
Another Renegade

[H.F. Kane]

by James P. Cannon

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The counterrevolution has set up a new outpost in this country at Seattle, Washington. Mr. H.F. Kane is the officer in charge and he occupies the exalted position of editor of *The Industrial Worker*, western organ of the IWW. Mr. Kane is too far away from Soviet Russia to lend a hand to General Wrangel. But that doesn't prevent him from doing his little bit behind the lines, after the manner of the stay-at-home patriot who couldn't go to war but made 4 minute speeches to help it along.

The question of affiliation with the Third International is before the membership of the IWW and Mr. Kane's particular job, it appears, is to see to it that the outlawed and persecuted direct actionists of the IWW make no alliance with the outlawed and persecuted direct actionists of the Third International. The Russian Revolution, which is the Third International in action, is the object of his attack. He warns the members of the IWW to think twice before they make an entangling alliance with a working class government which, he says, is "propped up by bayonets and which has sent invading armies into other countries." For the Russian workers and peasants to defend themselves, like the IWW men at Centralia, with weapons in their hands, *and make good with it and beat off all their oppressors* — this is what Mr. Kane condemns.

In the issue of October 30th [1920], which has just come to our notice, he propounds a series of questions for the western lumberjacks to an-

swer before they join hands with the roughneck Bolsheviki. This is one of them:

"Are the workers of Russia permitted to freely travel through the interior looking for employment?"

There you have it, fellow-workers! If you line up with the Third International you are in danger of sacrificing your dearly bought privilege of chasing a job from one place to another, the employment sharks will be put out of business, and the whole country will go to hell! Of course, you may have more time to hunt and fish, or look around for decent homes to live in. But your own government, "propped up by bayonets," will deprive you of the pleasure of searching for a master.

This is old stuff, of course. We have read it many times in capitalist papers and magazines. John Spargo and Charles Edward Russell explained it all to us long ago, and the *New York Times* seldom lets a day go by without mentioning it. The last convention of the AF of L sounded like a warning to the same effect, and Lloyd George talks with tears in his voice about the "blood and terror" of the Bolsheviks. But we doubt if the international bourgeoisie, in their most sanguine moments, ever counted on such help from the press of the IWW.

Renegades come and go, and one more or less makes but little difference in the final summing up. Harold Lord Varney made quite a little splash, but he has already sunk beneath the black waves of oblivion. But there is one thing to be said for Varney. He broke with the IWW before

he sold out to the master class. He didn't play the double game. He didn't say industrial freedom and counterrevolution in the same breath. He renounced Frank Little before he shook hands with his assassins.

We have confidence that the western members of the IWW will deal promptly with this man Kane who has attacked the revolution in their name. A plain man of the rank and file has already answered him in a masterful article in the issue of November 20. They may be confused by queer and crooked arguments of the *One Big Union Monthly* against the Third International. They may want to study it over a while before they undertake the heavy responsibilities of affiliation. But you can't fool them about the Russian Revolution, Mr. Kane! They know, as the workers all over the world know, that the Workers' Republic of Russia represents their highest hopes and aspirations. They know that the enemies of the Russian Revolution are the enemies of the working class!

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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