

Voice Of Socialism In The West

LABOR ACTION

Official Organ of the Western Federation of the Socialist Party

Workers Of The World Unite!

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SATURDAY, MAY 1, 1937

Price 5 Cents

STRIKERS BEAT DOWN THUG ATTACK

A Real May Day Parade—Stockton Workers Fight Boss Fury



Deputized Gun Men Fire Upon Workers

Agricultural Wage Slaves Organize Drive Against Open Shop

Workers' pickhandles beat down the pickhandles of deputized thugs and brought a major victory on the Stockton battlefield of California's perennial civil war in agriculture.

The four great canning plants in Stockton are the heart of San Joaquin agriculture and their conquest by the Cannery Workers Union, an A. F. of L. affiliate, marks the beginning of the end of open-shop exploitation in the state's greatest and most viciously anti-labor industry.

Free Tom Mooney! May Day Demand Of Socialist Party

Throughout the Socialist party, this May Day will be especially marked by a new campaign for the freedom of Tom Mooney.

All our demonstrations and speakers will mark the occasion by a special plea to the nation's working class to redouble its efforts in behalf of the outstanding class-war prisoner in America.

All our trade unionists will urge upon their fellow workers the claims of Tom Mooney upon them. We, the Socialist Party of the U.S.A., resolve that Tom Mooney shall have all possible aid for his unconditional pardon and freedom in this, the twenty-first year of his imprisonment.

We, the Socialist Party of the U.S.A., call upon all working class forces to join with us in a final, successful effort to win for working class action the freedom of prisoner 31921, Tom Mooney.

ROY E. BURT, Executive Secretary Socialist Party, U.S.A.

May Day Greetings To Spain Socialists

The following Cablegram has been sent to the Socialist Party of Spain for May Day:

Down with Fascism, Victory for Socialism. Greetings from America to the valiant anti-fascist fighters of Spain on International May Day. From the Socialist Party of U. S. A.

Labor United For May Day In Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—For the first time in years this coming May Day finds the Minneapolis labor movement solidly behind preparations for a May Day parade and demonstration. While in other years such demonstrations were due mainly to the efforts of the left-wingers of the movement, this year finds the Central Labor Union sponsoring the affair, enthusiastically aided and supported by all sections of the labor movement.

There is no doubt, therefore, that this year's demonstration will overshadow that of last year, which in itself was a fine tribute to the militant section of the labor movement, having been the largest May Day parade and demonstration in many years.

This year's parade will take place May first, beginning at 2 p. m. from the Postoffice at Pioneer Square. Since the date falls on Saturday, it is expected that the numbers marching and on the side lines will constitute a record for emulation at following May Days.

From Pioneer Square the parade will march up Nicollet Avenue to Tenth Street, thence to Harmon Place and up Harmon to the Parade Grounds where the parade will disband to hear the speaking program arranged by the committee.

All workers should get into the spirit of May Day. It is OUR DAY, the only holiday that the bosses have not given to us, consequently we should make the most of it.

Morgan Delayed

ST. LOUIS.—The Textile Workers Organizing Committee of the C. I. O. has reached an agreement with the Lowell Bleachery, Inc., providing for a 10 per cent wage increase, overtime rates, and a 40-hour week. Minimum wages to production workers have been set at \$15.40 for women and \$16.50 for men.

Every farmer-vigilante offensive was met by a workers' counter-offensive. Careful plans were laid for a general strike of industrial workers in Stockton and agricultural field workers throughout the valley. Longshoremen, carpenters, and cannery workers prepared their baseball bats and whittled their clubs.

Friday morning, April 23, the curtain rose. Just prior to the deadline, Vance Ambrose, president of the union, offered a truce. The employers, confident in their bristling armament, ignored the offer.

Shortly before 8 a. m. the first truck loaded with spinach, convoyed by State Highway patrolmen, headed for the gates of the Stockton Food Products Company. Husky pickets, like those pictured on this page, expressed their objection by disabling the truck and disposing of its driver.

The battle actually began when Ignatius McCarty, San Francisco salesman for the Lake Erie Chemical Company, opened their gas fire from a rooftop twenty feet away. (McCarty was one of those called before the La Follette Committee investigating anti-labor thuggery.) Instead of arresting McCarty, the state cops enthusiastically seconded his tear gas attack.

Both wind and pickets answered, one blowing, the other throwing the gas back on its authors. Just then fifteen auto-loads of green-armed, deputized vigilantes headed for the plant. Strikers dove into the tear gas with bricks and clubs and sent the "heroes" scurrying. Only two out of the fifteen cars got through, and they, like the old gray mare, weren't what they used to be.

The highway cops, who dress like Hitler's generals, got their fill and disappeared. There remained only the thugs inside the high barbed-wire fence. Given courage by this protection, but unable to compete in pickhandle swinging, they unlimbered shotguns and pistols and began firing at the workers.

Scores of strikers were injured. John Drake, striker, was wounded by a point blank shot-gun blast which rattled his body with buckshot from mouth and chin to belt-line. As we go to press his condition remains extremely critical.

But the victory was won. The cannery owners, who scorned a truce a few hours earlier, have closed down until negotiations are completed. Union recognition has been conceded.

Labor militancy has met employer thuggery on its own ground and won. Not even agriculture can stand up against the onsurge of aroused California labor.

WORKERS' ANSWER

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C. I. O. Signs Up Big Rayon Firm

Retail Union To Demand Agreements

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—Swearing enthusiastically toward 100 per cent organization, the Department Store Clerks have now prepared a tentative agreement which will soon be submitted to owners.

A minimum wage of \$25 a week, prescribed rest periods, seniority, 40-hour week, a punitive overtime rate, and preferential hiring are among the demands. Employees who now get payment in excess of the union demands will continue to receive their premiums.

The Emporium, long an open-shop stronghold, now teems with clerks wearing their buttons openly. J. C. Newberry Co. has seen fit to resist the drive and has fired two girls. That they will be brought into line is only a matter of days.

"Sign Yellow Dog Contract," Utility Workers Ordered

The Consolidated Edison and its affiliated companies in Brooklyn and Queens have been charged with violation of the National Labor Relations Act by the Utility Workers Union, Local 1212, of the United Electrical & Radio Workers, a CIO union.

An intensive drive to organize the Edison employees in Greater New York has been under way for some time.

The complaint against the Consolidated Edison Company, Inc., of New York, and its affiliated companies, the Brooklyn Edison Company, and the New York & Queens Electric Light and Power Company, charges these companies with seeking to delay, circumvent, and defeat the legitimate self-organization of their employees through coercion and intimidation. A letter to this effect signed by Martin A. Wersing, the local's president, has been filed with Mrs. E. M. Herrick, regional director of the National Labor Relations Board.

When the organization drive of the Utility Workers Local started, the management instituted a campaign to compel employees to sign pledges of their "loyalty" to the company and the company union, and denounced the independent organization of its employees, the latter states.

The idea for the pledge cards and petitions originated with the management. Company union officials said they knew nothing of their existence or purpose until the cards and petitions were handed to them.

Textile Drive Hits Open Shop Industry

NEW YORK—A union agreement covering some 20,000 employees of the Viscose Co., largest producer of rayon yarn in the country, has been won by the Textile Workers Organizing Committee of the Communist Industrial Organization, in the biggest inroad yet made in this previously non-union industry.

The agreement provides for a general 10 per cent increase in wages, adding more than \$3,000,000 a year to the pay envelopes of the employees. Further increases in the lower pay brackets may be recommended by a joint committee which is to investigate and report on the subject.

A week's paid vacation for all workers after one year's service, and a 40-hour, five-day week are also included in the pact.

HILLMAN COMMENTS

Hailing the Viscose agreement as "the most important yet achieved in our textile union campaign," Sidney Hillman, chairman of the Textile Workers Organizing Committee, declared.

"This agreement, following on the agreements reached with the J. & P. Coats Co., world's largest thread firm, employing 4,000, with the International Braid Co., largest producer in its field, and with the Princeton Worsteds Co., brings to more than 50,000 the number of textile workers covered by union contracts with the T.W.O.C. since our drive began.

"The T.W.O.C. will now redouble its efforts to extend collective bargaining throughout the rest of the industry. We hope that other companies will show the same enlightened attitude that the Viscose Company has shown, so that union organization and the resulting stability may be achieved in the industry without resort to strikes."

ONLY BARGAINING AGENCY

The union-recognition clause in the Viscose agreement is similar to that in the Chrysler Corp. contract with the United Automobile Workers, the company agreeing not to promote or finance any other labor group for the purpose of undermining the union.

"In practical effect," Hillman said, "the T.W.O.C. is the only collective bargaining agency. There is no company union in the picture."

The contract is to run for one year, with a renewal clause and proposed charges. It was agreed that the third shift in non-continuous processes, to which the union is strongly opposed, will be eliminated as soon as feasible.

BIG PRODUCER

The Viscose Co. is a British-owned company, producing 100,000,000 lbs. of rayon yarn a year, about half the total production. It has plants at Marcus Hook, Meadville and Lewistown, Pa.; Roanoke and Fort Royal, Va.; Parkersburg, W. Va.; and is building a big new plant at Nitro, Va.

Textile Campaign In Large Plants Wins Contracts

BOSTON.—Moving swiftly ahead, the organizing drive of the Textile Workers Organizing Committee in New England has won an agreement with J. & P. Coats, Inc., of Pawtucket, R. I., largest thread manufacturer in the world.

The T.W.O.C. agreement brings to the more than 3,500 workers involved a 7 1/2 per cent wage increase, better hours, union recognition and other improvements in conditions. The agreement was negotiated without the need for a strike. A brief sit-down strike in one department, due to a misunderstanding, hindered negotiations during one of the conferences, but was immediately ended.

COMPARE WITH U. S. STEEL

Hyman Blumberg, New England director of the T.W.O.C., and Joseph A. Salerno, sub-regional director for Rhode Island, who participated in the settlement, described the Coats company as "the United States Steel of the textile industry."

The T.W.O.C. has also reached a settlement with the International Braid Co. of Providence, R.I. The employees of this company had been on strike, and joined the T.W.O.C. after the strike.

