

# THE MAGAZINE YOUNG SOCIALISTS'

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## WHY? TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 1915-1916

By CHARLOTTE PERKINS-GILMAN

Why does America sit so still,  
Watching all Europe die?

Doing nothing, or good, or ill,  
To stop Red Death and Idiot  
Waste,

While the little nations, closer  
placed,

Beg for aid of the power we hold?  
Why do we sit, unmoved and  
cold,

And the need of the world  
deny?

Answer, America!—Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Why does America stain her  
hands

With blood that will never dry?  
With war-priced wealth from  
helpless lands—

Speculating in Death Preferred;  
Refusing to let her voice be heard  
In the Council of Nations which  
may avail

To end the Horror? And, though  
it fail,

Why should we fail to try?

Answer, America!—Why?

Why does America turn away  
From Europe's bitter cry?—  
Death of the young men day by  
day,  
Ruin of woman and child and  
land—  
War will stop when the nations  
stand

Leagued together in Union wide;  
Why does our nation turn aside  
And let the First Call go by?  
Answer, America!—Why?

## YOUTH AND 'THE ENEMY'

By WM. F. KRUSE

These are dangerous times for young folks. If collective murder were as clearly recognized a crime as is individual murder, a considerable number of our leading citizens would now be doing time behind the bars. From countless newspapers, magazines, lecture and school rostrums, theatres, pulpits, and every possible method of formulating public opinion there is being preached a solitary, ugly, devilish doctrine—murder.

It is not called that—of course not—our intellectual prostitutes and arm-chair jingoes are far too clever to commit such a blunder. The time is long past when men, without the slightest compunction, go out and kill one another. But the day when one great mass of people will permit itself to be used to slaughter off another is still with us.

For this reason our appeal is addressed to the youth of this country. In the face of all the jingo papers, spell-binders, and movies we urge you—steer clear of murder.

There are most insidious influences now at work to plunge this country into the same unthinking brutish conditions that now infest the rest of the world. Militarism and its propaganda is rampant everywhere. Go into the movie houses and you will see the hirelings of Mammon cunningly playing upon the noblest emotions of man, love of home and veneration of womankind. First is shown the destruction of little cottages, the murder of innocent, beautiful children, and a

worse fate for maiden and wife at the hands of the all-powerful "enemy." Then comes the call to arms—the call to murder. In the face of such a propaganda there can be but little wonder that young hearts heed the call of "preparedness"—preparedness to murder their fellow-beings, the "enemy."

Who is the "enemy"?

This is a pertinent question at this time, "Who is the enemy?" To look at the movie terrors in the "Battle Cry of Peace" it is impossible to recognize them, their identity is concealed with great care. Who are our enemies? On this continent we have two next-door neighbors, yet our three thousand-mile frontier to the north is practically unfortified, while our southern neighbors ask only to be left alone. It is hardly likely that our American capitalists will grant the requests; oil wells and ranch lands are cheap for the masters when they can be purchased at so small a price as the worker-soldiers' blood. With such stakes, we need not wonder that a handful of bandits oblige us with the desired provocation.

Over the seas the countries are sufficiently concerned with their own affairs; if we do not meddle with them they will never molest us. The only thing that could possibly involve this country in war is our interference in the economic development of foreign countries. Unless we do this and provoke trouble by building up a murder machine with which to fulfil such nefarious schemes, the United States can remain at peace with the rest of the world until the end of time.

Our masters are thus deprived of the prime necessary excuse for armament: a likely looking enemy. Yet that does not dis-

courage them in the least, they are too well accustomed to getting what they want. Their business plans require the existence of an "enemy," so they set to work quite methodically to manufacture one. On the one hand they are pursuing a meddlesome and trouble-making world policy, on the other they are trying to build up a military machine to carry out their designs. The jingoes themselves declare that Uncle Same is going through the world with a chip on each shoulder and both arms in a sling. The armament manufacturers want him to hide a couple of million soldiers and battleships in the folds of those slings and then hunt up someone to knock off the chips. That will mean more armament orders and more profits for the patriots. Let us rather strive to get rid of the chips, then the hands won't need any slings, it was playing with gun-powder that put them there in the first place. Let us quit looking for fight and attend to the work at home.

## Our Task

We have here a continent of unparalleled bounty and fertility. Our Fourth of July orators tell us that we can feed the entire world, allowing for the source, we may still be proud of our ability to harbor and feed a considerably larger population than at present dwells within our boundaries.

This continent is inhabited by a capable and intelligent people, capable enough to supply all their needs with a minimum of effort, intelligent enough to be the masters of their own destiny. Why do not these conditions prevail?

We know that not even the wants of the people are met out

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## THE REACTIONARY PEOPLE

By John D. Barry

A quaint old character died a few years ago. His name was D. W. Stockwell. He lived in Aurora, Ill. For many years he was famous as "the man that stood still." At the time of the civil war he conducted a general merchandise store in Aurora. There he sold the hoop skirts worn at the time. He never succeeded in getting out of the hoop skirt period. To the end of his life he continued to offer for sale hoop skirts and other relics. These things he did not recognize as relics, however. He simply refused to accept what was new. Naturally, he saw his business decline. He became an object of ridicule. Visitors would go to his store to gratify their curiosity and to laugh. If his arrested development had not inhibited enterprise he might have turned it to profit. And if some adventurous spirit had come along and succeeded in controlling him he might have been exploited. He went his way peacefully to the end, however, believing that the world was wrong and that he was right.

A good many of us are like "the man that stood still" in at least one particular. Very few of us keep up to the times in all ways.

If we could study the mind of the most advanced philosopher we should find that, in this way or in that, perhaps in many ways, he was reactionary.

Often we hear the advanced people scoffing at others for holding old-fashioned or exploded

views. And yet some of the views of these scoffers may also be exploded and old-fashioned.

Then, too, there is something to be said for those who look with suspicion on what is new. They create a conservatism that is not by any means so deplorable as we are usually led to believe. They are like ballast; they keep the tornadoes and the sudden meaningless gusts from overturning the ship. From experience they know that some of the ideas called new will be laughed at to-morrow, and that before an idea can be tested there is required a long time for reflection.

The people who resist change are often exasperating. But they have their work to perform, very important work, too. Their very opposition, besides helping to weed out the weak ideas, gives the true ideas greater strength. For an idea is not worth much unless it can sturdily make its way through opposition and display toughness of fiber.

At this moment I am reminded of an aged man that I used to see in the streets of New York, a well-known figure, living out his last years in wealth and honor, surrounded by grandchildren and great-grandchildren. As a young man he had become enamored of the neck stock, the kind that we now see in old portraits. He wore it to the day of his death. People used to turn and look after him as, straight and tall, he passed down Fifth Avenue, a strange figure from the past. I used to

wonder whether in his mind there lurked other resentments of change.

Did he look with an alien and a hostile eye on the new civilization that had grown up about him? Were the people that he met as fantastic and as unreal to him as he was to us?

There is a certain pathos, too, in the attitude of those that object to change. It results from their lack of complete harmony with life.

Ruskin was a notable example. In the civilization that was so rapidly and sensationally developing under his study he saw a menace to peace and to welfare. The introduction of steam as motive power, instead of filling him with wonder and delight, made him grieve. Now men that once made leisure journeys in good old-fashioned coaches with plenty of time to observe the country would be tempted to go tearing about the earth like lunatics. And with the introduction of machinery there was sure to be a decline in these handicrafts where men could take pleasure and pride, through the expression of initiative and personal skill. Only a few years ago some of us were tempted to smile at Ruskin for these very ideas. Now we are wondering if he was not at least partly right.

In my own acquaintance I know several people who grieve over the invention of the automobile. One keeps the resolve

## THE INTERNATIONAL Y. P. S. MOVEMENT

made several years ago, never to enter what he calls a "motor vehicle." He is like those people that we read about who declared they would never enter a train.

Most of us know at least one person who refuses to use a telephone.

It is easy to blame this attitude of mind. But it is the inevitable expression of certain kinds of temperament.

"Oh! I suppose I'm old-fashioned," is an expression often used by people of this kind. Even while they apologize, however, they are asserting their belief in the soundness of their own attitude.

