and women of America only as you stand by your comrades as loyally as they have stood by you? Only as you rally once more to the clarion call of freedom and give to this great Cause every moment of your spare time; every ounce of your surplus energy; until the glorious goal is reached?

Men and Women of America! Let us show the parasitic profiteers of Wall Street that we are the men and women of America! Let us make it plain to them that we expect action on their part and without delay when final notice is served on them, to set our comrades free!

We will no longer beg and whine at the feet of garrisoned greed for our rights as citizens of this Republic. We will no longer send pink tea parties to be ridiculed by Washington officials. We will no longer depend upon meaningless resolutions. We will no longer be turned from the doors of our own public halls in contempt, by our hired servants. We must compel action!

Debs Monthly calls you to support it in this final conflict to establish forever the rights of free speech, free press, and free assemblage. We know you will not fail to respond in full force to defend our American institutions and drive the thieves from the temple of our hard won rights.

The fight is on! Debs has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat. We are but following in his footsteps. The great campaign

UTE MEN

CATE LIBERATE

for the release of all political prisoners has begun. It must not end until every last prisoner of capitalism is loosed from his chains, free to come and go as he will under the blue dome of heaven.

Wendell Phillips once said that with fifty thousand supporters he could bring about any important change in our nation. Debs Monthly must have behind it One Hundred Thousand fervent workers for the Cause of Freedom. We will name these valliant workers after our standard bearer. And because they must be always ready for action no better name can be used than "Debs Minute Men."

This is the vital problem, and one that must be solved during the next few weeks! It can only be successful by the building up of a strong, determined organization of Debs Minute Men in every community. There must be a Council of Debs Minute Men in your city, in your town, in your hamlet, yea, on every cross roads where a few honest men and women gather.

This Council of Minute Men in every locality will be the direct representatives of this freedom movement. They will have charge of the local work in co-operation with Debs Monthly. There is much to be done for Debs and Freedom in every town. There are mass meetings to be held. Propaganda matter to be circulated. Many important things to be done as the great drive for Freedom ings onward.

Debs Minute Men is an open organization for men and women alike. There are no dues to pay. No vows to take. All we ask is your hearty co-operation in this highly inspiring work. You can do no more for the Cause of Liberty than to enlist your friends and neighbors in this final struggle for Freedom.

Debs Monthly can only be of service as it reaches the people with our message. Debs Minute Men will carry the clarion call of Debs to every corner of this broad land. Every issue of Debs Monthly

will be a deadly bomb in the camp of organized plunder. Every number passed out will bring nearer the blessed day of freedom for Debs and our comrades.

Act today. Rally the lovers of right in your community. Organize a Council of Debs Minute Men. Five workers can form a Council. Do not be the last to line up for this fight. Minute Men are already joining by thousands. Many people near you will gladly help in this work. Organize your Council at once and write in for instructions.

Watch this space. You will be informed each month of the new work outlined and how best you can assist with it. But of all things get busy. Organize your Council today! Make a drive for subscriptions to Debs Monthly among your townsmen! When you put them on the list we will make fighting Minute Men of them in short order. Your ranks will grow like wildfire.

Fill the enclosed blank with names, forward to this office and your Council is organized. Elect one of your number as Secretary, to keep in touch with headquarters. We are working day and night in this office. We expect to have your co-operation in the field. If you receive a bundle of Debs Monthly, dispose of them promptly, and remit to headquarters. If you have not received a bundle, order one without delay, sell to your friends at 15c, returning 10c each to us for each copy.

Debs Monthly has only begun this fight. Yet this first issue will probably reach 25,000. The forms will be held, and all extra orders filled. Let us make the September issue 50,000! Then the October number should put the Army of Debs Minute Men over the top 100,000 strong. This means freedom for Debs and our comrades! Let us make this the final struggle for political freedom. Let us make it the entering wedge that will overthrow the Capitalist System with all its horrors. We are marching onward to Victory. Onward for Debs and Freedom!

DEBS FREEDOM MONTHLY

DEBS FREEDOM MONTHLY.

A Herald of the Dawn.

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EDITORIAL

Did you ever stop to think what ten years in prison means? If not, do so now!

Ten years means—120 months, 520 weeks, 3,650 days, 87,600 hours, 5,256,000 minutes, 315,360,000 seconds.

Set your clock on the table and watch it intently for ten minutes telling off the seconds.

