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# The American Freeman

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Our exposure of Hoover in our Dec. 26 Hoover Racketeering Edition will be an exposure of the crookedness of capitalism and of capitalism's most powerful representative in the United States. Order a bundle of 50 for \$1

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## A FINNISH INTERLUDE

BY MARCET HALDEMAN-JULIUS  
Helsingfors, Finland.  
To the Readers of The American Freeman—  
Dear Friends:

We have just come from the talkies here and whom do you think we saw up here in Finland? Rudy Vallee. He sang the Maine Stein song (in English of course) while the "bouncing ball" bobbed from syllable to syllable and Micky Mouse pranced in his usual fantastic modernism. The audience was invited to sing and hummed the tune, although they did not understand the words.

The Finns, you see, make no movies for themselves, so they borrow from other nations.

There in the Paramount news reel was the big St. Louis 1931 World Series game and the automobile race in New Jersey.

The feature picture was in Spanish with continuity flashes in Finnish. Across the street Buster Keaton is amusing the people and Norma Shearer and Kay Francis are advertised. I infer that they speak in English also—with Finnish continuity.

The tickets were ten marks (for the seats near the screen twelve marks and for those farthest back fifteen marks). There are 48 marks in an American dollar.

Finland reminds me so much of Canada. There are no leaves on these trees. Already it is real winter. Although Helsingfors with its 300,000 people is only about half as large as Copenhagen, it is much more bustling and like an American city. Automobiles are thick and so are clanging street cars. The people step quickly and look very like those in the United States, except that they are more warmly dressed here.

During the czar's reign, Finland was part of Russia. Then, when he was overthrown, it belonged to the revolutionists. But the struggling Red army was fighting on thirteen different fronts. England and France helped the counter-revolutionists and we had our finger in the pie too. You will surely remember how we sent our men to Siberia and northern Russia, without even a declaration of war against the Soviet government. As a result the Soviet government lost Finland and it became a separate republic.

One of the first things I intend to do when I reach home is get and read a history of Finland. If you do so you will find it interesting. But it has produced no great writer nor artist.

It seems hard to realize that these clean, orderly streets were once—no! so many years ago—the scene of cruel shooting.

These are the pleasantest quarters we have had and the best food (except the breakfast in Denmark) that we have had. We have a pleasant sitting room for the day and are getting rested.

This afternoon we had coffee up here. If you could have joined us you would have heard many interesting bits from the past lives of those who have lived in Russia.

All of us did a little shopping. I bought a pair of fleece-lined overshoes—very nifty-looking—for 95 marks, a wool scarf for 49 marks and an extra pair of wool stockings for 40 marks.

As it takes 48 Finnish marks to make one American dollar, the over shoes cost a little less than two dollars, the scarf a mark over half a dollar and the stockings eight marks less than a dollar. One could buy the same articles for the same money in the United States, but one could not get as good a quality of each.

The store was spacious, the clerks most gracious.

There are no empty buildings as there are in American cities.

(Tomorrow the election will be held in England—and you will have mown all about it long before you will have read this letter.)

Tonight at midnight we move to Leningrad. We shall always remember this gracious, friendly capital of Finland.

J. N. ("DING") DARLING, American cartoonist who has visited Russia says of the Soviet Union: "It looks like the bosses have disappeared and off the janitors and office boys in charge." Hurray for the janitors and office boys! They are doing a far better job than the bosses are doing in the United States. "Ding" forgot to mention that the former bosses who are left in Russia are doing useful work for the first time in their lives. That's what "Ding" means by saying the Soviet Union looks as if it is being run by janitors and office boys. He did notice one fact, it seems—namely, that the useful workers are in charge.

PERSONAL liberty under capitalism a mockery, because right now the greatest item in that liberty for millions of workers is the liberty to starve and freeze. The workers can't do this, however, by protesting fully and strongly against the system which imposes these cruel conditions. That, after all, the most important duty the workers have is that which sides in their own mass power to destroy this system and put a sane social system in its place.

Do you know that 70 cents of every government dollar goes for AR? Think over this fact. It's mighty convincing argument for socialism, which will establish peace and cooperation.

## What Is Behind the Drive to Suppress Right of Free Speech in Los Angeles?

By George H. Shoaf

What is back of this crusade by members of the police department and the American Legion to suppress free speech and crush radical agitation in Los Angeles, Calif.? Is it purely a local matter, or has it national connections with international implications? Are these raids on radical headquarters and meeting places by Capt. Hynes of the Los Angeles Red Squad merely the result of possible misunderstandings with his wife at home, or is he acting under instructions handed down by a higher authority?

Those who have given the matter thought have arrived at the following conclusions:

Capt. Hynes is not doing what he does because of his personal animus or interest. He does what he is ordered to do for fear of losing his job. The severity with which he executes orders is staged to insure the continuance of that job. He well knows if he does not carry out orders he will be replaced with someone who will. All of which illustrates the verity of the contention of Jay Gould who held that he could hire one-half of the American working class to kill off the other half.

The fact that the Red Squad, with Capt. Hynes in charge, does not operate from police headquarters, but from its offices in the Chamber of Commerce building fifteen blocks away, throws sufficient illumination upon the activities of Capt. Hynes to make the matter perfectly understandable to even the most superficial thinker. Capt. Hynes does not take orders from the chief of police; he takes them from those who direct the affairs of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber of Commerce Is Responsible. It is the Chamber of Commerce, then, that is responsible for the outrages which Capt. Hynes and his Red Squad daily and nightly perpetrate in this community. Free speech, free press and free assembly suffer because the Chamber of Commerce has decreed that these guarantees of the Constitution of the United States shall be abrogated and set aside in Los Angeles so far as radicals are concerned. Deliberate intent to violate the laws of the land, and the actual violation of those laws, are chargeable directly to the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. The men who compose and dominate that body, therefore, are the real criminals, whom the real patriots of this country must hold responsible for the crimes which are being committed in Los Angeles in the name of patriotism.

Americans interested in genuine Americanism may as well get this matter straight now as later. Radical theorists are inclined vaguely to blame the capitalist system for the inhumanities and injustice everywhere evident. In part, they are right. But guilt also is personal. Some person or group of persons in a measure control and direct the activities of the capitalist system. Clearly, that person is not a workman, nor is that group of persons a working class organization. Capitalism is run by the capitalists for the beneficiaries of the system.

Mathew Schmidt, sentenced to San Quentin prison for life for complicity in the destruction of the Los Angeles Times building 20 years ago, from his wealth of experience and understanding, to members of the I. W. W., just arrived to begin prison terms, said:

"Here, comrades, don't make fools of yourselves. Don't deliberately disregard prison rules or fight prison guards. These rules were made before you came, and they were made to be enforced. The guards are workmen like yourselves. While they may not know it, their interests are your interests, and with all members of the working class their destiny is common. Don't fight them; educate them. First, make yourselves familiar with the historic process. Study to understand the necessity of class solidarity and will be equipped to make intelligent and effective war upon the real enemies of your class—which is the privileged or capitalist class."

