

Socialist Call

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Rush Aid
To Your
Embattled
Comrades
of Spain!

DETROIT STRIKERS DEFEAT WAGE CUT; SCORE VICTORY

DETROIT, Mich.—The Federal Screw Works strike ended in a complete victory for the United Auto Workers last Saturday when the management capitulated to union demands, retracted the wage cut that had precipitated the strike and continued recognition of the union.

The strike which was fought militantly by the West Side Local headed by Walter Reuther, demonstrated the value of aggressive class struggle tactics in fighting against wage cuts.

Attempts by Mayor Reading and Police Commissioner Pickert to use hundreds of policemen to break the strike caused three battles resulting in injuries to more than a hundred pickets and police. Nevertheless the stubborn resistance of the workers to the strikebreaking police and the new scabs succeeded in ending the strike on the union's terms.

The contract provides for recognition of the union; retraction of the wage cut; provisions for full seniority; preferential seniority for committeemen and stewards; time-and-a-half pay for all over eight hours a day or forty a week; time-and-a-half for production workers on Saturday and double-time for Sunday. The contract continues until terminated on 60-day notice or until amended on 30-day notice.

Detroit Workers United For May Day Celebration

DETROIT, MICH.—Detroit's workers will demonstrate to Free Tom Mooney on May Day this year.

The CIO, AF of L and railroad brotherhoods have joined hands to stage a mighty meeting at Cadillac Square, Sunday afternoon, May 1st. There is a unanimous desire in the labor movement to see to it that Detroit does what it can to apply pressure for the freedom of Mooney.

There will be a parade through the streets of Detroit followed by a mass meeting.

After the labor meeting, Socialists and friends will have a May Day dinner, full details to be announced next week.

Act To Aid Loyalists

NEW YORK.—Acting in response to the appeal of the Trade Union Relief for Spain Committee, which recently initiated an emergency drive for \$50,000 to send food and medical supplies to Loyalist Spain, Dressmakers Union Local 22, an International Ladies Garment Union affiliate, last week voted to advance \$2,500 for aid to Spain.

This announcement was made public by Charles S. Zimmerman, the Local's manager who is also chairman of the Trade Union Relief for Spain. Several weeks ago Local 22 also donated \$5,000 for the Loyalist cause.



SOME OF the striking employees of the Consumers Power Co. in Michigan, who took over operation of the electric generating plant after the company said it wouldn't renew its contract with the Utility Workers Organizing Committee, are shown keeping warm around an improvised campfire, while one of their number plays the harmonica.

CIO and AFL United In Flint Jobless Meeting

By A Special Correspondent

FLINT, Mich.—The thousands who crowded downtown Flint during the unemployment demonstration sponsored by the C. I. O. and the A. F. of L. Saturday were heartened when they heard that Governor Frank Murphy would speak at the demonstration and give them a direct answer to their needs. The governor did speak. Many cheered as he described the kind of world he wanted to help bring about. But about the present, he said, "I can do nothing."

"No homes be foreclosed for non-payment of taxes," said the unemployed in a resolution they passed.

Said Governor Murphy, "We ought to build cheap homes."

"A moratorium on all debts of the unemployed," they cried.

"Said the governor, "We ought to have an annual wage."

"More adequate relief," they shouted.

The governor said, "We should have a government of kindness and friendliness."

Campaign Speech

The audience wanted to hear Governor Murphy's answers to their problems. But instead they heard Candidate Murphy give a campaign speech.

Candidate Murphy had wisely chosen this occasion of a joint meeting sponsored by the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O. to publicly open his campaign for labor votes.

Others who aided in his campaign Saturday and incidentally touched on unemployment were U. A. W. A. President Homer Martin, Assistant U. A. W. A. President Richard T. Frankenstein, Jack Reed, president of the Michigan Federation of Labor, and U. A. W. A. Welfare Director Richard Leonard.

Lawrence Jenkins of the Painters' Union remembered the purpose of the demonstration and talked on unemployment.

The Trade Union Relief for Spain Committee, which has the wholehearted support of the Socialist Party, is intensifying its drive for immediate funds. Zimmerman reports that a drive in Local 22 will net several thousand more dollars.

Bosses Exploit Labor's Rift By Cutting Wages; Workers Move For Unity

By A Special Correspondent

KENOSHA, Wis.—Disunity between AFL and CIO workers in the brass industry made that industry a logical choice for big business in which to launch its offensive of wage cutting.

A ten per cent wage cut for all production employees of the American Brass and Chase brass companies went into effect April 3. Other brass companies, particularly in Connecticut, the center of the industry, have followed suit.

The attempt to pass the main burden of the depression to the workers, however, is having one result—unforeseen by the bosses—the uniting of the workers.

The AFL federal labor union in the American Brass plant at Kenosha has invited all other unions in American Brass plants, whether AFL, CIO or independent, to join with it in a joint bargaining conference to be held in Kenosha, April 14. The CIO locals in Detroit, and in Waterbury, Ansonia, and Torrington, Conn., are sending representatives, and it is hoped that the AFL and independents in Connecticut will do the same.

Struck In 1925

Neither AFL nor CIO has strength in the Buffalo plant, but efforts are being made to secure the co-operation of the independent union there. Buffalo brass workers were once known for their militancy, but in 1925 they struck alone, and lost when the other workers failed to come out.

Opposition by AFL organizers to the united front, initiated by the Kenosha AFL union, is anticipated, but the Kenosha union, backed by local AFL leaders, is expected to stand firm.

The 10% wage cut by American Brass, a subsidiary of the Anaconda Copper company, comes in face of the fact that

Anaconda earnings in 1937 were the highest since 1929.

They amounted to \$31,387,861—almost twice the 1936 earnings of \$15,881,829. Net income per share, after all charges, except depletion of metal mines, have been deducted, will amount to \$3.62, as compared to \$1.83 in 1936.

Current assets of the Anaconda company, as of December 31, were \$99,859,662 as against current liabilities of \$20,074,990. Cash reserves amounted to \$13,691,875 on December 31.

Prosperity For Bosses

In the face of these earnings and reserves it is apparent that the company is seeking to pass the full burden of the present depression to the employees, while maintaining prosperity condition for its stockholders—most of whom never turned a hand in a copper mine or a brass mill.

Kenosha labor leaders, who from the beginning of the AFL-CIO rift, have fought aggressively for unity, find it significant that the big brass companies, where the workers are divided, were the first big corporations to begin wage slashing. General Motors, Chrysler, and U. S. Steel, in which the workers are united, have not yet dared to cut rates for production employees, and even their unorganized competitors have been restrained by fear of the union.

Leaders of the brass workers, both AFL and CIO, realize that they now find themselves in the front line trenches in the fight to protect wage standards, and success for the working class in its resistance to the employers' offensive, depends in large part on them.

Thugs Terrorize Guests In Walt Reuther's Home

DETROIT — Two thugs, armed with blackjacks and loaded guns, invaded the home of Walter Reuther here last Saturday and attempted to beat him. Reuther, militant president of the powerful West Side local of the United Automobile Workers, was relaxing from strenuous activity against the Federal Screw attempts to cut wages of their employees and from work in connection with the investigation of beatings at the Ford plant last May.

Reuther at the time was entertaining guests at a party. The two gunmen invaded his apart-

ment late at night, lined up his guests on one side of the room at the point of a gun, and while one of the gunmen held the group at bay with his pistol, the other one attempted to assault Reuther.

"Walt" succeeded in beating off his assailant, took his blackjack away from him, and kept them from getting him out in the open. The man attacking Reuther, who was called "Mike", desperately urged the other one, "Eddie", to "kill the b--d." The fact that an alert group was obviously ready to take advantage of any opening prevented him from doing more than keeping the party under control.

Finally it was the courageous action of Al King, active rank and file unionist, which broke the stalemate. He managed to back into the kitchen and jump from the second story window. He then proceeded to shout for help, alarming the thugs and causing them to dash out after spending fully five minutes in the apartment. King saw one of the invaders leave the house and dash to his waiting car, a 1936 Ford. When the thug saw that King was attempting to get his license number, he waved his gun at him and forced King to dart behind a car. The car sped away, without lights, making it impossible for King to get the license number.

Though there are various theories on who hired the gunmen, nothing definite has been found. A speedy and thorough investigation is being pushed by union forces.

Among the guests were all three of the Reuther brothers. It is interesting to note that the gunmen picked out Walter by name and said that they were there to get Walter, and not any of the other guests, all of whom were active participants in the militant Detroit labor movement.

Socialists Register Growth In Denmark

COPENHAGEN, Denmark.—The Danish Social-Democratic Party has recently sent out its printed Annual Report for 1937. The report showed that the Party had 199,283 dues paying members—a gain of 8,000 over last year.

Support Your Loyalist Comrades and Fellow Workers of Spain! Rush funds to Rose Shapiro, treasurer, Socialist Spanish Committee 112 East 19th St., New York City.

Attention N. Y. Cooperators

NEW YORK — A very important meeting of the Socialist-Cooperators will take place Sunday afternoon, April 17, 3 P. M. at Party headquarters, 11 West 17th Street, Manhattan.

It is essential that every Socialist cooperator attend this meeting. The meeting will start promptly on time.