Then decide to become an active worker in the campaign to release these men unjustly held in prison because they had the courage of their convictions.

The DEBS MONTHLY will be devoted to educating the workers in Socialism, aiming to develop through agitation and education a powerful Socialist movement in the United States capable of acquiring possession of and administering the industries of the nation in the manner best suited to the interest of the working class.

We consider this to be the supreme task of every clear cut Socialist in the United States at the present time.

DEBS MONTHLY will take no part in the controversy that has torn the Socialist organizations of the world to pieces and made them all but helpless in face of the most brutal reaction. It will devote itself to the making of Socialists, not to the destruction of Socialist organizations.

The essentials of a powerful Socialist movement are Knowledge, Sincerity, Determination. Knowledge we must have. Not merely knowledge of abstract theories, but knowledge of actual conditions and their effect on the minds of the workers so an educational program can be formulated that will appeal to the working class. Such knowledge the science of Socialism rightly understood supplies.

The Socialist movement must be sincere. It must promise more than it can deliver and it must deliver what it promises. In no other way can the confidence of the workers be won and kept.

A lasting foundation can be laid by a mere

propaganda for votes, nor in the propaganda of reforms that in the nature of things cannot be realized.

Ownership by the workers of the industries socially used and their reorganization for use instead of profit affords the only solution of the labor problem.

It is better to educate the workers to an understanding of this idea and build on this foundation although years may be required, than to build a movement on promises that cannot be redeemed or reforms that cannot be realized, or if realized will be nullified by the economic power of the ruling class.

This is not to say that labor should cease to struggle for better things now and devote its attention to a vision of the future. Labor will win its emancipation by fighting from one position to another and in no other way. Many achievements are already to its credit. Conditions have been modified, changed to the advantage of the workers. The Socialist movement must encourage and support every effort of labor that gives promise of betterment.

The Socialist movement must be determined. It must not be turned from its course by passing opportunities or by failure to immediately accomplish a given task.

It must have faith in its cause and not lose heart because the workers do not rally to its standard as rapidly as some might wish.

It must not modify its program to meet the present state of intelligence of the workers who would accept a part and reject the rest, but must work consistently to raise the intelligence of the workers until the entire program becomes to them acceptable.

The workers will not be won by a propaganda for petty reforms, or one thing this year and something else next year. They want a solution for their troubles. They will be won by a consistent propaganda for the elimination of the profit system, and in no other way.

The Socialist movement must persist in its work of education. This work must be organized. It must go forward constantly from one position to another. The work must be followed up and put on a permanent basis, otherwise no lasting results will be obtained.

Intensive propaganda during campaign periods with discontinuance thereafter is worse than nothing. We must build slowly and surely. It is better to organize a thousand Socialists and keep them organized than to conduct a frenzied campaign for a few weeks and then slip backward. It smacks altogether too much of the old religious revival methods.

Let us agitate, educate and organize on a firm and lasting foundation, spreading knowledge, sincerity and determination among our people, thus

building a movement that will command the respect of the working class and organize them for the final conflict.

Eugene V. Debs has said as much if not more than any man living or dead on behalf of the oppressed and down-trodden.

Like the other spokesmen of the enslaved masses that preceded him, he has had to pay the penalty for his opposition to the established order and those who benefit by that order.

At the age of sixteen he joined the union of his craft and from that day to this he has been in the front trench of every great struggle of the working class.

No one will ever know what this man has gone through for his convictions. Imprisoned following the A. R. U. strike and hounded from town to town and state to state for years thereafter by the hirelings of the corporations, he has steadily risen in the esteem of the American people.

Today he sits in the prison cell as a result of his conviction under the wartime espionage law although many arch criminals have had their sentences commuted and are now at liberty.

Debs committed the unforgivable crime of denouncing the war being waged by the ruling class of this country to protect its interests abroad and formulate its military policy for the future.

It may be that the powers that be will release him before his term expires. It may be that they will come to the conclusion that he will be less dangerous to them outside than inside. His trip to Washington unaccompanied and at the request of the Attorney-General may have some significance. We have our doubts. We are rather inclined that this move was made for the purpose of quieting the agitation for his release together with the release of all other class war prisoners that at that time was gathering force.

At any rate the Department of Justice so called is taking its sweet time to investigating the Debs' case while those who seek his release are warming their heels awaiting a decision.

Debs is now 66 years old. He can have but a few years more to give to the movement to which he has given all. It is time that a real united effort be made to swing open the prison gates not only for Debs, but for all other political prisoners.