Opposition to change does not become serious unless it leads to interference. Here unhappiness is inevitable. It is particularly distressing when it shows itself between the generations. It leads to those differences of opinion and conflicts that the Russian writers have so powerfully depicted, notably Turgenieff in "Fathers and Sons." It goes even deeper than opinion. It reaches the feelings, the affections.

Those who object to what is new are controlled by the love of what is old. For this reason they ought to be treated with a good deal of patience.

When we are tempted to be impatient we ought to remind ourselves that if we are not like them now we may be like them at almost any moment.

For there is no knowing when we, too, may become controlled by a love for what is destined to pass and when we may find ourselves in the ranks of the old-fashioned and the reactionary.

### Austria

The young people of the Socialist movement of Vienna, its activity and agitation being considerably hampered by the war situation, have used the past year for intense internal organization and educational work. Nor was this an easy task. There were constant vacancies caused by the war, there was the unavoidable slump in the movement to be combated.

The few public meetings that were held were closely supervised by government inspectors. These meetings were particularly directed against the attempt of the School Board to close during this year the trade schools, which have become such an important factor in the education of the young people of Vienna.

There are in Vienna about 48,000 apprentices, who are obliged by the law to attend these trade schools. It is not surprising therefore that the meetings were well attended, and that the School Board was emphatically called upon to refuse to be swayed by the voices of those who oppose this meager opportunity for a more effective education. These protests were not in vain. Most of the schools were reopened at the beginning of October.

We regret to say that a number of circles of the Austrian young people's movement are participating in a military drill scheme that has been initiated by the authorities. But what can we expect when the circles have received the request asked by them to participate in triumphal processions in honor of great military victories?

When the young people of 1897 were called to arms the organization lost some of its finest members. Seventeen circles lost 344 members during the current year, and many of them will never return to us. A great many of these young people were still apprentices. The call to arms broke into their apprenticeship and would have caused them great difficulties upon their return. To prevent this the young people's organization, through its committee on apprentices, demanded that military service automatically makes these apprentices full-fledged journeymen. The demand was fully granted.

Shortly before the war broke out the first young people's organizations for girls were founded in Vienna.

During the past year so many of our demonstrations were conducted together with the girl groups that an active intercourse between them followed. The organization finally decided that both could work more effectively if members of both sexes were organized in identical local groups. This was carried out on January 1, 1916, and the new mode of organization promises well for the future.

### Germany

A recent report of the German young people's movement shows what energy and self-sacrifice have been expended during the months of the war to hold the proud ship of the young Socialist movement true to its course. Time and time again great gaps were torn in the ranks by new drafts for the army. Young officers, just barely accustomed to the routine work of their positions, were sent to the front, and again and again the clubs were left to the resources of the younger, untried and inexperienced comrades.

The educational work was materially curtailed, partly because of a lack of speakers, so many having been drafted into service, partly also, because it is difficult to cover expenses. Besides, in the towns and cities where the movement was formerly at its best, the young people are working long hours in the ammunition factories and are too worn out when the evening comes to go to the meetings.

We are pleased to note a marked increase in the number of girls who have joined the young people's movement all over Germany.

The headquarters, or "homes," as they are called, that the young people have established everywhere have proven especially desirable for attracting young women to the movement. Special lectures and programs of interest to girls, as well as evenings for sewing and embroidery, have also done their share. The number of these homes has fallen about one-third, as the rents have gone up everywhere and the income has fallen markedly.

The Young People's Organization of Hamburg has been dissolved, not

by the police, nor by the military authorities, but by the Social Democratic Party of Hamburg. Lack of finances was the reason given for this summary action on the part of the Party. It was decided to close the Young People's Headquarters immediately and to collect the property of the circles for safekeeping in the trade union and Party Headquarters. It was claimed that the expense of conducting this agitation among the young people had been so great during the year 1915 that it was impossible to carry it another year with the depleted funds.

In the discussion the representatives of the young people's movement expressed their surprise at the matter had not first been brought up before the central committee of the young people's movement in which the party and the trade unions were represented. If the deficit could no longer be covered from the party treasury ways and means would have to be found to meet expenses. They insisted that this brutal overthrowing of many years of laborious work would ruin the future of the young people's movement and would eventually harm the Party itself to no small degree. But in spite of the bitter opposition the motion was carried over the protest of a very large minority.

In connection with the report the radical "Leipziger Volkszeitung" writes: "It seems to us that the reasons given by the Hamburg officials for the dissolution of the young people's organizations hardly hold water. Since when has lack of funds hindered the Party in carrying out necessary work. Certainly, times like these demand retrenchments, but it was left to the Party organization of Hamburg to dissolve thriving organizations because of a lack of the necessary funds, to destroy the foundation of all proletarian activity."

The action of the comrades in Hamburg seems beyond understanding until we remember that the Party organization there is, stanchly loyal to the majority in the Reichstag group. No doubt the young people have reason to bow to the new social patriotism of their older comrades and are now reaping the reward for their opposition.

### Italy

The National Committee of the Italian young people's organization publishes in its organ, the "Avanti," the first list of those of its members who have fallen in the war. It contains 53 names, among them that of Amadeo Cantanesi, their National

Secretary. The members of the organization are all less than 21 years of age, as those who have passed this age-limit are required to become Party members.

### Switzerland

The social democratic young people's organizations of Switzerland have organized 50 new circles with an increased membership of about 1,500 members. The Swiss organization now boasts of 403 circles, with a membership of 3,200. The success of this movement is getting on the nerves of its opponents, and the efforts to destroy it are increasing from day to day. The Catholic young people's organizations are particularly active. But they carefully avoid any public discussion as to the relative merits of our respective organizations and ideals.

The following is characteristic of the methods pursued by these young believers in Adiswil, Zürich. The members of our organization had been characterized by the Catholic papers as robbers, murderers, criminals, arsonists, unscrupulous, immoral elements, etc. We organized a public meeting as an answer to these attacks. Of course not one of the Catholic heroes made his appearance. They did, however, organize a demonstration against the young Socialists, and were actively busy circulating even more outrageous slander. When our members attempted to attend this demonstration they were refused admission, and the police of Kanton Zürich, protected the meeting. Behind locked doors, under the protection of the policeman's sword, these courageous knights of God fight bravely for their high ideals. Nor should it be forgotten that only the promise of expenses paid and a rousing good time with beer and lunch after the meeting succeeded in bringing out the crowd, to risk its life for its high ideals.

In the Urner Weekly a friend of Christian brotherly love calls to arms for a campaign against the Socialist young people's organizations. "Shall we tolerate Socialist agitation in the ammunition factories under the very eyes of a Catholic government?" is the tragic plea. Evidently it takes a good Catholic Christian to make good hand-bombs and shrapnells. The good man calls upon the Swiss government to trample under foot its own laws for free speech and free assembly.

Slander, denunciation, persecution, hunger, unemployment, police—these

are the methods used by the leaders of the Catholic young people's movement against our organization.

The only answer, comrades and friends, is this—better, stronger young Socialist organizations.

### FREEDOM'S PATRIOT

By Ernest Howard Crosby

I saw a lad, a beautiful lad,  
With a far-off look in his eye;  
Who smiled not at the battle-flag,  
When the cavalry troop marched by.

And sorely vexed, I asked the lad  
Where might his country be,  
Who cared not for our country's flag  
And the brave from over the sea?

"Oh! my country is the Land of  
Love."

Thus did the lad reply:  
"My country is the Land of Love,  
And a patriot there am I!"

"And who is your king, my patriot  
boy,

Whom loyally you obey?"  
"My king is Freedom, O quoth the lad,  
"And he never says me nay."

"Then you do as you like in your  
Land of Love,

Where every man is free?"  
"Nay, we do as we love," replied the  
lad,

And his smile fell full on me.

### Suspected Her

The Smith family, who resided in an interior city, had one of those maids of the invariably heavy hand. Not long ago, the town experienced a slight shock of earthquake. Pictures were thrown down, furniture and crockery rattled about. During the tumult, the mistress went to the head of the basement-stairs, and called out in a patient, forbearing tone:

"Well, Lizzie, what are you doing now?"

In a recent proclamation, "the Royal Hungarian Minister for Education requests all teachers to pay special attention to educating the children in the coming term to the respect and honor due to our enemies; that no hatred or contempt should enter the minds of the children against the brave men with whom their fathers are in deadly combat; and that hate or contempt is not to be cultivated in the youthful minds."

