

THE OHIO SOCIALIST

Official Organ of the Socialist Parties of Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia and New Mexico

No 78

Published at
Cleveland, Ohio.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 1919

Address all mail to
3207 Clark Ave., Cleveland, O.

\$1.00 A YEAR

DEBS 65 YEARS OLD AND CAGED LIKE A BEAST 14 HOURS OUT OF EVERY 24.

To The Rescue -- All Of You Who Want Him Freed

Let's lose no more time about it. We have waited long enough for others to take the leadership in the movement to free Debs and all other political prisoners.

We'll wait no longer. We'll begin right now and do our part, each and every one of us and we will make every lick count.

Debs made the speech, for which he is now suffering in the Atlanta penitentiary, at Canton, Ohio, at the annual state picnic of the Socialist Party of Ohio.

The Socialists of Ohio owe Debs every ounce of energy and every cent they can spare to help him gain his freedom. The Socialists and all workers of this entire country are heavily indebted to Debs and NOW IS THE TIME to square accounts, to pay back in some measure the 40 years of life which Debs has given SERVING YOU.

Debs is an old man as years ago, tho very young at heart. He has labored diligently in the ranks of labor, given his voice and his pen in labor's defense, given a life-time doing duty on the firing line, never flinching, always with face toward the enemy.

Hundreds of thousands of workers have been inspired by his speeches and writings. He never minced words. He never crawled. He spoke the truth and nothing but the truth—and how that did hurt the capitalist class and their crumb picking lackeys!

That's the reason, the real reason, why Debs is in prison today. He is dangerous to Wall Street. Wall Street has said so.

And by that very sign it becomes your duty and our duty to RESCUE DEBS AT ONCE.

HELP SAVE HIS LIFE

It happened June 13th, last.

Without so much as an hour's notice Debs was packed out of the Moundsville penitentiary, where he was enjoying some degree of comfort, and dragged to the Atlanta penitentiary where, surrounded by the most stringent prison regulations possible to conceive, he is now attempting to hold body and soul together in the hot and fetid atmosphere prevailing in the south at this time.

We do not overstate when we say that considering his health and his age, HIS LIFE IS NOW IN DANGER.

Debs has not been a well man for several years past. In his tours of northern Ohio, just before he was taken to Moundsville, he broke down several times. He got up out of bed, a sick man, when he was called to Cleveland to give himself up to the United States marshal. We saw him then. We made the trip to Moundsville with him. We watched him closely. He was completely exhausted before he had traveled one third of the distance. He complained of his back and if with much difficulty that he mounted and dismounted the various interurban cars upon which the journey to Moundsville was made.

Out of Steubenville he fell sound asleep in his seat. Nothing could awaken him, not even the foreign born wage slave who, when he attempted to sit down beside him sat upon Debs instead, due to the lurching of the car. It was the sleep of a man half dead—and true indeed, he was half dead.

Now he's in the Atlanta penitentiary, compelled to labor eight hours a day in the clothing department and then compelled to spend fourteen hours a day in a steel cage, penned up like a wild beast.

To the rescue—all of you who want Debs freed. Help save his life!

HE'LL NOT BEG FOR MERCY.

Yes we know what the United States Attorney General wants. He and those whom he serves want Debs to crawl before him on all fours and beg for a pardon. He wants Debs to admit that he did wrong when he spoke as he did at Canton, Ohio.

HE WANTS DEBS TO ADMIT HE DID WRONG! THINK OF IT!

In other words, he wants Debs to admit that Socialism is wrong. And Debs' only answer to this in effect is—"My life is in your hands. Take it. But I will never admit having done wrong when I said that war is an abomination and wholesale slaughter, a crime."

Debs would rather die in prison, he would rather die a death of slow torture in the heat of his prison cell in the hot Southland than beg for even a crust from the masters of today. He BEG for a PARDON? Not if he were to be shot at sunrise!

Debs will NEVER whine for mercy.

