

LABOR DEFENDER

July

1930

10¢

Defeat
Georgia
Lynch
Law
Justice!



NO DEATH, NO PRISON!

By J. LOUIS ENGBAHL



H. M. Powers

The fight for the lives of the six workers facing the electric chair in Atlanta, Georgia, enters a new phase of struggle.

Just as in Gastonia, North Carolina, one year ago, in the face of the international rage of labor, so in Atlanta, Georgia, today, the judicial lynch-

ers halt temporarily in their tracks. They feel the pressure of working class protest. The bright glare of publicity, gradually increasing, reveals to the world the savage murders of workers they contemplate.

Just as in Gastonia, last year, so in Atlanta, today, this situation creates as great and grave a danger for the working class. In the Gastonia struggle the protest subsided when it became certain that the sixteen strikers and organizers of the National Textile Workers' Union had been saved from the electric chair of the mill owners with their Manville-Jenckes leadership. It became easier for the lynch law courts operating in Mecklenberg County under the direction of the suave and cultured Judge Barnhill to impose living death sentences, totalling 117 years' imprisonment, on the seven Gastonia prisoners. These practical death sentences are now on appeal to the North Carolina state supreme courts and before the American and the international working class.

The death threats of the Atlanta lynch-ers, however, must be defeated completely by the aroused toiling masses.

Do not be misled by the fact that the arrogant Assistant Solicitor General John Hudson, who threatens with the electric chair every militant worker coming into Georgia, hesitates in pushing for immediate trials of M. H. Powers, Joseph Carr, Ann Burlak, Herbert Newton, Henry Storey and Mary Dalton. More workers were sent to "the chair" in Georgia last year than were done to death by capitalist class justice in the executioners' chambers of any other state in the nation. These were all Negro workers.

The prosecutor, Hudson, who had issued his warning to all militant labor organizers to "study the excellent laws of Georgia," (for the ruling class) thought he had "a perfect case" in the fact that he had been able to arrest Ann Burlak, the organizer of the National Textile Workers' Union, at the mass meeting of the American Negro Labor Congress at which the Negro worker, Henry Storey, was the chairman, and Herbert Newton, the Negro organizer of the A. N. L. C. was speaking when the police attack took place. Hudson had forgotten the concession wrung from "Southern chivalry" in the Gastonia case that, "We do not fry women in North Carolina." Hudson demanded that the death-dealing electric current be shot through the bodies of Ann Burlak and Mary Dalton, as well as the Negro



Herbert Newton

and white workers, Newton, Storey, Powers and Carr. This is still the demand of Georgia lynch law "justice" speaking through its prosecutor, Hudson, who carefully mobilizes every possible bit of Southern ruling class prejudice, studies all militant working class literature for seditious phrases and insurrectionary utterances, while the Ku Klux Klan, that has its home offices in Atlanta, does its part to whip into action the lynching fever against the growing unity of Negro and white workers in the South. Hudson still believes he has his "perfect case" against the audacity of Negro and white workers meeting together and planning united action, the basis of the capital offense of "attempting to incite insurrection" and "distributing insurrectionary literature." This remains a struggle against death sentences.

The Atlanta courts at first demanded that the prisoners be held in the infamous Fulton Tower Prison without bail. Twice have I penetrated with great difficulty to the dungeons of this Georgia bastille. Here the workers are submitted to the worst persecutions. Joseph Carr, the 19-year old West Virginia coal miner, was put in a death cell on "Murderers' Row," and kept there in spite of all potests. The court evidently believed that young Carr's spirit could be broken through grim association with three convicted slayers already awaiting their day of doom, and with alleged killers facing trial for murder.

The two Negro workers, Newton and Storey, were not only isolated from the white but also from the prisoners of their own race. A "Blind Door" shuts of their cell from the other cell blocks. Reports received state that even food sent in to them by the International Labor Defense conveniently disappears.

Powers is kept by himself. Ann Burlak and Mary Dalton are denied even the meager privileges allowed the other women prisoners. Literature is not allowed the prisoners, even the New York Times and the Saturday Evening Post being denied them. They are held incommunicado, not being allowed to receive visitors according to the usual prison rules.

It was under the cutting lash of this barbarous prison regime that Atlanta lynch law justice planned to hold the prisoners until the court machinery had turned out its death verdict and they had been made ready for the electric chair. But let no one be deceived by the apparent retreat of the capitalist courts in finally agreeing to fix bail. Originally \$10,000 was demanded for each prisoners. This is \$60,000 in all, an impossible sum. The International Labor Defense fought for a reduction in this huge ransom, pointing out it meant no bail at all for workers.

