

LABOR AND CANNON FODDER

By Arthur C. Parker

Protection for Parasites

Thomas A. Edison gave civilization the benefit of his creative genius. He is properly respected and honored and posterity will remember this great man as one of the giants of the ages.

Inventors do invent machines that accurately perform the work formerly done by thousands of laboring men. Those same working men are unemployed and walking the streets begging for the privilege to work. The labor saving machines have been and are invented and sold to corporate wealth who use that displacing machine not to save workingmen drudgery, nor to raise wages, nor to make life more livable for the masses, but to increase their own profits.

If working men owned the machines of production, if the government purchased and conserved for all the people these wonderful mechanical and scientific invention then truly workers and their families could live the abundant life. As it is however, we can only compare our chaotic and selfish society to a mighty forest of trees and orchids in a stinking morass. The great trees, standing alone and homely, are forced to drive their sturdy roots down thru the muck and slime to take from mother earth the sustenance so necessary to life and health. Buffeted by the storms, bowing before the hurricane, some times breaking and crashing to the earth, doomed and forgotten. These are the toiling masses.

Upon them grow that specie of beautiful plant known as the orchid. Most of them pleasant to the sight if not to the nostril. High above the ooze and slime, undisturbed by the eternal struggle of the trees to just survive, smiling in the sun, sheltered from the storm, fed and protected by the industrious tree. Beautiful, but useless, rare, but non-essential, interesting, but some poisonous, some cannibalistic; natures luxury, the parasite.

These parasitic plants are true symbols of the owners of industry, the absentee landlords, the coupon clippers, the respected and feared industrial and commercial kings. If all died by some fortunate catastrophe, no industry would cease to function, no cog in our complex civilization would even hesitate to turn.

Power of ownership in our crazy quilt society makes non-essentials important, makes wolves of mice. The system is shot through and through with graft, vice and corruption. The future bodes ill for this capitalist system which denies men crumbs amid a plenteous harvest. Men who work by hand or brain will some day come into their own and the world will be theirs.

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The War Gods Stir

General Sato, retired Japanese militarist, makes war talk in his book to the Japanese people released this year. He says, "Our enemy is the United States of America. The United States, the

representative of injustice in the world, is our enemy. Arise, better yourselves! Exert yourselves! Prepare yourselves for the coming Japanese-American War! We must chastize our enemy the United States of America.

Japan like colored Americans, has much justification in resenting the unfair treatment accorded Japanese people in and out of the United States by Americans.

Our government on the surface is the benevolent protector of the world's unprotected and weak nations. We protected Cuba, the Virgin Islands, the Phillipines, Panama and Haiti. Now all these people want protection from nobody so much as from Americans.

Our new prodigy is China. Japan needs room to expand and admits that a part of China, rich in natural resources would be a welcome annexation. As a nation we object. If there is to be any high handed concession grabbing we will do it. Competition undeserved and intolerable.

So these imperialistic powers come to verbal war. The next and inevitable step is real war. Death and destruction for the sons and daughters of the working class. White men, yellow men, brown men, black men, men of all tongues and creeds fed to the destroying cannons of capitalist greed.

What a sure way to end the depression! Our leaders show such vision, such marvelous mental capacity in planning such absolute solutions for our artificial economic ills. War! That evil, degenerate institution of Hell so often used by cowardly leaders to perpetuate their economic strangle hold on the world's wealth. To end all war, pass a law forcing presidents, generals, statesmen, bankers and corporation presidents to be privates in the front rank.

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Wage Cuts Delay Prosperity

Western Union cuts wages 10%. Fifty thousand workers are affected by the slash.

This is the fifth giant corporation to cut wages. U.S. Steel, Bethlehem Steel, General Motors, American Woolen and Western Union -- to say nothing of the many smaller companies who have followed the lead of the giants.

Why do owners of industry consistently seek to cut wages? They say if they can lower their production cost by cutting wages the selling price of their products will be reduced and so lessen the cost of living for every one, thus automatically ending the depression.

Between 1926 and 1928 our national productivity increased 27%. Wages increased only 4%. American producers are the American consumers and it naturally follows that a people can not buy back 27% more goods with only 4% more real wages. These are government figures available to all who wish to be enlightened. Because this fact is undeniable we have cyclical over-production but under-consumption. Farmers hungry, tailors raggedy, and shoe makers barefoot, all because they have not the money to buy back the necessities they have produced. And our great minds say they will restore prosperity by still further reducing wages.

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