

LABOR DEFENDER



**Dress Strikers
DEFY
Mass Arrests**

10¢

March, 1929



THE CONGRESS OF THE WORKERS AND PEASANTS BLOC IN MEXICO CITY—A. WEISBORD SITS BENEATH THE DRAWING OF J. MELLA

The National Unemployed March to London

(Under the auspices of the N.U.W.C.M.)

Organiser
WAL HANNINGTON

President
TOM MANN

Secretary
E. G. LLEWELYN

Treasurer
ALEX GOSSIP
(Gen. Secy N.A.F.T.A.)
Donations to
58 THEOBALDS RD.,
LONDON, W.C.1

**To Demand Effective
Government Action
to meet Distress &
Unemployment**

March Headquarters
105 HATTON GARDEN,
(top floor)
LONDON, E.C.1

1, Adelaide Road,
Brockley,
London, S.E.4.
28 Jan, 1929.

To Comrade Rose Barón,
Sec: New York District,
International Labour Defence.

Dear Comrade,

To you and to all the Comrades of the International Labour Defence, I send you greetings and good wishes from the revolutionary workers on this side; We know the work you are engaged in and we are struggling in much the same way over here, seeing that you are organising a bazaar to enable you the better to cope with your great work we hope and expect you to be entirely successful in carrying this through.

We are familiar with such efforts and know that much work is entailed, but it is for a glorious Cause, that you may care for the victims of capitalism in the GREAT CLASS

STRUGGLE, with the large population and the many struggles you have a very great task; We of the I.C.W.P.A. the International Class War Prisoners Aid, have similar objects in view to your own; We must not allow the Capitalists to ride rough shod over the workers without the help of warm hearts and loving hands of helpfulness, so we congratulate you on what you have done and especially upon what you are doing.

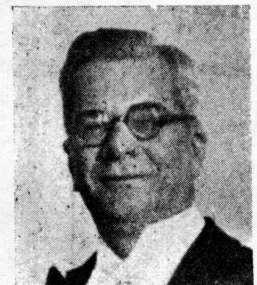
MAY YOUR BAZAAR IN MARCH BE THE BIGGEST SUCCESS YOU HAVE EVER HAD.

MAY YOU RELIEVE DISTRESSES, COMFORT THE OTHERWISE HELPLESS, AND INSPIRE TO NOBLE ENDEAVOUR, THOUSANDS OF MILITANTS FOR THE EMANCIPATION OF THE WORKERS.

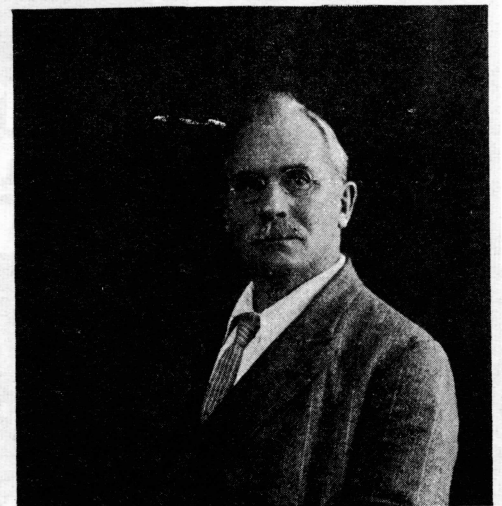
In the name and behalf of thousands in England to our active Comrades in arms in the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Tom Mann

ON THE LEFT IS THE LETTER OF GREETINGS SENT BY TOM MANN OF ENGLAND TO THE I. L. D.



PRES. MACHADO OF CUBA, WHOSE AGENTS MURDERED MELLA.



TOM MANN, VETERAN LEADER OF ENGLISH WORKERS.

What Ruthenberg Means to the Workers Today

By JAY LOVESTONE

Exec. Sec. Workers (Communist) Party

TWO YEARS have passed since the death of Charles E. Ruthenberg, the founder and first secretary of the Communist Party in the United States. Ruthenberg was the outstanding leader of the left wing in the Socialist Party and of the Communist movement, symbolizing more than anyone else the developing stages of working class militancy. He showed a constant growth in his clearness and understanding of the revolutionary struggle. In spite of the hazy concepts and shortcomings which characterized the most militant and Marxian kernels in the various left wing groups before the founding of the Communist International, Ruthenberg quickly grasped the lessons of the changing development of his time and clearly interpreted the meaning of the imperialist world war and the Russian revolution to the working class.

Ruthenberg was intensely hated by the bourgeoisie. In his long activity as a leader of the revolutionary movement, Ruthenberg was many times in prison or face to face with the capitalist courts. In the last years of his life Ruthenberg was continuously under indictment and sentence. In his trials, at Cleveland, Canton, Ohio, Bridgeman, Mich., in New York, etc., Ruthenberg exposed the class nature of the courts of this country as directed against the working class.

The heritage of Ruthenberg is the Workers (Communist) Party of America, which, developing along the Leninist line expressed by Ruthenberg, is becoming the leader of ever greater masses of the workers

in their everyday struggles against American imperialism. Ruthenberg was a splendid organizer. He was the tactical and organizational leader of the Party, the man of ac-

tion who explained to the workers in simple language, often using the capitalist courts as a tribunal, the basic facts of the class struggle, the workings of the capitalist system of exploitation, the necessity for the dictatorship of the proletariat, and the inevitability of armed insurrection of the working class before the victory of the workers in this struggle.

At this moment, when American imperialism is preparing for a new imperialist world war, is competing for the domination of the world markets with British imperialism and the other imperialist powers, and is making ready to take part in a united imperialist attack on the Soviet Union, the lessons of Ruthenberg's heroic fight against the last imperialist world war are of especial importance. The St. Louis anti-war resolution of the Socialist Party, which was adopted directly after America's entrance into the world war, had serious shortcomings from a Leninist point of view, but it marked the strong opposition of the rank and file within the Socialist Party of that day, to the imperialist war. Ruthenberg, more than anyone else, was responsible for the revolutionary aspects of the resolution. It was Ruthenberg who led and symbolized the revolt of the working class elements, the left wing, in the Socialist Party against the pro-Germanism of Berger and the social chauvinism of the Spargos, Wallings, and the rest of the right wing in the Socialist Party. It was for fighting imperialist war and for opposing the entrance of America into the war, that Ruthenberg, who from the beginning emphasized

(Continued on Page 58)



C. E. RUTHENBERG WAS ON THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE I. L. D.

PARIS on the BARRICADES

By GEORGE SPIRO

From a Novel to be Published by the Workers Library

"AND SO," resumed Ducasse after a pause, "the Revolutionary Committee of the Committee of the National Guard, supported by 300,000 armed laborers, was the provisional government of Paris, and would transfer the power, it announced, to the Commune, a body of representatives elected by the common people of Paris."

Immediately the journals of the bourgeoisie opened a campaign of vilification against the Commune, covering the city with placards in which they called upon the people to ignore elections. But the moorings which had held the minds of the workers fastened to the bourgeois press had snapped. They heeded not. As to our own journalists they were perplexed. The official newspaper of the Commune on the 21st of March said:

'Is it possible that the bourgeoisie, the proletariat's older sister, who freed herself three quarters of a century ago, does not understand that the proletariat's turn to gain its freedom has arrived today? Why is she so stubbornly refusing its legitimate lot?'

Eighteen days after we took possession of the city, however, the elections were held.

'Out of twenty arrondissements of Paris,' Roger informed us, 'sixteen voted for our candidates and only four for theirs. They defeated Victor Hugo who ran on our ticket because his arrondissement is thickly populated with the rich.'

'Come,' interrupted Marianne, 'you all must go out to see Paris,—the new Paris of the Commune. Do you feel strong enough, Theresa?'

'Oh,' my mother replied, 'This joyful news has made me well. Come, come Juliet, come with us, Grandpa.'

And we hurriedly set out. The streets were thronged with people streaming towards the Hotel de Ville to acclaim the Commune. We had started out early and by good fortune succeeded in penetrating the dense crowd and reaching the Place de Greve. A half hour later the streets were filled as far as Boulevard de Sebastopol and thousands failed to see the sight which, once seen, can never be forgotten.

Before the central door of the imposing structure of the city hall of Paris was

raised a large platform on which were assembled the elected members of the Commune; and in front of it, in the huge square, undulated a vast colorful sea of humanity, regulars, battalions of National Guard, workers and their families, all humming incessantly, flushed, singing, shouting and laughing. And from above, against the turquoise of the sky, the sun beamed upon the smiling city.

that shook the nearby buildings to their very foundations, and echoed in hundreds of thousands of pulsating hearts, —a jubilant outcry such as had never been heard in the city of Paris before:

'Vive la Commune!!!'

Then followed a prolonged and deafening roar of artillery, flourish of trumpets and blasts of clarion, the brass of the instruments blinding with the reflection of

the sun, and the invigorating rataplan of the drums. From the windows of the surrounding houses a myriad of handkerchiefs fluttered like so many pigeons, their owners saluting, and pressing them often to their tearful eyes.

As my father had predicted, our patience was rewarded. A government representing labor, in the interest of labor, had been installed in Paris. The Commune was for the poor in dead earnest; no empty promises were handed out to the people. Deeds followed words.

Monsieur Thiers' colleagues at Versailles decreed that all rents be paid within three days and our government issued a different decree remitting the payment of rent.

The Commune prohibited the pawnbrokers from selling the poor people's goods for nonpayment of interest, and ordered articles in the municipal pawning establishment to be returned to needy persons without pay; it ordered the employers to immediately cease their practice of fining the workers and thus depriving them of part of their wages; it pensioned the wounded National Guards to the amount of 1,200 francs,

a sum the old government might have paid an officer but never a soldier; it recovered vast reserves of flour, potatoes, pork and other provisions held by speculators, it did a thousand and one little every day things for the poor people.

During the first few days Felix and I rambled for hours thruout the city. Once we fringed a meeting where a sweet-faced man with silvery hair, just released from the Imperial prison where he had been incarcerated for preaching Socialism—hanged the gathering. He said that a message of congratulation had been received from London by Karl Marx, secretary of

(Continued on next page)



Drawing By A. I. KRAVCIENKO

Suddenly a breathless hush came over the square, and all eyes were focused on Ranvier, who rose and stood at the edge of the platform. My heart seemed to cease beating. A lump rose in my throat.

'Citizens,' came the words of Ranvier, 'my heart is too full of joy to make a speech. Permit me only to thank the people of Paris for the great example they have given the world.'

There was a pause. Then, lifting his voice Ranvier exclaimed, 'In the name of the People, the Commune is proclaimed.'

A great shout burst forth; a thunderous cry of joy that went pealing far and wide through the balmy air of the Parisian spring

Paris Commune and the I. L. D.

FOR the first time in my life I am celebrating the 18th of March outside of France. I will celebrate the memorable day of the Paris Commune, in Red Moscow, the capital of the World Revolution. I am being adopted by the great Soviet Union, the fatherland of all revolutionaries, the country that recognizes only two nations, the international family of the laboring masses and the international band of cut-throats.

Under the red flags, among others, will also be the columns of the International Labor Defense (in the Soviet Union "MOPR") that will pass the Lenin Mausoleum. The few surviving participants of the Paris Commune have in the last few years struggled in the ranks of the I. L. D. The organization whose name is bound up with the 18th of March.

