

Workers Age

A PAPER DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS AND FARMERS

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Speakers at Mooney Demonstration



Left to right: Julius Hochman, Manager Dressmakers Joint Board I.L.G.W.U.; Charles Zimmerman, Manager Local 22 I.L.G.W.U.; Joseph P. Ryan, President Central Trades and Labor Council; Luigi Antonini, Acting President I.L.G.W.U.; William B. Mahoney, personal representative of William Green. Heywood Broun, Rose Schneiderman of the Womens Trade Union League and Isadore Nagler of the Cloakmakers Joint Board I.L.G.W.U., left before the picture was taken.

Trade Unionists Demand Freedom of Mooney

Six thousand trade unionists filled the Hippodrome on July 30, to demand the unconditional release of Tom Mooney and Warren K. Billings, on the twentieth anniversary of their incarceration. This New York meeting was one of many held throught the country, in Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, and other large cities, to express labor's mighty protest against the frame-up of two of its most devoted sons.

CIO SETTLES FIRST STRIKE

Sterling, Ill. — The Committee for Industrial Organization scored its first victory in the drive to organize the steel industry with the settlement of the strike of 700 workers at the Northwestern Barbed Wire Company plant. Van A. Bittner, heading the drive in the Chicago area called this a "major victory".

The terms of the settlement call for (1) an increase of 10% in wages, (2) recognition of the Amalgamated Association, (3) return of all strikers without discrimination, (4) continued negotiations to settle other existing differences.

Encouraged by this victory field organizers for the Steel Workers Organization Committee are intensifying their labors in the various districts. Most encouraging reports were received from Baltimore, Clairton, Sharon, Bethlehem and Homestead, at a meeting of eastern organizers held in Pittsburgh on July 20.

Definite and unmistakable instructions were issued to all field workers that Negro steel workers must be recruited and admitted to the organization on the basis of absolute equality with all others.

The meeting was opened by Charles Zimmerman, of Local 22. He acquainted the workers with a resolution passed on July 22nd, 1916 by the San Francisco Labor Council, warning the workers that a frame-up was being planned and urging all to stay away from the jingoistic "Preparedness Parade."

The speakers included Isadore Nagler, manager of the Cloakmakers Joint Board, Luigi Antonini acting President of the I.L.G.W.U., Heywood Broun of the Newspaper Guild, Rose Schneiderman of the Woman's Trade Union League and Julius Hochman, manager of the Joint Board of Dressmakers.

Altho Wm. Green was scheduled to speak, he found himself unable to attend, and sent a letter instead. It was the announcement of this fact that caused the only marring of the demonstration. At the mention of Green's name, certain elements booed. This stupid and disruptive act was sharply and correctly answered by Chairman Ryan who pointed out that "those who boo Green are doing no service to Mooney. Our differences in the labor movement should not prevent us from uniting on such a question as this, the freedom of Mooney and Billings."

All speakers stressed the necessity of unity and determined action of labor to free Mooney. Hochman, basing himself on his meeting with Mooney recently, stated that Mooney was a real leader. one with whom "we must and shall soon march together on the picket line and to the ballot box."

The meeting closed with the unanimous passage of a resolution demanding the unconditional release of Mooney and Billings, presented by the Central Trades and Labor Council.

Boston, Mass.—More than 3,000 workers turned out at the Parkman Bandstand on Boston Common to attend a demonstration demanding the unconditional release

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Decisive Battle Looms In Civil War Against Spanish Fascists; France Votes Strict Neutrality

10,000 Pledge Support In New York for Fight Against Fascists

New York — 10,000 workers gathered in Union Square on Friday July 31, thundered their protest against Italian and German intervention on the side of the Spanish fascists and pledged financial and moral assistance to the heroic fighters against fascism.

The meeting was called by a united front committee representing the Communist Party, Socialist Party, Communist Party Opposition and other working class organizations.

A cable was sent in the name of the demonstration to Largo Caballero head of the General Confederation of Labor, Jose Diaz, secretary of the Communist Party, Indalecio Prieto, chairman of the Socialist Party and to Pablo Durrutti, syndicalist leader. It pledged "all possible support to the heroic Spanish anti-fascist fighters" and concluded with: "Hail anti-fascist and working class solidarity. Inspiration for international working class unity against fascism."

Among the speakers were Aaron Levenstein of the Socialist Party, Charles Zimmerman, manager of local 22 I.L.G.W.U., Harry Gannes of the Communist Party, and George F. Miles of the Communist Party Opposition.

BOSSSES STALL IN KNITGOODS

Again the Metropolitan Knitted Textile Council is stalling for time and desperately seeking means for struggle against the union. The postponements are of course intended to demoralize the union organization but according to Louis Nelson, Manager of the Joint Council Knitgoods Workers Union, these delays are being utilized to clear the union decks and place it in proper fighting trim. Nelson's statement follows:

Another postponement of the deadline set by the Metropolitan Knitted Textile Association was announced by Mr. Sylbert, Executive Director of the Association, in the New York press of July 27th. This makes the third postponement of the declaration of open shop principles by the knitgoods manufacturers associated with the Metropolitan Knitted Textile Association—July 16, July 27th, and now July 29th. It is evident that "General Sylbert" is a commander without an army.

