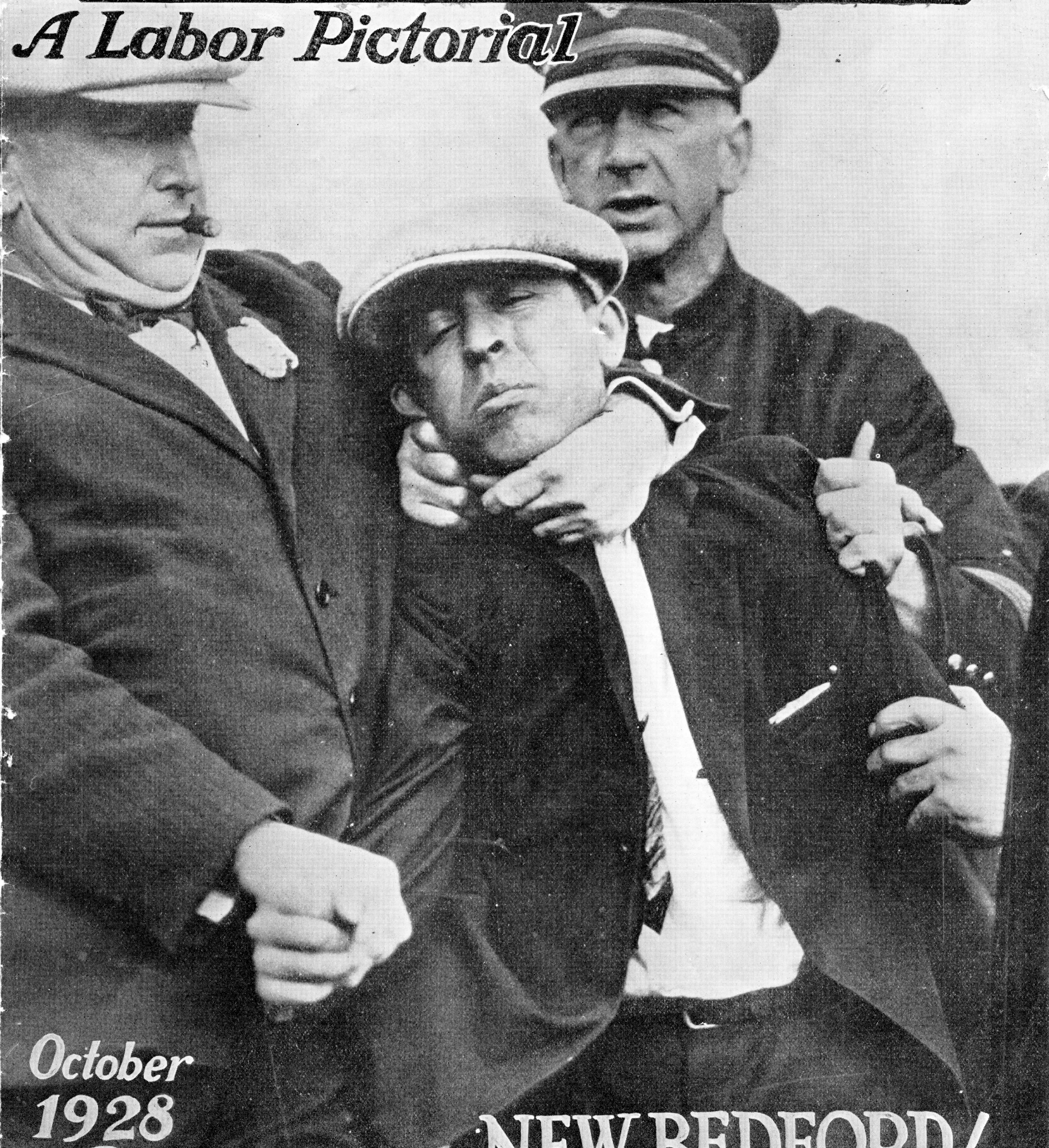


LABOR DEFENDER

A Labor Pictorial

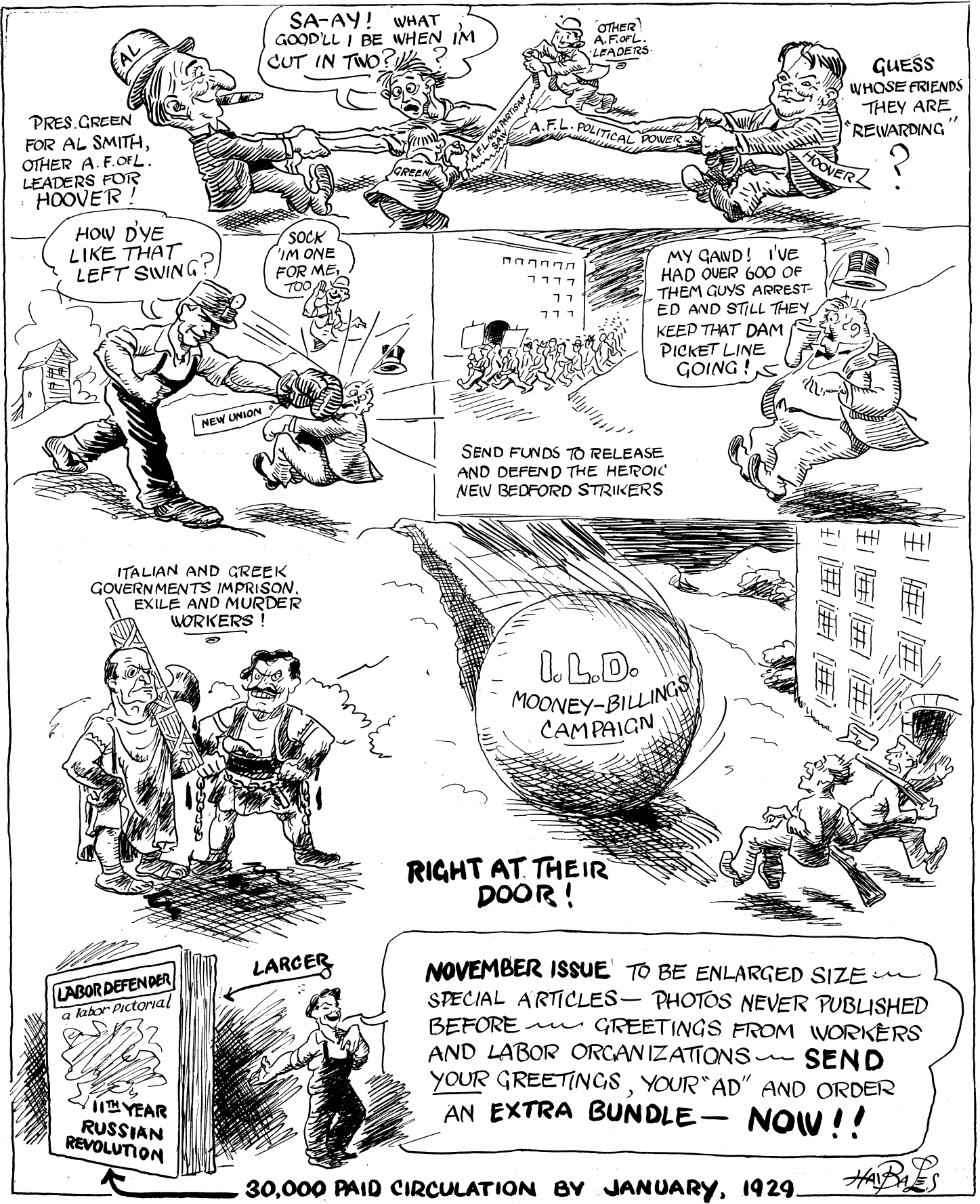


October
1928

10¢

NEW BEDFORD!

LOOKING at the MONTH with HAY BALES



PRES. GREEN FOR AL SMITH, OTHER A.F.O.F.L. LEADERS FOR HOOVER!

SA-AY! WHAT GOOD'LL I BE WHEN I'M CUT IN TWO?

OTHER A.F.O.F.L. LEADERS

GUESS WHOSE FRIENDS THEY ARE "REWARDING" ?

HOW D'YE LIKE THAT LEFT SWING?

SOCK I'M ONE FOR ME, TOO!

NEW UNION

MY GAWD! I'VE HAD OVER 600 OF THEM GUYS ARRESTED AND STILL THEY KEEP THAT DAM PICKET LINE GOING!

SEND FUNDS TO RELEASE AND DEFEND THE HEROIC NEW BEDFORD STRIKERS

ITALIAN AND GREEK GOVERNMENTS IMPRISON, EXILE AND MURDER WORKERS!

I.L.O. MOONEY-BILLINGS CAMPAIGN

RIGHT AT THEIR DOOR!

LABOR DEFENDER
a labor pictorial
11th YEAR
RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

LARGER

NOVEMBER ISSUE TO BE ENLARGED SIZE SPECIAL ARTICLES - PHOTOS NEVER PUBLISHED BEFORE - GREETINGS FROM WORKERS AND LABOR ORGANIZATIONS - SEND YOUR GREETINGS, YOUR "AD" AND ORDER AN EXTRA BUNDLE - NOW!!

30,000 PAID CIRCULATION BY JANUARY, 1929

HAYBALES



Photo Labor Defender

TOM MOONEY'S FAREWELL TO HIS MOTHER BEFORE GOING TO SAN QUENTIN TO SERVE A LIFE TERM TWELVE YEARS AGO

THE case of Mooney and Billings is the outstanding case of class-persecution in America at the present time, and the focus of attention for every friend of the workers, and of truth and common decency. Nobody in California who knows anything about the case even pretends to believe that Mooney and Billings committed the crime for which they were convicted, and for which Mooney came so close to being hanged. Their innocence is admitted; but they are held in jail after twelve years because they are believed to have committed other acts injurious to the ruling class of California. They were convicted by the testimony of perjured witnesses, hired by the rascals-in-office who rule California today for the Merchants and Manufacturers Association, the land speculators and the big public service corporations which are plundering the resources of this state, and turning one of the garden-spots of the world into a slave empire.

Having lived in California during the period of Mooney's and Billings' incarceration, I know what I am talking about. I assure the workers of the world that the public affairs and industries of this state are in the grip of a band of highbinders, who hesitate at no form of bribery and corruption to intrench and increase their power, and were even willing to use the machinery and forms of law to murder a

CALIFORNIA

Land Of Orange Groves And The Frame Up

BY UPTON SINCLAIR



Photo Labor Defender

THE FAMOUS AUTHOR WHO JOINS THE FIGHT OF I.L.D. TO FREE MOONEY AND BILLINGS

labor union organizer who dared to threaten their power. To these plutocratic criminals Mooney and Billings are a fighting issue. To let the two men out would be to admit the crime which was committed against them, and the only way the criminals can be moved is by making them realize that keeping their victims locked up is bad advertising for the great slave-empire.