# THE HOLIDAYS

A Play for Socialist Sunday School May Celebrations

**Easter (boy)**—My poor, little rabbits are so tired. All night they have been running from house to house, hiding Easter eggs for all the good children. Still, years ago they had to work much harder. Now people want only chocolate and candy eggs. That saves them the trouble of laying them, at any rate. I'll take them a few nice juicy lettuce leaves as a reward.

(There is a knock at the door and the first guests, Christmas and New Year, enter.)

**Easter**—Christmas and New Year! Welcome, dear friends. As usual, you are the first to come.

**Christmas (girl, shaking hands)**—Best wishes for a very happy birthday, dear Easter.

**New Years (boy)**—You are a queer fellow. Every year you celebrate your birthday on a different day.

**Easter**—Oh, I like a change. I suppose that is because April is my father.

(Another knock.)

**Easter (runs to the door)**—Ah, here is Thanksgiving. You know her, do you not?

**Both**—Yes, Yes, we live quite close to each other (shake hands).

**Christmas**—We are all here now, are we not?

**Easter**—No, I expect another guest. I doubt whether you know him. I, myself, have just met him. But he's a fine fellow and I am sure you will like him. Here he comes. (Runs to the door and opens it.) This is the First of May.

**New Years**—We have heard of you, and I am sure we are glad to know you. (Shaking hands.) Come, let us sit down and you will tell us whence you came and what is your work in the world.

**Easter**—No, no. First we must eat and be merry. There will be plenty of time for talking later.

(They go to the table. While they are eating a loud pounding on the door makes them jump up. Easter runs to the window and two boys, one in a soldier's, the other in a sailor's uniform, with all the necessary paraphernalia, swords, guns, etc., appear.)

**Fourth of July**—Hello, Easter. How's this? Why have we not been invited to your party, my friend Decoration Day and I?

**Decoration Day**—It seems to me you do not know how important we are.

**Easter**—My dear friends, I so wished to celebrate my birthday peacefully this year. You are always quarreling and making noise. Your shooting and tramping drives all my guests away.

**Fourth of July (banging his fists)**—Will you open the door, or shall I break it in?

**Decoration Day**—Come on, let's go away. I'm sure I don't want to stay. Look at the common people Easter has invited to-day. I shouldn't stay if he asked me to. (They leave.)

**New Years**—I'm glad you didn't let them in. Decoration Day always tells such awful war stories.

**Thanksgiving**—And July 4th is always shooting. And then they begin to quarrel because each one thinks he is more important than the other. They only care for soldiers, swords and guns.

**Christmas**—And the noise they make.

**New Years**—Please don't mention noise. It couldn't be worse than the noise people make on my birthday. But you, my friends, know that they do it against my will. Wherever you go you hear people yelling like madmen.

**Thanksgiving**—Don't apologize, dear New Years. We all have the same complaint. People have given every-one of us an entirely different meaning.

**Christmas**—I should say so. Look at me. My first birthday was celebrated so long ago, no one can remember it. Then Christmas meant the coming back of longer days, with sunshine and warm weather. Then people rejoiced and gave each other gifts because they were happy. But tell us, May Day, why is your birthday celebrated?

**All**—Yes, yes, come, tell us!

**May Day**—I will make the people of the earth a world of brothers. They shall live happily and in peace with one another. I will stop war. I will make the greatest man equal to the lowest, there shall be no rich, no poor, no slave, no master.

**Christmas**—Oh, ho! Do you know what you are trying to do? For hun-

dreds of years I have striven to do what you have proposed. I have been to humanity the day of the coming light. But what have I accomplished? In spite of it all, millions of people are still in darkness. The great and the rich rob the poor and the weak. The nations of the world are making war upon each other, are at each other's throat like wild beasts. Do you believe that you can succeed where I have failed?

**New Years**—Your ideals are quite old. Why, I wish a better future to mankind every year, and still things go as badly as before. And Easter, here, is the festival of spring, is to free the earth from the bonds of winter, to free mankind from oppression. It means a new life for humanity.

**Thanksgiving**—On my birthday people used to thank Nature for the harvest. But to-day they have forgotten all about that. For the harvest belongs to their masters. The workers reap it and receive for their toil just enough to keep them from starvation. And then the foolish workers thank the masters for their goodness.

**May Day**—I know it is nothing new I ask for. Ever since human beings can think they have longed for peace, for liberty, for better times. But I shall do more than you. You have only preached and talked. I shall act.

**All**—How will you do that?

**May Day**—I shall call the poor and oppressed from the ends of the earth and they will rally to my flag. All who suffer want, all who must work hard for a living, will follow me. From year to year my army will grow stronger and mightier.

**Christmas**—What is this flag to which they will come at your call?

**May Day**—It is the red flag, the flag that means peace and liberty.

**Thanksgiving**—And when they have come together, this army of workers, what will you fight for? How will you free them from their slavery?

**May Day**—They themselves shall tell you.

(Throws open the door. Workers troop in. Red flag at the head. Each child bears a small red banner with white inscription, singing, "The People's Flag.")

**May Day**—Here they are, the brave fighters for a better day. And every

year there will be more. I shall speak to them. I shall show them how they must work long hours in dark mines, in unhealthy shops, at dangerous machines, to produce wealth for others to squander. I will tell them that though they be Russian or German, English or French, they are all brothers and sisters of the working class, because they work for each other, each that the other may enjoy the good things of the earth. They will read and learn. And when they have learned they will come with me, to fight for a better future.

## Inscriptions

Peace on earth.  
Workers of the World, unite.  
A world of brothers.  
Eight hours' work.  
Eight hours' sleep.  
Eight hours' play.  
Better homes.  
Better food.  
Better care.  
More schools.  
More playgrounds.  
More time to learn.  
No child labor.  
Protect our fathers.  
Give us our mothers.

## THE GARDEN WITHIN

By Christa

A garden, children, that's what I want to talk to you about. That quaint little allotment which you all carry with you, and call Mind. On that hidden patch you grow weeds or flowers as you will. But whatever you're growing there, it is revealed by outward signs, your looks, your daily speaking and doing, show the quality of your mind garden.

One flower in that allotment of yours is indispensable. It must have first place there if the patch is to count at all. It is a sweet and gracious thing, a very queen among flowers. Money cannot buy it, and no earth garden grows its like. It carries its own sunshine, dew, and perfume, and also has this outstanding quality, that wherever this rare flower is allowed to root, there will a host of sweet kindred blossoms

spring up all around of their own accord, like serving maidens following in the train of their fairy queen. Because she is there, so they are. They belong to this wonder flower, as roses and singing birds belong to a June day, and stars and moon to the night skies. Weeds cannot flourish in the mind garden while the queen flower stands sentinel at the gate, and such dour growths as selfishness, rancour, spite, jealousy—the slugs of the mind garden—have scanty opportunity to work their devouring way.

And the name of this wonder flower? It is Love, children. A sweet and familiar sound, and easy to remember. Love, the beauteous pilgrim flower, which ages ago strayed from the white worlds beyond to our grey old earth, and to-day—despite of neglect, hardship, and ill-treatment—survives among ungrateful humanity as life's crowning blessing. And so survives because Love is flooded with the quality of the holy places whence she wandered to us.

Let her in children! Let Love in. She is always knocking at the heart's door. Make her welcome. Keep her closely. Let her dig herself in the garden patch, and such an array of sister graces shall follow her coming that will make a little paradise of your mind garden.

## YOUTH AND "THE ENEMY"

(Continued from Page 2)

of the abundance we produce. A vast number of our people are denied not only luxury, but are starved for the very essentials of life. We know that our workers toil far longer than is necessary for their own good. We know that although the doctrine of self-government is a pleasant tradi-

tion in the minds of the American citizenry, the control of their daily bread by the parasitic owners of the means of life makes their liberty a hollow mockery, and their government an office-boy to the doctrines of predatory wealth.

## Our Enemy Is Within

Those who own the machinery of production and exploit the needs of a hundred million people for their own private benefit—those who with their blood-and-thunder tales of an enemy abroad divert the public eye while the Wall Street gamblers pick the people's pockets—those who sap the health and happiness of our child laborers to coin out golden profits for themselves—those who pay so little for a maiden's labor power that a life of shame is her only alternative to starvation—those who with their dirty gold pollute and corrupt everything that a free people should hold dear—these are our real enemies!