When Mr. Sylbert states, following all of these postponements, that "if the Union wishes to delude itself into a false sense of security, it may do so", he really cannot mean this. The best indication of the security and the strength of the Union is the postponements of Mr. Sylbert and his Association. On the other hand, the mass demonstrations held by

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Fur Progressives In Election Gains

Baraz Gets 2160 Votes; Furriers Repudiate Gold's Slanders

New York—The Furriers Joint Council has just made public the figures in its general election in which participated some 5,500 workers of which about 5,100 voted for Ben Gold manager and the rest voted No. These figures however are of little significance since Gold had no opposition for reelection. It is when we get to the vote for business agents that we become aware that the Left administration of Gold has received a ringing rebuke at the hands of the furriers. Despite the most slanderous campaign conducted against the Progressive Group and especially against the only Progressive agent—Benjamin Baraz—he received 2,160 votes and failed of reelection by a slight margin.

The significance of this vote received by the leading Lovestoneite in the Progressive Group becomes even greater when we recall that this vote constitutes an increase over his vote of a year ago (2,083) when he was the candidate of a combined opposition and when over 8,000 votes were cast. The vote received by the banner bearer of the Progressive Group thus increased from 25% of the vote in 1935 to 40% in this election. Thus 40% of the furriers have given the lie to Ben Gold's leaflets distributed in the market during the campaign, that the Lovestoneites constitutes a discredited little clique of twenty.

The complete administration slate which was elected included a number who neither sought nor welcomed the endorsement of the administration. Thus among those elected to the Joint Council, are to be found the Progressive Mike Intrator, Simon Kass and Lena Greenberg, and the Socialists Willie Barash and Lea Hyman.

This gesture of endorsement was made in order to claim a totally non-existent spirit of unity as can easily be proven by pointing to the three opposition slates in the field. Besides, the administration knew very well that most of these were elected a year ago over their bitter opposition and would most likely have been reelected. This can easily be seen by examining the vote of the unendorsed candidates such as the Progressive Lena Rabinowitz who drew 26% of the vote (1,433).

The Progressive Group has reason to be proud of the showing it made in the present elections. It showed that it is the strongest opposition in the union and is a force to be reckoned with.

Workers' Shock Troops Are Core of Struggle Against Fascism

With heroism born of experience of the toiling masses of other lands, the Spanish proletariat and peasantry has fought the well trained fascist armies of General Franco to a stand-still. What was first merely armed groups fighting with little system or discipline has been whipped into shape under fire and constitutes a formidable power blocking the road to the victory of the fascists. Barricade fighting, long considered obsolete in certain socialist ranks, returned during these three weeks to play a most important role in beating back the fascists from many cities and towns.

In a military sense slight changes of any great significance developed during the course of the week. The strategy of the fascists appears to be directed at holding their present positions and if possible extending their hold on the northern coast line, while the government forces, apparently content that their position around Madrid is impregnable, are concentrating their attack upon Zaragoza in the north and Seville, the heart of the insurrection, in the south.

But chief interest has shifted to the international implications of the fascist bid for power in Spain. The crack-up of several Italian planes enroute to fascist headquarters in Spanish Morocco, uncovered widespread military assistance to the fascists by the Italians and Germans. Also the British government declared itself

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COMPANY UNION SNUBS COMPANY

The Company Union at the Edgar Thomson Plant of the Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corp. rejected the gratuitous offer of so-called time-and-a-half pay for overtime tendered by the company. At a meeting held on Monday, July 27, the workers adopted the following resolution:

"A special meeting was held here on Thursday morning at 9:30 o'clock called by General Superintendent F. F. Slick to inform us that our request for time and a half has been granted.

"The representatives of this body knew nothing about such a request being put in. The publicity given to this subject has been very prominent in the newspapers. We feel such publicity has raised the cost of living and we have definite proof of such and we have no benefit of any overtime by being given a 48-hour week and that we still are in accord with the plan of a 40-hour week at the most and time and half from Saturday noon until Sunday and double time for Sundays and holidays.

"Give this answer as much publication as the statements made

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EUROPE TODAY

By LAMBDA

The Austro-German Pact

THE agreement between Germany and Austria as well as the secret clauses must be known to the readers of Workers Age. What is the meaning of this agreement? It means that Austria will not be swallowed by Hitler Germany immediately and in one gulp; it will first be slowly roasted. The means whereby Germany will accomplish this are (1) economic influence, (2) propaganda by German "tourists" who may now again come to Austria, the return of Austrian Legionnaires, the Nazi press, radio, etc. The promise that Hitler Germany will respect Austria's sovereignty in the future and will refrain from interference in its inner affairs, means very little.

The agreement with Austria is simultaneously a pact between Germany and Italy. Between both powers military agreements have been made and new ones are in the making. The foundation has been laid for a bloc of the Central Powers, in which there will be drawn in Germany, Austria, Hungary, Italy and Poland. An attempt will certainly be made to extend the bloc still further by means of the disruption of the Little Entente and the Balkan alliance.