Sailors Union To Vote On Joining C.I.O.

Referendum of West Coast Upon Proposal To Affiliate

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—First union on the West Coast to back up the C. I. O. drive for industrial unionism, the Sailors' Union of the Pacific decided at their regular headquarters meeting last week to take a referendum vote upon affiliation with the C. I. O.

In the same referendum, the Sailors will vote upon dropping the fight for re-instatement within the International Seamen's Union.

Their charter jerked by reactionary officials of the A. F. of L. Seamen's Union, the Sailors have been fighting from every possible angle to regain their charter upon the constitutional basis existing at the time the charter was arbitrarily withdrawn.

I. S. U. officials changed the constitution after barring the Sailors' Union from the regular convention and offered the Sailors a charter based upon the new constitution which would permit I. S. U. officials to completely dominate the union. This reactionary proposal was supported by various Maritime Federation officials under the influence of the Communist Party upon the grounds that the Sailors should stay within the A. F. of L. at all costs.

POLICY STATED

The policy of the C. I. O. has been to refuse charters where A. F. of L. has already organized workers, but in certain cases where charters have been arbitrarily lifted by reactionary fakers of the

(Continued on Page 4)

Scab City "Four Hundred" Facing Capitalist Courts

A reorganized and strengthened "Four Hundred Defense Committee," with Dick Coleman, international representative of the United Auto Workers as chairman, is rallying the support of all progressive unions in the Los Angeles area in this crucial test of sit-down rights.

The "Four Hundred," sit-downers and Douglas Aircraft strike leaders, are charged under an eighty year old statute with the felony of "obstruction of justice and contempt of court." From the start the case has been a national test of the right of workers to sit down on the property they built, made profitable, and which they alone can operate.

The ultra-reactionaries of the scab center of the world, Los Angeles County, are out to make a horrible example for workers and bosses of the nation. As a class the "Four Hundred" are rapidly becoming as important to the labor movement of 1937 as was the Mooney case to the workers of 1916. Lined up against them are District Attorney Pitts, Boss Douglas, the infamous local Merchants and Manufacturers' Association and the whole pressure of well-organized and hysterically anti-labor California capital.

TO CURB COPS

In regard to municipal problems Dunne favors reduced taxes for the small wage-earner, opposes any kind of sales tax, opposes any extension of the police force or power or placing the chief of police under civil service regulations.

The Socialist will wage an intensive campaign before the election, giving the workers of Minneapolis the full message of Socialism, their only hope for extrication from the morass in which capitalism binds them. Through mass meetings, radio speeches, leaflets, and other publicity, the Socialist Party means to reach the largest possible mass of people. Headquarters of the Socialist Campaign will be 631 Third Avenue South.

In public speeches Dunne will explain the difference between 'labor parties' like the Farmer-Labor party and the Socialist party. Socialists will point out why only the Socialist Party can truly represent them politically, just as Socialist trade unionists truly represent them economically.

Since the government is the representative of the dominant economic class (which is the capitalist class). Socialists mean to make the workers the dominant economic class, and will begin by extending unionism to the fullest extent.

California Wire Co. Agrees To Demands

Final settlement of a wage and working condition agreement between the California Wire Cloth Co. of Oakland and the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, Local 5, a C. I. O. union, has been announced.

The agreement provides recognition of the union, reduction of the working week from 44 to 40 hours, and a scaled increase in pay similar to the recent steel agreement standards.

The agreement was signed by W. F. Roberts, president of the company, and James D. Smith, representing the union.

JOIN THE SOCIALIST PARTY

SELL SUBS FOR LABOR ACTION FIGHT WAR WITH SOCIALISM

Union Drive On Communications

Vincent Ray Dunne To Run For Mayor On Socialist Ticket

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—Vincent R. Dunne, State Organizer of the Socialist Party of Minnesota, and prominent in the Minneapolis labor movement as a leader of the Truck Drivers' Union, Local 544, filed last week for Mayor of Minneapolis. In a statement to the press, Mr. Dunne declared that the main issue of the campaign for him, the Socialists, and other revolutionary elements who will support him, is the fullest extension of working class democracy.

Campaigning as a Socialist, Vincent R. Dunne pledged that he will continue to aid the workers in every possible way for the attainment of a workers' state. In view of the splendid record Vincent R. Dunne has established in the labor movement of Minneapolis and the United States as a militant exponent of workers' rule, the candidacy of Dunne is expected to receive the support of all class-conscious workers who understand the necessity of the revolutionary workers' independent political action for the attainment of their program.

With the war issue looming largest before the workers of the world, Dunne pledges his unswerving support to the recent Socialist convention's resolution on War, which declares for uncompromising hostility to any capitalist government that calls its workers to defend "their" country.

Under its agreement with the U. E. & R. W., the A. R. T. A. will seek to enlist into its own ranks some 45,000 Western Union employees, 30,000 Postal Telegraph employees and 40,000 A. T. & T. workers, as well as marine radio telegraphers, which it has already largely organized, technicians, operators and service men employed by broadcasting chains and land and airway radio telegraphers.

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Strutwear Picket Honored At Party

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—Al Russel, militant picket during the Strutwear strike of late 1935, who has just finished a five month's term in the City Workhouse for alleged illegal activities during that strike, was honored by Minneapolis Socialists last Saturday at a Welcoming Party.

Refreshments and entertainment featured the welcome friends of labor and the Socialist movement gave to Al Russel.

C.I.O. Gets Support Of Southern C.L.U.

BECKLEY, W. Va.—The Central Labor Union here has gone on record as favoring support of the Committee for Industrial Organization

which stated that the C.I.O. was not out to destroy unions but to encourage the organization of the unorganized regardless of their affiliation.

BUFFALO, N. Y.—The Buffalo Times announces it has signed a contract with the Newspaper Guild of Buffalo covering minimum wages, hours and working conditions of all full-time editorial department employees.

# Court Passes Wagner Act

## "No Discrimination" Provided

The Supreme Court has finally acted on the five cases before it which involved the constitutionality of the National Labor Relations Act, usually referred to as the Wagner Bill. In four of the cases, the decision validated the Bill by a five to four majority, the same majority that decided the Washington minimum wage legislation in favor of the New Deal a few weeks ago. In one case, the vote was unanimously favorable.

## Sit Downs Held Legal In Decisions

The great wave of sit-down strikes has established very clearly that this particular tactic is one of the most potent weapons developed by the working class in its long struggle against the capitalists. The sit-down has definitely shown that it is (1) highly effective in winning workers' rights and (2) highly effective in preventing the violence of employers from resulting in the wholesale clubbing and killing of workers commonly practiced upon unprotected picket lines.

## IT WORKS

The effectiveness of the sit-down strike is proof enough that labor will continue to use it despite all the red-tape with which courts may attempt to entangle it. But even upon a legal plane there are many compelling arguments in favor of the sit-down tactic. A few of these have been compiled by the Labor Research Association.

Homer Martin, president of the United Automobile Workers of America, stated:

"... the sit-down strike as such is a strike intended to stop production. The stoppage of production through strike has been recognized for years as legal in the United States. This right to strike involves the property right of the worker's job, which is, in our opinion, the most sacred and the most vital property right in America."

In many cases United States courts have held that a worker has a property right in his job. For example, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court held, in one of several similar decisions:

**WORKER'S PROPERTY**  
"The right to work is property... as much as the more obvious forms of goods and merchandise, stocks and bonds... To the extent that the laborer is not given the same security to his property by the law that is granted to the landowner or capitalist, to that extent discrimination is exercised against him..." (Bogert v. Perotti, 224 Mass. 152.)

Right to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing was made a law of the United States in passage of the National Labor Relations Act. This right to organize and bargain collectively has likewise been held a worker's property right by both lower courts and U. S. Supreme Court. In the case of Virginia Ry. Co. v. System Federation, 84 Fed. (2nd) 641, a Circuit Court of Appeals declared:

"The right to self-organization and representation in the matter of rates of pay, hours of labor and working conditions, is a property right, the loss of which would result in irreparable damage to complainants."

And the U. S. Supreme Court in the case of Texas & New Orleans Railroad Co. v. Railway Clerks, 221

or any one of the excuses which are customarily made use of in order to get rid of "agitators."

## A Typical Example

Another case involved the United Automobile Workers Union and a small manufacturer of trailers who, however, revealed himself an ardent student of the methods of big business. He hired a detective to work in the factory and join the union for spying purposes. The "loyal worker" pushed himself forward to such effect that he was elected treasurer of the local and turned over the list of union members to the boss.

The formal basis for the decisions was the finding that the various enterprises were engaged in interstate commerce, transportation and communication and were subject to regulation by Congress.

The effect of the decisions will not be to automatically further trade union organization. The Court insisted that every case must be decided upon its individual merits as to whether the firm is actually engaged in interstate commerce and subject, as a result, to the provisions of the Act. For example, the Schechter poultry case which invalidated NRA was considered by the present Court majority not to involve "immediate and direct" participation in interstate commerce.

## Workers Will Forge Ahead

Nevertheless, the decisions will be interpreted by workers, especially those engaged in the basic industries, as a Magna Charta for

labor to go ahead and organize. We can be sure that the industrial barons will do all they can to tie up the administration of the Act, when labor tries to secure its enforcement, in a heavy tangle of legal red tape consisting of endless hearings and costly appeals.

Other considerations likewise confirm the belief that labor will have to rely upon its own strength, while utilizing, of course, the opportunity afforded by the decisions to organize and consolidate its forces. It is true that the boss who has exhausted the legal angles will have to forego his golf in order to sit around the table with workers' representatives and "negotiate," but there is nothing in the law that compels him to reach an agreement. The "liberal" majority was careful to underline this! The boss can sit and meditate on every proposition the workers make and shake his head with a sad, sweet smile. No other conclusion is possible than that a stoppage of production will prove to be a far more persuasive argument in the negotiations than the argument that Congress wants to remove an "obstacle in interstate commerce."