And the gates should swing open unconditionally. Anything less than the unconditional release of these "anti-war prisoners" is a compromise with the principle for which they went to prison. Anything less than unconditional release is a grand evasion of the issue involved.

The task of liberating these wartime prisoners is the business of the Socialist movement, organized labor and the working class in general

New restrictions have been placed over Eugene V. Debs as is indicated by the quotation below

from a letter received from the new warden at Atlanta prison, J. E. Dyche.

The National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party sent a request to the warden to be permitted to send a representative to consult Comrade Debs on party matters. This request is refused in the following words by the new warden:

"In reply to your letter of the 7th instant, asking permission to send a representative of your committee to interview Mr Debs, I beg to say that I have gone into this matter and decided that we cannot grant your request that a representative of your committee be granted this interview at this time."

We have said elsewhere in this issue that the time has come for concerted action to effect the release of Debs and the other political prisoners. This is only another indication that the present administration has no intention to release these prisoners.

Who won the war? Marshall Foch wirelessed on July 4th that victory was alone due to the 4,000,000 American workers that were conscripted for wholesale murder. Sure the workers won! Misery, want, woe, hunger, starvation, crime, Thirty Billion in war debts that cannot be paid, and last but not least heavy increases in appropriations for the next great war. Besides winning all this, they added 27,000 millionaires to the useless class of parasitic criminals gorging on the blood of the workers. After all this, they are inhumanly refused the meager bonus needed to help them gain their footing in the economic maelstrom of American industrial life. Naturally so. The Plunderbund that has recklessly sacrificed 30,000,000 innocent lives on the murder fields of Europe could not consider for a moment the welfare of its foolish dupes in any land. The only sensible thing to do now is to turn the tables on the pirates. Let us confiscate and restore to the workers the stolen wealth of the trustocracy. Follow this with workers ownership of all the machinery of production and distribution. Then no beggarly bonus will be needed. There will be plenty for all; all the time. There will be no more war. The plunderbund will have to earn its living then, for those who work not shall not eat. Workers place yourselves in the halls of Congress! Cease your begging. Take what belongs to you in regular order. Show that the Spirit of '76 still animates American manhood!

After three years of fighting, an effort is being made to compose the Irish situation and an armistice between the forces of Great Britain and the Irish Republican Army has been agreed to. The Representatives of the Irish Republic are now in conference with Lloyd George. More than likely home rule will be granted much after the fashion in Canada or Australia. One thing only is sure, and that is that Irish independence will neither be gained or granted so long as the Empire endures.

PEACEFUL REVOLUTION.

Charles Mackay.

We want no flag, no flaunting rag, for Liberty to fight;
We want no blaze of murderous guns, to battle for the right.
Our spears and swords are printed words, the mind our battle plain.
We've won such victories before,—and so we shall again.

The greatest triumphs sprung from force will stain the brightest cause;
'Tis not in blood that Liberty inscribes her sacred laws;
She writes them on the people's heart in language clear and plain:—
True thoughts have moved the world before, and so it shall again.

We yield to none in earnest love of Freedom's Cause sublime;
We join the cry, "Fraternity;" we keep the march of time;
And yet we grasp not pike nor spear, our victories to obtain,—
We've won without their aid before, and so we shall again.

We need no aid of barricade; to show a front to wrong
We have a citadel in Truth, more durable and strong.
Calm words, great thoughts, unflinching faith, have never striv'n in vain;
They've won our battles many a time,—and so they shall again.

Peace, Progress, Knowledge, Brotherhood,—the ignorant may sneer,
The bad deny: but we rely to see their triumph near.
No widows' groans shall load our Cause, nor blood of brethren stain;
We've won without their aid before,—and so we shall again.

Famous Words of Undesirable Citizens.

It is far better to bleed for ages at the shrine of Liberty, than to rest in chains one moment.
—Thomas More.

Revolution.

Abraham Lincoln.

Any people anywhere being inclined and having the power have the right to rise up and shake off the existing government, and form a new one that suits them better.

This is a most valuable, and sacred right, a right which we hope and believe is to liberate the world. Nor is this right confined to cases in which the whole people of an existing government may be inclined to exercise it.

Any portion of such people that can, may revolutionize, putting down a minority, intermingled with or near them, who may oppose the movement. Such minority was precisely the case of the Tories of our own Revolution.