At this writing, bail has been fixed at \$10,000 each for Powers and Carr, \$4,000 each for Burlak, Newton and Dalton, and \$1,000 for Storey. This amount totals \$33,000. The International Labor Defense fights to have this amount still further reduced. The capitalist court knows that labor in Georgia is propertyless, that excessive bail means no



Ann Burlak



Mary Dalton

bail for workers. This apparent change of front on the part of the courts must not be misconstrued. Let it only be an urge to greater protest by all labor against the proposed death sentences, not a lessening of the struggle.

The militancy of Georgia's working masses in this crucial situation is reflected in the action taken by the Atlanta Federation of Trades, and by its official organ, the Journal of Labor, edited by Jerome Jones, in hypocritically demanding "a fair trial" for the prisoners. Thus these agencies of the American Federation of Labor try to create the illusions before the masses that "a fair trial" is possible in Georgia, thus hoping to maintain the fiction of "fairness" for the courts of the boss class in the state where lynching and the chain gang are the favored instruments of oppression. Workers know that it is impossible to secure justice in the courts of the boss class. They have probably fewer illusions about "the law" in the South than

anywhere else in the nation. They will not be fooled by appeals to the "fairness" of the courts, whether it is made by leading A. F. of L. officials, fearing for the growing resistance by the oppressed masses to capitalist "law and order," by some sections of the capitalist press, or by liberals, whether college professors, churchmen or other middle class elements.

Workers remember the whole liberal clamor in the Gastonia case over the "fairness" of the judicial harlot, Barnhill, that spread for a time like a paralyzing poison and had to be energetically combated. The lessons of Gastonia will profit the workers in their struggles against the Atlanta prosecution. Beneath the smug veneer of the Atlanta Journal of Labor there is to be found the open appeal to violence against all militant workers that appears weekly in every issue of the Birmingham Labor Advocate, that has already resulted in the dynamiting of the home of the worker, Giglio, in this "Pittsburgh of the South."

Workers will remember that it was A. Steve Nance, President of the Atlanta Federation of Labor who ordered the arrest of Mary Dalton when she attempted to ask a question at a mass meeting addressed by President William Green, of the A. F. of L., and who is now revealed as the "assistant secretary" of the grand jury that indicted Mary Dalton, Burlak, Newton and Storey. Workers will remember that Louis F. Marquardt, the secretary of the Georgia Federation of Labor, is an "assistant" in the office of the prosecutor, Solicitor General John A. Boykin, whose name is signed to the indictment, and in whose office Assistant Solicitor General Hudson prepares the prosecution.

Unemployment is increasing in the South. Pellagra—the disease that grows out of malnutrition, an alias for starvation—is taking a death toll that mounts continually. Charity—bread lines—are actually being organized in the effort to keep down the discontent of the landless farmers.

The Southern ruling class tries desperately to meet this situation by imprisoning and sending to the electric chair the leading spokesmen of labor.

All labor must throw its best efforts into the breach on this important class struggle front. No death sentences for Powers, Carr, Burlak, Newton, Storey and Dalton! No prison sentences! Defeat the infamous Gastonia verdict and all living death sentences! Release all the class war prisoners! Defeat the lynch-

ers! Abolish the chain gang system! Defend the struggles of Southern labor to organize, to picket, to strike, to build the unity of the Negro and white workers under the Trade Union Unity League and its affiliated organizations. Struggle for the right to legal existence of the Communist Party and all militant labor organizations.



Joe Carr

ENGDahl ON TOUR

To bring before the workers of the country the outrages perpetrated by the Atlanta authorities against the six Communists facing death sentences in Fulton Tower Prison, J. Louis Engdahl, General Secretary of the International Labor Defense, will be on tour starting at Pittsburgh, June 27.

He will be in Cleveland, June 29; Detroit, June 30, July 1, 2; Chicago, July 3, 4, 5, 6; Milwaukee, July 7, 8, 9; Minneapolis, July 10, 11, 12, 13, 14; St. Louis, July 15, 16; Indianapolis, July 17, 18; Cincinnati, July 19, 20, 21; Columbus, July 22, 23; Toledo, July 24, 25; Cleveland, July 26, 27, 28; Pittsburgh, July 29, 30; Buffalo, July 31, August 1.



The parents and brothers and sisters of Joe Carr. The father is a coal miner, at present unemployed, a member of the National Miners' Union.