**Individual Contracts Still Exist**  
It should be pointed out, also, that the employer expressly maintains the right to enter into "individual contracts" with his employees. This method has already found wide acceptance and approval by those firms which make a practice of compelling every applicant for a job to sign a contract before he gets the job.

er. To hold otherwise would lead to the abolition of the right of property."

When workers will sweat long hours and allow the employer to take the major share of their wages without protest, they are "loyal employees." When they organize an effective pressure to improve working conditions and increase their wages, they become "trespassers."

The political significance of the sit-down strike is deep and far-reaching to the workers. The class lines are more clearly drawn when this strike tactic so dramatically challenges the very right of ownership by the class which profits by owning the machinery which is necessary to the very life of the working class. The political meaning of labor's daily struggle for higher wages and shorter hours is becoming ever more sharply defined, particularly as the class-conscious representatives of the owning class point out the implications of the workers taking possession of the plant to secure and protect their jobs.

It should be apparent to the workers that "the mere fact that he works in a plant, that his labor creates the profit which is taken by the owning class, should be his right to ownership of that plant. The judge is correct in his plea that such a conception means the abolition of the private property right to productive machinery. That is the political objective of the class-conscious revolutionary workers: the abolition of the capitalist system.

## INDUSTRY BY EMPLOYEES AWAITING THE ADJUSTMENT OF DIFFERENCES GROWING OUT OF THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONSHIP IS BUT AN INCIDENT OF THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONSHIP AND IN NO SENSE UNLAWFUL.

But all the weighty arguments of the courts, which dance upon the needle point of what is legal in the eyes of the capitalist class, mean nothing beside the simple fact that so long as impossible working conditions remain workers will rise to fight against them. The sit-down tactic is here to stay.

result of the drive to organize the oil workers.

In Fort Worth, Texas, a four day strike of employees of the Lone Star Gas Co. ended April 15 when officials of the corporation recognized the right of collective bargaining and a compromise settlement was made by the strikers. In Houston Local No. 550 of the Sign Painters called a strike Thursday, April 15. Several concerns have already signed.

## FREY A FLOP

The wildly heralded mass meeting arranged by the Central Labor Council, held April 15 and attended by several hundred workers, when John P. Frey made an attack on the CIO, turned out to be a dud, insofar as its effect on the oil workers is concerned. All local unions in Houston are experiencing a phenomenal growth in membership.

An attempt this week on the part of the AFL to split a small local of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers here in Houston from the national organization because of its CIO affiliations, was blocked when an organizer of the national organization came here and explained to the local members the issues in-

labor to go ahead and organize. We can be sure that the industrial barons will do all they can to tie up the administration of the Act, when labor tries to secure its enforcement, in a heavy tangle of legal red tape consisting of endless hearings and costly appeals.

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# WPA Strike Betrayed By C. P. Leaders

By A. STRIKER  
OAKLAND, Calif.—The recently ended WPA strike in Alameda County was an almost perfect example of the Stalinist People's Front policy in action among the unemployed.

Placing their main reliance upon Roosevelt, City Manager Hassler of Oakland, Administrator Koettitz and others of the same ilk, the Stalinist "leadership" neglected the most elementary preparations for serious strike action. No attempt was made to hold project meetings to inform the workers of the issues involved and to sound the sentiment of the majority (75 per cent unorganized) whose participation must be assured before strike action can be successful.

False reports were given to the members of the Workers Alliance, who were assured by the East Bay "leader," Roy Noffs, that the entire state would come out in support of the strikers. It was on the basis of such reports that a resolution was circulated throughout the locals giving the "Joint Action Committee" (the composition of which to this day remains a mystery to 99 per cent of the membership of the Workers Alliance) power to call a strike if, as, and when necessary. Contra Costa County, where we told, would come out immediately; Los Angeles would come out shortly after we did, and the rest of the state would follow. That this "coming out" did not and could not materialize was just one of the "miscellaneous" of the Stalinists.

## ELECTION INTERFERES

One mass meeting was called a few days prior to the strike, with an attendance of approximately 1,500. The workers came to find out what it was all about. It was a splendid opportunity to explain the issue and win the support of those present. But!!! A municipal election was approaching and the Stalinists were supporting a number of Democratic party candidates in that election.

There was, moreover, the "people's Legislative Conference" which had to be given considerable time. So... of the greater part of the meeting was taken up by candidates, some running for municipal offices, a "progressive Democrat" assemblyman who inveighed against the not-so-progressive Democrats, a representative of the PEOPLE, Mayor McCracken, etc. It was not until Ben Legere, Secretary of the "Joint Action Committee" mounted the rostrum and delivered the keynote address, that we became aware of the fact that we were attending a strike rally and not a political rally.

Legere made it plain that we were not going to strike AGAINST the government. He went on to add, "Roosevelt in his heart is with us. Franklin Roosevelt will be cheering us on."

## "MISGUIDED WORKER"

It was later discovered that Legere was undoubtedly "in his right mind" as he continued to work throughout the strike. The reason? His project had not been called! His voice had apparently failed him. The statements of Legere in regard to Roosevelt epitomized the class-collaboration policy of the Stalinists. Their reasoning runs something like this:

The London, Hearst, Liberty League reactionaries were repudiated in the last election by the overwhelming victory of Roosevelt supported by the forces of "Liberty, Progress and Peace." However, despite their crushing defeat, the reactionaries seized hold of Roosevelt's right hand (some have a suspicion that it was extended by his nibs) and began to yank him to the right. It was necessary to exert counter-pressure to the left to offset the pressure of the reactionaries. Without this counter pressure Roosevelt was helpless. Why!!! Isn't it absurd to expect Roosevelt to stick out his chin and get socked? Although Franklin D. has "just begun to fight" he can't do much fighting for the unemployed until they begin the fight! Conclusion: we must exert pressure.

If this logic is correct, then it is only necessary to make a vigorous gesture and the reactionaries will fall back in consternation, thus freeing Roosevelt from their pressure. He will then come to us with his heart on his sleeve. If this is so, why bother about strike preparations? Why go to all the trouble of organizing for a struggle? The theory of the class struggle becomes — Trotskyite sectarianism! The treachery of the Stalinists lies in fostering the illusion that Roosevelt represents the "people," as against the Marxist conception of the role of Roosevelt as a clever demagogue, one of the shrewdest defenders of American imperialism, and a faithful servant of the American capitalist class.

## FURIOUS NEGOTIATIONS

The strike was prolonged for 11 days. After the first few days, it was apparent to even a casual observer that the movement would degenerate into a sectarian demonstration, as it later did. The mass of the workers refused to respond to the strike call. Many of those who came out when their projects closed, returned to work. Out of a membership of approximately 3000 in the East Bay, with 12,000 on the WPA rolls, there remained less than 1000 on strike. The prolongation of the strike, the refusal of

# Thank Stern For Service

The State Executive Committee accepted the resignation of Comrade Frank Stern as Business Manager of Labor Action. In a motion thanking Comrade Stern for his service to Labor Action and the Socialist Party of California, the SEC released him for work in Cleveland, Ohio. The staff of Labor Action joins with the SEC in wishing Frank and Esther well in their work in Cleveland. California's loss is Ohio's gain, since these comrades will be valiant workers for revolutionary Socialism wherever they are.

Comrade Rose Karsner was elected as the new Business Manager for Labor Action.

## Springfield Wants Trager As Secretary

It has come to our attention that the new NEC has failed to name a national Labor Secretary at its first meeting held immediately after the special convention; and Whereas, our union activity and our present line for mass work demand that we have a Labor Secretary; and

Whereas, Comrade Frank Trager's work as Labor Secretary in the months preceding our Special Convention has been so outstanding in this field; and

Whereas, we feel that the new NEC failure in this regard is a violation of our new constitution; therefore be it

Resolved, that copies of this resolution be sent to our National Secretary and to the Socialist Call and Labor Action.

SOCIALIST BRANCH NO. 2,  
Joe G. Brincor, Secy,  
Springfield, Illinois

## NEW YORK—Full moral and financial support to the textile union drive of the Committee for Industrial Organization, was voted by the general executive board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, at its last meeting.

Charles S. Zimmerman, vice-president, who is manager of Dressmakers Local 22, was appointed to represent the I. L. G. W. U. on the Textile Workers Organizing Committee.

The Stalinists to call the strike off for fear of losing face (negotiations were extended furiously in order to get some sort of an agreement that could be inflated to appear as a victory) compelled many union members to return to work stigmatized as scabs, causing a large number to throw their buttons away and thus weakening the organization. Locals which had an attendance of 50 to 75 before the strike, dwindled to 15 to 20 after.

The attitude of the WPA administration which was expressed by a careful feeling out of the sentiment of the workers after the first few days and a measurement of the strength and extensiveness of the movement, underwent an abrupt change after the second day. On the first day, the WPA administrator, Koettitz, announced he would close any projects where there was danger of violence occurring. This was in effect an order to close any project visited by pickets. With proper organization, every project in the county could have been closed the first two days. That they were not closed was eloquent testimony to the bankruptcy of the Stalinist misleaders. On the third day notices were sent out by the administration to workers on projects which had been closed, to report for work as usual. The surprised reaction of the Stalinists whose friends were "deserting" is best expressed by the following from a leaflet which was distributed to the strikers by the Communist Party.

## "OUR CANDIDATE"

"Administrator Koettitz broke his promise to close down struck projects (my emphasis) He was aided by the local police, who brutally attacked picket lines, clubbing men and women alike. These police attacks were intended to scare the workers. Chief Waldman, City Manager Hassler, (another former friend) and the city council are responsible. ELECT SHULTZ TO 'THE CITY COUNCIL!'"

Unfortunately, Shultz was not elected to the city council. The unemployed will have to continue the struggle without the assistance of Mr. Shultz. When the unemployed learn that they cannot rely upon the demagogue Roosevelt or his "Communist" worshipper but must build their own mass organizations in close relationship to the organized labor movement, they will make tremendous strides forward on the road to the abolition of the miserable system that condemns millions to unemployment and misery in the midst of capitalist "prosperity."

