BEST WISHES

For a Happy and Prosperous New Year

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Wishing you all the compliments of the season.

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We wish all our friends and customers a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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BANK OF MONTREAL,

HEAD OFFICE ESTABLISHED 1817 INCORPORATED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT Paid up Capital \$16,000,000.00. Reserve Fund \$16,000,000.00. ASSETS OVER \$240,000,000.

SAVINGS BANK DEPARTMENT Deposits taken of \$1 and upwards, which can be withdrawn on demand.

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The Rising Hope.

Every day the astounding results of that recent Socialist peace congress at Basle, Switzerland, becomes clearer to every person who is observing the trend of things in Europe; and every day it becomes clearer also that the congress changed the whole course of history, and put forth such a power as had never been known before in international affairs. Here is something to ponder deeply, for it has great lessons. A few men come together from all the countries of Europe. They have no official standing; they are not statesmen nor conspicuous figures, nor connected with governmental administrations. They never appear in press despatches. Most of them are unknown outside of the places in which they live. But they make one declaration against an impending war, and that war averted. The whole situation in Europe undergoes a most marvelous change. The government in every country suddenly discovers that it wants no war. Until these men spoke war was regarded as inevitable; after they had spoken, impossible. Peace is assured. Kings, emperors, governments, ministers, cabinets and parliaments are nothing in the presence of this extaordinary and impressive manifestation. These few unknown mer had but to meet and raise their hands and the whole gang of war makers fled shrieking.

What was it that gave these few men such an authority that every court in Europe was obliged to heed what they said? They were the voice of united labor; that was all. They were expressing the final determination of the millions of united workers in Germany, the millions of France, the other millions of every European country; and before that expression. all other power seemed to crumple up, and prime ministers and chancellors and the other gentlemen that usually live in the lime light to become some absurd kind of puppets or lay figures. The real power of the world had spoken; that was all. The power that usually is silent and goes on without a word, doing the world's work and supporting the lay figures and holding them in the hollow of its unresisting look grand and important: that solely provides the pomp and glory of government and says nothing about it; that enables the prime minister to live and to strut and to mouth and batten around the state preserves; that keeps the wheels turning and the fires alight; that alone is of any importance in the world and yet ardinarily has no part in the products of its toil; that is the subject of the jest and and derided and spat upon; that has revolution.

had nothing but buffets and scorn and crusts to live upon, and yet has alone loaded the tables of the rulers; thathas given them all the necessities and every convenience of civilized life; that has allowed itself to be the door mat of the world; this great giant has' stirred at last, and it had but to raise its head and say a word and the puppets stood aghast. A united class; that was all. Wonderful lesson! Give to it your best heed; the spectacle is worth all you or any men can devote to it. The real power that moves the world shines suddenly through all the pretense and fake; you get a glimpseof new things, possible and impending, such as were never hoped for except in dreams.

Suppose all the workers of the world were united. Suppose we had a united working class in the United States. Suppose all the workers should grow weary of being faked and fooled and haltered in the tread mill. Suppose they should tire of furnishing all good things for their masters and demand good things for themselves. Suppose they should cease to be divided by one trumpery foolish issue after another, and say "There is nothing of any importance to us in this world except our class and its emancipation and its welfare." There would be absolutely no limit to the achievement for good? of such a power. It could do far more than merely avert wars and insure peace and put an end to the armament insanity. There is not one worthy reform for which good men and good women hope afar off that it could not bring to pass. There is not one good cause that it would not include. There is not one evil social condition that it could not abolish. It could remake human life. It could make education the universal inheritance instead of the exclusive possession of a few. It could abolish poverty. It could obliterate every slum and every filthy tenement. It could provide for every family a comfortable, healthful and happy home. It could end all the afflictions that flow from the slums and deluge society and grow worse and more alarming.—Charles Edward Russell in "The Coming Nation."

The capitalists are doing t eir best hand; that alone enables my lord to to uphold the glorious liberty of ore wage slave to outbid another worker for a job.

> If you think you are a free manand can say what you like, just begin talking Socialism in the shop, and see how quickly you will be out of a job and blacklisted.

A bread famine and bread riot now threaten France. This is but another sign of the approaching cataclysm that: mocking of the parasites it alone keeps | will overwhelm the exploiters. Bread alive; that has always been despised riots are generally the precursors of

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particularly if they live far from town, frequently find it very convenient to take advantage of our Joint Account plan.

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Fenelon Falls Branch

M.W. Reive, Manager.