Three Reasons for Reign of Terror. There are three reasons or explanations which throw light upon the present campaign to nullify the federal Constitution in the matter of suppressing free speech, free press and free public assembly in Los Angeles and vicinity. For this campaign of suppression by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce is an undeniable nullification of constitutional rights. Capt. Hynes and his Red Squad are plain violators of the law, as every student of the Constitution knows; but back of these law violations are the members of the Chamber of Commerce who give them confidence and authority. It is well to ascertain why this reign of lawlessness has been let loose upon the community.

With every state in the Union, California is in the trough of a tremendous industrial depression. Realty values have slumped 50 percent since 1929. Every town and city in the state is facing bankruptcy as a result of their several efforts to care for the unemployed. Two hundred thousand men and women are out of work in Los Angeles, and, destitute, they are on the verge of starvation,

Bankers, business men, realty operators, industrialists—all well-to-do men and women—are panic-stricken over conditions and are desperately resolved to try to do something to change the prospect. Unable and unwilling to honestly and accurately analyze the situation and initiate a remedy which will really count, the bankers and business men—all members of the Chamber of Commerce—have decided to inaugurate a characteristically capitalist procedure, which is one of fraud and graft.

They are going to capitalize the international Olympic games which are to be held in Los Angeles next year, and out of this capitalization retrieve their depleted fortunes at public expense. They propose to inflate the value of their real estate holdings and unload them on gullible admirers of California scenery whom they expect to flock here from every quarter of the globe. They intend to promote fraudulent corporations of every plausible character and sell worthless stock to every sucker who will buy. Mines, oil, orange land, and sea-view resident sites are some of the basic enterprises they propose to incorporate and from which they expect to reap huge fortunes. These basic enterprises, be it remembered, have been incorporated and promoted many times heretofore, and the stock sold to credulous newcomers who invariably lost everything they invested; but that makes no difference with the present members of the Chamber of Commerce. With Barium they figure that not one sucker but a thousand suckers are born every minute around this mundane sphere, and they are planning to entrap and skin a measurable number.

Looking for Moneyed Suckers. Already alluring advertisements are being placed with eastern and European newspapers and magazines. Hundreds of thousands of dollars are being spent to advertise the glories of California, and special emphasis is placed upon the advisability of all who can afford it to be present during the Olympic games. This money is being handled by the All Year Club, a subsidiary of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. In these advertisements care is taken to warn propertyless workmen to keep away from California, as the state already has her quota of men out of work. Only the well-to-do are invited.

In furtherance of the general scheme it is proposed to make of Los Angeles a wide-open city next year. Bootleggers, gamblers, thieves of every character and women of every virtue will be permitted to ply their respective callings, subject, of course, to the necessity of dividing their swag with the promoters and profiteers of the Olympic games. The Chamber of Commerce gentlemen, to guarantee the success of the biggest financial killing of their lives, also intend to dominate the city and county authorities. They expect to own and control, as they do, the mayor and police department, the sheriff's office and the district attorney of Los Angeles county. Already, they have the governor on their side, and through the agencies of the other law enforcing agencies of the state. A grand saturation in Los Angeles during 1932 is the program deliberately projected by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce—a program which they expect to carry through to success, and which they can and will carry through but for one thing: public exposure and condemnation by liberal and radical agitators, whose respect for the federal Constitution and whose love of law and order and the plain, common decencies of life certainly will impel them to cry out against the whole damnable infamy.

Fear Exposure by Radicals. Most of the priests and preachers and virtually all of the newspapers and other local agencies of expression right now are intimidated and silenced. The only persons who dare to combat the machinations of the Chamber of Commerce and let the people of the United States and the world know what is afoot are the liberal and radical speakers and writers in Los Angeles. Therefore, the Chamber of Commerce has decreed that these speakers and writers, too, must be silenced and, if necessary, crushed.

Reading the private home of a well-known radical night before last, Capt. Hynes, in his "search for evidence," said:

"I am going to crush you damned agitators if I have to wade through blood to do it!"

What is just related is the first reason for and explanation of the present crusade to suppress free expression and drive from Los Angeles those who engage in it. This reason and explanation are given with a local color. The second reason and explanation have to do with the national situation.

The American Plunderbund, aware of the presence of 10,000,000 unemployed men and women and the existence of millions of others whose jobs are insecure to the point of severance, and fearful of the education which radical agitators might convey, has determined to stop that education by jailing and otherwise silencing every conscientious agitator in America. To that end the Plunderbund is forcing the active cooperation of the press, the pulpit, the radio

and every other capitalistic medium of information by means of which public opinion is formed and aroused.

Los Angeles is not the only center of free speech suppression in the United States. For the moment it is merely the cynosure of every radical eye. Harlan, Ky., is another plague spot where the hirelings of the Plunderbund have extinguished the spirit of true Americanism and nailed to the cross of avarice and greed the interests of the people. To Los Angeles nor Harlan has any present place in the original American scheme. The high-handed procedure of the owners and rulers of both communities has placed them in a position where real American principles have ceased to operate. Unscrupulous men of wealth and design are controlling both the city and the town, and the purpose and idealism of the founding fathers of this Republic have departed.

American Fascism Being Organized. From one end of this country to the other the machinations of the Plunderbund are manifest. Slowly at first, but quickly now, the slimy serpent of plutocratic despotism is coiling itself about the Goddess of Liberty, and every principle and every ideal for which for a century she stood is being strangled to death. The Fish Commission was but one factor of many whose mission and purpose are to nullify the federal Constitution and make the laws thereof operate only and wholly to safeguard and perpetuate the interests and the power of the Plunderbund.

A Fascist movement of the American Legion, whose leaders are either plutocrats or have been subsidized by the plutocracy, is being organized by the Plunderbund. Today this organization is almost complete. Into every center of social disturbance or where the plain people assemble to demand their rights, the Plunderbund expects to throw the American Legion, and with it grind to powder every patriot who seeks to awaken and arouse the workers to their peril. The American Legion, therefore, is being projected into the arena of unrest as the iron heel of the Plunderbund in its determination to keep its stolen wealth and hold the workers down.

Capt. Hynes and his Red Squad are the immediate agents of the Los Angeles Plunderbund. When the Red Squad feels itself unable to handle the situation members of the American Legion are called upon for assistance. Workers, all for the most part, they have degenerated into the servile mercenaries of capitalism. Every raid they make upon the headquarters of liberalism or radicalism, or into the private homes of liberals and radicals, reacts against them, if they but knew it, much more powerfully than against the objects of their official wrath.

Brewing War on Soviet Union. The last and possibly the greatest reason for the nullification of the Constitution of the United States respecting free speech and free assembly, and the virtual abrogation of the rights of American citizenship by brute force at the hands of Capt. Hynes and his Red Squad, aided and abetted as they are by members of the American Legion, is the open secret in the councils of American diplomacy that this country is preparing to precipitate itself into the cauldron of international war. The Soviet Union is a thorn in the side of international capitalism. So long as the Workers' Republic endures in the Land of the Soviets the American Plunderbund is not safe. Come war or woe, whether victory or destruction, the interests of the Plunderbund demand that the nationals of this country pit themselves upon the field of battle against the nationals of the Soviet Union to decide the issue and fate of capitalism vs. communism.