And they are at home! Against them the battle line is drawn, against them the workers should arm, not with guns and bullets, but with more effective weapons: brains and ballots.

Against these enemies the Young People's Socialist League is organized, against them the young people of the whole country are urged to rally under the banners of the Y. P. S. L. to the end that the land and all it contains may belong to those who labor, that the workers and not the shirkers may be adjudged the worthy of the earth, and that the world grant sustenance and opportunity for development to every child born upon it.

Down with militarism, the curse of humanity; and up with Socialism, its emancipator!

# A COURAGEOUS LETTER

In the year 1896 a young man by the name of Van der Weer was called to serve in the Dutch National Guard. He answered in the following letter to the commander:

"Thou shalt not kill."

Mr. Herman Snyder,

Commander of the National Guard.

Dear Sir:

Last week I received a communication ordering me to report, in compliance with the law, to the National Guard.

You will have noticed that I did not appear. It is the purpose of this letter to tell you frankly, without subterfuge, why I do not intend to appear before your commission. I realize that I am taking grave chances, that you can punish me and that you will not fail to do so. But this does not daunt me. My reasons for this passive resistance are sufficient, to my mind, to justify my actions.

I believe that I understand the commandment, "Thou shalt not kill," better than most Christians, although I am not a Christian. When I was a child I allowed my superiors to teach me the soldier's trade—the art of killing. To-day I refuse to learn it. Especially do I refuse to kill at the command of another, for it is against my conscience to kill without personal motive, without reason. Is there anything more degrading to the human being than this killing, this butchering? My whole nature revolts against the thought! I cannot look on while an animal is being killed; in fact I have be-

come vegetarian because I cannot bear the thought of killing that I may eat. Should I join the National Guard it is possible that I might be commanded to kill a human being who has never done me any harm. For you do not train soldiers that they may shoot the leaves off the trees!

You may tell me that the National Guard is used mainly to maintain order at home.

My dear sir: If there were really order in our society, if our national organism were really sound, in other words, if the injustice of our social conditions did not cry to heaven, it would be impossible that one man should die of hunger while others live in wasteful extravagance. If this were not so you would see me among the first to maintain order. But I do, most decidedly, refuse to maintain the so-called order of our present social system. My dear sir! Why should we try to deceive each other? We both know only too well what it means to maintain order; that it means the protection of the rich against the poor, who are just learning to know their own rights. We both know what part the National Guard played during the last strike in Rotterdam, that they stood guard over the property of the capitalist employers, without the slightest reason. Do you for one moment believe that I would guard the property of those who, I firmly believe, are keeping alive the struggle between capital and labor? Do you believe that I would shoot upon

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# OUR OWN AFFAIRS

## KRUSE ON LECTURE TOUR

William F. Kruse, Director of the Young People's Department of the National Socialist Party, and National Secretary of the Y. P. S. L., is starting on a tour of the eastern states under the auspices of the National Executive Committee. He will make 33 dates east of the Mississippi, as given below:

- April 18.... St. Louis, Mo.
- 20.... Indianapolis, Ind.
- 21.... Cincinnati, O.
- 22.... Wilkingsburg, Pa.
- 23.... Pittsburgh, Pa.
- 23.... McKeesport, Pa.
- 24.... Morgantown, W. Va.
- 25.... Washington, D. C.
- 26.... Baltimore, Md.
- 28.... Camden, N. J.
- 29.... Philadelphia, Pa.
- 30.... Reading, Pa.
- May 2.... Jersey City, N. J.
- 3.... Ansonia, Conn.
- 4.... Brockton, Mass.
- 5.... Lawrence, Mass.
- 6.... Fitchburg, Mass.
- 7.... Boston, Mass.
- 7.... Lynn, Mass.
- 8.... Hartford, Conn.
- 9.... Elizabeth, N. J.
- 10.... Rahway, N. J.
- 12.... Watertown, N. Y.
- 13.... Syracuse, N. Y.
- 14.... Rochester, N. Y.
- 15.... Niagara Falls, N. Y.
- 16.... Jamestown, N. Y.
- 17.... Erie, Pa.
- 19.... Toledo, O.
- 21.... Detroit, Mich.
- 22.... Muskegon, Mich.
- 23.... Chicago, Ill.
- June 2.... Kenosha, Wis.

This tour demonstrates the extent to which the work of the Y. P. S. L. has developed, for the leagues are offered practically the same service in regard to instructions and advertising material as can be furnished by the most expensive lyceum courses, and this at a very low rate. Every date on the course will also be marked by an "organization confab" in which the speaker will discuss local problems with the membership, no doubt important improvements in both local work and national relationships will result therefrom.

Kruse has made a fine reputation for himself as a speaker and writer, and his lecture, "The Fighting Chance," is looked forward to with great interest by all Socialists and non-Socialists, young and old.

## ORGANIZATION

A league was started on March 6th at Shelbyville, Ind., with 28 charter members.

The newly-organized Fellowship League of Chicago held an organization rally at their headquarters, which was attended by an audience of over 300. A splendid musical program was rendered, the National Secretary delivered an address, and 21 new applications for membership were taken up at the close of the meeting.



WILLIAM F. KRUSE

Anna A. Malley, now touring the country under the auspices of the American Socialist, stopped in Lafayette, Ind., long enough to crystallize the Y. P. S. L. sentiment there into a live-wire organization.

Fifty delegates representing seven leagues attended the first City Convention of the Chicago Y. P. S. L. Extensive plans were made for a permanent city league here, and the enthusiasm ran high. James H. Maurer and Barney McMahon spoke for the Yipsels after the close of the Convention.

A number of leagues throughout the country are with great profit to

themselves taking up the correspondence courses of the Rand School. For intensive educational work of greatest value nothing has ever been produced to equal them.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

In another column of this paper a list of dates on the National Y. P. S. L. lecture tour is published. All leagues are requested to cut this out and keep it for reference. During the time of the tour there may be little delay in replying to ordinary communications, and matters of extreme importance should be sent to the speaker en route. Letters dealing with routine work will not be answered between April 15th and May 25th. All orders will be filled as usual so no serious delay will result in our regular Y. P. S. L. work.

## NEW YORK STATE

### MEETING OF THE STATE BOARD OF CONTROL

The sixth meeting of the State Board of Control was held at 40 Evergreen St., Rochester, N. Y., Sunday afternoon and evening, March 26th, 1916.

Comrade A. Berggren, Jamestown; Garson L. Tisher, Rose Ginsburg, Lister Tisher and Bertha Vossler, of Rochester, were present.

Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

The following financial report was submitted by State Secretary I. Tisher, and was audited and found correct:

Stamps bought since Nov. 25th, 1915	2,800
Stamps sold since Nov. 25th, 1915	2,550
Stamps on hand Mar. 26th, 1916	250
Total receipts since Nov. 25th, 1915	\$125.19
Total expenditures since Nov. 25th, 1915 (dues stamps, supplies, etc.)	92.43
Balance on hand Nov. 25th, 1915	\$32.76
1915	64.93
Total cash on hand Mar. 26th, 1916	\$97.69
Total outstanding moneys	117.01
Total worth	\$214.70

State Secretary's report continued as follows:

All leagues were circularized in January and March relative to the State-wide contest that has been going on.

Ninety-two Socialist Party locals in the State were sent a special circular urging them to form Y. P. S. L. leagues. In February a general report, the new charter and the comparative reports were sent to all leagues in the State.

Ten thousand Y. P. S. L. leaflets were ordered and all were sold, Jamestown taking 4,000, Rochester 1,000, Watertown 1,000, Syracuse 1,000, Glens Falls 2,000 and Buffalo 1,000.

In response to the letter which was sent out to all Socialist Party locals in the State, replies were received from Utica, Hornell, Liberty and Niagara Falls. Hornell and Liberty are unable to do anything, owing to lack of proper material, while Utica and Niagara Falls are now organizing leagues in co-operation with the State Office, and we soon hope to have them both within our Federation.

In reference to the comparative reports, it was suggested that the leagues be again impressed with the necessity of sending in complete and accurate information every month.

