

Europe's Bravest Man.

An example of true courage which no battlefield affords was displayed by Karl Liebknecht, the Socialist member of the German Reichstag, who alone dared to vote against further appropriations for war. His act had not the stimulus of popular approval and applause. He must have known it would meet with naught but bitter condemnation from his countrymen, unable to realize that what he did, none but a genuine patriot could do. He may lack even the religious feeling which supported a German of a different age, who also defied power, authority and public opinion, using these words: "Here I take my stand. I can not do otherwise. God help me." Even his fellow members of his own party—many of whom must secretly envy him for his courage—can not, without confession of their own shame, offer him a word of encouragement. Yet the time must come when his act will be appreciated, when Germans will tell with justifiable pride, that of all the parliaments of the warring nations, theirs was the only one which contained a member so brave as to stand alone for the right. No blood-bought victory can bring to Germany such glory as the heroic act of Liebknecht.

S. D.



Putting New Wine in an Old Bottle.

When the Progressive party set out with such a flourish two years ago to reform American politics it carried within itself the cause of its own destruction. In retaining the protective tariff as one of its cardinal principles it laid the foundation for privilege. To declare in favor of a non-partisan tariff board to draw up tariff schedules would no more establish justice than would a declaration seventy-five years ago in favor of a non-partisan board to regulate the relations of master and slave. Slavery is slavery, no matter what the form, and privilege is privilege, whatever the disguise. What the leaders of the Progressive party failed to grasp was the fact that it was not the bungling, or "unscientific" form of privilege involved in a protective tariff that people cried out against, but any kind of privilege. To eliminate its incongruities, to equalize it in some respects as between kinds of production, and classes of persons, might tend in some degree to equalize the burdens, but burdens they would still be.



The declaration of principles issued by the Progressive party had some fine sounding words; but beneath them all was this declaration in support

of privilege—for privilege the tariff is, in spite of all scientific treatment—and voters who were at first charmed by the high-sounding words, and by the fine personnel in the party, soon found that the effective control of the party was in the hands of the men who draw their financial sustenance from present privileges. And the disappointed voters deserted the party, as rats from a sinking ship.



Clearly, the time is past for glossing over evils. Whatever man, whatever party, is to lead in American politics at this time must strike at the very root of privilege. Nor must there be any uncertainty or ambiguity in the phrasing of the declaration. Only such a party, whether it be old or new, can hope for the support of those earnest-minded, firmly-resolved men and women who, realizing the baneful effect of the present unjust economic conditions, have set out to right them. Knowing the difference between a political party founded upon principle and a party devoted to satisfying the caprice of an ambitious man, these men and women can best serve their country during the next two years by impressing upon the Democratic leaders the fact of their existence, and the price of their support.

S. C.



Reactionary Progressives.

Very non-progressive is the statement issued by the Progressive party conference at Chicago on December 2. Mentions of social justice were conspicuous by their absence. The only economic measure discussed was the tariff and on that question the party adheres to its reactionary position. It still offers the absurd proposition to "take the tariff out of politics" without abolishing it. It declares that industrial peace can only be secured by accepting "the principle of protection as a fixed national policy." If that is true then all hope of industrial peace may as well be abandoned. The principle of protection cannot be accepted as a fixed national policy by any honest citizen who knows it to be what it is—a fraud and a robbery. One may as well ask that burglary or bunco-steering be accepted as a fixed national policy.



No less appropriate place could possibly have been chosen for such a declaration than a city of the State which at the recent election gave Raymond Robins as head of the Progressive party ticket 203,000 votes, nearly one eighth of the entire amount received by the party throughout the