Moreover, it is certain that Germany and Italy cooperate diplomatically. But there is no Bloc of the Entente against the newly created Bloc of the Central powers. The conclusion of the agreement between Germany and Austria constitutes a significant victory for both leading fascist dictatorships in Europe and a setback for England, France, the Little Entente and the Soviet Union. This agreement is not intended to maintain peace, rather is it a move by Hitler Germany in the political preparation of war.

The causes for these successes of the leading fascist powers are obvious. First there is the capitulation of the League of Nations to Italy in the Ethiopian conflict; it promoted the rapprochement between fascist Italy and Hitler Germany. Secondly, the failure of the League of Nations and of France to offer resistance to the occupation of the Rhineland by Germany. Among the general causes is the situation in which Hitler and Mussolini, knowing what they want in the field of foreign policy, proceed to achieve their aims with initiative, vigor and energy. England and France, lacking a clear objective, present a passive, dissimilar, contradictory and vacillating foreign policy. French foreign policy under Leon Blum has changed only to the extent that Blum makes very fine speeches, but essentially Blum's foreign policy is struck in the same rut. The source of this passivity is to be found not in the individual but rather in the program inherited from previous governments—the program of defense of the imperialist status quo. Now everyone recognizes the fallacy of Laval who sought to keep the fascist wolf from central and south Europe by letting him ravage in Ethiopia. The facts prove that Italy's power and prestige having risen, it now turns with renewed energy to the pursuit of its imperialist aims in Europe.

The international working class must depend, now more than ever, on its independent class action also in the field of foreign policy. It must under no circumstances identify itself with the defense of the imperialist status quo. On the contrary it must push in the foreground the struggle for a new order in Europe by means of its own revolutionary action, and relate it with the defense of the Soviet Union.

As to Germany's immediate aims, these were made clear in a German note appearing in the Italian press, in which it is stated that one of the unconditional prerequisites for an "understanding" with France is the abrogation of the Franco-Soviet Pact.

In the meantime the practical value of this pact as well as the French alliances with the Little Entente are constantly decreasing as Germany continues to strengthen its fortifications on its western borders and seals its pacts with Italy and Austria.

There is a lot of talk these days about the recurrence of the 1914 situation. But the situation, in its present development is appreciably less favorable for the Entent powers and more favorable for the Central powers than was the case in 1914. But it is not correct to speak of two camps in Europe today. There are three main camps. The Soviet Union is a camp by itself, not only because it is not an imperialist power but also because the present grouping of powers, in which the Soviets are to be found, is by no means either firm or permanent. This was shown clearly in the negotiations at Montreaux where England led the attack against the position of the Soviet Union and attempted to swing Turkey away from it.

Honeymoon Ends For French People's Front

The declaration of Minister of Interior Salengro, in the Senate, secured thru an ultimatum by the Radical Socialist partners of the People's Front, to the effect that Blum's government would resist "with all necessary means" the occupation of the factories by strikers, marks a new period in People's Front politics. The honeymoon is over. The government, as also the bourgeoisie, taken by surprise in the mighty strike wave in June, now return to its normal role as the defender of the bourgeois property. The government now gives ground before the systematic counter-attack of the bourgeoisie, and has turned against the working class whose extra-parliamentary activity had largely come to an end. The attack is being led by the bankers, the industrialists, the Radical Socialist Party, especially its senators, by the red-baiting element among the Socialist deputies. Not better but rather much worse does it become when the representatives of the C.P. and the S.P. make belated explanations to the effect that force will be used only as a last resort after the People's Front parties and the trade unions have failed to induce the workers voluntarily to vacate the occupied factories, or in the case of new strikes to keep out of the shops. The People's Front parties and organizations thereby take over the sorry role of serving as a brake and a hindrance upon the action of the workers. It means to play right into the hands of the fascists.

The gigantic demonstration of the People's Front have not yet disappeared. However, a report in the "Manchester Guardian" correctly points out that the most active section of the workers is dissatisfied with the declaration of Salengro and with the explanations of the People's Front parties.

At the recent conference of the French Communist Party all decisions were arrived at unanimously and not a critical word was heard. (Continued Next Column)

EXPLODING SOME S.P. MYTHS

By JOSEPH BROWN

The Socialist Party has a peculiar penchant for myth-making. As opposed to the Comintern, the whole international Socialist movement used to hold out the mirage of "gradualism"—the achievement of Socialism through the capitalist framework. The working class was fed with the illusions of securing power constitutionally, of peacefully riding to power through piecemeal reforms. The entire Labor and Socialist International strung along with the famous Webbs' slogan of "the inevitability of gradualism." But these were the good old days of capitalist prosperity before the dark days of 1931-1933. Since the disaster of the British Labor Party in 1931 and the smashing of the German and Austrian working class movements in 1933 and 1934, these myths and illusions have received rude jolts, blasting the doctrines of "sweetness and light" to the high heavens. The mass of social democratic workers have grown sceptical of reformist doctrine after the catastrophic events on the continent and in England. As a result, the old social democratic myths are either being overhauled or laid away permanently, as new ones are created. In America, the myth is growing that the Socialist party is the new rallying center for all revolutionaries. This is especially taking on the semblance of truth in view of the steady growth of opportunism in the Comintern. In addition, the entrance of former Communists into the Socialist movement has tended to lend credence to the myth. Needless to say, the trend of the Communist International has aided, rather than checked, this fantasy about the Socialist movement.