## MAY DAY GREETINGS

Upper North Side Branch  
Local Cook County  
Chicago, Illinois

# Trotsky Defense Rests

MEXICO CITY, Mexico.—The preliminary inquiry finished, members of the commission which traveled to Mexico City to hear the defense of Leon Trotsky against charges of the Stalinist bureaucracy that he was guilty of sabotage, espionage, and plotting against the lives of leading Stalinist bureaucrats, have returned to the United States.

Dr. John Dewey is proceeding directly to New York in order to address a Mass Meeting at Mecca Temple, Sunday Evening, May 9. Speaking with him are Suzanne La Follette, Benjamin Stolberg, and John Finerty. To report to this Mass Meeting the results of the Mexican hearings, Dr. Dewey abandoned his plans to retire to a Missouri farm for a much-needed rest.

An eye-witness at the hearings graphically described the final events: "At 1:45 this afternoon the defense rested its case. Rested, that is, the case that will not rest until the accused become the accused and are properly punished by the verdict of history. Long before Defense Attorney Goldman asked his last question of Trotsky, however, he had convinced everyone in the room who was capable of being convinced that he was absolutely innocent of all the accusations against him."

**QUESTIONS ANSWERED**  
"The complete report answers almost every question, illuminates almost every dark corner in the frame-up. The abundance of proofs at Trotsky's disposal (even positive proofs of negative facts, i. e., that he could not have been in Paris to meet Romm or that Pliatkov could not have visited him in Norway), the complete consistency of his case buttressed by thousands of documents of logical persuasiveness captivated the commissioners—with one exception.

The exception was Carleton Beals.

"At the beginning of the second session without consulting the other commissioners and to their great astonishment, Beals presented a declaration implying that Trotsky was not sincere in his demand for extradition since there were no diplomatic relations between Mexico and the U.S.S.R., and demanding that the preliminary commission issue an immediate report on its findings.

"Finerty, one of Tom Mooney's defense lawyers, pointed out that Beals was wrong as extradition requests can be presented through the intermediation of a third friendly power, Spain, for example. Trotsky completely disposed of the issue by saying that he would go to any country from which Russia would extradite him.

"Towards the close of today's half-day session, Finerty rose to correct a statement in El Nacional that he was connected with the Friends of Trotsky in New York (the Mexican name for our committee). He said that he was interested in the case only in a professional capacity and as a defender of civil liberties and that he was no more connected with the Trotsky committee than with the Stalinists, that he had appeared for Earl Browder in the U. S. Supreme Court last year in order to see that he was placed on the ballot in Illinois."

## DEWEY STATEMENT

Upon receiving the "irrevocable" resignation of Mr. Beals, Dr. Dewey issued the following statement:

"In expressing the regret of the Preliminary Commission at Mr. Beals' resignation, I wish to say that Mr. Beals has been given full opportunity to ask questions. We are especially sorry that he is not here this morning to continue his personal cross-examination.

"I wish to repeat the statement made at the opening meeting that the Commission is to be judged by the way in which it conducts its hearings and by the public record. We regret that Mr. Beals has prejudged the case, not only before the full Commission has begun its inquiries, but even before the Preliminary Commission has completed its investigations. The statement of Mr. Beals that the sessions have been completed is an obvious error.

"I wish to emphasize the fact that these hearings are preliminary and that the investigations will be continued by the full Commission. The record will be public and this sub-commission gladly refers to public opinion the decision whether the investigation into the charges made against Mr. Trotsky is fair, serious and complete.

"Incidentally, I wish to remark that it has been understood from the beginning that each member of the Commission has the right to submit an independent or minority report to the full Commission."

## SPEED UP

But the productivity index of the United States will rise 20 or 30 per cent within the next two or three years predicts, Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture. And according to the index of production per man-hour computed by the National Industrial Conference Board there was an increase during 1936 in production per man-hour of 3 per cent over the 1935 level.

"The outlook for the immediate future," according to the release, "seems to be in the direction of further technological progress toward a level of productivity substantially higher than that attained prior to 1929."

It therefore concludes that "the dislocation occasioned by technological progress will continue to present serious problems of industrial, economic, and social readjustment."

Most important points of the report are brought out in the following table:

	1920	1929	1935
Total volume of goods and services produced (index).....	100	146	114*
Per cent of available labor supply unemployed**	6%	10%	41%
Employment* (index).....	100	116	82
Productivity* (index).....	100	126	139

\*preliminary  
\*\*All measured in terms of full-time man-years of wage and salary workers.

## MAY DAY MEETING

International  
Friday, April 30—8:00 P. M.  
—At—  
Walker's Auditorium  
730 SOUTH GRAND  
LOS ANGELES

Speakers:  
**GLEN TRIMBLE**  
**WARD RODGERS**

MUSICAL PROGRAM  
Admission 15c  
Sponsors: Socialist Party of Los Angeles

# Frey Flops As Texas C. I. O. Gains

## Los Angeles Labor Council's Mediation Plan Condemned

By GEORGE PAPACUN

HOUSTON.—The drive to organize the 14 billion dollar oil industry is gaining momentum throughout the country; particularly in the three centers, Killgore, Texas, the center of the world's largest oil field, in Oklahoma City, capital of the middle west oil industry, and in the Houston, Port Arthur and Beaumont district, the world's largest refining and distributing center.

At the same time the oil companies have been announcing wage increases with a big share of publicity. The oil companies, not sure that the wage increases will stop organization, are trying to pep up company unions and all kinds of vicious propaganda is being issued against the CIO throughout the oil industry, particularly among the workers of the Humble Oil and Refining Co. and the Texas Oil Co. Pamphlets by the thousands are being distributed entitled "Join the CIO for a Soviet America" in which attacks are being made against John L. Lewis, Powers Hapgood and Adolph Germer.

Nevertheless, Local Union No. 227 of the oil-workers announced the initiation of 156 new members Thursday, April 19, making a total of 250 members initiated this

month. At the same meeting this local voted to vigorously oppose the anti-sit-down bill pending in Texas legislature. They also passed approval of all plans of the CIO and the Executive Council for the organization of the oil industry.

## CALL FOR INTERVENTION

The labor movement throughout Texas is worried about the split in the AFL, many groups being dissatisfied over the expulsions taking place. And some very dangerous resolutions are being adopted by some central labor bodies and local labor unions, asking for the intervention of President Roosevelt to act as a conciliator between the AFL and CIO leaders.

Such a resolution was adopted by the Houston Central Labor Council several weeks ago and by the Port Arthur Central Labor Council April 15. It seems that this resolution is being sponsored by the Central Labor Council of Los Angeles, California. They are particularly dangerous because they bring about intervention by the government of the United States into labor disputes.

The whole labor movement throughout Texas and the Southwest has been stimulated as a

result of the drive to organize the oil workers.

In Fort Worth, Texas, a four day strike of employees of the Lone Star Gas Co. ended April 15 when officials of the corporation recognized the right of collective bargaining and a compromise settlement was made by the strikers. In Houston Local No. 550 of the Sign Painters called a strike Thursday, April 15. Several concerns have already signed.

## FREY A FLOP

The wildly heralded mass meeting arranged by the Central Labor Council, held April 15 and attended by several hundred workers, when John P. Frey made an attack on the CIO, turned out to be a dud, insofar as its effect on the oil workers is concerned. All local unions in Houston are experiencing a phenomenal growth in membership.

An attempt this week on the part of the AFL to split a small local of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers here in Houston from the national organization because of its CIO affiliations, was blocked when an organizer of the national organization came here and explained to the local members the issues in-

involved. By a majority vote the local deposed the officials who were trying to engineer the split and voted to remain with the parent organization.

## Dem.-Rep. Congressmen Scared By Sit-Down

WASHINGTON, D. C.—After an internal fight, the House Labor Committee approved the Senate-adopted resolution condemning sit-down strikes and employer violations of the Wagner Act as contrary to "sound public policy."

The committee vote to report the resolution favorably was 11 to 4. Earlier the committee, after a long discussion, tabled a motion by 8 to 7 to delay consideration of the resolution until members had had an opportunity to study the Supreme Court's decision on the Wagner Act cases.

Opponents to reporting the Senate resolution held that the Supreme Court had already decided the issue, that Congress had no power to legislate on sit-down strikes and that it would not be advisable to take up the resolution which, they felt, might "complicate" the present situation.

**May Day Greetings**  
Local Minneapolis Socialist Party of Minnesota

**MAY DAY MEETING**  
International  
Friday, April 30—8:00 P. M.  
—At—  
Walker's Auditorium  
730 SOUTH GRAND  
LOS ANGELES  
Speakers:  
**GLEN TRIMBLE**  
**WARD RODGERS**  
MUSICAL PROGRAM  
Admission 15c  
Sponsors: Socialist Party of Los Angeles

# Workers! Down All Tools On May Day! The Party At Work

## W. A. Leader Arrested By Cairo Thugs

The Workers' Defense League of Chicago is fighting for the release of Ed Parker, Illinois Workers' Alliance Organizer who was arrested Friday, April 9, together with four colored workers in Cairo, Illinois, as a result of a protest by the unemployed workers who had received neither the money promised them for 20- and 23-hour daily work fighting the floods last winter, nor any relief money from the local authorities.

The authorities first set a \$6,500 bond for the release of Ed Parker, but when the Workers' Defense League attorney, Francis Heisler—Socialist Party member in Chicago, appeared with the property guarantee for the bail, the judge raised the bond to \$13,000.

An attempt is now being made to get Parker released on a writ of habeas corpus, but the authorities are sabotaging these efforts by moving Parker from one jail to another—in various counties.

On Thursday, April 8, a meeting was called by the Illinois Workers' Alliance in Cairo at the County Courthouse. Approximately 2,000 white and negro workers were present, and they all had specific grievances relative to the handling of the WPA and relief distribution. The most important point raised during the peaceful assembly was that many of the Relief clients who had been herded upon the levees in January to protect the city of Cairo from the Ohio River and who had been promised 50 cents an hour, were still waiting for their checks on the 8th of April. Many of them had worked 20-23 hours consecutively. Because of these earnings which they were entitled to (but had not received) the Relief authorities failed to take care of them in respect of the fact that they had been given no payments during that time, so that many of them were starving.

