

value. This value has been steadily declining, giving way to oil as fuel. The deposits of oil are narrowing down to four countries—England, the United States, Japan and Russia. Russia has her own territory and the Baku oil wells. England has part of the Chinese concessions, the Pearson oil interests in Mexico, and part of the South American concessions. The United States has part of Mexico, its own rich fields in Oklahoma and elsewhere here, part of the Chinese concessions, and some South American concessions. Japan has the Shantung, large Chinese concessions and the Sighalien Island. Certainly capital tremble about investing in Russia, having no hope of success in extensive profiteering in Soviet Russia. Three great oil, coal and iron owning nations then, stand face to face, fearful of each other and hating each other.

When people hate and fear each other, they are not far removed from war. The psychology is to be afraid and to fight. We are now in the period of preparedness for that fight. The stage has to be set. Opinion must be moulded. These devilish Japanese who were our allies a few months ago are really the Huns.

It happens that the Japanese are of a different race and color, while the British are white. Of course, we don't like the British a whit better for holding this oil, coal, iron and shipping control, but it will be more difficult to appeal to the subway prejudices of race and color in their case. Now just as America was not "fighting to make the world safe for democ-

cracy", nor England for the rights and protection of smaller nationalities, so the United States will not be fighting Japan because she is yellow in color and different in race.

This, however, will serve powerfully to fascinate the light. It was ever so. *Differences create a difference.* A brother has rights not common to his sister because she is a girl and he is a boy. Elders arrogate to themselves privileges because they are older. It is held alight to disfranchise women because of their different sex. It is considered just to disfranchise Negroes because of their different race and color. Foreigners are different from natives. Bourbons are different from common people. All of which explains this diligent effort to show how different are these Japanese from Americans. The papers very shortly will show how different Japanese are from Negroes.

During the Seattle general strike, reliable reporters tell us that the Japanese walked out with their white and black working class brothers. Why not? Capital imported the Japanese here to flood the labor market. It carried on agitation to divide them from the whites afterwards. It hoped to keep them fighting not because they hate each other, but they hate each other because they are fighting each other.

Even this talk about leasing and buying land is based upon American capitalists fearing Japanese capitalists' domination or competition in the fruit and gardening industry. The opposition probably is emanating from the American Fruit Co. Such is this Japanese problem.

Education and Literature

A New Negro and a New Day

By W. A. DOMINGO

A NEW spirit is abroad in the world. Ancient wrongs and oppressions are melting before the rising wrath of the masses of the entire world. This new spirit is a direct result of the war which destroyed millions of lives and enormous quantities of the products of labor, besides intensifying the sufferings of toilers everywhere. Just as the world war embraced all the races of mankind so have its consequences, typified by the new spirit, permeated all peoples. None is free from its influence; all are making demands for the democracy and justice that were eloquently mouthed by those who had and still have the power to make those words living realities. For the first time in human history have the lowly workers of the world asserted themselves and given intelligent expression to their needs. Subject races, small nationalities, oppressed workers are realizing their kinship. The white workers of Russia, the yellow coolies of Korea, the brown ryots of India and the black toilers of Africa, the West Indies and the United States are

making similar demands upon their oppressors, although they and their masters in many instances are alike in race, color, language and religion. The former speak the language of the oppressed; the latter the language of the oppressor. Labor is the common denominator of the working class of the world. Exploitation is the common denominator of oppressors everywhere.

Many oppress because they profit from it, or think they do. There is a community of interests between oppressors. The real beneficiaries of exploitation are a small minority. They maintain their position because they control the machinery of government and the vehicles of public information—the school, church, stage, press and platform. These agencies support similar institutions. They defend present economic conditions, defame the working class, white and black, and abuse the Negro race as a whole.

