

Giant Railroad Strike in Great Britain as Labor Party Prepares to Take Over Government

60,000 STRIKE IN ENGLAND'S RAIL SERVICE

Enginemen and Firemen Fight Wage Reductions

(Special to The Daily Worker)
LONDON.—Railwaymen, members of the Society of Enginemen and Firemen, to the number of 59,000 are on strike. They were joined by 11,000 members of the National Union of Railwaymen, whose national secretary, J. H. Thomas, is slated for a post in the new Labor Party ministry.

The Society of Enginemen and Firemen have issued the following statement:

"It is a battle against the capitalists, who from 1913 to 1922 amassed a surplus of \$9,000,000.

"We have no intention of starving the public and will not interfere with any legitimate emergency measures to insure a supply of foodstuffs. We do not mind what the government does so long as it does not run the railways during the strike and by such an act become a blackleg government. Our strike will prevent, for a period at least, the use of the great system. Private trading thinks more of itself than of its servants."

Fight Wage Reductions.
The strike is the result of wage-reductions for enginemen of \$2.50 to \$5.00 and \$2.00 to \$4.00 per week for firemen which became effective after midnight Monday. All efforts of the leaders of the British Labor Party to settle the strike failed to avert the walkout and the sympathetic strike of a section of the National Union of Railwaymen was contrary to assurances given the government by J. H. Thomas.

J. Bromley, secretary of the Society of Enginemen and Firemen states that the strike is a complete success. That his view is correct is evidenced by the fact that train service in Great Britain is practically at a standstill.

Strike in Full Swing.
An early morning countrywide survey showed the strike in full swing. Enginemen and firemen who are members of the Associated Society which ordered the walk-out after strenuous efforts on the part of England's most prominent labor leaders failed, did not show up for work.

Some of those on strike lounged about the shops in their Sunday clothes and jibed at those who remained loyal to the orders of J. H. Thomas and ran the few trains that got away.

There was no reports of sabotage. Efforts of the strikers to interfere were confined to verbal persuasion.

Hyde Park on War Basis.
London's great network of subways was not affected by the present strike. Street cars and buses here and in the provinces continued to run, carrying many thousands of suburbanites who ordinarily depend upon local train service. In the great strike of 1919, these transportation facilities were completely disrupted. This strike is confined entirely to enginemen and firemen and their helpers.

Last night trains were leaving London terminals on schedule, but their crews ran them to certain pre-arranged points and then abandoned them.

Hyde Park was on a "war basis," with fleets of motor lorries mobilized. (Continued on page 2)

EYES ON THE FUTURE



The Light from the Coal Miner's Lamp.

Ellis Island Rule Blamed for Death of Young Woman

NEW YORK.—A boy born on Ellis Island, whose immigrant mother, Ruth Grahn, died there, has been given into custody of his aunt, Mrs. Minnie Hester, of Moline, Ill.

Mrs. Hester, sister of the dead woman, blames the death of her sister on Ellis Island authorities. The girl had been detained since before Christmas.

Before an order for her deportation could be carried out a son was born. A special board ruled that the child was of Swedish nationality, also born on American soil. There was no quota hindrance and the boy was admitted on the promise of his aunt to educate him.

All this fuss over Russia by our state department is due to one thing—the fact that labor rules in Russia thru its own form of government.

Work Daily for "The Daily!"

"Bill" Burns May Visit Chicago to Hush Robbery Scandal, Says Police

William J. Burns, arch-communist ferret, is planning a hasty visit to Chicago to buck up the morale of his subordinates who are confessing here to wholesale robberies and assaults, say reports current in Chicago police circles.

The sensational disclosures of "stick-up" activity by the Burns' dicks in the Windy City came at a moment when United States Senator Burton K. Wheeler of Montana is pressing congress for a searching probe of the private detective agencies which have one leg in the department of justice and another in the investigation bureaus of the big open shop enterprise of America.

The revelations or underworld activity as well put the leading sleuth corporation into such an ugly light that the Wheeler proposal cannot be halted unless Burns can get the Chicago confessions republished.