I believe that no one can grasp so fully the significance of the I. L. D. than we, the veterans of 1871. The Paris Commune went down not because the Paris counter revolutionists were braver in the leadership of the struggle nor because the genius of Thiers exceeded the leadership of the revolutionaries. No, the battle was doomed because the Paris workers in their struggles stood alone. They were not supported either by the laboring masses of the peasantry nor by the laboring masses of other countries. We had no red support. We lacked the powerful organization, which could raise the masses in the spirit of class solidarity.

The present Thiers are stronger than their predecessor. They have at their disposal electric chairs, machine guns, gas bombs, and ammunition. The newest technic enables them to call out their soldiers in armoured cars and tanks to crush strikes and spread death and destruction.

The Thiers the world over did not have in 1871, as they have now, millions opposing them who were ready either to fight on to victory or to die. The brotherhood of the English miners, the German metal workers and Chinese coolies bound together, is a fact, which points to a new epoch that will spell death to capitalism. The wounds of the proletariat, inflicted upon them by the barbarous bourgeoisie have already answered against the white terror and class justice by the storm of protests against the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti, against the blood bath at Canton and against the colonial and national suppression. The

By *A CHILLE LEROY*
(*Veteran of the Commune*)

outstretched hands of the imprisoned proletariat, who thru jail bars have called for help have not been unnoticed.

The greatest significance of the I. L. D. is the fact that its funds are not collected thru philanthropy—charity is foreign to the Revolution. Only the sense of duty, class loyalty of each proletarian can assure the victory of the struggle for the World Commune

It is with this consciousness that we, the veterans of 1871, yearly go to the cemetery of Pere-Lachaise and carry at the head of the proletarian forces of Paris the banner of the I. L. D. of France to the Wall of the Communards. With this same feeling we celebrate the 18th of March in the great Soviet Union.

(Translated from German by David Gorman)

course of France, of Europe, of Mankind,' he said. All children of this republic shall receive an education—'

But brief was the period in which the sky over the head of the Labor Republic remained serene and unobscured. There loomed large on the horizon a sinister cloud presaging a storm.

Within a week after the Commune had been proclaimed, on the Second April at about two in the afternoon, there came to our ears the sound of distant cannonading.

'What is it?' people asked, turning their startled faces on one another. 'What does that mean?'

It was not long before it had become known to Paris, to the whole world. Monsieur Thiers and the Assembly had sent an army to attack us.

'What! A French army bombarding the capital of France? How was it possible? It was a mistake! A misunderstanding-



THE PARIS COMMUNE *March 18, 1871-1929*

Paris on the Barricades

(Continued from preceding page)

the International Workingmen's Association, and greetings from German workers who affirmed that all peoples were brothers and expressed their hope that the Universal Republic would spread over the globe, bringing happiness to entire humanity.

'The Commune will shape the future

ing, a monstrous error on the part of some subordinate officers. It would cease tomorrow.'

It did not cease 'tomorrow' or the day after and the day after!

There was, however, one thing left for the Commune—defense with the hope that peace would come soon.

As days rolled into weeks we grew accustomed to the new siege and focused our attention on the work of the Commune which went on building the new society of universal peace and brotherhood under the bursting shells.



DEFENSE WORK IN CHINA

By EARL BROWDER

IN THE Chinese revolution the organizations for the defense and relief of victims of the counter-revolution have played a very important role for several years. Not only has their practical assistance to comrades in need succeeded in strengthening the struggle of the masses, and its leadership, but the organizations themselves have been the most important forms of mass mobilization for revolutionary struggle.

In February, 1927, just two years ago, the writer had his first contacts with the Chinese defense organizations. This was in the city of Canton, birthplace of the nationalist revolution and for some time capital of Nationalist China. Arriving there with Tom Mann from England, Jacques Doriot from France, and Syd Stoler from Russia, we spent a busy two weeks among all the revolutionary organizations of that city. Among the most interesting was the Revolutionary Association for Prisoners' Aid. This organization held a special delegate meeting of all its affiliated bodies to meet with the International Workers' Delegation.

More than 500 delegates gathered in the large Legislative Hall of the Kwantung Provincial Government for this meeting. Most prominent were the delegates of trade unions, numbering about 200; there were students' organizations, women's unions, and even several association of small merchants.

They told us that at that time the central organization in Canton had an affiliated membership of 250,000. Its work was directed towards helping the families of those who fell in the struggle against the counter-revolutionaries for the unification of Kwantung; towards helping the Hongkong strikers, and supporting the dependents of the several hundred pickets who were killed in the course of that strike; and towards support of the Northern Expedition which was driving towards Shanghai.

Already, in those days, the split in the Kuomintang and the treachery of the bourgeoisie were in the air, and everyone knew it was only a question of time when the strained relations would break into a civil war. Of course the Revolutionary Aid, on such a mass basis as in Canton, could not escape the split. But the masses under its influence were overwhelming in support of the workers and peasants, and their organization, during the period of legality, had been an invaluable field of mobilization for the struggles which came later.

Revolutionary Aid in the Period of Terror

For the year July, 1927, to July, 1928, the defense and aid organizations were practically wiped out of existence by the white terror of the Kuomintang militarists. But with the gradual recovery of the workers from their severe defeat, the defense bodies again arose, this time with tenfold tasks to perform but with infinitely better

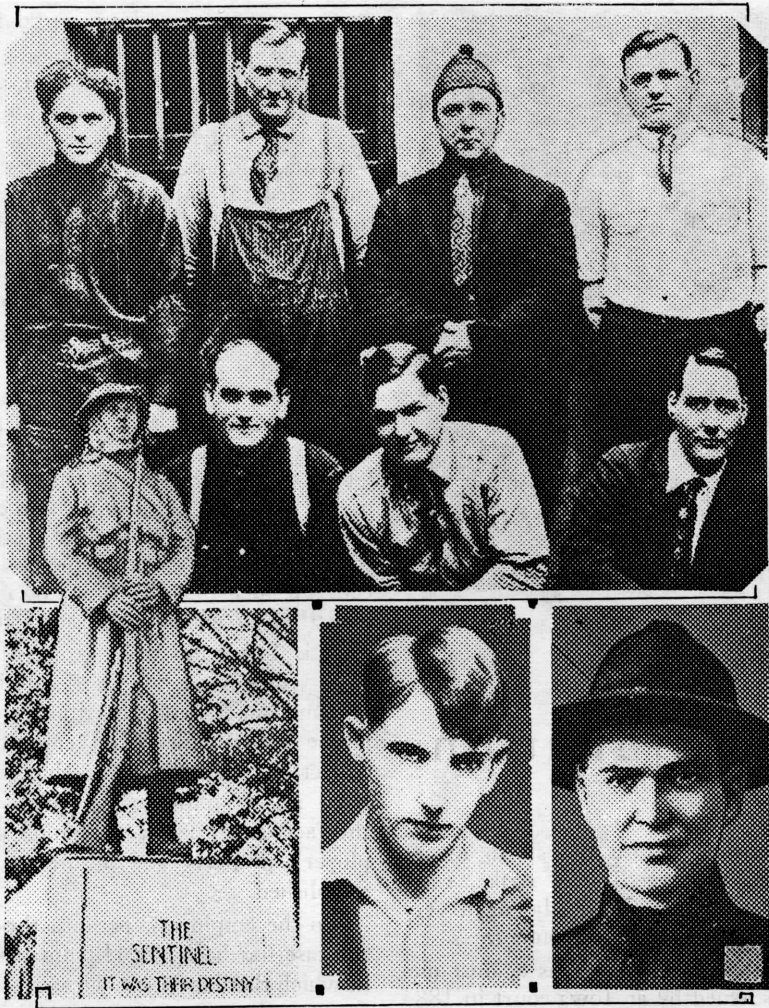
understanding of how to meet these tasks.

Thus in Shanghai, although the Communist Party of China is so completely outlawed that anyone suspected of being a member is shot without trial, still the defense organizations could carry on a mass recruiting campaign which, in the three months of August to October, enlisted 10,000 members in that city alone.

Of course under the white terror these organizations cannot open up central offices and appear before the world. Their central apparatus must continue to be hidden from the militarists, and exist in an illegal fashion. But the units of membership, the mass organizations in the shops, factories, docks, and neighborhoods, exist openly under various names and function in a semi-legal fashion.

These new Chinese relief and defense bodies have tremendous duties. The families of tens of thousands of murdered trade unionists look to them for a little help, having no other place whatever to turn to. There are more than 8,000 trade union workers still in the prisons, although most of those arrested have been executed. These are the thousands of tasks which always fall upon such organizations. And their principal source of income is the few small coppers that can be collected each month from workers whose average wage is about 10 cents per day of 12 hours.

By all means it must be made a first task of the workers of all countries to give practical and immediate help, not only once as an emergency measure, but regularly and systematically and for a long time, to the defense and relief of the victims of the counter-revolution in China.



THE CENTRALIA PRISONERS AND THE STATUE ERECTED IN MEMORY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BUTCHERS. Lower right: WESLEY EVEREST. center: LOREN ROBERTS, DRIVEN INSANE.

THE CENTRALIA TRAGEDY

By WM. D. HAYWOOD

WE WERE now to learn some facts about the war. Woodrow Wilson, who was then President, said: "This is an industrial and commercial war." He might have added that the stake won by the United States in this war was \$30,000,000,000.

The press and the politicians were telling the people that it was a "war to make the world safe for democracy". It was a war that made a \$6,000,000,000 debtor nation into a \$24,000,000,000 creditor nation. It was a "war to end war", but the Wall Street birds of prey had hatched out a big flock of war millionaires, who are preparing for another war.

The Armistice did not settle the war in the United States.

This knowledge was violently hammered into the I.W.W. by the tragedy at Centralia, Washington, on Armistice Day. November 11th, 1919. . . .

The Lumber Workers' Industrial Union had not been crushed. It was growing stronger. The Employers' Association of Washington likewise redoubled its efforts, and continued a bitter campaign against the organization.

Among the men in the Centralia union was Wesley Everest, an overseas veteran of remarkable courage, who was said to have won more medals for valor in France than Sergeant York. He had returned to the work he was interested in as a lumber worker, organizing and educating his fellow workmen.

On November 11th, 1919, a parade of American Legion men and assorted patriots was held. At a meeting to "deal with the I. W. W." a secret plot was concocted among the Lumber Trust leaders to mob the I. W. W. Hall, leading the paraders into the attack.

At the moment agreed upon, the leaders cried out upon signal from a man on horseback, "Let's go-o-o! At'em, boys!" and the door of the hall was smashed in, some entering, when a rain of bullets came from within, halting the attack and leaving two attackers dead and several wounded. Some of the mob carried ropes, evidently ready to lynch the union men. One fellow who died said before he cashed out, "It served me right". That was Warren Grimm.

But the hall was surrounded and the attackers gained entrance in force, seizing the

few workers there, with the exception of one man, Wesley Everest. Leaving the hall by the rear door he broke through the mob and made for the river, rifle bullets of his prepared assassins ripping around him. With little ammunition, he stopped to reload, reached the river and tried to ford it. Failing because of its depth, he came back to shore and shouted his readiness to surrender to any constituted authority.

The mob paid no attention and came on, firing as they came, until Everest saw there was no hope of ceasing the fight and resumed firing. This halted the mob but one man came on, armed and firing. With his last cartridge Everest shot this fellow, Dale Hubbard, nephew of the chief conspirator. Everest was seized by the mob.