It is a quality of revolutions not to go by old lines or old laws, but to break up both and make new ones.

THE FATE OF THE PROFITEERS.

Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted and your garments are moth eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just and

he does not resist you. —James, v:1-6.
(Probably referring to the 27,000 millionaires of the late war.)

GEMS FROM INGERSOLL.

Liberty: Give to every man the fruit of his own labor.

No man should be allowed to own any land he does not use.

The destroyers have always been honored; the useful have always been despised.

The history of this world for most part is the history of conflict and war, of invasion, of conquest, of victorious wrong, of the many enslaved by the few.

The great body of the people do all the work, they plow the land, cut down the forests, they produce everything that is produced. Then who shall say what shall be done with what is produced except the producer himself.

There is not a thing that man uses that cannot be instantly over-produced to such an extent as to become almost worthless; and yet, with all this production, with all this power to create, there are millions and millions in abject want.

Each man has a right to live! And what does that mean? It means he has a right to make his living. It means he has a right to breathe the air, to work the land, that he stands the equal of every other human being beneath the shining stars, entitled to the product of his labor.

The Worker's University--What do you know?

1. What is the name of the world's most renowned "criminal"?
2. For what offense was he convicted?
3. What great event in labor history brought him into public prominence?
4. Why did the workers lose in that struggle?
5. Who wrote "The Man With the Hoe"?
6. When asked, "What shall a workingman do who is starving?" what famous plute said, "God knows, I don't"?
7. What important thing did he do against the workers?
8. Who broke the strike at Croton Dam, N. Y.?

9. On what occasion and by whom were these notable words used, "We are practical men"?
 10. Who said, "To hell with the Constitution"?
 11. Why are five million workers idle today in the United States?
 12. Who invented the steam boat, thus revolutionizing ocean traffic?
 13. What monstrous massacre has been designated as "Bloody Sunday"?
 14. What did the workers get who voted for Wilson and Harding?
 15. Who won the Great War?
- Answers to "What Do You Know?" will be found on page 21

The Lunacy of the "Law."

The case of a hunger striker of Chicago is interesting not because he is on a hunger strike, but because of the peculiar reasoning of those who are endeavoring to save his life.

This man was arrested last April after he had shot and killed his wife following a misunderstanding. Since then he has been in the Cook County jail awaiting trial on a murder charge. In Illinois the penalty for first degree murder is hanging.

Shortly after his arrest he started on a hunger strike which has reduced him to a physical condition necessitating his removal from the jail to the county hospital.

Every attempt is being made to save his life. Even while still in jail artificial feeding was resorted to and now the physicians are working overtime to keep the spark of life that still remains from flickering out.

Why all this effort on behalf of a man indicted for murder?

Thousands and hundreds of thousands of children are slowly starving to death because their parents do not earn enough to provide them with the proper food, but nothing is being done about this.

There is, however, a reason for trying to save the life of this man charged with murder. The reason being that he must not be permitted to die until he is brought to trial.

Of course he may die then, probably will. But the law must be fulfilled. The reason assigned for his hunger strike is not to cheat the gallows, but that he desires death as a result of remorse over his insane act. But this is neither here nor there, he must be kept alive until a jury can pass on his fate.

Despairing of saving his life in jail, he has been removed to the hospital. His removal necessitated legal action, so he was carried into the court of Chief Justice Charles A. McDonald, where bonds were fixed at \$15,000, which he was permitted to sign himself, and then rushed to the hospital. Of course the bond is a mere formality.

Who would be a traitor knave,
Who so base as be a slave,
Who would fill a coward's grave;
Let him turn and flee.

—Burns.

On June 22nd, King George went to Ireland to open the North Ireland (Ulster) Parliament. He was escorted by war ships and soldiers. While he was addressing the fake parliament, the battle

for Irish Freedom went merrily on. Among other things the King said: "For all who love Ireland as I do, with all my heart, this is a profoundly moving occasion in Irish history." It seems that the King has a very touching way of expressing his love. At any rate the very hour he was expressing his love, new military forces were being rushed into Ireland to crush the Irish Republican Army. Apparently the King loves Ireland so well he would like to hug her to death.

If he improves, as soon as he is physically able he will be taken back to the jail there to await the action of the law.

In due course of time he will be placed on trial. He shot his wife, no doubt about it. The jury will return a verdict of guilty and in all probability will fix the punishment at death, the very thing the doctors and authorities are now working so hard to avoid.

