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The 1920s



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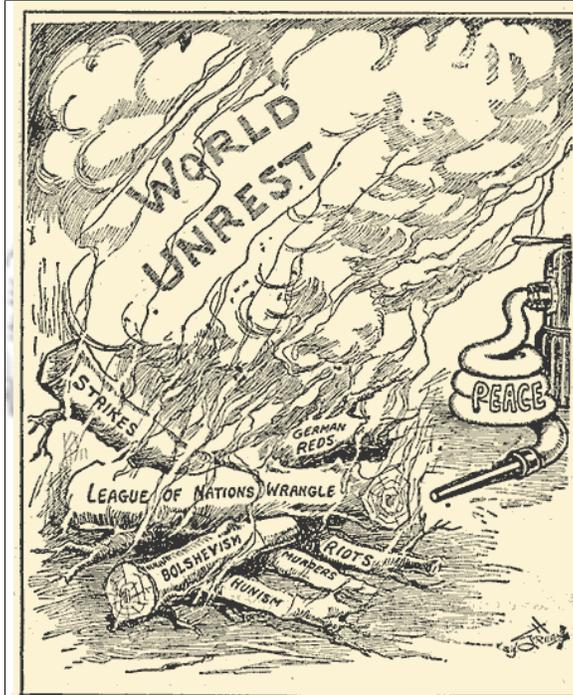
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- INFLATION
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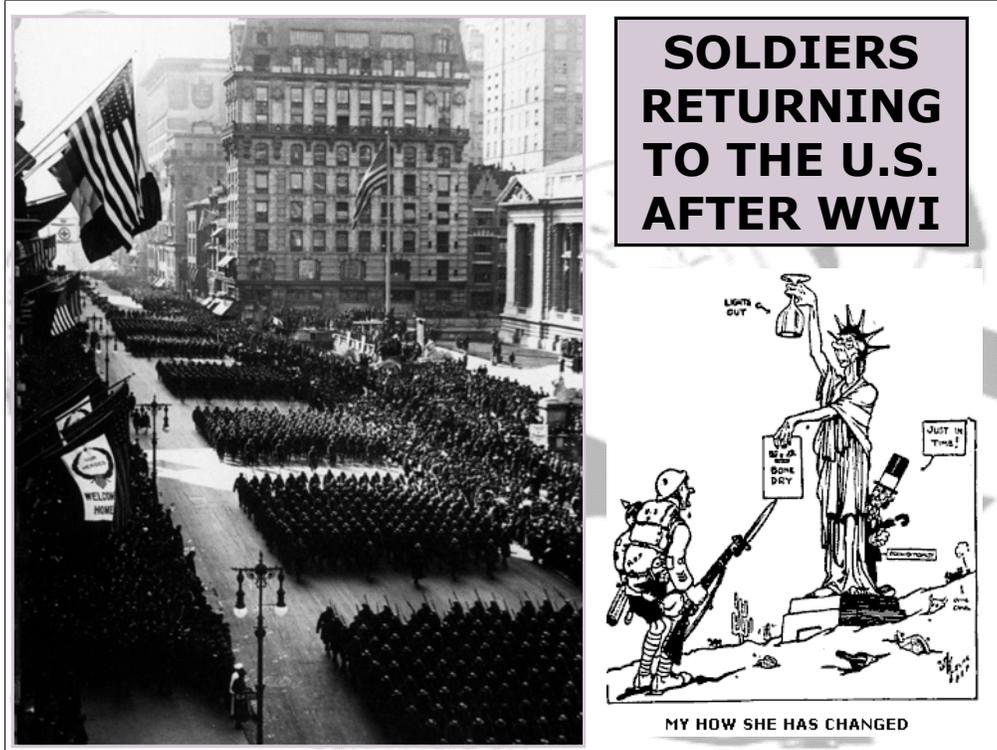


TURN ON THE HOSE.
 —Grene in the New York Evening Telegram.