	DATE	EARNINGS and DEDUCTIONS	BALANCES DUE MILL
EARNINGS	6.10	\$6.10	↓
DEDUCTIONS	1.70	1.70	
			↑
RECEIVED AMOUNT SHOWN			

This is the pay check of a child worker in the Fulton Bag & Cotton Mills in Atlanta, Georgia. The organizers were carrying on work in these mills when arrested. The mill-owners are directly in back of the persecution. The check shows that the child laborer received \$6.10 for a week's work from which was deducted \$1.70 leaving a balance of \$4.40.

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Imperial Valley Fights

By FRANK SPECTOR

(As we go to press outrageous sentences have already been imposed by Judge Johnson at El Centro. Sklar, Harriuchi, Emery, Spector and Erickson were sentenced to from 3 to 42 years each; Roxas, 2 to 28 years; Alonzo deported to Argentina. Sentences have not yet been fixed for Herrera and Orosco. Bail has been denied pending the I.L.D. appeal. Our comrades are now in Folsom State Prison and at San Quentin.)

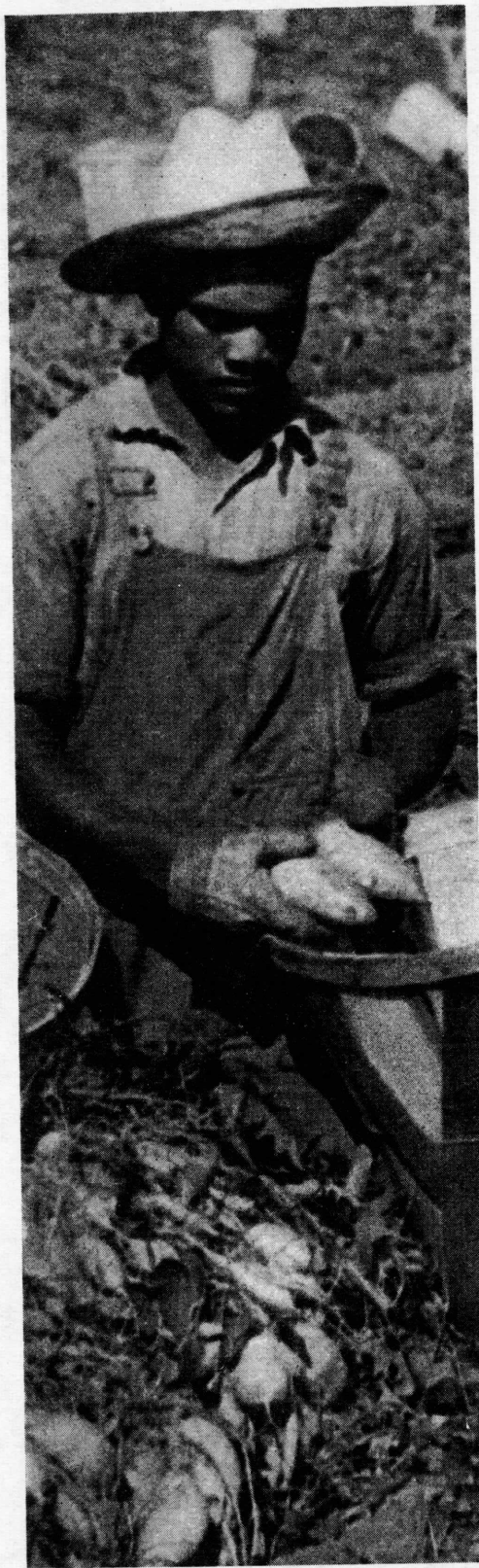


Photo: Ewing Galloway
Agricultural laborer in Imperial Valley

VICIOUS, unbridled boss-terror is once more raging in the scorching fields of the Imperial Valley. The filthy jails of El Centro, Brawley, Calexico and other towns are crowded with workers. Hundreds of Mexicans, Filipino and American workers are arrested at the first display of militancy in the fight against miserable working conditions and unemployment in the fields and sheds owned by the "Growers and Shippers Association,"

as vicious a pack of industrial wolves as only capitalism can produce.

On the night of April 14th a hall in which a mass meeting was held by the Agricultural Workers Industrial League (a section of the Trade Union Unity League) and attended by several hundred Mexican, Filipino and American workers, was surrounded by over a hundred heavily armed deputy sheriffs, police and "one-hundred percenters" under the leadership of Sheriff Gillett, the notorious gunman of the valley. One hundred and five workers were seized—chained to each other—loaded into trucks furnished by the shippers and herded into El Centro jail.

For over a week the entire number of workers were held—crowded in the filthy dungeon. Three stools who wormed their way into the militant union (Sherman Barber, Oscar Chormickle and Charles Collum) had "fingered" the most active and militant among the imprisoned workers. Thirty-two of these workers were charged with Criminal Syndicalism and placed under \$40,000 bail each.