Inverted Social Fascism

The implications of the new SP approach are far-reaching in effecting immediate and more ultimate questions. It throws considerable light on the S.P.'s rejection of the united labor ticket in the present election campaign. The comrades of the left wing in the Socialist party have been especially vehement in the rejection of the united front with the Communist Party. Having discovered their terrific revolutionary upswing, they decided that unity with the Communists would be tantamount to betrayal since there were too many "programmatic differences". Thus, the C.P. is too

However, the fact that the conference found it necessary to enter into a polemic with Ferrat* who rejected the present party course in its essentials, seems to indicate that opposition to this course is beginning to manifest itself.

The attack of the bankers and the industrialists is directed at present primarily against the proposed government reforms of the Bank of France and against the nationalization of war industries. As regards the first proposal the government has already retreated and has "corrected" its first proposal. The nationalization of the war industries was a half-hearted measure at the very outset. The bourgeoisie brings pressure upon the government not only ultimatums but also thru its execution of the loan by means of which the government program of public works is to be financed. The bourgeois press stated quite correctly that the speech on July 14 showed Leon Blum's anxiety and fear of the masses.

* Ferrat was expelled from the Central Committee for opposition to the People's Front policy. For further information see page 3.

opportunist for unity with the newly discovered revolutionary Socialists. Note the similarity to the CP position of the "third period" in refusing to join with the social democratic murderers of Luxembourg and Liebknecht in united fronts. The CI then rejected the united front with the LSI for exactly the same reasons that the American SP comrades give today. This false concept of the united front, since discarded by the CP for a new and equally incorrect approach, has been revived by the Socialist Party in 1936. It would seem that the Socialist comrades of the left wing have become so intoxicated by their personal revolutions that they have projected their "mind-pictures" into the program of the S.P. (the anthropologist would call this a case of sympathetic magic). In taking this position, the Socialists have ignored a real solution of the present election problem, ignoring the very elements of working class unity.

Basis of United Front

A united front should arise and its need is most pressing because there does exist disunity in the ranks of the working class. Its basis grows out of certain elementary agreements and because of the existence of basic differences. Such unity comes about when the two parties recognize the necessity of the fight against the common foe—capitalism. To raise ultimate questions as barriers is to raise obstacles on every front of the class struggle. If you cannot find a basis for a united front with the CP because of its opportunism then why advocate a labor party which would be infinitely more reformist in character; or call for united fronts with the trade union movement; or appeal to the "advocates of social justice" (SP program). To adopt such a sectarian approach is to make the SP an obstacle in the path of working class unification.

Pure Assumptions

The united front position of the SP flows from an assumed premise which is non-existent in fact. The premise is that the SP has a revolutionary program and is the center for the resurgence of revolutionary Socialism in America. If such were the case, there would, at least, be logic on the side of the Socialists.

An examination of the program and resolutions of the SP convention at Cleveland reveals, however, an entirely different picture than that claimed by the S.P. The basic ideology underlying these documents is pure petty-bourgeois stuff and nonsense. The very objectionable features of the new CP line, which our S.P. friends very correctly abhor, find a welcome haven in the Socialist party home. Aside from phrases and incidental good wishes, the platform and resolutions indicate, on basic questions, more of an identity with than a dissimilarity with CP opportunism. In point of fact, the Communist party, from a programmatic viewpoint, still retains its revolutionary principles but ignores them in an application to the practical affairs of the class struggle. While the Socialist party, on the other hand, has not even enunciated a program that

can begin to approach revolutionary principles. It still retains, in essence, a program of social reformism.

The People's Front

Let us examine some of these so-called "programmatic differences" that stand in the way of the united labor election ticket.*

The peoples' front tactic of the Communist Party has come in for a major share of criticism. This should be welcomed since the criticism is both justifiable and commendable. But the criticism should apply wherever the policy crops up—CP or SP. For if the Communist Party is wrong, then why isn't Dan Hoan and the whole Wisconsin party condemned for their peoples' front alliance—for their almost complete merger—with the LaFollette movement. This alliance is a pure populist movement with the middle class organization in the lead. While LaFollette is permitted to throw support to Roosevelt in the national election, unity is preserved in Wisconsin on a pure and simple anti-monopolist program and a common hatred of the reactionaries in both old parties.

Some may argue that this is only a state matter and does not reflect the national program of the Socialist Party. But even if we accept such a false division of state and national boundaries, it must be emphasized that the idea of the peoples' front tactic can be found in the program and in the resolution adopted on "armed insurrection."

Advocate Of "Social Justice"

The program makes an appeal in the following vein: "The Socialist Party calls upon the workers, farmers and all advocates of social justice to join in its struggle to widen the channels through which may be made peaceful, orderly and democratic progress;...". These are dangerous words in these days of Long, Townsend and Coughlin. They would all include themselves in the category of "advocates of social justice". Just who would be insane enough to affirm his almost passionate desire for "social justice"? Is not this the type of appeal that forms the basis of the peoples' front? To fall for this demagogical talk is to create all sorts of illusions in the working class and to blur the class lines.

