

# REVOLT

Organ of Revolutionary Workers League, U.S.

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561

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## Workers Can Stop War Entry

**B**OTH sides in the dispute over the attempt of the Roosevelt administration to repeal the mandatory arms embargo in the existing neutrality law are trying to represent their fight as an honest difference over the best method of keeping the country out of war. Nothing can be further from the truth.

No treaty, no matter what its provisions, can prevent imperialist war; no law, whether it contain a mandatory arms embargo, or the strictest cash and carry clauses, can keep the biggest imperialist plunderer in the world, the American ruling class, from exploiting that war for its own profit, and from entering the war when it decides that it is to its advantage to do so.

Despite the present neutrality law American imperialists have been making a handsome profit selling implements of war to Japan for the last three years. Every one knows that in 1916 Woodrow Wilson campaigned for re-election on a program of neutrality, and that in five months the country was at war. It has been established beyond the possibility of doubt that the motive of the ruling class for entering that war was to protect its investments in outfitting the Allies against the Central Powers.

The leopard does not change its spots. The same considerations of profit and imperialist plunder shape the policy of the ruling class today. The House of Morgan still rules the roost. In 1917 its interests forced the government to alter its policy and plunge the country into war against the will of the population. It is doing the same again.

The fight in Congress is, at bottom, a show to hide the real purposes of the ruling class from the working class.

**B**UT it cannot be denied that the isolationists in the Senate today express the opposition of the overwhelming mass of workers and the middle class to going to war. This is so on the part of the workers for two reasons. The workers still have faith in capitalist democracy. And there is no national force capable of organizing independent working class action against the war plans of the government.

The official leadership of the trade unions has long been a tool of capitalist and governmental interests which it has served at the direct expense of the interests of the workers. It can be counted on to support the government. The revolutionary movement is too weak to organize mass demonstrations and is showing no intention of even attempting it.

On the part of the administration the contention that it is seeking the best means of preserving the peace is the sheerest hypocrisy. Roosevelt's position is that repeal of the mandatory arms embargo and the sale of arms to belligerents on a cash or 90 day credit basis will assure American neutrality. It is obvious that this will aid England and France.

When the cash of the purchasers is exhausted the business of manufacturing and selling arms will compel American capitalists to extend credit and will give them sufficient reason to be interested in preventing the defeat of their debtors. This was the pattern by which Morgan got the United States into the world war.

**T**HAT its policy will lead to military action has been recognized by the Roosevelt administration which has perfected plans to draft millions of workers and farmers; organize industry on a war footing; and crush working class opposition. The War Department is in possession of data covering forty million workers which has been turned over to it by the Social Security Board for its use in drafting an army.

The real purpose of the Social Security legislation is now apparent. New Deal liberalism turns out to be a screen for imperialist war preparations. When it is recalled that this fraud was perpetrated three years ago it is clear that the administration has gone about preparing for the war in a clever and farsighted manner.

Defeat of Roosevelt's proposal to repeal the mandatory arms embargo will not stop the American ruling class from going to war. But it will make it more difficult for it to do so.

In the end only working class action can prevent entry into the war. Not laws but strikes can stop the merchants of death from pursuing their grisly business. The threat of revolutionary action arising out of giant strike movements and mass demonstrations against entry into the war, against the high cost of living, will stop Roosevelt and Morgan from shedding the blood of American workers.

## What Is Russia's Policy?

**W**HAT is Russia's role in the war in Europe? The Stalinists are vainly trying to make the world believe that the Russian invasion of Poland was an act of peace. Reactionaries, liberals, pacifists, muddleheads of all sorts are shouting that Russia has joined the anti-Comintern pact.

What do the facts show? Rejection of the British encirclement policy aided Germany. Signing of the pact with the Nazi government made the German invasion of Poland safe. Invasion of Poland by Russian troops was decisive for victory of the "blitzkrieg." Russian occupation of three fifths of the country secures the rear for the German army which can now concentrate in the west. The negotiations with the Turkish government no doubt include neutralization of the Dardanelles which would benefit Germany by making it impossible for Britain to attack her through the Balkans.

In the Far East truce with Japan removes the immediate menace to the latter of war with Russia and enables her to speed up the conquest of China and prepare for still greater imperialist expansion, mainly at British expense.

