

WORKERS
OF THE
WORLD,
UNITE

THE MILITANT



Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America

VOLUME VII, NO. 45, [WHOLE NO. 249]

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1934

PRICE 3 CENTS

Fargo Drivers Win in Militant Milk Strike

Dunne Jailed for Activity, Released By Mass Pressure

BULLETIN

Fargo, N. D.—Miles Dunne, militant leader of the Minneapolis truck strike, who was arrested in Fargo, North Dakota, where he had been helping to organize the truck drivers, has been released "on his own cognizance." The strike of milk drivers, which he helped to organize, has ended in victory for the workers.

Mass pressure—the threat of the workers to call a general strike—forced his release. The indictment against him of "inciting to riot" has not been dismissed, but with the workers thoroughly aroused, it is questionable that the authorities will dare to press the case.

Dunne has been in Fargo for the past three months, at the request of the local union leaders, who were impressed by the tactics that had won the Minneapolis strike and wanted them introduced in the Fargo situation.

A strike of the milk-wagon drivers followed a successful organization campaign. The strike was conducted along lines similar to the aggressive Minneapolis battles, and brought the bosses to terms within 24 hours. Our correspondent's account of the strike and of Dunne's arrest follows.

By Our Mid-West Correspondent

A pebble is cast into a pool rhythmically, irresistibly, concentric circles form, well outward.

Fargo is a town 250 miles from Minneapolis, just across the North Dakota line. Its population is 30,000, Fargo being much the largest town in the sparsely-populated state. It is the center of a rich agricultural community. Wheat, oats, corn, cattle, dairy products, poultry—these are the commodities which the state sells. There is no water-power available in the state, there is almost no manufacturing carried on. Trucking is a most important industry.

The Fargo workers were greatly interested in the Minneapolis truck strikes. They sent delegations to Local 574, and offered to assist the Minneapolis workers in their struggle. After the settlement of the July-August strike, the teamsters union in Fargo asked Local 574 to send out an organizer. Miles Dunne was loaned to the Fargo union and for the past several months he has been in Fargo, organizing the drivers, stimulating work in the North Dakota labor movement, winning adherents to the cause of the workers from other local unions and the public generally, especially the unemployed.

The Fargo Drivers Union Local 173 rapidly build up a membership of 400. This union had the same broad organizational policy pursued by Local 574. Milk wagon drivers, bakers, inside workers were organized in the union.

The conditions of the Fargo workers are bad. The town is dominated by chains—the banks are branches of the huge Twin City financial institutions. When one goes to a movie in Fargo, one attends a Public House. The largest store is a Sears Roebuck branch. The largest dairy plant is but a branch of a company having its home office elsewhere.

The milk wagon drivers worked under particularly hard conditions—the 7-day week, 70 to 90 hours a week, a wage not exceeding \$15—this in comparison with the \$34 milk driver wage in Minneapolis, with the 6-day week prevailing in the larger city.

With relatively high living costs, it is apparent that the milk drivers had genuine grievances. A list of demands was drawn up and presented to the bosses. The demands were ignored. A strike of milk wagon drivers was called for Sunday morning, Nov. 4, at 4 A.M.

Early Sunday morning pickets began to assemble at the union headquarters, a large 2nd-floor hall in the middle of the town.

The logic of events and circumstances of a strike always crystallizes a definite opposition group among the employers, a definite scene of action. In Fargo, the Fairmont Creamery, the largest creamery in town, furnished both the backbone of the opposition and the scene of action.

Picketing was carried on along the precise lines laid down by the Minneapolis strikers, allowing for

(Continued on Page 4)

National Jobless Day Supported by Unions

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Final plans for National Unemployed Day were completed at a meeting of the National Action Committee just concluded here. Reports compiled from all over the country indicate that there will be an enormous turnout in the nation-wide demonstrations to be held November 24.

The more than 1,000 local units of the cooperating organizations have been instructed to begin their demonstrations at 10 A.M. on Nov. 24. They will march to relief stations throughout the country to present their demands locally. The climax will be the visit of a national delegation to the President.