Workers of America, and of the whole world, call protest meetings, make public demonstrations, and carry through the streets of every city and town the slogan: *California, land of Orange Groves and the Frame-up!* If a few of you will get arrested on this issue, the news will come to California, and our master-class will reconsider the Mooney and Billings case.

Resolutions to free Mooney and Billings have been passed by the Minnesota State Federation of Labor and Central Labor Unions of Detroit, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Chicago, Belleville, Granite City and many others separate trades councils, trade union executives, meetings and the labor and liberal press in numbers too numerous to mention. Labor has taken up the battlecry: *Free Mooney and Billings* and a great movement is in motion. This movement will open the prison doors.



Photo Pacific & Atlantic
RESCUE WORK DURING A MINE DISASTER. ANOTHER "RISK OF CAPITAL"

THE FIGHTING MINERS

ON September 9th, 600 miners arrived in Pittsburgh from the coal fields throughout the United States. Delegates determined to build a militant national miners union came from West Virginia, Kentucky, Colorado, Indiana, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

By
MARTIN ABERN

Yet, before the Convention even opened, one hundred and twenty five militant coal miners were arrested. Many were beaten up and slugged by Lewis gangsters and the police. The police authorities and the sheriff declared that they would not permit any gathering of the coal miners. But despite the combination of the coal operators, the reactionary Lewis machine of the wrecked U. M. W. A., and the police, the new National Miners' Union was formed.

Delegates from local unions throughout the country, delegates from unorganized territory, delegates representing the Save-The-Union Committee forces, on the morning of September 9th, came into the hall of the Labor Lyceum at 35 Miller St., to open their convention. Thugs and gangsters hired by the Lewis machine attempted to break down the doors in order to disrupt the convention, but they were met by the resistance of the delegate miners. The Lewis gangsters provoked the fight. Clubs, stones, blackjacks, knives and other weapons were used against the delegates. Stones flew in through the windows of the hall. The supporters of the National Miners

Union Convention on the outside defended themselves with great courage. Some of the delegates were seriously injured. Anthony Calemeri was beset by what are reputed to be officials of the reactionary United Mine Workers officialdom. They slugged and kicked Calemeri to such an extent that he was taken unconscious to the Passavent Hospital. The writer visited Calemeri, only to find that Calemeri's condition was so serious that he had lost his memory completely. Others, badly injured, were taken to the hospitals and treated. The disrupters and gangsters were meanwhile receiving plenty from the delegates, and undoubtedly had the battle continued a little longer, the delegates would have routed them completely and they would have proceeded to organize their convention at the Labor Lyceum. But after about a half hour of fighting in the street, the police arrived with their patrols, began to club and smash in every direction, and quite noticeably took the side of the Lewis gangsters against the miners. I, with others, was witness to this struggle and battle in the street, and the miners were finishing the job when the police ar-



rived and intervened. Twenty-two of the miners, including Freeman Thompson of Illinois and Tony Minerich of Pennsylvania were arrested and lodged in jail with charges of rioting placed against them. Their "crime" was that they desired to hold a convention to form a genuine national miners union.

During the course of the day, the hotels at which the delegates were staying, were invaded by Lewis thugs and police. The police proceeded to arrest every miner they could put their hands on, and charged them with riot! Lewis stool-pigeons pointed out the miners to the police. One of the delegates, Charles Fulp, a Negro delegate from McDonald, Pennsylvania, was beaten by the gangsters and police. Yet he was arrested on a charge of assaulting an officer!

A total of 125 arrests took place. International Labor Defense took steps immediately to secure the release of the arrested delegates; counsel was immediately engaged.

But despite the attempts to suppress the convention, it was only a little more than three hours after the struggle before the Labor Lyceum in Pittsburgh, that over 300 delegated miners assembled at the Workers Home at East Pittsburgh and opened their convention with a great enthusiasm and determination to build a union that would act on a militant basis, ready to fight to better the conditions of the coal miners. On the night of Sunday, September 9th I addressed the convention and declared that International Labor Defense would give the fullest support to the arrested miners, and expressed the hope that a successful union would be built. The convention enthusiastically received the report, that the efforts of International Labor Defense would secure the release of many of the arrested, in order that they might be able to attend the convention the next morning.

The convention at East Pittsburgh took up the necessary problems confronting the new union, such as working agreements, unemployment, organization of the unorganized, rationalization of the industry and at the first session which was adjourned only at midnight, elected national officers among whom were John Watt of Illinois, president; Pat Toohey, secretary; Wm. Boyce, a Negro from Indiana, vice-president; and other officers.

At the hearing of the arrested miners and the few Lewis thugs who were accidentally picked up by the police, the Court Magistrate proceeded to make a denunciation of those who were trying to build the new union. He indicated quite thoroughly and plainly that he was in sympathy with the Lewis machine and the operators. He made continual threats throughout the (Continued on page 218)

SPEEDING UP *the* SPINDLE SLAVE

by
**HARVEY
O'CONNOR**



Photo New Bedford Evening Standard

ONE OF THE STRIKE LEADERS SPEAKING TO THE STRIKERS IN FRONT OF ONE OF THE NEW BEDFORD MILLS.

FASTER, faster, spindles, spin! Thunder louder, shuttles! The bosses' profits aren't big enough; textile workers' hours aren't long enough.

Speed up there, you slaves of whirring spinning frames, you tenders of roaring looms. Down in Alabama women are working 12 hours every night, in Carolina's mills girls race to keep 80 looms vibrating.

What matters it, you workers in New Bedford's gloomy cotton prisons if speedup throws more thousands out of jobs, throws more human scrap on industry's junk pile? Dividends must be paid on Boss Butler's mills; John Sullivan isn't satisfied with his 100 per cent turnover in profits in the past 10 years.

Yes, there's a fraction more energy left in your bones, your tired muscles can turn out 20, 50 per cent more cloth out of cotton fiber if only you'll try the multiple loom system, labor extension, labor specialization, any one of a dozen fancy-sounding systems that mean speedup in an industry already able to turn out 60 per cent more cloth than American workers can buy from your employers.

You don't believe it? Then meet Mr. Frieder, president of the Spun Silk Co. of New Bedford, boss of a nearly a dozen mills. He can tell you how experts on extracting labor power from sinews will raise your productivity—nice, high sounding word—so high that you will leave the job every evening with every muscle aching in pained fatigue.

Mr. Frieder ought to know how. He has silk mills scattered across the east and south from Massachusetts to Virginia. He picks "raw labor" from the hills and moun-

The Mill Barons Invent New Ways of Robbing the Textile Workers in the New Bedford Strike

tain valleys of western Maryland and West Virginia, drills them in speedup in his mills. He pits each of his mills against the others. This month the Alexandria, Va. mill won high honors in getting the largest number of yards of silk cloth per operative. Other mills must hit that mark. Go to it, New Bedford, Scranton, Carbondale, Passaic! Next month maybe your mill will have the blue ribbon for highest output. What a fine honor, to know you beat all the workers in all the other mills!

Mr. Frieder isn't going to tell you, of course, that you've got to work harder in New Bedford's cotton mills to carry out his "mutiple loom" system, for don't weavers already attend at least two looms. And two is certainly a multiple of one, isn't it?

The first thing needed to put speedup across, is to sugar coat it with a high falutin name. How about "labor extension?" No, that won't work because you heard too much about labor extension last summer. And any way "multiple loom" isn't a correct expression.

Then how about "labor specialization." Sounds innocent, doesn't it, and just a little flattering. You're not to be a common worker, but a "specialist".

President Sidney S. Paine of the Textile Development Co., of Boston knows all about it. In an article in *Textile World*, he explains labor specialization, or extension, as he calls it. It is a plan to make labor go farther. "As a result," he writes

"mills have increased output per operative 100 per cent, 200 percent, or even more."

In Mill "A", he says, weavers ran 84 looms instead of 24 and "said they did not work as hard." In Mill "B", weavers were running from 24 to 28 looms and now do 80 to 88. Mill "C" boosted the number of looms from 20 to

THE COMING DEFENSE

When Labor wakens to defend her own
We may dispense with mild petitions then;
All the weak beggaries of timid men;
The "Honored Sirs!" and the subservient tone.
Not then will workers into jail be thrown
As suits the whim of tyrants; nor again
Snubbed by the courts; it will be different, when
Labor, united, dares to take the throne.
Why do we cry, "How long? O Lord! how long?"
When power to stay the wrong is with ourselves?
Why wait on gods, or god-lets, saints or elves,
Or any fairy stuff; we are the strong,
And only weak the moment while we wait
The common sense to take, and hold the gate.

—Robert Whitaker.

71. What happened to the weavers who were displaced? Well, to be frank, Mr. Paine doesn't tell us, but maybe we know. In one mill the weave room was divided into blocks of 84 looms, each block having one fixer, one weaver and one battery hand, all on piece (Continued on page 206)

SPEEDING UP *the* SPINDLE SLAVE

by
HARVEY
O'CONNOR



Photo New Bedford Evening Standard

ONE OF THE STRIKE LEADERS SPEAKING TO THE STRIKERS IN FRONT OF ONE OF THE NEW BEDFORD MILLS.

(Continued from page 205) work. In some mills 118 looms have been assigned to one weaver.

Through all the propaganda for this "labor specialization" runs the argument to the worker that it's actually easier than before. But ask any man or girl who has tried to tend to 84 looms whether it's easier, even if there is a battery filler helping. Invariably you will hear of wracked nerves, impending breakdown in many cases, physical

exhaustion when men and women should be still in the prime of life. And again there is the untold story of the hundreds, the thousands tossed carelessly, hopelessly on the job market, to seek jobs that don't exist.

Let's place the issue plainly before every worker, in the words of the employers themselves and of their labor experts:

The Formula

"1. Labor should cooperate with management to increase production and decrease cost; that where an operative can handle more machines such increase should be readily accepted. Management can only afford to give that number of machine units to an operative which can be run efficiently.



Photo New Bedford Evening Standard
JAMES P. REID, STRIKE ORGANIZER ARRESTED IN FALL RIVER

with management to the end that they may continue to be employed."

And why should labor "cooperate with management to increase production?" Has management in New Bedford ever cooperated with workers to increase wages, to shorten hours, to improve working conditions? Or did New Bedford workers have to fight to the last ditch for every meager gain they won?

And if you work harder, do you get more? Hardly. All you're promised is that your wages won't be cut—maybe—at any rate not right away.

And what's the ultimate reward? That "you may continue to be employed". Nice thing to be grateful for, isn't it, the chance to work in Boss Butler's mill under his

"2. If labor would cooperate with management to secure the highest productivity and greater flexibility of factory operation, a question of wages such as is now under dispute would not necessarily arise under present economic condition. Under the above cooperative plan, no present wage reduction would be necessary.

