

Approximately at the same time the People's Council issued a bulletin announcing the dispatch of an open letter to all members of Congress, the gist of which is given as:

"We appeal to you, our representatives, immediately to set aside adequate time for a frank and free debate on a resolution accepting the Russian formula as a basis for immediate, general peace, and we urge upon you the advisability of calling into conference in Washington, without delay, representatives to the elected assemblies of all the Allied powers for the purpose of formulating a concrete statement of terms, upon which a just and permanent peace can be arranged.

"The letter was written immediately following the speech of Senator Borah in which he urged that the nation deserves to know 'more definitely and more specifically the terms and conditions upon which we were fighting and the terms and conditions upon which we would cease to fight.'

"The letter also called attention to a recent similar utterance upon the part of Senator Lewis and one of Mr. Asquith in the English House of Commons, in which he said 'it cannot be stated too clearly that this is a matter for the people rather than for the governments.'

"This is but one of the activities of the organization committee of the Council. In conjunction with the Legal First Aid Bureau and the Civil Liberties Bureau, 70 Fifth Avenue, New York City, it is providing legal defense for conscientious objectors. It is also urging throughout its branches agitation for the repeal of conscription act.

"In conjunction with the Workmen's Council, which is the labor wing of the People's Council movement, the organizing committee arranged a great mass meeting of protest against the suppression of the labor and radical press by denial of the use of the mails." (Press matter, People's Council, August, 1917.)

It was towards the central convention set for September 2-6, 1917, that Lochner and his colleagues both at New York headquarters and in the field now devoted their energies. Miss Freeman for instance was particularly active, traveling from Seattle, August 13th. to Everett, Wash., August 17th, then to Deer Lodge, Mont., August 22d, and finally to Butte, Mont., on August 27th,

agitating constantly for the People's Council. We quote passages from her voluminous letters to Lochner:

From Seattle, August 13, 1917, in reference to the San Francisco meeting of the People's Council she wrote:

"The man Thompson you see on the program is a member of the L. W. W. and made a wonderful speech."

From Everett, Wash., describing the Seattle meeting where Kate Sadler "a splendid live soul but very radical" was arrested:

". . . I leaped on the table and started to speak—most of the crowd remaining. I told the purposes of the People's Council and something about the Russian democracy. . . . Then Colonel Wood of Portland came and I closed. Just then eight policemen came up . . . and declared they would arrest me. A great shout of indignation went up but they seemed very determined. . . . I jumped from the table and a policeman caught hold of my arm. . . . People surged in between us, the hand suddenly loosened and I slipped into the crowd easily and back to the hall, in time to do my usual job of asking for the collection. . . . The I. W. W. situation here is one to be reckoned with. They are very powerful here, and our meetings were rather swamped owing to the lumber strike. . . . The screws are getting tighter. 'These are great times for democracy.' . . . By the way get in touch with Lincoln Steffens. . . ."

From Deer Lodge, Mont., August 22, 1917, to Miss Alice Park of the Woman's Suffrage Party:

"The situation here is vastly different from the Seattle vicinity. One has to soft-pedal very much. . . . The splendid boys who formed the committee had worked very hard and were very anxious. They feared the least radical remark would upset the apple cart. I made my speech in the form of questions; and so got by with many statements. . . . I am leaving here tonight. . . . Will see you in Minneapolis."

From Butte, to Lochner, August 27, 1917:

"I haven't done anything to speak of here. The situation is most delicate. Mary O'Neill will handle it. . . . She is very deep in it all here and so is Miss Rankin who, by the way is at her home in Missoula, Mont. Mary is her

first lieutenant in this State, and very wise and careful.
"

"Great Falls are planning to go out on a sympathetic strike, and it means careful handling."

In view of these letters it can perhaps be said without any exaggeration that Miss Freeman did her bit in the way of spreading radicalism through People's Council propaganda, in this country during the war.

Among the agents organizing in the field during the summer of 1917 for the People's Council were Irwin St. John Tucker who co-operated with Mrs. Lloyd in Chicago,¹ Grace Scribner, of Boston;² S. A. Stockwell, of Minneapolis;³ M. A. Brantland, of Ada, Minn.; Thos. Vollom, Erskine, Minn.; Olof M. Grover, Mentor, Minn.;⁴ and C. A. Ryan of the World Peace Association, Northfield, Minn.,⁵ were also active. One of Lochner's aides who did particularly effective work was James Maurer. He wrote in August 20, 1917, submitting his expense account to the People's Council:

"On my tour I spoke at the following places:

Chicago	3 meetings
Los Angeles	3 meetings
Frisco	2 meetings
Oakland	1 meeting
Portland	1 meeting
Everett	1 meeting
Seattle	2 meetings
Spokane	1 meeting
Pocatello	1 meeting
Salt Lake City.....	2 meetings (Union men only)
Denver	1 meeting
Trinidad	1 meeting
Kansas City	2 meetings
St. Louis.....	3 meetings (1 to Union men only)
Granite City	1 meeting

All told twenty-five meetings. All excepting two were very well attended. Meeting at Seattle was broken up by soldiers, after I had spoken just one hour. The meeting at Pocatello

¹ Telegram, Tucker to Lochner, Aug. 21, 1917.

² June 19, 1917.

³ Aug. 4, 1917.

⁴ C. A. Ryan, soliciting funds for People's Council, Aug. 17, 1917.

⁵ Aug. 15 and 25, 1917.

was broken up by police and plain clothes rough necks, after I had spoken about twenty minutes. . . . All told, I feel that my efforts left good results at each place visited.

"People's Council of New York, agree to pay my expenses from Chicago to the Coast and return to Chicago.

Chicago	3 days
At Los Angeles	3 days
At Everett.....	1 day
Salt Lake City.....	1 day
Return to Chicago.....	3 days

All other meetings were paid for by Socialists and others, who arranged them. That is, wages and hotel was paid."

"I feel that my tour has done much good among Socialists, Union men and others." (August 21, 1917.)

Other valuable Lochner allies of this period who wrote interesting letters were:

1. Mr. Erich C. Stern, of Milwaukee, from whom we quote:

"Your telegram received today and so Mr. Haessler and I called upon Mr. Gustav Trostel (brother of Albert Trostel). He said that La Follette's secretary, Mr. Hanna, was in town last week and had collected a considerable sum of money to be used for peace purposes—and had received a considerable amount from the Trostels. Mr. Trostel therefore thought we ought to appeal to others as well as him and his brother. He gave us his own check for \$100 for the local treasury and turned over to us \$508 from another source for the national treasury. Mr. Haessler took this check and promised to forward the money to you at once. . . . I must confess to being disappointed that you are meeting with so much difficulty in raising the initial \$50,000. It seems to me that even \$1 membership fees should have made out a very large sum in the aggregate if your membership is as numerous as I had supposed. . . . Do you know what La Follette does with the money he collects?"¹ Lochner in answering Stern² said: "I think La Follette is using the money he collects for two purposes—first, to ascertain the name of one peace man in each precinct of the Union; second, to enable him to circularize his splendid articles such as, 'The right of the citizen to criticise the government in war times.'"

¹ Aug. 15, 1917.

² Aug. 23, 1917.