Imperialism on the Defensive Below the Rio Grande

By S. Fanny Simon

A million workers, peasants, and intellectuals in all parts of Mexico marched in approval of the most revolutionary step yet taken by any president since 1917. On March 18, President Cárdenas expropriated the properties of 17 American and British oil companies commonly valued at more than 400 million pesos. Stated thus, the significance of the move is somewhat lost. Only when one knows the economic stranglehold which these companies had on Mexico does the full import of the act become clear. The oil companies were the prime movers after 1917 in every agitation for intervention in and annexation of Mexico by the United States; they supported and even provoked reactionary revolts.

Just as in the past American workers by their actions have frustrated the plans of the oil companies and their allies, so they must do now. Already the liberal Hull has induced the Treasury to cease its support extended for two years directly to American silver mining interests and to the American Smelting and Refining Co. and indirectly to the Mexican government and people.

The announcement by the United States Treasury that it will not purchase the customary five million ounces of silver has caused the peso which had been pegged at 2.60 to the dollar to fall precipitously. The announcement came close upon the heels of the nationalization of the oil industry. It came when Mexico was already experiencing economic difficulties arising from generally depressed conditions, not confined, as we very well know, to Mexico alone. The Bank of Mexico was forced to suspend trading in foreign exchange in order to safeguard its already depleted reserves. As a result no official rate of exchange existed and the peso dropped to five to the dollar.

IMPERIALIST CEASE PRODUCTION

Americans and other foreigners in control of other aspects of economic life, as well as native capitalists, ceased production. This, they did, in part, because they sympathize with the oil companies; in part, because they believe that their own days are numbered; and in part, because the uncertain monetary situation makes export and import trade extremely difficult.

Socialists are naturally not surprised that the "good neighbor" policy proclaimed with so much fanfare by Roosevelt is foundering on the sea of oil. We had always suspected that American interests thought of the "good neighbor" policy as a good investment. Washington has openly admitted that it expected Mexico to reciprocate the American pledge not to interfere in its domestic affairs. Nevertheless, there is quite a difference between the "good neighbor" policy and the "big stick" policy of dollar diplomacy.

Undoubtedly, were we still living in the "halcyon" days of Harding and Coolidge prosperity, we would not have had a public admission from the Secretary of State that Mexico has a legal right to expropriate oil companies. Instead we would have had the blast which that great statesman, Frank Kellogg, whose peace pact has been honored mainly by being utterly disregarded, issued when Calles attempted to bring the oil and mining concessions into accord with the Mexican Constitution of 1917. We might even now have had the spectacle of American troops and marines in Mexico, as was done by Wilson. President Cárdenas might not even have dared to come to grips with the oil companies.

TENSION SOMEWHAT RELAXED

Although Secretary of State Hull has dispatched a strongly worded note demanding effective payment for the nationalized properties, it seems that there is at present no disposition to push diplomatic affairs to the breaking point. The tension in Mexico was somewhat relaxed upon the news that our State Department accepts as evidence of good faith the note of President Cárdenas in which he pledges that "Mexico will know how to honor its obligations of to-day and its obligations of yesterday". Mexicans have, also, received with approval the report that President Roosevelt will not support the oil companies' demand for compensation based upon any value other than actual investment less depreciation. Such evidence that the United States government is friendly is of great importance to Mexico, because from their own and other countries' experience, Mexicans know that no government in any Latin American country can last that has not the active or tacit approval of the State Department.

In spite of these presumably good omens, those who are interested in curbing imperialist power must be on guard. Big business is not at all satisfied with the note received from President Cárdenas. The spokesmen of the oil companies are interpreting payment to mean payment in cash and that obviously is out of the question.

Friends of Mexico must watch the activities of our State Department; they must prevent attempts to impose conditions which will force the Cárdenas government to retreat. There are other roads than direct intervention or threats open to imperialists. The late Dwight Morrow with his professions of of friendship for Mexico succeeded in arresting fundamental changes that would have benefited the Mexican masses, whereas the threats of a Kellogg had failed.

It yet remains to be seen whether the State Department will give its approval to actions which will add to the economic difficulties of Mexico. A boycott against Mexican oil and silver would do the trick. Since 80% of the oil produced in Mexico is exported, a boycott will prevent the government from successfully operating the oil industry. It may force an agreement with Japan, Germany, and Italy, whose foreign policy Cárdenas has vigorously denounced. The Government is pledged not to aid the fascist nations in their aggrandisement by selling them oil. Unless Mexico finds other buyers it will be forced into such an agreement in self-defense. Of course, Standard Oil and Royal-Dutch Shell, which controlled the Mexican oil industry until now have had no such scruples. It is up to the organized workers in the United States to see that fascism is stopped, their capitalist government will not.

Even if we were to admit that the intentions of our State Department were the noblest, what is to stop the companies from fomenting a revolt against Cárdenas? They have done so in other days. Then why not now? There are always ambitious generals and disgruntled politicians and even some labor leaders around. Mexico has more than her share of reactionary elements that can be utilized for the purpose. To imperialists such action is more imperative now, than ever before. To-day more is at stake than ever before. All of Central and South America is watching eagerly the Mexican experiment. Success in Mexico may endanger imperialism every-

where in Latin America.

The maneuver of an uprising can be tried at any time. Naturally, there are certain periods which may be more propitious than others. In this respect, time seems to be on the side of the companies, for Mexico is already getting ready for the 1940 presidential campaign. A presidential campaign is always a period of stress and strain in Mexico and few have been the presidential successions that have not been ushered in with violence.

THE NEW PEOPLE'S PARTY

Some few months ago, the Cárdenas controlled National Revolutionary Party, known generally as the P. N. R. had announced that it intended to go out of business and would be replaced by a new party of workers, peasants, and soldiers. The Convention to launch the new party, the arrangements for which were being made by the P.N.R., was scheduled for April. The chief reason for the new party was to assure control of the next elections by Cárdenas and his supporters.

Why should not the oil companies organize the opposition? What is more easy than to subsidize with money and even munitions an opposition party of a Calles, now in exile, or a Cédillo, now sulking in his principality in the state of San Luis Potosí? These leaders can always count on the tacit or active support of the Catholic Church. The Church has for a long time been sighing for the good old days when it was both temporal and spiritual master. In the last four years, it has waged unrelenting war against the so-called Socialist education of the government controlled schools. Some Mexican Labor leaders can even be bought at no great cost. Unfortunately, Mexican labor leaders have not an unimpeachable record for honesty and integrity.

COMPANIES RESORT TO SUPREME COURT

In the meantime, the oil companies are resorting to the last

legal resources open to them to regain their rights to exploit, namely, an injunction before the Supreme Court to have the Expropriation Law of 1936 under which Cárdenas acted declared unconstitutional and a petition before the Administrative Court made up of the Minister of National Economy for the revocation of the expropriation order.

The companies hope that economic and diplomatic pressure brought to bear by England and the United States along with

worsened economic conditions, the latter entailing real hardships to Mexican peasants and workers, will cause Cárdenas to recede from the position taken and will restore to them their privileges. So far there is no indication that President Cárdenas intends to yield and revoke his order.

AID IMPERIALISM

Although the platform upon which Cárdenas was elected included a plank to Mexicanize the important industries, it is very much to be doubted whether the government would have acted just now had it not been forced to do so by the insolent and provocative manner of the oil companies and by their open flaunting of the laws of the country. He could not save face with the workers had he backed down.

Let no one imagine that Mexico is in for a picnic. Every fundamental industrial change involves great suffering. In a world dominated by capitalist-imperialist powers, a semi-colonial nation can throw off the chains fastened upon it by foreign control only at great cost and only if its working class is prepared and willing to make sacrifices. This task can be lightened if the workers in other countries realize that the struggle is their struggle. The future destiny of Mexico rests as much upon the action of the Mexican workers. American workers must lend their aid to their fellow-workers in Mexico in the struggle against their common enemy—American capitalism.



FRANK GANNETT, reactionary chain newspaper publisher and anti-labor advocate, was accused by U. S. Representative George B. Kelly of wanting to be dictator of the United States.

Trade Unionists Map Program For Co-Op Expansion

NEW YORK.—One hundred and forty members of trade unions, cooperatives and workers' education associations met here Sunday, April 8 to map out practical programs of action for workers organized as consumers in cooperatives at a Trade Union Conference on Cooperative sponsored by the Eastern Cooperative League and Cooperative Distributors.

Jacob Baker, president of the United Federal Workers and chairman of the President's Inquiry on Cooperative Enterprise in Europe, told the conference that the recent drives of organization had won wage increases of four billion dollars but that these gains were offset by a rise in the cost of living of the same amount.

"Cooperatives and trade unions", Mr. Baker said, "have the same ultimate aim, to raise the living standard of the workers. Cooperatives are not asking unions for help or assistance, but the two movements are parallel. Workers, by being members of both can increase their wages on one hand, and lower the cost of living on the other."

defeat. So it was at the last municipal elections in Sofia, the capital of the country. The victory of the opposition was so overwhelming that the government immediately annulled the elections and dissolved the city council.

The recent elections to the parliament (Sobranie) show the same trend. The news agencies hurried to announce that at these elections not even one member of the opposition parties was elected and that the victory of the government was complete. It is true that officially no member of other parties were elected.