THE WORLD AS IT LOOKED TO MANY AMERICANS AFTER WWI, FULL OF PROBLEMS AND DANGERS.

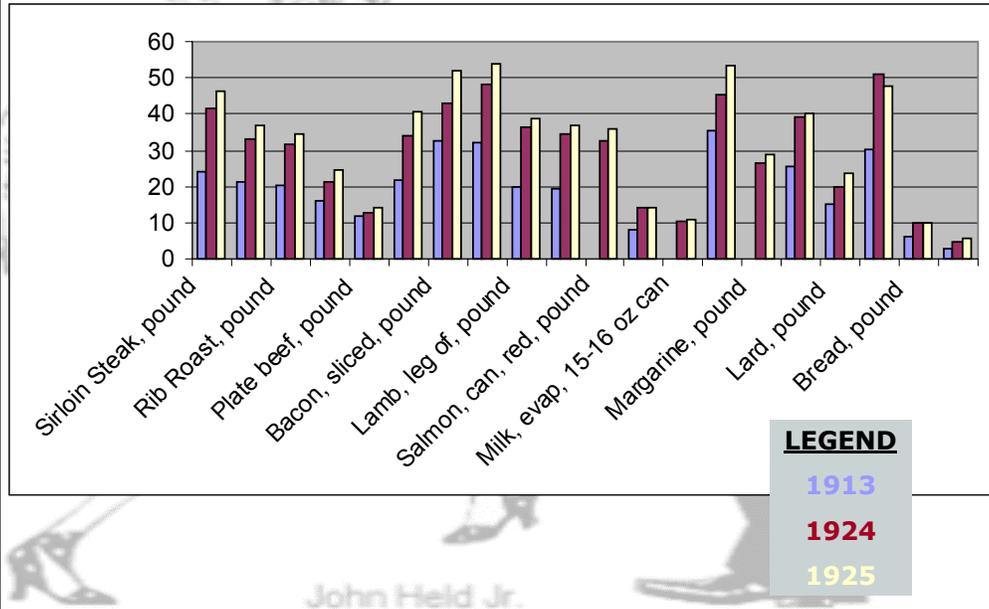


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 A NERVOUS WRECK.
 —McCutcheon in the Chicago Tribune.