The fight, begun by the I. L. D., reduced the number of indicted to nine, and the bail to \$15,000 each. Further efforts to reduce this monstrous bail met with the stubborn resistance of the bosses' higher courts.

On trial in El Centro now are: agricultural workers Eduardo Herrero (Colombian), Lawrence Emery (Californian), Emilio Alonzo (Argentinian), Braulio Orosco (Mexican), Tetsuji Hariuchi, secretary, Imperial Valley, T.U.U.L., Carl Sklar, section organizer, Communist Party, Los Angeles; Oscar Erickson, national secretary, Agricultural Workers' Industrial League; Danny Roxas (Filipino), secretary, Imperial Valley, A.W.I.L.; and Frank Spector, district organizer of I.L.D.

A large number of workers, at times reaching over 10,000, are cultivating, picking and packing about 50,000 acres of either lettuce, cantaloupes, watermelons, tomatoes or other vegetables in their respective seasons. The largest number of workers are Mexicans, who walk across the border from Mexico. Next in number are Filipino and some Hindus. American workers almost exclusively man the packing sheds. For years the exploitation of the workers has grown worse. The work—twelve, fourteen and sixteen hours

in a bent position in the fields under a scorching heat reaching at times 130° in shade, often with heavy sacks on their backs in which the picked fruit is gathered—is almost inhuman.

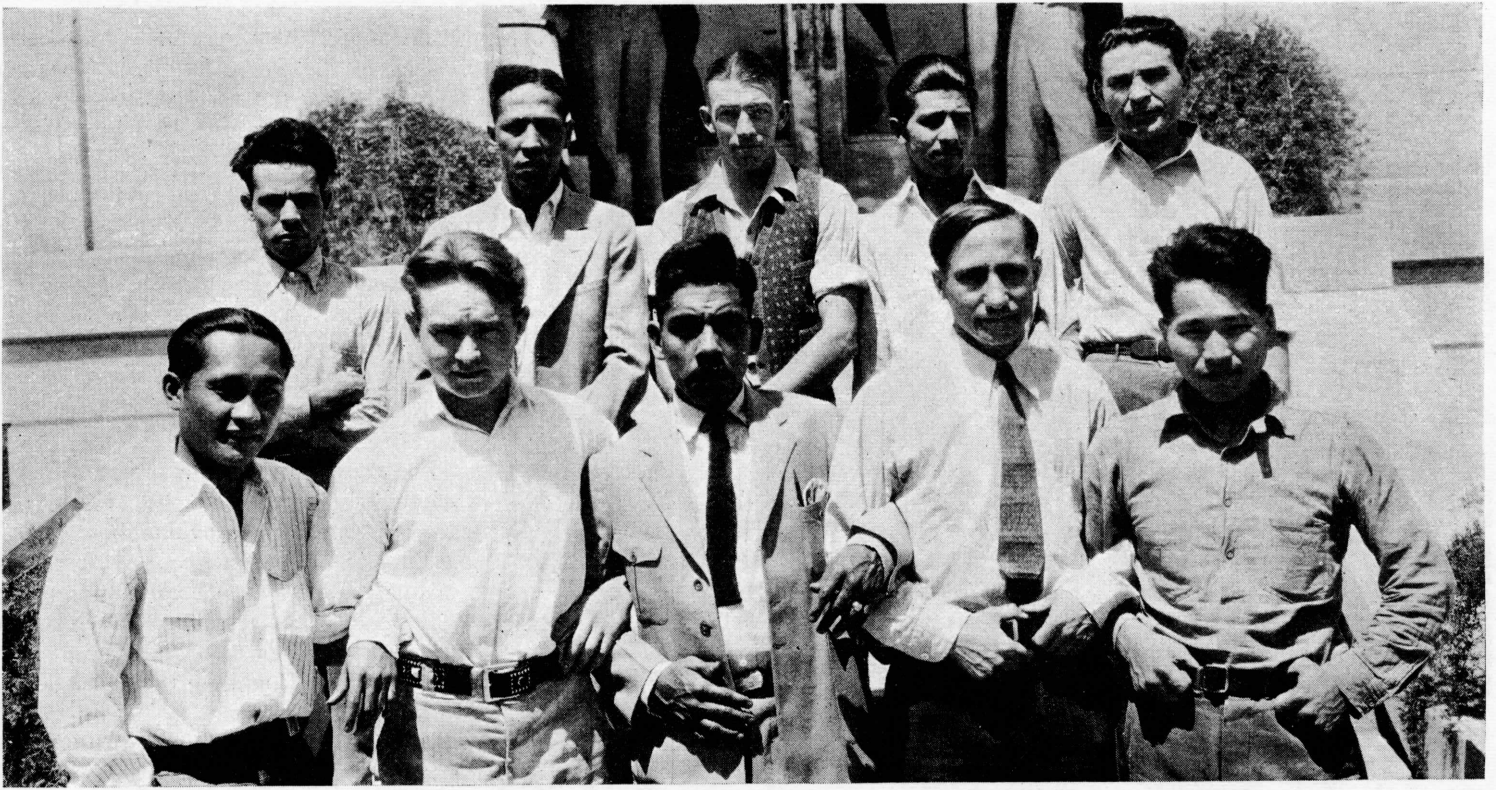
Through the vicious contract system the field workers are reduced to virtual peonage. For lettuce picking they receive 35c per hour, cantaloupes 13c per crate. In time-work, the workers get paid for only actual time at picking, so that if the lettuce is mildew in the morning, the workers must wait in the field several hours before picking can be started or if the field runs out of crates he must waste his time waiting for their delivery.