He will be placed in murderers' row and some morning the jailer will appear, read a death warrant and lead him to the gallows. There the hood will be fixed over his head, the rope adjusted about his neck, and the trap sprung while the physicians now working to save his life will stand watch in hand while he slowly strangles to death.

Just as it is their business to see that he doesn't die now, it will be their business to see that he is dead then. Such is the law. If it was not so tragic, it would be funny and is surely ridiculous.

No one wishes to condone crime in the least degree, but science many years ago discovered that crime is a disease, and it should be treated as such. It is just as logical to hang a man for having the smallpox as for committing some unsocial act. However, our stupid, insane methods of dealing with such cases as the above are relics of savagery, but even savages would not stoop to such imbecile ways of handling the victims of our social order.

For a man to commit a crime in a temporary fit of aberration is, indeed, unfortunate; but when the high and mighty, respectable guardians of law and order, backed by all the prestige of the state, sit down and for weeks premeditatedly, determinedly, and savagely plot to murder our diseased social victims in cold blood and then smugly and gleefully claim that "justice has been vindicated"—this is the depth of ignominy and depravity. When will we understand that the purpose of the state is to reconstruct and to heal humanity instead of to brutalize and murder it. Of all crimes, the crime of capital punishment is the worst!

Songs of Freedom.

OUR 'GENE.

Standing like a shaft of light,
Cloud by day and fire by night,
For the thing you think is right,
Dominating all your scene,
None may daunt you, brave Eugene!

We may bind and make you mute,
We may stripe you in the suit
Of the meanest felon. Aye,
We may scourge and crucify,
But your soul, sublime, serene,
Who can crucify, Eugene?

Yet, altho' I flout your clan,
Tho' I disbelieve your plan,
Answer me who will or can;—
Who out-mans you as a Man?
Humble, homely, lank and lean,
Heart un-veiled and conscience clean,
Kindly-minded, clear and keen;
Pomp and Pilates seem but mean.
Shadowed by your soul, Eugene.
EDMUND VANCE COOKE.

BROTHERHOOD.

If in this greedy race for gain
I find my brother at my side
Must lose his all for me to win,
Then seek I not the blood-stained prize.
I'd sooner fall in pauper guise,
A brother by a brother's side,
Than brute-like o'er my fellows ride,
Who weaker falls for me to rise.
If earthly store is not for all,
Then let me with the downcast fall.

I'd rather be a shaggy ape,
A nameless thing in any shape—
A wag, a worm—and walk or crawl
In keeping with my kind,
Than be a beast in luxury's stall,
Feasting while my fellows fall,
And know myself a fiend—
A golden ghoul with human head,
Hyena heart and serpent's blood,
With greed, rapacious blind,
E'er I inhuman think to rise
Or profit by my brother's fall.
Oh, let me roam in beggar's guise,
Unhoused, unfed—but human still.
—J. EDWARD MORGAN.

THE QUIET PLACE.

By GRACE E. HALL.

The high ideals and the better thoughts dwell not in the
market place,
Where the clink of gold with its echo cold with avarice
keeps apace;
Nor yet in the marts where tradesmen vie with a craft
that has no soul,
'Tis there ideals die under the wheels of greed, that ever
roll.
While gold lust burns man only spurns the dreams of the
quiet place
And scorns the call, in his narrow stall, of the bound-
less open space.

Out, out on the paths that lead afar where no money
madness cries,
Where shines the bright unchanging star in the blue
unchanging skies,
Where the hush of a silence that portends not loneliness
but rest,
Soothes the mind to a holy calm on nature's ample breast,
Out from the haunts that man has made to those where
the free winds roam,
In the quiet place of God's vast space the ideals are at
home.

Oh, the better impulse cannot grow where the brain's
output is sold,
Where the mind connives in the sordid hives to grasp
the tarnished gold;
No wondrous thought that has lived for long was born
in the fetid air
Of the lucre-pit where barons sit like lions in their lair;
But in solitude and the quiet place, where nature freely
gives,
Where the ideals race in boundless space, is born the
dream that lives.

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDUSTRY

"The capitalist system is no longer adapted to the needs of modern society. . . . The hand tools of early times are used no more. Mammoth machines have taken their places. A few thousand capitalists own them and many millions of workmen use them.

