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Strangling American Workers

— BY CHAS. BAKER —

Kidnapped from the state of Ohio, in much the same way that Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone were spirited out of Colorado during the war of the mine barons on the Western Federation of Miners, Marguerite Prevey, after spending over four weeks in jail, was released on bond from the Cook Co. jail in Chicago last week, in order to continue her legal fight against the "Law and Order" "physical forcists" headed by States' Attorney Maclay Hoyne.

Another dramatic chapter in the rapidly lengthening rule of American Czarism was written in the efforts of the state of Illinois to get its clutches upon Marguerite Prevey of Akron, Ohio, a life long Socialist, indicted by Illinois grand jury on charges of "criminal syndicalism"; when on March 3rd Comrade Prevey was taken from the county jail at Columbus, Ohio, in defiance of the orders of Common Pleas Judge Kincaid and kidnapped to Chicago.

The Columbus papers announced complacently next morning that this lawless, anarchistic act had been performed "on the advice of Prosecuting Attorney Hugo N. Schlesinger."

The direct and arrogant contempt of court which was committed is apparent upon review of what had occurred in court that day.

STAY OF EXECUTION ORDERED.

On Wednesday, March 3rd, Judge E. B. Kincaid after investigating the additional evidence furnished by Illinois, seeking extradition of Mrs. Prevey, decided that altho there was "very slim" evidence of any propaganda of violence, he would rule there was enough to authorize the requisition, in order to allow the attorneys for Mrs. Prevey to take the case on error to the Court of Appeals.

To enable them to perfect their error proceedings he granted a 48-hour "stay of execution."

The entry containing this ruling and its stay of execution was filed about 3 P. M. the same day. And about one hour later the petition in error bringing the matter on review before the Court of Appeals was filed.

Prosecuting Attorney Schlesinger refused to waive service of summons in the error proceeding, a common courtesy among lawyers, and a precept was filed in the clerks office to have him served in the regular way. All this was done before the courts adjourned on March 3rd. Therefore, Mrs. Prevey was legally secure under the protection of the courts of Ohio, her home state, which were to decide whether it was right and lawful to deport her to Illinois beyond their protection.

The next morning, March 4th, the Court of Appeals, then seating at Dayton, approved an entry granting stay of execution of the judgement until a final decision had been reached in the upper court, this entry was immediately mailed to Columbus and filed. Had the supposed guardians of "law and order retained the least shred of respect for the orders of their own courts and laws of their own state, which they were sworn to uphold and defend, Marguerite Prevey would have remained safe from extradition, in the Columbus jail until her cause could be heard in Ohio.

REMOVED IN DEFIANCE OF COURTS. COMRADE PREVEY'S OWN STATEMENT.

"I grant a stay of execution for forty eight hours on this requisition to allow attorneys for Mrs. Prevey to prepare their petition in error to The Court of Appeals, Mrs. Prevey will remain in the custody of the Sheriff, I will decide if she is subject to bond at one thirty this afternoon."

"This was the statement of Judge Kincaid on Wednesday, March 3rd, at 11:30 A. M. at Columbus, Ohio, I was taken back to the County jail and locked up."

"About two o'clock that afternoon, the Sheriff of Franklin Co., (Columbus) Police Matron from Chicago, and a local Detective, walked into the womens' dept. of the jail and informed me that I must leave for Illinois at once, I told the Sheriff that I would like to call my attorneys on the phone to notify them that I was being taken to Illinois, he said "you can do that when we get down stairs to the office." When I arrived in the office, I was told that I could not use the phone, I protested, saying that it was certainly customary, and the right of a prisoner to be permitted to confere with their attorney, and that I would refuse to leave until I could do so, I appealed to the jailer Mr. Hill, and to the Matron Mrs. Robb, but they said they had orders from the Sheriff and could do nothing, so I was forcibly taken by the Chicago Police Matron, and the Columbus City Detective, placed in a waiting auto and driven to the station, there I was held incommunicado until after dark, when I was taken out, and placed in an old dilapidated two passenger Ford car, where the three of us, crowded together started a chase over Columbus, up and down the back streets and alleys, the city Detective who was driving the car said he was looking for a gasoline station.