In this totalitarian State it is not permissible to belong to any opposition party, so all who run for the parliament declare to be nonpartisans. But, after the elections, it turned out that the victory of the government was an imaginary one and that the opposition gained 75 per cent of the seats. From the 48 new deputies, 20 are liberal agrarians, 5 Democrats, 3 Communists and 3 bourgeois liberals.

Again in normal times this event would be considered as almost unimportant but our time is abnormal—and every victory over the fascism, no matter how small, fills our hearts with joy and satisfaction.

WORLD NOTES

By JOHN MILL

RETURN TO PARLIAMENTARY RULE

Perhaps at no time in the history of our world have the march of events been so charged with social dynamite as they are in the current international scene. The advent of Hitlerism in Austria, the shameful Moscow trials, the heartbreaking Spanish tragedy and the ominous growing war signalize the wide offensive of reaction. Nevertheless, one can notice here and there rays of hope, bright spots of life, signs of resistance and the obdurate opposition to the savage dangers of fascism.

We have just learned that seven Socialists were elected to the Esthonian National Assembly (Parliament). For four years the Esthonian parliament was dissolved, civil liberties abolished, the masses subjugated—a dictator ruled.

Hitler's easy victory over the Socialists and Communists in Germany, who gave up all their positions and capitulated without any fight was, as we remember, an incentive to and example for nazi-inclined rulers and the bourgeoisie of many small countries. Like a storm and with the force of a whirlwind, Nazism swept over a number of small countries and carried away their democratic institutions. The labor and Socialist movements were destroyed. The belief of the ruling class grew in their own ability and

strength to get rid of civil liberties and to do away with democratic institutions, with opposition parties and above all with Socialist parties. One of these countries was Esthonia.

Fortunately, two brands of fascism developed in this small country; one imported from Germany and the other a "domestic" one. The latter drew its force from the rich peasant class. This split in the ranks of fascism weakened it considerably and recently when the Hitlerites made an attempt to seize power, the "domestic" fascists outwitted and out-manuevered them. Like Schuschnigg in Austria, who was seeking conciliation with and support from workers and Socialists, so the Esthonia fascists in order to beat Hitlerism, turned back to parliamentary regime and restored civil liberties. At a recent election, as above mentioned, seven Socialists were elected—a small, but happy event in the wild, gloomy, desperate world of today.

ANTI-FASCIST VICTORY

Bulgaria is another country where the fascists succeeded in taking over the reins of the government. But fascism in Bulgaria has always shown weakness. It has ruled the country only by brutal force. At every occasion when the Bulgarian masses have had a chance of expressing their political sentiments and political creed, the fascist government has suffered

Dan Hoan, Homer Martin And Marx Lewis Call On Workers To Form Own Political Party

CHICAGO, Ill.—Over 1,000 unionists and Labor Party members attended a mass meeting last Monday in Chicago to hear the program of the Illinois Labor Party. The meeting was addressed by an impressive list of speakers from the labor and political movement.

Mayor Dan Hoan of Milwaukee struck the keynote of the meeting when he pointed out that the only way that labor could hope to have any effective participation in the government was to have their own political party and elect their own candidates. He pointed to the reputation that had been built up by the Socialist administration in Milwaukee as an example of what can be achieved by the workers when they create their own party.

Marx Lewis, Executive Board member of the Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers and a prominent member of the American Labor Party also pointed out the need for independent political action by labor and stated that the ALP was moving in that direction.

Martin Speaks

Homer Martin, President of the United Automobile Workers stated that the Auto workers had learned the necessity of creating a labor party and that their first effort in that direction had been very encouraging. He explained that in the present crisis, the only way that labor could expect to have a voice in determining its destiny was to organize on the political field as it was organized on the economic field.

This meeting was the first of a series that will open up the campaign of the Illinois Labor Party for the coming state and national elections. The Labor Party expects to run a full slate of candidates in the election.

27,000 Office Workers

Jobless In New York

NEW YORK.—More than 27,000 office and professional workers are unemployed in New York City, the United Office and Professional Workers Union reported this week.

Ten thousand of this number are brokerage workers.

Gas and Oil Co-op

CHICAGO, Ill.—The first co-operative gas and oil station in the city limits of Chicago opened April 2 when the North Shore Cooperative Society launched its fifth cooperative service.

The co-op station is located at 1000 Foster road.

BRENDAN SEXTON NAMED DEFENSE LEAGUE SEC'Y

Action Committee Formed to Fight Anti-Labor Bills

ELIZABETH, N. J.—Representatives of five large trade unions in the Union County area, called together by a letter signed by the Secretary and Vice President of the Central Labor Union, and the Secretary of the Musicians Union, met here recently to set up a Trade Union Action Committee for the dual purpose of assuring the defeat of the Forhan Bill, and the passage of Labor's Anti-Injunction Act.

The Forhan Bill, now in the State Assembly, was introduced by Mr. Forhan, steelmill owner from Flemington, and provides, according to the Committee for the "incorporation of unions, outlaws the closed shop, makes a strike virtually impossible by forcing the holding of a strike vote under the eyes of the employer, forces the holding of union meetings on company property, and would outlaw unionism in New Jersey as effectively as Hitler has outlawed it in Germany."

Propose Labor Act

Labor's Anti-Injunction Act, which is before the State Senate, is favored by the Committee as providing "for a fair hearing before a judge may issue an injunction in a labor dispute, and is designed to curb the prevalent practice of some employers who rush to court for an injunction upon the outbreak of a strike, and then calmly inform the union to "show cause" why it should be repealed — after the injunction had time to effectively scotch the strike at its outset."

The Committee, composed of the Secretary and Vice-President of the Central Labor Union, as well as members of the Electricians, Musicians, Refinery Workers, Painters, and United Electrical and Radio Workers, appointed delegates to see that petitions are circulated dealing with the two bills. Copies of the petitions may be secured by writing to the Secretary of the Committee, P. Harvey, at 3 Jefferson Avenue, Elizabeth.

Build the Socialist Call

Subscribe to the Call

NEW YORK.—The National executive committee of the Workers Defense League has announced the appointment of Brendan Sexton of New York City as executive secretary of the defense organization. The new appointee will take over activities that have been temporarily handled by Aron S. Gilmartin as acting secretary.

Sexton, 27-year-old native New Yorker, has been active in trade union work during the last five years, spending most of his time on organization of the unemployed. In 1933 he became secretary of the Workers Unemployed Union, which later became the Workers Alliance of America. From January, 1936, to July, 1937, he served as chairman of the Workers Alliance of Greater New York. He is at present a national vice chairman of that union.

Sexton has also worked for the old Celluloid Workers Union, the Building Service Union, and the International Ladies Garment Union.

As executive secretary he will direct the national activities of the Workers Defense League, whose work has recently been concentrated on defense work for Southern sharecroppers and the fight for civil liberties in New Jersey.

Support the Trade Union Relief for Spain Committee! Get your mass organizations to rally to the aid of your embattled Loyalist Comrades!

INTERNECINE WARFARE IN WISCONSIN STRIKE



BRENDAN SEXTON

By A Special Correspondent
LAONA, Wis.—A student of the labor movement recently said, "Times have changed. In the past it was the police who served the ruling class by beating clubs over the heads of of the workers. Today the workers beat each other."

Division in the labor movement has resulted in workers beating workers in this small Wisconsin town in the heart of the lumber district. Mass fist fighting broke out here among the husky lumberjacks of the Connor Lumber and Land Co. as CIO unionists picketed the plant which had signed an agreement with the AFL Lumber and Timber Workers.

The agreement was signed after the AFL union won an election 165 to 161 conducted by the National Labor Relations board. The CIO Lumber and Sawmill Workers union claimed that the company had interfered with the free choice of the workers and refused to abide by the election. The AFL union denied the claim.

Work of Vigilantes

Fighting began as soon as the picketing started. Pickets and non-strikers were arrested. Harry Mayville, Duluth, Minn., national CIO organizer, complained to Gov. P. F. LaFollette that organized vigilantes and not AFL unionist were attacking the picket line.

In answer to Mayville's appeal, Gov. LaFollette sent Attorney John B. Chase, Oconto, to investigate. The state labor relations board loaned staff member Forrest Rusch to the national labor board to act as mediator and investigator. Rusch is under the direction of the national board.

And so the problems of a divided labor movement become the problems for a capitalist state to solve.

Employers Rob Workers of Jobs; Union Strikes

NEW YORK.—The United Wholesale and Warehouse Employees of New York has turned a lockout into a strike at the Goldenheim Corporation, 569 Broadway, N. Y. C. The Union is striking for the right to a job. It claims that no employer can go out of business or change his method of doing business without providing for jobs for all his employees.

The union is determined to fight the firm to a finish in order to establish a worker's right to a job. Plans are being made to involve all organized labor. The Union feels that the principle of a right to a job is the basic struggle for all organized labor. This is the first time in the Union's history that a strike has been called to sustain this sociological principle.

Los Angeles Anti-Militarists In Successful Mass Meeting

By JOHN NEWTON THURBER
State Secretary, Socialist Party of California

LOS ANGELES—More than 500 people demonstrated their determination not to join in the drive which is being conducted throughout the nation for American participation in the coming world war at a Mass Meeting sponsored by the Los Angeles section of the Keep America Out of War Committee here last Thursday night.