All leagues with the exception of Yonkers and Schenectady report continued good progress. The members of Yonkers are somewhat inactive at present, but will, no doubt, renew their former activities soon. Schenectady has no league at present. It was learned that they disbanded about three months ago, without notifying the State Office. The conditions in the local Socialist Party and the presence of a conflicting organization, an offshoot of the Y. P. S. L., are somewhat responsible for present conditions; but with the re-organization of the Socialist local, it is hoped that a new league can be organized. In the meantime the State Office is keeping in touch with various comrades there.

The first part of the contest was not as enthusiastically received as might be, although six leagues; namely, Watertown, Rochester, Buffalo, Syracuse, Queens and Jamestown, entered. The leagues were lax in sending in accurate reports, but from the information in possession of the State Secretary, it is found that Syracuse League secured the highest percentage of good standing members, which is practically 15 percent, and therefore has been awarded the pennant for the first part of the

contest. It is hoped that the leagues participating in the other two parts of the contest will endeavor to send in reports accurately and promptly.

Although the second part of the contest is not over, we herewith outline briefly what the third part will be. The object is to induce Y. P. S. L. members to join the Party, this beginning April 15th and ending May 15th. It is planned to secure aid from the National and Local Socialist Party to make this part of the contest a success. The State Secretary was instructed to correspond with the American Socialist and endeavor to secure special rates on this paper, so that each member joining the Party during the contest may secure a subscription to the American Socialist. During this last part of the contest it is proposed that each league shall set aside a special day at which it shall be their endeavor to secure Party members. The Local Socialist Party will be invited to send representatives, and special literature will be distributed.

#### Organization

The matter of Schenectady League was considered, as presented by State Secretary, and his report concurred in. When the re-organization of the Socialist Party Local there is complete, the State Office will be prepared to send an organizer, or an endeavor will be made to have National Secretary Kruse stop there during his tour.

State Secretary was instructed to keep in touch with the Yonkers League.

The National Tour of Comrade Kruse was considered, and an effort will be made to have him act for the State Office while in this State in the capacity of organization work where desirable.

#### Convention

Applications for the convention have been received from Buffalo, Syracuse, Brooklyn and Bronx, and communications from the above leagues were read. Albany and Schenectady were suggested by individual members. Communication was also read from the New York District Com. recommending Syracuse.

The above applications were considered and thoroughly discussed. It was found that New York, including Bronx and Brooklyn, was unfavorable as a convention city, due to location as to distance in relation to other leagues in the State. This, of course, applies to Buffalo as well. It was considered that a large number of delegates would come from New

York and vicinity, but this was offset by the fact that an equal number of delegates would have to come from up-State, some from as far west as Jamestown. The fact that New York City has had one convention was also taken into consideration, as well as the letter received from the New York District Committee.

This leaves Syracuse as the only available convention city. There are several advantages which make Syracuse the best possible location; first, because it is a railroad center, and very well situated with reference to other leagues; second, it has a live and thriving organization, which would be very much benefited by having a convention of this kind with the attending activities; third, they are in a position to successfully handle a convention from the standpoint of the delegates and visitors.

After considering the available dates upon which to hold the convention, not forgetting the fact that the Socialist Party State Convention is to be held in Albany at practically the same time, it was decided that the convention be held July 2nd and 3rd, Comrade Berggren voting in the negative. Discussion from members upon this point is invited.

#### Financial Accounts

The Board audited the books of the State Secretary and found them correct to date. The various accounts, due stamps, supplies, leaflets, expenses, etc., were gone into and found correct. The leagues on a whole are found to be prompt in payment of their bills. Of the total outstanding moneys of \$117.01, but \$28.25 are due the State organization for stamps and supplies.

Meeting adjourned.

Fraternally submitted,

Bertha Vossler, Secretary.

#### A MEMORABLE DEBATE IN THE BRONX

"Now, I am addressing you boys of the Young People's Socialist League and it will be you who will be sent to the front if war be declared, whether you desire it or not," said Henry Wise Wood, of the Security League, to the large audience which had gathered to hear him debate the question of preparedness with James H. Maurer. We were indeed glad to hear this, particularly from him, after his array of hollow arguments.

This debate, held under the auspices of the Young People's Socialist League of the Bronx, was a proof of

the power for propaganda and education a well-organized league can be.

Edward F. Cassidy, who was the chairman, said that in selecting Henry Wise Wood, the inventor and writer, and James H. Maurer, Socialist representative in the Pennsylvania State Legislature and president of the State Federation of Labor, the young people had chosen two of the most able and authoritative speakers on the subject of militarism.

Some of the points made by Mr. Wood were that we will always have war, and they must therefore be fought. He compared the anti-militarist to the ostrich, who hides his head in the sand. He contended that there were good wars and bad, that the cost of a war would be less if we were prepared, and that we must be "willing to sacrifice everything." The rich must give their property, the poor their lives.

Comrade Maurer showed clearly that the rich do not give up anything, but use a war as a direct source for profits and take the workers out to fight their battles. They take the widow's only son, but they themselves stay at home and rob the government on munitions and commissary contracts.

It was fortunate that Mr. Wood came to the young people so that he might relapse history. His statement that the Civil War was fought to free the slaves showed this plainly, and the audience did not hesitate to enjoy the joke.

The friends and members of the Bronx Y. P. S. L. certainly had an interesting and profitable afternoon, and the fact that they came in spite of the first call of spring, showed that they expected it. They found in Comrade Cassidy a friend and ally of their cause. It was another record event for the Bronx.

#### CENTRAL COMMITTEE, KINGS CO. (Brooklyn)

##### Meeting of March 12th, 1916

Meeting called to order at 3 P. M. Noskin in chair. Minutes read and adopted with the following omission inserted: That an Educational Committee had been elected. On credentials from Circle 4, two delegates seated; from Circle 9, four delegates seated. Bills of officers and delegates ordered paid. Communication from Isadore Tishler ordered filed as action had already been taken. On communication from the National Office, relative to referendum on exempt stamps, organizer instructed to write for ballots. A representative of the District Committee given the floor,

who asked for a speedy settlement of the Kollontay lecture tickets. Communication from State relative to maintaining camps, filed. Communication from Rand School in regards to Labor Pageant, ordered filed. Organizer reported that he attempted to re-organize Circles 1, 5, and 8, but without success, as he was unable to get much-needed information; that membership-cards had been received from the State Office and a bill for \$5.60; that the rally meeting was fairly successful, but that definite information about the result of the campaign could not be had until next meeting; that the votes on the referendum for an assistant organizer came in very slowly, but the referendum had passed with very few dissenting votes. On action on this report a new organization committee, consisting of Weil, Starck, Nemser and Phillips, was elected and the old committee recalled. This committee was elected to look mainly after the weak circles. Grievance Committee in charge of cases of Zeitlan, Davis and Lieberman recommend that the charges against Zeitlan be dropped. On Action, whole matter dropped. The Educational Committee reported that they had not yet held a meeting. Financial Secretary reported an income of \$121.10 and an expense of 3.44, leaving a balance of 8.66. Demanded that the delegates give him the information on membership and financial standing of their circles, which he twice before requested them to give him in order to give the same information to the State Secretary. On action the secretary was instructed to give Circle 3 35 membership-cards at once. Delegates were instructed to get the required information. An Auditing Committee was elected to go over the books of the \$100.00 Campaign Committee, consisting of Hahn, Grossman, Schneppe and Dan. Treasurer reported \$17.00 in treasury. One hundred dollar fund committee reported that the 14th A. D. had given us 99 tickets for their ball, to be sold by us, and that we were to retain for the benefit of the fund one-half of the price of the ticket. Offer accepted. Delegate to the Socialist Party Central Committee reported that a supervising committee had been elected to assist the work of the young Socialists. They are Graubard, Mrs. Scheff, Samson. A committee to work in conjunction with this committee was requested by the Socialist Party of the Y. P. S. L. On action, committee appointed to work in conjunction elected: Jaun-wisna, Starck and Hahn. Circle 1 reported that circle could easily be re-organized if proper steps were taken.

