



The October Labor Defender

By **CYRIL BRIGGS**

No one can read the October issue of the Labor Defender without being impressed with its graphic record of the growing drive to fascism in this country, and the heroic resistance of the working class as shown in the increasing wave of strikes against the N. R. A. starvation codes. One is also greatly impressed with the splendid make-up of this pictorial record of Labor's struggles, and amazed that such an excellent magazine, loaded with vital, informative articles and pictures, can be sold at so low a price as five cents. Despite the reduction in price, the magazine is today more attractive than ever.

There are articles and pictures of the revolutionary struggles of the tolling Cuban masses and the armed attacks by U. S. imperialism and its Cuban puppets seeking to crush the resistance of the Cuban toilers. The N. R. A. codes and the Nazi anti-labor laws are shown to be significantly similar in an article by Isidor Schneider. Sasha Small contributes a smashing exposure of the Reichstag frame-up with irrefutable proof of Nazi responsibility for the Reichstag arson for which four Communist leaders are now facing death in the most infamous trial in history. Comrade Small points out that the Nazi methods are well-known in this country, and are regularly used against the oppressed Negro People and Asiatic workers on the West Coast. The familiar Red Bogey is also dragged out upon occasion by American capitalism.

Therber Niel in "Daily Life In Fascist Germany" gives a vivid picture of the murderous excesses of the Brown Terror, which "assumes a multitude of forms and creeps into the daily life of one and all."

In "Prison Labor in the U. S. A.," J. B. Thompson contrasts the brutal treatment and exploitation of prisoners in the United States, with the methods of the Soviet Union, whose primary aim is not to penalize and punish offenders, but "to remake criminal elements into useful citizens of the Soviet Union." "American jails are places of punishment (and bitter exploitation of prison labor). Soviet prisons are educational institutions."

Other articles deal with the New Mexico miners' strike, the lynch terror in the United States, the recent U. S. Congress Against War, the Great Steel Strike of 1919. The Life Stories of Ruby Bates and Lester Carter, the two star defense witnesses in the world-famous Scottsboro Case, are continued with gripping installments which not only depict the individual experiences and struggles of these two Southern workers, but expose the whole system of national oppression of the Negro masses, jim-crow isolation of the Negroes, and terrific exploitation of both the Negro and white toilers.