War is the natural expression of capitalism, wrote Scott Nearing in a recent letter. So long as the capitalist system of private ownership for private profit continues national antagonisms will exist, and these antagonisms always generate and produce war. International war is the only solution of the domestic depression the Plunderbund knows or will countenance. Of all the great nations of earth, as already indicated, the Soviet Union is the nation the American Plunderbund most hates. Therefore war against the workers of the Soviet Union will be declared by the aristocrats of privilege to be fought by the workers of America to their own undoing and for the preservation of the privileges of the Plunderbund.

To allay suspicion, to put down discontent, to thwart a possible uprising of the working classes, to mold public opinion and whip it into shape for war endorsement to carry out the damnable conspiracy against the workers of the Soviet Union, to drive the workers of this country unresistingly to the shambles, it is necessary that the Constitutional rights of American citizens shall be abolished. The Plunderbund has decreed it; Capt. Hynes and his Los Angeles Red Squad are executing the decree in southern California.

A vote for a capitalist politician is a vote for unemployment, breadlines, mass poverty, violence toward protesting workers and—climax of capitalist insanity—the ravages of war.

"INCENTIVE" under capitalism: Starve for a few years and you may have a job, provided you still have enough strength to work.

## "HIGHBROW GRAFTERS"

Mayor Daniel W. Hoan, of Milwaukee, addressed the members of the Chicago Real Estate Board a few days ago in their meeting room on Monroe street. I had a back seat and listened with thrilled interest to Dan tell these gentlemen just what is the matter with Chicago.

"The world is pretty familiar with the lowbrow grafter," said Hoan, "and there is much noise made in the newspapers when the city or national government goes after him, but the real trouble is caused by the highbrow grafter. He is the fellow who is doing the real hurt to state and nation."

And then out of his experience in helping administer the affairs of Milwaukee for over 20 years, he told these real estate men how to get "a dollar's worth of value from each taxpayer's dollar." He traced the struggles of Milwaukee, under the former Rose administration (which finds its counterpart in the misadministrations under which Chicago has suffered for years) to the present. He stressed the limitations of the Socialist administration under the laws of the state and nation, pointing out that after all there was little that could be done other than an honest administration of these laws, and the honest expenditure of the money collected in taxes from the city of Milwaukee.

The fact that Milwaukee is known as the best administered city in the nation, that its financial credit is of the highest, that its police force actually suppresses crime, and that it pays its way as it goes, is eloquent testimony to the success of the Socialists in office, none of whom had any experience in city affairs until called upon to take over the reins of a city bankrupt after years of Republican-Democratic misrule.

"How did you get rid of the gangsters?" asked someone in the audience, after the mayor had finished his remarks. There was dead silence for a moment—this looked like a poser.

"We have 65 playgrounds," said Hoan, "and these playgrounds are administered by men and women trained to look after children, not by red-nosed politicians. And we have succeeded in taking the boys and girls off the streets, and have given them something to do. If you keep the boys busy at work you destroy the gangster before it has a chance to get a foothold. And we keep our schoolhouses open day and night, if necessary. Meetings of all kinds are encouraged and politics is discussed by the growing boys and girls along with their parents. There was a lot of opposition to opening the schools of Milwaukee to political meetings. But if politics is so rotten it can't be discussed in the schoolhouses, then politics, as we know it today, should be thrown into the discard. Another factor in getting rid of the gangster is that we have a police force that does not work in collaboration with the gangster boss. Let me tell you something, and here Dan was impressive, 'the gangster can't exist anywhere on this earth if he hasn't a pull with the politicians in control of the city's affairs!'"

Milwaukee got rid of losses in city work by abolishing the contract system, and doing the work direct. This was a sad blow to the hangers-on around the city hall, but it suited the citizens of Milwaukee so well that they have continued to reelect the Socialist mayor and a sufficient number of aldermen to give the city a decidedly socialistic slant for nearly 20 years.

Emil Seidel, Socialist, was elected in 1910, and defeated by a coalition candidate in 1912. The politicians, in full control, went gleefully to the legislature and had the mayor's term stretched out to four years. It looked like the gang was back in power again, and how they licked their chops!

At the close of Dan's speech, an elderly member of the Chicago Real Estate Board arose and said: "I attended the banquet in Milwaukee celebrating the return of the Republicans and Democrats to power. The successful candidate on the combination ticket solemnly promised that from then on (this was 1912) Milwaukee would never have another Socialist mayor. You see how well he kept his pledge," and he smiled as he pointed to Hoan, while the crowd laughed heartily.

It was interesting to watch the expressions on the faces of some of the members of the audience, many of whom undoubtedly belonged to the highbrow fraternity!

Hoan closed his remarks by reading a letter from the executive committee of the hosiery workers, 1,600 of whom had been out on strike, thanking the city administration for the help that had been given them. The strike was settled without a single blow being struck by a policeman, or an arrest being made. Hoan contrasted this record with the record made by the police force in Philadelphia where more than 1,000 strikers were arrested during the textile strike in that city, and many heads were clubbed and men and women thrown in jail. This didn't go over so well with the audience.

Hoan pointed out pretty clearly that a city administration can do little in times of industrial depression in obtaining jobs for the unemployed. A little extra work and a careful conservation of the city funds will help, but if we are to abolish unemployment and all its evils the working class must take over state and nation.

## We Have the Facts!

We have the facts completely to prove everything we shall tell about Hoover's record in our Hoover Racketeering Edition of December 26. We fully appreciate the astounding character of the stories we shall publish. These stories will be hard for the average American to believe—and they couldn't gain credence if it were not that we do have the facts. To prove our sincerity and the strength of our position, we are sending to President Hoover by air mail a set of the page proofs of this edition and giving him a chance to disprove these facts if he can. We don't want a general denial. We challenge President Hoover to be as specific in his disproval (if he should offer any) as we are in our proof. We repeat that we have the facts. Your job is to help us get these facts into the hands of the American voters. Make this the biggest edition of The Freeman, sweeping the country, finally and completely unmasking the fraud who sits in the White House.

as well as the city. Milwaukee is a sizeable city and I thought, as I heard Comrade Hoan unfold the story of the struggles of the Socialists, that they were getting some fine experience in the administration of city affairs, which can be used to good advantage when we move on to Washington.

It gave me a thrill to remember that the first job I did on the old Appeal, back in 1900, was to "make up" the Milwaukee edition of the Appeal to Reason, which was the first Socialist paper printed in the English language to be circulated in Milwaukee. Its columns were edited by Frederick Heath, who is still doing yeoman service in the cause of the working class.

