

A STRIKE-BREAKER PRESIDENT

By JOHN PEPPER.

Our Answer "A Communist Daily"

The political machinery of the Republican Party made Calvin Coolidge vice-president and death has elevated him to the presidency of the United States.

The presidency of Calvin Coolidge denotes a sharpening of the class struggle. Harding was mediocrity covered with a smile. Coolidge is mediocrity armed with a fist.

Who is Calvin Coolidge?

His best friends, the greatest capitalist newspapers, which wish to recommend him to the people of the United States, can single out only one real fact in his life.

He is the man who broke the strike of policemen in Boston. Characteristically, the capitalist press, both Republican and Democratic, are very well satisfied with him—for the reason that the only heroic gesture of his life was his strikebreaking in Massachusetts.

His best friends say that he has always been a very retiring man during his entire political career—but HE broke the strike in 1919.

Calvin Coolidge has always been silent. His friends write that it is the silence of wisdom. We believe that he is silent simply because he has nothing to say. But his friends, Democrats and Republicans alike, say that he is not a man of words, but a man of deeds.

He is the man who suppressed the freedom of organization. HE broke the strike in Boston with force; he introduced the offensive of capital in 1919.

Calvin Coolidge was an unknown man in the United States before 1919. He has never had a new idea, never even an old one. He has never written a readable article. He has never organized a movement, except a local party machine. He has never supported or put through a reform. But his friends praise him—he destroyed a trade union and he broke a strike. For this reason he became a vice-president of the United States. Napoleon Bonaparte had his Eighteenth Brumaire when he dispersed the people of Paris with grape-shot. The people of France were thankful to him and made the unknown general First Consul and emperor. Calvin Coolidge had the opportunity of his lifetime with the police strike of Boston. He brought armed force against the strikers and the thankful people of the United States elected him, the unknown Governor, to the vice-presidency. Calvin Coolidge as governor of Massachusetts accomplished nothing new or significant. As vice-president of the United States, Calvin Coolidge has accomplished nothing new or significant. But his friends say, and recommend him to the workers of the United States, that he has accomplished an historical act in destroying a trade union and in breaking a strike by force.

The working class of America should at last recognize the truth! We have a president today whose only qualification for office is that

he is a professional strikebreaker. Jay Lovestone, in his book, has baptized the Harding administration with warm and bitter sarcasm as the "GOVERNMENT—STRIKE-BREAKER." He has shown in his book that the government of the United States—administration as well as Congress and the courts, compose a single, solid machine to oppress the working class. But at the head of his strikebreaking machine stood Harding—a man with a smile. An enemy of the workers, but conciliating. A man of the capitalists, but at the same time a man of Sunday School phrases about equality and love. **NOW AT LAST THE "GOVERNMENT—STRIKE-BREAKER" GETS ITS FITTING HEAD — A STRIKEBREAKING PRESIDENT.**

Calvin Coolidge is too insignificant as a person to be able to decide the policy of parties and classes in this country. Even geniuses can influence only the tempo of events, and Calvin Coolidge is at best, mediocrity personified. And yet, his elevation to the presidency does mean a sharpening of the political situation.

The Republican Party has for a long time no longer been a solidified party. Harding's diplomacy could hold together the conservatives and so-called progressives and could even influence the so-called radicals within the Republican Party. Coolidge does not only lack the smile, but he has not even the authority and prestige of Harding. He is an outspoken president of the reactionaries.

Coolidge as president means an administration against the exploited farmers.

Coolidge as president means armed interference of the state power against every strike of the railroad workers or coal miners.

Coolidge as president means the oppression of every worker or farmer organization which is "red."

Coolidge as president means the advocacy of joining the World Court of the League of Nations of the international bankers.

The labor movement and the movement of the exploited farmers is in great danger. **THE WORKERS AND FARMERS MUST DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST COOLIDGE**, soto did. The bankrupt farmers of Minnesota ridiculed Coolidge last September and did not allow him to finish his speech when he tried to convince the farmers that they were prosperous. And in 1928, the workers and farmers of Minnesota voted for the Farmer-Labor Party, kicking out the political friend of Coolidge, Governor Preus.

The presidency of Coolidge is a danger for the workers and farmers; but the misleaders of the working class wish to hide that from the working class. **GOMPERS** even assures Mr. Coolidge of the support of the labor movement. The New York City Convention of the SOCIALIST PARTY passes a resolution which

I. W. W. Prisoner Driven to Suicide at San Quentin Prison

By MIRIAM ALLEN DEFORD.

(Fed. Press Staff Correspondent)

SAN QUENTIN, Cal.—One more crime may be charged to the advocates of the criminal syndicalism law in California. Abe Shocker has hanged himself in his cell in San Quentin prison. Shocker was sent up from Los Angeles in December, 1921, on a double sentence—two to twenty-eight years—having been indicted on two charges. He had been in the recent protest strike, and the strain of solitary had evidently been too much for his always sensitive nervous system.

For a few days after the strike ended it had been noticed by his fellow workers that Shocker did not seem himself, and finally during the night he made a noose of a sheet and a towel, and hanged himself to the bars of his cell. He left a note bequeathing all his effects to the other criminal syndicalism prisoners, and asking that his death be taken as a substitute for what the other I. W. W. members in prison were enduring.

Even in insanity and suicide Shocker's last thought was for the organization in whose service he died.

proffers condolence for the death of Harding and at the same time the Committee of Eleven leaders eliminates the second part of the resolution, which was directed against Coolidge. Gompers is a DEMOCRAT; but he promises his support for the REPUBLICAN Coolidge.

Hillquit, Gerber, Feigenbaum and the others are SOCIALISTS; they deceive their own Party Convention and kill with silence the solution which attacks the REPUBLICAN Coolidge.

It is the duty of COMMUNISTS to enlighten the workers as to where as regards the significance of the presidency of Coolidge, and new dangers with which the strikebreaker president menaces the labor movement.

New bitter struggles are impending. The working class must provide itself with new weapons. We must strengthen the trade unions, through amalgamation. We must strengthen the organized working class through organizing the unorganized. We must make it clear to the exploited farmers that their only remedy is that the land shall belong to those who use it. We must lead the working class and exploited farmers into the political struggle through a mighty Federated Farmer-Labor Party. We can do all that only if the Communist Party, the Workers Party, finds the way to the oppressed workers and farmers. The most important instrument for enlightening the masses and leading them into the defensive struggle is a daily paper. **THE UNITED STATES HAS ACQUIRED A STRIKE-BREAKING PRESIDENT. OUR ANSWER SHALL BE A COMMUNIST DAILY.**