He will never ask for a single favor. The Attorney General, it is alleged, innocently, or ignorantly, thought that Debs was not asking for a pardon because he was receiving humane treatment at Moundsville. Send him to a hell-hole and make him get down on his knees—was then the order given. Again they will be fooled. Debs is not the pardon asking kind. He is a real man, bigger, truer and nobler than any of the servants who dance to the music of Wall Street.

However, we are many and they are few.

UNITY OF ACTION IS ALL THAT IS NEEDED.

Up with your right hand and swear that you will not rest until Debs walks forth a free man!

WE ARE READY FOR ACTION.

As we said—we do not intend losing another minute in entering upon the work and sacrifice necessary to win freedom for Debs and all political prisoners.

We BEGIN NOW to do everything we can to awaken and organize the workers to a realization of the peril Debs is in, the peril in which the entire working class is in, for none of us are free so long as one of us is imprisoned.

THE OHIO SOCIALIST, which has the largest circulation of any party owned paper in America,

will be a formidable weapon in this fight. We shall use its every issue to agitate and organize for the freedom of our own imprisoned comrades.

The state office of the Socialist Party of Ohio is probably better equipped than any other state office of the party in the country. The entire office force and office machinery will be placed at the disposal of the workers who join with us in this battle for freedom, yes, for the very life of Debs.

We may be in a position to soon install the printing plant, for the purchase of which so many hundreds of workers and organizations are contributing so generously. This will also be put to work to help win Debs' liberty.

With these facilities and weapons we intend to print hundreds of thousands of leaflets to awaken the workers to the need of their immediate co-operation.

We intend to print posters for public display, and postal cards with which to advertise the shameful and merciless system which takes as toll the lives of men and women for speaking their honest convictions.

We intend to circularize labor unions and Socialist Party locals, placing before them resolutions their respective bodies should pass demanding the freedom of Debs and all the rest. We also intend to suggest to them such organized and well directed action as may be necessary to make their protests felt.

We intend to engage and route speakers to visit labor unions and Socialist locals, as well as to hold meetings upon street corners and wherever else possible, to help arouse the workers to action.

We intend to do everything that the law allows to grab Debs and the rest out of the clutches of cap-

italism and place him and all back into the protecting ranks of labor.

WILL YOU HELP?

HOW YOU CAN HELP.

You can HELP in many ways.

First of all a substantial LIBERATION FUND is needed. Leaflets can not be printed; posters can not be printed; postage can not be bought; circular letters can not be produced; speakers can not be employed; agitation and organization for the liberation of Debs and all other political prisoners CAN NOT be carried on WITHOUT FUNDS.

TO DATE NO DEFINATE ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN, NO DEFINATE WORKERS' MOVEMENT OF ANY KIND HAS BEEN ORGANIZED TO FREE DEBS.

We shall organize such a movement.

We want you to belong to it.

The VERY FIRST THING for ALL OF US TO DO is to go to all workers who want Debs freed and frankly ask them to give financial assistance.

We shall have contribution lists printed. We shall send you one. If it does not reach you, let us know AT ONCE.

After funds are at hand we shall immediately print leaflets which will AROUSE THE WORKERS to the necessity of IMMEDIATELY FREEING DEBS and all the rest. But Debs must be freed at once, or he will leave the Atlanta penitentiary a corpse.

You will then be called upon to assist in distributing these hundreds of thousands of leaflets we shall print; you will be called upon to help post the thousands upon thousands of posters which we will produce.

You will also be called upon to do special agitation work in your union, if you are a union member. If you are not a member of a labor union, then the funds which you will help gather will pay the wages of a speaker who will visit unions to secure their co-operation in freeing Debs.

The A. F. of L. leadership is reactionary. Every intelligent worker knows this. However, the light is beginning to shine among the rank and file. Only the other day the Chicago Federation of Labor, representing 250,000 organized workers, passed resolutions demanding freedom for Debs. We must now reach these workers and induce them to BACK UP their resolutions by demonstrations of their power in industry.

The work ahead is A BIG JOB. But we are EQUAL TO IT. Let us begin it TODAY. Let us do a little every day to awaken the mighty working class to a realization of its power, for the power of the working class is the only weapon that will free Debs. ARE YOU WITH US?

THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE.