What We Shall Prove in Our Hoover Racketeering Edition (Dated December 26—Ready December 14)

In its Hoover Racketeering Edition of December 26 The Freeman will prove—

- 1 That Herbert Hoover and a group of unscrupulous hi-jackers of finance stole an amount estimated to have been a hundred million dollars from the English investing public, by means of fraudulent reports of rich tin lodes in Nigeria, Africa.
- 2 That Herbert Hoover and his racketeering associates played fast and loose with reports about the values, from time to time, of various gold mines in West Australia; using secret reports for their own dealings in stocks of these mines, while causing to be published untrue reports, excessively bad or excessively good according to the purpose which the gang had at the moment of running stocks up or down.
- 3 That Herbert Hoover and his various pals in the mining stock game were in the habit of using the assets of rich mining companies under their control to float strings of wildcat companies, thus profiting for themselves through the deliberate mishandling of the ordinary shareholders' investments.
- 4 That Herbert Hoover and his confederates ordered mines under their control to be skimped in material necessary for the safety of the miners—that they caused these mines to be made death traps for the miners—and they imported cheap Italian labor into West Australia, under the notorious contract system, with the aim of beating down the wages of English and Australian mine workers.
- 5 That Herbert Hoover and a group of fellow rogues and bloodsuckers engaged in an infamous slave-trading deal, luring Chinese coolies into crowded ships and selling them to slavery in South African mines, among these mines being certain properties controlled by Hoover's company.
- 6 That Herbert Hoover, throughout a 20-year career of racketeering, had for his intimate "business" associates in one brazen swindle after another as vicious and heartless and unprincipled a gang of scoundrels as ever conspired to perpetrate highway robbery in the world of capitalist finance.

This is only a partial outline of the amazing facts which will be disclosed fully in our Hoover Racketeering Edition of December 26. Other true revelations about Hoover's career will be published in that edition. More inside facts will be given about the Chinese mining swindle—verifying and adding to the information published in past issues of The Freeman. We shall also make it clear that in his 20 years of racketeering Herbert Hoover was simply playing the crooked game of capitalism. This is why capitalism wants to keep Hoover in the White House. This is why Hoover defends capitalism. This is why we should do our utmost to expose Hoover and thus effectively expose capitalism.

And remember—Hoover will receive by air mail a set of page proofs of the Hoover Racketeering Edition of December 26 and thus will be given in advance the opportunity to deny or to refute the statements we make—if he dares or if he can!

Use the order blank below to get a tremendous nation-wide circulation for our Hoover Racketeering Edition.

## ORDER BLANK FOR HOOVER RACKETEERING EDITION OF DECEMBER 26

The American Freeman, Girard, Kansas  
Here is my help in getting 100,000 circulation for the Hoover Racketeering Edition of December 26. I am using the method marked below.

Method No. 1. Send me a bundle of . . . . . copies of the Hoover Racketeering Edition, at 2c per copy, minimum order 50 copies, for which I am enclosing \$ . . . . .

Method No. 2. Send . . . . . copies of the Hoover Racketeering Edition to the enclosed names and addresses, for which I am enclosing \$ . . . . . which pays for the papers and the mailing at the rate of 2c a copy.

Method No. 3. I am enclosing \$ . . . . . which is to pay for your mailing copies of the Hoover Racketeering Edition to good names in your possession, said copies being paid for at the rate of 2c a copy.

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TOUR OF AMERICA SHOWS THAT CAPITALISM IS IN COLLAPSE

BY GEORGE H. SHOAF
A feeling of helplessness on their part to do anything that will end the present economic depression—this, with a vast amount of ignorance among the people concerning the causes of the depression, together with widespread unemployment and bitter personal poverty, constitute the outstanding phenomena observed and experienced on a recent auto tour which included the Pacific Coast region and the western middle states to and through Ohio.

The fact that the people everywhere want to know why it is that the blight of unemployment and economic distress has come upon them, and the further fact that so little is being done anywhere by anybody to give them real enlightenment, constitute another phenomena of equally outstanding importance.

Times are hard, undeniably hard, from where the waves of the Pacific beat upon the shore lines of California, Oregon and Washington to the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers at Pittsburgh, Pa., and beyond, and unemployment is general and immense. I have visited these sections this past summer and fall, have observed conditions with my own eyes, and I know whereof I write. The depression is not a fictitious democracy concocted by imaginative Democrats, wherewith to plague Hoover Republicans; it is a shameful and damning fact.

Poverty Stalks the Land
Large numbers of men are angry and desperate. Many of them are openly advocating revolution and civil war. They know nothing of the system which grinds out the inequalities of wealth and poverty—all they know is that they are without work and starving, and that in a land of plenty with millionaires and billionaires splurging at the top. Disinherited families in dilapidated autos roamed the country searching for work and something to eat. The hunted, haunted look which featured the faces of the masculine heads of these families, and the despairing appearance of their withered wives and undernourished children, combined to make a picture the itinerant observer cannot soon forget.

Among other measures advocated were a tariff change, international disarmament, a stiff foreign war that would put the unemployed into the army, and two or three were outspoken for an acceptance of the situation with Christian resignation, claiming that the depression was sent by Jehovah as a blessing in disguise.

Are Friendly to Soviet Union
Curiously interesting is the fact that I found quite a number of the men sympathetic toward Soviet Russia and plainly anxious to see the Soviet experiment succeed. Despite the lying propaganda by the capitalist press to discredit and misrepresent the activities and purposes of the Russian workers, these sympathizers informed me that news of Soviet success was breaking through; and the news that the workers of Russia were all working while ten million Americans were without jobs contributed no little toward increasing the disaffection with present conditions which existed among men of their acquaintance.

Diligent inquiry failed to unearth a solitary man who had ever heard of the American Freeman, or who had ever seen or read a Socialist publication. One man told me his father was a Socialist and used to subscribe for the Appeal to Reason. Every one with whom I talked had heard of Eugene V. Debs, but not one man had an intelligent conception of the Socialist philosophy, program or objective. The few more knowing ones were quite sure that Soviet Russia was a country in which the working class had come into their own through revolution, but they were totally ignorant of the economic foundation whereon the Soviet Republic is being built.

At Shamrock, Texas, a crowd similar in size and character to the Stroud aggregation was trying to muscle in on jobs of road construction. It was pitiful to witness the sight of big strong white men underbidding each other in the matter of wages in order to secure jobs whereby they might live. Various subterfuges were resorted to by men who sought to persuade the bosses to give them work—and what common menial work it was after it was secured! Actually, I discovered that influence, and pull and occasionally bribes were necessary to land a job of working with a pick and shovel!

Cotton picking through Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and states farther south and east brought the pickers 35 and 50 cents a hundred pounds. A new recruit, by working from daylight to dark, might pick from 75 to 100 pounds of cotton a day—and it is tedious and back-breaking slavery beneath a shadeless sun. In my younger days I use to pick cotton but I never could pick more than 150 pounds in a 12-hour day. A man, wife and children, all working laboriously, can average one person's wages. I asked one picker what he was going to do with his savings at the end of the cotton picking season. He grinned.

The American Freeman is a paper of enlightened protest against injustice, against exploitation, against conditions of appalling distress, against a system of economic tyranny and misrule which is in its very nature profoundly and widely inimical to the welfare of the American people. All who believe in the protest that promotes progress should subscribe for The American Freeman at only \$1 for a year's subscription (or \$1.50 in Canada and other foreign countries). Use the blank below.

possibly a crime had been committed or an accident had occurred, I stopped and asked a bystander why the men were gathered. If I live to be a thousand years old I shall never forget the man's tone of voice and my reaction when he answered: "They're tryin' to hire out!"