Twenty-five per cent of their total wages are kept by the contractor who in turn has it withheld by the grower to guarantee the season's pickings. It often happens that the contractor will abscond with the last payment received from the grower, leaving workers stranded without wages for their last week's work and minus the 25 per cent withheld from the season's wages.



AWIL headquarters in Brawley, before it was raided and closed

A number of sporadic strikes flared up in the past, notably in 1922 and in 1928. These were crushed by the bosses' henchman, Sheriff Gillett, who was ably aided by the entire country apparatus and courts. Hundreds of workers were jailed or deported when they refused to work. Scabs were quickly moved in from Arizona and other points. A spontaneous strike broke out last January during lettuce picking. This walkout, despite the militancy of the workers, was betrayed by the leadership of the "Mexican Mutual Aid Association" which crawled before the local Chambers of Commerce to enlist its aid in in-



The Imperial Valley prisoners (Front row, left to right): Danny Roxas, Oscar Erickson, Braulio Orosco, Carl Sklar, Tetsuji Hariuchi; (Second row, left to right): F. Funes (charges dropped), Eduardo Herrera, Lawrence Emery, Emilio Alonzo and Frank Spector.

ducing the growers to negotiate. The growers refused to concede to the demands of a few cents increase. The ensuing terror which the fake leaders were too cowardly to fight finished the struggle as in the past with defeat for the workers. In February the shed workers struck. The American workers—unorganized—were betrayed by fake leaders planted by the bosses, who warned them against picketing. After a few days scabs displaced the larger number of workers.

The T.U.U.L. entered the field during the January strike. Its militant policies soon gained stronghold among the valley workers. The A.W.I.L. was launched. The militant union exposed the fake leadership of both strikes. The Mexican misleaders soon passed out of existence. The planted leaders were likewise exposed before the American workers. The entrance

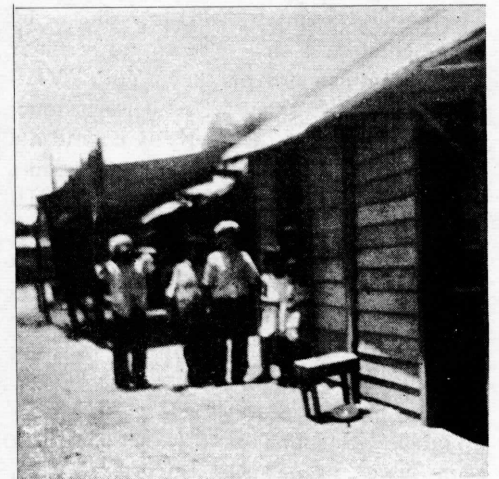
of the T.U.U.L. marked the beginning of the crushing of the race prejudices instilled by the bosses among the workers. Among the major demands of the new union appeared the abolition of the contract system, 50c minimum for lettuce picking, \$1.25 for melon picking, eight-hour workday with double pay for overtime and Sundays, fifteen minute rest period after every two hours, free ice at growers' expense, no child labor, equal pay for women, better housing, etc. Under the revolutionary leadership, real preparations were begun for a strike in the melon season (May). The bosses sensed real danger. A new, not to be corrupted force had come into the field.

The Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce came to their aid. This past open-shop master lent its talents to the valley bosses. A special detective agency planted its stools among the workers. These wormed their way into the unions to work for its destruction. Almost on the eve of the conference scheduled for April 20th, of delegates from ranches and sheds to mobilize for the walk-out, the bosses struck, making wholesale arrests, destroying union headquarters, all in the time-worn fashion.

