









Terre Haute Strike Displays Might of Organized Workers

City-Wide Walkout Is Termed Prelude To New Strike Wave

'Dream of Debs' Came True in Home Town of Old Fighter—Showed Power on Which All of Industry Rests

By M. Childs

For forty-eight hours the workers of Terre Haute demonstrated that it is they who are the power upon which the whole of industry rests.

It is true that Terre Haute is only the handwriting on the wall. The general strike which took place in the city of Debs is only a prelude to this new wave of strikes.

The workers of Terre Haute profited from the experience of the San Francisco general strike and very successfully shut down the local capitalist newspapers.

Workers and Middle Class United

The solidarity among the working class, a feature of all strikes of the recent period, was outstanding in the Debs-Scott strike.

It was not only after the strike that they let loose their poisonous attack. The magnificent response of the workers in other cities and the growing sentiment for strike in many places were responsible for the fear and hesitation on the part of the capitalist class and its press.

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The Chicago Tribune, in its characteristic reactionary style spoke of the Terre Haute general strike as follows:

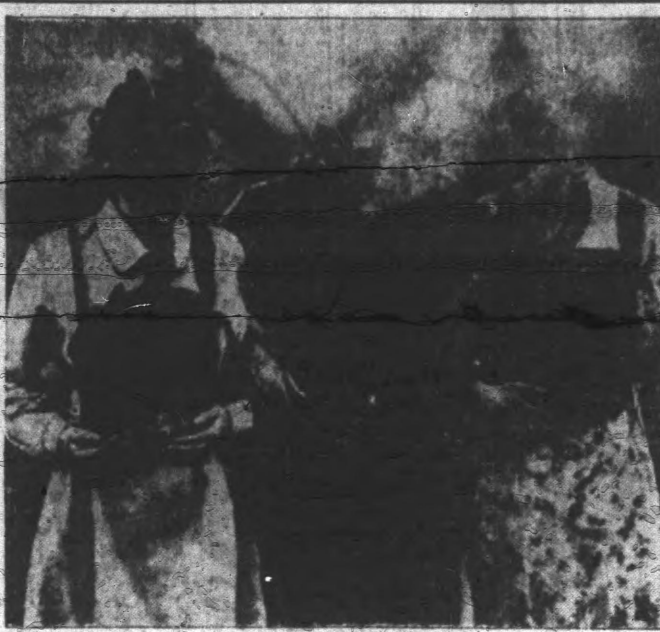
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much worried. They were not sure of future developments and it seemed to them that they could no longer depend upon the services of the labor bureaucracy.

Background of Strike: What were the causes that brought about the general strike? For months prior to the general strike the workers of the Columbia Enameling and Stamping Company were out on strike.

Rehearsal for Coming War

NO CIVILIAN WILL BE SAFE—A BRITISH SOLDIER SHOWS WOMEN GAS-MASK USE



The Communist Party read as follows: 'The General Strike must continue until the Columbia strike is settled and the union recognized.'

'Not one man back at work till the armed strikebreakers are driven from town! Continue the General Strike until the Columbia strike is settled and the union recognized! Force the shutting off of all power! Call for sympathy strikes throughout the state! For a mass anti-capitalist labor party as a weapon against the bosses and for 100 per cent unemployment.'

Strike Surrendered—Not Broken: The general strike was called off by the leadership without consulting the masses involved. At the time of the surrender the strike was still in force.

Experience with the N.R.A. and the labor boards has already exposed arbitration as a weapon of the bosses against the workers. Now the Wagner Labor Disputes Bill is being pushed off by the Wagner administration.

During the general strike the Communist Party showed to the workers of Terre Haute how they can win the general strike. One speaker addressed to the workers by

who opposed this strike from the very beginning, announced that the strike was off. The statement issued under the signature of the officials of the Stamping Mill Local in calling off the strike said, 'The undersigned officers and sub-committees of the Stamping Mill Employees Union No. 12,000, believing that the conciliators from the Department of Labor now present are competent to handle the controversy now existing between the local union and the management of the Columbia Stamping Company, hereby request that all men and women who left their jobs in sympathy with our striking members return to their jobs immediately.'

Workers Indignant: This statement was endorsed by the Executive Board of the Vigo County Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union did not endorse the general strike, but was the first to endorse this surrender.