On the way to jail he was beaten, kicked and cursed. With a rifle-butt his front teeth were knocked out. A rope was thrown around his neck, but with characteristic defiance he told them, "You haven't got the guts to lynch a man in the daytime".

Night came. Maimed and bleeding in a cell next to his fellow workers, lay Everest. At a late hour the lights of the city suddenly were extinguished. The jail door was smashed. No one tried to stop the lynchers. Staggering erect, Everest said to the other prisoners; "Tell the boys I died for my class."

A brief struggle. Many blows. A sound of dragging. The purring of high-powered cars. Again the lights came on. The autos reached the bridge over the Chehalis River. A rope was tied to the steel frame-work and Everest, with a noose around his neck, was brutally kicked from the bridge. After a pause he was hauled up, and it being found that he had some life left, a longer rope was used and the brutal process repeated. Again hauled up, the ghouls again flung the body



Photo Labor Defender
THE LAST PHOTO OF
WM. D. HAYWOOD

over. An auto headlight was trained on the body, disclosing that some sadist, more degenerate than the rest, had ripped Everest's sexual organs almost loose from his body with some sharp instrument during the auto trip to the bridge.

Finally, after riddling the body with bullets, it was cut loose and let fall in the river, later to be found, a sodden ghastly thing, taken back to the jail where it was

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Photo: W. I. R.

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL MINERS UNION

The Coal Miners and Injunctions

By ANNA ROCHESTER

WILL Tony Minerich, of the National Miners' Union, have to waste 45 days in jail for "contempt of court?" During the recent strike, federal Judge Benson Hough of Ohio had given the Clarkson Coal Mining Co. one of those sweeping injunctions which forbid any attempt "to coerce or induce" the scabbing miners to quit and join the strikers. For strike speeches in nearby towns Minerich was charged with contempt of court, and the federal circuit court upheld the charge. The International Labor Defense is appealing to the U. S. Supreme Court. If the decision is not reversed Minerich will have to serve a jail sentence for his speeches.

The bosses have it in for Minerich. In the anthracite, he was arrested at Pittston, as he was leaving a Union meeting and held for three days while they tried to frame him on a dynamiting charge. But the frame-up was too raw and that time Minerich was released. But he has not been able to get back from the police certain personal belongings which they took when they arrested him.

The judges and campaign lawyers, the sheriffs and the police are always ready with fresh injunctions and other devices for persecuting the coal miners when the bosses need them. Whenever the activities of a union are in question, it rests with the discretion of a judge to decide whether there has been lawful combination to benefit the workers or unlawful conspiracy to injure the employer. Of course a judge who owns thousands of acres of coal lands or shares of coal stock and whose job depends on the coal owners plays the game for the operators and against the miners. American courts have been property-class-conscious in building up a great body of anti-labor tradi-

tion. And long before the storm of injunctions in the recent coal strike, cases involving coal miners were playing a very important part in this development.

One of the first injunctions against picketing was issued by an Iowa court in 1884 when several hundred coal miners in that state were on strike for higher wages.

And one of the most sweeping labor injunctions ever issued by a *federal* court was Judge Anderson's injunction in 1919 against any strike activity by the United Mine Workers.

For many years it has been common practice for federal courts to issue injunctions in labor disputes. In fact the uncertainties and the legal quibbles as to state and federal jurisdiction furnish the courts and the capitalists with one of their most popular games of hide and seek. Much of

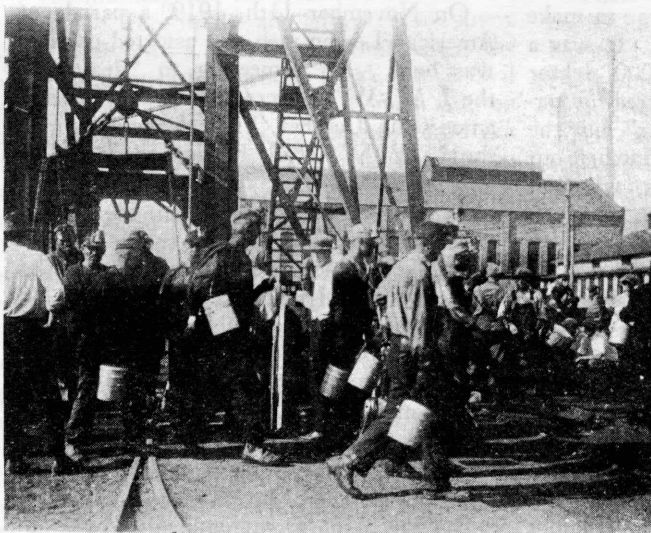


Photo: W. I. R.

MINERS LEAVING THE SHAFT

this game has been played in coal. Is coal mining interstate commerce?

During the recent strike in Ohio and Pennsylvania, and before that in the drive against organization of miners in West Virginia, various coal operators have secured federal injunctions against strikers or organizers. But when the Senate investigating committee tried last winter to get information from certain groups of operators, their counsel protested that the mining of coal was a state matter and no concern of a Senate committee!

The Supreme Court itself has seemed quite uncertain on this point. In 1922, in the Coronado Coal Case, the Supreme Court decided that the Arkansas coal strike of 1914 did *not* affect interstate commerce. Three years later the same case came before the same court a second time and the same court decided that the same Arkansas strike of 1914 *did* affect interstate commerce.

This Coronado case is one of the coal cases which set a landmark in the history of court-made law. In this case the Supreme Court ruled that employers could collect damages from a labor union and from all its individual members provided the fact of injury by the union to the employer's property and business was clearly established.

To the employers, perhaps the most useful case has been the Hitchman Coal Case in which the Supreme Court set its approval on the yellow dog contract. Since this decision in 1917 it is universally recognized that any judge can without question enjoin all attempts to organize workers who have signed a yellow-dog contract. And one of the many serious angles of the northern operators' drive against union miners has been the invasion of yellow-dogs in the mines of Pennsylvania and Ohio.

The Hitchman case has also shown that a permanent injunction is really permanent. The original injunction was issued in 1907. The Supreme Court gave its decision in 1917. Then in 1922, fifteen years after the injunction had been issued, union organizers were held to be violating it when they held meetings in the town of the Hitchman' Coal and Coke Company!

But what else can class-conscious workers expect? The courts are one of the chief bulwarks of property. Militant miners will not be held back from organizing yellow-dog mines. They will keep on building the National Miners' Union, they will strike when the moment comes and they will speak and picket in spite of judge-made law. The struggle of workers sweeps on in spite of laws made by judges of the propertied class.



MURDER OF MELLA DEPICTED BY THE WELL KNOWN LABOR CARTOONIST, BURCK

SLAVERY IN CUBA

By ALBERT WEISBORD

FEW of us in the United States really appreciate the situation that exists in Cuba at the present time. It was only when I met with a group of Cuban emigres in Central America that the full meaning of the Machado terror became impressed upon me. These proletarian emigres from Cuba informed me that in the past year alone over 500 workers had been murdered by the butcher government of Machado with the consent and approbation of the U. S.

The 75,000 industrial and agricultural workers of Cuba are being ground down worse than ever before. The city worker, more advanced than his agrarian brother, is constantly on the poverty line. In the countryside the real conditions that dominate Cuba are fully exposed. Here we see workers working from morn till night for 85 cents a day. With the cost of living an absolute minimum of \$1.50 a day for a family of three, destitution rages thruout the countryside even in periods of so called "prosperity." Full-fledged peonage prevails on the large estates. The peons find themselves more and more in debt. They are seldom paid in money, but in goods

which they purchase at exorbitant prices at the stores of the owners of the large estates. In this way they are kept in perpetual slavery.

The large spontaneous strikes that have broken forth have been put down with the greatest bloodshed. Most of the trade unions have now been smashed. Only few groups remain. But these groups, under the leadership of communists and militant revolutionary fighters have a tremendous prestige and influence. In the strikes that break out it is this element so fundamentally dangerous to Machado's power that takes the lead. Strikes now have become entirely illegal. Death, deportation, life-imprisonment is the punishment for those found guilty.

But none of these murderous repressive measures can stop the struggles that break out ever fiercer. The Communist Party constantly grows in influence. The revolutionary trade union movement constantly grows more powerful. The days of Machado and the rule of American Imperialism are numbered.

MONTENEGRO MURDERED

By LUIS VAMPA

HILARIO MONTENEGRO, Venezuelan revolutionist, has been stabbed to death by the paid assassins of Gomez, the bloody dictator of Venezuela.

Montenegro, at 74 years of age, was a conscientious fighter against Imperialism. He was a member of the Venezuela Revolutionary Party, the only Venezuelan political organization fighting against the puppet government of American Imperialism. Twenty times he was stabbed in the thorax, and Delfin Perez, his assassin, made the following declaration: "I killed Montenegro because he spoke badly about Gomez, and I who have been serving Gomez five years, and kill his enemies, killed him. I had four more on my list."

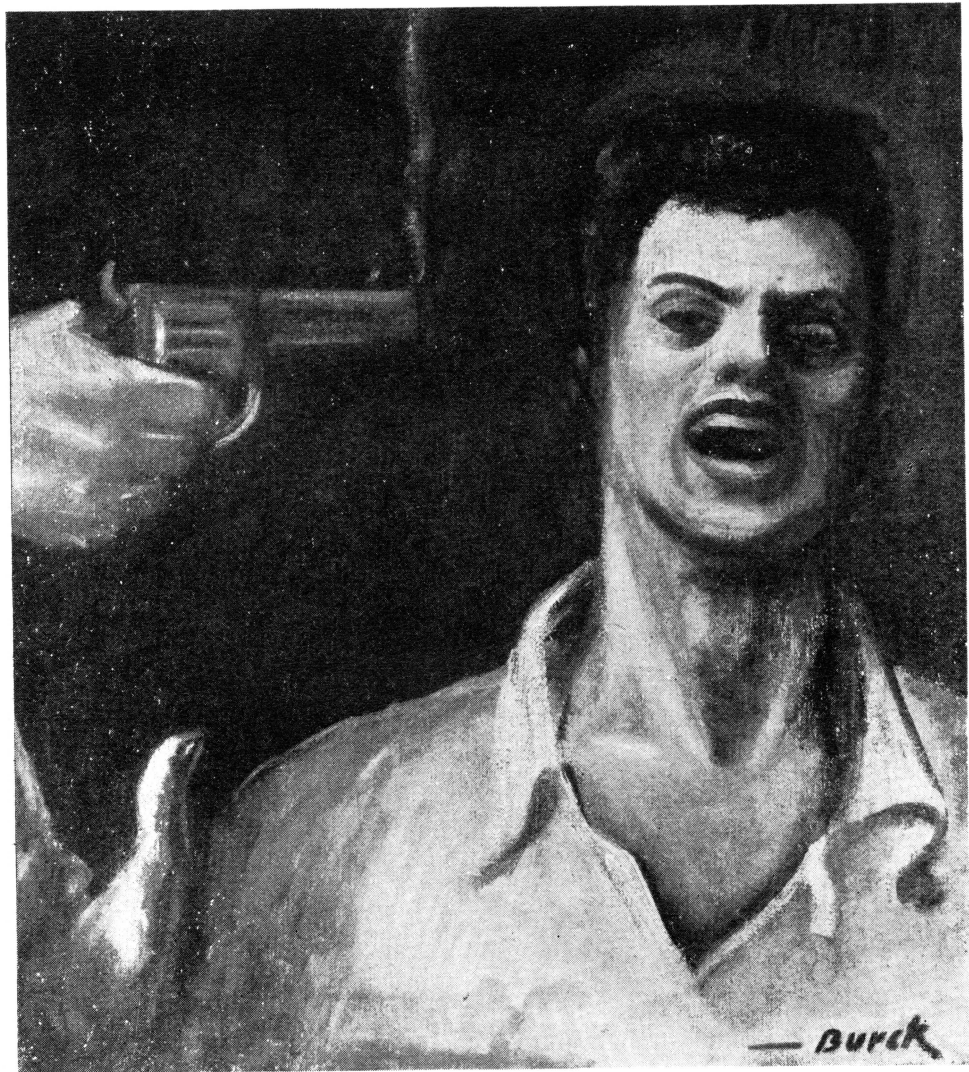
Montenegro was coming out of the hospital, when this dastardly deed was committed. Many agents and police of the Gomez regime attended the funeral. The cable office refused to send the original cable notifying of his assassination, and forced a change in the wording.