**\$1 PER HEAD**  
The maximum pay in Cairo on WPA was \$4.11 a month paid to a white man, Joseph Bigham, the father of six children. Frank Jones, a colored man, father of ten children, received \$10 a week; out of which he paid \$8 a month rent, leaving approximately \$3 for 11 people to live on during the month. No allowances for rent, medicine, or clothing are given in Cairo.

Highest relief payment was \$6.50 per week which was received by McKinlay Rogers, father of nine children. After a monthly rent of \$4 was paid, \$15 was left to care for the whole family for a month! One couple without children receive approximately \$2 per week, out of which they pay \$6 monthly rent, leaving about \$2.50 for all other expenses for 30 days.

The Illinois Workers' Alliance decided to present the following demands to the Relief Agency on Friday, April 9, at 10 a. m.: 1) \$3 per week per person cash relief; 2) a supply of coal; 3) a supply of medicine; 4) payment of rent; 5) payment of 50 cents per hour to the levy workers.

When the workers arrived at the Relief Headquarters in Cairo, they found that the Relief authorities had deserted the place. The workers thereupon invaded the headquarters and staged a sit-down strike until their demands would be heard.

### GOVERNOR RESPONSIBLE

No difficulty was encountered on the part of anyone until the Administrative Secretary of Governor Horner, who had been contacted by phone, authorizing the calling out of the militia at noon. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon, eight police officers invaded the Relief Headquarters and without cause dragged the Organizer of the IWA, Ed Parker, out of the place, incidentally shooting at several of the people present there.

Parker was taken into custody by the Sheriff and was spirited away. He was later found by Workers' Defense League attorney, Francis Heisler, in the Jonesboro Jail in Union County (Cairo is located in Alexander County—famous for having the lowest relief standard in the State of Illinois).

After the shooting, both colored and white workers remained and held the headquarters until 2 a. m. Saturday morning when suddenly from the back of the building, shots were fired by the police into the premises. Ordered to evacuate the place, the workers fled out peacefully—running the gauntlet of 500 deputized and undeputized "citizens" who formed an armed mob outside the place. About four negro workers were arrested and charged with carrying a concealed weapon (after the afternoon shootings, some of the workers had gone home and returned to Relief Headquarters with their shot-guns). No use of their weapons had been made during the whole siege.

### CRIMINAL

Ed Parker was charged with the usual assortment of "crimes" ascribed to labor organizers: assault with intent to kill; inciting to riot; resisting an officer; disorderly conduct, etc.

Comrade Heisler, commenting on the situation, states: "The Relief situation is scandalously handled by the good people of Cairo for their own benefit. The Chairman

## Loyal Army Pushes Back Gen. Franco

Military victories near Cordoba in the South, Zaragosa in the Northwest, and on the Guadalupe front above Madrid have drastically changed the course of the Spanish Civil War and have forced the Fascists to abandon hope of the capture of Madrid. Only in the Basque country near Bilbao has Franco been able to make advances.

These military developments have a close and significant relation to the political realities of Loyalist Spain. To the degree that the workers' militia has taken actual control and direction into their own hands, and to the degree that workers' power is the political and military reality, while the dual power of the People's Front capitalist-coalition is reduced to impotence or, at least, secondary importance—to that degree the Fascist ranks are flooded with appeals for worker-solidarity, there are wholesale desertions to the workers' side, and the Fascists are hurled back.

**Basque Weakness**  
In the Basque country, the "Popular Front" has its extreme right flank, the independent workers' militia has been suppressed, and the nationalist-capitalist politicians in control make attempt after attempt to sell out to Franco through secret "truce" maneuvers. The consequences of middle-class control—military weakness and (as we go to press) probable defeat seem inevitable.

**British Betrayal**  
Despite significant gains for the Spanish workers on the main battlefronts, the united front blockade of Spain by England, Italy, France, and Germany, with the blessing of the Stalinist bureaucracy, is the most serious threat yet raised against the Spanish revolution.

The nations involved and their capitalist press spokesmen make no secret of the fact that the objective of this siege is a forced truce which will guarantee the continuation of capitalism in Spain. Just as American governors use the National Guard to break strikes, the capitalist nations, with the sanction of the Stalinist bureaucracy, are using battleships to break a revolution.

**What American Socialists have** argued from the beginning of the counter-revolution is proved to the hilt by recent events—no capitalist government will support the Spanish workers, only independent working-class action can bring victory in the Spanish revolution.

Despite the evidence of international betrayal, the Communist Party of Spain is still stooging for Stalin in attempting to incite a terrorist campaign against the revolutionary workers of the Party of Marxist Unity. The recent attack against "La Batalla," daily paper of the P. O. U. M., has stirred wide protest.

**Backed Down**  
A four-day censorship ban in Barcelona was hastily cut to two days as a consequence of the worker protest. Significant was the declaration of the Iberian Communist Youth, "Long Live 'La Batalla' the newspaper of the Revolution and of the working-class."

The powerful syndicalist Valencia daily "Nuestros" declared: "It is time we opened our eyes. . . . We never thought the capitulating middle class would dare to initiate such sharp attacks. Is this governmental abuse a trial of what some day—in our country this may be used against the citadels of our organizations?"

"Our brothers, taken from the clear mountainous heights of Liberty to the infamous darkness of jails, teach us imperative duties to be fulfilled. To save them for a free and creative life means saving the revolution from treacherous hands ever trying to strangle it."

It is clear that the Marxist slogans of the P. O. U. M.—Against Fascism, Against Reformism! For the Socialist Revolution!—are reaching deep into the ranks of the Spanish workers.

of the County Commission, who pays himself \$150 a month, has the tremendous job of signing the Relief checks. All good people have their feet and hands in the trough by putting their hired help and all their relatives on the WPA lists. As a matter of fact, it is openly stated that the checks in connection with the levy work were not sent out because the Mayor padded the list by putting thousands of names in with those who were actually doing the levy work. The purpose of the whole prosecution in this case is to put the negroes in their places and to show us Chicagoans that we ought to keep out of their affairs I do not believe that Georgia or Louisiana are any darker, as far as negro prejudice is concerned, that Cairo and the surrounding territory.

The Workers' Defense League is in charge of the cases, and in spite of the obstacles which are being thrown in their way, they will probably be able to liberate Parker and some of the colored workers who are held incommunicado on technical charges.

## MAY DAY 1937

### What Is To Be Done?

We, of the Socialist party, on this day march in the ranks of our class. But we must do more than march! We raise the red banner of revolutionary Socialism—but we must do more than raise banners on high. We shout our class struggle slogans and sing our workers' songs—but we must do more than shout and sing.

Today the party—our party—faces an opportunity for growth and repair, unparalleled in its post-war history. Up and down the country during the year the party vigorously responds to and incites the awakening of class conscious labor. The life and death struggle between Socialism and Fascism in Spain and the inspiring organization of millions of American workers in the mass production industries serve as the direct incentive to us as we Socialists face our tasks.

What is to be done—must now be answered. Answered not only by the successful convention recently concluded, not only by the passage of sound resolutions and the creation of more efficient apparatus for effective political and organizational activity but also by determination on the part of every member and every unit of the party that these democratic commands to action will be carried out.

We will reorganize our branches, locals and states for responsible response to the party's decisions.

We will carry out in all mass organizations, including the trade unions, the central policy of the party: disciplined, co-ordinated and directed work.

We will advocate at all times policies and principles which flow from the doctrine of class struggle democratically fought for in the organizations of workers.

We will support the party by every necessary sacrifice—its press, its institutions, its leadership.

We will fight for Socialism in our time!

FRANK N. TRAGER,  
Labor and Organization Secretary.

## Annual Peace Celebration Conducted At Berkeley

BERKELEY.—The annual Peace Meeting, only relic of the once famous Student Strike Against War, was held here in the University Gymnasium on April 22, at 11 a. m. More than a thousand students of the University of California attended the meeting, passing resolutions against University R.O.T.C. by a large majority.

The four student speakers presented a pacifist program, resurrecting the worn and hollow slogan of 1914-18: "Make the World Safe for Democracy," thus laying the base for mass recruiting of students and young workers during the next imperialist war. Charvet, president of the student body, denied that the meeting was a "strike." The meeting was held under the auspices of the official student body and with the sanction of the University authorities, who furnished the building for the event. This was completed the four-year process which has completely emasculated the original Anti-War Strike and turned it into an administration-controlled "Peace" meeting.

The Rosa Luxembourg Circle of the Y.P.S.S.L. covered the meeting with an active squad of distributors who put out leaflets and sold Labor Action and other literature at the meeting.

### NATIONAL ASPECTS

Peace meetings and "strikes" held in other colleges throughout the country were un spectacular and failed to live up to the expectations of the United Student Peace Committee. This was largely due to the efforts of college administrations, which cut from the strike the militant, aggressive character which caused its early growth. The Young Communist League has also assisted in achieving this goal by smothering all the clarity of the protest against imperialist war with mauling slogans of "unity," and "defense of democracy." This "unity" is now, of course, obtained, and it consists of a binding of every independent expression of student opinion to the control of administration and civic officials.

The Student Strike remains a "strike" only in the sense that a company union meeting is a strike, in the sense that a company union is a union, or in the sense that a scab is a union man.

The progress of this action against the student strike may be seen in the successive names applied to it. Beginning in 1934 as a "Student Strike against Imperialist War," it became in 1935 a "Student Anti-War Strike," in 1936 a "Peace Strike," in 1937 a "Peace Meeting." One wonders why it should not be called a "Peace Celebration," inasmuch as we are already enjoying the beneficence of "peaceful" and "democratic" capitalism.

Future student anti-war activity, if it is to regain its progressive aspects, must be broken away from the reactionary leadership of college administrations. This must be one of the goals of Socialist Youth League and Church Pacifist

## Militant Workers Surging Forward

### Socialist Party U.S.A. Issues 1937 May Day Manifesto

Workers and Farmers of America! Greetings on May Day, Day of International Labor Solidarity. Once again—down tools! March from shops and farms in a mighty demonstration of working class unity—a unity of workers marching in all lands—a unity that bodes ill for the master class, the vultures of the profit system.