On Democracy And Violence

That the above is not isolated can be confirmed by turning to the resolution on "armed insurrection" where the approach to democracy is given. The resolution reads, in part: "The Socialist party... firmly believes in the strengthening and maintenance of existing democratic institutions through which the Socialist will of the masses may be cultivated and

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* The hypocrisy of this claim should be pointed out inasmuch as the Socialist Party has never even appointed a committee to determine whether a common program could be reached for the election. This seems to indicate that there are other factors standing in the way—one may be Dan Hoan and the other may be an avoidance of the red tinge which they must disapprove of at all times in order to refute the old guard's red herring charges.

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French C.P. Acts Against Dissenters From Line

It was quite inconceivable that the chauvinistic and social patriotic line of the French Communist Party should continue to unfold itself without any voices of protest. The official organ of the French Communist Party, "L'Humanite" of July 7, 1936, prints material indicating that there is not only dissatisfaction but open struggle against the party line extending even into the Central Committee. The resolution of the Central Committee excommunicating Ferrat, a member of the Central Committee, and Ferrat's letter even though cautiously formulated nevertheless present the basic struggle between a truly communist position and a position of social patriotic perversion. The documents need no further comment.—Editor.

ALL FOR THE PEOPLES FRONT ALL BY THE PEOPLES FRONT

We publish below the resolution of the Central Committee, adopted unanimously at its last session on June 13, 1936, on the position of Comrade Ferrat.

RESOLUTION

The Central Committee of the Communist Party, after having heard the report of its Political Bureau on the position of Comrade Ferrat, considers:

THE POSITION OF COMRADE FERRAT

In a letter sent to the Secretary of the Party, Comrade Ferrat indicates as follows his position in regard to the line of the Party, all of whose efforts are bent toward the unity of the French nation:

"It is not true that I am hostile to the Peoples Front. But there are two conceptions of the tactic of the united front: that which calls for the unity of the nation and which leads to the sacred union (class peace), and that of the June strikers who realized, in the course of the class struggle, the unity of all the workers, allied with the middle strata. It is of the latter conception that I am an adherent.

"I made certain reservations on the vote of confidence to the bourgeois government on the dissolution of the Leagues, because this law—insufficient for effective dissolution of the Leagues—permits the struggles of the workers and compromise the cause of the Peoples Front, which aims to unite the working class with the toilers and the middle classes, particularly the peasantry.

These facts show that Ferrat is actually against the tactic of our Parliamentary fraction in the vote

of the program of the Peoples Front, which seeks to defend bread, peace and liberty.

2. That these opinions reflect the Trotskyite platform, and their expression or defense is incompatible with membership in the Party.

3. That such opinions indicate that Comrade Ferrat has not yet freed himself of the sectarian ideology of the Barbe group, to which he was affiliated.

4. That the conceptions of Ferrat, in charge of the Colonial Bureau, have hindered the indispensable unity of the native colonial and European toilers, and, in Algeria in particular, the realization of the Peoples Front.

5. The C.C. approves the decisions of the Political Bureau relieving Ferrat of his duties as director of the Colonial Bureau.

6. The C.C. decides to retire Ferrat from the Central Committee, requesting him to make the greatest efforts to understand the political line of the Party, of which the aim is to make of our country a free, strong and happy France. The Party aims to mingle more actively among the broad masses of the people, and at the present moment gives a dignified example of calmness, dignity, unity, for the defense of the homes and the bread of the people.

UNIONS IN PLEA FOR TOM MOONEY

on armament credits, on March 20th, because one cannot struggle against Hitler by fraternizing with one's own imperialism.

"I have condemned the answer of Vaillant-Couturier to General de Castelnau, because it excused the sacred union which took place in 1914-18, because, while I am sympathetic to workers misguided by reaction, I am against the sacred union.

"I consider that the Blum government can give reforms favorable to the workers only to the extent that it is pushed and controlled by the direct and independent action of the masses. The rapid vote of the social laws under pressure of the June strikers is the best proof. The Party of the proletariat must remain independent. It must at all times, without reservation refuse to become a prop of the bourgeoisie.

"I have considered the Matignon* agreement as unsatisfactory. It constitutes a compromise and acts as a brake on the action of the masses at the height of the strike wave. Fortunately, the masses, going over the head of the signatories of the agreement and disapproving of it, have gotten better results in many cases. For the same reason, I disapprove of the appeal of Thorez for order: 'It is necessary to know when to end a strike', at the moment when the relation of forces was clearly favorable to the working class.

"In my unit, I have hitherto respected the discipline of the C.C. and not formulated any disagreements; when I did so, there was, after a short presentation of my position, three votes for me, against eleven. Even if, after a wide and free discussion, the proportion should not be above that in the entire party, that would mean that thousands of comrades are in agreement with my point of view."

* The Matignon agreement provided for the 40 hour week, 7% to 15% pay increases, union recognition and holidays with pay. Editor.

UNIONS IN PLEA FOR TOM MOONEY

(Continued from Page 1) of Tom Mooney and Warren K. Billings. The meeting held on July 27 commemorated the 20th anniversary of the incarceration of these two labor martyrs.