"Hence wealth and poverty, millionaires and beggars, castles and hovels, luxury and squalor, strikes, boycotts, riots, murder, suicide, insanity and prostitution on a fearful and increasing scale.

"The old order of society can survive but little longer. Socialism is next in order. With faith and hope and courage we hold our heads erect and with dauntless spirit marshal the working class for the march from Capitalism to Socialism, from Slavery to Freedom, from Barbarism to Civilization."—Eugene V. Debs.

Modern industry has already been socialized. This task has been accomplished by the Capitalist class and represents the contribution of that class to history.

The mills, mines and factories together with the means of transportation and communication have been concentrated and organized in such a way that they have become today the private property of a very small group of rich men.

These owners govern industry. They say when the workers can work, where they can work, how long they can work and what the reward of their labor shall be.

They are the absolute masters of the working class. Checked here and there by the organizations of labor, halted temporarily by government interference, they manage in spite of all to manipulate industry very much as they desire.

Industry gravitates more and more into the hands of these favored few. The army of unemployed steadily increases. Organized labor finds it ever more difficult to hold its own or advance its lines, and as a result is casting about for new forms of organization with which to combat the ever-growing absolutism in industry.

In spite of its defensive organizations, built up through generations of sacrifice and hardship, the working class is reduced to a condition of virtual slavery.

If wages go up, what ever the reason may be, prices rise still higher.

The army of unemployed grows with the years and threatens more and more to wipe out the achievements of organized labor.

The United States Steel Corporation represents the highest point so far reached in the effort to bring industry under the absolute control of the owning class. Here no union is permitted. The employees must deal with the company individually or through a fake shop council or welfare association.

Judge Gary and his associates meet and they are the government so far as the steel industry is concerned. Wages are determined by them. Hours of labor are set. Every condition affecting the workers is settled by them. They rule with absolute power, and the two hundred thousand steel and iron workers bow to their will.

The tendency is for all large scale industry to drift in this direction.

Such is the wage system. Such is the result of private ownership of industry.

And there is but one way the workers can combat this despotism. The strangle hold of the few upon the industries used by the many must be broken. Their right to own and govern industry must be challenged. The workers must agitate, educate and organize to take over industry. They must not be satisfied with half-way measures, they must demand all. They must not shrink from the ultimate remedy, but come out boldly for their emancipation.

The emancipation of the workers can be realized only when the workers take over the government of industry. Ownership carries with it the power to govern, therefore labor's fight is to acquire the ownership of the industries now privately owned by the capitalists of the United States.

The emancipation of the workers means the end of capitalist class rule. Then all will be workers and government of industry by those who operate industry for those who make industry possible will put an end to despotism and slavery alike.

The Kidnapping of Kate Richards O'Hare by the American Legion at Twin Falls, Idaho, July 1st, is another instance of the activities of this organization that should bring the blush of shame to the face of every honest citizen interested in free institutions and make them resolve that come what will an end must be put to the depredations of these outlaws.

Mrs. O'Hare was kidnapped from the home of Mrs. Freedheim of Twin Falls. She was roused from sleep. Permission to dress was refused and she was thrown into the bottom of a waiting touring car and rushed across the desert.

This is only one of the instances of outlawry of this notorious organization. A long list of shameful acts are to its credit, every one of which aims at the destruction of the cherished liberties of free speech, free press and peaceable assemblage.

It has broken strikes, disrupted peaceful meetings, kidnapped and driven from town spokesmen of the common people, and denounced every activity designed to maintain American institutions.

The American Legion is an organization of intimidation and violence composed of business men and ex-officers and is one of our inheritances from the war.

The Judgment Day.

What was that talk about bringing the perpetrators of the Great War to trial for their misdeeds? It seems to have all vanished in thin air. For the war criminals are in every country where the hideous system of master over man rears its ghastly head. Yes, America has its war criminals too! But justice must wait! Those who profited hugely by this war are now the rulers of America hounding to dungeon and death the sons and daughters of those who died for liberty, believing that they were establishing freedom on her mountain height, forever and aye. Yet, justice can afford to wait. It never forgets. The working class will finally sweep into power. Then justice shall have her own! We will do well to remember those who plunged us into the Great War without our consent and against our strongest protests! We will remember the bloated bondholders of Wall Street crushing the life blood out of the workers, to pile up untold millions they can never use! We will remember the munition makers and war profiteers all too anxious to murder their fellow citizens on foreign fields to line their filthy purses with blood stained gold! We will remember this carrion crew that would eat the heart out of humanity and crucify civilization itself to gain the thirty pieces of silver that even a Judas scorned. We will remember the 400 or more traitors in Congress that, at the bidding of gold gatherers, sent us forth in the name of patriotism to slay our brothers of other lands! We will remember the lickspittle puppets in our