Montenegro was a worker in the oil industry in the island of Curacao, a possession of the Royal Dutch Shell Co., a British oil company, where Governor Leyba enforces "law and order" for the benefit of the Royal Dutch Shell. On this island, off Venezuela, thousands of Venezuelans and Indians toil under the most terrible conditions, for miserable wages and because Montenegro, despite his age and ill health, was active there in the organization of the workers and effectively introducing revolutionary propaganda, he was brutally murdered.

This assassination coming right after that of Comrade Julio A. Mella, clearly shows the policy to be followed by the fascist governments of Latin America. The puppet government of Machado, by assassinating Comrade Mella in Mexico City, has given the example to all of the other Wall Street agents in Latin America, and Gomez, the bloody ruler of Venezuela, did not hesitate for a moment to follow the new policy, product it seems of Mr. Hoover's trip to Latin America.

Comrades, the only way to efficiently fight this menace facing the thousands of Latin American revolutionists in exile who are militantly fighting against Wall Street and its agents, is by the organized protest of international labor and by international solidarity with the ever growing revolutionary forces springing up all over Latin America against Imperialism, and its hired tools.

Comrades, rally to give all possible support to our Latin American brothers. Their fight is our fight. American and Latin American labor must present a solid, militant front against the growing aggressive Yankee Imperialists.



MURDER OF MELLA DEPICTED BY THE WELL KNOWN LABOR CARTOONIST, BURCK

PERMANENT JOB LINES



by
HARVEY O'CONNOR

Photo: W. I. R.

AT ANY factory gate, in any job shark's office from New York to San Francisco the truth can be learned about America's prosperity. Blue with cold and discouragement, the jobless workers tramp on the frozen ground, swing their arms to and fro, blow their breath on numbed fingers as they wait for the factory's employment boss to crook his finger at a favored few in the long line. The job shark looks with appraising eye at the scores crowded in his mean, filthy office. He picks on the most subservient, the one who probably still has \$5 in his pocket and sells him a job. The others wait through the long hours of the day and wearily return to cheerless homes when the job shark closes up. Who doesn't know this—except those doped by clever propaganda broadcast through newspapers whose job it is to convince American workers that this is the best of all possible worlds. Ask any worker where he'd be week after next if he were thrown out of his job tomorrow. Find out just how many workers are sure that they'll have their jobs tomorrow or the first of next month.

Those 30,000 jobless men who shivered in front of Ford's office at River Rouge, they typified present day industrial America. Ford's publicity man had but to send out a story that Ford intended to put on 30,000 more workers by spring, and the very next Monday the entire 30,000 sprang from Detroit ready to go to work. But Ford really didn't want 30,000 more men,

he wanted 30,000 younger men. So his employment sharks took the young workers in their 20's in the front gate, while the workers in their 40's and 50's went out the back door.

Men in prosperous America fought with each other for those jobs, fences crumpled into kindling as they stampeded when the gate was opened. They have been standing there since before dawn. Icy blasts from the lakes had swept through flimsy overcoats, chilling them to the marrow. Many had even come at midnight to be the first. There they stood, thousands of men waiting through the wintry morning for the hundreds of jobs to be had.

That is the real America. Out in Los Angeles workers stand patiently before factory gates, waiting for someone to be fired. In Seattle, New Orleans, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, New York, Pittsburgh—are the queues of jobless.

In Philadelphia the specter of unemployment becomes so alarming to that city's hard-boiled industrial bosses that in panic they order the city council to vote \$50,000 to keep the slaves from organized, perhaps forcible protest.

In New York humanitarians whine and plead with Republican and Democratic bosses to please pass an old age pension law so that men and women over 70 won't have to beg on the streets, to work their old lives out for \$10 a week, to starve. In Memphis the jobless are thrown into the "bum's room" in the basement of the jail.

There is in America real prosperity. But it is confined to bosses, bankers, war-makers. "Aggregate 1928 net profits of leading corporations", say L. H. Sloan managing editor of Standard Statistics Co., "will set a new record for all time. The sum paid out in dividends will set a new high record. Aggregate cash and equivalent in corporation treasuries will be larger than at any previous year end."

Accompanying this prosperity is the growth of a permanent, large army of the unemployed. New technological changes that speed up workers and machines, that tend to "belt-ize" all production, displace hundreds of thousands of men and women. The shifting of industrial areas—textiles to the south, boots and shoes to the middle west—adds thousands of New England workers to the long lines of the jobless. Formerly the bread lines formed only in time of sharp crises known as "panics." Today the bread lines are permanent.

"Why can't I have four hours work a day and a decent leisure to read, talk, play, tinker about, make music and love?"

Employers either laugh at this question, or dismiss it with a shrug of the shoulders. It is, they say, the worker's problem. Indeed it is. It is a problem the worker will solve just as the capitalist has succeeded—for the time being—in solving his problem of profits. That is by industrial and political organization. That organization, intelligent, aggressive, forceful, leads from unemployment to workers' rule.

PERMANENT JOB LINES



by
HARVEY O'CONNOR



FAMILIES OF THOSE MURDERED AND MADE HOMELESS BY FASCISM

Anti-fascist Rally in Berlin

By J. GIBARDI

THE International Anti-Fascist Committee of Paris, headed by Henri Barbusse which for years carried on a courageous and energetic fight against fascism, has issued a call for an international conference of all antifascist forces.

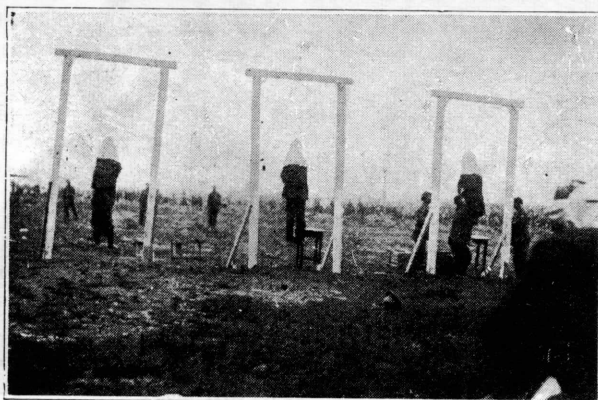
Is the question of Italian fascism and that of the spreading dictatorships in Southern and Eastern Europe of especial acuteness now? To this question an interesting reply was made lately in the columns of a "competent organ" in all matters of French foreign policy, *L'Europe Nouvelle*. Here Mr. Pertinax, one of the masters of imperialist French journalism, complains with bitterness about the activities of Mussolini's diplomacy cementing together the vast Mediterranean, Albania, Greece, Turkey and also Bulgaria against the designs of French imperialism. He further points out that as part of this activity, "the Italian policy works with all its energies in the Balkans and northward against the present status of these regions in favor of Bulgaria and Hungary."

While Mr. Pertinax does not miss any opportunity to voice the criti-

cism of French imperialism against Mussolini's international enterprises, he fails to mention, that the war danger is not only the privilege of fascist Italy. It is also actively worked up by those states where fascism has been established by the comprehensive cooperation of French and British diplomacy and maintained by support of the most influential capitalist groups of these countries. In Lithuania, Poland, Rumania and recently in Yugoslavia the power was given into the hands of influential military cliques in order to prepare by arbitrary measures for the materialization of the great aim of the Anglo-French foreign policies in the present epoch: for the

war against the Soviet Union irrespective of the opposition of the laboring masses. Never were these preparations so actively pursued, as they are today. A new imperialist world war is looming. Fascism is marching in the foremost vanguard of the war.

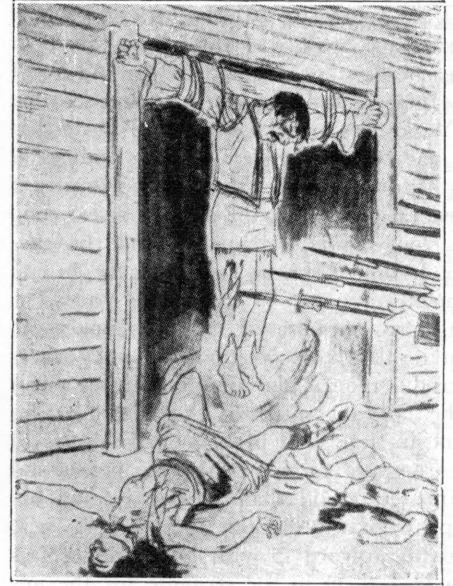
If there would not be any other reasons for the rallying of all the defense forces of the laboring masses in all lands, the acute war danger accompanied by the general fascisation of the South and Eastern Europe would entirely justify the call of the Barbusse Committee.



THE FRUITS OF FASCISM

(51)

There are however other reasons and not less important ones. Fascism after all is not only a European affair. We have just witnessed in the conflict between Bolivia and Paraguay, that also the fascist dictatorships, established by the United States in the different Latin-American countries, are only too efficient and too ready to



WHITE TERROR

raid territories belonging to the spheres of another imperialism than that of Wall Street. We saw in the case of the coward assassination of the splendid young militant, Julio Antonio Mella, by the hirelings of the Cuban government, that U. S. A. made fascism in Cuba and elsewhere, is promptly murdering every militant in the working class and national liberation movements whose activity is considered detrimental to the vital interests of the most powerful imperialism.

The outcries of tortured working class martyrs and antifascist militants are echoing in the huge prison which Latin-America is today.

From the Mediterranean to the Pacific the unmasked violence against the working class movement, and progressive organizations, the destruction of all constitutional hindrances and democratic forms before the imperative interests of trust capitalism and demagogue utterances of jingo patriotism shaped to some sort of "state religion" with uniuue monopoly on the whole cultural life—are marking the countries of Fascism.

States with a "traditional, fine democracy" are not entirely exempt from the fascist grip. There are in the United States, where the two party system so far excellently fits every need of Wall Street, certain positions, carefully built and solid, from which a fascist movement can be started, if the "democracy" fails.

Positions built for the time when the two party system—in consequence
(Continued on Page 60)

THE NEW INDUSTRIAL U

:: The Dressmakers' Strike ::

By ROSE WORTIS

AFTER two years of bitter struggle on the offensive against the unholy alliance of the treacherous bureaucracy of the A. F. of L., the bosses, and the state authorities, the New York dressmakers under the leadership of the new Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union have once more come to the forefront in a general strike to wipe out the sweat-shop system, long hours, low wages and the general conditions of slavery, and to make an end to company unionism in the needle trades.