Further interrogation revealed that an oil company was preparing to lay a pipeline through that district and had advertised for 40 laborers. Three hundred men responded. I surveyed the scene and studied the faces and appearance of the applicants. They were all white and of native American stock. Their ages ranged from 18 to 40 years. Splendid specimens of physical manhood, they were a credit to the country which gave them birth. From their youth each of them had been taught that their country was a land of liberty and opportunity, that their government was the finest and best that could be devised, that a millionaire's fortune or the presidency of the United States awaited him who took the liberty to seize opportunity and energetically went forward to success, and that if failure was his position no one was to blame but himself.

ingly replied that there were not going to be any savings.
Are Treated Like Cooles
The Timken Roller Bearing Company in Columbus, Ohio, has adopted the rotating process of giving its men two days' work each week. Scores of industrial plants in Indianapolis, St. Louis, Kansas City and smaller industrial centers are closed down completely, with their former employees wondering what next to do. Wage reductions, commenced more than a year ago, are proceeding apace, the effect, of course, being to diminish the purchasing power of the working classes, with the consequent lowering of living standards. To the matter-of-fact observer it looks as if the Chinaizing of the common people of the United States is well under way. In the Galena district in southwest Missouri it was informed that common laborers at fifty cents a day could be had in abundance.

Conditions in Kansas and Nebraska are truly deplorable, and how the people are going to weather the winter is a mystery. Prices for all sorts of products are the lowest in the history of these states. Many farmers have their wheat piled high on their farms in the open, unable to sell it at the amazing price of 25 cents a bushel. The cantaloupe growers in Colorado and western Kansas were forced to market their crops at a loss. Through these states the smaller restaurants and country hotels serve fairly good meals at 25 cents a meal. Good crops of fruit and vegetables helped the situation in Missouri, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio; but the people cannot live on fruit exclusively through the winter. It is an interesting commentary on the operation and integrity of the capitalist system that this year, when the fruit growers had the most bountiful crops, those who grew and owned them are experiencing poverty more terrible than any they ever knew before. A fruit grower in southern Illinois told me that he went \$3,000 in the hole as a result of the huge crop of peaches, apples and grapes he had grown, and the probability was he would be compelled to relinquish the ownership of his farm. His experience, he said, was general among all fruit growers in his section of the state.

Idle Freight Cars Everywhere
Significant of the curtailment of railway freight traffic is the large number of empty cars on every siding of the Santa Fe tracks from San Bernardino, Calif., to points in western Kansas. These cars, 90 to each siding, were placed where they are in California, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Kansas, presumably because the dry weather in these states is conducive to their preservation. However, an old railroad employe of the Pennsylvania system, residing in Coshocton, Ohio, pointed out to me that traffic conditions on his road are just as bad, and that idle freight cars are everywhere on every siding.

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Each village in Russia is controlled by its local soviet, to which representative people in the community are elected. Not all of these people elected to the local soviets are Communists. But usually the majority in the soviets are Communists because, in the Soviet Union, the Communists are now the most active and the most representative men and women in the community.
These local soviets elect in turn to the county soviets. The county soviets elect to the district soviets (and the Russian district virtually means state). The district soviets elect to the different republics in the Soviet Union. Then these republics—the Ukraine, White Russia, the Caucasus and over one hundred others—elect to the All-Union Congress of Soviets which, as I have explained, elects its Central Executive Committee.
The Position of the Commissars
This Central Executive Committee has full powers, legislative and executive, between sessions of the All-Union Congress of Soviets. Its chairman, Kalinin, is therefore in a very powerful position. He is like a President.

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Need I mention or describe the bread lines that met my horrified gaze? From Seattle, Wash., to Los Angeles, to Columbus, Ohio, and on to Pittsburgh, Pa., it was one continuous line, replete with men and women of American origin, in the veins of many of whom flowed the blood of patriots and fighters who died to establish and preserve this Republic. Many of these charity applicants were unshamed as they took the bread and soup handed out so condescendingly; others swallowed their pride with difficulty as they drove their miserable bodies to accept the food necessary to sustain life. Stories galore came to me en route of families starving almost to death, but acknowledging their need. I arrived at Columbus, Ohio, three days after a woman relative by marriage attempted to kill her children and herself by turning on the gas. Her husband without work, she could no longer endure the agony of seeing her four children slowly starve, and so she resorted to suicide. Timely discovery by a neighbor prevented a tragedy.

Hoover's "Rugged Individualism"
To preserve the fiction of "rugged individualism," the slave-driving, millionaire president of the United States urges each community, "in the name of Christ," to care for its own poor. Such preaching exactly suits the Beverly Hills community in Los Angeles where dwell the plutocratic rich; the residents of Beverly Hills boast their ability to easily care for their own poor, for they have none. In the Los Angeles East Side, however, a different situation exists. In this section none dwell but the poor. A few have work; large numbers are without work. Is it fair to force the working poor to divide their meager earnings with the workless poor, and let the rich escape their burden of responsibility? Yet, just this proposition has been put up to the people of this country by the political executive of the ruling class in an effort to compel the impoverished poor to care for the victims of the capitalist system, while the beneficiaries of the system go free. Could affluence be more brazen? Could official gall be more sublimely supreme?

Evidences of the breakdown of capitalism are on every hand. The cry of "prosperity around the corner" echoes the hollowness of its own mockery. In all the history of this nation never was poverty more acute or distress more distracting. The exactions of the community chests throughout the land are a damaging admission of the fact. The concentration of wealth—greater than any nation ever knew—before—into the hands of a special class is the essence of capitalist infamy, and is the sure forerunner of capitalism's fall.

Comrades of the working class and gentlemen of the plundering class, this crisis reveals not only the intellectual bankruptcy of plutocracy, but it discloses the inability of capitalism to stage a comeback. Capitalism is limping because it is hurt. Let radicals everywhere unite and belabor the fool thing with blows until it is completely down and out. Not its life, but its death, is what is most needed now! Our immediate need is a strong press, in order to enlighten the victims of capitalism. This work

must be done today—immediately. It is the duty of all comrades to work hard and fast in the great task of bringing new readers to the radical press.

Who Is Stalin?
By Marcet Haldeman-Julius
Leningrad, October 28.
To the Readers of The American Freeman—
Dear Friends:
If I ask you, "Who is Stalin?" most of you will answer promptly, "The dictator of Russia." Some of you qualify this by saying, "The proletarian dictator of Russia."
This is

# Fighting in Manchuria May Threaten World War Between Capitalism and Communism!

It is not safe to regard the Manchurian trouble between Japan and China, as merely a minor, local clash. Events are shaping ominously there; the strife continues and grows worse; and one of the possibilities which we cannot afford to ignore, and which we should weigh carefully, is that we may be witnessing the origins of another terrific World War.

It is significant that, despite their polite protestations, none of the great powers has genuinely and firmly attempted to halt the aggressions of the Japanese militarists. China appealed to the League of Nations; and the League acted with what, on the surface, appeared to be singular timidity and irresolution. It can hardly be said that the League acted. It simply went through a few superficial, formal and unconvincing gestures.

Under the surface of secret diplomacy, perhaps the League (dominated as it is by the great powers, especially by France) is well aware of the plans for a new World War and does not wish to interrupt these plans. After a good deal of palavering (the real talk being

in secret), with reports of optimism one day and pessimism the next, the League did say that Japan should evacuate Manchuria by November 16. Immediately Japan declared that she would not do so; and November 16 actually found more Japanese troops in the war zone and a more belligerent and dangerous situation than when these events were first officially called to the attention of the League.

