



AMONG US MORTALS "Reconstruction"

By W. E. Hill

"My dear, at first I thought he had awfully cruel eyes, but the more I look at him the more I feel that he has the kindest eyes I ever saw!" Three ladies of the parlor Bolshevist variety who, though a bit startled at Comrade Murkle's doctrines on "Dynamic Reconstruction," are convinced that no Bolshevist would ever seize their property.

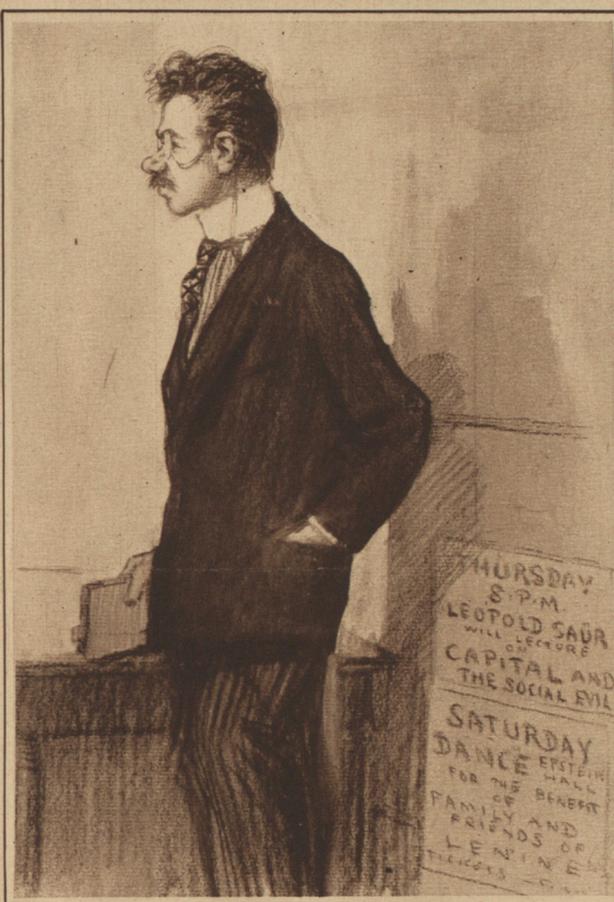
"You needn't think you're going to hang around here in my way, I got work to do." Mike, of the proletariat, has struck for shorter hours — longer hours at home, however, do not meet with his wife's approval.



Mr. Anson Gregg is conservative, and somewhat pessimistic about reconstruction. "No use doing anything until the Republican party gets back in power."



As for Comrade Pincsky, he is out-and-out Bolshevist and is dead certain all the other radicals are either hypocrites or on the wrong track. "Do good that evil may come of it," argues Comrade Pincsky. "Go out and kill if necessary. Rob the robbers." Comrade Pincsky's idea on reconstruction is at least a great little get-rich-quick scheme.



Comrade Wypeman is a syndicalist and thinks Comrade Boom all wrong. The only way to reconstruct the world is to start in with syndicalism, says Comrade Wypeman, which is direct action and applied anarchy.

"We can't possibly pay the increase in rent, and it will cost us even more to move. I don't see what we are going to do!" Two ladies of the downtrodden middle class who would welcome a little less talking and a little more reconstruction work done on the high cost of living.

Preparedness is Silas T. Snap's motto. What with all this labor unrest and need for reconstruction, Silas has sovietized his factory. Mrs. Snap will tell you that "Silas is really the only 'proletariat' in the firm—he works so hard thinking up new ideas!"



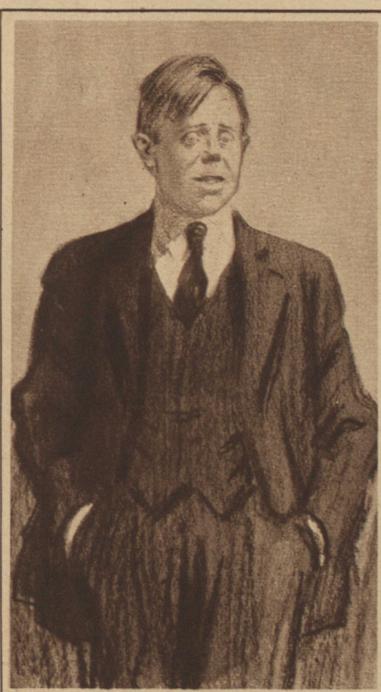
Comrade Boom, philosophical anarchist, takes occasion to speak slightly of the old-fashioned idea of state socialism, stating that the basis of all reconstruction should be the "Rule of Common Consent." In other words, let's all be supermen, each man a law to himself.



Joe Hod, on the other hand, is all for the I. W. W., when it comes to making over society. It is the most idealistic—besides, doesn't it preach sabotage, which is much better than syndicalism? Joe's audience is Miss Linda Waw, who secretly leans to Bolshevism which allows any lady between eighteen and eighty to choose her own husband.



Alvin K. Murkle, advanced radical and advocate of the Bolshevist doctrines, is giving a little talk on "dynamic reconstruction." Reconstruction, according to Alvin's theory, consists principally in pulling down everything in sight—especially religion and morality. A lady in the audience has just asked if it is true that Bolshevists are killing people right and left.



Alvin is naturally astounded at such a question. Although it happens that Alvin does not know a word of Russian, he was in Petrograd for a week and heard nothing but expressions of brotherly love and happiness—"and surely if there had been any unrest it would have come to my ears!"