"With the trend in American industry to the basis of higher productivity per operative, workers must continue active cooperation

new fangled speedup plan.

And what about the 5,000, 10,000, perhaps 15,000 New Bedford fine cotton goods workers slated for unemployment? Will the mills pay the unemployment benefits until they get jobs somewhere? Why ask?

Add it all together, workers. Speedup means 20 to 50 per cent of you thrown out of jobs altogether. Specialization means 25 per cent or more slip from skilled wages to semi-skilled wages. To quote Paine again, mills increase output per operative 100 per cent, 200 per cent or even more. The semi-skilled slip into unskilled classification.

What's the solution, you ask in bewilderment. There isn't any easy solution. First, you must throw every bit of energy the boss leaves you into organizing New Bedford solid. Then Massachusetts, the east, the middle Atlantic, the south. Then, in one powerful, solid union you can talk cold turkey to management and politicians. First, an end to insane competition between north and south, between sections. Second, central responsibility of industry and government for the unemployed, the sick, the injured, the aged. Third, union control over the machine.

Utopian? So it seems now, with a million textile workers unorganized. But I have seen a Textile Workers Union embracing 95 per cent of all workers, have seen the 7-hour day in the mills. I have seen union committees functioning within the mills, deciding on discipline, output, disputes, wages. I have seen splendid housing for workers, instead of barracks.

No, it wasn't in the United States. But are we to say that American workers aren't intelligent enough, aren't aggressive enough to win what Russian workers have won and are continuing to win?



Photo New Bedford Evening Standard
JACK RUBENSTEIN AND FRED BEAL ARRESTED. EVEN DURING STRIKES THE AMERICAN WORKERS RIDE IN AUTOS



Photo Red Aid
Thaelman, German Communist leader, speaking over the graves of the October heroes during last year's anniversary surrounded by the famous Red Front Fighters.

HAMBURG!

The word cuts like a bolt of lightning thru the sultry atmosphere of Oct., 1923. Revolt in Hamburg! The factories in Berlin and central Germany still quiver at the word.

The burghers still run from the streets and hide themselves in their comfortable houses, no longer certain how long they will be theirs.

Revolt! Revolt! The word pounds in the brains of the half starved proletarian masses in the factories and working class quarters; the newspaper extras are torn from the hands of the sellers.

Saxony! Thuringia! Their names rose like a shout from the workers' quarters, like an order to march—but Saxony and Thuringia remained unmoved.

But the revolt was routed, set upon and destroyed when the Voss and Blohm dock proletariats unfurled its banners. It was too late, all Germany remained quiet. Only Hamburg struggled. Huge and heroic, its barricades grew along the banks of the canals and in the workers' quarters.

With empty revolvers they ordered the police to throw up their hands in order to get weapons for the struggle. They were successful and with a handful of machine guns and rifles the wave of revolt surged out of the workers' quarters, out of Barmbeck and Schiffbeck, towards the inner city. Thousands fell to building barricades, they waited and shouted for arms. Hundreds only were able to fight. Hamburg shouted and burst into action, but Germany, Berlin, Saxony, Thuringia remained silent.

But the reaction was watching. By mo-

HAMBURG: 1923

By *Arnold Kainer*

Translated by *Whittaker Chambers*

tor and gun-boat, by express and armored car, they rushed from Bremen and Bremerhafen towards Red Hamburg while the senatorial bourgeoisie of the inner city armed their sons.

The struggle was thirty to one in Hamburg. Thirty thousand white guardists against a bare thousand rebels. For three long days the thousand fought for every inch of their streets, for every stone in their barricades until the "sons of Ebert" were again "masters of the situation," "order was restored," the bank accounts were saved, and the bourgeois walked in safety on their streets again.

The "green wagons" of the police guards rolled all day long thru the streets of Hamburg, Barmbeck, Schiffbeck etc. Workers, men and women, were dragged out of their houses beaten bloody and thrown into the "green wagons" where they were slugged anew with rifle-butts, bayonets, rubber clubs until a merciful prison door closed upon them. Cowardly bourgeois walked the streets pointing out the disarmed workers with filthy denunciatory fingers: "He was one of them." And the prisons filled until the walls threatened to burst.

"Comrade" Ebert, social democratic president of the Reich, you have conquered, your war measures can begin.

For three long years the rebels struggled against the Hamburg special acts, and for

three long years the bourgeois judges hammered the memory of the October revolt in their ears. Three thousand workers guilty of high treason, an almost endless procession, came before the courts and every one of them was proud of his high treason. Every one of them stood unflinchingly by his struggle and the Party which had organized it, and every one of them went the same road,—six, eight, ten, fifteen years in the fortress.

Fuhlstüttel and Gollnow are two fortresses in the Hamburg and Prussian province, with endlessly long buildings. Their towers stand like red brick monsters over the monotonous flatlands. Never before had their walls shut in prisoners like these. As proudly and unflinchingly as they had fought on the Hamburg barricades, as they had faced the Hamburg bourgeois judges, they now continued their struggle in the cavernous fortresses. Together with the German Red Aid, they tirelessly called the German workers to struggle for the liberation of the more than 7,000 political prisoners then filling the prisons and houses of correction of the German bourgeoisie.

With the same tireless energy, they prepared themselves, and thru their circles and self-educational groups made themselves ready for new activity in the revolutionary labor movement. By obstruction tactics and hunger strikes they had wrested to themselves a kind of self-government within the fortress. Bit by bit they won from the prison authorities a recognition of their rights as political prisoners. Their own prisoners' council (Cont. on page 216)

IN HONOR OF THE WORKERS WHO WERE STORMING HEAVEN



Photo Red Aid

Thaelman, German Communist leader, speaking over the graves of the October heroes during last year's anniversary surrounded by the famous Red Front Fighters.



Photo Armour and Co.

A systematic attack on the Workers Communist Party in the west was launched by the Armour and Company, because communist activity in the basic industries, and particularly in the Packing House Industry, was considered a menace to the easy flowing profits of the capitalist! The *Packing House Bulletin* and the workers' response to it created alarm. It developed to hysteria when the party took the next step and started holding noon day meetings at the gates of the plants.

The second meeting billed in front of Armour's at noon was greeted by hundreds of workers. As soon as the meeting started, a squad of police broke up the meeting and arrested Oehler and Cushing and jailed them in order that Armour may investigate further. The next night a Sacco-Vanzetti meeting in the Packing House neighborhood was raided by a squad of police. This time the speaker, chairman and eight of the audience, sympathizers and strangers who were just listening, were drawn into the net. Ten in all, including Eastwood, Local Secretary of the International Labor Defense and Oehler who was speaker of the meeting. The other eight from the audience were N. Yocum, E. Kassis, Matt Cushing, Mr. and Mrs. Warren, J. Kokka, J. Bogdanovich and W. Miklash.

Within three days state charges of violation of the Kansas Criminal syndicalist law had been filed against eight of these. The first warrant charged the speaker with *advocating violence to overthrow the Government*, and comrades Yocum, Eastwood and Kassis with *assembling with*, etc., etc. The second warrant charged the packing house workers picked up in the raid, with

Pork and Prisons

Armour and the Kansas Communists

B y H U G O E. O E H L E R

being members of the Workers Communist Party. Amendments to the original warrant now include charges of membership against all as crime under law of 1924.

The local I.L.D. arranged bond for all workers arrested in the raids and are busy mobilizing to defend these workers and to fight the Kansas Syndicalist law.

The Capitalists of the west are not particularly pleased with the growing response of the workers to the Communist Party. Armour and Company and the rest of the Packing Kings consider the menace too close to home. So they are trying to outlaw the party in Kansas and start a drive against communist activity in the west. In Denver, Swift and Company not so long ago, had Young Workers League members who were distributing the *Bulletin* arrested. In Kansas, the Packers and their servants the police and the State apparatus, will try to railroad the workers to prison for long terms. In the Kansas Coal field, the activity of the Communists and the left wing has exposed the fakers Burr and Skahan to such an extent that they too are cooperating with the packers to outlaw the Communist Party in the State of Kansas.

Today, the center of the fight is in Kansas City, Kansas. Here, logically, the Communists have their headquarters for the west. The Packers have their headquarters in this city, the Federal Reserve Bank of the west is located here, the industrial and

financial capitalists of the west throw out the rope from here to tighten their grip on the workers and working farmers of ten western states. The tempo of the fight is increasing. The class struggle here shows a marked upward curve and the line is being

drawn clearer each day. On one side the capitalists and their aids bitterly hating and suppressing the communist—to suppress all labor. On the other side, a growing number of class conscious workers and working farmers, looking to the Workers Party as the leader of their struggle against the exploiters of labor. The fight led by Armour, who fear the organization of their workers, is a fight against the entire working class of the west. The attempted railroading of workers under the Kansas Criminal Syndicalist law must be answered by increased activity on the part of the class conscious workers and working farmers everywhere. The arrests are a blow aimed at Communists, but directed also at all workers.

A sharp fight must be organized to defeat this new attack on labor, and to crush the infamous Criminal Syndicalism law.

The eight workers arrested must be freed. In this fight the I.L.D. should receive the wholehearted support of every worker.

Five Months of White Terror in China

According to incomplete statistics taken chiefly from capitalist newspapers the following victims were taken by the white terror in China from January to May of this year: Murdered 2,974; wounded 3,005; arrested 7,949; during this period 97 political mass trials took place. The courts martial and the ordinary courts sentenced in this period 3,194 revolutionaries to death.



Photo Armour and Co.