The mass response of the dressmakers to the strike call of the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union is the most conclusive proof that the militant spirit of the needle trades workers has not been broken by the years of ruthless pogrom carried on by the bosses and the bureaucrats and that the new Union has the support of the mass of the workers, who are looking toward it with hope and aspiration to lead them in the struggle for the improvement of their conditions.

The general strike of the dressmakers comes as a clarion call to all workers to throw off the domination of the reactionaries and their class collaboration policies and engage in militant struggle for better conditions. The strike of the dressmakers under the leadership of the new union has more than local significance. In this strike, led by the left wing, the fundamental policies of the militant left wing as against the reactionary forces in the labor movement have been brought to the test and vindicated.

The strike of the dressmakers is a struggle in which not the individual leader but the mass plays the dominant role. This strike demonstrates that, under militant leadership police brutality, court injunctions and other methods employed by the bosses and their agents cannot break the fighting spirit of the workers. The dressmakers strike has distinguished itself by its militancy as instanced in the mass picketing and has already netted concrete gains for the workers.

Workers from additional shops come down daily to swell the ranks of the strikers. There are already thousands of workers who have returned to the shops victorious having gained the 40-hour 5-day week, the establishment of minimum wage scales (which mean considerable increases in the weekly earnings of the workers), and the right to their jobs after a trial period of one week. They are now in better position to win new demands in the future. The effectiveness of the strike, in spite of all statements to the contrary emanating from the camp of the enemy, despite their efforts to send scabs to the striking shops, has compelled many of the employers to capitulate to the Union, and has spread the strike daily to more shops.

These victories of the workers, which have strengthened the base of the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union and established it as an important factor in the industry to be reckoned with by the employers, have aroused the ire of the treacherous union bureaucracy which in this strike more than ever before is openly playing the role of the strike-breakers. The brazen statements of Mr. Ryan, President of the Central Trade and Labor Council, calling on the Mayor and the Police Commissioner to aid in breaking the strike of the dressmakers thru wholesale arrests and jailing of workers—the open co-operation given by the Schlesinger's company union to the bosses in their struggle against the workers



Photo: A. & P.
STRIKE PICKETS LEAVING THE JEFFERSON MARKET POLICE

—the lying and slanderous propaganda in the capitalist and yellow Socialist press has only served to heighten the spirit of the workers.

On the 12th day of the strike thousands of workers marched in solid ranks on the picket line defying the police and the agents of the bosses, undaunted by the wholesale arrests, which in the first two weeks of the strike totalled nearly one thousand.

The thousand arrests, the blackjacks, the brutality, have only stiffened the resistance and increased the militancy of the fighting workers. The picket lines are broken up with police clubs but immediately are reformed stronger than ever. The women strikers emerge from jail to take their places again in the Women's Battalions to bring more shops out on strike. Those who return to



Photo L. Baum

FUR WORKERS FACING TRIAL IN MINEOLA FRAME-UP

UNIONS ARE IN ACTION

:: Textile Workers Face the Courts ::

By ROBERT ZELMS



MARKET POLICE COURT. HUNDREDS WERE ARRESTED FOR PICKETING.

THE strike-breaker Calvin Coolidge is by no means the last creation of Massachusetts bourbons. This state is showing a very rapid "progress" on the path of blackest reaction by producing governors, professors, college presidents and other "very big" men with special ability to murder innocent workmen. Massachusetts knows best how to give "justice" to workers when they ask for bread and the right to exist.

To break strikes in this state, Massachusetts has a force always ready. The state militia with fixed bayonets and the regular and special police force from many republican and democratic cities of Massachusetts were rushed to

and order during their attack on the strikers.

The International Labor Defense, thru its New England District Organization mobilized all its forces and finances and acted like a real shield of the workers in New Bedford. The I. L. D. succeeded in keeping the strikers out of jail, by furnishing legal defense, by supplying bail amounting to something like three quarters of a million dollars and by appealing the vicious sentences to Superior Court for a jury trial. The second trial of New Bedford workers will open in March, while in the meantime the mill barons and their lackeys have manufactured additional indictments against 25 strike leaders and militant workers, charging them with... conspiracy to parade on the streets of their own city and disturbing the peace of the mill owners. These new indictments and additional arrests long after the strike is over, simply remind the workers that the conspiracy against them is not by any means ended. The mill barons conspired to crush the strike and now they are out to destroy the National Textile Workers Union and other organizations created in New Bedford. The conspirators expect to accomplish this by jailing all the leaders and the militant rank and filers. The organized power of the workers must be mobilized to smash this conspiracy of the greedy exploiters—the textile barons of Massachusetts.

The I. L. D. has already scored a victory by preventing the extradition of Crouch, Biedenkapp and Weisbord from New York, and will continue to fight Massachusetts "justice", which is ever-ready to attack the workers.

work in shops where the union has won a victory contribute a day's pay to finance the spreading of the strike. The dressmakers will go forward to the sharpening class struggles ahead with courage, united in the new industrial union of all needle trades workers, fighting every step of the way against the bosses, the labor fakery, and the system of exploitation and oppression.

New Bedford to crush the textile workers strike. This "rush" resulted in 662 *arrested strikers*, with more than 900 *charges* against them. And the Massachusetts court in New Bedford was very prompt in doing "justice" to these strikers by giving them "only" 1344 *months 20 days* jail sentences and about \$6,000.00 *in fines*. These figures, of course, do not include "sentences" administered directly by the guns and clubs of the guardians of law

The Miners' Struggle

The militant National Miners Union is fighting a number of cases in the courts. The International Labor Defense attorneys made a motion in the higher courts in Pittsburgh to *nolle prosequere* and throw out of court the convictions of the Cheswick miners who were sentenced in the lower courts because they took part in a Sacco-Vanzetti protest meeting in 1927. This case will be heard this month.

In the anthracite, in Lucerne, Pa., a number of left wing miners have been charged with assault as a result of their activities in the recent strike there.

Teddy Jackoski is now serving a term of from 5 to 15 years in the Ohio Penitentiary, having been convicted of assault with intent to murder during the Ohio miners strike. The I. L. D. lawyers are now seeking Jackoski's release on \$5,000 bail on a writ of *habeas corpus* and attempting to appeal. In Ohio, also, the I. L. D. is appealing the conviction of Anthony Minerich, who was sentenced to 45 days for violating an anti-picketing injunction.

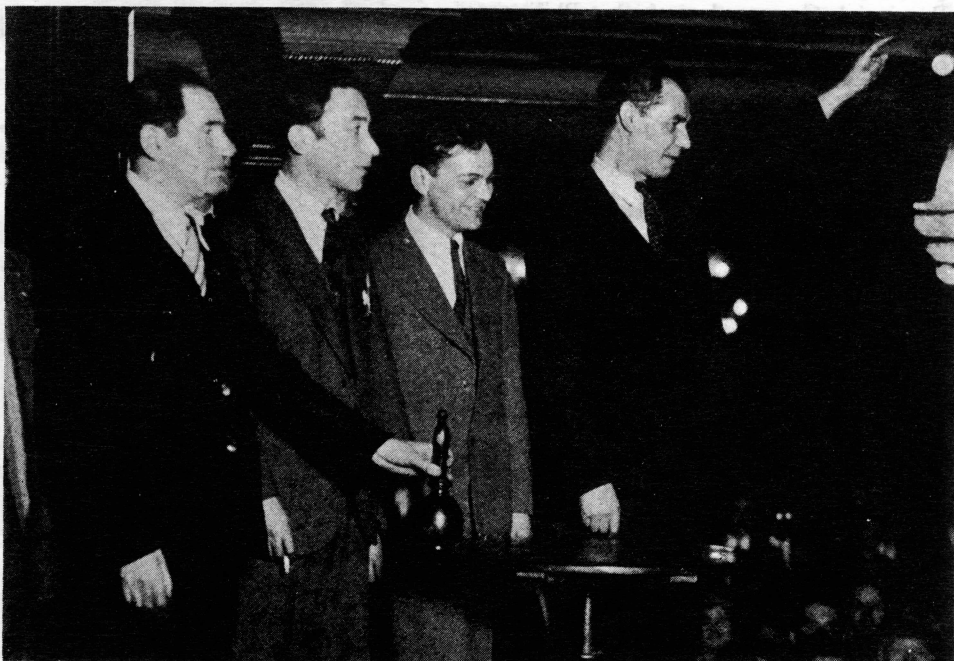


Photo Int. News.
LEADERS OF THE N. T. W. I. U. Left to right: P. GOODMAN, SASCHA ZIMMERMAN, BEN GOLD, secretary, and LOUIS HYMAN, President; ADDRESSING THE STRIKERS

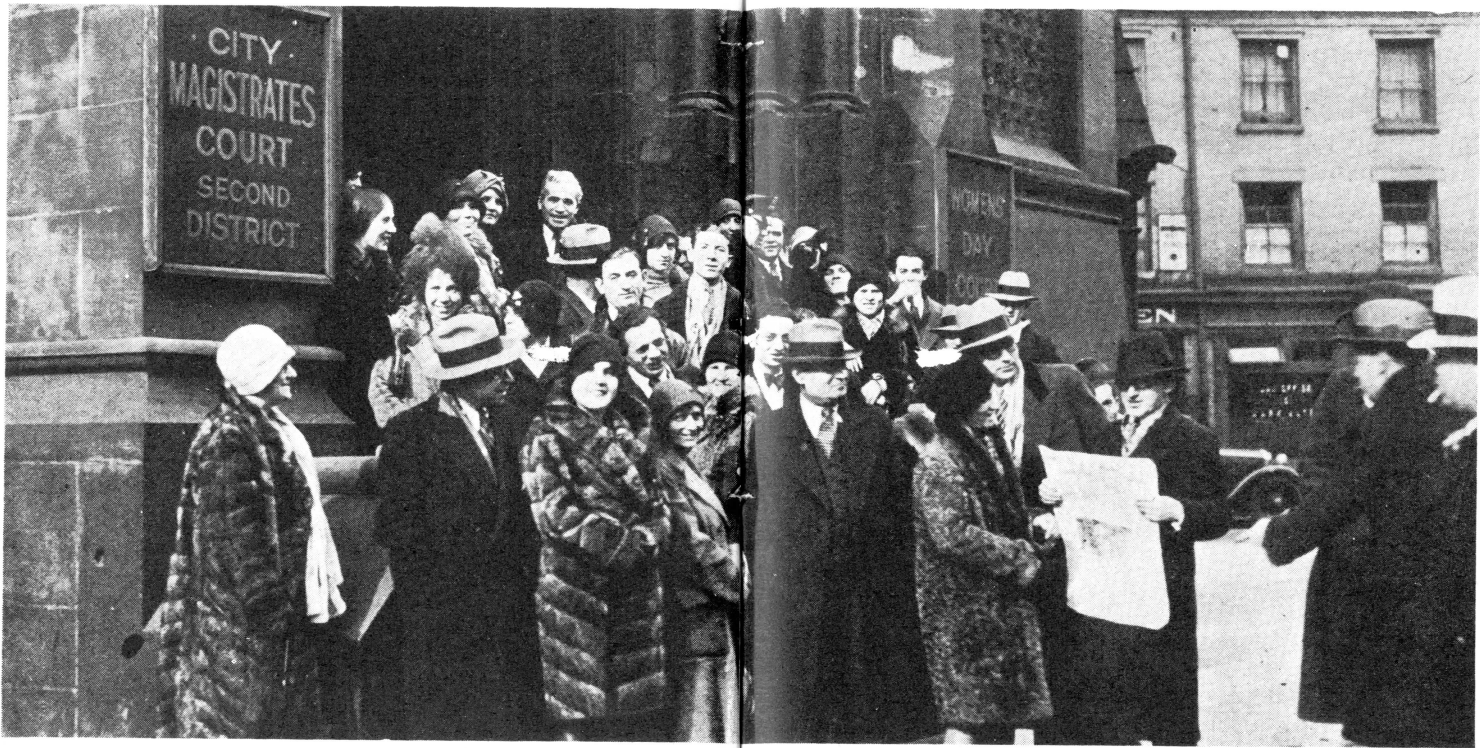


Photo: A. & P.
STRIKE PICKETS LEAVING THE JEFFERSON MARKET POLICE COURT. HUNDREDS WERE ARRESTED FOR PICKETING.