The meeting was addressed by Joseph Salerno of the A.C.W., Samuel Sandberg, secretary of the Committee and representative of the Communist Party Opposition, Michael Flaherty of the Painters Union, Philip Frankfeld of the Communist Party, Alfred Baker Lewis of the Socialist Party, J. Arthur Moriarty of the Boston Central Labor Union, Philip Kra-

mer of the I.L.G.W.U. and Florence Luscomb of the American Civil Liberties Union. Samuel Sandberg read a greeting from Tom Mooney to the assembled workers. A telegram was dispatched by Sandberg as the secretary of the United Committee for the Freedom of Tom Mooney, greeting Mooney, pledging financial assistance and promising to continue the fight with renewed energies.

The Chicago Federation of Labor has joined the New York Central Trades and Labor Union as well as numerous other trade union organizations, in taking steps to voice its demand for the liberation of Tom Mooney and Warren K. Billings on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of their imprisonment.

The following resolution was adopted at the meeting of the C.F.L. on July 19, 1936:

WHEREAS, Tom Mooney and Warren K. Billings are still held prisoners by the anti-labor forces of California for a crime which they did not commit, and

WHEREAS, a nationwide movement for an annual Mooney Day is gathering headway, which movement will enlist even greater support and strength behind the struggle for the freedom of these two famous class war prisoners, and

RESOLVED, that this Mooney program be definitely in support of the movement for an annual Mooney Day, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that there be at least two noted speakers on the subject for the freedom of Mooney and Billings, and that, if it is found to be practical, Mooney himself should speak to the meeting over long distance telephone, which speech should also be broadcast over WCFL.

RESOLVED, that the Chicago Federation of Labor instructs the Labor Day Committee to include, as a part of their 1936 Labor Day Program a commemoration of Tom Mooney and Billings and a renewal of the drive for his freedom, and be it further

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Resolution of Central Labor Union

WHEREAS, Tom Mooney and Warren Billings have now been lying in prison for twenty years altho their innocence of the crime charged against them is clear beyond the shadow of doubt, is proved conclusively by every investigation undertaken in the last two decades, including two Federal investigations, and is today admitted by virtually everyone concerned in the case, including the original judge and jurors; and

WHEREAS, it is our conviction, based on the plain evidence of the case, that Mooney and Billings were railroaded to prison as a result of a frame-up contrived by the traction and other employing class interests of San Francisco with the double aim of getting rid of a vigorous labor organizer and of discrediting and undermining the whole trade union movement of the city; and

WHEREAS, the cause of the liberation of Mooney and Billings has become the cause of the whole labor movement, for in the person of Mooney and Billings American labor as a whole is suffering martyrdom and persecution; and

WHEREAS, new hearings of the Mooney-Billings case have been under way for the last few months and there are indications that, if a vigorous and united effort is now made by the organized labor movement, the time will soon come when the two great martyrs of labor will at last stand free and vindicated; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by this great mass-meeting of organized labor of New York City, held under the auspices of the Central Trades and Labor Council of Greater New York on July 30, 1936, at the Hippodrome, that we extend to Tom Mooney and Warren Billings our warmest and most heartfelt greetings of solidarity on the occasion of the twentieth year of their long martyrdom; and further

BE IT RESOLVED, that we again pledge to do everything that lies within our power as organized labor to advance the cause of their liberation so as to speed the day when they will be restored to freedom and to the labor movement to which they belong; and further

BE IT RESOLVED, that we most urgently call upon the Governor of the State of California to grant immediate and unconditional pardons to Mooney and Billings, thereby doing what can be done at this late date to right one of the grossest miscarriages of justices in modern times.

mer of the I.L.G.W.U. and Florence Luscomb of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Samuel Sandberg read a greeting from Tom Mooney to the assembled workers. A telegram was dispatched by Sandberg as the secretary of the United Committee for the Freedom of Tom Mooney, greeting Mooney, pledging financial assistance and promising to continue the fight with renewed energies.

The Chicago Federation of Labor has joined the New York Central Trades and Labor Union as well as numerous other trade union organizations, in taking steps to voice its demand for the liberation of Tom Mooney and Warren K. Billings on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of their imprisonment.

The following resolution was adopted at the meeting of the C.F.L. on July 19, 1936:

WHEREAS, Tom Mooney and Warren K. Billings are still held prisoners by the anti-labor forces of California for a crime which they did not commit, and

WHEREAS, a nationwide movement for an annual Mooney Day is gathering headway, which movement will enlist even greater support and strength behind the struggle for the freedom of these two famous class war prisoners, and

RESOLVED, that this Mooney program be definitely in support of the movement for an annual Mooney Day, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that there be at least two noted speakers on the subject for the freedom of Mooney and Billings, and that, if it is found to be practical, Mooney himself should speak to the meeting over long distance telephone, which speech should also be broadcast over WCFL.

RESOLVED, that the Chicago Federation of Labor instructs the Labor Day Committee to include, as a part of their 1936 Labor Day Program a commemoration of Tom Mooney and Billings and a renewal of the drive for his freedom, and be it further

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IFTU Congress Discusses Union Unity and Fascism

London.—Walter Citrine, president of the International Federation of Trade Unions, expressed great concern over the present international situation in opening the 7th Triennial Congress.

