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# Patriotism.

by Ralph Korngold

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The German Emperor once called the Socialists "Fatherlandsless rascals."

Fatherlandsless we are, all workers are, but it is not the workers who have made themselves so.

The capitalist class, by making the workers propertyless, has made them fatherlandsless.

The workers have no country.

This is no more your country than the shop you work in is your shop or the factory you work in is your factory. You are simply employed there, that is all.

If you can find no one who will give you a job you may be arrested under the vagrancy law. If you live in the South you may be run in as a vag, just as if you live in the North. You may breathe here, provided someone will give you the privilege to stand on his land.

Many who so proudly talk about their country do not even own a plot to be buried in.

I can imagine Morgan being patriotic, or Rockefeller, or Weyerhauser, but why a workingman, no matter to what country he belongs, should be patriotic is more than I can see.

Some Socialists say they believe in fighting in a war, provided it is a defensive war.

I do not believe in any war.

Supposing the Germans would take America. What is it to you?

You would have an old-age pension when you got old and a sick benefit when you got sick.

You would have the right to boycott, which you do not have now, and you could ride on the railroads for about one-half the price you are paying now.

Domination by the German capitalists could not be any worse than domination by the American capitalists — indeed it would be better.

That conditions are somewhat better for the working class in America than in some European countries is by no means due to our superior laws, but is rather in spite of these laws.

The resources of this nation are so immense and its population, when compared with the population of Europe, relatively so scarce that our lawmakers have not been able to grind down the working class as much as they would like to.

God knows they and their masters, the capitalists, have made a good enough job of it.

Let Rockefeller and Morgan fight their own battles.

The workingmen of the world have but one common enemy — the capitalist class of the world.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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