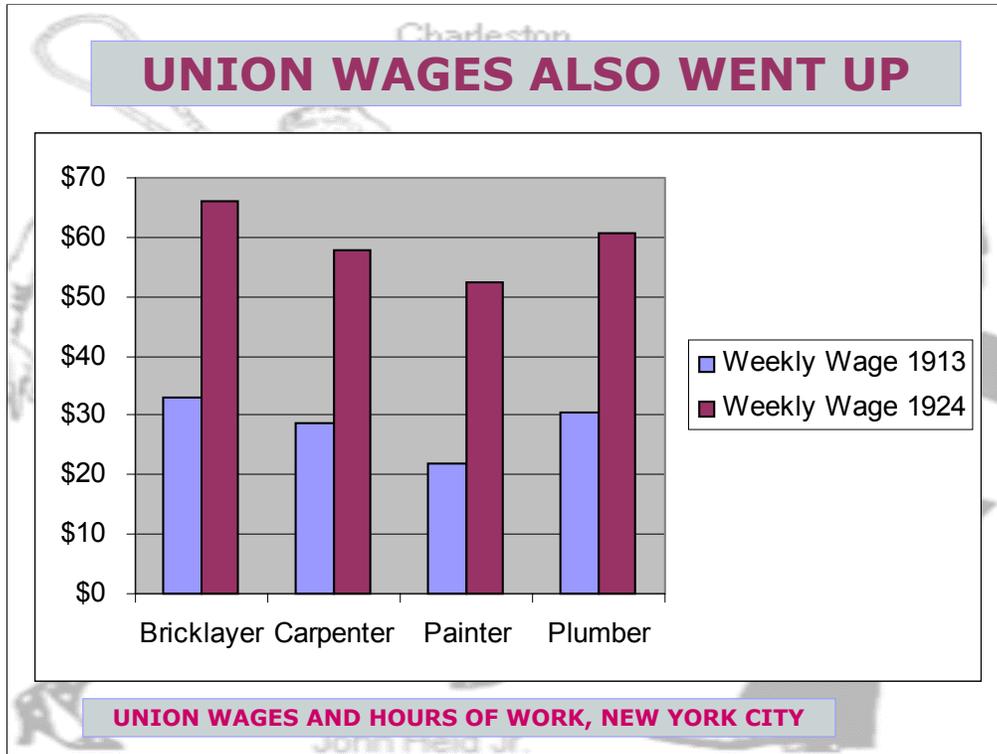


WW I VETERANS COME HOME TO A CHANGED AMERICA. HOW ARE THE PROHIBITIONISTS PORTRAYED? ANSWER: AS A "KNOW-IT-ALL" WHO KNOWS WHAT IS RIGHT FOR EVERYBODY.

INFLATION 1913 TO 1925



1. GUNS TO BUTTER, EXPRESSION MEANING THE PRODUCTION OF WAR MATERIALS OR CONSUMER GOODS
2. INFLATION, IN 1920 GOODS COST TWICE AS MUCH AS THEY HAD IN 1918

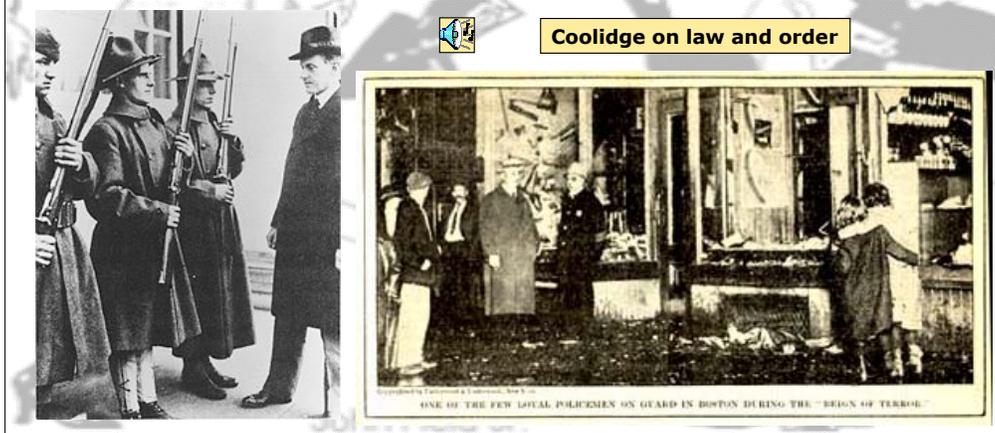


The wartime honeymoon between labor and capital blew up in fearful strife. Four million men hit the bricks in 1919 alone: the unions didn't want to go back to the long week and low wage of the prewar years, nor to the Open Shop cherished by the patriotic defenders of free American enterprise. Strikes swept the nation by the thousands, hitting steel, the meat packers, the railroads, the building industry, the garment trades, even the vaudeville houses.

John L. Lewis took 435,000 minors out of the pits and relaxed with Homer's *Iliad* as Detroit closed its freezing schools and factory owners everywhere talked of banking their furnaces. Seattle was crippled by a general walkout. On the Atlantic Seaboard, striking longshoremen shut down the ports. Blood ran, too. Pennsylvania's coal and iron police bent clubs over strikers' skulls and U.S. troops ran interference for U.S. Steel's scabs in Gary, Indiana. In West Virginia, the Weirton Steel Company's private police force made 118 strikers kneel and kiss the American flag; in the temper of the time, with the Government's Red Raids picking up steam, you were a Bolshevik if you shouldered a picket sign. "The American businessman," said Frederick Lewis Allen in *Only Yesterday*, "was quite ready to believe that a struggle of American laboring men for better wages was the beginning of an armed rebellion directed by Lenin and Trotsky, and that behind every innocent professor who taught that there were arguments for as well as against socialism there was a bearded rascal from Eastern Europe with a moneybag in one hand and a smoking bomb in the other."