When the workers heard of this statement they were very indignant. The pickets around the Stamping Mill met this announcement with 'boos and contempt' and showed greater resistance to the attacks of the National Guardsmen.

This betrayal was announced in spite of the fact that the National Guard and armed strike-breakers were still in Terre Haute, with martial law in full force and hundreds of the most militant workers under military arrest.

There was no organized rank and file inside the strike committee that could voice its opposition against these tactics of the top leadership. If there was such a group, the character of the strike would have been changed and the outcome would have been different.

There were many weaknesses in the conduct of the general strike itself. The committee in charge confined the leadership to a small group instead of enlarging the Strike Committee to include delegates from all locals and shops.

No economic demands, such as higher wages, shorter hours and union conditions for the sympathetic striking workers were raised. Had this been done, this would have strengthened the whole struggle.

Yet, in the midst of such solidarity and enthusiasm, the bureaucracy was able to knife one of the most glorious strikes in the history of the American labor movement. T. N. Taylor, A. F. of L. organizer,

Unskilled Workers And Middle Classes Drawn Into Action

Tie-Up of Typical City by Workers Is Replete With Lessons for All American Labor, Says Morris Childs

The strike, flying squadrons should have been systematically organized and sent to all surrounding communities to win support. The fact that four additional miners were ready to help and join in the strike.

The Strike Committee should have immediately organized a commissary for food and supply distribution for the whole working class population. This would have both strengthened the ranks of the strikers and kept the support of the professional and middle class elements. Precisely because the tie-up was so complete and the strike called on short notice, it was necessary to take into consideration the question of food distribution.

The general strike showed to the working class that the government is not an impartial body, as the capitalists claim. As soon as the profits of the employers are endangered by the workers asking for better conditions all the forces of the government, from the lowest to the highest, are called upon to defend private property.

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Where were all the politicians of the Democratic and Republican parties during the strike? Did they come to the aid of the strikers? Did they protest the killing and beating of the strikers? On the contrary, they were busy helping the employers break the strike.

This proves to the workers that they cannot depend upon the twin parties of Wall Street for their aid. They must build their own party, a party that stands apart from the capitalist parties, into a Labor Party. This is the need of the hour, as shown by the general strike.

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Cleveland Labor Men in Club to Advance Progressive Unionism

By Sandor Voros

Plans for organizing a club of unionists in Cleveland were perfected at a meeting attended by about seventy of the majority of them leaders in Hal Richards, president of the Auto Club.

without discrimination as to sex, race, religion, nationality or political beliefs. A determined fight against all injustices in labor disputes, independent political action and a complete break with the old political parties.

A mass demonstration of all labor and labor day is the answer of organized labor. The Committee elected by the workers will follow Long's lead and will bring a large number of cases of fitful leadership and to hold the move enlarged, the chair-elect

This year on Labor Day (September 2nd), we must seek to bring with a mass departure from the practices and experience of the General Labor body of the Federation of Labor and Industrial Union elements and take Labor Day a day of unity and solidarity for the entire working class.

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Militants Must Challenge Tradition Of A. F. of L. Chiefs on Labor Day

By G. GEBERT

The militant leaders of the American Federation of Labor year in and year out organize Labor Day as a day of class peace and class collaboration. They utilize the occasion of Labor Day to glorify class collaboration and invite as the main speakers, Republicans and Democratic Party politicians, American Legionnaires, mayors of the respective towns and other petty politicians.

This policy of the reformist leaders of the A. F. of L. has not always been challenged by the revolutionary elements and the rank and file who most of the time remained passive. It is only in exceptional cases that here and there Labor Day in the past had any character of a class holiday.

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Labor Party Forces Go In Second Conference Of Detroit Federation

DETROIT, Mich., Aug. 2.—Greatly increased support for a labor party and an independent slate in the city and delegates of all local unions called on Wednesday night for the Detroit Federation of Labor.

The trade unions but will inspire the working class to consolidate and unify its ranks. The American trade union movement cannot be isolated from the trade union movement of the world over. It must be one part of a unified international trade union movement.

For an anti-capitalist labor party: The policy of the reformist bureaucracy of the A. F. of L. toward your friends and your enemies, has brought about the organization of the Labor Party.

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