As a considerable part of the American working class, Negroes have grievances against those who

profit from the present system which operates against the interest of all workers. As Negroes they have specific reasons for desiring the downfall of those who manipulate public opinion for the creation of race prejudice which in turn divides the black and white workers of the country into warring camps. The workers of both races suffer from this vicious propaganda and it is to their interest to change conditions which make it possible. The reason for this propaganda and its resultant division of the working class is to rob them of the product of their labor. And the robbery of the workers of the product of their toil is sanctioned by our present system of government. Even if the black and white workers unite industrially, as they are slowly but surely doing, they will still be robbed of some of the product of their toil unless they unite for working-class political action. To stop present robbery and remove the cause of most of our racial friction it is necessary to change the system which legalizes the robbery.

In our present society most human beings must work to live. They must have access to a job. The private owners of land, factories, railroads, mines and machinery have in their power to deny their fellows work. And without work a man and his family must suffer. Because of the developments brought about by inventions a man can produce more than is necessary for the consumption of himself and his family. But because the things produced do not belong to the producer but to the owner of his job the former finds wages, which represent a small portion of the things he has produced, insufficient to keep himself and his family in a reasonable degree of comfort. The owners of jobs have common interests and pay only as much wages as they are forced to pay. Their interests are opposed to those of their employees. And color or race makes no difference. Jews underpay Jews, and Negro employers rob their employees regardless of race or color. The interests of all workers are alike. Many workers do not realize this and work against their own interests. They refuse

to join labor unions or exclude some workers because of their color. They also vote to strengthen the political chains which enslave them.

This is true of the Negro worker who votes for the Republican party which is frankly the party of Big Business. It is the party of the landlord and banker, black and white, Jew or Gentile. But most Negroes vote for the Republican party because it was the party of Lincoln and because he had freed their fathers. Whatever debt Negroes owed the Republican party has been paid long ago. Besides, it is the Republican party that delivered the Negro into the hands of the South in 1875 when Hayes was seated on condition that he withdraw federal troops from the South. For nearly fifty years the Republican party has been in power, controlling the Army, Navy and Supreme Court and during that period the oppression of Negroes has been cumulatively increased.

The only party that can make any appeal to Negroes that is based upon mutual interests is the Socialist Party. It is composed of enlightened workers who repudiate the DuBois-Gompers tactics of "rewarding friends and punishing enemies." These workers realize that the claim of labor is as strong as its weakest link and from the standpoint of class consciousness Negroes are, through no fault of theirs, the weakest link.

If Negroes would be free then they must unite with others who are struggling for freedom. And it is the Socialists who are striving to free America from the throes of wage slavery. The slogan "those who would be free must themselves strike the first blow" gains added importance in the present political struggle. If Negroes think themselves freer than white workmen then let them vote for Mr. Harding and the Republican party which represent the forces of reaction; if they feel themselves less free than white working men then let them vote with the fellow workers of all colors who repudiate both the Democratic and Republican tickets and vote for Eugene V. Debs, freedom and progress on November 2.

The League of Nations

By THE EDITORS

THE Republican and Democratic Parties have agreed to make the League of Nations the issue in this campaign. Their tools—Harding and Cox—have been carrying on a national farce comedy over this alleged issue. The Republican party claims that it favors a league of nations with reservations. (We believe that Mr. Harding is now opposed to a league of nations and now favors "an association of nations"—a distinction without a difference.)

Concise and simply stated, Harding asserts that Article X of the League Covenant gives foreign governments the power to order our army, navy and air service, to demand our money and munitions.

Without discussing the merits or demerits of this contention let us observe the Russo-Polish War as a

means of getting some light on whether this is an honest difference of opinion among the Republican and Democratic parties. War is going on right now between Poland and Russia. The aviators aiding Poland are chiefly American aviators. Our army has been helping every reactionary opponent of the Russian people—including Kolchak, Denikin, Yudenich and Wrangel. When the Russian army approached Warsaw part of our navy was ordered to the port of Danzig. Our Government has loaned Poland about \$200,000,000 upon bonds which no sane business man would loan \$200. Our munitions and supplies left from the American Expeditionary force have been freely at the disposal of Poland, while in nearly every port of the United States we have been shipping