DURING 1919 THERE WERE MORE THAN 3,000 STRIKES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, INVOLVING MORE THAN 4 MILLION WORKERS.

THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT WERE THE GENERAL STRIKE IN SEATTLE AND THE BOSTON POLICE STRIKE. IN BOTH CASES THE NATIONAL GUARD WAS BROUGHT IN TO RESTORE PEACE. CALVIN COOLIDGE, GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS, BECAME NATIONALLY KNOWN FOR HIS TOUGH STAND FIRING THE STRIKING BOSTON POLICE



Many of these strikes had issues in common, particularly that employers tended to associate the unions and strikes with communism and that violence was associated with the strikes, with the nation's military often being called in to bring peace and end the strikes. Some of the more significant strikes of 1919 include a general strike in Seattle which practically paralyzed the city. The mayor of Seattle brought in that national guard to restore peace. In September of 1919 more than 400,000 steel workers throughout the nations went on strike and employers blamed communists. Also in September, the Boston Police force went on strike bringing to the forefront Governor Calvin Coolidge who proclaimed that no one had the right to strike against public safety. He also authorized the national guard to restore peace and the strike, his action brought him into national fame and helped elect him to the presidency later on.

BOSTON POLICE STRIKE, 1919, STRIKING POLICE WERE FIRED BY GOVERNOR CALVIN COOLIDGE

WHO BECAME WIDELY KNOWN AND LATER BECAME PRESIDENT

JOHN L. LEWIS, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED MINE WORKERS WHO LED A SERIES OF MASSIVE STRIKES

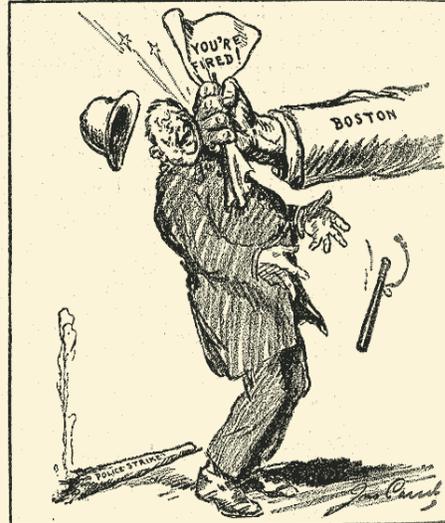
BOSTON POLICE STRIKE EDITORIAL CARTOONS



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HE GIVES AID AND COMFORT TO THE ENEMIES OF SOCIETY.

—McCutcheon in the *Chicago Tribune*.



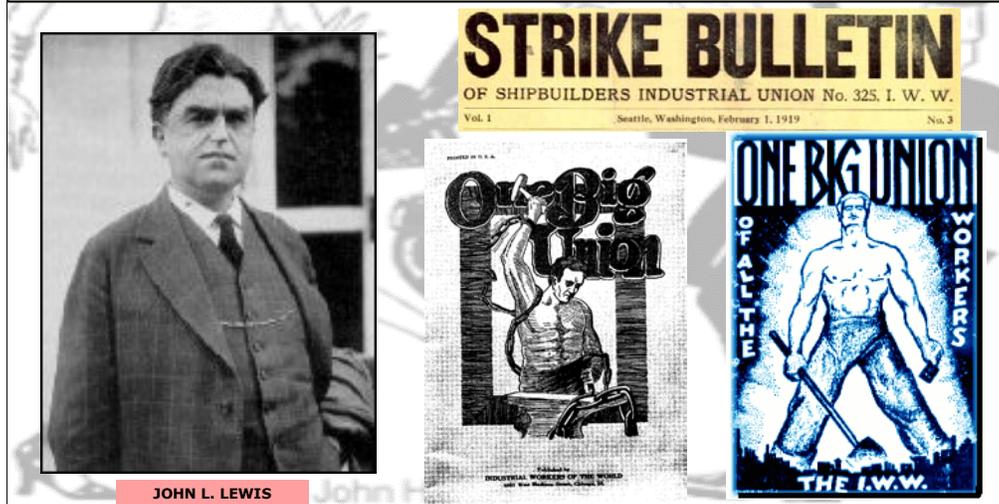
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STRIKING BACK!