courts who have torn our brave comrades from their loved ones and penned them in deep dungeon cells to rot and die, far from the light of day. Again we say, we will remember! But the enlightened workers of the world have always tempered justice with mercy! When we come into our own, and the time is drawing nigh, it will be well to apprehend these 100 per cent criminals of the present ruling class. Apprehend them and put them on trial for their long category of crimes against their useful fellow citizens. We do not ask that they be shot, as they would have done to us. We do not ask that they be incarcerated in the filthy, foul, dungeons, of Alcatraz, of McNeil's Island, of Leavenworth, or Atlanta—but if by the grace of Providence and the wonders of modern science they can be redeemed from hell and be made fit company for even the animals of the universe, we should endeavor to assist them in developing the head and heart of a human being, which may be accomplished in the ages to follow. In the meantime they could be put to earning their bread by the sweat of their brow, and thus relieve society of maintaining them in luxurious idleness. The least that could be done for them would be to provide them with pick and shovel, and compel them to do some useful work, that is, if it is at all possible for these degenerate vultures to do any useful work for the class they have always despised, robbed and murdered. Work would indeed be the severest penalty.

Ruthless Slaughter.

Colonial Secretary Winston Churchill announced in the British House of Commons a few days ago that a decision had been reached to kill 30,000 army horses left in Mesopotamia. The reason assigned being that it was too expensive to bring them back or to ship them to India or Egypt, the nearest markets.

These horses are heavy draft horses adapted to heavy work. The fear is expressed that if the horses are left in the hands of the natives they will not be cared for properly and that to turn them loose in the desert would result in starvation.

No doubt the natives could use them to very good advantage, but it would never do to give these 30,000 horses to the natives. The natives of Mesopotamia are even worse off than the horses left over from the war. They are looked upon

as a lower class and a very low class at that. They are the pawns of the Empire and are to be shown no chicken-hearted consideration.

In Russia, Austria, and numerous other countries these 30,000 horses to work the farms would save the lives of hundreds of thousands of people now slowly starving to death. But they are to be killed with the approval of the government of Great Britain because it is cheaper to kill them than it is to sell them and unethical to give them away under capitalism.

The next time you see an appeal to help the starving people of this region, just stop and try to understand why these horses are not given to the natives with which to earn their own living rather than appealing for charity.

Such actions as this would indicate that the human race is about as far from being civilized as it is possible to get.

ON THE FIRING LINE.

The Army of Debs Minute Men is growing rapidly. Howat grows! When the Kansas Jayhawkers get on the job, Alexander was a great conquerer, but he had nothing on Alexander Howat of the Sunflower State. Howat goes over the top and brings in a bunch of five recruits for the Minute Men. He also drops \$4 into the Debs Freedom Fund. Alex says, "I sincerely hope that we may be successful in the near future of securing the release of our beloved Comrade Eugene V. Debs." ~~With a few more~~ like you, Alex, we would get them out at once. Howat is a Minute Man, and a man every minute. Watch for his special article next month.

When it comes to getting Debs out of jail the railroad men are among the first to act. W. G. Fannon of Los Angeles comes across with an order for eight copies for eight months. He says, "Hoping this will help some." It sure will, Comrade Fannon; come early and stay late.

H. Slomberg of McKeesport plays the real sport by bringing in a squad of ten recruits. Thanks, comrade, we will make fighting Minute Men out of your friends, whether they are workers or plutes.

While Wm. H. Johnson, Pres. Inter. Ass. of Mach., is busy trying to get into Sovietia, the boys at home are busy lining up for the big fight. J. H. Monahan, of Queen City Lodge, No. 162, Cincinnati, O., orders 25 copies a month for three months. When they are gone he will want 100 a month till capitalism collapses.

Comrade Strauss of Louisville, Ky., lays seven names at the door of progress. Did you round them up in the "moonshine," Comrade?

W. W. Whitehead sends nine new ones all the way from Huntington Park, Calif. Californians always do appreciate a good Cause. They are in the forefront of this big fight.