The National Action Committee, of which David Lasser, chairman of the Workers Unemployed Union of Greater New York, is secretary, has written President Roosevelt for an appointment for a delegation of 15 to present the demands of the unemployed on Nov. 26 or 27.

In addition to the 750,000 organized unemployed represented directly at the meeting here, the demonstration will have the backing of numerous local unemployed groups.

In Minneapolis many A. F. of L. unions affiliated with the Minneapolis Central Council of Workers, unemployed organization, will support the Nov. 24 parade. In New York the Dressmakers Joint Board and the United Hebrew Trades will mobilize members and other unions are expected to follow suit. In Toledo where the National Unemployed League is a powerful force, many trade unionists will join the unemployed in demonstrating.

The call to action is signed by the National Unemployed League, Illinois Workers Alliance, Eastern Federation of Unemployed and Emergency Workers, Minnesota Central Council of Workers, American Workers Union (Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska), Florida Federation of Unemployed Leagues, Wisconsin Federation of Workers Committees, Texas Central Council of Workers, Fort Wayne Unemployed League.

The American Civil Liberties Union has informed the N.A.C. that it will aid the demonstrators in case of police interference. In a statement to the press Arnold Johnson, secretary of the National Unemployed League, expressed belief that the police would accede to the A.C.L.U.'s request that they remain away from relief centers during the presentation of demands.

"Police officials will provoke trouble in places, no doubt," said Johnson. "Some can be expected to act as if the jobless are criminals or bands of looters. But this is our only way of driving home our demands and we are going right ahead to fight to the last ditch for what's coming to us even if we have to take it in the end."

All members and sympathizers of the C.L.A. are asked to mobilize for the great demonstration on Nov. 24. This should be an historic event, the greatest display of organized power ever made by the unemployed of the whole nation.

Dyers Strike Holds Lines In 2nd Week

Paterson, Nov. 8.—Paterson is shut tight as a drum. The dye workers' strike has been extended to the bleacheries. In East Rutherford yesterday a giant mass picket line, the biggest ever seen in Rutherford, closed down the bleachers there. The police, of course, were mobilized beforetime with their tin hats, gas bombs and all the other police machinery for strike-breaking. However, the pickets were not at all intimidated. A minor scuffle ensued; and after a few windows were broken and a car overturned the management announced that the plant would be closed down until the strike was settled.

A bleachery in Lodi was likewise shut down.

In the face of the determined militancy and solidarity of the dye workers the bosses are for the moment banking upon the arbitration board to effectively "settle" the strike for them. By now the workers have been pretty well immunized against arbitration; and they know what to expect. Nevertheless, despite the statements issued by the leadership there is no doubt that tremendous pressure is being exerted to put an end to the strike, with of course the minimum concessions on the part of the bosses.

The negotiations which have been broken off several times are now once again in progress, under the supervision of the NRA figure-head, Squires. Last night a "secret session" was held. The bosses are "secretly" threatening that if the negotiations fall through this time they will negotiate no more but fight it out to the finish. At the same time the yellow press in Paterson drums up the optimistic prospect that a settlement will materialize shortly. And rumors are being assiduously circulated among the workers "on good authority" that the strike will be settled by the end of this week.

The Militant in its previous dispatches pointed out that the situation is very favorable to the workers. Thus far the strike has been extremely effective, and it obviously has reached its turning point.

Today, more than ever, the dye workers must maintain vigilance against any arbitration deal the bosses may try to put over. The union demands are: the union shop, the 30-hour week, the 30-dollar wage. This is the basis on which the strike should be settled. And as a matter of fact, the bosses will not be able to hold out much longer against the solidarity that has marked this strike from its outset.

'Truce' Government Falls in France; Class Lines Drawn

Convention of C.L.A. Call November 26

Pursuant to the official call issued by the National Committee, the delegates to the Third Convention of the Communist League of America will assemble in New York City November 26. Outstanding among the problems to be considered is the organization of the new party in the United States.

The decisions to be made by this convention will thus be of far-reaching significance not only for the League itself but for the American working class movement. It occurs at a time when the destiny of humanity virtually hangs in the balance! Events of a world shaking character have taken place during the most recent period.