The spokesmen of the great powers, including our own Secretary of State Stimson, have persisted in saying that a state of war does not exist in Manchuria; yet the Japanese and Chinese soldiers go on fighting and each day's newspaper has a big story about the hostilities. If this is not war, can it be called peace?

We are being treated to the usual hypocrisy of statesmen. It is well for American citizens to note that our government has taken a secret part in this crisis. Aside from the proposals that have been made openly—or that have been revealed to the public, whether in their full and true character we do not know—

Secretary of State Stimson has sent secret communications to the Japanese government and has held secret conferences in Washington with the Japanese ambassador, with Premier Laval of France and now with Premier Grandi of Italy. President Hoover has ordered these secret conferences and has participated in them.

And, finally, the most sinister development of all is the effort to drag the Soviet Union into the Manchurian strife. It seems that the Japanese have deliberately tried to provoke Soviet interference or some sign from the Soviet government that could be interpreted as hostile. We have an acute fear and suspicion that Japan, with the encouragement of the United States and France, is maneuvering to begin a World War which will involve the Soviet Union while it is in the very midst of the five-year plan.

Our suspicion is not lessened by the fact (which will be explained fully in our Hoover Racketeering Edition of December 26) that one of President Hoover's big mining stock deals—based not on property owned in Russia by his

companies but on Russian concessions—was spoiled by the Russian revolution. Does Hoover, the racketeer, want revenge on the Soviet Union for stopping his particular racket along with the entire system of capitalistic racketeering as formerly plied in Russia?

This would mean a World War between capitalism and communism. The workers of the capitalist nations would be ordered to sacrifice their lives in a gigantic conspiracy to destroy the first workers' republic in the history of the world. Recognizing that the Soviet Union is already demonstrating the economic superiority of its collectivistic system, the nations of capitalism may even now be planning a desperate and relentless military warfare against the workers' republic.

It is well known that the Soviet government does not wish war, but on the contrary is exceedingly anxious for peace. The Soviet government is engaged in the tremendous, useful enterprise of building an economic system for the workers. Its whole aim is constructive,

not destructive. Do the capitalist governments, frantic in the face of their own economic failure but determined to hold their powers of misrule and exploitation, intend to throw all their strength into an onslaught upon the growing structure of communism before that structure, promising new hope for the world's workers but foreshadowing the doom of capitalism, can be completed and made too solid for successful attack?

Our readers are urged to bear these things in mind and to remember also that war is the historic means of getting rid of a capitalistic "surplus" and of submerging, beneath patriotic enthusiasm and military dictatorship, the threatening discontent of an economic crisis.

The world is passing through intensely critical times; and it was never so important that the true meaning of events should be made wholly clear to the people. In defense of civilization, we must act quickly and spread our messages rapidly and widely to educate the people.

## Freeman Army

When you send a list of subs to The Freeman please mark those you know to be Socialists with an "S" after the name. This name will be added to our Army list, and a new helmer will be in the ranks to push the good work along. Don't overlook this important matter.

Comrade Erickson, from out in Western Kansas, dropped in on us last week in person, bringing a nice list of subs. Erickson is one of the old-time cattle and sheep men, and still knows the business. Incidentally he thinks he ought to help convert the state to Socialism. The lists already sent in are just the beginning—more to follow, which is mighty good news to the blue-eyed scribe who presides over the subscription desk.

Orders for sub cards were received from: Alex Appl, Kans.; Adolf Korn, Fla.; Eric Danielson, Conn.; W. H. Wright, Ill.; Louis Boss, Mo.; Vincent S. Vitti, N. Y.; C. V. Wiloughby, Calif.; O. S. Samuels, Calif.; B. N. Freeman, Ill.; Chas. Cunningham, Pa.; J. J. Miller, Pa.; W. E. Stambaugh, Pa.; John Salatin, N. Y.; Chas. S. Gause, Pa.; Stanley Oeda, Pa.; Norman P. Foster, Pa.; W. Wood, Ore.; Dr. J. E. Miller, Ia.; Thos. Tangney, Ia.; Albert C. Miller, Conn.; Ellis North Rice, D. C.; A. L. Liddell, Tex.; N. H. Park, Minn.; Frank C. Metzger, N. Y.; Ralph F. Watson, Ill.; O. H. Opsahl, Minn.; J. A. Lundquist, Minn.; H. U. Jamison, Ill.; L. O. Breitenbacher, Mo.; Jerry Pryor, Colo.; John M. Work, Wis.; N. S. Kant, Neb.; J. Prichard, W. Va.

We feel confident that the Dec. 26 Hoover Racketeering Edition will be widely circulated, judging from the early response to our announcement. The first order came from D. T. Snyder, Mo., who sent \$1 for a bundle of 50 and \$1 to pay for sending copies to good names in our possession. T. C. Haller, Mo., 21 years old, comes in with the second order, contributing \$1 under Meth. No. 3 to help boost the circulation of the Hoover edition. The following each gave \$1 under Method No. 3 to help boost this great special edition: E. J. Brand, N. Y.; J. E. Whitmore, Pa.; S. D. Jos. M. Jacob, Ind.; A. L. Day, Mich.; Henri Letord, Tex.; G. A. Norris, Iowa; John Erben, Jr., Pa.; \$2 from Claus Ernst, Neb.; Julius Janowitz, N. Y.; W. T. DeCoster, Minn. \$5 from John Marleman, Colo.

Clubs of subs, ranging in size from four to 30, were received from: J. A. Shown, Okla.; G. E. Dalley, N. Y.; H. E. Whitmore, Pa.; Ed. Johnson, N. Y.; J. E. Whitmore, Pa.; R. C. Sanders, La.; C. J. Spears, Ind.; Mint Nauta, Mich.; Mrs. P. T. Brookdale, Ill.; H. Allen, Tex.; Bill Krepps, Calif.; F. H. Shuler, Kans.; Kate A. Gardner, Kans.; Geo. H. Shoaf, Calif.; Frank H. Lynch, Iowa; J. A. Hardman, Tex.; W. Henry Thompson, N. Y.; Mrs. J. W. Blair, Kans.; Robt. L. Biggs, Ind.; E. O. C. Calif.; Gilbert Gunderson, Calif.; Fred Bonker, N. D.; E. J. Bresina, O.; W. W. Walker, Ky.; A. E. Trues, Calif.; N. S. D. C. H. E. Per, Ill.; Clinton Bowen, N. Y.; Jos. Koukal, Conn.; H. D. Landes, Mich.; S. P. Stevan, Neb.; W. W. Walker, Mich.; F. C. Stumpf, O.; E. G. Nelson, Calif.; Chas. Cunningham, Pa.; A. L. Badger, Calif.; Hans Hullen, Minn.; Raymond P. Myers, Ill.