One applicant for membership, Circle 2 reported excellent meetings being held; have fine clipping system and library. Three applications for membership accepted. Circle 3 reported that they are holding very instructive meetings. That two of their most active members, Clara and Dora Chimes, had been given a transfer to the Bronx League, necessitating the election of a new organizer, Phillips. Are having difficulty in getting notices in Call. These applicants admitted to this Circle. Circle 4 reported that the help of the Central Committee in re-organizing that circle was very efficient and that the circle is now one of the leaders. Are conducting class in Value, Price and Profit. It was reported for Circle 5 that its former members consider themselves too old to belong to the Y. P. S. L. and therefore could not be re-organized with the old members. Referred to Organization Committee. Circle 6 has been deprived of their meeting place, as the branch needs it on that night on which they meet. Three applications for membership, Circle 7 reported that they held successful banquet at the home of a member. Are having great difficulty in getting notices in Call. Have obtained Graubard as director of the circle. Have opened a campaign for more membership. After a heated discussion about the Call it was decided to elect a committee to see the Socialist News Editor, Nemser and Lifschitz elected. Circle 9 reported having collected \$11.50 for the fund. Will hold lecture by Plotkin. Seven applications for membership to this circle accepted. Have 36 good-standing members and more coming in. Delegates instructed to call for nominations for assistant organizer of the league at their circle meetings.

Louis E. Weil,

Rec. and Cor. Secretary.

#### QUEENS CIRCLE

Each passing month sees Circle No. 1 of Queens a little better, a little larger than the month before. When last a census was taken our members in good standing totaled thirty-five. Three former members of a Y. P. S. L. in Germany have attended several of our meetings, and we hope to add their names to our membership list. Queens has entered the membership contest and we are putting forth our best efforts to win out.

Occasionally in reading the minutes of the various leagues in the "New York Call" we read about grievance committees and the bringing of charges against different members

If there is anything that Queens can boast of it is the fine comradeship existing among its members. Relations between the Y. P. S. L. and the Party are also most cordial. When the Party Organizer has a large batch of addressing and folding of circulars to be done he finds the Yipsels a bunch of willing, though noisy, workers.

The study class under the instruction of Fred Briehl is always well attended. Every third Friday in the month is devoted to a social. Here the members and the friends they bring make the attendance 100 per cent. plus. Last month we held a Valentine Party, at which all members received valentine caricatures. On Friday, March 17th, we all expect to be "wearin' the green" and to be doing the Irish jig. The library is growing. Members are donating and loaning good books to make it better, by having a larger number of volumes to select from.

At our last business meeting the members decided to engage Comrade Kruse for a lecture. The date has already been applied for, but we have yet to hear whether Comrade Kruse finds it suitable. This will be the first time that Queens has attempted to hold a large meeting, but we are confident that we can carry it through successfully.

By a unanimous vote it was decided that Queens would support the Young Socialists' Magazine, not only because we should hate to see a Socialist periodical discontinued, but because the Young Socialists' Magazine is good and better than ever. To prove that Circle No. 1 of Queens will support the Young Socialists' Magazine in the flesh as well as in spirit, a motion was carried that a copy be purchased for each member in good standing, the Circle treasury to pay for the same.

Lillian Briehl,  
Press Agent.

#### Y. P. S. L. SYRACUSE, N. Y.

The Syracuse Yipsels held a big sleighride party on March 11th. This was attended by 25 couples. They went out for a few hours of riding and came back to League Headquarters, where a big German supper waited for them. After the supper there was dancing.

But there will be something doing on April 15th. This is an entertainment and dance, to be given in honor of the second anniversary of the Y. P. S. L. at their headquarters, 124 East Genesee St.

Syracuse is two years old now, but

during this time they fought many battles between their own league members. And then the local was kicking all the while till we said, "Teach us to be right and useful to the movement," which they have done. Now our organization is booming.

Hurrah! hurrah! hurrah! There was something added to the Socialist movement. On February 27th there was a Social Science School organized. It had only six children to start with, but now its number is over the 100 mark. This will in a short time strengthen the Socialist movement.

George Stieler, Organizer.

Syracuse, N. Y., is working hard to regain its one-time prestige. It is in on the National Lecture Tour, and is getting in new members and reviving its old-timers. They hope to do great things.

The comrades of New York City and northern New Jersey have been granted the use of one column in the Sunday edition of the "New York Call." All Yipsels in the eastern states are invited to send their contributions to the Yipsel Editor, Milton D. Newman, 385 Communipaw Ave., Jersey City, N. J.

#### NEW JERSEY Y. P. S. L.

Minutes of the Inter-Circle Committee, March 5, 1916

Meeting held at the Newark Labor Lyceum on Sunday, March 5th, 1916.

Called to order at 5:30 P. M. by the secretary.

Comrade Alexander Vecony of Passaic elected chairman.

The following members were present: Jersey City, Elsie Knepper; Newark, No. 1, Bertha N. Bader; Newark, No. 2, Benj. Green; Elizabeth, Richard Picard; Passaic, Alexander Vecony; Paterson, Isadore Kolinski and Louis Cohen. Comrade Erna A. Semper represented Comrade Newman, who was absent.

Comrade Koller and delegates from Trenton and Guttenberg were absent.

The three Camden circles, including Bayonne, have thus far failed to elect delegates to this committee.

The minutes of the previous meeting, held December 5th, 1915, were approved as read.

Moved and carried that the Socialist press, such as the Young Socialists' Magazine, Newark Leader, Elizabeth Issue, etc., be requested to publish the prize-winning essay or essays in the State-wide contest on "Youth and Militarism."

Moved and carried that a committee of two be elected to decide on books to be given for first, second and third prizes in the essay contest. Comrade Elsie Knepper and Louis Cohen elected.

Moved and carried that the following purpose of the Inter-Circle Committee be recommended to our State Committee for its acceptance:

To provide for a mental and physical development for our membership by arranging and conducting State and inter-circle debating, essay writing, oratorical and athletic contests, including other activities which shall tend to establish a closer unity and harmonious relationship among the circles.

Moved and carried that any member in order to participate in any inter-circle event must be in the organization at least two months.

Moved and carried that the delegates to the Inter-Circle Committee in group circles be informed to meet in a conference to decide ways and means to establish a greater inter-circle unity.

Moved and carried that secretary be instructed to write to the Athletic Committee of the circles to elect a manager, for the purpose of calling a baseball conference to decide on the formation of a baseball league.

Moved and carried that secretary write to circles requesting information on prospects to arrange a tennis tournament among the girl members. If necessary a conference be called to arrange for same.

Moved and carried that the group circles arrange and conduct a checker-tournament. The four winners of the group circles to play for State championship.

The following circles constitute the group circles:

District 1—Jersey City, Bayonne, Guttenberg and Union Hill.

District 2—Elizabeth, Newark and Perth Amboy.

District 3—Paterson and Passaic.

District 4—Camden 1, Camden 2, Camden 3 and Trenton.

Moved and carried that the Inter-Circle Committee meet the first Sunday of every month.

It was decided that Newark be permanent meeting place of committee. Next meeting to be held April 2, 1916, at the Labor Lyceum, at 2:30 P. M.

Adjourned at 7 P. M.

Fraternally submitted,

Louis Cohen, Secretary.

Address all communications to 10 Twelfth Ave., Paterson, N. J.

#### ELIZABETH, N. J.

The Elizabeth Yipsels are proud of the fact that their city has been chosen as the place for the Third Annual Convention of the New Jersey Y. P. S. L. This convention will be held on Sunday, May 14th, 1916, at our headquarters, Progress Hall, 635 Elizabeth Ave., Elizabeth, N. J.

A very interesting meeting was held on Tuesday, March 14th, 1916, at which competent committees were selected to care for the various details of the convention.

It may be interesting to know something about the program for this event, so that the comrades may have something to look forward to.

The convention will be called to order at 10 A. M. sharp and the Elizabeth League's orchestra will render a selection suitable for the occasion. Morning business session will follow till 12 noon. At 12:30 P. M. pictures of delegates and visitors will be taken. From 1 P. M. to 2 P. M. an appetizing meal will be served by our girl-comrades in very congenial surroundings. Afternoon business session from 2 P. M. till 6 P. M.

Arrangements are under way to fittingly entertain those comrades and friends who will desire to spend the remainder of this day with us.

Circles possessing banners are kindly requested to send them along for decoration purposes.

Watch the Socialist Press for further announcements.

We have also been fortunate in securing our National Secretary, Comrade Kruse, to give us a visit. His lecture will be held on May 9th, 1916, 8 P. M., at 635 Elizabeth Ave., Elizabeth.