Nine militants are now on trial. The three counts of the indictment under the Criminal Syndicalist law aim at driving underground the Communist Party, the T.U.U.L. and the A.W.I.L. They face 42 years in prison.

Only class justice can be expected from the court and jury of ranchers

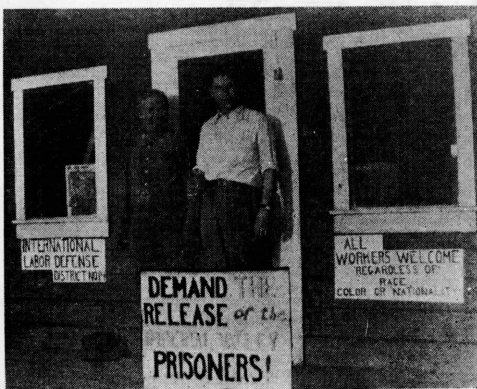
who depend soul and body upon the Growers and Shippers Ass'n, the absolute boss of the county ably aided by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. The federal government actively aids in the railroading of the workers by representa-



"Better class shacks" of Imperial Valley workers.

tives imported for the trial. The notorious stool Hynes, chief of the Los Angeles intelligence buro, is the expert witness. Thus all the dark forces have combined for the big task of driving underground the hated and feared Communist Party—their uncomprising enemy.

Only through the rousing of the wide masses of workers throughout the land can we defeat the bosses' attempts at crushing the militant workers' organizations and the railroading of the leaders to living death.



"Dad" Barnham and Frank Spector at I. L. D. headquarters in Brawley



Some leading fascists (Left to right): Representative Snell of New York, Hamilton Fish, Ralph Easley, Edgar Hoover and William Green.

THEY have begun to "investigate." The House Committee of Five, led by Representative Hamilton Fish, Jr. of New York, empowered to "investigate" the Communist Party, its press, other working class organizations, the "ramifications of the Third International" and the Amtorg Trading Corporation, opened its sessions behind closed doors in Washington on June 9.

House Resolution 180 introduced by Representative Fish — crony of former police commissioner of New York Whalen, of Ralph Easley of Red-baiting fame, Matthew Woll of the A. F. of L. and the Civic Federation and other of our enemies — passed by the House in a vote of 210 to 18 over the signature of Chairman Snell of the House Rules Committee and a millionaire, also empowers this committee "to recommend legislation broadening the powers of the government" in dealing with Communists and militant workers.

The "investigation" is a federal recognition and adoption of the methods now being used in Atlanta, Imperial Valley, Newark, New York and in every part of the country where unemployment, lower wages, harder working conditions have forced the workers on the path of struggle. Oppression must have prison walls, sedition laws, electric chairs and an Ellis Island to complement its sway.

It is one of the most complete steps taken towards the creation of a centralized regime of terror to be used against every revolutionary worker, everywhere in the country. Its immediate aim is to clear the path — by "striking discoveries" and "illuminations"—for the banning of the Communist Party, militant unions and workers'

organizations and the workers' press. It is a nation-wide attack, launched by the federal government against all fighters of the hunger regime. Under the cover of a national sedition law, which this committee may recommend, a permanent apparatus attached to the Department of Justice—a sort of fascist special tribunal and labor-spy system—is to be expected.

The Yankee imperialist answer to the March Sixth demonstrators, was shouted in the House by Representative Fish: "If you want to create jobs in America, deport every Communist!" Deportations play an important part in the calculations of these gentlemen. When Chairman Johnson of the Immigration Committee, incidentally a d m i t t i n g that there were 1,000 Russians whom he would like to deport to the Soviet Union but could not because of lack of diplomatic relations, asked what could be done with all of these "dangerous aliens," Fish again found a ready answer: "Let's deport them to some isolated island where they can practice Communism to their heart's desire!" Shades of Mussolini!

Take notice that the Amtorg Trading Corporation, commercial agency of the Soviet Government in this country, is naively included along with the Communist Party as a subject of this

investigation. It is an attempt to link the two up in the public mind and make it easier to launch the attack on the U.S.S.R. that Whalen's forgeries cleared the way for.

The methods of this committee are typical of the Palmer Raids of 1919-1920. Their first announcement was that they would employ detectives of the Department of Justice as "investigators." They will find "secret documents" of the same kind that Whalen discovered, but being more experienced at these things they may not be so crude.

The committee has already made some "startling discoveries." Edgar Hoover, chief of bureau of investigation (stool-pigeons) in Department of Justice and law officer of that bureau during the Palmer raids, has actually discovered that the Communist Party of the U.S.A. is a part of the Communist International, which has headquarters in Moscow, and other generally known facts that can be verified in the Communist press.