May Day 1937 comes at the crest of a wave of great industrial struggles in the mass production industries. Labor, militant and aroused, is brushing aside its outworn craft union heritage. Labor, militant and aroused, is forging a mighty weapon, industrial unionism, to battle the vicious onslaughts of auto magnates, steel barons, rubber kings. Labor, militant and aroused, has learned that industrial autocracy must be fought by industrial unionism, the only force strong enough to defeat it. Labor, militant and aroused, demands the higher wages, shorter hours and decent working conditions that are its due.

**Demonstrate For Industrial Unionism!**  
**Organize the Unorganized!**  
**Demand Higher Wages and Shorter Hours!**

While workers demand bread and jobs, the Roosevelt administration is throwing 800,000 workers and their families into the arms of starvation by a deliberate program of WPA layoffs. The rations of crumbs fed to the growing army of the permanently unemployed is being further reduced by the miserably low scale of relief and of insecurity wages paid to relief workers. Millions of young people, disillusioned by the inadequacy of the NYA and the CCC, face the fate of a locked-out generation. The only hope of the unemployed lies in the organization of a mighty Workers' Alliance of America, which can fight militantly against the starvation program of the government and for real social security legislation. The purchasing power of the workers must be increased, working hours must be shortened until all jobsless are put to work.

**Demonstrate Against the Government's Starvation "Relief" Program!**  
**Demand Real Social Security Legislation!**  
**Support the Workers' Alliance!**

In the fight for industrial unionism, in the fight against Roosevelt's starvation "relief" program, the workers are learning that the government is controlled by the owning class. Strikes broken by the National Guard, forced arbitration schemes, aid to company unions, WPA layoffs—all are educating the workers to carry the fight against the bosses into the political field through independent working class political action.

**Western Federation Problems Discussed**  
Western delegates to the 1937 Special National Convention of the Socialist Party met informally between sessions of the convention to discuss problems of the Western Federation and to lay plans for the continuation of the Red Special tour of the west. Time did not permit adequate discussion or complete detailed plans for the tour. The general plan as to the states to be covered by the tour and the intensive organizational suggestions made by the Federation Secretary, Crary Trimble, were agreed upon.

In a conference with the National Secretary, Roy Burt, following the convention, Comrade Trimble suggested that the Red Special tour be started a little later in the spring, to allow for better weather conditions through the middle west.

**PHILIPPINES**  
Myth of "high living standards" of the Philippine worker has gone 'round the world, until economists and sociologists now refer glibly to the wonders of this good life amidst the proverbial starvation level of oriental countries.

Due to unemployment, factory owners have reduced wages and staggered workers until good cigar makers can earn only 30c a day. It was found also that while prices on certain cigars had remained the same since 1930, wages of workers making these cigars had been drastically cut. Woman and child-labor are predominant in the cigar and cigarette factories. Even in 1929 when wages were higher than at present, the Bureau of Labor stated that the wage levels of women and minors were from \$1 to \$5 weekly. In a study made in the workers' slum district in Manila, where tobacco workers predominate, the Red Cross in 1935 found that a family of five required \$12.50 for bare subsistence. Of the \$12.50 a

### Executive Meeting

At a meeting of the State Executive Committee held in Los Angeles, April 17-18, a Labor Committee to coordinate and initiate Socialist participation in mass organization work was appointed. Members of the committee are Comrades Ward Rodgers, Murray Weiss, and Glen Trimble for the Bay area, and Comrades Selden Osborne and Jack Kahn for the Los Angeles area. At their first meeting, immediately after the Executive meeting, this committee appointed Glen Trimble as Secretary of the Labor Committee.

After thorough discussion of the problems of policy and finances for Labor Action, the State Executive Committee, by a vote of 7-3, reaffirmed its previous decision to stabilize Labor Action as a fortnightly publication. In line with the new organization finance plans laid down by the National Convention, budgets for all state and local expenses will be worked out to coordinate fund-raising for all party activities. In the meantime, however, it is essential that all locals, branches, and individual party members pay regularly and all pledges previously made to the sustaining fund of Labor Action; that all locals and branches take substantial bundle orders and sell them (as is now being done effectively in San Francisco), as well as drive for new subscriptions. In addition, in order that Labor Action may come out regularly every two weeks, it is imperative that Party members and readers of Labor Action send in as large donations as they can possibly sacrifice immediately.

**Help Labor Action**  
Plans are now being worked out between the State Office, the National Office, and the business staff of Labor Action to initiate the new budget plan as quickly as possible.

**SRA Director Forbids Employee's Lobby**  
Harold Pomeroy, director of SRA, has recently stated twice publicly that if in any community agricultural labor is on strike, and there are jobs open that are not taken in agriculture, he will order the entire relief load closed if necessary to fill those jobs.

Harold Pomeroy has also verbally ordered pretending to allow personal liberty, absolutely forbidden his employees to do any lobbying. A number of them have been doing effective work with committees of the legislature not as SRA employees but as private citizens and representatives of various social service organizations and other organizations to get better social service legislation adopted in this state.

### Clerk Strike Threat Wins Over Hotels

Six unions involved in the dispute with fifteen of San Francisco's downtown hotels showed that they were ready to fight it out rather than stall along any further on unfruitful negotiations. As a result of their ultimatum and preparations for a strike on April 17, they succeeded in winning preferential hiring and the closed shop—major issues of their five fundamental demands.

Backed by the Central Labor Council, the unions organized for a siege against the hotel owners while union spokesmen delivered the ultimatum: that unless the five fundamental points were favorably negotiated by 5 p.m. on April 17, the workers would walk out.

In the face of this absolute strike certainty, spokesmen for the Bureau of Hotels, Restaurants, and Purveyors hastened to meet with the union representatives in the presence of Federal Conciliator, Walter G. Mathewson. A five-hour conference resulted in the securing by the unions of preferential hiring, present employees to join the union within 15 days, and arbitration of differences not settled by negotiation.

The strike threat was a climax to more than three months of futile negotiations. Hotel owners were forced to recognize, however, that the union meant business. Picket squads, strike headquarters, and complete battle plans were being arranged in preparation for the 5 p.m. deadline in case negotiations failed to bring satisfactory union recognition. "Special cops" were seen lurking in the neighborhood of hotels, and hotel guests nervously watched the clocks as the deadline approached. The agreement was announced about two hours after the deadline.

Specific routing and the selection of the organizer to go on the truck will be worked out between the National Office, the Federation Secretary, and the various state organizations where the Red Special will be scheduled for work.

Comrade Paul McCormick, of Colorado, has offered to join the Red Special when it gets to Colorado and to continue with it in its organization work.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS AND VIEWS

month required, 65 per cent would go for food, 9 per cent for shelter, 4 per cent for clothing, and almost 11 per cent for all other expenses. Of the \$8.40 per month spent for food, \$3.12 is for rice; the next largest item is \$1.25 for 20 small fish; 62c for bread. This budget also allows 60c for beef and pork for the month. A chicken costs only 15c, but the family could permit itself only half a chicken on this budget. For vegetables of all kinds the family could afford only 36c and for fruits only 17c for the month.

**PRICES HIGH**  
Lest one think that abundant food can be bought for little money, let him take a glance at the price of rice for instance, which is 13c per ganta (.88 U. S. gallon), which is one day's supply (in times of famine, which is frequent, the price goes as high as 18c). Beef and pork are 20c a kilo (2.2 lbs.) and cabbage 17c a kilo. The largest crop in the Islands, sugar, costs the

same as in the U. S.—5c a pound. Dairy products in the budget ran to 12½ and included 1 3/4 small cans of milk for the entire month. Is it any wonder that the maternal mortality rate was found to be higher than that of any other country, or 7.5 per 1,000 live births. In 1931 infant mortality stood at the rate of 155 deaths per 1,000 births.

Tuberculosis is still "Captain of Death" among all workers and peasants, some sources claiming that 25 per cent of the people are tubercular to some degree. Death rate due to tuberculosis is higher in the Philippines than in any other country. After malaria, beri-beri ranks third as a cause of death. Beri-beri is, of course, a dietary disease due to a meager and unbalanced diet.

To show what a difference a full stomach makes: the death rate of Americans in Manila, in 1932, was 4.01 compared with a rate of 24.27 for Filipinos.

**BUILD LABOR ACTION**

\$1.50  For one years subscription to Labor Action.

\$.....  For .....13-issue trial-sub cards, as my enrollment in the Action Army. Each card 25c.

\$..... per week (or month)  For my pledge to the sustaining fund of Labor Action.

\$.....  For a donation to the immediate Emergency Fund for the next issue of Labor Action.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Fill in the above blank and send, with check or money order, payable to Labor Action, to Business Manager of Labor Action, 236 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California.

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LABOR ACTION

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE WESTERN FEDERATION OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY

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VOL. 1, NO. 16 SATURDAY, MAY 1, 1937

To the Rank and File

The heartening success of the rank and file pluggers of the San Francisco branch at selling Labor Action upon the waterfront and in the workers' districts demonstrates once again the truism that a revolutionary press is built by the ordinary rank and filers with enough brass anatomy to get up in the cold city dawn to shout the headlines of a workers' newspaper on the streets.

Heroic ability to sacrifice for a revolutionary press—this is a prime quality of the workers who are building Labor Action. They understand the need for a West Coast organ to express revolutionary socialism. Their contributions are heavy blows against the capitalist exploitation which oppresses them.

To those sterling comrades who were born in the poverty of the working class and who understand the task of achieving socialism in terms of unremitting daily effort, to those comrades who are glad to get up at 5 a. m. for the toil of bringing the message of revolutionary socialism to fellow workers, to those with courage enough to fight every day in the week, who come to branch meetings with seven full days experience in the bitter grind of the class struggle—to you belongs the front page banner of working class respect and appreciation.

Labor Action this May Day salutes you!