"The lighting system and horn of the car was out of commission, and when the driver slowed down the engine would only hit on three cylinders, after some time we finally started out of Columbus, by way of the re-

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The British Labor Movement.

By Felix Morley.

ARTICLE I—THE SITUATION TODAY.

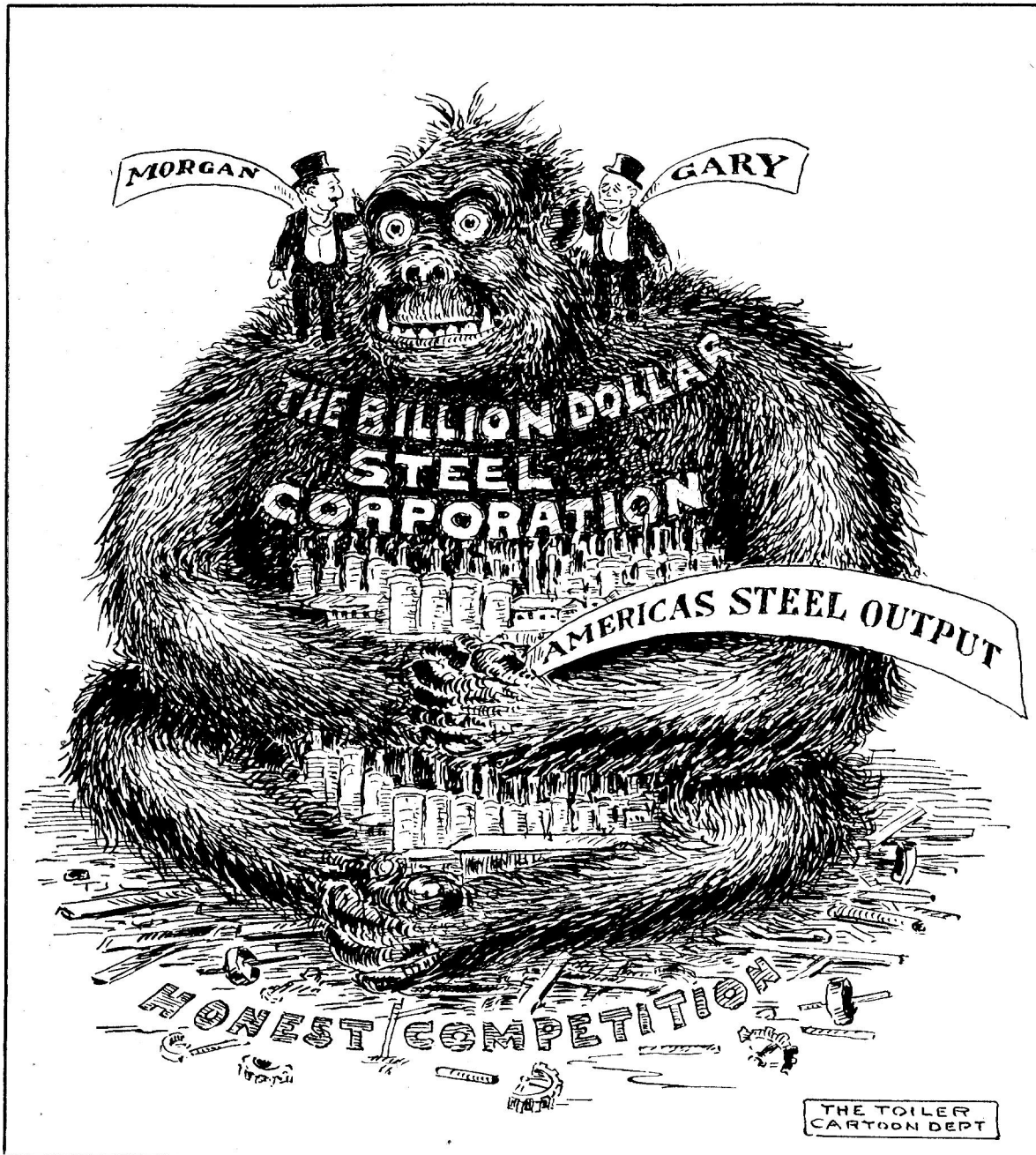
LONDON—Underneath its present orderly exterior, in a slow but sure, thorough-going British manner England is now being steadily transformed into a state completely controlled by productive labor. The upper class opposition is very strong, and the ignorant conservatism of large sections of the workers an obvious drawback. Yet month by month unmistakable and permanent progress towards a new era is being achieved, and the goal now well in view is something sufficiently advanced to make the economic outlook of Gompers and Gary seem identical by contrast. Ruthless as is the present policy of British militarism in the subject countries of Ireland, India and Egypt, it is now just as important for American labor to appreciate the growing power of Socialism in England proper as it is to condemn the effects of a dying imperialism in her forcibly held dominions. With the exception of Russia, and perhaps Italy and Germany, England has more nearly outgrown capitalism than any other great nation. She is incomparably ahead of the United States in this respect.