A distinguished list of speakers flayed imperialist war, the war method, the capitalist system and the current war plans and tendencies, leaving no doubt in the minds of the audience of their audience of their stand on the current "fad" of collective security.

Chairman of the meeting was Lewis Browne, distinguished author and lecturer, who was just two hours off the train from a dash he made across the continent in order to attend the affair. Featured speaker was Kirby Page, longtime crusader against war, a member of the Socialist Party in California. Other speakers included Fay Bennett, who spoke as a national board member of the Youth Committee Against War; Dr. Bagwan Gyanne, Hindu author and lecturer; Mrs. Hanna Shey Skeffington, Irish suffragist and pacifist "whose advice to the U. S. in 1917 to stay out of war was not heeded"; and Dick Coleman, west coast organizer of the United Auto Workers union.

Messages of solidarity with the meeting and its purposes were read from Harry Lundberg, secretary of the Sailors Union of

the Pacific; Kathleen Norris, the noted novelist; and Homer Martin, president of the United Auto Workers union.

Communist Sabotage

The Los Angeles committee was set up some weeks ago and held a successful meeting with Miss Jeanette Rankin at the time of the recent flood, early in March. Since then it has gathered an imposing list of some 48 sponsors, who gave their names to the local committee. The list of sponsors included people prominent in religious, youth, political and labor circles in the city. It includes names of several who in the past have been taken in by the sweet mottoes mouthed by some of the Communist innocent outfits.

The bravery of the Los Angeles committees in daring hold a meeting along these lines, in this city where the Communists have such a huge and smooth working machine was commented on by many people. The presence of many of the people announced on the list of sponsors caused many raised eyebrows when it appeared. It was as though a little David had gone into the lists with a powerful Goliath.

Immediately upon the issuance of the leaflet by the local committee calling for the Mass Meeting on April 7, the communists went to work. The systematic job which was done to attempt to get people off the sponsors list was a revelation. The fact that no person on the list was driven to make a public repudiation, although some were forced to run down their flag a bit, indicates that the Communists are

overplaying their false game to secure support of war through their collective security slogans.

People's World

Extensive publicity was accorded the meeting by the "Peoples World," organ of truth (?) and light (?) published daily in San Francisco, one of the Communist "Peoples" (non-partisan, they say!) dailies. This sheet gave nearly a full column to describe how the good people of Los Angeles had been fooled into giving their support to this Hitlerite, Trotskyite, Isolationist etc. project. It alleged that several of the sponsors had withdrawn and ended up with a statement by Bert Leach himself, playing up collective security and attacking any other program.

Everyone here is agreed that the work against war must go ahead. We will not be curbed by the threats of the Communists, who are demonstrating that they are more avid for war than the capitalists today, but will redouble our energies and carry the message against imperialist war to more and more people.

COMMENDS GOV. LEHMAN

NEW YORK—Gov. Lehman of New York was commended by the American Civil Liberties Union for his veto of the McNaboe-Devaney bill barring Communists from public office. The Union termed Lehman's message which accompanied the veto a lesson in neglected aspects of fundamental Americanism which the country needs to learn over and over.



Courtesy "United Automobile Worker."

HOW LONG WILL THE AMERICAN WORKING CLASS PERMIT THIS INFAMY TO GO ON?

THE SOCIALIST CALL

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Keeping America Out Of War

The "Keep America Out of War Committee" has a lot of people worried. The effectiveness of the Committee is best expressed in the orgy of wrathful denunciation it has provoked from people who for one reason or another believe that war is the only way out of our political and economic troubles.

The Socialist Party of the United States is affiliated with the "Keep America Out of War Committee" in a well working united front arrangement. It supports and takes part in the activities of the Committee wholeheartedly and enthusiastically.

The Big Navy gang hates the Committee. The Communists despise it. The Trotskyites slander it. The war-makers in general already have their stoop pigeons scouting around checking and spying for fear that the Committee will sprag their well defined plans to drag this country into war.

To the Big Navy gang we are both "dangerous pacifists" and revolutionists. To the Communists we are "Trotskyites." To the Trotskyites we are "flag-wavers," "pacifists" and "spreaders of illusions." While the war-makers in general make no bone of the fact that the "Keep America Out of War Committee" is the one single force in the United States which impedes wholesale war preparations.

The charge of "pacifism" against the Socialist Party because of its participation in this genuine anti-war work needs no special answer from us. It is best answered by the Party's activists who have distinguished themselves as militant fighters for labor's rights and for Socialism.

More serious elements, although few and far between, who are sincerely concerned with opposition to war but who follow a line of collective security along the lines of the League of Nations, have expressed the opinion that we are "isolationists" and probably weakening the existing anti-war organizations and societies of various kinds.

The charge of isolationism fails when an intelligent person understands exactly what the "Keep America Out of War Committee" stands for. The Committee's program in part reads:

"To work with increasing solidarity with the people of all nations in the world-wide struggle to abolish economic injustice and colonial repression, and to remove the cause of dictatorial militarism."

This is hardly isolationism. This is a call for collective international action against fascism, imperialism and capitalist militarism. The proponents of collective security, who range from outright imperialists to League of Nation idealists and Communists, certainly do not manifest opposition to the causes of war when they exert no effort to aid, and even oppose, the struggle of the colonial and semi-colonial people for freedom and independence. The same conglomerated crowd does not show a tendency for peace when it favors big navies, big armies and war provocations while ignoring the needs of the working class for food, jobs, clothing and shelter. Neither do they manifest any desire to stop the drift towards war when they oppose practically every peace legislation.

The charge that the "Keep America Out of War Committee" splits the anti-war forces does not stand the scrutiny of logical criticism when it is remembered that most of the peace societies of the United States are a part of the united front movement against war. If the advocates of collective security, which in other words means the maintenance of the status quo even through violence, have reference to the American League for Peace and Democracy then that is another matter.

The Communist-controlled League for Peace and Democracy neither believes in peace nor democracy. It supports Roosevelt's war program, stages warlike demonstrations, fastens its program to the kite of Stalin's foreign policy and in general is in the forefront of the movement to uphold the very things which it pretends to oppose. As far as the working class of the United States is concerned, this organization should be clipped of its influence and eventually scuttled for the sake of true peace, democracy and freedom.

Unity with forces which can agree on immediate and practical issues is always desirable. But unity is useful only to the extent that it leads to action and achieves results. The "Keep America Out of War Committee" splits no peace movement or organization. It is in fact the real PEACE movement in the United States today and its action speaks with clarity and force.

Our immediate job is to keep America out of war. It is folly to believe that anyone else can do that job but ourselves—the American workers and farmers. Our job is to aid the working class of all nations—fascist or democratic—to compel their rulers to cease their war plans and ultimately to create in our country and throughout the world a workers' society free from militarism, hunger, exploitation and despotism.

The Socialist movement in the United States has no intention of supporting imperialists in any program of war which can only lead to the future enslavement of the native and colonial masses.

Socialist comrades! Redouble your efforts to broaden the "Keep America Out of War Committee!"

Concentrate your energies toward the masses of farmers and workers!

Forward to the history-making "Keep America Out of War" Congress in Washington May 28, 29 and 30!



Swing Time In Washington, D. C.

Workers' Forum

Contributions to the SOCIALIST CALL must be accompanied with the name and address of the writer as a matter of good faith, not to be used for publication if the writer prefers that the name be omitted. Short, snappy letters will receive first consideration.

FROM COMRADE SPERLING

COPENHAGEN, Denmark. — On the occasion of your third anniversary I am sending a personal greeting. I am pleased to tell you that the Scandinavian workers take an ever growing interest in the activities of American labor. As labor editor of the Copenhagen "Social-Democrat" I have noted that matters relating to the American movement are read with increasing eagerness by the whole Scandinavia, a fact of which I have ample proof.

—Johannes Sperling.

LLANO CO-OP IN CRISIS

NEWLLANO, La.—This is to inform you that the property of Llano Cooperative Colony, under the name of the Llano del Rio company of Nevada, is to be liquidated. Judge Ponder has ordered the Receiver to liquidate the Corporation as expeditiously and as advantageously as possible.

The capitalist press immediately gloats over the supposed fact that another cooperative effort has died. I am wondering if the liberal press is going to permit this to go unchallenged.

It is true that the Receiver has orders to liquidate the Corporation, but it is not true that the Llano Cooperative Colony is going to die. The cooperators, including myself, who are here, and some who are on the out-

side, intend to push our interests and, if possible, repossess the property and go on. Our set-up here is too valuable to be lost to the production-for-use movement; and it is our desire that you give this as much publicity as possible, so that we may counteract the impression made by the capitalist press, and at the same time appeal to the friends of cooperation and the production-for-use movement, that they might assist us at this time in repossessing the property, rehabilitating it, and carrying forward what is possibly the most important advantage that has been gained by a producing and consuming non-profit organization in the United States.

It appears to me as though we should have a tremendous response from those who believe in cooperation, in helping us to carry forward the work that Job Harriman began nearly twenty-five years ago, and that has apparently been wrecked not by cooperators but by those who are ever present to destroy the work that will point the way to a better civilization.

Hoping you can find room for this in your paper, and that you will be willing to speak in the interest of others who are interested in working in the cause that you are advocating.