The facts clearly show that Russian policy is actively anti-British. But does this mean that Russia intends to become a belligerent on the side of Germany?

There is yet no indication of this. Russia has assured Britain of her neutrality. There is no more reason to believe the word of Stalin than there is that of Hitler or Chamberlain. But true or false that pledge indicates that at least no immediate hostilities against Britain are contemplated.

**R**USSIAN neutrality is about as neutral as Roosevelt's. Roosevelt wants neutrality which favors Germany. The latter is no doubt one of the most compelling reasons for Roosevelt's drive to repeal the arms embargo.

This kind of neutrality gives Stalin two great advantages. The first is that it contrives to deepen the conflict among the imperialist powers in Europe, threatens to do the same in the Far East and makes remoter than ever the possibility of their uniting to destroy Russia. The second is that it hangs over the head of Britain the threat of Russia's entering the war on the side of Germany and striking the British Empire mortal blows in the Near East and in India.

There are additional reasons for the Russian government's neutrality. Japan is formally neutral. But no one can have any doubt that the Japanese imperialists are awaiting a favorable opportunity to make another grab.

Should the difficulties of crashing through the Siegfried line compel the British and French to attempt to attack Germany through Holland, and Holland becomes a belligerent, the Japanese might enter the war on the side of Germany. In that case the Dutch East Indies would be fair prey.

But this is almost certain to bring the United States into the war. Stalin has no intention of fighting American imperialism for the sake of the Japanese. But should Russia find herself an ally of Germany and Japan this is exactly what might take place. The present neutrality policy is safer.

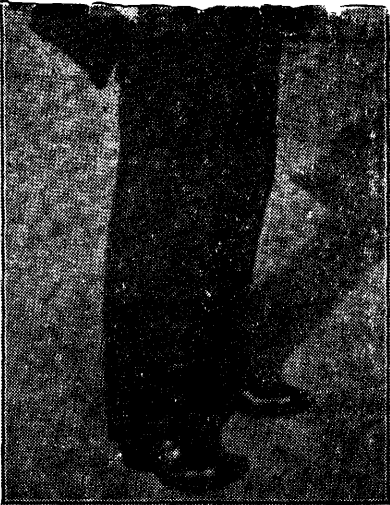
And it has already netted Russia three fifths of Poland. Tomorrow it may add Bessarabia.

**Y**ESTERDAY Stalinist policy supported Britain against Germany. Today Stalin is throwing the weight of Russia behind Germany against England. But against the oppressed masses Stalinist policy is consistently counter-revolutionary. The invasion of Poland is a reactionary violation of the right of peoples to determine their own existence. If the Polish masses had been able to resist they should have been supported. The occupation of Polish territory by Russian troops does not bring freedom from Polish oppression. For the latter it substitutes Stalinist oppression which is as terrible if not worse.

The contention of the Russian government that its invasion was motivated by concern for the welfare of the inhabitants is an obvious lie. The second motivation that the invasion of Poland was necessary to protect the security of Russia falls before the fact that security is possible only on the basis of the right of nations to determine their own existence which can be guaranteed only by proletarian revolution.

The coming revolutions will overthrow not only the imperialist regimes of Germany, England and France, but will exterminate Stalinism.

"Turn imperialist war into civil war."



LENIN



# Revere Copper Workers Win Strike; Restore Wage Cut

CHICAGO, Sept. 17. — An enthusiastic meeting of the striking Revere Copper and Brass workers unanimously accepted the strike settlement arrived at between the Union Bargaining Committee and the Company yesterday. The company pressed by the increased demand for copper and brass as a direct result of the war, by the pressure of the automobile season soon to be in full swing, and by a solid, militant strike granted every point demanded by the workers.

## DEMANDS WON

The company recognized the union, Local 477, UAWU (AF of L), restored the 8% wage cut as of Sept. 18, presented the union with a clear cut statement that foremen would neither harass nor interfere with union organization in the plant, granted that all strikers were to return to work immediately according to seniority, and accepted the condition that negotiations are to be started immediately for a new contract.