Mrs. Ida Jacobson, of North Kimball avenue, appeared in South Clark street court yesterday against Hugh Engel, former assistant chief of the Chicago Burns agency, and J. Gleason Walker, a subordinate, whom she has identified as the men who choked her and robbed her of a \$1,000 brooch and other jewelry. Her testimony was awaited with keen interest by a dozen private detectives of various agencies who sat in the courtroom but the Burns' attorneys succeeded in securing a postponement till January 29, by which time it is believed that William J. Burns will have completed whatever preparations are possible for a whitewashing of his agency should the two dicks look like losers.

Meanwhile the Chicago police force which has a professional jealousy against private agencies, though it has worked with the Burns agency in "red" hunts, is following up the confessions regarding other robberies which the Burns men are charged with. Paul Mezner, a deputy sheriff, who is said to have purchased Mrs. Jacobson's \$1,000 brooch, is held by the police while the investigations are being conducted and Harry Baker, another deputy and Benjie (Continued on page 2.)

COAL MINERS' CONVENTION OPENS TODAY

Indianapolis Scene of Great Workers' Gathering

(By Our Staff Correspondent)
INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—Delegates representing approximately half a million coal miners from every mining section of the United States and Canada are here, for the opening day of the 29th successive constitutional and 6th biennial convention of the United Mine Workers of America.

The main work of the convention will be the drawing up of a new wage scale and working conditions demand for the next contract with the operators. The present bituminous agreement expires March 31, except where there is an overlapping condition as in Kentucky.

Much Unemployment.

A meeting of coal operators and miners in the central competitive field (Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and western Pennsylvania) is already scheduled to meet at Jacksonville, Fla., on Feb. 11 "for the purpose of negotiating a new wage agreement according to a call sent out for the meeting by the chairman of a joint committee from the organizations involved.

Never before has the bituminous miners been faced with a more serious condition than that which exists in the industry now. The unemployment is unprecedented—nearly one-third of the mines are closed and one-half-time operations prevail in most of the working fields.

The Howat Case.

Altho the administration forces predict harmony, a number of internal problems will come before the delegates. Alexander Howat expects to be reinstated to his former union status by this convention, and the grievance of the Nova Scotia (Canada) miners will also be introduced.

The trouble there centers around the revocation of the district charter by the national administration during a steel strike in July. The miners who were employed by the British Empire Steel Corp., the steel trust, struck in violation of their agreement in protest against the employment of soldiers against the steel strikers.

A provisional government was set up by the international organization after it had deposed the elected officials. James MacLachlan, ousted secretary of the district, is now in Dorchester penitentiary (Canada) because of his activities during the sympathetic strike. Other internal questions of less importance as, the coke region strike, nationalization, progressive miners, etc., also appear in resolution form.

Ohio Miners for 6-Hour Day.

INDIANAPOLIS.—Delegates, from the Ohio district, U. M. W. A., have arrived here under unanimous instructions from their district convention to present to the miners' national convention demands for a six-hour day and the unionization of the big nonunion fields in West Virginia and Kentucky "as a matter of self-protection."

The Ohio convention, which closed in Columbus Jan. 16, placed itself on record for a substantial wage increase to meet advancing living costs. The scale demanded fixes a 25% advance in pay for tonnage, yardage, and dead work, with time and a half for overtime and double time for Sundays and holidays.

Under the existing contract, overtime and Sunday work is paid solely on a straight-time basis. The day wage scale demanded gives equal rates of pay for both inside and outside mine laborers. Miners' compensation under the new scale would be \$1.17 1/2 per ton and \$1.25 per hour, as against 94 cents and 93 1/2 cents respectively under the old contract. The convention further asked that the national executives of the United Mine Workers negotiate the new agreement on a two-year basis, to become effective April 1, 1924.

Daily Worker Greet's Coal Miners' Convention

THE DAILY WORKER, America's only English-language Communist daily, extends its best wishes to the Sixth Biennial Convention of the United Mine Workers of America.