The investigation is really to act as a tribunal for all fascist elements. Father Walsh, the godly fascist, has come across with his usual line. Edgar P. McGrady, legislative agent of the A. F. of L. makes the usual charges of "Russian Money" (the same million and a quarter that Foster is supposed to have in his pocket) and uses the opportunity to attack the T.U. U.L. and the R.I.L.U. Matthew Woll, Ralph Easley, William Green are to be given opportunity to vent their spleen when the committee comes to New York.

In the meantime the "secret investigation" continues. The stage is being set. Will we allow them to pull off their little act? The answer must be a mighty NO!



What they do not see or care about—unemployed workers find a bed on the hard pavement at Cooper Union Square, New York City



The Newark defendants (Front row, left to right): Albert Hedar, Dozier Will Graham, Dominick Flaiani; (Back row, left to right): Edward Childs, David Rosen, John Pado, Samuel Levine, Joseph Lypsevitch and Morris Langer.

MARCH SIXTH in Newark saw 15,000 workers taking part in the world-wide demonstrations against unemployment. In an attempt to prevent this demonstration serious charges were pressed by the state against the nine Newark workers arrested on February 4 and 11, when meetings of unemployed workers were raided by the police. The nine workers — Dominick Flaiani, New Jersey organizer of the Communist Party; Dozier Will Graham, Negro, Communist candidate for the Senate; Samuel D. Levine, Communist candidate for the House; Edward Childs, John Pado, David Rosen, Morris Langer, Albert Hedar and Joseph Lypsevitch were indicted under the 1918 sedition law of New Jersey, on the ground of police testimony which put unconnected phrases like “the overthrow of the government,” “Fight the police,” “We want our demands here same as they have in Russia,” and “Now is the time” into the mouths of the defendants.

Three of the nine have already been tried separately in three of the most brazen railroading trials held in the East, and found guilty by a business men’s jury. Judge Van Riper, who would not permit the defense witnesses to testify in two of the three trials because they did not believe in god, and who upheld Prosecutor Fisch in his venomous broadside against the workers, was forced to render lighter sentences than were originally intended, by the mass attention the trial was receiving and the courageous bearing of the defendants in court. He sentenced Flaiani and Levine to two years of probation and suspended the sentence against Graham. But following in the footsteps of reaction, just as he had done in refusing the witnesses

to affirm instead of swearing on the bible, he introduced into Newark a police spying system common in fascist Italy — Flaiani and Levine are to report to the police station every week and pay one dollar fine a week during the period of their probation. These trials, in the method of railroading used, their exposure of police spying, and in the new system of police registration arising from them, will go down as marking the beginnings of a distinct government fascist apparatus in the East against militant workers.

In Newark unemployment has reached the highest peak ever felt in the city. The workers are feeling the heavy burden of the increasing speed-up, and the Ford plant at Kearney has announced a shut-down, which means that thousands more will be thrown into the streets, to swell the huge army of the unemployed. To stop this developing struggle an intricate system of spying has been set up by the police to haunt the lives of the workers. This fact was made evident by police testimony during the trial.

Newark is just part of the picture. The trial is an international trial. Through it the rights of the workers to picket, to organize, to fight against unemployment, against speed-up and for the defense of the Soviet Union, are attacked.

The testimony of Comrade Flaiani in the courtroom was a challenge of the fighting working class to the bosses and government. For this reason the right to testify was denied those workers who were present at the unemployment meeting at which Flaiani spoke. Again, when sentenced by Judge Van Riper on June 16, Flaiani arose to denounce the capitalist court. He was sentenced by the same

judge to ten days in jail for contempt of court.

“God” was called to the aid of the bosses. The same god who is called upon to bless the electric chair threatening the six comrades in Atlanta, Georgia, that blesses the murderous lynch mobs which burn Negro workers in the South, was called upon by Prosecutor Fisch to convict the nine workers in Newark. The defense did not have but one witness testify because the defense witnesses did not believe in god. Prosecutor Fisch, upheld by Judge Van Riper, would not recognize conscientious scruples because of a disbelief in god. “Any kind of a God,” he said. “But you must believe in some God.”

The trial will continue. The remaining six workers will again face this god-fearing bosses’ court on June 23.

The International Labor Defense will go to the limit to keep these workers out of jail and calls upon the workers to demand their release. Only through mass demands and pressure can this be done.

MOONEY AND BILLINGS START 15th YEAR IN PRISON

It was in July 27, 1916, that Tom Mooney and Warren Billings were thrust into jail by the power and public utility interests of California to answer for their union activities. Their subsequent conviction—for the alleged throwing of a bomb in the San Francisco preparedness parade of July 22, 1916—is the rawest frame-up in American labor history. In spite of the conclusive evidence proving their innocence of the bombing they still remain in the penitentiary today.