Victory was achieved by militant strike action. On June 22, all the 575 workers in the plant went out on strike, demanding restoration of an 8% wage cut that had been rammed down their throats in July, 1938. Under the militant local leadership of John Kilpatrick, Pres., Tony Audia, Vice-Pres., J. Kula, J. Stunts, A. Hansen the workers extended their demands, during the course of the strike, to the additional concessions which they finally won. A twenty four hour picket line was maintained throughout the strike.

The company, in a desperate effort to break the strike, called in the Landis Award Employers Association, founded by Judge K. M. Landis, baseball's czar, one of the most vicious strike-breaking agencies in the country. Posing as federal agents, five Landis thugs were allowed to drive a truck into the plant through the picket line.

## FRAME-UP

Coming out of the plant with a load of tools and dies for shipment to Revere plants in Detroit, Baltimore and Rome, N. Y., the truck, after a 2 mile chase, was forced to the curb and \$15,000 in tools and dies were strewn on the street. Six strikers, held for Grand Jury investigation, have been indicted on frame-up charges of assault and held in \$10,000 bail.

The Chicago Tribune, fuming at the successful defense of the picket line, said editorially, that

have a clear case of assault with deadly weapons, with intent to commit murder.... and the whole gang will be given the heavy sentences they deserve. That will show, better than anything else could, that Chicago, as distinct from New York and other cities, is not ruled by gangland.

Stanley F. Evans, union attorney, presenting evidence of the Landis scabs posing as federal agents to Judge McCarthy, has requested an investigation by the State's Attorney's office.

## STAMPEDE FAILS

Several attempts were made by the company to stampede the men back to work. In a series of meetings held at the Palmer House on Aug. 11, 12, 13 between the company, represented by Tom Flack and an eastern big-shot, Rollo Falk, and the Bargaining Committee, the company claimed that the men would return to work under the old conditions except for the coercion and intimidation of the local leadership. To prove this was completely false, the leadership consented to a special meeting with an NLRB observer present. When the voting started the union leadership voted

and walked out; and by secret ballot 98% of the men rejected the company proposals.

About a month later, Henry Siefert of the law firm of Pope and Ballard, attorneys for the company, went to Milwaukee to see George Kieber, Regional Director of the UAW - AF of L. Kieber, who up to this time had shown little or no interest in the strike, came down from Milwaukee to attend the meeting of the Executive Board of the union on Friday, Sept. 15. Kieber told the Board that the men should return to work on the old basis, and accept the one concession the

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# Plan Anti-War Meet

CHICAGO, Sept. 24.—The first Anti-War United Front meeting in Chicago will be held at Newberry Park, Clark and Walton Sts., Saturday, September 30, from 6 to 12 p. m. A second meeting will be held at Lincoln Center, 700 Oakwood Boulevard, Sunday, October 1 at 7:30 p. m. Admission is free.

20,000 leaflets are being distributed announcing the meetings and pointing out that:

“...The U. S. government is preparing to plunge the country into war.... The war in Europe is.... for PLUNDER and PROFIT.... The President has already declared a limited state of emergency. Entrance into the war means an end to all workers' rights. Prices are rising sky-high again, while wages remain the same. We, the working class, have nothing to gain from this war. Neither the German, British.... working class, is our enemy.... REFUSE TO FIGHT in a capitalist war.... REFUSE TO DIE so that the profit system.... shall make super-profits.... THE ANSWER TO THE WAR PLANS OF THE ROOSEVELT GOVERNMENT IS A FIGHT

FOR BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS!

FOR TRADE UNION WAGES ON WPA!

ALL WAR FUNDS TO THE UNEMPLOYED!

NOT A SOLDIER NOT A CENT FOR U. S. WAR SCHEMES!

END THE PROFIT SYSTEM!

ESTABLISH A SYSTEM OF PRODUCTION FOR USE!

The meetings are organized by the Chicago Anti-War United Front Committee. Organizations participating in the Committee are the Chicago Workers Security Federation (15 locals); Communist Workers Group; Marxian Labor College; Plebeian Forum; Revolutionary Workers League (Fighting Worker); Socialist Union Party; and the Revolutionary Workers League (REVOLT).