D. H. Ashley, Ind.; W. J. Sanderson, Ill.; Henning Palm, O.; P. A. Winblad, N. Y.; A. H. A. Hoyle, Kans.; Geo. Klemmde, Minn.; George O. Alex. Richtel, Kans.; E. Linden Draper, O.; Carl Bloedau, Wis.; J. Henry Stump, Pa.; Henry Busch, Pa.; J. W. Miller, Calif.; Charles L. Heller, Pa.; F. Louis Majors, Pa.; J. Solberg, Alaska; Geo. Marville, Mass.; V. E. Gould, Ore.; Wayne Fisher, Wis.; D. E. Welsh, Calif.; Chas. C. Krenson, Mont.; Harold Pratt, N. Y.; Luis A. Garcia, Porto Rico; R. R. Whitney, Minn.; James Martin, N. Y.; Felix Jones, Ga.; O. J. Bonna, Wis.; L. E. Forrester, Kans.; S. F. Childs, Wis.; A. W. Hammerstedt, N. Y.; M. Bodamer, Calif.; N. T. Harris, Pa.; Mrs. Evelyn W. Evans, Calif.; Dr. W. M. A. Donovan, Mass.; John C. Whitehead, Calif.; S. H. Smith, Calif.; O. K. Enobe, Calif.; J. R. Ziglar, Can.; A. Holland, Ohio.

The Freeman's deficit is now being tackled successfully. The favorite methods at this time are as follows: Clubs of 25-week subs at 25c each, in clubs of four or more. Contributions to Meth. No. 3 to help pay for sending free copies of the Freeman to good names in our possession. Here are the latest under Meth. No. 3: \$1 from the following: Mrs. Carl E. Cartmel, Fla.; W. E. Kellough, Va.; Ter. Briggs, N. J.; Stanley Greene, Iowa; P. C. Gassen, Calif.; R. A. Glick, Mo.; J. L. Gunn, Utah; L. L. Daniels, Kans.; H. G. Alexander, D. C.; Chas. A. Flint, Calif.; Dr. A. F. Green, O.; Max Curtz, Calif.; Palmer Overard, N. Y.; Arthur G. Cant, Neb.; Chas. H. C. Canada; Harvey L. Burkhead, Colo.; Eric Fellman, Kans.; G. R. Freeman, Ohio; B. S. Cox, Miss.; D. C. Drake, O. \$2 from Frank Favre, Ind.; Albert Smilgoff, Ill.; Dennis Coffey, Mass.; Chas. Hamblin, Mass.; Emil Eckhardt, N. Y. \$5 from Amber Groh, Mich.; Wm. P. Haisworth, Mass. \$2.75 from C. H. Foeter, N. Y.

"Put me down for 50 copies of the Hoover Racketeering Edition of Dec. 26. Give him Hell. I'm young for the Cooperative Commonwealth," writes M. Ketter, Ark.

J. Henry Stump, the Socialist mayor of Reading, Pa., joins the Army with a club of 133 worth of Freeman subs. He writes: "The Democrats and Republicans in a solid union defeated us by about 3,000 votes. We received the highest vote ever polled in this city by the Socialists, having received 2,000 votes. The best thing that has happened since when we were elected to office. We were up against all the forces of capitalism and capitalism has been defeated. The church played the most important part against us. But the defeat has not affected us adversely as the comrades are in a better fighting mood than before the election. In fact, all the branches are taking in new members since the election."

H. R. Edward, Calif., joins the Bundle Brigade with an order for 50 copies of the Nov. 7 Freeman. C. V. Willoughby, Calif., also qualifies by ordering a bundle of five Freeman for six months, for which he remits \$1. He writes and adds: "Here is a dollar of the means to bring about a great and powerful Freeman."

Stanley Greene, Iowa, sends \$1 under Meth. No. 3 to help save the deficit of \$105 per week and adds: "Here is a dollar of the means to bring about a great and powerful Freeman."

I wish I could do more. It may necessitate another patch on my overalls, but I am proud of each 'Hoover Badge.' When an O. D. S. is broadcast from the Temple of Freedom I am all attention."

Louis Boss, Mo., sends \$2 for a batch of sub cards: "Am tired of this forced vacation under capitalism. I am hoping for a change and aim in my own little way to do what I can to help the Freeman hurry it along. Want to have the editor succeed in the venatorial race and let Charley Curtis have a vacation as we won't need him."

H. G. Cartwright, N. Y., sends \$1 for Meth. No. 3 and writes: "I am enclosing contributions to help make up the loss you are under for the Freeman."

J. A. Shown, Okla., sends in a club of four subs and says: "The enclosed four men are all old-time Socialists and want to get back into the harness again. We used to love the old Appeal and would sure like to see it come back. You will hear from us again."

William W. Walker, Ky., sends a club of four and writes: "Here is my help towards increasing the circulation of our little old Freeman. It is surprisingly easy to raise a bunch of subs. I am in my early twenties and hope to see Socialism triumph before the best years of my life have passed away."

Frank H. Lynch, Iowa, is in with \$2.50 worth of subs and says: "Just a week ago I sent you five yearlies and here's another club of five yearlies. I expect to help boost the Freeman. You will hear from me again just as fast as I find a chance. My talk gets the subs."

"Although slightly delayed this week on account of moving, I aim to remain regular in my contributions toward the Kansas senatorial campaign of The Freeman editor, Joe M. An enclosing \$1." A Friend from St. Joe, Mo.

"Please use the \$1 enclosed for mailing 50 copies of the Nov. 7 Freeman to good Chicago names in your possession," writes H. E. L. Per, Chicago, Ill.

A. M. Reinhold, Calif., sends \$1 for a bundle of the Nov. 14 Freeman and adds: "It's a dandy number and most interesting to find we have to get our real Pasadena news from The Freeman in Kansas. We want to distribute these 50 copies among our Pasadena neighbors. Marce's articles are delightful, instructive and timely. May all good luck be with her."

J. J. Hawkins, Wash., sends \$1 for a bundle of five for six months. That makes him a member of the Bundle Brigade.

F. A. Johnson, Kans., is the week's best buyer of sub cards, his order being for \$10 worth.

H. E. L. Per, Ill., continues his consistent work for The Freeman. His latest is \$1 under Meth. No. 3 to send 50 copies of the Nov. 7 Freeman to Chicago names in our possession.

The Dec. 26 Hoover Racketeering Edition is going to be a big success. If you don't want your name mentioned in the Army Column, don't hesitate to mention that fact when you send in your clubs of subs or help in other ways.

A. J. Connor, Iowa, orders \$7 worth of sub cards and adds \$1 for the Kansas campaign and \$1 for the Russian Tour. Thanks, Connor.

Will you kindly tell us a little bit about Christian Socialism?—A. Genty, Winnipeg, Can.

Some years ago there was a group in the United States which took upon itself the peculiar and irrelevant, not to say misleading, brand of "Christian Socialism." This group made its Socialist appeal through its interpretation of some of the vague, sentimental sayings of Jesus: a very small and highly disputed part of the mixture of teachings and attitudes which is loosely known as Christianity. Socialism is a movement quite separate from Christianity or any other religion. It is a realistic economic movement, which has for its purpose the transformation of capitalist society into a cooperative society of the workers. Its teachings are not based on any religious tradition or theory, but are descriptions of the economic forces that move the modern world and explanations of how the economic principles of Socialism are essential in the reorganization of the world's social life. Adherents of any religion or opponents of all religion may work together for the economic program of Socialism.

Do the workers who refuse to join any organization to work for their own advancement disclose any more stupidity than do the leaders of the various movements who decline to strive for unity among the various groups that seem struggling toward the same goal, the destruction of capitalism and its attendant evils?—W. M. Rieder, Mich.