Three things about the present labor movement in England impress themselves immediately upon the visitor from America. They may be summed up by saying that in spite of the greater pressure of the war more liberty, justice and common sense have been left alive in England than in the United States. There is first a far greater measure of freedom of speech and press on this side. For instance it is difficult to find either a labor mass meeting where the proceedings are not closed by singing the Red Flag and cheering the Russian soviet republic, or a reputable newspaper which characterizes such outbursts as seditious, un-English, anarchistic, and the like. As for police and secret service raids, suppression of radical newspapers, imprisonment and deportation of agitators—such things may be common in Ireland and the United States but they are virtually unknown here. If an alleged labor paper is so extreme as to be ridiculous nobody buys it, if an agitator practices impracticable tactics he is laughed at. This keeps everyone in good humor. There is no Cossack terrorism, no bomb plots by anarchists or capitalists, no underground discontent, no imitation of czaristic Russia.

The result is no danger of revolution from the standpoint of the government, no wasted time for the workers in having to struggle for the most fundamental of rights, and real and rapid progress along lines of radical social evolution. There are many elements in this situation which cause grave anxiety to the traditional governing class, but all efforts to check the tide only result in an increase of the power and solidarity of organized labor. A point for America to realize is that the present state of affairs in Ireland and other subject countries will very soon be altered in accordance with the principle of self-determination, when labor gains control of the government. The British Labor party is working as hard in behalf of Ireland as is Sinn Fein.

A second striking difference to the United States is found in the English labor leaders. The majority of them are real leaders, men of vision and ideals, democratically chosen, graduates of factory and mine who make it their business to encourage rather than repress radical ideas among the rank and file. This results in a most incredible difference in the atmosphere of the two movements optimism, harmony and progress along fundamental lines being the dominant characteristics here. It is the fact that the radicals are in command of English labor that makes the psychology of a Gompers something to the movement here. There is no blinking of the fact that men like Bob Smillie, Bob Williams, Frank Hodges, and others who have a large share in the control of English labor policy would be in Moundsville or Atlanta if fate had made them citizens of the land of the free. Ramsay MacDonald told me that he doesn't consider Gene Debs more radical, yet the strength and cohesion of the British miners is such that their government dare not touch this labor general. Several most prominent in the labor movement here would scarcely believe me when I remarked

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This is not a Trust -- it is Mary's Little Lamb!

WHITEWASHED!

— By Bill Smith —

Was anybody in the United States surprised when the Supreme Court Trust and so on;—but not to the U. S. Steel Corporation—thanks to superior judicial talent. Now you may more readily perceive why it is advisable for these great corporations to have a member of the Brotherhood of Judges on its staff. They are continually running foul of the law—dodging it, breaking it and totally disregarding it. Hence these criminal organizations have need of the most cunning and subtle minds that money can purchase.