—Cassel in the *New York Evening World*.

POINT OUT THAT THE CARTOONS ARE UNSYMPATHETIC TO THE POLICEMEN'S PLIGHT.

FOR FOUR DAYS IN EARLY FEBRUARY 1919, THE SEATTLE LABOR ESTABLISHMENT CLOSED DOWN THE CITY AND CAPTURED NATION-WIDE ATTENTION IN THE FIRST CITY-WIDE GENERAL STRIKE IN U.S. HISTORY. POLITICIANS AND NEWSPAPERS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST AND THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY INTERPRETED THE ACTION AS THE BEGINNING OF A BOLSHEVIK-STYLE REVOLUTION.



JOHN L. LEWIS, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED MINE WORKERS WHO LED A SERIES OF MASSIVE STRIKES. THE IWW (INTERNATIONAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD) WAS A RADICAL UNION OF UNSKILLED WORKERS WHO WANTED TO TRANSFORM AMERICAN SOCIETY AS WELL AS BEING A TRADITIONAL UNION (WANTING BETTER PAY, WORK WEEK, ETC).



BOLSHEVIKS, COMMUNIST REVOLUTIONARIES WHO TOOK OVER RUSSIA IN 1917 AND PREDICTED COMMUNIST TAKEOVERS IN OTHER NATIONS
RADICALS, LEFT WING (OR RIGHT WING) COMMUNISTS, ANARCHISTS, SOCIALISTS, PEOPLE WHO WANT TO CHANGE THE ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL SYSTEM THROUGH NON- LEGAL METHODS

RED SCARE

EVENTS IN RUSSIA AND EUROPE AND MASSIVE STRIKES AT HOME LED TO A FEAR THAT THE U.S. WOULD BE THE NEXT TARGET OF COMMUNISTS

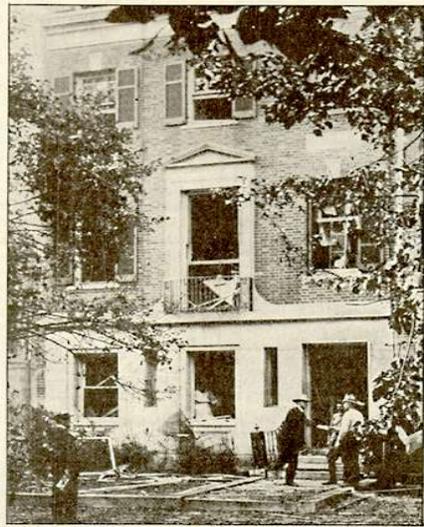


WALL STREET BOMB DISASTER

John Held Jr.

RED SCARE, 1919-1920, THE LARGE NUMBER OF VIOLENT STRIKES SCARED MANY AMERICANS WHICH LED TO A TIME OF WIDESPREAD ANXIETY AND FEAR OF A COMMUNIST TAKEOVER

PALMER RAIDS



"THESE ATTACKS WILL ONLY INCREASE THE ACTIVITIES OF OUR CRIME-DETECTING FORCES,"
Declares Attorney-General Palmer, whose Washington home, shown above, was damaged by a bomb-explosion on June 2.



A. MITCHELL PALMER

PALMER RAIDS, ATTORNEY GENERAL STAGED A CRACKDOWN ON SUSPECTED RADICALS INVOLVING MANY VIOLATIONS OF CIVIL RIGHTS ON INNOCENT VICTIMS