Journeyman Tailors Union of San Francisco, demands ten copies for eight months, says Comrade Weaver, Treasurer. Tailors and weavers are working like beavers for Debs and Freedom. More power to you, Comrade.

Aug. Andreau drives eight recruits in from the Sunny South. He is a neighbor of Debs in Lakemont, Ga. Comrade Andreau would rather be outside looking in, than inside looking out. A few more like Andreau and we will have the plutes inside "looking out."

The Solid Ivory South is loosening up fast. Ruskin, Fla., is well represented by five good live ones. Comrade Charles Dell is doing well; give emel, Charley Dell.

Journeyman Tailors Union, 229, Detroit, Mich., says a bunch of ten will do for a sample. Come on, all you tailors. Let's sew the profiteers up and dump them into oblivion.

Pine Prairie, La., Arcille Guillory, sends in three. We put them in the pillory.

It. S. Berlin, Kouts, Ind., says Debs Monthly can work on three of his fellow workers. Berlin says the Kaiser can't come back, and he wants to put a few of our American Kaisers to sawing wood. All right, Berlin, we're in!

R. A. Sanborn, Hollywood, Calif., hangs two shining movie stars in our sanctorum. Sanborn is high born, but he works for the lowly. Robert, can't you make that Charlie Chap' shuffle along?

Edward Pletcher of Spokane tickles the shipping clerk with a bundle of forty. If you want freedom, send Pletcher to fetch her.

Centralia, Wash., has not driven all the reds out yet? W. F. O'Day, of the Central Trades Council, wants 20 copies of the first issue, besides lining up two for eight months. Centralia may see justice done yet. More like O'Day, and we'll have the "New Day."

Harry G. Hug, Huntington Park, Calif., thinks two will help some. You're a bear, Harry. Put your arms around 'em, Harry! Hug 'em tight!

Comrade Schoen of Dayton, O., says if it weren't for the unemployment period Debs Monthly could run a million subs in no time. Comrade, we must forget the "period," make a "dash" after them, and knock the "punk" out of punctuate. Every single one brings us nearer the million mark.

N. H. Willett of Winnipeg, Can., writes, "I will do anything I can to show Debs I appreciate the life he has lived." That is the only spirit to have. We can gain 'Gene's freedom when the workingmen Willett.

W. J. Rogers, of Battle Creek, has been in the front rank of every battle since the year, 1. He says "give us the stuff." That's Rogers every time. Comrade, we'll give you the stuff, if you'll treat 'em rough!

S. Ostrogurski, from the Windy City, lands with five whoppers. Good work, old scout, see us often.

There is a Butte, in Montana, and J. R. Hall is on the job. Hall them in, Comrade, we have room for a few more Westerners.

Next month we will have more space for the Minute Men, and we want to hear from all. The recruiting is going on at such a rate it hustles our office force to keep up with it.

There are quite a few small bundles going out this month to comrades we know will use them without delay. If a bundle falls into your hands we know you will dispose of them promptly so that we can keep this great campaign swinging along toward Debs and Freedom.

JIMMY HIGGINS FREEDOM CONTEST.

Debs Monthly is anxious to have the best opinions of its readers regarding the great question of the release of Debs and the freedom of all political and industrial prisoners. We want you to make a short story of your views and submit them to us for publication. If you write the best story you will be paid very well for your trouble. Read carefully the conditions below and send in your story accordingly. Five best stories each month will be published with the names of the authors. The prizes are as follows:

First Prize—Ten Dollars in Cash.

Second Prize—Five Dollars in Cash.

Third Prize—Copy of the History of Imperialism, by Irwin St. John Tucker.

Fourth Prize—One Year's Subscription to Debs Monthly.

Fifth Prize—A Handsome Photograph of the Prisoner of Atlanta, Eugene V. Debs.

Conditions: Professional writers are barred from the contest.

The story must not be over 250 words.

Write on one side of paper only.

If not possible to type it, write in clear, legible hand.

Copy must be in this office by the 10th of the month.

Address all communications to
DEBS MONTHLY,

Contest Dept. 59 East Van Buren St.
Chicago, Illinois

HUSTLERS ATTENTION!

Debs Monthly needs representatives in every city, town and hamlet. Thousands are ready to enroll in this great struggle for freedom. If you are out of work, if you have spare time, this is your big opportunity. We make most attractive terms to our representatives everywhere. Send one dollar for a bundle of ten copies and apply for the agency in your neighborhood.

Debs Freedom Monthly

CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT

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