Solution Demanded

Labor Action's editorial in the last edition upon Waterfront Graft received such a favorable response from waterfront workers, that we are again asking for a solution to the puzzle: who is interested in maintaining this vicious system of cashing brass at a discount?

Certainly a waterfront which rightfully boasts of its 100 per cent unionism cannot afford the dark stain of graft which preys upon the brass check system. Wages are not so close to the sky that union men can afford the slice exacted by the waterfront harpies who are anxious to cash workers' brass—and pocket their percentage.

Why not establish a centralized pay station under union control which could easily eliminate this vicious system? Workers hire out from a union hall, why not work out a method for cashing brass in a union pay station?

Labor Action is interested in getting at the root of the dark sources which maintain this system. What is your solution?

Stalinist United Front

"Both the United States and the Soviet Union are confronted in the Far East by Japan. It so happens that their respective interests in that part of the world do not conflict but coincide, therefore making co-operation of the United States and Soviet Russia in the Far East not only feasible but most natural and quite desirable."

With less than sixty words, Victor A. Yakhontoff, former Czarist general, now Stalin's official spokesman, strips the mask of revolutionary pretension from Russian and American Stalinists and lays bare the black heart of their world betrayal.

These words disclose the real reason why the election of a war-minded capitalist presidential candidate was more important to American "Communists" than the successful termination of the maritime strike. This is why they have given left-handed support to the Fink Book and every other sneaking attempt to cripple, split, and destroy the backbone of militant labor in the West—the Maritime Federation of the Pacific. This is why the ex-reeds blew hot and cold and sought to confuse and weaken the strike of workers in the largest aircraft plant in the world—the Douglas Aircraft Corporation.

Ships—whether of sea or air—are essentials of war. The interests of the United States and the Stalinist bureaucracy "coincide" in the anti-Japanese war of Kremlin imagination. Unions and "unreasonable" demands for living wages interfere with the dragooning of workers into the capitalist war machine. Therefore, as simply as B follows A, our ex-champions of "peace, progress, and prosperity" are now champions of war, trade union wrecking, and reaction.

These are strong words, but their justification lies in the infamous proposal of the Stalinist spokesman quoted above. What does it mean to "coincide" with United States policy in the Far East? The United States Government's only difference with Japan is that the Japanese imperialists got there first. American soldiers were used to suppress in blood the Boxer Rebellion of Chinese workers against foreign exploitation. Our "Open Door" policy is merely a plea that the leeches of less tardy capitalist nations make room so that our own leeches can share in feeding off the Chinese. The policy of the United States in the Far East is the policy of Standard Oil—whose ruthless robbery is greater in China than it is among the derricks, stations, and tankers of America only because the danger of organized worker-opposition is less. The "Communists" have found one united front free of "counter-revolutionaries"—the united front with the U. S. Government and Standard Oil.

It is characteristic that the spokesman for this united front, who is toured under the most ultra-respectable of C.P. "fronts," has no hangover of revolutionary pretense or phraseology. The ambassadors to Standard Oil and to the waterfront must have different acts and different lines. So this one is well chosen. General Victor A. Yakhontoff knows both capitalism and warmongering because he has never favored or done anything else. He gave loyal service in the Czar's army and to the would-be betrayer of the Russian revolution, Kerensky, as Assistant Secretary of War. He does not have to change his language or his coat to serve the bureaucracy of Stalin on a mission of selling war to the world.

Action Versus Words

No better demonstration of the real difference between working class organizations and reformist legislative will-o'-the-wisps could be found than in what took place Tuesday in Minneapolis. Over in St. Paul a group of people labelling themselves the "People's Lobby," descended upon the state capitol at the legislative chambers whose avowed purpose it was to compel the legislature to pass certain reform pieces of legislation proposed by the Farmer-Labor platform.

The People's Lobby, organized with a great fanfare of trumpets and rolling of drums, proposed that by force of their numbers they would so impress both sections of the Minnesota state legislature that the whole program of reform legislation would be passed. There is little question but that the People's Lobby, if not organized by the state executive office, had at least the complete endorsement of that branch of the state government.

One does not have to seek far to find the reason for the apparent collaboration between the capitol march and the executive office. So ill-advised has been the legislative program adopted by the convention and vastly amplified later that despite a preponderant majority in the lower house of the state legislature, the legislation seems doomed.

While the People's Lobby were beseeching senators and representatives, attempting to influence them, the Federal Workers Section of Local 544, a real, bona fide organization of the working class, was engaged in a different and more worthwhile enterprise. This organization, recognizing the futility of attempting to bring about real lasting economic reforms for the workers through the medium of legislation, had long before started a campaign aimed toward putting more food in the mouths of W.P.A. workers, more clothes on their backs, and a chance to enjoy some of the better things of life.

While the People's Lobby sipped coffee and munched cake in the luxurious senate chamber, the Federal Workers' Section was making a demand of the Welfare Board that supplemental aid in the form of more food be given W.P.A. workers who labor at \$60.50 a month, and the Welfare Board, knowing that this demand was backed not by an organization composed of a hodge-podge of bankers, business men, politicians, baritones, and tenors, but by a militant workers' organization composed of militant men and women whose only basis of organizational solidarity was need, granted the demand and took action that will mean \$9 more of commodities each month for the workers.

"People's Fronts" of this, that, and something else may bring forth oratory and verbal fireworks, but real organizations of the working class secure the worthwhile, lasting results.

—Northwest Organizer.

Liberty, Progress, Peace and Prosperity



May Day at Stockton reminds us that we are still suffering under capitalist "democracy." Strikers bear a bleeding comrade from the picket line where he was wounded by Stockton's private owners of property.

Minneapolis Cleared Of C. P. Slander

Stalinists Backed Notorious Strikebreaker For Mayor

Stalinist slanders that the Socialists of Minneapolis were supporting strike-breaker Latimer for mayor in connection with the municipal elections were given a thumping refutation by a special investigating committee appointed by the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party.

The committee, composed of Andrew Biemiller of Wisconsin, Harry W. Laidler, of New York, and Francis Heisler of Illinois, made a thorough investigation of the charges and interviewed all parties involved in the dispute.

Their unanimous report declares that all the Socialist "rump convention" were there as regularly elected trade union delegates, and that they then and there made the statement that the Socialist party reserved the right to run its own candidate in the majority campaign.

Many of the largest and most militant Minneapolis unions flatly refused to participate in the so-called regular convention at which the Stalinists supported Haycroft, a strike-breaker, for mayor.

This session of the Farmer Labor party at which a candidate for mayor was to be nominated had been packed in the time-honored Communist Party manner, with delegates from the Macedonian Singing Society, the Ukrainian Workers' Club, and so on and so on. Bona fide unions like Local 544 of the

U. S. Decision Ends Strike

HERSHEY, Pa.—The decisions of the U. S. Supreme Court in the Wagner Act cases have settled the strike which has been raging in this chocolate capital of the universe. Following the decisions, representatives of strikers and of the company signed an agreement of which this is the heart:

"That an election shall be held among the employes of the employer to determine the sole collective bargaining agency under the Wagner Labor Relations Act of the United States. And that the parties hereto agree to abide by the said election."

The non-strikers believe that they will win, in which case the company union, "Loyal Workers Club of Hershey," will be the bargaining agency. The United Chocolate Workers' Union, however, think otherwise.

General Drivers' Union with a membership of more than 5,000 were represented at the regular convention by five delegates, while the many C. P. controlled outfits with 300 members or less would have three affiliated locals with fifteen delegates and three "non-affiliated" with nine delegates. The "rump convention" was not called by Socialists, but Socialists participated in it as it was their duty to do as elected delegates from their trade unions which objected to the Stalinist version of democracy.

Mr. Haycroft, backed by the Stalinists, was the officer of the National Guard who arrested leading union members during the famous

Sailors Union To Vote On Joining C.I.O.

Referendum of West Coast Upon Proposal To Affiliate

(Continued from Page 1) A. F. of L. they have granted affiliation.

The San Francisco Longshoremen have also taken action regarding C. I. O. affiliation, instructing their delegates to the coming I. L. A. convention to demand a referendum vote of the union on a national basis for affiliation. Harry Bridges, district president, who at one time supported the reactionary proposal of the I. S. U. officials to return the Sailors' charter upon a phony basis, stressed that although it is I. L. A. policy to support the C. I. O., the I. L. A. wishes to remain within the A. F. of L.

The court battle of the Sailors to regain their charter, illegally revoked by Ivan Hunter and Paul Scharrenberg, is scheduled to resume upon May 3 before Superior Judge Lewis H. Ward in San Francisco.

Minneapolis truck drivers' strike. The Socialist party has decided, and the National Executive Commission has ratified the decision, to run Vincent R. Dunne as the Socialist candidate for Mayor of Minneapolis.

A thorough-going campaign will be waged on the basis of revolutionary Socialist tactics and program.

SELL SUBS FOR LABOR ACTION

NOTES UPON STRIKES

Force Resignations TORONTO.—The strike in the General Motors plants of Ontario are quite likely to have as a by-product a special election in this province. Premier Hepburn demanded and has received the resignations of David Croll, Minister of Labor, and Arthur Roebuck, Attorney General; because they did not approve what the Premier calls his "right against the Lewis organization and communism in general."

Both resigned, Mr. Croll remarking that he "would rather be marching with the workers than riding with General Motors," and both criticized sharply the belligerent help which the premier is giving to the company.

BUILD THE PARTY PRESS

Halt Train CALEXICO, Calif.—A San Diego and Eastern Arizona railroad train, carrying U. S. Mail from San Diego and California points to Yuma, Ariz., was halted in three attempts to cross the international border into Mexico where a general strike was under way.

Mobs of union men and women sympathizers blocked the tracks. The crew finally backed up the train.

BUILD THE PARTY PRESS

Violate Act FORT WORTH, Tex.—Violation of the Wagner Labor Act was charged against the Lone Star Gas Company by 152 striking workers who are members of the United Association of Journeymen Plumbers and Steam Fitters.

They charged that requests for a conference with company officials had met only with evasion and delay.