Evelyn W. Weeks,  
Secretary Circle Elizabeth.

#### PATERSON, N. J.

Circle Paterson held a semi-annual election of officers, committees, etc., at their semi-annual session, held January 23rd last. The new officers are all hustling, sincere and earnest comrades, who can be depended upon to carry on the good work of their predecessors; namely, to build up one of the finest circles in the country. Nothing short of that goal will satisfy them, showing that they are not modest at all.

We have just arranged for a series of seven lectures for this spring. The speakers are among the best lecturers in the East, and their lectures will be worth while to attend.

At present we boast of a library of 200 books, but we do not think it is so

very many, and have started a book campaign, which we hope will double our present number. Let the good work go on.

We have two Rand School classes, both studying the Anna Malley course. The senior class will complete their course some time this spring, and will try and tackle the Algernon Lee course.

But the main thing of all is now coming. That is that our league is harmonious, having great internal solidarity. Without solidarity with in our own ranks none of the good work would be possible.

All communications should be addressed to the secretary.

Morris L. Pakula,  
39 Carroll Street,  
Paterson, N. J.

#### Y. P. S. L. LAUNCHED AT CARD PARTY

By Chas. Gale, Omaha, Neb.

We were at a loss just how to start off the new league, so a few of us who wanted to organize got our heads together and decided to give a "high-five" party at the Socialist Headquarters. We got together our personal friends and acquaintances, and particularly the younger Socialists, many of them sons and daughters of the older Party members.

We had a fair-sized gathering at the party, all of those present paying 15c admission to defray the cost of the prizes, but there was a good time for all. We had selected an easy game—one that all of the young people knew, or else could learn very easily. For that reason we used the plebian "high-five" instead of Whist, etc.

After the game, which was purposely cut rather short, we announced the real purpose of the little gathering, and set forth the aims and methods of the Y. P. S. L. The speech was very well received and we immediately had fifteen applications for membership. These were constituted into an organization meeting which decided to hold its next session the following Friday. At that time the officers and committees were elected, constitution and by-laws adopted, and the National Application filled out.

In this way we got a first-class bunch of boys and girls together—young folks who were just about of the same mind and inclination—and we succeeded in getting a better start than in any other way we could think of. Our organization meeting did not cost us a cent—in fact, we realized a

handsome profit of thirty cents (oh, you profit-system). Our hopes for the future are of the brightest. We meet in the Socialist hall, which is owned by one of the Party members, and we are all working together.

Every Y. P. S. L. should "play the park and beach for all they are worth." By this I mean that they should make regular trips to those places where people generally congregate for amusement, and that they should always advertise their league. By wearing the arm-bands and buttons you show people that there is such an organization as the Y. P. S. L. There are a lot of people who have never heard of us, and we need them all in our organization.

#### Young Socialists: You Will Be The Party of To-morrow

STUDY SOCIALISM BY MAIL  
Twenty-two lessons on Social History and Economics, by Algernon Lee.

Twelve lessons on the Elements of Socialism, by Anna A. Maley.

For full particulars, address

Bertha M. Maily,  
Ex. Sec. Rand School of Social Science  
140 E. 19th St., N. Y. C.

Parents and children are invited to inspect the methods of the Ferrer Modern Sunday School, Yorkville, a school conducted on strictly Socialist principles. Look what we offer you: Object Lessons (Anschauungsunterricht) rendered by four Socialist teachers. All objects concerning the life and struggle of the working class.

Singing of English and German songs with Socialist tendency.

Esperanto, Violin School, Stenography.

Kindergarten (Sundays only). An excellent German School. Officers of eight different nationalities visit this department with the most brilliant results.

Fees are so minimal that every worker can afford to send his children to this school.

Registration, Sundays, between 9 A. M. and 1 P. M. Saturdays, from 2 to 4 P. M., at Sack's Union Hall, 1591 Second Ave., between 82nd and 83rd Sts. (Advt.)

"I love the ground you walk upon,"  
Said Fred to Josephine.

"Well, hug the ground, then," she replied.

And swung upon his bean!  
C. B. D.—Call.

## MILITARISM AND THE YOUTH

(The essay printed below was tied for first prize in the New Jersey contest on "Youth and Militarism." It was written by Comrade Sam Seidman, of Circle No. 1, Newark, N. J.)

From the most primitive times down to our own day, through all the blood-soaked centuries of human progress, youth has played a most important part in the world's struggles. Every "Cause" draws much of its early strength, if not its very birth, from the enthusiasm of youth. Whether we speak of the modern woman suffrage movement or in the more strenuous terms of Russian revolt, we find invariably that it is "the youth knocking at the door," consciously or unconsciously struggling for a better race. It is but natural that newer and nobler ideals should find their best support in the younger hearts of humanity, hearts buoyant with hope and full of vitality. "Great causes" have always drawn liberal support from the youth and will continue to do so.

Yet this role is not the only one that youth in its enthusiasm has played. History exhibits youth as acting too often in the self-same spirit not as the champion of the oppressed, but as the blind tool of the oppressor. The youth of France sacrificed as much for Napoleon as for Joan of Arc. The youth of America sacrificed as much for the retention of slavery as for its abolition. The Boy Scout movement is but one modern phase of this tendency of the youth to give blindly a tendency to be overcome only by the most tireless opposition. The history of youth, the blind reactionary, may not be as pleasant as the other side of youth's activities, yet it is fully as important. To place youth upon a pedestal and shut our eyes to the past, to picture youth as the sincere study of the problem of times and in all places is fatal in any sincere study of the problem of youth and militarism.

If we once recognize the two-fold role of youth in the world's historic struggles, the future is not without its doubts. The forces of reactionary militarism are strong. We find evidence of it in every direction. The school-house, the newspaper, the stage and the church, all are considered its legitimate abiding places. With few exceptions, the radical reformers of the Roosevelt and Hearst type in every country of the world are in full accord with the reactionary element on this issue. They are a solid unit for militarism under the

guise of "preparedness." The only vital opposing force in the civilized world to-day is the Socialist movement. This is the situation confronting the youth of to-day.

The problem thus resolves itself into a huge task of educational propaganda. It is the educational issue that must be faced by every Socialist, young or old, who seeks a solution to the question of militarism, and the youth. The philosophy of Socialism must be widely spread among the younger element. Every young man and woman that we can reach must be made to realize that the titanic struggle between militarism and Socialism is a phase of the international struggle between the workers and the parasites. That militarism represents us as being useful only for the protection and preservation of property, while Socialism declares that property is merely an instrument of human happiness. It should never be our master. The youth must learn to know that the workers have a battle entirely their own to gain possession of the means of livelihood that proletarian poverty and ignorance may give way to human security and culture that we may reach a stage of progress wherein private profit will be secondary to human life.

For this work among the younger element the Socialist Sunday-schools and the Young People's Socialist Leagues are of great potential value. In these two types of organizations we have in an undeveloped stage our most powerful weapons for the undermining of the militaristic spirit amongst the youth. Even now, as these organizations adapt themselves to different localities and peoples, they are producing wonderful results throughout the world. As they develop both can be brought to do much more intensive and extensive work.

The Young Movement is fast becoming reorganized as an active force in international Socialism. It is rapidly producing its own leaders who are familiar with its problems through personal contact, problems inherent in the Young Movement and for which the experiences of the older comrades furnish little precedent. This dissemination of proletarian hopes and ideals among the younger generation is the only solution to the problem of militarism and the youth.

Whether the youth of the future shall be the blind but enthusiastic reactionary instead of the conscious champion of progress depends largely on how thoroughly we, the younger men and women of the movement, do our work.

Oakland, Cal., has finally decided to join the Y. P. S. L. of the United States. And pledges its hearty support to all its work.

Lansing, Mich., has provided for weekly meetings in a permanent headquarters. They expect better progress from now on.

New league organized at Nampa, Idaho, with 20 charter members. This is the first league in the state, but Malta and several other localities will soon be in line. State Secretary Stewart of the Party is in active co-operation with the Y. P. S. L. work.

### A COURAGEOUS LETTER

(Continued from Page 8)

workers who, I am convinced, are absolutely within their rights? Surely you cannot be so blind. Why say more? I certainly shall not consent to be made into the obedient National Guard man that you want and need.