It will now be presented in concrete form to the League convention. The delegates who will carry the mandate of the membership and represent every branch of the League will therefore face the responsibility of final decision. Their task has been facilitated by the work that preceded the convention. Our branches have been informed about the various developments in the negotiations between the League and the American Workers Party, having as its objective to prepare a basis for fusion of the two organizations in the new party. In the pre-convention discussion which has taken place in the branches our membership has had the opportunity to formulate its point of view on this important question. What remains is the convention action.

The National Committee will present to the convention such additional material pertaining to this question as still remains to be submitted. It will present the proposition to the assembled delegates to proceed, on the basis of agreements obtained with the Provisional Organizing Committee of the A.W.P. to the unification of the two organizations and to the formal launching of the new party. If this proposition is accepted by the League delegates and similar action is taken by the A.W.P. convention, meeting simultaneously, the unity convention will follow immediately thereafter on the scheduled date of November 30.

The full agenda of the convention, covering all the problems facing our organization has already been submitted to the membership and will be followed when the delegates assemble.

National Committee,
Communist League of America,
ARNE SWABECK,
Secretary.

French Bolshevik Paper Calls For Decisive Steps

Rumblings of civil war are already audible in France. The collapse of the Doumergue "truce" government has brought the issue of Fascism or proletarian revolution closer on the political horizon. The government of Etienne Flandin, not quite so reactionary in appearance, but no less anti-working class in character will prove to be no better than a temporary stop-gap.

It cannot cut the Gordian knot that binds French economy. Unemployment is growing apace. The middle classes are being ruined by shrinking markets. Wages are sinking. The crisis in the ranks of the Radical Socialist party that caused the demise of the "truce" government is but a reflection of the vacillation of the petty bourgeoisie under the pressure of its economic difficulties.

On the political field the Fascist organizations arm everywhere for the destruction of the organs of working class democracy, the political parties and the trade unions. On the other hand the revolutionary fever of the French working class is rising. Between this hammer and anvil the new middle-of-the-road must come to grief.

What is the French working class to do if it is not to meet the fate of the German working class in its worst variant or of the Austrian or the Spanish at the best?

The following article translated from the *Verite* organ of the Bolshevik-Leninist group of the S.F.I.O. (Socialist Party of France) throws the light of Marxism on the French political situation and points the road for the triumph of the proletariat.

S. P. Groups Prepare for a Split in Party

Thomas Begs for Unity as Forward Crowd Takes Steps for Schism

The conflicting groups in the Socialist party are going full speed ahead with preparations in readiness for an immediate split. At the meeting of the New York State Executive Committee on Monday the problem of "what next?" will be posed by the Old Guard leadership. The "Militants" shout "unity" but are taking measures "for defense" in case of an open break.

The immediate issue is the Detroit Declaration of Principles recently adopted by a vote of 5,993 to 4,872, a majority of 1,121. More than half the members did not participate in the referendum. The defeat of the Old Guard Waldman-Solomon-Caban group was accomplished by a unity of the "Militants"—Thomas-Ioan, each with their own interpretation of the Declaration!

The important state organizations such as New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Ohio went with the Old Guard. Illinois, New Jersey and Wisconsin supported the Declaration. Now the Old Guard is ready for a split. The first steps have already been taken.

Right Wing Steers to Labor Party

Waldman and Solomon have laid plans for the building of a labor party with the bureaucrats of the American Federation of Labor. Already they have some agreement along these lines with the leaders of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and United Textile Workers Union. The right wing Socialist influence in the trade unions, which in fact is the really serious contact that the S.P. has with the unions, is being utilized to the utmost for this aim.

Further, it is reported, that the board of directors of the Jewish Daily Forward recently decided to withdraw its allegiance from the Socialist party. This step was followed by the decision to change the rules which declare that only members of the Socialist party can be on the board of directors of the paper to members of "social democratic" organizations. Undoubtedly, the Right wing heads of the Rand School and the New Leader have both made preparations to keep control of these institutions.