The Filipino Peasants Meet

By JACINTO G. MANAHAN

Photo Int. News.

I am glad to inform you that the convention of the Philippine Confederation of Peasants in Pitjtan, Bulacan, just concluded, was a great success. Many delegates from the different provinces attended. Nine provinces were well represented, as Bulacan, Pampanga, Bataan, Nueva Ecija, Laguna, Rizal, Cavite, Tayabas, Batangas. Besides the official delegates, there were many peasants, fishermen, sawmill workers, agricultural workers, etc., who attended the convention.

The Peasants' Convention was heavily guarded by eight policemen headed by the Chief of Police of Bulacan Town, and a company of armed soldiers headed by the Provincial Commander of the Philippine Constabulary in the Province of Bulacan. But in spite of this, the convention which lasted two days in continuous session, with intervals or recesses for dinner, supper, for coffee or tea, has passed more than a hundred resolutions.

Some of the resolutions passed connected with foreign problems were as follows:

RESOLUTION greeting the Krestintern (Peasants International) and all peasants organizations in the different countries of the world.

RESOLUTION congratulating the U. S.S.R. for the successful construction of Socialism, which is the inspiration of all workers and peasants throughout the world.

RESOLUTION supporting the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Secretariat as against imperialism and war danger in the Pacific, and for the success of the next Congress in August, 1929. Three delegates were then elected after passing this resolution.

RESOLUTION supporting the Anti-Imperialist League and for the success of

the Second International Congress to be held in Paris in July, 1929. Two delegates were elected in the Convention for this Congress after passing this resolution.

RESOLUTION asking for help and cooperation among organized workers and farmers in America, and to all national organizations of peasants and workers in the different countries of the world, for our struggle for Philippine independence, and requesting them to give more propaganda to this movement.

RESOLUTION condemning the Philip-

pine Commission of Independence to the U. S., for its failure to give wide propaganda to the Independence movement, while spending millions of pesos every year for this campaign. The resolution also asks why so few know of the Philippines and its people or their struggle for independence. This ignorance is particularly glaring in the countries of Europe as well as others.

RESOLUTION for a greater and more effective campaign on the part of the Philippine Confederation of Peasants for com-



Photo Int. News.

FILIPINO PEASANTS CARVING A DEAD HORSE FOR FOOD

plete, immediate and absolute independence for the Philippines, and together with the workers to organize public meetings in different barrios, towns and provinces in the Philippine Islands, which are to be absolutely independent of the movement of the two major political parties, Nacionalista, and Democrata, which are the parties of the rich and landowning class of bourgeoisie.

RESOLUTION protesting the amendment of the Philippine Corporation Law affecting our land laws, which has just been approved by the Philippine Legislature and voicing vigorous protest against the approval of the said amendment to our land laws, both to the Congress and President of the United States, since this amendment is contrary to our organic act, and against public opinion, and gives more privileges to foreign capital. This amendment opens wide the door to capitalist exploitation and means an absolute surrender to Imperialism. This is the result of the "cooperation" between the leaders of the bourgeoisie and Governor General Stimson, who is the representative of American Imperialism in the Philippine Islands. The resolution also requests American Workers and Farmers organizations and peasant and workers organizations in other countries to voice their protest to the President and Congress of the United States, and to support us in our struggle.

RESOLUTION protesting against the White Terror in China, and the hostility of the government toward the workers and peasants in Japan, Korea, India, Indonesia, Africa, and other colonial countries.

Our next congress will be held in Tayabas on May 1, 1929, on the Philippines Labor Day. Workers and peasants in the United States and other countries should pass resolutions supporting our organization, and send them to the congress. Such resolutions or opinions from the workers and farmers of America will greatly encourage the toiling masses of the Philippines and will let them know they are not alone in the struggle against American imperialism for better conditions and for independence.

When I visited the local unions of the peasants in the provinces of Tayabas and Laguna, the Constabulary officers and soldiers were very active and have been watching all of our movements very carefully and maliciously. They went with us everywhere we went, and spied on us everywhere. The present Governor General, who will now be the Secretary of State, most likely, in Hoover's cabinet, called Gen. Nathorst of the Philippine Constabulary to make an investigation of the peasant organizations of which I am president, and to report on the movement of the workers and peasants in the Philippines. Nathorst then called on all Provincial Commanders of the Philippine Constabulary and ordered them to report everything about the workers and peasants movement to general headquarters. These facts were printed in the newspapers.

SAN QUENTIN

By Henry George Weiss

*A lowering pile of whitish gray
Looking with bleak eyes on the bay,
And Tamalpais looking down on it;
A kitchen garden by the shore
And flowers at each cottage door,
Some benches by the road on which to sit.*

*Such is San Quentin from the roadway seen
Immortalized by men
Railroaded to the "pen";
A modern hell-hole framed in emerald
green,
Behind whose frowning walls a hundred
men
Suffer and starve because they DARE be
men!*

*Such is San Quentin that you see—
California's Statue to Liberty!*

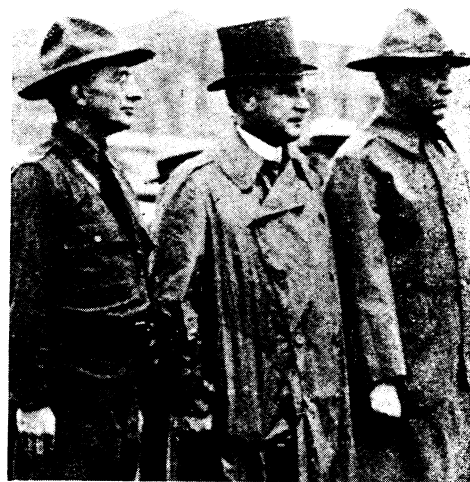


Photo Int. News.
FULLER, MURDERER OF SACCO AND VAN-
ZETTI, PARADED WHILE THEY SAT IN THE
DEATH HOUSE.

THE CANTER CASE

By UPTON SINCLAIR

Upton Sinclair, who is a member of the National Committee of the I. L. D. has sent the letter reproduced on this page, protesting against the charges against H. Canter. Sinclair upholds Canter in the charge that Gov. Fuller, representing the capitalist class, murdered Sacco and Vanzetti.

UPTON SINCLAIR
STATION B
LONG BEACH CALIFORNIA

February 7, 1929.

Karl Reeve
Editor, International Labor Defense
80 East 11th St.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Comrade:

Comrade Canter is to be congratulated upon a real service in keeping the Sacco and Vanzetti case alive in Boston. It will never die so long as Boston and capitalism exist. I will venture the prophecy that ^{Canter's} ~~that~~ case will never come to trial in Boston. Never under any circumstances will the great puritan Commonwealth take a chance of having the witnesses in the Sacco-Vanzetti case take the stand to be cross-questioned by a representative of the working class. Not all the money in Boston could hire the politicians to permit that to happen. That does not mean of course that we don't have to keep up work for the defense of the case, because it is only our readiness ^{and the} ~~for~~ publicity which goes with it, which keeps the Boston crowd in fear.

Sincerely,

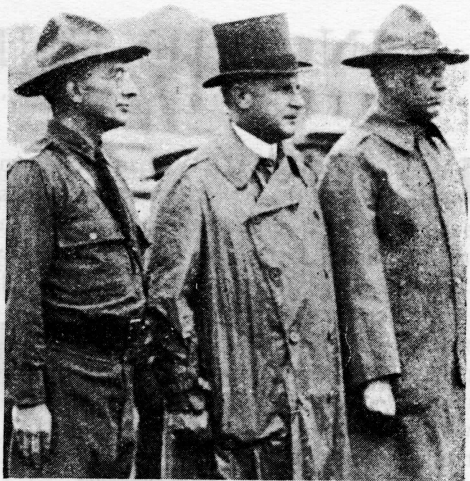


Photo Int. News.
FULLER, MURDERER OF SACCO AND VAN-
ZETTI, PARADED WHILE THEY SAT IN THE
DEATH HOUSE.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S

IN THE UNITED STATES

By JULIET STUART POYNTZ

INTERNATIONAL Woman's Day on March 8th this year has as one of its purposes the mobilization of the women of the working class to fight against the capitalist offensive, against the attack of world imperialism

which is now preparing for a new imperialist world war. On this day the women workers of all countries are called upon by the Communist International to demonstrate their resistance and organize all of their revolutionary forces against imperialist war preparations and imperialist exploitation.

Women workers are exploited even more than the men workers, and are the least organized section of the working class. The imperialists are unloading upon the backs of the working class the burdens of the preparation for a new world war, are making the working class feel the crushing burden of new armaments, navies, air fleets, which are paid for by the inhuman enslavement of the working class in capitalist countries and even more severe exploitation of colonial countries where the capitalists reap super-profits. American imperialism, the center of world reaction, signs Kellogg Pacts with one hand and Cruiser Bills with the other. The Olive branch examined more closely appears as the Big Stick and the "Hands Across the Sea" as the mailed fist of the American Empire.

The American imperialist government pursues its plans of domination of world markets, its preparation for an attack on

the Soviet Union, and at the same time attacks the working class at home. The courts, injunctions, the police the deportations, the servile bureaucracy of the American Federation of Labor, are enlisted by



THE YOUTH OF THE SOVIET UNION LIVE IN A SOCIETY FREE FROM OPPRESSION

Wall Street in this attack.

The militant workers are answering this attack of American imperialism, and in the struggles against exploitation and against the war danger women workers are playing an important part. In the new unions which have recently been organized the women have made a splendid record as

working class fighters. In the National Textile Workers Union whose membership is composed of a large percentage of women, in the New Bedford Textile strike, women such as Ellen Dawson and dozens of others went to jail side by side with the men. These women, tested in the struggle against the government and the employers, have now come forward as organizers and active participants in the drive of the National Textile Workers Union to organize the unorganized textile workers, a large proportion of whom are women. One only needs to recall the Colorado Miners strike, the struggle of the bituminous coal miners in Pennsylvania, the Passaic strike, etc., to realize that the women are an important factor in the mobilization of the working class to resist militantly the attacks of American imperialism and to struggle against the system of exploitation and for a better standard of living.