Thousands of workers will join with us in this call to duty.

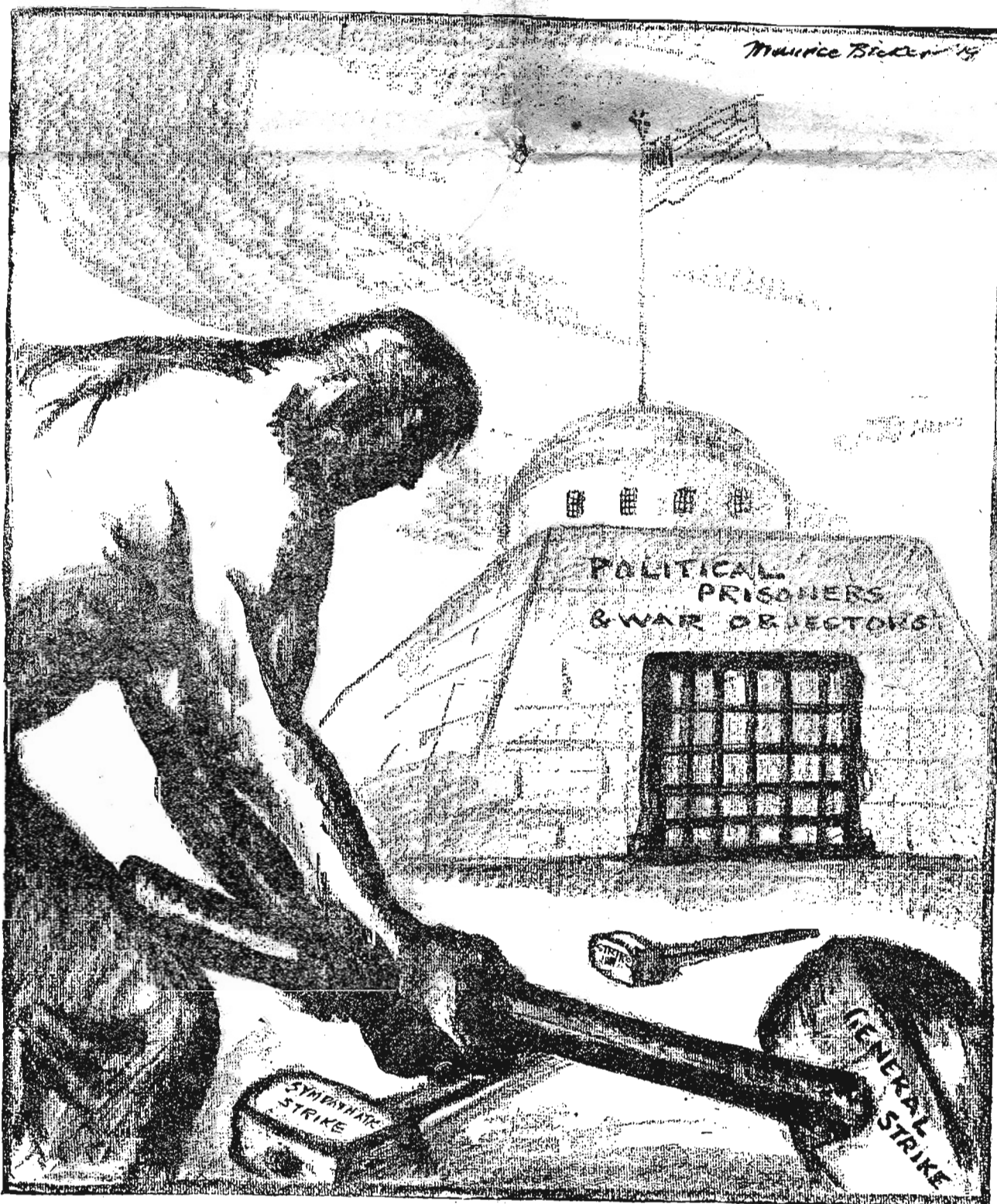
These thousands will interest thousands of others, and so our army of liberators will grow until they number hundreds of thousands.

The BEGINNING MUST BE MADE.