—Geo. T. Pickett.

Socialists Win Basle Election

BY WILLY SAUTER

Basle, the second largest city in Switzerland, and an important industrial centre, recently had elections for its local government and its state legislature. The Social Democrats have been in control of the city for the last four years. The bourgeois parties made strenuous efforts to defeat them. Moreover, Basle is right at the German frontier and the Swiss Nazis enjoy full political freedom. Yet neither the bourgeois campaign nor the Nazi siren songs were of any avail.

The Social Democrats not only carried the city again, but increased their vote by 15%, retaining their hold on the city (and especially the administration of the police department) and getting the majority in the state legislature for the first time.

The Socialist Party had, for election purposes, a working agreement with the Communist Party, which in this city is sub-

stantially strong, having something like 25% of the coalition vote. And so Basle remains "Das Rote Basel" (the Red Basle).

On the other side, the French speaking states (Geneva, Lausanne, Neuchatel, and Fribourg), there is to be recognized a distinct political reaction. In all of these states there is a strong anti-Communist sentiment in this section of Switzerland, and every referendum on the question: "Shall the Swiss Communist Party be declared illegal?" was carried in all these states by a substantial majority. General elections in Geneva several months ago showed a decline of the Socialist vote and a corresponding increase in the vote of the bourgeois parties. This is also true in Fribourg.

There will be elections in the largest city in Switzerland, Zurich, where the Socialists together with the Communists hold sway. If present symptoms can be taken as a criterion, our comrades will keep their power.

The cruel fact that Switzer-

SQUIBS

BY GENE LOMAN

In days of yore, men went to war,
But they had poor perspective,
They killed each other by the score—
Which wasn't too effective.

But Franco has a chivalrous way
(Those Fascists are sure selective),
"Women and Children First,"
they say—
A glorious 'military objective'!
—Hilda Sexton and Loren Norman.

OWNERSHIP

THE wealthy owner of an estate was taking a stroll one day over his broad acres when he came upon a tramp sleeping in a fence corner. Indignantly, he prodded the tramp with his foot and ordered him off the place.

"Who are you to tell me to get off?" asked the tramp.
"I own this land," replied the other.

"What makes you the owner?"
"I inherited it from my father."
"How did your father get it?"
"He inherited it from his father."

"How did his father get it?"
"By God, he got it because he fought for it."

"Well," said the tramp, taking off his coat, "in that case, I'll fight you for the ownership of it right now."
—Contributed.

A TRICK

WE'VE just make a very startling discovery. All these attempts to organize the workers into a Labor Party are just a Trotskyite trick to mislead the workers and keep them from following their masters by joining the Democratic Party like the good Communists.

DEAL HIM OUT

WHILE wishing Mexico every success in taking over foreign oil properties, here's also hoping they don't succumb to an attack of Ricketts.

ADVOCATES OF COLLECTIVE SECURITY

O brilliant plan we favor for Democracy's escape!—
We'll cut her throat to save her from totalitarian rape!
—KENNETH PORTER.

A JUST QUESTION

AN English missionary, in a chat with an old Negro cannibal of the tribe Niam-Niam, told him of the enormous number of victims of the world war.

"How could you," wondered the cannibal, "eat up so much human meat?"

"We, whites," answered the missionary proudly, "do not eat human beings."

"If so, what did you kill them for?" asked the cannibal in great astonishment.

—Folks-tung, Warsaw.

POLITICAL ASYLUM

NEW YORK—The American Civil Liberties Union called upon Secretary of State Hull to extend his declaration in favor of larger hospitality to political refugees into practical forms by easing restrictions against alien visitors and supporting a pending bill aimed to reestablish the traditional American right of political asylum.

land, a country of something like 3 million population, lies at the mercy of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy must never be lost sight of. It should be termed significant that the great majority of the German speaking working class is positively opposed to Nazism and remains opposed in spite of all the propaganda of the Nazis which goes on in full blast.

AT THE FRONT

with Norman Thomas

Japs Suffer Defeats; World Powers Fear A Strong Workers' China

By LEONARD WOODCOCK

Since the fall of Nanking over three months ago, the Far Eastern war has been out of the headlines of the daily press. But what is happening in China now is of the utmost importance. So, too, is the development in the foreign offices of the interested powers.

In brief, Japan is in serious difficulties. Ever since the capture of the former Chinese capital, Japanese armies have been smashing at the Lunghai railway, key to the interior of China and the new capital of Hankow. But all of the attacks have been futile. Indeed, in the last ten days the warriors of Nippon have suffered reverses, not only in remote Shansi, but also in the easily-reached province of Shantung.

If it were merely a matter of eventually breaking down Chinese resistance along the Lunghai, the Japanese General Staff would have no need of undue worry; it is obvious that the invader's superior mechanical equipment will ultimately prevail. But if the bulk of the Chinese forces can withdraw in good order, the war will go on; a war in which Japan will lose a great deal of her present strength owing to lack of railways and greatly lengthened lines of communication. And the fears that the Chinese armies will be bottled up at Sachow have been largely dispelled.

Guerrilla Bands

Still more serious from the Japanese point of view is their inability to control the areas which they have already conquered. Guerrilla bands of peasants and Red Army units are operating in the very shadows of Shanghai and Peiping. And in the area between the Japanese-held Peiping-Hankow and Tientsin-Pukow railways, a Soviet state of seven million peasants has been set up. The entire district has been thoroughly organized for dispersed resistance and the active guerrillas number a half a million. This in conquered territory two hundred miles behind the Japanese lines!

The Chinese-Japanese war is now definitely in a stage which presages the defeat first of Japanese imperialism and ultimately of all imperialism in China. Which is the reason for the rumors of British-Japanese rapprochement.

It was reported in the CALL in a previous article that, prior to the present war, there was undoubtedly an agreement between Japan and Britain and France whereby China would be divided into spheres of imperialist influence. This agreement Japan violated, partly from military necessity and partly from imperialist greed, when she invaded the Yangtze Valley, traditional British stamping ground.

Western Powers

It was also pointed out that the Western Powers were in no position to restrain Japan by force; this because of a degree of military unpreparedness, the general European crises and the domestic situations in the various homelands.

This period of weakness on the part of the Western Imperialism was marked by an exceedingly truculent attitude on the part of Japan, characterized in the incidents of the British Ambassador, the Panay, the Ladybird, etc.

Not being able to wage war directly, the only course open to Britain and the United States was to render as much material aid as possible to Japan's enemy, the Chinese Central Government. (France, whose vital interests lie much to the South in Indo-China, was less interested.) This aid was accomplished in the United States by the non-application of the Neutrality Act. At the same time, of course, implements of war were also supplied to Japan; in the first place, to refuse to do so would have possibly meant a premature war; and in the second place, a Chinese victory was equally abhorrent to the rival imperialisms. What was needed was an inconclusive war, which would weaken at the same time Japan's appetite for imperialism and China's resistance to it.

Conclusion Far Off

After nine months of a war, which is still a long way from conclusion, Japan is sensible of her danger. To relieve her own hard-pressed economy and to buy off her rivals, she proposes to reinstitute the Open Door.

Yohisuke Aikawa, head of the Manchukuo Industrial Development Company, informed the New York Times that Manchukuo could utilize three hundred million dollars worth of American machinery and services. He emphasized strongly the profitableness of Manchukuo "the world's industrial frontier."

Similarly, Masayuki Tani, Japan's Minister at Large, stated that Japan would welcome American and European cooperation in the exploitation of China.

Such is the basis for the rumored deal between Britain and Japan, whereby the status quo of imperialism in China would be restored with Japan dominant in the north and Britain and the United States in the Yangtze basin, but with China's nationalism greatly impaired.

If the bargain is made, the Far Eastern war can probably be officially terminated. There are elements in the Chiang Kai-Shek government only too anxious to make any kind of peace. But the peasant and worker masses, aroused by the war against Japan, will carry on the struggle for freedom from imperialist domination.

Still Danger of War

Provided the outlined settlement is reached, does this mean the danger of a major imperialist war in the Far East is out? Hardly. Such a settlement would be based on the inability of any one power or even associated powers to attain, at present, absolute control in China. It would be at best an armed peace, during which there would be a mad scramble to reach sufficient strength to get what each imperialism so obviously wants.

There has been much talk in recent months of "satisfied" and "dissatisfied" imperialisms; the inference being that into the first category fall Great Britain, France and the United States. But in a capitalist epoch there is no such thing as "satisfaction." The law of life of capitalism, and hence of imperialism, is continual expansion and growth. The reverse, a static society, means slow decay and death. There may be, it is true, imperialisms too weak at any given time to make further advances. But that is much different from "satisfaction." The will is there, but the means are missing.

Thus, to assume that France, Great Britain and the United States are "satisfied" in the Orient is false. A glance at the domestic difficulties of France and the United States at present

(Continued on Page 6)

Roosevelt's friends and enemies combined to make the vote in the House of Representatives on the Reorganization Bill a vote of confidence in Roosevelt. In a overwhelmingly Democratic House Roosevelt, the Democratic leader and President, lost by a narrow margin. In a parliamentary country that would probably mean his resignation. Here in America it is a forecast of great confusion and lack of any leadership in the sprawling and divided Democratic Party in Congress.