A systematic attack on the Workers Communist Party in the west was launched by the Armour and Company, because communist activity in the basic industries, and particularly in the Packing House Industry, was considered a menace to the

Pork and Prisons

Armour and the Kansas Communists

B y H U G O E. O E H L E R

financial capitalists of the west throw out the rope from here to tighten their grip on the workers and working farmers of ten western states. The tempo of the fight is increasing. The class struggle here shows a marked upward curve and the line is be-

The Tyrant of Venezuela

by
SALVADOR DE LA PLAZA

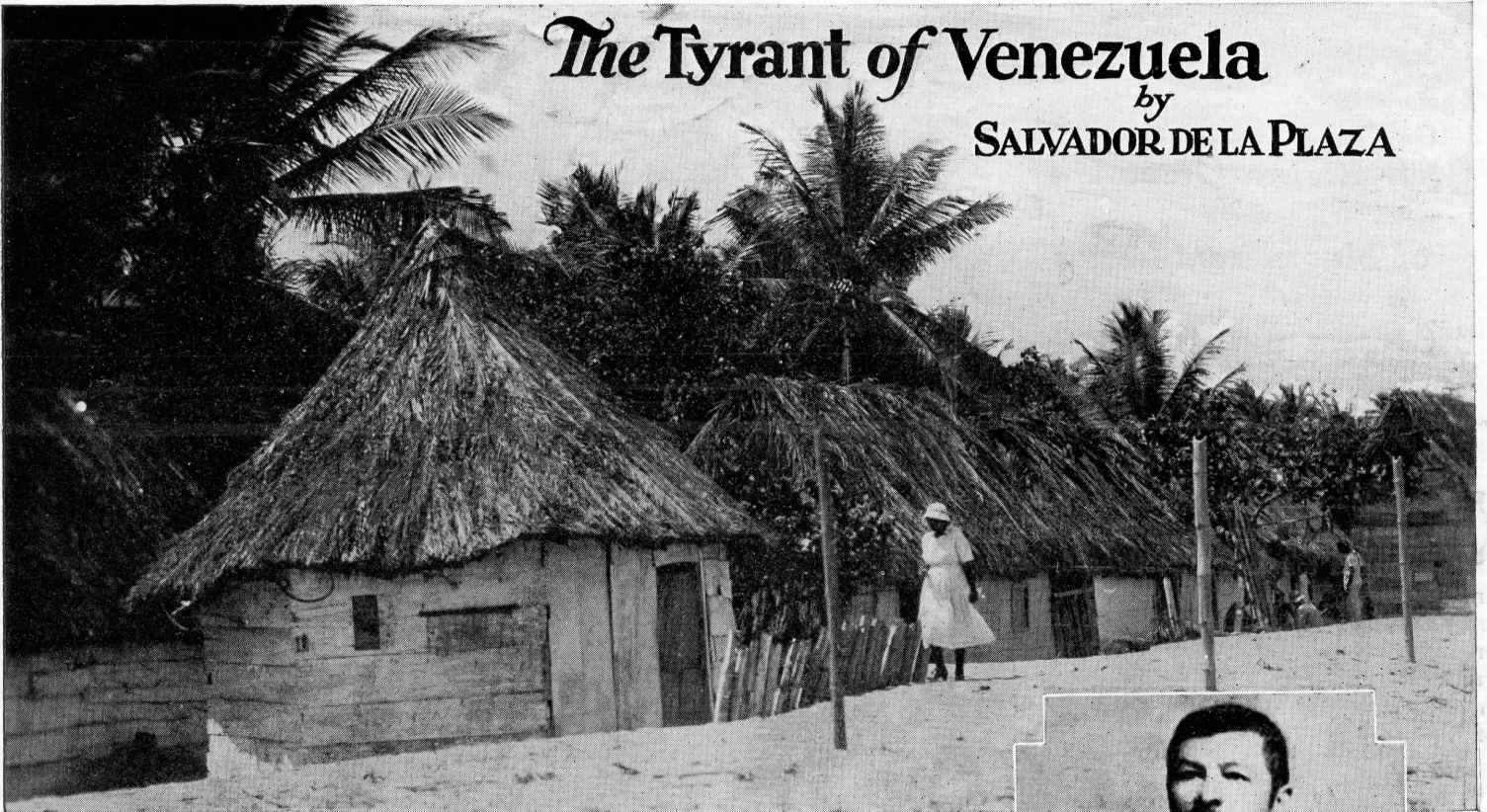


Photo Labor Defender
A TYPICAL SCENE IN VENEZUELA. Right, THE DICTATOR GOMEZ, IN 1908



VENEZUELA is one of the best known countries of Latin America on account of its record of tyrannical governments. In 1908 a coup-de etat was made against Cipriano Castro and another tyrant usurped power; the actual dictator Juan Vicente Gomez. There has been no change in the government since then, not even the usual mock elections are held any longer.

This is due mainly to the fact that he has enjoyed the protection of the two most powerful imperialist nations; the U. S. of A. and Great Britain from the very beginning of his tyrannical rule.

About 1908 the struggle for oil and control of Latin America began. Panama was separated from Colombia and the Platt Amendment was added to the Cuban Constitution.

All constitutional rights and liberties were suppressed. The right of free speech, of holding public meetings was absolutely abolished. Publishing of newspapers that were not in accordance with his policy of "Peace and Work" as he styled it, were prohibited. Meanwhile the imperialists in the beneficial shadows of his tyranny were disputing the spoils and yankee capital rose from \$3,000,000 in 1912 to 200 millions in 1928.

The right of free speech being abolished, the work-

ing class could not defend themselves against their enslavers and were obliged to take wages imposed upon them. Not having any free press, the exploited class and the small capitalists anxious for "democracy" were unable to make propaganda and express their aspirations. With the suppression of free thought complete darkness reigned among those anxious to cultivate themselves. To hold meetings, to publish (even a mimeographic sheet of paper) to speak, or to think were and have been offences punishable by sending the offenders to work in the public roads, to jail and to suffer the most atrocious torments.

The prisons in Venezuela are organized in a medieval style the political and criminal prisoners alike (the latter to a greater extent) are confined to small cells. The naked bodies are chained and kept without nourishment and left to die. They are not allowed to read and subjected to live in the most unsanitary conditions. There have been occasions when in the prisons of Caracas, La Guayra, Puerto Cabello, Maracay and Maracaibo there were up to 3,000 political prisoners.

Favorite tortures are: to hang the victim from the ceiling by his feet until he chokes and loses consciousness. Whipping and *breathing tortol* are also employed. The latter consists of

tying a cord around the thorax and twisting it until the ribs are broken, (as in the adjoining photo). The cutting of fingers (joint by joint), skinning the feet and forcing the victims to tread in salt and other innumerable tortures are used. These are only a few of a series of horrors to which the political prisoners are subjected.

The numbers of insane, idiots and deaths are incalculable. Very few escape with all their senses intact. The construction of roads is a system introduced by Gomez to produce ways of communications for his benefit. On the swamps near the Altigracia roads which are rife with fever more than 3,000 workers lost their lives in a few months.

But nevertheless, the international movement of social vindication has penetrated Venezuela and not long ago a handful of students and workers demanded their rights and endangered the tyranny. Following the revolt of students and workers there was a revolt of a part of the army. Towards the end of the last month 17 girls have been thrown into prison. Not one knew the cause of the arrests. Most of the soldiers imprisoned for the rebellion died as a result of the tortures.

It is not too risky to predict that the tyranny of Gomez is at an end and that the working class of Venezuela will carry on their struggle with renewed vigor. This is the moment when the unified aid of the world is badly wanted for the victims of Gomez in Venezuela.



Photo Labor Defender
This remarkable photo of torture in the prisons of Venezuela was secured recently at great risk. The film was developed only a few days ago in New York. Others were too monstrous for publication.

**Detroit: the Great City
of Magnificent Motor
Cars and Robots**

TO produce the fall models in stunning new motor cars over half a million workers toil in automobile and parts and accessory plants in this country. Contrary to popular opinion these workers are vigorously exploited, and they have very definite grievances. This rich and highly productive American industry provides many illustrations of the speed up system.

The speeding of the workers is achieved in various ways. If they are working along a conveyor or "belt line" the machinery will be operated at a faster and faster pace so that the men are compelled to race to keep up with it. Or if they are working on an individual piece work, or group piece work system, the time-study experts will fix their rates to produce the maximum output for the lowest possible wages. Wage cutting has become a regular practice in the industry.

There is no such thing as a general wage cut applying to all the factories say of a city like Detroit where the bulk of the industry is concentrated. The employers, strongly organized, are too wise for that. Instead they hand out the cuts piecemeal. Hudson, Chrysler-Dodge, Packard or Studebaker will not cut together. They will not even cut in all departments of one plant at once. They will administer the dose department by department. In this way they materially weaken the solidarity of the workers.

Another way of keeping the workers divided is to pay them different rates for the same jobs. One worker will be given a wage of 50 cents an hour on a job for which another is receiving 55 or more. Collective action by the workers is difficult where this is the practice. There is also the custom of firing workers, often those of longer "years of service", and replacing them with youths or girls for little more than one half the wage paid to the workers who were discharged.

In recent months wage cuts have increased in number. Old-timers in the industry, skilled panellers on bodies, for example, look back to the "good old days" when wages were really nothing to kick about. They see the increasing consolidation of the companies, the mergers that have recently taken place, and they know what this has meant and will continue to mean in terms of wages. Cuts will follow cuts.

Automobile workers also suffered from a growing uncertainty of employment. The industry is highly seasonal and employment exceedingly irregular. Short time work and lay-

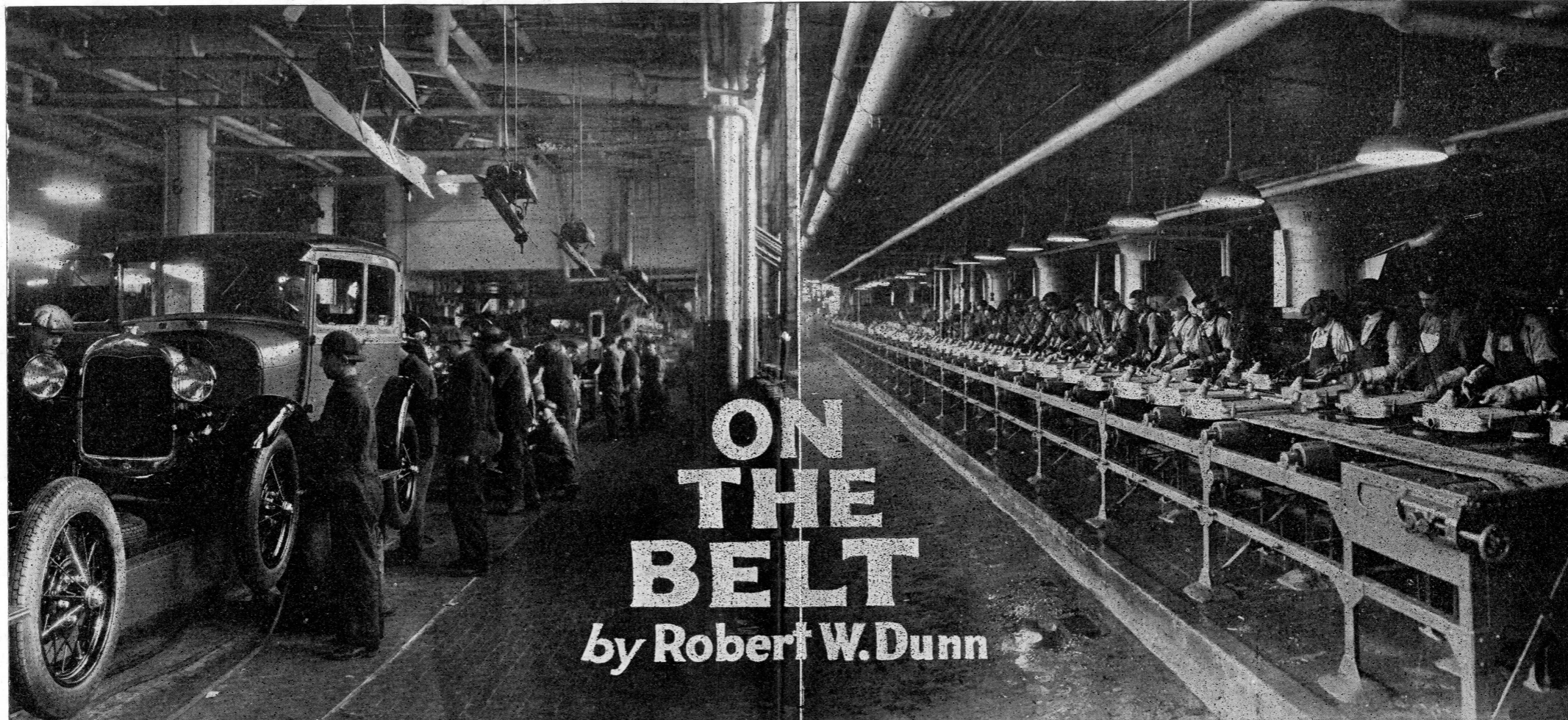


Photo Ford Motor Co.