We call upon YOU to be one of the first to answer—"I'm ready to do my share."

NOW is the critical moment. There is not a minute to lose. While you and we rejoice on each day of freedom to live our lives outside the shadow of prisons, Debs grows old and gray, shut out from all that makes men manly and keeps men sane; shut away from family, friends and the cherished labors of a lifetime; locked away behind stone walls and iron bars, he and thousands of worthy if less known comrades and fellow workers are awaiting the call that must come from labor's throat—"come forth!"

It is for you and every worker to join in that call until the powers that rule shall heed it and return these comrades of ours to us. To this work let every comrade give the best that is in him and dedicate every day to the performance of the propaganda for "FREEDOM FOR DEBS AND ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS."



Try The Big One!

Debs Caged at Atlanta to Satisfy Demands of his Foes the Coal Kings

By David Karsner

Out of the mystery of months have come the facts relating to the transfer of Eugene Victor Debs from the West Virginia state prison at Moundsville to the United States prison at Atlanta, Ga.

The coal kings of West Virginia, who operate through the Consolidated Coal Company, headed by former United States Senator Clarence W. Watson, have, through Governor John J. Cornwell, demanded and accomplished the

removal of Debs from Moundsville prison, where he was the recipient of such kindnesses as the warden chose to show him, to Atlanta Federal prison, where no exception is made to Debs of any kind or character.

The United States government, through the Department of Justice, has become the agent of the industrial barons of West Virginia in setting in motion the legal and technical machinery that sent Debs, on one hour's notice, from a prison

atmosphere of comperative kindness and consideration, to another prison atmosphere where he is locked in a cell with five other prisoners from 5 o'clock in the afternoon to 7 o'clock the next morning—14 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Department of Justice at the behest of the Board of Control of the Moundsville prison and other state charitable and reform institutions uprooted Debs from his work as hospital clerk at Moundsville, where he rendered uncounted personal services to the sick prisoners, and placed him in Atlanta prison, where he is now assigned to the clothing room, working at a clerical task from 8 in the morning to near 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

FREE DEBS—JOIN THE LIBERATORS.

Warden is Double-Crossed.

That this evil design upon Debs' very life was deliberate is further proved by the fact that for its accomplishment it was necessary for the Board of Control of West Virginia to double-cross the warden of Moundsville state prison, Joseph Z. Terrell, who was not informed of the impending removal of Debs until a few hours before its actual occurrence.

Contrary to the secrecy which deprived Warden Terrell of all knowledge concerning the plans of the Federal and state authorities about Debs' removal Warden Fred G. Zerbet of Atlanta prison told me a few weeks ago that he knew Debs was coming to Atlanta two weeks before his arrival there, June 15, 1919. Warden Zerbet also told me in Debs' presence that his prisoner would be assigned to clerical work in the prison hospital.

Letter Reveals Board's Act.

The statement that the Department of Justice acted upon the request of the Board of Control of West Virginia is proved beyond all peradventure by the following letter: Joseph W. Sharts, Esq., Attorney-at-Law, Lowe Building, Dayton, Ohio: Sir—The Department of Justice has your letter of the 18th instant, in which you ask to be informed as to the grounds upon which Federal prisoner, Eugene V. Debs, was transferred from the West Virginia penitentiary to the Atlanta Federal prison. Debs was ordered transferred

(Continued on page 2)

SIGN UP—IN THE ARMY OF LIBERATORS.

Strike Movement Spreads Over United States.

Epidemic Grows Since Armistice—Not Yet at Peak It Is Claimed.—State and City Employes Organize and Strike.

A dispatch from Washington, D. C. of labor troubles. This is considered discloses a serious strike situation by well posted industrial workers as thru-out the country. It is conceded that the epidemic of strikes and lock-outs is costing losses nearing the billion dollar mark.

Government reports show that an average of 50,000 men are away from their benches every week as a result of labor troubles. This is considered an estimate entirely too low. That the strike epidemic has not yet reached its highest point is proven by the additional walk-outs and lock-outs which are occurring daily. In Chicago the building trades, composing (Continued on page 4.)