To the workers the Reorganization Bill itself was not of primary importance. Certainly its defeat is no cause for rejoicing. The bill as originally introduced needed amendment somewhat to curtail the President's power. But reorganization in the Federal government was a good thing.

The almost hysterical opposition to the bill was strangely compounded of hate and distrust of Roosevelt, desire to keep patronage, menaced by an extension of Civil Service, and Roman Catholic fear of any extension of Federal power over children, especially in the field of education. Perhaps the bill will yet be revived. As matters stand the President has sustained a more serious defeat than in the matter of the Supreme Court.

MORE GOVERNMENT SPENDING

For weeks it has been obvious that it was only a question of time before Roosevelt would be compelled by political and economic circumstances to resume his big spending policy. Now the announcement has come. If Congress does not balk, the President will make unsecured loans to cities and states for public works, build up W.P.A., make some sort of loans to railroads and other big business in order again to prime the pump. Obviously as an emergency program this is better than nothing. It is certainly better than rushing to war as a means of inflating big capitalism and may perhaps a little retard the drift to war.

It is probably the President's only alternative to a more truly Socialist program which he rejects. Capitalism is past cure, however, by pump priming and all we shall get is a temporary pick-up, if that. The loan business is a bit of a bluff because cities and probably the railroads won't pay back the loan. The President's failure to socialize or even nationalize the banking system means that once more private bankers and bond holders will make a lot of money out of the government's efforts to provide some work for the unemployed.

This happy and prosperous country, according to the Labor Office, has two-thirds of the employed of the whole world. All in all we are back where we were. Let us say, 1934, with hope gone and far more bitter hatred stalking abroad among us.

AMERICAN YOUTH SURVEY

A survey of the opinion of youth conducted by the American Youth Commission in Maryland has in it a lot of food for thought. Around 90 per cent of all those interviewed believe that relief is a valid responsibility of the Federal government, most of them favoring work relief. Then they turned around and expressed the most

cynical views with regard to politics. Only 55 per cent of the youth eligible to vote voted at all on their last opportunity, and a lot of them voted for reasons that were anything but creditable.

Now this cynicism about politics marks in part a failure of education; in part an apathy and indifference which menace democracy, and in part a more or less natural reaction to the undoubted political inefficiency and corruption which do exist. Anybody who really means to fight fascism however, must take account of the situation which this survey indicates. One Socialist could dismiss the matter by saying: "Oh, well, it's natural to be disgusted by capitalist politics." But, alas, over in Russia Stalin has charged his own associates in government and in the Stalinist party with far worse crimes than these youths charge against capitalist politics. Clearly, then, honest and efficient governments are the major concern for Socialists and indeed for the workers generally, and they will not be by-products of any political theory. They must be a key.

FRENCH POLITICAL SITUATION

French politics are anything but encouraging. The fall of the second Blum Cabinet before a reactionary Senate probably rings the curtain down upon the Popular Front as any kind of a force for progressive social achievement. It is a question how much of a force it will be in resisting fascism. Pessimists and cynics will say: "You see once more democracy is failing and it ought to be united against the fascist foe." Actually, however, it is not democracy that is failing in France but the hypocritical version of it which the bourgeois constitution gives to the people. The French Senate which finally overthrew the Blum Cabinet is about as undemocratic as the House of Lords in Great Britain, and it has more power.

LABORITE ELECTED IN BRITAIN

In Great Britain a Labor candidate, Dr. Edith Summerskill, has won a by-election. That is good news because it is always good news when a Labor candidate wins against Chamberlain and the Tories. But it's scarcely good enough to justify Heywood Brown's paen of triumph, his vision of a woman as the slayer of fascism.

As a matter of fact, the point of Dr. Summerskill's post-election statement was simply this: that the people had told Chamberlain to go "back to the League or get out." It's bad Socialism and bad sense for a nominal Socialist to have nothing better to offer to a sick Europe in the struggle against fascism than the exhortation to go back to the League of Nations, the very League which was founded to preserve the status quo and which has failed so miserably not because Chamberlain has betrayed it but because of its very nature.

When Al Capone turns Sir Gallahad it will be time to expect capitalist nations to become genuine crusaders for democracy and for a true collective security. Until that time our hope has to lie in the workers; in underground movements; in the awakening of the masses; in the kind of thing that the Spanish workers have done and are still doing and which the Chinese

peasants and workers are now doing against the Japanese.

KEEPING AMERICA OUT OF WAR

The Keep America Out of War movement marches on. Let every Socialist in every town and village do his part to see that there is a local committee which gets to work to fight the measures that will take us into war; to fight for an active campaign against unemployment and poverty at home. We want a tremendous delegate Congress on Memorial Day in Washington.

The hope of keeping America from fascist tyranny is to keep America out of war. America's best service to democracy will be to make her own democracy work. And that is impossible in war of capitalist nations.

BIG NAVY FOLKS WANT BIGGER NAVY

Before the Senate Naval Committee the big navy folks are trying to make the navy even bigger. Congress has voted down proposals to accumulate modest stores of raw materials in America, thereby reducing the alleged necessity of a big navy always to keep open every route of trade. That shows up this naval propaganda for what it is.

If Father Coughlin could launch a hundred thousand telegrams against the Reorganization Bill surely we should organize so as to launch more than a hundred thousand telegrams against the super navy bill, against the May bill, against other measures far more dictatorial in their nature, far more indicative of the drift to fascism. That's part of the job that the Socialist Party and the Keep America Out of War Committee should do.

BOOKS

For some time I've been looking for space and for leisure to say a few words about important books. Now I'm going to be very brief.

"Land Without Moses", by Charles Curtis Munz, is the best sharecropper novel I've read. It's literature and not just propaganda. But because it is literature and true to life it is great propaganda. The publisher is Harper's. (\$2.50)

"The Greatest Show on Earth" By S. A. Spencer (Doubleday, Doran & Co. (\$3.95) is an uncommonly fine portrayal in graphic charts, photographs, pictures and words of the process of breakdown of our capitalist system. It outlines the facts, makes them vivid and confronts the reader fairly with the issues. Necessarily the book is a bit expensive but it's one that Socialist locals and branches can use to great advantage.

Modern Monthly Essay Contest

NEW YORK — "Modern Monthly," militant left wing magazine, announced this week that it will hold a student essay contest. The subject offered is entitled: "The American Student and the Coming War."

The contest is open to all students in American universities, colleges, high schools, adult and workers educational centers. A prize of \$25 will reward the winner. Inquiries are to be submitted to: Student Essay Contest, "Modern Monthly," 46 Morton St., New York.

CLASS ANGLE

-Two More Federal Theatre Plays-

By Michael C. Arcone

Check off, by the grace of the New York drama critics, two more hits for the Federal Theatre Project. For with a fine disregard for the historical inaccuracies in "Haiti," the William DuBois drama dealing with Henri Christophe and incidents of Haiti's second struggle for independence from the French in 1802, at Harlem's Lafayette Theatre; and the brash sentimentality of "Prologue to Glory," the E. P. Conkle drama of Abraham Lincoln's youth at the Maxine Elliott, our New York critics have heaped praise upon both plays . . . and capacity audiences are the result. In fact, Mr. Burns Mantle, our fellow playviewer from the New York Daily News went so far as to give the Lincoln drama four stars, the first such citation of the season . . . in spite of the fact that there have been at least a good half dozen plays worth four stars in anybody's criticism. Which seems to indicate that Mr. Mantle mixes his patriotism with his critical judgement . . . to the detriment of the latter.

Damning With Praise-

Not that both plays are completely without merit . . . in fact, they have a great deal of merit and can be enjoyed if one can forget that they are supposed to have an historical basis. As drama goes, both "Haiti" and "Prologue to Glory" are exciting.

well-staged and superbly acted. But the first takes certain inexcusable liberties with recorded history . . . and the Lincoln drama sentimentalizes. Which are two things this department has no stomach for when viewing drama based on actual historical characters and incident.

Of the two, I feel that "Haiti" causes the greater annoyance. Anyone reading Theophilus G. Steward's "The Haitian Revolutions, 1791-1804" (Crowell, 1924) can find sufficient material for a dozen dramas without needing to pad out a play with characters and incidents that have no historical basis . . . as Mr. DuBois has done with "Haiti."

The DuBois Henri Christophe is a character that never existed outside of the dramatist's imagination. Even John W. Vandercook's fictional biography of the man who later proclaimed himself King Henry I of Haiti, in spite of the fact that it just barely misses being hero-worship, manages to present a somewhat valid picture of the man. But the DuBois drama attempts to portray its hero as a sort of latter-day Spartacus with a touch of Moses, leading his people through rebellion eventually out of bondage. And all this mixed with purely imaginative characters and incidents which serve to enhance the melodrama but

have no basis in history. Such as the incidents dealing with the romantic history of Adette's parentage and the gallantry of rival French officers. And the spy Jacques, sliding panels, and so on ad nauseum.

As a matter of historical record the Haitian revolutions were nothing but a series of political intrigues inspired by the Wilberforce Society of London, the Minister Calonne's determination upon a coupe de politique, a colonial diversion to lessen the tension at home where things were getting too hot for Louis XVI. To say nothing of Monsieur's (brother to the King, later Louis XVIII) promise to Pitt and Britain to deliver all of Frances's West Indian possessions to England in return for help at home.