THE NEW FORD MODEL, LIKE THE OLD, IS PRODUCED ON "THE BELT". ON THE RIGHT, NEGRO AND WHITE WORKERS ARE SPED UP SIDE BY SIDE ON LINE PRODUCTION MAKING RADIATORS AND PROFITS

offs are more than in many other industries the lot of the workers. The changing of models always means the laying off of men. The companies tend to hire for the particular piece of work on hand. When that runs out the worker's job ends.

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All of these improvements in technique have resulted in a much greater number of cars being turned out today with few workers than were made by the industry several years ago. The problem that is pressing in other industries is growing more important along auto assembly lines:—What to do with the worker thrown on the industrial scrap heap? The great corporations and their political representatives at Washington and Lansing are doing nothing to meet this problem.

THIS IS THE SECOND ARTICLE IN THE SERIES ON AMERICAN INDUSTRIES. IT WILL BE FOLLOWED IN THE NEXT ISSUE WITH AN ARTICLE ON THE STEEL INDUSTRY.

The workers in this industry have no organization and hence no measure of economic freedom. They live in constant fear of losing their jobs. An official of the Y. W. C. A. at Flint told us recently that the girls making \$18 to \$22 a week in the General Motors plants in that city were afraid to tell the amount of their wages, or to describe their conditions of employment, even to the sympathetic investigators of that organization. "Girls have been fired for talking too much about such matters", this official told us.

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**Women, Too, Wear Out
Their Lives Working**

On The Line

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Photo Ford Motor Co.

UNDERHAND AND OVERHEAD, THE SPEED OF "THE BELT" DRIVES THE MEN AT A KILLING PACE

**Detroit: the Great City
of Magnificent Motor
Cars and Robots**

TO produce the fall models in stunning new motor cars over half a million workers toil in automobile and parts and accessory plants in this country. Contrary to popular opinion these workers are vigorously exploited, and they have very definite grievances. This rich and highly productive American industry provides many illustrations of the speed up system.

The speeding of the workers is achieved in various ways. If they are working along a conveyor or "belt line" the machinery will be operated at a faster and faster pace so that the men are compelled to race to keep up with it. Or if they are working on an individual piece work, or group piece work system, the time-study experts will fix their rates to produce the maximum output for the lowest possible wages. Wage cutting has become a regular practice in the industry.

There is no such thing as a general wage cut applying to all the factories say of a city like Detroit where the bulk of the industry is concentrated. The employers, strongly organized, are too wise for that. Instead they hand out the cuts piecemeal. Hudson, Chrysler-Dodge, Packard or Studebaker will not cut together. They will not even cut in all departments of one plant at once. They will administer the dose department by department. In this way they materially weaken the solidarity of the workers.

Another way of keeping the workers divided is to pay them different rates for the same jobs. One worker will be given a wage of 50 cents an hour on a job for which another is receiving 55 or more. Collective action by the workers is difficult where this is the practice. There is also the custom of firing workers, often those of longer "years of service", and replacing them with youths or girls for little more than one half the wage paid to the workers who were discharged.

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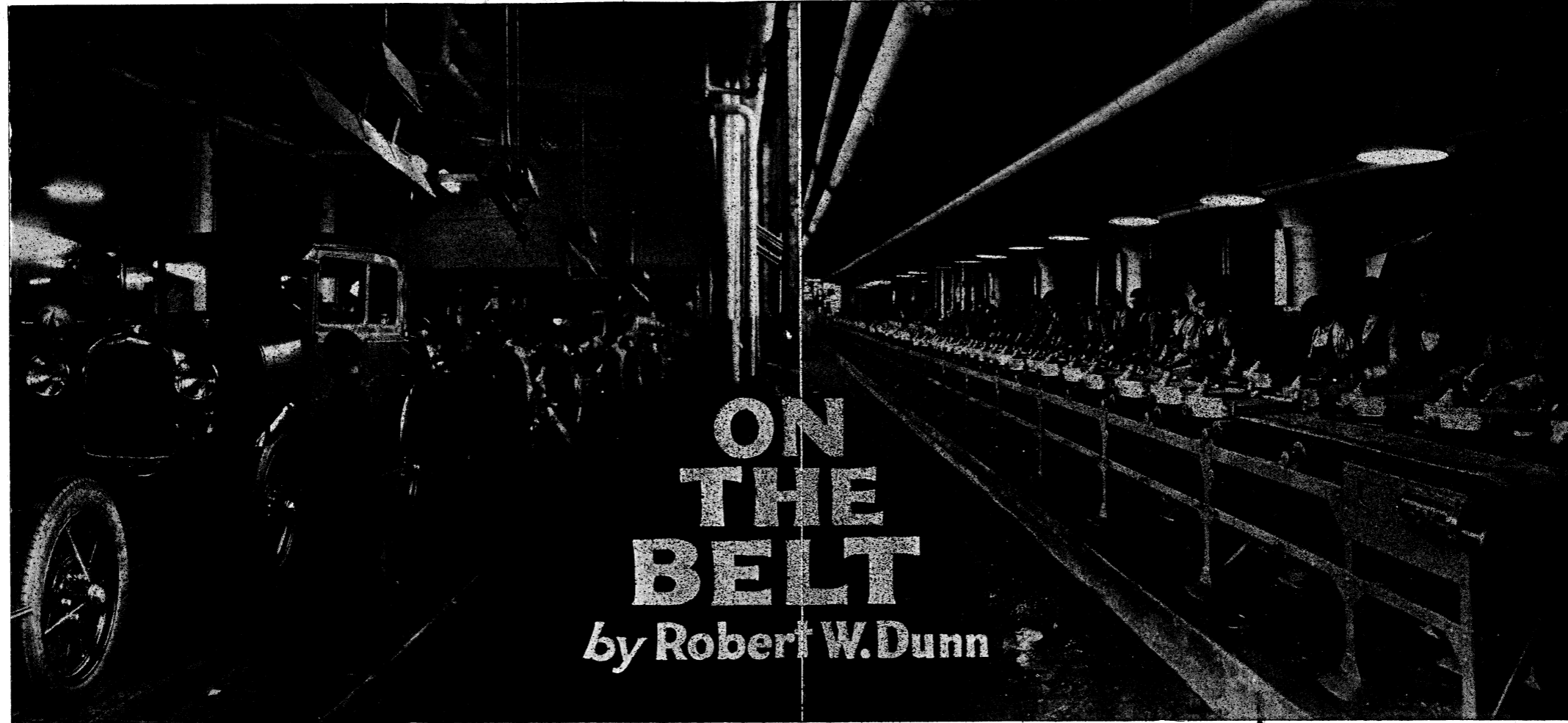


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Photo International Newsreel
ONE OF THE DAILY ARRESTS IN THE MARKET DURING THE FUR STRIKE

Framing The Furriers

MINEOLA is the county seat of Nassau County on Long Island. This is a county of millionaires and Ku Klux Klansmen. Whitneys, Pratts, Morgans and Astors have beautiful country estates here, and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. served on a Grand Jury only a few months ago. Years ago, Mineola used to mean to me County Fair and horse racing. Now when I hear of Mineola, it always means a courtroom—in April 1927.

I see eleven fur workers, with Ben Gold at their head, filing in to take their places in the prisoners' dock. I see the fat, sleepy-eyed guard and the lanky, square-jawed guard who strutted beside them with hands resting firmly on revolvers. I see the stern, thin-lipped, grey-haired judge, irritable and impatient because it took two whole weeks to convict these fellows; and the arrogant,

By **HELEN BLACK** malicious District Attorney who saw this case as a possible step forward or backward in his political career; and the twelve men, just so many characterless pawns in this game, sitting dreaming away in the jury box.

To all outward appearances, this frame-up was no different from hundreds of others in the labor history of America. The fur workers were charged with assault upon a boss who, during the 1926 strike, ran a two-worker scab shop at Rockville Center, a small Nassau County village. The boss identified two of the workers—who had been picketing his shop. He swore they had come up into the shop and attacked him. One of his scab workers, Mary Farkas, identified not only these two but eight of the other workers, most of whom have never to this day been in Rockville Center.

Barnet Bassoff, a former scab who joined the union during the strike and had gone with the boys to picket the shop, had been frightened into turning States' evidence. He was the star witness, and gave volumes of information one day and contradicted himself the next.

Detective Benjamin Grebe testified that he had been sent to New York with the informer Bassoff, to arrest the workers now on trial. He was supposed to wander thru the fur market, or any place else they were apt to be found, have Bassoff point them out, and then he was to arrest them. Their search sometimes brought them to the Furriers' Joint Board, where all left wing workers turned up eventually. On one of their trips they visited the right wing headquarters on 27th Street.

"How long did you stay at the right wing union office?" questioned the defense attorney.

"Oh, about three hours."

"Spent three hours at the right wing union hunting for left wing workers?"

"Well, not hunting for them, but working on the case."

Three hours in the right wing office working on the case. This explained a lot! It explained why the workers arrested were the leaders not only in the strike, but in the left wing's continued fight against the American Federation of Labor's disruption campaign. It explained why, during the trial, every leaflet issued by the left wing was in the hands of the Mineola District Attorney the day after it was circulated in the fur market. It explained the District Attorney's fund of information about the A.F. of L.'s attempt to expel the left wing during and after the strike. This internal union fight had no bearing upon the Mineola trial as far as the District Attorney was concerned, but it was used to prejudice the jury and make them believe that the defendants were not regular American Federation of Labor workers, but criminals, gangsters—and worst of all, Communists, which most of them were not.