In the Dressmakers' Strike which is now being conducted by the Needle Trade Workers' Industrial Union the women workers are now playing a leading role. In all the struggles of the working class women workers are more and more coming to the fore as active participants shoulder to shoulder with the men workers. In the demonstrations held in Washington for the release of John Porter, a leader of the New Bedford Strike from Leavenworth prison, in the recent demonstration against imperialist war, in the demonstrations against the murder of Julio Mella and other victims of the white terror practiced by American imperialism against Latin American toilers, in the demonstration for the release of Jack John-

ter, a leader of the New Bedford Strike from Leavenworth prison, in the recent demonstration against imperialist war, in the demonstrations against the murder of Julio Mella and other victims of the white terror practiced by American imperialism against Latin American toilers, in the demonstration for the release of Jack John-

DAY -- MARCH EIGHTH

IN THE U. S. S. R.

By S. CROLL

stone from the clutches of British imperialism, in all of these demonstrations against American imperialism women workers and women's organizations played an important role.

In this preparation of American imperialism to plunge the workers into a new bloody war for profits the working women are a factor of tremendous importance. They are victims of capitalist rationalization to an even greater extent than men workers. They are drawn into the factories in ever greater numbers and subjected to the inhuman speed up, long hours and low wages. For the same work they are paid a mere fraction of what men workers receive. The burden of the children and the family rests too upon their shoulders. The life and strength of women and children is ground out into profits for the employers. In the approaching war working women will be used as one of the supports of the imperialist war makers. Wall Street would like to pour them into the factories by the millions to take the place of the men. In the imperialist war they make the shells and guns and airships, the chemicals and poison gas. They are an indispensable force for the capitalists in carrying out their war plans. Already fascist women's organizations are trying to organize masses of women for the support of the next war. These attempts must be resisted. The working women must fight against this bunk of pacifism and religion, this lying hypocrisy.

Working women must do their part today in America in building the fighting organizations of the working class, in making the International Labor Defense a broad mass organization able to offer a strong resistance to Fascism and persecution of the workers, in building the new unions especially in the textile industry and the needle trades, in spreading out the left wing movement under the leadership of the Trade Union Educational League to reach the great masses of the workers in the factories and especially in the heavy industries which manufacture for war.

Above all working women must come to understand the labor struggle in its broadest aspects, must realize the importance of organizing the revolutionary fighting front of labor today on an international basis, of uniting all the forces of the workers in the struggle against imperialism and the war danger.

Working women of all countries, unite. Defend the Soviet Union, the fatherland of the workers of all countries.

Side by side with the working men organize yourself to resist the capitalist offensive, to fight the war danger.

This is the message of International Women's Day.

INTERNATIONAL Women's Day in the Soviet Union differs greatly from Women's Day in capitalist countries. All the clubs and the largest and best theatre and moving picture houses as well as halls are turned over to meetings and entertainments in honor of this Day. Months previous preparations for the celebration are made by the social and political institutions of the country. Thousands of women will be promoted on March 8 to more important and more responsible posts in these institutions as a result of special training and assistance given them in the various vocational, cultural and political schools provided by the trade unions and Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

This year's celebrations will be marked by a doubly intense campaign for the promotion of women to higher positions, in the factory, in the government, trade unions, co-operatives and in the Party. In addition there will be opened new co-operative houses, nurseries, communal kitchens, etc., which leave the woman free to participate in social life.

All of the Soviet institutions, the Communist Party, the Soviet, the Unions, etc., place great emphasis on the advancement of the political level of the women.

It is now eleven years since the Communist Party established a Department for Work Among Women whose task it has been and is to enable the great mass of toiling working and peasant women to benefit to the full from the complete freedom granted them by the Proletarian Dictatorship and to draw them into every phase of political and social life. This was not easy as the women of Russia were among the most oppressed and backward in the world because of the capitalist czarist re-

gime. Thanks to the work of this department, hundreds and hundreds of thousands of hitherto entirely illiterate women have become alphabetically and politically literate, have been assured an adequate number of places in the vocational schools so as to make them economically independent and qualified to help build the new Socialist society. Eleven years of such collective training has produced women who can enter the highest organs of the Government, the Trade Unions, co-operatives and the All-Russian Communist Party.

The continuous effort to raise the cultural and political level of the working and peasant women is based upon the words of the great Revolutionary Leader Comrade Lenin that "Every cook must learn how to administer the Government".

Women who have been tested in their activities during the revolution on the barricades and later in the armed struggle against the white guards, have been permitted to attend the military acad-

emies and some of them have already graduated with honors.

In the Soviet Union the masses of toiling women not only learn how to keep the wheels of industry and government going but themselves join in the work of preparation for active defense against imperialist aggression.

The women join the voluntary defense organizations in the capacity of Red Cross Nurses, organizations which aid the Red Army prepare to defend the workers republic against capitalist attacks.

Wherever these courageous and beloved women appear the ovations they receive rank next in enthusiasm and warmth only to those given working class women from capitalist countries who come to greet the meetings and to express the proletarian solidarity and international spirit of Women's Day.



Photo Int. News. KATE GITLOW, LEADER OF WORKING WOMEN, DEMONSTRATING IN WASHINGTON AGAINST WAR.

RUTHENBERG

(Continued from Page 43)

its imperialist character, was imprisoned in Cleveland, May 19, 1917. He issued the slogan "Down with the Imperialist War."

When Ruthenberg made his speech after being sentenced in New York, in March 1920, he defied the court and exposed the fact that capitalist justice is an inevitable accompaniment of the system of exploitation and that the persecution of the workers is especially intense in times of preparation for imperialist war. During his trial at Bridgeman, March 1923, Ruthenberg said: "Imperialist wars are the inevitable outcome of the capitalist system of production—not only a single war, but many wars, recurring from time to time.... In this process of imperialism and the destruction of productive power, there will be uprisings of workers who bear the brunt of the sufferings to endeavor to relieve themselves from the misery and sufferings



Photo Labor Defender.
ROBERT ZELMS, NEW ENGLAND I. L. D.
ORGANIZER

which the capitalist system brings upon them. These struggles will result in revolutionary struggles, in attempts by the workers to abolish the capitalist system and to establish the collective ownership of industry and production".

In his statement, after he was sentenced in the New York trial in March 1920, Ruthenberg fully exposed the class nature of the prosecution. He said: "I realized from the beginning of this trial, as I have at any other trial that I have taken part in as defendant, that this court and all the instruments of this court, are merely a part of that organization of force which we call the capitalist state: and I expected no other

result from an organization of the capitalist class to protect the capitalist system than the result that has been returned by this court in this particular case."

Ruthenberg was a fighting revolutionist who fought against Opportunism and Reformism throughout his life as a leader of the revolutionary movement. Ruthenberg was an organizer and a man of action.

Ruthenberg's last words were, "Tell the comrades to close the ranks and to build the Party. The American workers, under the leadership of our Party and the Comintern, will win. Let's fight on". We must

fight on in the spirit of Ruthenberg against the attempts of the capitalist class to plunge America into a new imperialist world war. We must fight on against the attack of American and world imperialism against the Soviet Union. We must fight on in the spirit of Ruthenberg, to build the Workers (Communist) Party, the leader and the vanguard of the working class in all its battles. We must fight on in the spirit of Ruthenberg against the system of which class justice directed against the workers is a part and for the establishment of the workers' rule in this country.

THE CENTRALIA TRAGEDY

(Continued from Page 47)

placed in view of Everest's friends in the prison and at last buried in an unmarked grave.

Four union loggers were taken out of jail to do the work of burial under a heavy guard of soldiers. Some kind of a farcical inquest was held.

In the hall that day, besides Everest, were Bert Faulkner, Roy Becker, Britt Smith, Mike Sheehan, James McNerney and Morgan. The latter broke down under the torture all were put through. The terror continued for nine days. Loren Roberts, 19 years old, was driven insane.

A reign of terror existed throughout the Northwest. More than a thousand men and women were arrested in the State of Washington alone. Union halls were closed labor papers suppressed, and many men were given sentences of from one to fourteen years for having in their possession copies of papers that contained the truth about the Centralia tragedy...

Lewis County and the Lumber and Employers' Associations had provided special prosecutors for this trial. There was a heavy array of these mouthpieces of capitalism and they were backed up by all the authority of the State. The Governor had sent the militia to the town of Montesano where the trial was held, and the Congressman had sent word that the members of the American Legion who were employed as deputy sheriffs, could wear their uniforms in the court room with a red chevron to designate past service in the army. Against this force which the timber wolves had employed, George F. Vanderveer stood

alone. He was a lawyer with a heart, as dangerous as a workingman with brains.

With everything against them, witnesses intimidated, the court room packed with soldiers in uniform and every possible thing done, even to threaten the defense attorneys with death, and jurymen overawed, the verdict was a foregone conclusion.

The jury was out a total of 22 hours and 20 minutes. In their verdict, Eugene Barnett and John Lamb were found guilty of manslaughter, or murder in the third degree. The Judge refused to accept this verdict, and sent the jury back to change it, and the final verdict was "guilty of murder in the second degree—Eugene Barnett, John Lamb, Britt Smith, Bert Bland, Commodore Blank, Roy Becker and John McNerney. Acquitted: Mike Sheehan and Elmer Stewart Smith".

They judged Loren Roberts insane and irresponsible.

Bert Faulkner was released during the trial.

Judge John M. Wilson sentenced the seven convicted men to terms of from 25 to 40 years in the Walla Walla penitentiary. Though the jury had asked for leniency, the Judge gave the men the limit of the law. These men are still in prison and there is a movement on foot for their release.

Five of the regular jurymen have since sworn to affidavits saying that the verdict was unjust. One told of a preliminary ballot unanimously for acquittal.

(From Haywood's *Autobiography, Int., Publishers*).

*Yours for the success
of the International
Labor Defense
Wm D Haywood.*



Photo Labor Defender.
**ROBERT ZELMS, NEW ENGLAND I. L. D.
ORGANIZER**



Photo: Press Clcne.

Gorky Visits a Soviet Prison Commune

(Continued from February issue)

He came to the Commune for a few days and then ran away. I met him afterwards in Sucharevka Square. When he saw me, he tried to slink away. I went up to him as if nothing had happened: "Good day, Vasyka!" He was confused. "Don't you know, Samoilvich, that I ran away?" he said, turning red. "If you ran away, then you did run away," I replied calmly. "What business is it of mine?" Three weeks later he returned to the Commune of himself, and now he is one of our best workers. A fine fellow, intelligent and sensible."

"Wonderful, wonderful!" said Gorki, and a delighted smile illuminated his face. "That all sounds like a fairy story."

"Our first principle," continued Pogrebinsky, "is: No philanthropy, no compulsion. When we fetch a criminal out of prison we give him new clothes, and say at once: 'We are giving you all this on credit. We are keeping account of it all. You will earn money and pay for it. And afterwards we subtract the instalments from his wages. When he first enters the Commune we do not set him before a desk full of school books, nor do we give him any newspapers. Go to the bench and work. After a week has passed the instructor in the workshop says to him, perhaps: 'This part must be two millimetres shorter.' 'But what is a millimetre?' 'If you want to know that you must learn it'. He now finds that he really must know what millimetres, centimetres and such things are, or he can never become a skilled worker in his profession. He seizes eagerly upon books, buys them with his own money. In this way many a worker has risen so far that he could enter the Worker's Faculty in Moscow. If such youths must sit down to books from the beginning and are expected to read newspapers besides, their 'untamed natures' would take fright. But once they have grasped that they cannot get on without books and newspapers, then every one, without exception, subscribes to a paper, and many are even

subscribers to popular scientific periodicals. Out of their own means, voluntarily subscribed, they have formed a large Commune library. From the very first day onwards, if anyone asked for a newspaper, we said to him: "If you want a newspaper, subscribe to one with your own money."