BUILD THE PARTY PRESS

Jennings Framed WILKES-BARRE, Pa.—Emerson P. Jennings, the printer who won the hostility of powerful interests in the anthracite area for his activity in behalf of organized miners,

has been given a sentence of five to ten years as the latest step in one of the most notorious frame-up cases of the country.

The case will be appealed to a higher court, Arthur Garfield Hays, American Civil Liberties attorney, has declared. In the meantime, Jennings is out on \$30,000 bail raised by his friends.

Hays, who conducted Jennings' trial, called the case "one of the most vicious and determined frame-ups I have seen in 30 years."

BUILD THE PARTY PRESS

Alabama Steel BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—A Birmingham Steel Council made up of three officials from each lodge has been formed by the new steel lodges in the district. Company union members in many mills are resigning and signing up with the CIO union.

Nightly meetings are being held throughout the district, and sound trucks are being utilized to good advantage.

Jury Indicts Scab Herder

NEW HAVEN, Conn.—James H. Rand, Jr., president of Remington Rand, Inc., has been indicted here by a Federal grand jury for violation of the Byrnes law, which forbids the transportation of strike-breakers across state lines. Pearl Bergoff, whose boast is "I Break Strikes," was indicted at the same time by the same grand jury for the same offense. The two brought strike-breakers from New York to Middletown, this state.

After the evidence had been presented, the grand jury took only 10 minutes to reach a decision.

BUILD THE PARTY PRESS

Masons Get \$1.25 NEW ORLEANS.—Members of the Bricklayers and Masons Union No. 1, will go on a \$1.25 an hour wage scale beginning June 20. J. R. White, president, announced. The present scale is \$1 an hour. The pre-depression scale was \$1.50 an hour. The union has also decided to demand an eight-hour day and five-day week, effective at the same time.

Horse and Buggy INDIANAPOLIS.—Sit-down strikes were forbidden among union carpenters in a statement issued by the general executive board of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners.

"We will not permit members to take possession of property that does not belong to them through the method of sit-down strikes," the board said.

"The board will not countenance any action on part of our members in departing from the well-tried methods of organizing that have been successful in years gone by."

BUILD THE PARTY PRESS

English Coal Strike Dispatches from London show that England is facing a strike of 600,000 coal miners on the very familiar issue of the right of workers to choose their own representatives for collective bargaining.

Eight hundred men in a colliery at Hartworth, Nottinghamshire struck recently for a combination of reasons. The management had been trying to get them into a company union; and even, for a time, demanded that they pay dues to that union. The Mineworkers Federation of Great Britain tried to represent the strikers at their request; but the management refused to negotiate. The Mineworkers took a vote on authorizing a strike; and that vote showed 444,546 members for a strike and 61,445 against it.

BUILD THE PARTY PRESS

Silicosis Victims Face Slow Death

Editor's Note:—This story is B.U.—Before Union, "Cat" workers with Socialist aid have gone C.I.O. and forced company recognition.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A chronicle of industry at its worst, a tale of almost unrivaled horror, is printed in a recent issue of the Nation, and is summarized here.

The Caterpillar Tractor Company, the biggest manufacturer of that merchandise in the world, is located at the open shop town of Peoria, Illinois. It employs about 12,000 persons, of whom 1,400 are in the foundry. On November 19, 1936, 179 men of the foundry group found in their pay envelopes orders to appear at the company's personnel office in the morning. There they were divided into groups of 20 and led into the manager's office. All were told that they had silicosis. From 80 to 100 were in the first stages; the rest in the second and third. The insurance company had refused to carry the risk on these men, so that company had no choice but to fire them. The company was very sorry—but—new state law on occupational diseases went into effect, providing compensation for silicotics, and holding the last employer of a silicotic fully liable.

PREVIOUS LAW KILLED The previous law, in force since 1911, had been declared unconstitutional by the state Supreme Court in 1935. To the plea of common law liability, the same Supreme Court had answered:

"One searches in vain for any precedent at common law establishing any duties as to healthfulness or sanitation."

The conditions in the foundry appear to have been horrible—or even worse. The Nation article, written from Peoria by Milton S. Mayer, says:

"The silica dust in the Caterpillar foundry was so thick that men operating hand trucks collided in the main gangway. There were no masks at all, except for the two men operating the pressure hoses in the sand-blast, and no partitions separating the blasting and cleaning rooms from the rest of the foundry.

SAND CUT OFF VISION "The swing-grinders carried the carborundum dust directly into the face of the man ahead. The sand used for cleaning, instead of being drawn off, rose to the ceiling and floated through the foundry, hanging in a cloud everywhere. . . . Cranemen working 20 feet above the men on the floor couldn't see the floorman's signal to raise or lower."

The company, in other words, carried on a slow-death factory till 10 days before a law making them liable for their killing went into effect; and then slipped from under by discharging the men they had crippled. A \$75,000 test suit is now in the Federal Court. Mr. Mayer remarks:

"Silicotics have been deprived of health by due process of law, in accordance with both federal and state constitutions, it is likely that the Federal court, like the Caterpillar Co., will have to confine its relief to being sorry for the plaintiffs."

The company's net income for 1936 was \$9,850,000—nearly \$4,000,000 above that of the previous year.

BUILD LABOR ACTION!

Socialist Newspaper Forges Ahead

With this issue Labor Action returns to a fortnightly schedule. Despite the enthusiastic funeral orations of the Western Worker, Labor Action intends to stick to the firing line until the last trench is conquered and the Socialist revolution won.

For five months a few hundred loyal California comrades have—very literally—given until it hurt to make Labor Action possible. More than three thousand dollars has been raised by a handful of Socialist workers who understood the vital necessity for Labor Action.

On this May Day, Labor Action can look with pride at its accomplishments. No Socialist paper in years has won so wide and numerous a circle of subscribers and bundle-customers in its first months. Our contributions to the great labor struggles of the period have played a real part in the revival of western labor militancy which knows no equal in the American scene. As a consequence, La-

bor Action is welcomed, distributed, and read from cover to cover wherever genuine labor progressives gather. Fighters like a fighter, and for a five-month infant Labor Action has already made its mark in the heavy-weight class.

There is a big future ahead for our youngster but that future depends upon its Socialist and labor subscribers and friends. The California comrades cannot perform miracles forever. With this issue we call for immediate aid from all who realize the value of a clear, fighting revolutionary Socialist voice in the west.

The California comrades raised more than \$1,000 in two weeks to launch Labor Action. Within two weeks to come our supporters throughout the West should be able to equal that achievement. Turn your dollars into fighters for Socialism by guaranteeing the regular publication of Labor Action.

DO IT TODAY!

OWNERS HIRE KILLERS

Gangsters Dynamite Organizers

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Ben Unthank, who might be called the murder supervisor for the Harlan County Coal Operator's Association, shot at, dynamited, and attacked by company-paid deputy sheriffs "so many times that I can't remember all of 'em." In the dynamiting under discussion, which occurred in November, 1933, the explosion tore away the wall of his room, "an' slammed me against the ceiling." But he got only a few scratches.

George S. Ward, secretary-treasurer for the Coal Operator's Association, admitted under Senator La Follette's grilling that he had kept a close account of the Association's income, but did not put down expenses, because "I have anticipated an investigation for the last 3 or 4 years.

The Association got its money by an assessment of 1/2 cent a ton for coal produced, which was doubled when labor troubles were expected. Expenses for fighting unions were several times as great as those for conducting race cases.

SPAIN REFUGEES SHOT

Portugese Turn Guns On Loyalists

LONDON.—Although Portugal is officially neutral in the Spanish conflict, its government has bound up the prestige of the country with the fate of the Spanish Rebels.

The country is in a welter of confusion and personal rights are often disregarded entirely. Those who dare to express any sympathy for the Spanish Government become the victims of terrible persecution, being thrown into prison and often abominably tortured. It is well known that Spanish refugees with anti-fascist sympathies are sent back into Spain and delivered into the hands of the Rebels, whereupon these unfortunate people are all shot. Frequently, too, anti-fascist Portuguese are sent into Spain as gifts to the Rebels.

Furthermore, the Portuguese government pays no attention to the Non-Intervention Agreement which it has signed. Every day the Span-

ish Fascists receive help from Portugal, not only in money, but also in materials. The frontier is quite open to the Spanish Fascists who freely enter the country and are often given full rights there, while many Portuguese are watched and forbidden free speech.

Perhaps the clearest evidence of the spirit of narrow nationalism which dominates the present Portuguese government is the fact that all Esperanto organizations have been closed and that it is forbidden to engage in the spread of that international language.

Wheeling Unionized

PITTSBURGH.—The Wheeling Steel Corporation, an independent steel producer which employs 22,000 men, has signed a collective bargaining contract with the Steel Workers Organizing Committee.

PEARLS FROM THE PRESS

The Jews are to blame for everything. According to that notorious anti-Semitic sheet, "Der Stuermer," the Jews are responsible for the infatuation of the ex-king Edward VIII. for Mrs. Simpson. The real name of this woman is "Simson," which is the German name for that "mass murderer (Samson) who killed a thousand Philistines with the jaw-bone of an ass for purposes of ritual murder." Mrs. Simpson is in fact, as this great genealogist-editor discovered, a direct descendant of the nemesis of the Philistines and the "P" in her name was deliberately inserted to signalize the triumph of her family over the Philistines.

From Dr. John Levy of the Department of Psychiatry of Columbia University: "The nation would be saved from the widespread outbreak of industrial strife which has gripped it if employers could emulate President Roosevelt's tremendously efficient traits of leadership. . . . Employers, labor leaders, and others in authority could approach closer to the ideal of leadership established by President Roosevelt if they were to undergo therapeutic treatment at the hands of expert psychiatrists, which would substitute for their present dominating characteristic of hostility, a spirit to serve and help others."—Dr. Levy discloses a fresh source of profit

which has been apparently overlooked by the tear gas corporations and labor spy agencies.

Japanese Police Use U.S. 'Third Degree'

TOKYO, Japan.—Japanese police are emulating the "Third Degree" system of torture popularized by police of the United States. According to Ryoza Makino, member of the minority in the House of Representatives, police torture suspected persons under examination and government attorneys encourage the practice.