The American Federation of Labor, by its help in the Mineola frame-up, succeeded in convicting Otto Lenhardt, Jack Schneider, Oscar Meiliff, George Weiss, Morris Katz, M. Malkin, Samuel Mencher, Martin Rosenberg and Leo Franklin. Even a Mineola District Attorney and the A.F. of L. could not manage to convict Ben Gold and Isadore Shapiro. They were set free. The boys convicted were given sentences of two-and-a-half to five years; but a higher court gave a stay and is to hear the argument for an appeal within a few weeks. This will decide whether the workers are given a new trial, or the A.F. of L. wins and they all go to jail.

It is the same old story. The American Federation of Labor officials, the courts, the bosses—against the workers. In the case of the furworkers, the A.F. of L. is near defeat. If the Mineola case is won, all militant workers will gain a victory.



Photo International Newsreel

ONE OF THE DAILY ARRESTS IN THE MARKET DURING THE FUR STRIKE

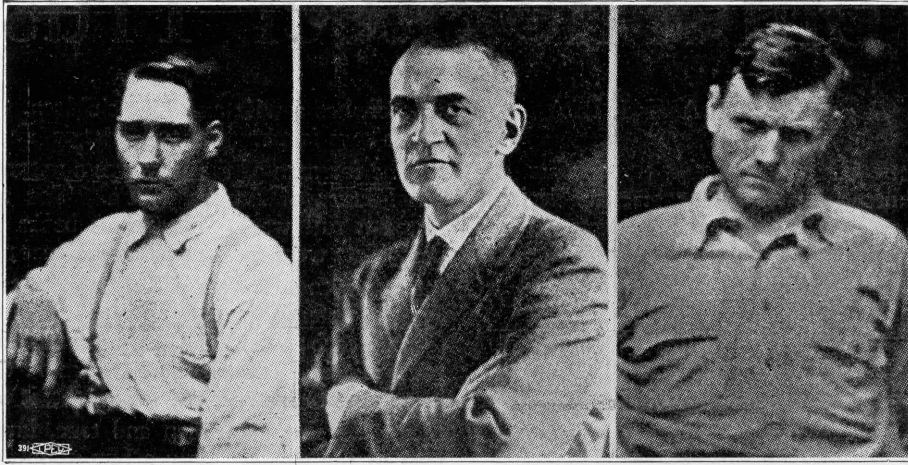


Photo Labor Defender
 Left: EUGENE BARNETT. Center: GEORGE VANDERVEER, DEFENSE ATTORNEY. Right: JAMES McINERNEY, AFTER THE THIRD DEGREE

DAYS OF DEBAUCHERY

THE residents of Centralia, Wash., will long remember August 9, 10 and 11 of this year as days of anxiety and debauchery. On these days, the Washington department of the American Legion held its annual convention here. As on former occasions, "law and order" were in the hands of the Legion. Bootleg whiskey was openly obtained. Drunken brawlers made both night and day hideous with their performances. They tied up traffic on the streets by stopping cars and stages to pass the bottle around. Women and girls were openly insulted by hoodlums running the streets. These were days of debauchery, of fist fights and two known shootings. The

Legion was in town.

It will be remembered that this is the organization whose members raided the hall of the I.W.W. in Centralia in 1919, lynched one man and helped railroad eight others to the penitentiary because these courageous workers stood their ground and fought like men. Because they fought to stay in town, to organize the workers in spite of the Legion, the chamber of commerce and the lumber trust.

During these three days of debauchery the Legion in convention passed a resolution on the Centralia case: "Whereas, heretofore, and on the 11th day of November, 1919, there were four ex-service men killed

on the streets of Centralia, by members of the I.W.W. (note the cowardly omission of facts) . . . Be it further resolved, that when those convicted shall have served their minimum sentence, as provided by law, and, in the further event that their application for parole comes properly before the constituted authorities, that such application should be given the same consideration that the application for parole for any other person or persons would be given, if convicted of murder in the second degree, no more and no less."

"No more and no less"!—than 25 to 40 years in prison. But these were days of debauchery. Gov. Hartley, up now for reelection, appeared before this very same convention to solicit the support of the Legion, by telling them that his own differences with the Republican machine, were like the differences of the Legion with I.W.W. "who killed our boys"!

Three times the application for parole came before the parole board. The eight workers of Centralia who have spent eight years in prison are still there. Meanwhile 2,000 citizens of Centralia signed petitions for their parole. Seven of the jurymen in the trial ask for freedom. Central Labor councils, trade unions, farmer organizations and others pass resolutions in their favor. But the men are still in jail getting, "no more and no less."

This is the latest news of Centralia. It is news of another dose of class justice administered to American workers. Every day that the men of Centralia remain behind prison bars is a challenge to the workers of America.



Photo International Newsreel
 ONE OF THE SCORES OF SACCO-VANZETTI MEMORIAL MEETINGS HELD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY BY INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE. MAX SHACHTMAN, EDITOR OF THE *Labor Defender*, ADDRESSING THOUSANDS OF WORKERS GATHERED IN NEW YORK'S UNION SQUARE.

Iron Bars From The Steel Trust

WHILE the politicians of the two old parties are boasting at the top of their voices about the glories of American Democracy and Liberty three workers in a little steel town of Woodlawn, Pennsylvania are being railroaded to jail for five long years. The Superior Court of Pennsylvania affirmed the judgements and sentences of the lower court. The Woodlawn case is one of the most outstanding cases in this country.

Following is in brief the history of this case which at one time has attracted the attention of the entire country.

Pete Muselin, Milan Resetar, Tom Zima and Steve Bratich were arrested on November 11th, 1926 after a "Red Raid" staged in Woodlawn by the combined forces of the local, state and Jones & Laughlin private police. The raid on Tom Zima's home took place while a birthday party for his daughter was going on. Several men were arrested, but only five were held for court charged with violation of the infamous Flynn Anti-Sedition Law of Pennsylvania. The charges were quashed on December 6, 1926 for the reason that "it was too indefinite to support a conviction."

The police did not rest at that. On December 7th a second information, again charging the defendants with "sedition", was made and the men were indicted in March 1927. The indictment was quashed however, on March 24th for the very same reason, that "it was too vague and indefinite to support a conviction".

On May 27th, 1927, seven months after the raid took place, a third information was made again charging the same defendants with "Sedition". On June nth the defendants were finally indicted in the Court of Quarter Session of Beaver County, a court controlled and dominated by the Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation. The case was tried before Judge Wm. A. McConnel during the week of June 20-25. Four of the defendants were found guilty (the fifth defendant left the state and was not brought to trial) on June 25th after the jury was out but for a few minutes.

A motion for a new trial was denied by the same judge, and on December 12th, 1927 the defendants were sentenced to pay the costs of the prosecution, to pay Five hundred dollars fine each and to serve Five years in the Allegheny County Workhouse. In case of Bratich the fine was "only" Two Hundred Dollars and he was to serve "only" Two and Half years in the Workhouse.

The case was appealed to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. The appeals were argued at Harrisburg, Penna. on March 12th, 1928 before six judges of the Superior Court.

On April 16th, 1928 the Superior Court discharged the appellant Steve Bratich, but affirmed the judgement of the Beaver

By A. JAKIRA

County Court as to the three other defendants. An appeal against the decision of the Superior Court was made to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and the case will be argued on September 24th, 1928.

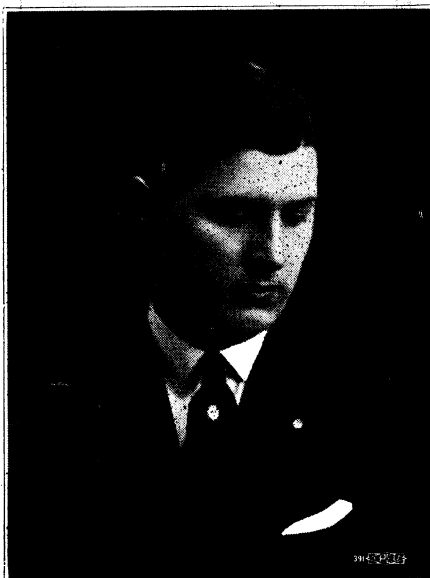


Photo Labor Defender
PETE MUSELIN

Pete Muselin is a young man, a citizen of the United States, a World War Veteran, who "fought for Democracy with the American Army in France", has a wife and a child to support, is a barber by trade and was secretary of the Barbers Local Union in Woodlawn. Milan Resetar is a citizen of the U. S. a World War Veteran, a butcher by trade and was secretary of the Croatian Benefit Lodge in Woodlawn. Tom Zima is an American Citizen, a steel

worker, has a wife and four children. One of his sons is a student at Carnegie Tech.

The foreman of the jury was a notorious Ku Kluxer of Ambridge, Pa. The trial lasted a full week. Numerous books and pamphlets were introduced as evidence; numerous witnesses were called upon to testify; the defendants were charged with Six Counts each; all the four defendants were tried jointly. It took the judge more than two hours to instruct the jury. Yet, it took these "Twelve good men and true, lawful men of the county" only a few minutes to render a verdict of guilty as follows: On First Count—all the defenadnts; on 4th Count—only Muselin, Resetar and Zima; on the 5th Count—only Muselin and Resetar. A most clever and efficient jury, indeed!

The trial itself was a typical example of American Justice. The head of the jury a leading member of the Ku Klux Klan. The judge acting in capacity of both judge and prosecutor. When government witnesses were giving contradictory testimony the judge would take it upon himself to answer the questions for them and stop the defence attorneys from further cross examination. The defense on numerous occasions demanded that the jury be dismissed and a new trial ordered. On some occassions they were ready to leave the court house in protest against the mock trial staged by the agents of Jones and Laughlin.

Every worker of this country must be aroused in the defence of these three workers of Woodlawn. The workers of this country must not allow these men to go to the workhouse for five years to satisfy the whims of the Steel Trust and the professional patrioteers.

The I. L. D.

Has defended the Workers of:

PASSAIC—NEW BEDFORD—PENNSYLVANIA—OHIO—COLORADO

and will fight for the Defense of the

AUTOMOBILE WORKERS
IN THEIR CAMPAIGN TO **ORGANIZE**

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE

DETROIT SECTION

1967 W. Grand River Ave.
DETROIT, MICH.



Photo Labor Defender

PETE MUSELIN



VOICES FROM PRISON

LETTERS FROM SAM KURLAND, CLAUDE MERRITT, O. C. BLAND, BERT BLAND, LEO ELLIS, FRANK GODLASKY AND MRS. ISABEL MEANOVICH.

Zeigler, Ill.

Dear Comrade:

I received my check for \$20.00 and thanks very much for it. My children and myself are very glad to get it for it sure helps us in our need. I did not receive blank check so I had to send this letter so you could see I received my check.

Best wishes and luck.