And with all this intrigue the leaders of Haitian independence, Toussaint L'Ouverture, Henri Christophe, Dessalines, Rigaud, and a horde of lesser figures each had his own particular iron in the fire, playing France off against England, one party against another. And through it all the poor slaves were the dupes, cannon fodder for the political ambitions of one man or another . . . "Freedom From Slavery" was a rallying cry used pretty much in the same sense that Wilson's "Make the World Safe for Democracy" was used in a later era.

The Real Christophe

And the proof of this particular pudding lies in the fact that no sooner was the revolution finally won, Dessalines proclaimed himself Emperor and sought to impose a dictatorship upon the people of Haiti. Christophe was elected president in December of 1806 and in June of 1811 proclaimed himself King, imposing upon his people a worse slavery than the Haitians had known under French rule. His regime was marked by unmentionable cruelties . . . legend has it and history bears it out to a great extent that he caused San Souci palace and Laferriere Citadel to be built at the cost of a life for each stone that went into their walls.

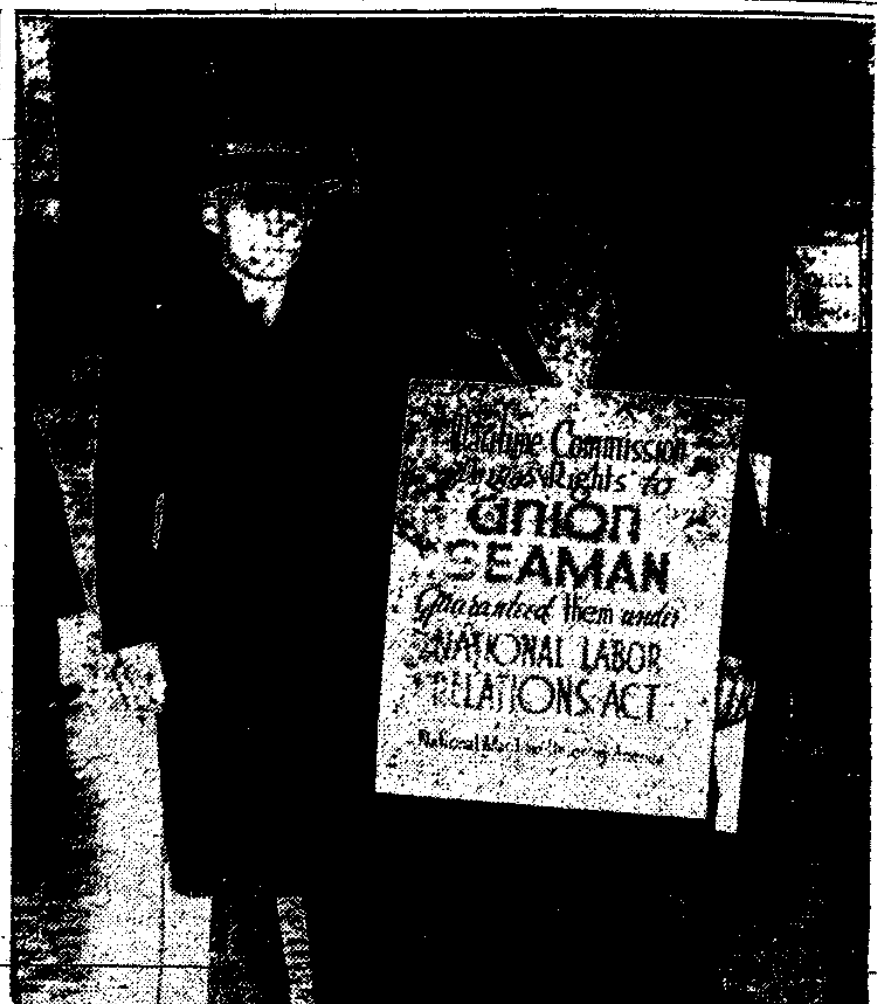
But we get nothing of this in the DuBois drama . . . in fact the only incidents related with historical accuracy is the fact that Napoleon's army lands on Haiti to put down the rebellion led by L'Ouverture; the blacks burn the town and retire to the hills from which they carry on a guerilla warfare, and later with a French army demoralized by fighting and disease, Christophe and the natives sweep down and butcher the French soldiers who are left.

DuBois misses a grand opportunity for a really valid historical drama showing the many facets of Haiti's story. He did write, and FPT is presenting an excellent melodrama . . . but it is not history. As a matter of fact, if the FPT had to do a play dealing with Haiti and the struggle for independence, I would have much preferred that they presented Lamartine's "Toussaint L'Ouverture." It is a much better play and much closer to history.

Horatio Alger Lincoln

E. P. Conkle once wrote a very fine play about the New Deal's attempt to settle some 200 depressed farmers from Minnesota and the Dakotas in Alaska. "200 Were Chosen" was its title and it was a vicious slam at governmental red-tape and inefficiency. It was a very competent play and my only regret was that more people did not get around to seeing it.

But Mr. Conkle's drama of Lincoln's early youth, now current at the Maxine Elliott is a horse of a different color . . . it is neither competent nor complete and too replete with sentimentality . . . and in spite of some superb acting, especially Stephen Courtleigh's performance as the youthful Lincoln . . . it is nothing more than a rehash of the early chapters of Horatio Alger's "From Rail-Splitter to President." Nuf said.



CHARGING the U. S. Maritime Commission with "acting as a shipowner's union-breaking agency," National Maritime Union members picket the federal Body's New York office, protesting establishment of hiring halls by the commission.

JAPS SUFFER DEFEATS

(Continued from Page Five)

and the foreshadowing economic crisis in England will quickly dispel such a notion. The need, under capitalism, for disposing of surplus capital and goods is greater for highly-developed Britain and America than for any other capitalist powers.

Preparations For War

The basis for a major imperialist conflict in the Orient exists and will continue. Whether it will be fought independently or in conjunction with a second World War only time can tell. But certainly the preparations are being made.

Britain has enormously strengthened Singapore and is re-fortifying Hong Kong and Port Darwin in North Australia. Singapore has now docking facilities for the largest of battleships and is an adequate base for the half of Sir Samuel Hoare's "two-hemisphere fleet." In this same area, Japan is busily forging ties with Siam; France is making Indo-China more secure; the Philippines are presumably to be retained by the United States; and to the east stretch Japan's mandated islands, which surround American-owned Guam.

On the last named a report has it that the U. S. Fleet has stationed a squadron of naval planes. And it is certain that extensive war preparations have been made in Hawaii, even to the extent of picking out sites for wartime prison camps. And the military program of Washington points the way in which history will go.

The world drifts rapidly from crisis to crisis and towards war. Now the coming war lifts its head on the banks of the Yangtze, now on the Danube. Only the working class of the world, which has nothing to gain from imperialist war but death and disaster, can stop the holocaust. Now, if ever has the proletarian slogan true meaning: Workers of the world, unite!

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A Play That Made Theatre History

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George Bernard Shaw's

HEARTBREAK HOUSE

The play the British War Department would not permit England to see during the last war . . . as valid and timely today as it was in 1916

Production by Orson Welles

The most famous of anti-war plays in its first New York presentation since 1920 . . . with a Mercury Theatre cast which includes Orson Welles as Capt. Shotover, Mady Christians, George Coulouris, John Hoystradt, Phyllis Joyce, Viola Roache, Vincent Price, Erskine Sanford, Herbert Ranson.

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Tuesday Evening
April 26, 8:40

"ONE OF THE BEST MUSICAL SHOWS OF THE YEAR, WITTY, FRESH"—Atkinson, N. Y., Times

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94 FIFTH AVENUE. The very best food—Most reasonable prices. Large Beer 5c
Music & Entertainment Every Evening After 6—No Extra Charge

New York May Day Plans

The Socialist Party of New York will stage an independent demonstration here May 1 in observance of International Labor Holiday, Arthur G. McDowell, executive secretary of the Party wired the SOCIALIST CALL as we were going to pass.

Socialists will emphasize the struggle against war and war preparations in their manifestations while the Communists are all set to divert the traditional holiday of the revolutionary working class into a "support Roosevelt" affair.

The New York Socialist Party held ten successful anti-war meetings April 6 preliminary to the May Day demonstration. More than 4,000 people participated in these meetings.

American Labor Party Supports Beal Committee

NEW YORK.—The Communist Party's campaign to keep Fred E. Beal in prison took a resounding flop here this week when the American Labor Party threw its moral support behind the Non-Partisan Committee for the Defense of Fred E. Beal.

Beal, former leader of the heroic 1929 Gastonia strike, is now serving a 17 to 20 year sentence in the Raleigh, N. C., penitentiary on framed-up charges.

"At a meeting of the Public Affairs Council, the appeal for our aid for the defense of Fred E. Beal was taken up. The committee went on record as deeply sympathetic to a case in which it appears there was a miscarriage of justice," Alex Rose,

Leader Of Loyalist Garibaldi Brigade Greeted By Workers

Socialists And Friends Hold Spanish Benefit

CHICAGO, Ill.—A very successful affair, sponsored jointly by the "Sava" and Branch 1 of the Jugo-Slav Socialist Federation, was held for the benefit of the Loyalists in Spain last Sunday in Chicago. More than 400 members and friends turned out for the concert and social.