Let us ask in all candor,—how would any thing presided over by Judge E. H. Gary be other than holy and sanctified?

Were Elbert H. Gary the head of Ali Baba and his Forty Thieves,—instead of the directing brain of thousands of conscienceless profiteers—would any court find his gang of marauders guilty of wrongdoing? In all probability they would be declared a zealous band of Christian apostles and good Samaritans!

What is this Steel Corporation? It is a concentration of about all the great steel industries of America. Organized, do you ask, to cheapen the price of steel to the great consuming public? No, no, no,—not to benefit the public but to burden and bleed the consuming public by higher prices to further swell the fortunes of few.

This colossal deal was engineered by the elder Morgan, and it was of such a vast and mighty venture, that he, prince of capitalistic jugglers, was nervous of its outcome—but it worked! After all the best paying plants of America had been drawn into this organization,—prices of all steel products commenced to soar upward,—and in but a few short years every cent of the purchase of this plants had been more than paid by the increased "profits." And at this day the American public has paid for all their holdings, over and over again. And to attempt to delude a credulous public as to their earnings they injected fully six hundred millions of watered stock into their fictitious capitalization!

It is alleged that it did not "fix prices or compete unfairly." Who believes this? It is indeed a stupid person, no matter where he be, who does not know that his meat prices are controlled by the Chicago Packing Gang; his butter prices by the Elgin Board; his oil and gasoline by the little old Standard Oil, and all his steel and iron by the Steel Corporation, and so on. And this Corporation has no competitors except of a fictitious character;—there are others in the same business, but when this corporation raises its prices, all others by some strange law of gravitation, raise with it. Judge McKenna said that this Corporation had not resorted to brutalities

to stabilize conditions, but admitted that with "competitors" they had "trade meetings through the social form of dinners" etc. A distinguished person some years ago, said that all the dark and unholly schemes that had ever been hatched in Washington, by unprincipled and dishonorable politicians had been originated and perfected at these secret meetings—called dinner parties! And in all history—the careful student has noticed—that some of the blackest and most revolting conspiracies have been hatched at the banquet table! It is now used as a camouflage by financial crooks who conspire against the working classes of the country. Please note the "horny sons of toil" who attend these "dinner parties."

Another reason,—not given in the courts decision,—why the solidarity of this corporation should not be impaired,—is that it is the most powerful antagonist that now faces organized labor! If the minutes of these little "dinners" were written, no doubt you would find there, this matter fully discussed by the crafty scheming brains about that table—and you would probably find all the plans, all orderly arranged to encompass the destruction of all labor unions!

They have picked the cemetery—the grave is dug—but can they furnish the corpse? It is up to you, and nothing but absolute and perfect solidarity in all ranks of labor can prevent it! If nothing of a revivifying nature occurs in the labor movement here would

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Two numbers of The Toller Educational Leaflet Series are ready for distribution. AND THEY MUST BE DISTRIBUTED. Not just a few, but thousands upon thousands must be distributed in the shops, mills and mines. Every reader of the Toller is expected to help in the widest possible distribution of these educational leaflets.

Number One—"Soviet Russia's Code of Labor Laws", should be read by every American worker. Especially should every union man and woman read it. It is eight pages and the price is 60c a hundred in any quantity desired. Order now and start the work of education among the workers of your locality. Take a bunch to your union meetings.

Number Two—"Strangling American Workers", appears in this issue. No better method of successfully showing up present day official tyranny and the violation of the laws by public officers who pose as leaders of "law and order" is possible than the widest distribution of this interesting leaflet. Let the workers know the base character of the capitalist class officials who are supposed to enforce the laws of the country but who are in reality criminals of the lowest type. They deserve the widest publicity. You can help spread the truth about these rascals and hirelings of capitalism.

Distribute "Strangling American Workers". 50c per hundred. Address The Toller—Right Now!