Yours Truly,
Mrs. ISABEL MEANOVICH.

San Quentin, Cal.

Margaret Hunt,
Oakland, Cal.

Greetings:

Your kind letter was received nearly two weeks ago, but due to accumulated correspondence I have been unable to write you, even the yours deserved an immediate acknowledgement. We are allowed one letter only a day, and some days, under prison conditions, one does not feel inclined to write. Then I write home not less than four times a week, so when that is done, if I do not drive myself, I neglect my correspondence.

In answer to your questions: yes, I probably keep more in touch with the world affairs than do many many free workers. The average worker is so busy trying to get bread that he has not the time nor money to keep posted. And there is where the I.L.D. can do a great service: go into the workers home and give them encouragement.

I discourage visitors, because it required both time and money to come here. It is such an out of the way place that most people dread even the thought of visiting a blemish on civilization. I sometimes wonder if we are really civilized. I guess not; however, I do believe we are showing signs of progress in our evolution. But this is aside the subject. I love to have those visit me who come just because they feel keenly the struggle; yet were I never to have a visitor, I should think none the less of them.

I was really surprised to hear that the Oakland Branch of the I.L.D. was contemplating to change its name to that of mine; however, it was an agreeable surprise. Not that it should be in my honor, but that the members have me in mind—not forgotten. I have always admired Miss Whitney, and truly believe that your local should continue to the end to carry her name.

The Local of which I am a member, is located in Oakland, No. 735 Brotherhood Railway Carmen of America. I was a Charter member of the San Francisco Local and when it disbanded, I was transferred to the Oakland Local. The Local is comprised of Western Pacific workers, that road having been the first and only road in the district to sign with the shopmen during the strike.

With the very best of wishes to the I.L.D. and the Oakland Branch, in particular, I am

Yours onward
CLAUDE MERRITT.

Walla Walla, Wash.

Mr. Martin Abern,
Dear Comrade:

Enclosed are the two receipts for prison relief for July of which needless to say can always be used to a healthful advantage. We have your letter of Aug. 6th date and have complied with your request. We are pleased to learn of the intensified campaign to be developed by the I.L.D. in our behalf. We are convinced that it will take publicity and plenty of it if we are freed from here before we have all our time served, and twenty-five or forty years are not very short, in fact one could be walking on his beard before the expiration of such an outrageous sentence. The outline which you gave us looks fine and with a lot of stick-to-it-iveness should bring the desired results. We have a letter of recent date from the office of the Centralia

Represa, Cal.

International Labor Defense
Dear Comrade:

I beg to inform you that I have received the remainder of the books that I sent for, to wit: "Oil", by Upton Sinclair; "The President's Daughter", by Nan Britton and "Elmer Gantry" by Sinclair Lewis.

I again wish to commend the I.L.D. for its noble work among the class-war prisoners, by providing us with reading material.

Fifty days more and I shall be free again to take up the fight where I had left off. I can hardly await the day.

Thanking you very much for the work you are doing in behalf of the political prisoners and wishing you success, I remain,

Fraternally Yours,
LEO ELLIS.



Photo Labor Defender
INTERIOR OF OVERCROWDED COOK COUNTY JAIL, CHICAGO. COMMUNIST LEADERS IN 1921 AND OTHER CLASS WAR PRISONERS HAVE BEEN KEPT HERE.

publicity Committee, 827 N. Tower Ave., Centralia, saying that they were receiving good cooperation from the Centralia Liberation Committee of Seattle and we want to say that is exactly to our liking for anyone or any organization that will work in harmony with the champion of all. Elmer Stuart Smith can have our vote anytime. That red-headed fellow is the goods. Recently Mrs. Eugene Barnett returned from Seattle where she spoke several times under the auspices of the C.L.C. and spoke highly of the heads of that committee so its clear to us that James P. Cannon knows what he was about when he did the appointing. With all good wishes we are,

Fraternally Yours,
O. C. BLAND, BERT BLAND.

Ossining, N. Y.

Dear Friends:

I have received your monthly contribution of five dollars and wish to thank you. Wishing you success in the future, I remain

Respectfully Yours,
SAM KURLAND.

Sioux Falls, S. D.

Martin Abern.

Dear Comrade:

In receipt of your letter with the enclosed check.

Thanking you very deeply, please find receipt enclosed. With best wishes,

Yours Fraternaly,
FRANK GODLASKY.



Photo Labor Defender

INTERIOR OF OVERCROWDED COOK COUNTY JAIL, CHICAGO. COMMUNIST LEADERS IN 1921 AND OTHER CLASS WAR PRISONERS HAVE BEEN KEPT HERE.

BUILDING THE I.L.D. Hamburg: 1923

(Cont. from page 207) dealt with all questions involving the affairs of the imprisoned comrades and the authorities, organized circles and maintained connections with the Party.

IN the past month, activities of the I.L.D. were greatly intensified, particularly in the steel, textile and mining areas. The following new branches were formed:

Ironton, Minn.; Nashwauk, Minn.; Keewatin, Minn.; Carson Lake, Minn.; Chisholm, Minn.; Detroit, Mich.; Aberdeen, Wash.

New Bedford, Mass. Polish Branch, 40 members.

New Bedford, Mass. English Branch, 25 members.

Hoquiam, Wash. South Slav Branch; Albanian Br., Boston, 10 members.

Fall River, Mass. Mooney & Billings Br., 45 members.

Textile Defense Leaflet Issued

The National Office has just issued another leaflet, "Defend the Textile Strikers." The leaflet can be purchased from the National Office, at the nominal rate of \$2.25 per thousand, postage prepaid. The big textile strike is still on, and the widest distribution therefore, must be given to this leaflet.

Four Page Centralia Folder

In cooperation with the Seattle local of the I.L.D. a four-page leaflet dealing with the Centralia case has just been issued. It is being widely distributed, particularly in the northwest states.

20,000 leaflets "What is I.L.D." has been distributed in the South Slav language.

National Miners Union Defense

125 miners were arrested and fined, during the proceedings of the national miners union. International Labor Defense undertook their defense. However, some of the fines levied against some of the miners were paid instead of the cases being appealed in order to make it possible for the miners to participate in their convention. A representative of the National Office of I.L.D. was on the ground in Pittsburgh during the convention period to direct the defense work.

New England I.L.D. Conference September 23rd

A special conference of International Labor Defense, New England district will be held at Paine Memorial Hall, 9 Appleton Street, Boston, Sunday September 23rd, and it will take up particularly the situation on the defense work arising out of the heroic strike of the textile workers of New Bedford and Fall River, Mass. Robert Zelms is the secretary of the New England district. The National Office will have a representative at the conference.

Detroit National Polish I.L.D. Conference

The national conference of the Polish branches of the I.L.D. will be held in Detroit, Sunday September 30th to take up the problems and activities of the Polish section of the I.L.D. A large representation of delegates is expected from I.L.D. branches as well as from fraternal, unions and other Polish organizations. Stanley Novakowski is secretary of the Polish section.

Mooney and Billings Resolution

Copies of resolutions passed on behalf of Tom Mooney and Warren Billings should be sent to the National Office. Many of these passed by

Central Labor bodies, local trade unions and other organizations are reaching the National Office of I.L.D. in large numbers. The National Office will print a record of all resolutions passed, in the columns of the Labor Defender.

Two White Terror Campaigns

The I.L.D. in co-operation with the Section is now conducting a drive including publicity, meetings and collection of funds for the defense of workers persecuted under the White Terror in Greece.

Meanwhile the Italian Section thru Italian branches of the I.L.D. and thru the labor press generally is active in behalf of the Italian revolutionary leaders and workers who are being persecuted and tortured under the iron heel of Fascism.

Bazaars and Entertainments

Branches and locals should also concern themselves with the organization of bazaars, branch



Jesse Troia of Fall River, Mass., is one of the militants so frequently arrested in the present textile strike. His activities do not end there. Realizing the importance of the I.L.D. in the battles of the workers, he is also active in defense work and is Labor Defender agent in his newly organized I.L.D. branch. At a recent conference in Fall River, he made a report on the Labor Defender and the warm reception it is receiving among the strikers. It is thru the efforts of Jesse Troia and others like him, under the able direction of Robert Zelms, I.L.D. organizer in the strike zone, that Labor Defender sales have jumped 1500 copies per month in this territory. More power to Jesse Troia. Let's have more like him.

affairs, dances, entertainments, etc., in order to raise funds for the benefit of the defense fund of the National Office. Local Chicago, reports Joe Giganti, secretary, will hold its annual three-day Bazaar on December 14, 15, 16 at Wicker Park Hall, North Ave., near Robey.

Development of the subscriptions and sales of the Labor Defender should play an ever growing prominent part in the work of the I.L.D. At every meeting efforts shall be made that members of the I.L.D. who are not yet subscribers, shall become subscribers, and that branch organizers take measures to secure new subscribers.

Meanwhile considerable news, articles and appeals from the political prisoners appeared in the shop papers of the Hamburg docks and factories, while in the prison itself, their own illegal bulletin, printed monthly on a small hectograph, informed the prisoners of the events in the outside world, of the work the Red Aid was doing for their families, etc. This did not last long before the bourgeoisie began to scream over the "Communist high schools" in Gollnow and Fuhlsbittel; they wanted their whole vengeance. But when, early in 1925, they sought to limit the rights of the political prisoners, the prisoners in Fuhlsbittel answered with a determined hunger strike.

"Two Hundred Hamburg October Fighters On Hunger Strike In Fuhlsbittel," the newspapers cried and a storm of protest broke loose in Germany. For ten days they fasted, and for ten days the workers in Voss and Blohm, the workers in Hamburg, Berlin, Leipzig, Dresden, etc. struggled for them, while the factories, the streets and the parliament of the German Republic, re-echoed with the cry: "Free the political prisoners! Free them, free them!"

Five years have gone by since the October rebels from Hamburg and Schiffbeck and Barmbeck built their barricades.

The Hamburg special acts have disappeared, the Gollnow and Fuhlsbittel prisons stand empty. The rebels have come home to Voss and Blohm, to the harbor canals, to the docks and the workers' quarters, and to the Party for which they struggled. They have come back stronger than before, steeled thru their struggle with the special acts and the prison authorities, clarified and developed thru the discussions and the years of study in prison.

They are in the midst of the masses again, as tireless agitators and propagandists of their revolutionary ideas, as organizers of a new October for the German proletariat. In May 1928 one hundred and twenty thousand workers greeted the men who were guilty of high treason in Hamburg in May, 1923: "comrade" Ebert, you have lost!

Long live the October struggles of the Hamburg proletariat!

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Contributors to the Pledge Fund

THE pledge Fund contributors throughout the country are helping to send money each month to the prisoners and their families.

The following have pledged themselves to help the International Labor Defense to regularly send \$5 to class-war prisoners and \$20 to dependants.