After paying tribute to the gains of the trade union movement in France, Belgium and Spain, President Citrine scored the lawless fascist powers—Italy and Germany—who “have both thrown off the mask” and are threatening to engulf the world in a new war. Despite the failure of the League of Nations in meeting the Ethiopian and Rhineland crisis, Citrine insisted that the road to security still leads to the League of Nations.

“This means”, said Citrine, “that the nationally organized movements represented in this assembly stand pledged severally and collectively, to insist that national governments will receive our support only insofar as those governments undertake to settle all disputes with foreign powers by peaceful means. It means that we severally and collectively declare that we will not serve or support any government which becomes involved in war by its own aggressive act, or refuses to submit a dispute to arbitration, or is condemned as an aggressor by the large Nations.”

Developing the concept of lawful vs lawless nations Citrine recognizes that “it also imposes upon us the responsibility of enabling our governments insofar as they are loyal to the League, to fulfil their obligations and develop their armed resources accordingly.”

Thus, a pacifist position ends up by voting for military appropriations.

SPAIN'S MASSES HALT FASCISTS

(Continued from Page 1)

unable to stop the sale of planes to the rebels. The People's Front government of France is torn between fear of a fascist Spain and the precipitation of a European war if it intervenes on the side of Spain. Gabriel Peri, leader of the Communist Party insisted in the Chamber of Deputies that it is the duty of France “to support the democracies which surround her, particularly in their hour of trouble.” But, pressed hard by the partners of the People's Front, the Socialist Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yvon Delbos, declared that “France will not mix in the politics of other countries. Any idea of a crusade, whether it be for or against democracy, fascism or bolshevism, is rejected by us.”

However, popular sentiment for assistance to Spain seems to be running high for the government is granting permission to French citizens to cross into Spain to assist in the struggle against the fascists. But these volunteers are not permitted to carry arms across the border.

Aroused by the wide support which the masses are giving to the government in its struggle against the fascists, General Franco's generals have announced that every one caught with a gun, whether soldier or civilian would be shot. The government is retaliating by a widespread purge to eliminate every fascist from any positions in the territory controlled by Madrid. In order to cement mass support still more Madrid announced a 50% cut in rentals.

Congress Decisions

The congress adopted a resolution on trade union unity urging “the I.F.T.U. to open negotiations with the national centers of America, Australia, New Zealand, the East, U.S.S.R. and all other non-affiliated Trade Union centers, with a view to establishing a united Trade Union Movement throughout the world.” This replaced a proposal by the Norwegian trade unions calling upon the congress to authorize special negotiations with the Russian trade unions. There was considerable discussion, some of it heated, over these proposals. Rudolf Tayerle of Czechoslovakia, for instance, claimed that the Russian trade unions were intelligible because they are “under the absolute supervision of the state” and because “the part entrusted to the Communist trade unions in Soviet Russia does not in any way correspond to the conceptions of a free trade unionism.”

A resolution on war, fascism and disarmament incorporated the position of President Citrine as given above and a special resolution on fascism pointed out the danger of the occupation of Danzig by Hitler Germany.

Denouncing “the pernicious results of economic nationalism” the congress adopted a resolution on economic planning in which is also demanded the entire and immediate abolition of all restrictive measures that hinder commercial relations between nations. It also calls for an international agreement to ensure an equitable distribution of raw materials among all nations. Finished with these utopias the resolution instructs the Executive of the I.F.T.U. to summon at an early date a conference of representatives of the affiliated national centers on the question of economic planning.

Caballero Defeated

Sir Walter Citrine was again unanimously chosen to the presidency. Walter Schevenels was re-elected secretary and George Stolz as assistant secretary. Four of the five members of the Executive were reelected without contest. These included Jouhaux of France, Mertens of Belgium, Tayerle of Czechoslovakia and Jacobsen of Denmark. The contest was between Kupers of Holland and Caballero of Spain for the fifth seat. Kupers was elected with a vote of 44.

BOSSES STALL IN KNITGOODS

(Continued from Page 1)

the Union at Cooper Union, Amalgamated Temple, the loyalty of the knitgoods workers on the picket lines, are definite proof that the Union can legitimately feel secure in the situation.

Really, it is Mr. Sylbert and his Association who are egotistically lulling themselves into believing that any responsible manufacturers would follow the absurd policies proposed by “General” Sylbert. Mr. Sylbert explains the latest postponement by claiming that the manufacturers “are in the process of finishing out work.” Mr. Sylbert makes statements without regard to fact. May we inform Mr. Sylbert that this is the beginning of the season and not the finish. The manufacturers are starting to work, not finishing out work. All the manufacturers feel the effect of having just completed a very dull season. They also see signs that the coming Fall season would be a good one and they are not

ready to sacrifice a good season merely to favor the whims of Mr. Sylbert; they want to get ready to do business.

The knitgoods workers in the industry are not being fooled by the “code of ethics”, in reality yellow-dog agreements, that Mr. Sylbert wants to impose upon them. The logic of the Metropolitan Knitted Textile Association seems very strange. On the one hand they shout that unemployment in the knitgoods industry is increasing and that they desire “to increase the purchasing power of the knitgoods workers”. But on the other hand they propose to increase the work week from 35 to 40 hours which really means an increase in the ranks of the unemployed, and they propose decreases in wages which means a corresponding decrease in the purchasing power of the knitgoods workers. With such twists and turns in strategy and policy the Association proclaims to the world its incompetency and its incapability to cope with the very complicated industrial situation in the knitgoods industry.