Whether from stupidity or lack of economic enlightenment—and the latter is the sounder, as well as the more tolerant, explanation—it is certain that the worker who least understands his own interests is the one who supports the system of capitalism which exploits him. It is regrettable that the radio branches which are divided by tactics into branches which are not only separate in organization but, in too many instances, unfriendly. The question of tactics is important; genuine convictions on vital points of the revolutionary program must be respected and it is well that they should be given the fullest consideration among radicals; these differences, however, should be reflected not in absolutely separate movements but in aspects (or discussion groups) in one united working class movement. The Freeman certainly will not permit its central purpose of Socialist propaganda to be confused or turned aside by arguments concerning tactics or fine distinctions. Our goal is a cooperative workers' republic. We believe that all who understand the injustice and the fatal-unsoundness of the capitalist system should labor

with comradely earnestness and single-mindedness toward this goal.

Is the Boy Scout movement a movement on the part of or in the interest of organized capital? Is it a scheme on the part of the powers that be to miseducate the youth of the land so that there will be contentment with the present regime of capitalist production?—J. P. Sterling, Idaho.

The Boy Scout movement inculcates the attitude of loyalty toward the present order of society. Under a mask of cultivating the manly, self-reliant and obedient virtues (note the contradiction), this movement actually—and with little practical concealment of its aims—trains the boys of the working class and the middle class to be defenders of capitalist orthodoxy in social, economic and political life. Its militaristic color and tendencies are obvious.

YES, capitalism is a "great" system. Herbert Hoover is its "great" exemplar. Show your fellow Americans just what kind of a system it is and what kind of an exemplar it puts in the White House. Circulate our Hoover Racketeering Edition of December 26.

## Question Box

Edited by John W. Gunn

Can Negro carpenters, blacksmiths, bricklayers and farm laborers get employment in Russia in the same manner as other people?—J. H. C., Md.

There is absolutely no discrimination in the Soviet Union on the ground of race, color, creed, etc. A Negro worker in Russia has the same opportunity, the same rights, the same treatment as a white worker. However, the Freeman's information is that at present no workers from other countries are being accepted by the Soviet government for employment in the Soviet Union.

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## THE INSIDE STORY ABOUT HARLAN, KENTUCKY

BY ROLAND E. BURDICK

Starvation, disease, bullets, tear gas, dynamite, false propaganda, terrorism, and threats of the electric chair are all being utilized by the Harlan, Ky., mine operators.

In addition, 60 miners or their friends are now in jail under indictment brought against them by a jury chosen by operators' friends. Thirty of the men are accused of three murders each. "I am firmly convinced," stated Arnold Johnson, of the American Civil Liberties Union, "that not one of these men is guilty." He likened the situation to the frame-ups of Mooney and Billings' and Sacco and Vanzetti.

Johnson himself was thrown into jail for "criminal syndicalism." As a matter of fact, the only proof the operators' deputies could muster was the presence on Johnson's person of several League for Industrial Democracy papers, and some of the Civil Liberties Union's literature on free speech and on the Mooney-Billings case.

Two members of an arbitration committee of three voted that the St. Louis street car men should have their wages cut 10 percent. The plea was that the company could not "make ends meet." S. Clark, president of the company, Greenberg and Michael Shantzeck face the prospect of 20 years' imprisonment for having distributed such literature at the Citizen's Military Training Camp at Fort Logan in the summer of 1931. At the time they were severely flogged by army officers at the camp and by members of the American Legion.

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After heading a committee of writers in a 3-day inquiry at Harlan, Ky., Theodor Dreiser said: "There ought to be prosecutions of the severest type against Harlan county officials. I think there should be a congressional investigation, but I fancy the first step will be a state inquiry. It is the usual American line-up of capital vs. labor, with everything on one side and nothing on the other but two bare hands."

Grocery prices at company stores in the Harlan, Ky., district (where buying is compulsory) are from 20 to 100 percent higher than at other stores, testified a salaried capitalist vs. labor, Sam Greenland, manager, gets \$30,000 a year. One attorney representing the company gets \$18,000 a year.

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## 12 PRIZES OF \$625.00 each!

JUST recently over \$26,000.00 in prizes have been paid in our good-will prize distributions! These unusual offers are rapidly creating favorable advertising and making new friends. Now join our latest "treasure hunt!" Scores of valuable awards totaling over \$8,200.00 will be paid this time. Easier to win a first prize now—there are 12 equal first prizes of \$625.00 each and duplicate prizes for all persons tying when prize decision is made. Here's the test. Act quick!

## FOLLOW THE AUTO TRAILS

Can you do it? Every trail twists and turns, crossing other trails again and again. This baffling test is a challenge to your skill, but I'll give you a fair start, to make sure you understand.

Begin with trail marker No. 1 in the small circle at the left. If you can follow this trail through the tangle you will see it leads to the car marked "E." Some of the trails go from left to right, others from right to left. When you have done your best with each trail, write your answer like this: "Trail No. 1 leads to car 'E.'" "Trail No. 2 leads to car..." and so on with all the trails. If you prefer, you can draw straight lines from each marker to the correct car.

Rush your answer to me on a post card or in a letter, for submission to puzzle judges. If you can follow three of the six auto trails successfully and win first prize, you will be awarded one of the 12 equal prizes of \$500.00 each.

12 Extra Prizes of \$125.00 Each for Promptness making the total of each of the twelve first prizes \$625.00 cash or a new 1931 fully equipped Ford Tudor Sedan and \$125.00. Duplicate prizes paid in case of ties. Cash reward for all failures. No prize less than \$10.00. No more puzzles to solve. Answers will not be accepted from persons living outside the U. S. A. or in Chicago. Send no money. Harry!

W. M. CLARK, Manager, Room 278 52 West Illinois St., Chicago, Illinois

## Would You BELIEVE IT?

Under the Colorado sedition act, passed in the hysterical craze of 1921, it is a crime to pass out anti-war leaflets. Indicted under this law, Greenberg and Michael Shantzeck face the prospect of 20 years' imprisonment for having distributed such literature at the Citizen's Military Training Camp at Fort Logan in the summer of 1931. At the time they were severely flogged by army officers at the camp and by members of the American Legion.

Two members of an arbitration committee of three voted that the St. Louis street car men should have their wages cut 10 percent. The plea was that the company could not "make ends meet." S. Clark, president of the company, Greenberg and Michael Shantzeck face the prospect of 20 years' imprisonment for having distributed such literature at the Citizen's Military Training Camp at Fort Logan in the summer of 1931. At the time they were severely flogged by army officers at the camp and by members of the American Legion.

After heading a committee of writers in a 3-day inquiry at Harlan, Ky., Theodor Dreiser said: "There ought to be prosecutions of the severest type against Harlan county officials. I think there should be a congressional investigation, but I fancy the first step will be a state inquiry. It is the usual American line-up of capital vs. labor, with everything on one side and nothing on the other but two bare hands."

Grocery prices at company stores in the Harlan, Ky., district (where buying is compulsory) are from 20 to 100 percent higher than at other stores, testified a salaried capitalist vs. labor, Sam Greenland, manager, gets \$30,000 a year. One attorney representing the company gets \$18,000 a year.

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