What are Thomas and the "Militants" doing? Fighting for Old Guard reformists? Hardly! Ever since the Detroit Convention they have tried to pacify the Old Guard. Interpret the Detroit Declaration so as to make it acceptable to everybody, refused to press the charges of violation of party discipline and the most elementary socialist principles against Louis Waldman and Jasper McLevy.

Unity with "Sewer Socialists"

Instead they have united with the notorious reformist and opportunist Mayor Hoan of Milwaukee in a struggle for "revolutionary socialism" (!), and unity of all. They have even made a bid for ex-communists (who have hearkened to their call).

Thomas' conception of a revolutionary party is well explained in his notes in the current *New Leader* (Nov. 10, 1934). All who claim

THE AIMS:
Immediate measures in the interests of the workers;
A constituent assembly of the people, assuring the broadest democracy;
A workers and peasants government capable of taking these steps;
For this it is necessary to get rid of:
The capitulationist Chamber of Deputies,
The Doumergue government,
The product of the reactionary

(Continued on Page 4)

(Continued on Page 4)

NOT AN APPEAL-AN ALARM!

By the skin of our teeth we managed to publish the last issue of the Militant. This time we have to take the skin off our teeth to do the job.

These are no exaggerations, comrades.

The plain truth is that we are operating on our nerve and not on money. Under socialism it may be different, but under capitalism in America, U.S. currency is the only means for carrying on a business. Even the business of overthrowing capitalism.

It is time now to speak plainly and bluntly.

Some comrades may think we write appeals merely for literary exercise. Others, less cynical, but no less unrealistic, seem to think that when it comes to financial matters we are given to exaggeration.

We may be wrong but the indifferent response to previous appeals can lead us to no other conclusion. Perhaps an explanation is necessary.

That you receive this issue of the paper after our appeal last week doesn't mean we raised the money, nor does it mean that we were bluffing.

The cruel truth is that we publish the paper by taking it out of the hide of all the functionaries in the editorial offices and in the print shop. Nobody gets paid. But bills pile up for paper, ink, gas and electricity, to say nothing of rent.

We lost a whole day this week because of a measly \$8 which we couldn't rustle up to pay the gas bill. That's why you get the Militant one day late. The linotype had to hang around doing nothing for a whole day.

Add to that the eviction threat the landlord has made. He has given us a dispossess notice. If the comrades don't believe this, write and tell us and we'll publish a genuine facsimile—that is if we can raise the money for the cut.

Financially we are at the end of the rope. Need we say that this is an intolerable situation? At the very time we are at the verge of merging the A.W.P. and the C.L.A. we face the danger of having to suspend the Militant. At the moment

when the new party is becoming a reality we have to consider skipping issues of its most effective mouthpiece, the Militant.

Does this mean interest is lagging or comrades are greeting the new party only with apathy? We hardly think so.

Judging from the letters we have been receiving from all over the country, hailing the formation of the new party, from the enthusiasm engendered here in New York we are certain that such is not the case. Then what's the matter?

Unemployment and low wages causes this situation, but only partially.

New headquarters, new branches, new activities entailing new expenditures causes this situation, but only partially.

The real cause is the unwarranted optimism of the comrades and the readers of the Militant. You undoubtedly think that since no issues of the paper have been skipped in so many months in spite of the constant appeals for assistance that every thing is hunky-dory. Nothing could be further from the truth! Nothing could be more fatal! Assistance is needed—badly, immediately and plenty of it.

We planned to make the next issue of the Militant a special anniversary number. We planned to add an extra two pages to it. Six years of the Militant is no mere birthday celebration—it is an event of historic importance in the labor movement of the entire world! As matters stand now, if no response is forthcoming, we will be forced to skip the next issue of the paper.

Can we make the point any more emphatic? IF THERE IS NO CHANGE IN OUR FINANCIAL SITUATION THERE WILL BE NO NEXT ISSUE OF THE MILITANT!

Comrades! Friends! Sympathizers!
This is not an appeal; IT IS AN ALARM!
An alarm that calls upon you to raise every dollar and dime you can lay hands on and mail it immediately to the Militant 144 Second Avenue, New York City.