Meeting at a time when the American capitalist class is at the height of its power, when that section of it whose profits are drawn from the coal mining industry has forced widespread unemployment to be used as a club to compel acceptance of wage-reductions, THE DAILY WORKER hopes that out of the deliberations of the miners will come a program around which the whole organized labor movement of the United States can rally.

If the miners and other wage-earners can be whipped on the industrial field, then the first step has been taken towards a campaign of suppression of all privileges.

THE DAILY WORKER stands for an uncompromising struggle against the capitalists on the industrial field—as well as for the protection of foreign-born workers, for amalgamation for a class party of the workers and farmers, for Recognition of Soviet Russia.

THE DAILY WORKER will carry full reports of the convention proceedings and of the progress made toward their program by the militant miners.

May the Sixth Biennial Convention of the United Mine Workers of America mark a turning-point in the American labor movement—the point which will mark the beginning of the control of the labor movement by the men and women of labor who have a clear-cut policy, and the will to fight for it.

Program for Which Progressive Miners' International Committee Will Fight at Indianapolis, Ind.

Nationalization of Coal Mines with genuine democratic control. Operation of the mines by Union coal miners.

A national class political party composed of and controlled by wage-earners and farmers.

An aggressive organizing campaign that will remove the threat to wages and working conditions now contained in the huge production of coal from low wage, non-union territory.

A United Front of coal miners and railway workers—between the men who dig the coal and those who haul it.

Reinstatement of Alex Howatt and other Kansas miners, expelled because of their fight against the Kansas Industrial Court law.

Reinstatement of the fighting Nova Scotia officials—Livingston, McLachlan, McIntyre and Stewart—and of the membership of District 26.

National agreements for the entire industry, expiring on the same date.

Direct election of organizers and travelling auditors.

Support of the United Mine Workers for industrial unionism thru amalgamation for the American trade union movement.

The six-hour day and the five-day week.

Against secessionism and dual unionism.

Closest possible affiliation of the United Mine Workers with the organized miners of the rest of the world.

Cleansing the organization of corruption and election frauds.

A leadership that will not flinch and compromise in the struggles that must be fought.

To bring these matters before the rank and file an aggressive campaign of education should be carried on.

No Economic Reason Why French Franc Should Not Follow Mark

(By The Federated Press)
WASHINGTON.—French francs may yet sell for 1,000,000 to the dollar in the opinion of a big business expert connected with the administration. Speaking in confidence to a friend, this man, who knows European conditions as well as any banker can know them, says that there is no economic reason why the franc should not keep company with the German paper mark.

CHICAGO BRANCH DAILY WORKER AGENTS

Will meet tonight 7:30 P. M. at the office, 166 W. Washington St., Room 307, to work out definite plans for a two-weeks' intensive subscription drive for the Daily Worker in Chicago. This drive will begin Sunday, Jan. 27th, and be under the direction of the newly elected City Daily Worker Agent, who will be present at the meeting.

Balloting Shows Complete Unity Within Russian Communist Party

(By Radio to the Daily Worker)
MOSCOW.—At the national conference of the Communist Party of Russia, held here just prior to the All-Russian Conference of Soviets, all resolutions proposed by the General Executive Committee were adopted by a vote of 125 to 3.

The resolutions of the minority on the program for economic reconstruction were criticized as impractical and their thesis on party organization and policy was condemned as showing menshevik tendencies. It showed much loose thinking as well as a pronounced petty bourgeois viewpoint that secured very little response from the delegates.

The conference expanded the program of democratic centralization for the party but caucuses within the party are absolutely forbidden. The unity of the party following the conference is more complete than ever. In the elections held the last day of the session of the All-Russian Soviets the highest votes polled were for Lenin, Kameneff, Zinovieff, Stalin and Bucharin.

Miners' Convention Starts Today! Our Correspondent Is On the Job!

Be Sure to Subscribe for the Daily Worker. It Will Enable You to Follow this History-Making Gathering from Day to Day. Subscription Blank on Page Three.