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Our Contributors

Upton Sinclair, among workers, is no doubt the best known writer in the world today. His latest novel "Boston," just issued, deals with Sacco and Vanzetti.

Martin Abern, assistant National Secretary of the I.L.D. has just returned from Pittsburg where the new miners' union was formed.

Harvey O'Connor, staff member of the Federated Press, has studied the textile industry in this country, and in Soviet Russia, Germany, France and England.

Robert Whitaker, poet and writer, is a frequent contributor to the labor and liberal press.

Robert W. Dunn is executive secretary of the Labor Research Association which is preparing a series of books on American industries to be published by the International Publishers. Among these announced for the winter is Robt. W. Dunn's "Labor and Automobiles."

Hugo Oehler, Communist organizer, of Kansas City, played a prominent role in the Colorado miners' strike of last year.

Salvador De La Plaza, Venezuelan, now in Mexico City, spent 2 years in "La Rotunda" prison in Caracas, for his part in the students' movement.

Helen Black, now on the editorial staff of a New York publishing house, was formerly on the "New Masses" and publicity director in the needle trades.

A. Kainer, now in Berlin, was witness to the Hamburg uprising in 1923, which he describes in this issue.

Whittaker Chambers, now member of the "Daily Worker" staff has translated some of the new French and German publications recently published in this country.

A. Jakira, is Pittsburg District Organizer of the Workers (Communist) Party.

branch; Lettish branch; South Slavic branch; Northwest Mother's League; Douglas Park Jewish branch; German branch; Freiheit Youth Club.

Local Boston: Lettish branch.

Local Detroit: Tom Mooney branch; Lithuanian branch; No Ladies Prog. Society branch. Scandinavian Br. Women's branch. So. Slav. Br. Russian W. S. Br. Italian Anti-Fascisti Br. Women's Educ. Circle. Polish E. S. Br. Greek Br.

Local New York: German Yorkville branch; Richmond German branch; Sacco-Vanzetti branch; Hungarian Yorkville branch.

Local New York (family)
Local Philadelphia; Strawberry Mansion branch. North Western branch; Scandinavian branch; Russian branch; Cornice and Roofer Workers Union.

Local Seattle: English Br.
Local Oakland (prisoner and family); Claude Merritt branch.

Local Paterson.
Local Passaic, N. J.; Polish branch.
Local Los Angeles: Lithuanian branch 51; Women's Consumers Educational League.
Local Milwaukee, Wisc.

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THE FIGHTING MINERS

(Continued from page 204) hearing to turn over the miners to the Federal Department, to the Grand Jury and so forth. I was particularly interested, while listening to the court hearing, to note also the strong note of fear of the police lackeys of the bosses, at those who were determined at all costs to build a fighting union of their class against the operators. The Lewis thugs were immediately released. The attorney for the Lewis machine was present, but he did not have to say a word, for matters had already been previously arranged for their release.

A number of delegates to the convention were immediately released and then a re-hearing was given the remainder of the arrested delegates. During the course of the hearing about 100 were released outright, since there was absolutely no foundation for holding any of them at all. Quite the contrary, it was clear that the police department, the Lewis machine and operators had done everything that they could to prevent the holding of the convention, but to their great chagrin had been unsuccessful. They had been outwitted by the strategy of the miners. However, the police were determined to get somebody and so they plastered fines ranging from five dollars to twenty-five dollars on a number of the miners, among whom were Freeman Thompson, Tony Minerich, Rorbt. Matuseck, Andy Plechaty and others. International Labor Defense, in this instance paid the fines rather than appeal the cases, since the important thing was that these miners who had come to organize a union, should have the opportunity to return to the convention and to participate in the proceedings. On the night of September the 10th, all but three were released, and on the following day, the three remaining delegates were discharged.

A delegation of liberals, ministers, lawyers, professors, etc., visited the Director of Public Safety of Pittsburgh and made a demand that the new union have the fullest opportunity to hold their convention, and to see that there was no interference with it. As a result of all the publicity and the failure of the police to make any headway against the miners, the Superintendent was forced to declare that such a meeting could be held and could not be interfered with. Nevertheless, the police with the silent consent of the 'higher ups' were making all the difficulties possible for the men who had been released from prison. Attempts were made to get them out of town immediately, but we were determined that this should not be done and it was finally acknowledged that the miners could stay just as long as they pleased in order to carry on their work. Still, police harassed the miners at every turn.

Despite the terrific struggle around the Labor Lyceum on the morning of the convention, despite police terror and suppres-

sion and every other form of intimidation that could be employed, the miners formed a new National Miners' Union.

Now a new union is formed. There was no other choice before the militant, class-conscious miners in the face of the continued betrayals of Lewis. The sell-out of union conditions and the combination of the operators, John L. Lewis and the government forces had finally succeeded in wrecking the old union that had been built through many years of struggle on the part of the rank and file.

Eighteen months ago the miners entered the struggle to maintain their conditions, to better them and to hold before them the militant, fighting traditions of the old United Mine Workers Union.

While Lewis and his machine were comfortable, warm and well-fed and lived and acted like the bosses' tools they were, the rank and file put up an heroic battle against the operators. They faced starvation and eviction. They faced the Government forces of oppression,—the police, the gangsters, injunctions, beatings, murders, break-up of meetings, wholesale arrests. Want and starvation for a long period were relieved mainly by the work of the National Miners Relief Committee, under the excellent direction of Alfred Wagenknecht, Relief Director. Defense for the persecuted miners was provided continually by International Labor Defense. The fight continued everywhere in spite of the Lewis machine. The rank and file carried on, determined to win the strike. But these three forces of the operators, Lewis machine and government agencies, arrayed openly and secretly against the miners, finally brought the old union to ruin.

The left wing, the forces organized in the Save-the-Union Committee, endeavored to maintain the traditions, the fighting spirit, the solidarity of the miners and fought for and lead the rank and file in this bitter class struggle for 18 long months. It was these left-wingers, who now came together to form a new National Miners Union, who met the main forces of the onslaught of the operators, the Lewis thugs and the police.

Now the miners begin anew to build a fighting union. They carry on their work with the best of the old traditions of the old union, but they have learned bitter truths. Lessons learned in the harsh battle against the brutal and extreme exploitation of capitalism. They know that they will continue to meet with resistance from what remains of John L. Lewis's machine, from the operators, and the agencies of the government. But anyone who witnessed the proceedings of this convention of militant miners will know that they will not quit. They are united, they are determined, *they have a clear working class policy of struggle against the employers.* Therefore the new union will grow and win.

These miners recognize that all new movements in behalf of the workers have met with resistance and that such struggles have taken their victims. They too know of Mooney and Billings and of the Centralia prisoners and of all other struggles where working class leaders have fallen victims.

Nevertheless, they are determined to go on. They have formed a union, they propose to make it grow, they propose to organize the unorganized, they propose to build a fighting union on the basis of class struggle and against class collaboration, and to unite with all the workers for the struggle against capitalism and its eventual overthrow.

International Labor Defense greets the new and vigorous National Miners Union.

GREETINGS

Thru "Our Labor Defender" to all class war prisoners and all comrades in the I.L.D.

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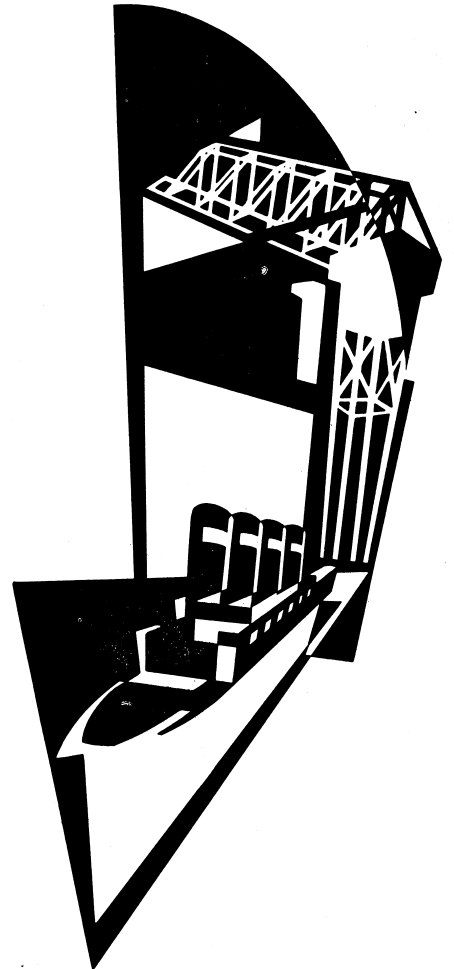
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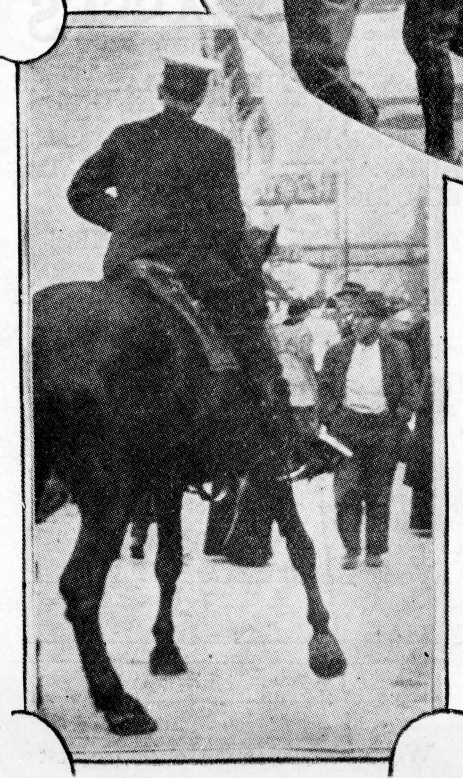
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ALWAYS THE POLICE---

AND THEN THE WORKERS MUST FACE A LABOR-HATING JUDGE



NOW it's the miners. Gangsters, detectives and the police came to slug the miners in Pittsburgh who were forming a new union. The memory of a miner was beaten out of his head. Others were brutally clubbed. Scores were arrested. The police took them away—to face a judge. ★ The packers are also using the police. The latest outrage against labor is in Kansas City. Because an attempt is made to organize the stock-yards workers the speakers are arrested. Men in the audience are taken by the police. Now they must face the judge. Workers can save them. ★ In New Bedford, 26,000 workers on strike must face the police. The strikers are clubbed. 600 have been arrested. The millowners have gone to surrounding cities to bring more police. ★ The police have slugged hundreds of other workers. Many of them are still in prison for lack of funds. Steel workers of Woodlawn, Pa., were beaten by the police. Now they are facing the judge. Mooney and Billings are in prison for 12 years now. The Centralia men are in prison for eight years and a half.



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