Not only are the knitgoods workers in Union shops ready to respond to the call of the Union, but non-union workers in open shops have come out on strike under the leadership of the Joint Council Knitgoods Workers Union. In the last two days the Organization Department of the Knitgoods Workers Union reports that in the following eleven shop knitting mills workers have come to the Union and have declared strikes in their shops to establish Union conditions. H. & F. Knitting Mills, 235 Powell Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Aetna Knitting Mills, 140 Junius St., Brooklyn, N. Y.; S. & M. Knitting Mills, 62 Schenectady Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.; Sunset Knitting Mills, 1553 Gates Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.; Windsor Knitting Mills, 225 Powell Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Jefferson Knitting Mills, 457 Livonia Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.; Waverly Knitting Mills, 47 Watkins St., Brooklyn, N. Y.; Liberty Knitting Mills, 130 West 26th St., New York City; Margerie Knitting Mills, 16 W. 22nd St., New York City; Jarco Knitting Mills, 37 W. 20th St., New York City; Pan American Knitting Mills, 138 E. 17th St., New York City.

This, then, is the situation in the knitgoods industry—on the one hand the growing army of Union knitgoods workers and on the other hand the revolt against the incorrect strategy of the Metropolitan Knitted Textile Association. The Joint Council Knitgoods Workers Union has shown by its various demonstrations and activities of the knitgoods workers, both Union and non-union, that it is ready and able to meet any fight imposed upon it by the Metropolitan Knitted Textile Association.

COMPANY UNION SNUBS COMPANY

(Continued from Page 1)

to the newspapers. This was carried unanimously by the body.”

This resolution was signed by: Wm. E. Garrity, Chairman; Louis Smolinski, Sec'y.

Phillip Murray, Chairman of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, made the following comment on this action:

“The action of the steel workers at Edgar Thomson tears away completely the mask of hypocrisy from company unions and leaves standing for the world to see—steel management dictating and imposing its will under guise of a supposed collective bargaining agency.

“It was obvious from the manner in which the 48-hour week and the time-and-half for overtime was announced, that the company union representatives had nothing what-

SUMMER TRAINING SCHOOL GETS UNDER WAY ON AUGUST 10

AS WORKERS AGE goes to press, plans are well under way for the launching of the third and most ambitious year of the Summer Labor Institute of the New Workers School. On August 10th, active workers in the labor movement will gather from various parts of the country to begin an intense period of Marxian education. The Summer Labor Institute, organized by the New Workers School, has prepared a wide curriculum of courses for a group of carefully selected students who have shown their worth and potential ability in actively participating in the struggle of labor against capital. The school has arranged its courses so as to prepare its students to cope with the problems of the labor movement in a most fundamental way.

The Summer Labor Institute will be a radical school with a radical program! Traditional, formalistic methods of instruction and schematic, patented, stereotyped courses will go by the board. The major portion of the curriculum will be devoted to subjects that are uppermost in the minds of the workingman in America today. In short, the courses will give a basic Marxian understanding of the outstanding problems that the American labor movement faces. The sub-

ject matter is especially designed to enable these students to go back to their respective spheres of operation with a working knowledge of Marxism as applied to the American scene today. One fundamental course on the Marxian system of thought will be the only “straight” theory course. In addition to these, the Institute's classes will cover the national elections and the general political situation in the United States; the nature of class relations in the U.S.A. today in addition to the historical trends; current trade union problems centering around the C.I.O. vs. A.F.L. controversy and the whole problem of the historical development and nature of trade union policy in America; the labor party movement and its setting in American historical development; the problem of war and the labor movement done from a new and refreshingly original angle so as to be aware of the mounting complexities and newly developing situations that beset the labor movement on this score; the development of American labor leadership in the past and its prospects today; the nature of fascism and democracy in relation to the manifold questions raised by the peoples front tactic; the history of the Communist movement in America; the nature and differences between the Communist and Socialist movements; the methods and structure of Communist organization; and the development of American historical traditions from a revolutionary point of view.

“At Edgar Thomson the company union representatives were told their request for time and a half has been granted, when, according to the company union representatives, they knew nothing of such a request being put in. What is true in every steel plant in the nation: the workmen did not ask for time and a half over a 48-hour week. The American Iron and Steel Institute decided to impose a 48 hour week on its workers, as contrasted with the 40 hour week under the NRA code, and used the time-and-a-half bait to try to fool the public.

“They are fooling nobody, least of all their own workmen. The steel workmen of today is doing his own thinking; and the general reaction to this latest trick of the American Iron and Steel Institute is one of resentment. Things such as this simply emphasize the necessity for a bona fide labor union. Steel workers know it; their response to the campaign of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee proves they know it.”

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ever to do with it. Yet steel management tried to create the impression that a bargain was struck after conferences with representatives of its workmen.

The subjects will be taught by an experienced and competent group of Marxist teachers including such names as Jay Lovestone, Lewis Corey, George F. Miles, Will Herberg, Jim Cork and others. All signs point to the most successful year of the summer training school with the happy prospect of creating material for future cadres in a united Communist movement.

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