For these reasons I refuse to serve in the National Guard and request you to excuse me from service, for I am firmly resolved not to comply. Yours respectfully,  
J. K. van der Weer.

The Social Democracy does not fight militarism with the "passive resistance" employed by the writer of the above letter. The effect produced by the use of this weapon is in no degree commensurate to the sacrifices it entails. Nevertheless we publish this letter for the tremendous courage and the high idealism it portrays. The Socialist must needs admire the idealism shown in these lines.

### THE WAVING HAND

By F. J. Gould

"Tis a hand waving out of the port-hole," said some.

"Surely not," said others. "All the men must be dead."

"There it is again!" shouted voices. "It waves again!"

It was, however, not at all easy to see the hand, for the waves of the North Sea tumbled round the vessel, and splashed in foam, white and cloudy, on the little window.

The ship was a salvage steamer which was on its way from Belfast in the north of Ireland, to Hull on the east coast of England.

A howling gale, blowing from the southeast, sprang up on a Friday night, in February, 1915. In the blackness of darkness, and in the mad tempest, ships large and small made for the nearest harbors, whose twinkling red and green lights invited to safety.

The Hull ship, known as *Salvor* No. 1, had seven souls on board. Glad they were when the boat rode unharmed into the Harbor of Refuge at Peterhead, the granite city of Aberdeenshire. Perhaps the boat moved uneasily, and the anchor dragged. The master judged that he had better venture again into the open water, and he steamed out.

A vast breaker rolled up and carried the *Salvor* over the harbor-bar. A second breaker shook it so terribly that it all but capsized. A third breaker swept it upside down, and the helpless steamer, unable to right itself, was flung upon a reef of rock, about 300 yards from the shore. People on the beach, who had seen by the dim light of Saturday's dawn the ship turn turtle

and dash upon the rock, felt sure that all the crew must have perished.

Yes, six had died, slain in the everlasting war of brave humanity against the storms and violence of nature.

It was nearly eight o'clock when a keen eye observed the hand waving from the port-hole. A crowd gathered, and grew larger and larger. What was to be done? How could the prisoner be rescued from the awful trap? No lifeboat could avail. He was shut in fast, and the hull of the ship was of steel.

Science came to the rescue.

But no, no, no! Not science. A noble human heart, using science for the purpose of redemption, came to the prisoner's aid. Science is careful, exact, orderly knowledge of the earth and its forces and its products. But this clever-science may be used, and, alas! is used for profit-making, for exploiting, for killing.

The heart was the heart of a young boilermaker, Francis McRobbie. In Scotland, and also in America, he had learned engineering secrets. He knew of a wonderful blow-pipe, which, with a mixture of gases (oxygen and acetylene), would bite into steel, cut steel, carve steel, conquer steel.

Francis rushed to the workshop, flying like Mercury, messenger of the gods. He got his blow-pipe, his cylinder of oxygen, his cylinder of acetylene, and he hurried back to the shore. He stepped into the water, he waded, the North Sea was up to his waist, his breath, his shoulders, his neck. He reached the *Salvor*.

The hand had gone in. The poor prisoner lay gasping for breath in the rocking vessel.

Tap! tap! tap!

A voice called amid the roar of the waters: "Where will I cut open the hull?"

Oh, messenger of joy and hope! It was McRobbie, whose hand just appeared above the water, and in his hands he bore his glory-out machines of science and humanity.

The prisoner was the ship's cook, named Riches—a man from Yarmouth. He showed McRobbie the easiest place to make a hole.

The tide was at its lowest ebb. McRobbie must be quick. The tide would turn, and stop and ruin his labor. Thousands of people, in a great silence, thronged the shore and the quays, and watched the battle of the human heart and science against tide and time and death. The prisoner listened to the hiss of the pipe, the clatter, the knocking. Was he for death or for life? And the tide had turned.

McRobbie, good man, use all your wit, your nerve, your skill, your valor! Be of good cheer, McRobbie.

It lasted an hour. Fumes of gas blew into the cabin, for the blow-pipe and its gas had cut through. A hole twenty inches square was opened. Little indeed was the gate, but it was wide enough for friend Riches to squeeze through.

Out he came; and the tide was rising. Out he came, and flung himself on the back of his rescuer; and the tide was rising, McRobbie and his blow-pipe and cylinders bounded through the water; and the tide was rising, and the people were cheering, and the boilermaker carried the cook to the shore amid a roar of joy loud enough to be heard all over the granite city.

Francis McRobbie, the commonwealth thanks you.



# ❖ SOLDATENLIEDER ❖

- Ich bin Soldat, doch bin ich es nicht gerne,  
 Als ich es ward, hat man mich nicht gefragt;  
 Man riss mich fort, hinein in die Kaserne,  
 Gefangen ward ich, wie ein Wild gefagt;  
 Ja, von der Heimat, von des Liebchens Herzen  
 Musst' ich hinweg und von der Freunde Kreis,  
 Denk ich daran, fühl ich der Wehmut Schmerzen,  
 Fühl' in der Brust des Zornes Glut so heiss.
- Ich bin Soldat, doch nur mit Widerstreben;  
 Ich lieb' ihn nicht, den blauen „Königsrock“,  
 Ich lieb' es nicht, das blujge Waffenleben,  
 Mich zu verteid'gen wär' genug ein Stock,  
 O, sagt mir an, wozu braucht ihr Soldaten?  
 Ein jedes Volk liebt Ruh' und Frieden nur,  
 Allein aus Herrschsucht und dem Volk zum Schaden,  
 Lasst ihr zertröten, ach, die gold'ne Flur!
- Ich bin Soldat, muss Tag und Nacht marschieren,  
 Statt an der Arbeit, muss ich Posten steh'n,  
 Statt in der Freiheit, muss ich salutieren,  
 Und muss den Hochmut frecher Buben seh'n,  
 Und geht's ins Feld, so muss ich Brüder morden,  
 Von denen keiner was zu leid mir tat,
- Dafür als Krüppel trag' ich Band und Orden,  
 Und hungernd ruf' ich dann: „Ich war Soldat!“  
 Ihr Brüder all', ob Deutsche, ob Franzosen,  
 Ob Ungarn, Dänen, ob vom Niederland,  
 Ob grün, ob rot, ob blau, ob weiss die Hosen,  
 Gebt euch statt Blei zum Gruss die Bruderhand!  
 Auf, lasst zur Heimat uns zurückmarschieren,  
 Von den Tyrannen unser Volk befrei'n;  
 Denn nur Tyrannen müssen Kriege führen,—  
**Soldat der Freiheit will ich gerne sein!** Max Kegel.
- EIN SOLDATENLIED**
- Ich bin Soldat und bin es mit Vergnügen,  
 Als man mich nahm, hat man mich erst gefragt:  
 „Wirst du's auch gern?“ Ich sprach: ich müsste lügen,  
 Wenn die's Geschäft nicht stets mir zugesagt.  
 Was gibt es Schön'res denn, wie Exerzieren,  
 Patrouillen, Posten, Ordonnanzen sein,  
 Und auf Befehl bald stehen, bald marschieren,  
 O welches Glück, welch Glück, Soldat zu sein!
- Ich bin Soldat, was kann es Schön'res geben,  
 In Lust und Kurzweil mir die Stunden stichn.
- Mein Sold ist reichlich für ein flottes Leben,  
 Kasernen sind mir Ferienkolonien,  
 Und geht's ins Feld, ein Dasein voller Reize  
 Harrt meiner dann im schönen Frankenland.  
 Sind Krüppel wir, so werden Eisenkreuze  
 Als Siegespreis den Helden zuerkant.
- Drum hol' der Teufel alle Zivilisten,  
 Es lebe nur der edle Kriegerstand,  
 Nur Militär, ob Juden oder Christen,  
 Sein hochgeehrt im deutschen Vaterland.  
 Auf, lasst zur Heimat uns zurückmarschieren,  
 Lasst von der Freiheit unser Volk befrei'n,  
 Lasst uns alljährlich neue Kriege führen,  
 Ich bin Soldat und will es gerne sein. Karl Hirsch.
- Das erste vorstehende Gedicht von Max Kegel wurde unter dem Bismarck'schen Anti-Sozialistengesetze obrigkeitlich verboten, worauf Genosse Karl Hirsch das zweite hier abgedruckte Spottgedicht „Ein Soldatenlied“ verfasste.

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