# I Was A WPA Worker

CHICAGO, Sept. 21. — For eighteen months I was a “career” man on WPA. I got \$85 a month. Now I am enjoying an indefinite “furlough.” This will teach me (and 649,999 other “career” men and “shovel leaners”) just how valuable a WPA job is and that I must not get into the habit of thinking that the government has to support me if I can't find work.

The government wants me to exert my god-given “individual initiative” for a month or two, spend my “hidden resources” and then come back to the relief station with my hat in my hand to beg to be put on relief. A couple of months of this and I will learn to appreciate a WPA job even if the pay will be less than before.

## SACRIFICE

Prices are going up. The papers say there will be an increase of 30% in the cost of living by the time Thanksgiving Day comes around. But the government has to economize on unessential things to raise money for “national defense.” I will have to learn to make sacrifices for the “national welfare.”

I will probably get back on WPA again and resume my “career.” Pretty soon this country will be in the war. There is a lot of work to be done preparing for it, building roads, armories and airports. Besides, they will naturally want me to be in good health and good spirits so that I (and 2 or 3 million, 999,999 other workers) won't object to carrying one of those new Garand rifles when the time comes.

After my “furlough” the government will expect me (and millions of others) to be very thankful.

way we are told—against the workers of some other country.

## FED UP

I have nothing against the workers of other countries. I (and millions of other workers in this country) are fed up with starvation in the midst of plenty. We don't give a damn about the interests of the capitalists.

The government knows that. It is afraid that the workers will use their guns against the capitalists of this country. I hope that day is close because I am tired of being a “career” man. I want to live like a human being.

C. W.

# Mooney Joins Chorus for National Unity

ROCKFORD, Ill., Sept. 12. — At a meeting here tonight, arranged by the Central Trades and Labor Council, Tom Mooney, America's most famous class-war prisoner, in a prepared speech which he read to 1,000 union men, called for support of Roosevelt's call for “National Unity.” This is the way, he said, to achieve labor unity.

## SOCK IN THE JAW

Mooney, a short, stumpy man, partly bald, with deep-set eyes, read in a low voice. His speech was dull. It was received in dead silence; but half-way through it he startled his listeners when he said the “great Democratic Party got me out of jail.” To his listeners, many of whom contributed money to the Mooney Molders Defense, walked in picket lines and marched in demonstrations for his freedom, this must have been like a sock in the jaw. Mooney called for a “third term for our great president.”

Mooney praised John L. Lewis

# Bohn Aluminum Strikers Demand Union Shop

DETROIT, Sept. 25.—Picket lines held firm here today as the workers of the Bohn Aluminum and Brass Corporation, the Federal Mogul Corporation, and the Detroit Aluminum and Brass Corp. neared the close of their fourth week of strike. Approximately 4,000 workers are involved. The walkout has been so complete that the corporations have not attempted to operate. The striking unionists are members of Federal Mogul Local 202, Bohn Aluminum Local 208 and the Detroit Aluminum and Brass Division of Local 155, all affiliated with the United Automobile Workers (CIO).

On August 29th 600 employees in the Bohn No. 1 plant on East Grand Boulevard and St. Aubin struck together with two other bearing plants, Federal Mogul and Detroit Aluminum and Brass. When negotiations broke down on Thursday, September 14th, because of the company's refusal to grant the unions' demands, seven additional units of the Bohn Aluminum Corp. joined the strike.

## REENFORCEMENTS

On Monday of the same week workers in these units had voted 891 to 249 to strike. These units are Bohn Plant No. 2 at 3516

Hart Avenue, No. 3 at 2599 Twenty-second street, No. 5 at 2619 Clay Avenue, No. 6 Capitol Brass Division at 2306 Franklin Street, No. 7 Foundry at 2512 East Grand Boulevard, No. 8 at 2601 Clay Avenue, Hamtramck, and the Michigan Smelting and Refining Division at 7885 Joseph Campeau, Hamtramck.

The strikers are demanding a union shop, abolition of piecework, vacations with pay, and 5c an hour extra for afternoon and night shifts. The efforts of the Government's “ace” mediator, James Dewey, to settle the strike have been a total flop. On one hand the corporations are taking a stick-out-the-jaw attitude towards the unions. The Bohn management told union representatives during negotiations before the strike widened: “We are going to break up your union. You can use your methods to defend your union and we'll use our own methods to destroy it.” This is reported in the West Side Local edition of the Auto Worker.