"Quite right!" exclaimed Gorki. "Quite right! It is a remarkable thing that the greatest pedagogic reformers have not thought of this system, and that it has been left to such a young man as Pogrebinsky—wonderful!"

"Now we have an easy time with our boys. They have become complete human beings. But at first we had a great deal to bear. As soon as the sun shone in spring the instincts of the vagabond awakened in many. Sometimes, when I had finished my work at midnight, I travelled by train to Dolschevo. From the railway station I went on foot to the Commune. 'Are the boys all asleep?' I looked quietly around to see if everyone was in his place. The most important point of all is to base everything

on confidence. The boys are fine feeling and sensible. If faith is placed in them, they do not take advantage of it. They have a co-operative store. The salesmen and cashiers are former thieves and robbers. So long as this co-operative store existed we have had no case of theft or defalcation. An example: I brought five youths from prison and took them to the Commune. I had given them Red Army overcoats. We sat down in the station and waited for the train. A woman sat on the same bench, surrounded by boxes and baskets. She got up and said to the youths (I was not there at the moment): "You might look after my things for a moment, there are so many thieves about. I'll be back in a minute." She went away. I returned soon after. One of the former thieves, who had only come out of jail an hour before, said to me: "That was a hard job! The things were simply put in our charge. Not long ago I should certainly have made my own of them. This time I couldn't for they were put under my care."

(Continued in the next issue)



Photo: S. Wolf
PROTESTING AGAINST MURDER OF MELLA AT CUBAN CONSULATE, CHICAGO

San Quentin, Calif.

International Labor Defense,
Greetings:

I received the customary I. L. D. check for \$5.00, for which I thank you. It found me down to fifty cents on the book, so you can plainly see that it was wholly acceptable and I assure you that it was appreciated.

One cannot understand the secure feeling it gives one to know where the next month's commissaries are coming from unless one is directly in need of such—it is like knowing where the next meal is coming from in the world of "christian charity". But I guess one is not so sure about that prospective meal among "the best people."

Wishing the I. L. D. success, I am
CLAUDE MERRITT.

Royalton, Ill.

Dear Comrades,

I am writing you a few lines to let you know that I received the twenty dollars for Dependent Relief. And am very glad to get it. It sure helps me out a whole lot.

MRS. BERTHA SINICH.

San Francisco, Cal.

International Labor Defense,

I received your very kind and generous letter with a check for \$25.00. It was a god send to me as I have been out of work for some time. Hard at my age, in another year I'll be 70 years. There is little demand for an old woman. My son is married 6 or 7 years, has children and wife and small pay he gets. I pay \$3 a week for an inside dark house-keeping room. There were four sent to San Quentin including Fred Mermon, Ed Condon. These two pleaded guilty and swore against my son John, also Claude Merritt. My son got life imprisonment, the others got 10 years. Merritt and my son did not plead guilty, John never struck a blow to the man that was killed. We were poor people, friendless without the protection of a father. District Atty. Franklin Swartz or Swart as he calls himself also was very unfair. Also the Judge objected to our attorney, when we attempted to question the jury, he would order the juror not to answer. The attorneys that heard the trial said Judge Buck and Atty Swartz

were very unfair to my son. They would not direct the jury.

Atty. Swartz of Redwood City sent a petition to Gov. Young for clemency for Claude Merritt and for Ed. Condon. But not a word did he say in favor of John Cornelison. All three are charged with the same crime. Ten women on his jury and two men were all for acquittal, but one man favored manslaughter. The Judge objected, so a new trial gave Merritt second degree, 10 years to life. The evidence showed that John Cornelison never struck the murdered man a blow and the Jury gave him life. Seven wanted to hang him. Six men and one woman voted death for him. As yet the governor has not shown clemency to a single man who has been sent to prison for labor trouble. He puts them off and tells them he will think over it.

I remain very grateful to all.

SARAH CORNELISON

The Berlin Congress

(Continued from page 51)

of the conscientiousness of the laboring masses—will be broken and crushed and not constitute any more the best safeguard of the vital interests of American Imperialism. This will be the historical movement of American Fascism. The American Legion and its subsidiaries and similiar organizations will become the rallying point.

The anti-foreign, anti-Negro, and anti-jewish "traditions" are carefully nursed by press, education and every other efficient machine of "American civilization."

These rudimentary positions of American fascism should warn the workers and every progressive organization of this country.

The Anti-Fascist Conference is to unite all the forces willing to build up the front against the fascist danger. It is called by the Barbusse Committee to be held in Berlin on March 10 and will propose action on the following lines:

Organization of the international struggle for the abolition of exceptional laws and special tribunals, for the liberation of political prisoners and deportees.

Organization of an international struggle for the freedom of the press and the free penetration of progressive and working class press into fascist countries.

Struggle for trade union freedom and freedom of association.

Defense of national minorities in fascist countries.

Struggle against the war danger of the fascist imperialists.

Struggle against the deportation of anti-fascists from foreign countries.

Struggle against fascist propaganda in foreign countries.

We are realizing a landmark in the history of the anti-fascist movement. The Berlin Convention will establish a great new world-wide link in industrial and political working class movements and all other elements of progress. Nobody can ignore the political and cultural significance of this fact.

The call of the fascist prisons, the call of the tortured millions will be answered by effective and militant solidarity in Berlin!

DEPORTATIONS

As the Labor Defender goes to press, the federal government is planning to pass a number of bills which make it easier to deport workers. The Johnson Bill in the House removes the time limit within which aliens may be deported and imposes severe penalties on minor infractions of the deportation laws. The Johnson Bill, an amendment to the Senate Bill, makes easier a terroristic espionage against foreign born workers. No alien is safe. Those who criticize the government are to be deported.

Searches, arrests, prison terms and deportations are to be "legal" against foreign born workers. This is but a part of the offensive against the workers in preparation for a new imperialist world war.

The I. L. D. protests against these measures and calls on the workers to resist them. An article on these bills will appear in the next issue of the Labor Defender and the I. L. D. will conduct a campaign against them.

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BUILDING THE I.L.D.



HELPS VICTIMS OF WHITE TERROR IN GREECE!

Theamo Papazoglon Melasco, secretary of the Greek section of the International Labor Defense, is a very active worker. Since taking over the position as secretary, many new branches have been organized. Through her tireless energy, she has organized special groups for the purpose of sending donations to help the class war prisoners in Greece who have earned the hatred of the White Terror government for their activities in the labor movement.

Greek workers in America, help Comrade Melasco and other active workers of the I.L.D. in their work for the relief of workers in Greece by contributing as much as possible to the International Labor Defense! Help free your fellow workers from Imperialist terrorism!

OHIO DISTRICT PREPARING FOR FOURTH ANNUAL BAZAAR

Ohio District, International Labor Defense, is busy with the arrangements for its Fourth Annual District Bazaar which will be held at Cleveland on March 23-24th at the Grdina Hall 6021 St. Clair Ave.

The annual bazaar which has become an institution to which all members and sympathizers look forward, promises to be a tremendous success this year. In the past year the District has been engaged in a number of important campaigns and has added more than a thousand new members to its ranks, who are now working hard for the bazaar's success.

As the result of the work done during the Miner's Strike, in which the Ohio District defended 60 miners in Ohio and West Virginia, the Canton Steel Strike in which 42 workers were defended and many cases in Cleveland and other sections of the District, the I.L.D. here has won the confidence and support of thousands of workers throughout the State who will help to make this bazaar a successful one.

The regular district raffle is being conducted this year as in the past, with three prizes.

In appreciation of the work done by the I.L.D. in the defense of the coal miners, Pat Toohey, Secretary of the New National Miners Union will speak at the affair on Sunday night.

All readers of the Labor Defender in the Ohio District are urged to help make this bazaar a success by contributing to it either with articles or cash.

SAN ANTONIO I. L. D. FOR SHIFRIN

At a gathering, where Comrade J. Rabinoff, representing the Jewish section of the I.L.D. spoke at 441 E. Commerce St., San Antonio, Texas, a resolution was adopted protesting the persecution of Wm. Shifrin who having been attacked by six thugs sent by the Butcher Union controlled by right wing elements, who, threatened his life with knives, had no way out except by defending himself which resulted in the death of one of the gangsters, Harry Silver.

The resolution concluded, "We pledge ourselves to do everything in our power to free Comrade Shifrin from 'Forwardistic Vengeance' and Capitalistic 'Justice'. We further pledge our full moral and financial support to the newly formed I.L.D. in this city in its movement to free Comrade Wm. Shifrin as well as all other victims of the class-struggle."

(Signed) J. SHAFFER, Chairman.
MARY ANNE LIPSHUTZ, Sec'y-Treas.

THE LABOR DEFENDER

With this issue there is a new Business Manager, Edward Wright. Walter Carmon has resigned to take over the position of Managing Editor of the New Masses. Walter Carmon, during his stay on the Labor Defender, made many valuable contributions to the magazine.

The Labor Defender is beginning a campaign for new subscribers. In the first three weeks of February more than 300 yearly subscriptions were received, a record since the founding of the magazine. *Subscribe today!*

THE PHILADELPHIA BAZAAR

The most outstanding event of the season for the Philadelphia Local of the International Labor Defense, will be the big Bazaar scheduled for Friday and Saturday April 12th and 13th.

The program Saturday will include a colorful mask and costume ball to the tune of a splendid dance orchestra.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

J. Manahan is pres. of the Phil. Conf. of Peasants. H. O'Connor is N. Y. manager of Fed. Press. J. Gibardi is repres. of Workers Int. Relief (Berlin). Rose Wortis is an official of the N.T.W.I. Union. E. Browder is sec'y of the Pan Pacific T. U. Secretariat. J. S. Poyntz is head of the women's dept. of the Communist Party. Anna Rochester has just published a book, "Labor and Coal." Robert Zelms is I.L.D. sec'y for New England.

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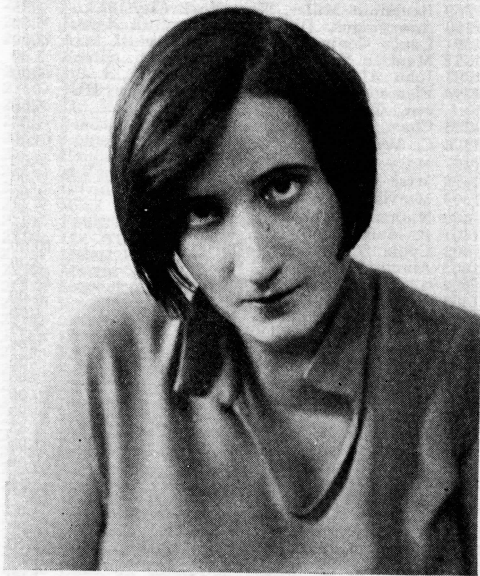
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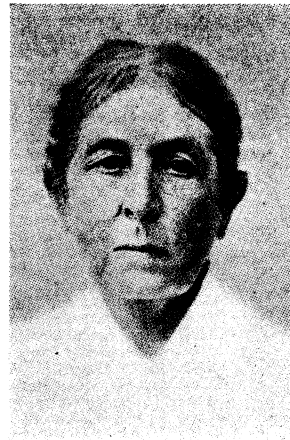
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