

EMPLOYMENT THE CURE FOR BOLSHEVISM

Education also necessary to combat the propaganda of vicious agitators in the United States who are a growing menace since the war

BY SENATOR CLAYTON R. LUSK

Senator Clayton R. Lusk, of Cortland, N. Y., one of the new members of the senate, who succeeds William H. Hill, now a member of congress, recently delivered an address before the Rotary club of Binghamton which has attracted attention throughout the State. Senator Lusk calls attention to the menace of Bolshevism in this country as a result of unemployment among the returned soldiers. His remedy is to speed up public work wherever possible in order that men may be employed and necessary public improvements made. Senator Lusk also urges the importance of a campaign of education to ward off the insidious doctrines of Bolshevism. The Binghamton *Press* in an editorial strongly commends the ideas of Senator Lusk and says that they comprise a thoroughly practical program which ought to appeal to the intelligence and patriotism of Americans.—EDITOR.



Clayton R. Lusk

IN half of the civilized world orderly government has either entirely or nearly entirely broken down. Over 300,000,000 people are today at the mercy of men who are utterly dishonest and immoral. Many formerly in the financial and social circumstances

of you business men are being robbed of their property, subjected to every conceivable brutality and outrage, and forced to see their wives and daughters violated. A campaign to reduce our own country to the same sordid level is being persistently waged among us. The organizations that have destroyed the governments and seized the property of the people of these countries are sending funds to the United States in their world-wide campaign. Paid and unpaid agents of the Bolsheviks, I. W. W., and kindred organizations are actively engaged in spreading their

propaganda among the discontented part of our people. It is impossible to tell how much progress they are making.

What are we doing to meet this situation? Nothing. What can we do to meet this situation? This is the question which every American who desires to preserve his property and who loves his home and his family and his country should ask himself. We can, at the present time, if occasion requires, call out the police and the military forces to protect our lives and our property. This is, however, only a temporary relief. The history of these countries, whose governments are today overthrown, should teach us our lesson. This history shows us an aristocracy of birth; men and women of large property interests who regard themselves as superior to the masses, with whom they were entirely out of sympathy. For years they have been protected in their class superiority and in their property by the police and military forces. The time has come when these failed them, and their plight is indeed pitiful. In this country we have the aristocracy of wealth. Men and women whom fortune has highly favored, in many instances attempt to ape the European aristocracy of birth and have adopted an attitude of superiority to the masses, with whom they have little sympathy. How long can the big vested interests and the aristocracy of wealth of this country securely rely upon the police and military power for protection unless this menace is met and cured? I saw by newspaper report the other day that returned soldiers at Butte, Montana, had passed resolutions in favor of the I. W. W., an organization differing little,

except in name, from the Bolsheviks. This may mean little, but certain it is that today nearly a half a million unemployed, many of them returned soldiers, are walking the streets vainly seeking employment, and their numbers are daily increasing. This is certainly an opportunity which the enemies of our government will not overlook.

How is this problem to be met? Clearly the first thing to do is to give work to the unemployed soldiers and other working men who are seeking employment. For the past year or two public works in the nation, states and municipalities have been practically at a standstill. These should be resumed at once on as large a scale as possible. This is the program which has been recently adopted by the Republican majority in the legislature of the State of New York. It should be adopted by every political subdivision and municipality of the State. At this time, when contracts based on war conditions have been cancelled and many manufacturers are facing curtailment or complete cessation of production, public authorities should act. The public can afford to take chances which private interests will not take.

This, of course, will only afford temporary relief. What is to be done to permanently cure the deplorable condition into which our country is drifting? It appeals to me that we must first see to it that justice, in the way of compensation for services as compared to the cost of living, is done to the laboring classes. Much has been accomplished in this line. More remains to be done; and this should engage our serious attention. Second, all snobbishness of the aristocracy of wealth should be done away with and we should feel and show our appreciation of the dignity of labor, and strive for that social and political equality upon which our country was founded. Third, we should go out into our communities and see that men and women, who are willing to work, and their

families, notwithstanding misfortunes under which they may happen to be suffering, have sufficient fuel, clothing and food to make them comfortable. Many cases of innocent distress and suffering exist in every community. This work on our part will go far towards doing away with that bitterness and class hatred which makes Bolshevism possible. Much of this work can and should be done by the churches. We must not forget the example that Christ set. A truly Christian world would be a world devoid of Bolshevism.

This work can also be carried on by humane societies, societies organized for social service work, and such societies as your own. Your donations to war work will soon largely or entirely cease. Would it not be a good investment for you to contribute liberally to the activities that I have mentioned? I learned the other day from Lieutenant Governor Walker of the splendid work that your organization is doing this week for the Broome county humane society and different charities in your community. As president of the State humane societies I wish to commend you and take this opportunity to thank you for your efforts in behalf of this work.

Last, but not least, we should conduct a campaign of education among the working classes. They should not be left to the uncontradicted propaganda of agitators who are seeking to destroy our government and our homes. In connection with our campaign to do industrial and social justice to the working classes and to relieve the sufferings of the unfortunates, we should send men and women out to conduct a campaign of enlightenment and to counteract the destructive doctrines of the paid and unpaid agents of disloyalty and destruction. The momentous and deplorable happenings throughout the world during the past four years should arouse us to the perils of the hour and spur us to the fulfillment of the duty which we as citizens owe to our country at this time.