## STRIKERS DETERMINED

The strikers are just as determined, and more so, than the corporations. “We will not go this time until —

ets. In April of last year Bohn workers went out on strike for a union shop and went back to work without having won their demand. They do not want to repeat this failure. When the corporations started a rumor around that they would give in to the union on all the demands and sole bargaining rights “provided that employees don't press their union shop demand at this time”—and that it was a rumor was soon proved—the strikers met 2,000 strong in Schiller hall last Thursday afternoon, and by a unanimous vote decided to reject any compromise offered by the company and to take nothing less than a union shop.

It is this sentiment and other factors which compelled R. J. Thomas, president of the UAW-CIO to sanction the strike and Richard Frankenstein and Leo Lamotte (of this-is-no-strike-but-a-walkout fame at Plymouth), regional directors, to go along with the strike, even giving lip service to militancy on occasions. Furthermore, the Labor Board Elections are to take place at Chrysler this week, and it would not look just right to the Chrysler workers if their leaders refused to agree to the strike.

## PRESSURE

Finally, there is evidence of considerable pressure from the rank and file for militant action because of the rise in the cost of living here and also because of grievances piling up in the different big shops. Thursday of last week two plants of the American Blower Corp. went out on strike, affecting 500 workers. They are demanding a restoration of a six percent wage cut made a year ago. Clark T. Morse, president of the company, claimed the union also wanted a preferential union shop and “additional dictatorial powers in the direction of the working force of the company,” but Leo Lamotte denied this. At Kelsey Hayes a slow

# Urge U.S. Maginot Line

Rear Admiral Yates Sterling Jr., than whom—believe it or not—no one abhors war more, has a solution for the unemployment problem.

Hearst's Chicago

The time has come when every unemployed American should be put to work to construct in both oceans what Charles Edison, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy terms the American Maginot line. This line.... will consist of great war fleets in both oceans supported by naval, submarine and air bases....

And when the admiral says “put to work” he means conscript labor.

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## REVOLT

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### REVOLUTIONARY UNITY

The Central Committee has received a number of replies to the Open Letter to Revolutionists, published in the previous issues of REVOLT. Others are expected.

In order that there shall be no misunderstanding the Central Committee declares that it has not offered the program of the League as the basis for unity.

It believes that unity of the revolutionists is made urgently necessary by the new situation created by the outbreak of war in Europe and the imminent entry of the U. S. into it. It believes there is a long standing position on imperialist war which is held by many groups and individuals who are separated by differences over other issues.

It believes that the imperative need to organize effective revolutionary agitation in the United States today against imperialist war and for proletarian revolution has made agreement on this issue decisive for unity and has caused differences which do not touch the fundamental positions of Marxism to lose their validity as a basis for the existence of separate groups.

#### UNDER ONE ROOF

It does not believe that the basis for unity can be those positions which separate the League from other groups which have an identical position on the war question. It understands that these differences cannot be ignored. But it believes that if it is agreed that they shall not be permitted to stand in the way of unity, means can be worked out to resolve them under the roof of one organization. Any other position would make unity impossible since no group apparently is ready to abandon its program and recognize the program of another group. Hence no group should be asked to do so as a condition for unity.

Other groups, the Central Committee recognizes, have an equal right to disagree with its position and to advance a different approach to the problem. Whether unity is possible at all, whether unity will be achieved on the basis of the Central Committee's position or whether it will be achieved on the basis of another group's position, is a question which cannot be decided by the Central Committee.

The Central Committee has not attempted to lay out a blueprint to which the process of unification must conform.

#### NO RIGHT TO DECIDE

For these reasons the Central Committee declares that the replies which it receives to its Open Letter are not its property exclusively; they belong to all revolutionary groups and interested revolutionists.

For the same reason the Central Committee recognizes that it does not have the right to decide for other groups whether unity is possible and which basis is acceptable and which is not. The fact that the Central Committee took the initiative in broaching the problem of revolutionary unity openly does not make it the custodian of the process which it began. The decisions can be made only by these groups.