The program of the concert consisted of a number of choral selections by the Sava chorus and one act plays presented by the members of Branch 1. In the evening, everyone joined in the dancing. The proceeds of the affair will go to the relief of the workers in Spain.

Working Strike Truce

FLINT, Mich.—The management of the Consumers Power Co. was permitted to re-enter the plants last week as a truce was signed between the company and the Utility Workers Organizing Committee, a C. I. O. affiliate.

For three days the workers had held and run 12 stations without the management—a new labor technique, the working strike.

secretary of the A. L. P. wrote Hugo Pollack, secretary of the nonpartisan committee which is defending Beal.

Rose also stated that the A. L. P. letter could "be used by you to aid you in enlisting the support of any of our affiliated trade unions."

Chicago Workers Alliance Spurns Boss Candidates

CHICAGO, Ill. — A general membership meeting of the Workers Alliance of Cook County voted here April 10 to table a Communist motion that the Alliance specifically endorse candidates in the Democratic political primaries which were recently held in this state.

The Communist proposition had first been made in the executive committee meeting of the Alliance April 9. Lee Gregory, Fannie Schneid, and Simon Trojer, Socialists and active builders of the Workers Alliance, made speeches criticizing the proposition which will long be remembered by those who took part in the executive meeting.

The upshot of the executive meeting was that it was decided to name two speakers who would present opposite points of view at the membership meeting.

Robert Foley, leader of the Communist forces and Cook County secretary of the Alliance, presented the viewpoint of those supporting capitalist candidates.

Frank McCulloch, state president of the Illinois Workers Alliance, presented the position of those who opposed Alliance commitments to capitalist politicians.

McCulloch pointed out that the constitution of the Illinois Workers Alliance committed it to independent political action and reminded the membership of the Alliance that the primaries were not to elect but to nominate candidates. He also pointed out that the Illinois Workers Alliance is affiliated with and is an integral part of the Illinois Labor Party. The Alliance state president strongly urged steadfast loyalty to the Illinois Labor Party and called on the workers to push vigorously the work of placing their own candidates on their own program in the fall elections.

McCulloch stated that the success of the Labor Party will depend on the ability of the workers to secure the proper number of names to put their candidates on the ballot. Participation in a primary election would disqualify members of the Alliance from taking part in the work of getting the Labor Party a place on the ballots.

"The job of the Alliance," Chairman McCulloch said, "is to exert every every effort to get a special session of the Illinois legislature to convene so that it may consider and act on pressing relief needs."

In concluding his speech McCulloch said: "Sheep are likely to find themselves inside the lion with which they lie down!"

With this action the members of the Illinois Workers Alliance once more signified that they were not going to desert their militant tradition.

A large mass meeting and banquet were held in Chicago on Sunday, April 10 to honor the founder of the Garibaldi Brigade, Commander Randolph Pacciardi. The veteran fighter for the cause of the Spanish Loyalists, a prominent anti-fascist, was welcomed with great enthusiasm by his countrymen in Chicago who saw in him the inspiration for continued fight against fascism in Spain and in their native Italy.

Pacciardi was a lawyer who left Italy after Mussolini's assumption of power and went into exile. He went to Spain at the outbreak of the fascist revolt and organized the brigade of anti-fascist Italians which has fought, and is fighting, so heroically against the minions of Franco, Mussolini and Hitler.

At the time of the Barcelona uprising of the anarchists in May 1937 Pacciardi resigned from the International Brigade in protest against the policies of the Communists within the Brigade and in Spain.

He is now traveling thruout the United States speaking in behalf of the Garibaldi Brigade.

The keynote of the speeches made at the banquet and meeting was that fascism is a product of capitalism and that the fight against capitalism is a part of the fight against fascism.

The reception to Commander Pacciardi was under the auspices of these eight Italian anti-fascist working class organizations: Popular Italo-American Union, Italian Lodges I. W. O., Italian Group of the Communist Party, Italian League of the Rights of Man, Matteotti Circle of the Workmens Circle, Italian Socialist Federation, Italian Republican Group, Italian Bakers League.

Among the Honorary Committee of sponsors were Professors

American Loyalist Tour

A national tour for the four leaders of the Spanish Loyalist cause who are in this country to tell the American workers about the conflict against fascism and to mobilize support for the anti-fascist fighters was outlined this week by the North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy.

The four distinguished Spaniards who will take part in the tour either as a group or individually are: Ogier Preteceille, official representative of the U. G. T. (General Workers' Union); Ramon Sender, leading Spanish writer; Jose Bergamin, Catholic philosopher and essayist, and Carmen Meana, social worker and organizer of the famous Madrid women's brigade.

Their tour has been scheduled as follows:

APRIL

Jacksonville, Fla., 14; Miami, 14; Tampa, 15; New Orleans, 17 and 18; Houston, 20; San Antonio, 21; Los Angeles, 23 and 25; San Francisco, 26, 27 and 28; Seattle, 30.

MAY

Portland, 1; Vancouver, 1; Butte, 3; Duluth, 6; Minneapolis and St. Paul, 7; St. Louis, 9; Chicago, 10 and 11; Milwaukee, 12; Detroit, 15 and 16; Cleveland, 17; Columbus, 18; Akron, 18; Cincinnati, 19; Pittsburgh, 22; Philadelphia, 23; New York, 24; Rochester, 25; Buffalo, 26; Syracuse, 26.

Borgese, Bertelli, and Krueger, Sam Levin of the A. C. W. A., Morris Bialis of the I. L. G. W. U., J. Seigal and M. Seskind of the Chicago Forward, Luis Peres, Spanish Consul in Chicago, Roy Burt, National Secretary of the Socialist Party, Attorneys Joe Jacobs and G. L. Quilici.

Support Your Loyalist Comrades and Fellow Workers of Spain! Rush funds to Rose Shapiro, treasurer, Socialist Spanish Committee, 112 East 19th St., New York

MAY 1

International Labor Holiday

Millions will march in the United States, China, Mexico, France, Loyalist Spain, Sweden, Great Britain, Russia and other countries.

Even in Fascist hells oppressed workers will gather secretly to recount their experiences of the past few years, and to gird their forces for the day when labor will unshackle its capitalist and imperialist chains.

The powerful onward march of labor has been thwarted, but not for long. The day of reckoning will come.

Labor Has Lost Some Battles but It Will Win the War!

The reactionaries of the world can put that in their pipes and smoke it.

As for the CALL, it will be in the fight until victory.

No backward step! No compromise! Action and more action!

Forward to a Workers' World!

Greet the SOCIALIST CALL on May Day!

A Special Issue which will review the significance of May Day in the light of a rapidly changing World.

DEADLINE APRIL 25, AT NOON

SOCIALIST CALL, 549 Randolph St., Chicago, Ill.

I enclose.....for a greeting to be published in the May Day issue of the SOCIALIST CALL.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

(If you have a special message for the May Day issue, please write it on a separate sheet of paper)

Pennsylvania Socialists To Run Slate In Election

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — The Socialist Party of Pennsylvania, is planning to place a full ticket in the field in the state-wide elections in the fall. This is the result of the deliberations of the State Executive Committee. The ticket, as decided upon by the State Executive Committee is:

Dr. Jesse H. Holmes, for Governor

Walter S. Pasnick, for Lieutenant Governor

David H. H. Felix, for U. S. Senator

Walter E. Lund, for Secretary of Internal Affairs.

This is looked-upon as a very strong ticket. Dr. Holmes, professor Emeritus at Swarthmore College, is well known throughout the State for his activities in defence of Civil Liberties. He is a member of the Teachers Union, lives at Moylan, in Delaware County, and is State Chairman of the Socialist Party. He has always been extremely active in peace circles in Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania. In past years he always polled a large vote, both when running locally, as well as in State-wide elections.

Pasnick A Unionists

Walter S. Pasnick, the candidate for Lieutenant Governor, is a resident of the industrial city of New Kensington in Westmoreland County, near Pittsburgh. He is an aluminum worker and educational director of the powerful Local No. 2 of the Aluminum Workers of America.

David H. H. Felix, prominent

Philadelphia attorney and City Chairman of the Socialist Party is a member of the National Executive Committee of the Party and was one of the delegates left wing Socialists in this country and was one of the delegates to the International Socialist Congress in 1934 who fought for the adoption of a program of revolutionary Socialism. He has been a candidate for Mayor in Philadelphia several times and is well known in the labor movement.

Walter E. Lund is a pillar of Socialism in the Northwest corner of Pennsylvania centering around Erie. An able propagandist and tireless worker, he utilizes his trade, which compels him to travel over a good part of the state, to spread labor and Socialist propaganda.

With such a strong ticket in the field it is felt that the Socialist Party will secure a very large vote in the fall, particularly in view of the sorry spectacle of the unprincipled horse-trading now going on in the democratic party and the attempt to put the Kennedy-Wilson-DeWitt-Smith ticket over as a "labor" slate. Herbert Zam, Socialist State Organizer directing the work of securing signatures, reports that the enthusiastic response of the Party membership to the Socialist ticket, and the interest shown among workers and progressives everywhere, leave no doubt as to the possibility of securing the requisite number of signatures to place this ticket in the field.

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