To make this possible the Central Committee will publish the replies which it receives in the next issue and will propose additional steps.

## Bohn

Continued from Page 3

down strike has been in progress for a week now.

But one important factor involved in the present strike raises the question of how far these leaders will go along with the rank and file on the demand for a closed shop. The strike threatens the war preparations of the capitalist class. The plants involved make a good percentage of the pistons and bearings used in the aircraft and automobile plants. The latter will begin to manufacture tanks soon. The government is rushing a program through for three thousand new planes by the end of 1940. Already the capitalist papers are talking of the danger of the strike to the defense program. The auto plants here have supplies stocked up, but these will soon run low. Already there is talk of Dodge's being hit.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE

The government, it can be expected, will bring more and more

pressure on the union representatives to close the strike on the grounds of "national defense." Any settlement reached on this basis will probably be a compromise short of a union shop as was the case in the Briggs strike last summer when the Briggs workers could have had the moon with a fence around it but went back to work with only sole bargaining powers.

Frankenstein and Lamotte have already indicated their position. In a telegram they sent to the corporations asking verification or denial of the rumors for a compromise, they stated.

We repeat that in the interest of aiding our country's defensive program during this period of a limited national emergency the companies should join with us in a mutually satisfactory settlement of the strike arrived at in the American manner of negotiating around a conference table. (Detroit News, September, 20).

With the intentions of the capitalists of the United States, operating through the govern-

## Shop Talk

NEW YORK, Sept. 25.—The boss tried a dumb trick to prevent the workers from organizing and asking higher wages. He distributed applications to all of us to try to get into a government housing project. Everybody grabbed one and filled it out on the boss' time. None of us would turn down an opportunity to get cheaper rent. Between ourselves I told the fellows "The boss, by being so generous, shows that he knows we need more money to live on. If we get cheaper rent we won't ask for higher wages. That way the boss will save money for himself."

"Will you turn down the opportunity?" I was asked. "No," I replied, "but I will continue to fight for higher wages. Would you live in the dump you're living in now if you get \$10 more a week? Darn right you won't."

"Isn't the boss taxed to pay for the cost of building the housing projects?" "Sure, but it doesn't amount to one-half of one percent of his total taxes, or of the wage increase we should get."

#### FAITH

"Then why does the government build these houses?" someone asked. "Well, if you haven't money enough to pay your rent, you'll organize for higher wages. The boss won't give it to you, you'll go out on strike. The boss will try to break the strike with the aid of the police and the courts. You won't think much of the government then. Maybe you will become a communist. The government wants you to have faith in it."

"Well the government is trying to help up anyway, even though the boss won't," came the reply.

"Congress says that one-third of the nation is in need of better housing. Congress reduced the WPA appropriation, and cut relief, and killed the Housing Bill. Do you think its going to build low rental houses when it won't give adequate relief? Besides what will become of all the capitalist landlords?"

"The whole country will have to be rebuilt to give better housing to the working class. A capitalist government will never do this. A workers government of councils of factory and farm workers will. But we need a revolution against capitalist property relations to achieve this. And we have to build a revolutionary party of workers today thru agitation on this and the bread and butter question in the shop to organize and prepare for the coming revolution."

D. Whitman

ment, to rule out strikes in the event this country enters the war, this strike is an important testing ground for the auto workers. They are in a splendid position to win their demand for a closed shop in the Bohn units, Federal Mogul and Detroit Aluminum and Brass.

#### WHICH ROAD

Will they continue to struggle for their own interests in spite of the war program of the capitalists or will they go along with their misleaders, and, misled by patriotism, subordinate their own interests to those of the capitalists? In deciding this question auto workers should bear in mind that while there are soft jobs for their union heads in Washington, D. C. during war, for them there is only speed-up, wage-cutting and military discipline in the factory and death for many of their sons and fellow workers on the battle-field.

Auto Worker.

## Revere

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company was willing to make, paid vacations in 1940.

Kieber said, "this is the best offer the company will make. They will go no further." The Executive Board rejected Kieber's proposal and instructed the Bargaining Committee and Attorney Heisler to press all the demands. Within 24 hours the union won a complete victory.

#### NO MONEY

Neither Kieber nor Homer Martin, International President, who made a special trip to address the strikers contributed one cent to the strike. The strike was financed solely by the strikers themselves, through personal loans and social affairs.

Although the workers have won a strike settlement they are not yet out of the woods. The attempt to frame-up six strikers must be smashed; a new contract must be negotiated. With the cost of living going up, wage increases won today will be wiped out as the price of sugar, lard, flour and other food essentials go up. The new contract should make provision to reopen the question of wages at the request of the union, to bring wages into line with living costs.

Brass Worker

## Mooney

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Leaflets announcing the meeting promised "A never to be forgotten occasion."

Mooney said he came out of prison "a defender of American democracy." He hailed Roosevelt as the "greatest President who ever sat in the White House." Reactionaries were seeking to destroy Roosevelt's prestige, he said, and praised the President for the Social Security laws and WPA and relief bills. Mooney's praise for the President's reform legislation followed by fifteen days revelations made by the Chicago Tribune that the War Department had on file the names of 40 million workers turned over by the Social Security Board for use in drafting an army.

Among those mentioned by Mooney as being pro-labor were: "Memorial Day Massacre" Kelly, Mayor of Chicago; La Guardia of New York; Olson of California, "the great New Deal governor," and other California capitalist politicians.

#### SLOGANS

The hall was decorated with American flags, and the black and gold flags of the Molders' Union. Slogans in red, white, and blue read: "Forward to national unity and support of the New Deal;" "Labor united, not divided, is the road to victory in 1940."

The chairman was Anton Johansen, vice-president of the AF of L. August Scholle, mid-west regional director of the CIO, spoke for unity of the CIO and AF of L. One of the benefits of unity, he said, would be the formation of a "third party if necessary."

A chorus from the Amalgamated Clothing Workers' Union began the meeting by singing the Star-Spangled Banner. Later they sang Stout-hearted Men, and O, Suzannah. A worker in the back of the hall yelled "Sing the Internationale." No attention was paid to him.

A collection was taken up, the amount of which was not announced. Then the chorus sang God Bless America.

After the meeting, copies of Mooney's Pardon personally autographed by him were sold for two-bits.

Members of the League distributing Revolt were attacked by Stalinists.

D. Lockwood

JOIN

the

LEAGUE

## Book Review

### AN OUTLINE OF MAN'S HISTORY

By Patrick Gordon Walker  
National Council of Labour Colleges, England

2/6d or 2/d post free. 262 pp. May, 1939.

An Outline of Man's History, the latest in the series of Plebs outlines, is, as the title indicates, an attempt to set forth in relatively few pages a short history of the world from the first appearance of man up to the very present. Like all the Plebs outlines the present book is written primarily for workers.

As far as the attempt at the history of the past is concerned, the work must be hailed as a step forward. If nothing else it helps to shove to the background all such bourgeois presentations as Van Loon's History of Mankind, H. G. Wells' Outline of History, and other dry store compendiums of "universal knowledge." It gives a fairly accurate Marxist presentation, although its technique could be improved to make it more suitable for workers to read. In seeking to be an outline, it is too sketchy and unless one has a fair knowledge of world history in advance (and few workers do) the reader is left dangling in the air on many occasions.

#### SUPREME NEED

It is with the author's analysis of the present and the future of history that we have a quarrel. After correctly stating the crisis of present day capitalism—its inability to feed the workers and its reactionary collapse into Fascism—Mr. Walker concludes that "the supreme need is for the working class not merely to defend its immediate class interests, but to lead and focus the increasing discontent of increasing masses of the people." In the last chapter the author states this ultimate goal of the working class to be a new society in which production will be vastly improved, the state will be altered, and in which there will be only one class, the producing class. This we assume to be Mr. Walker's definition of Socialism.

#### REVOLUTION

How is this future society to be achieved? The author speaks of "transforming the present social institutions." How this is to be done he does not say. This is generally the language of those who reject the progressive character of proletarian revolution and pin their hopes on a peaceful evolution to socialism. The experience of the last world war, and the entire course of history since its close with the peace of Versailles, not to speak of the present war in Europe are the most convincing proof that Mr. Walker has not understood either Marxism or the history of our time.

Emil Barton

## REVOLT PUBLISHING FUND

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