Only a workers’ wide protest movement will finally attain their release.



The Newark defendants (Front row, left to right): Albert Hedar, Dozier Will Graham, Dominick Flaiani; (Back row, left to right): Edward Childs, David Rosen, John Pado, Samuel Levine, Joseph Lypsevitch and Morris Langer.

On the Soviet Farm Lands



(Left) A Soviet poster.

(Below) A tractor train loaded with seed, off to the fields for the spring sowing at the Soviet Farm "Gigant."

(Right) A woman agricultural laborer is greeting a youth brigade on its way to the sowing.



Photos:
Press Cliche
(Left) Red Army soldier teaching Uzbek unemployed workers at Tashkenti, use of the tractor. 270 were prepared at this school alone to use modern farm machinery.



(Right) The Commissariat of Education distributing literature at the Collective Farm Lopatinka in the Salsk district.

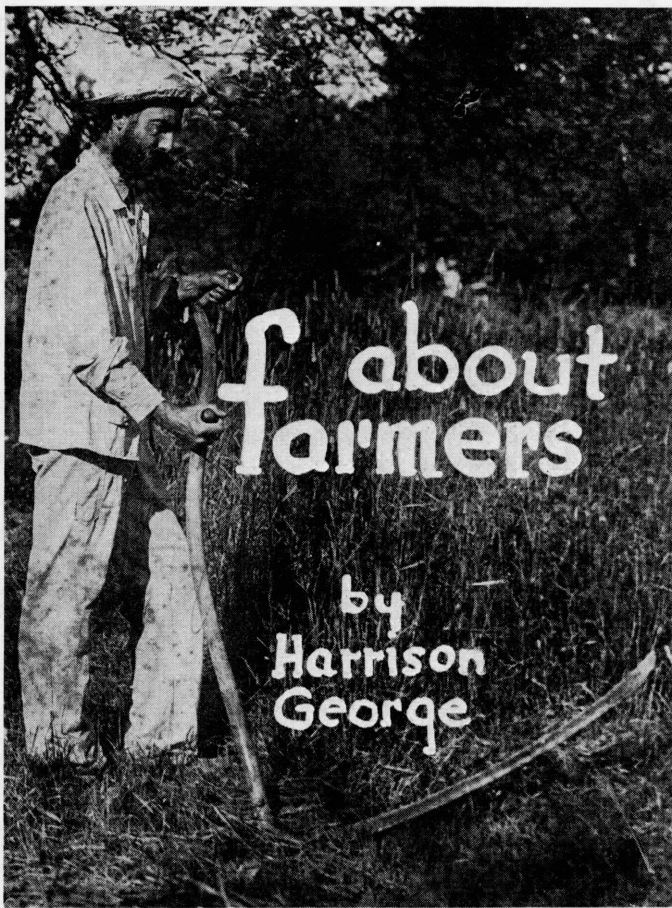


(Above) Stacks of purified seed ready for sowing. This seed is purified and distributed by the Commissariat of Agriculture.

(Below) Poster on collective farm building. It reads: "For a permanent union of the working class and the poor-middle peasantry."

(Below) Peasants of Uzbekistan, members of the collective farm "Stalin," consisting of 275 households, studying the mechanics of a cotton drill in a school for the elimination of agronomical illiteracy.





f about farmers

by
Harrison
George

Photo: Ewing Galloway

The "poor white" farmer cuts his hay.

Apologists of capitalism have gone to considerable trouble to invent a fellow that they call a "typical farmer," having at least 160 acres of land, waving fields of corn or snowy fields of cotton (either one sounds darned poetic!), fat herds, flocks of poultry, dozens of shoats still wearing the hams he will cure in the old smoke-house, a silo, an auto, a radio, a couple of old oaken buckets, a paternal beard and not a care in the world.

True, there are a few, but the species is dying out. Since the permanent agrarian crisis began in 1920, they have been swarming to the cities. The character of this migration, however, is also interesting. It is the young folks of the farmers who make up the big bulk of the migration, of course not all, but in a very large part. They come because the crisis has been unloaded by their dads upon them in the form of unpaid labor, where before they had some prospect of pay, perhaps, or at least of an education by being "sent away to school," etc. Also, they were tempted by the wages, damned poor though they are, of the factories and mills in the towns, that sprung up and boomed during the years of expansion and "prosperity"—for the big capitalists.

Leaving these proletarianized farmers and youth to the tender mercies of the factory bosses, about which all readers know, let us see what the conditions on the farms are today.

Even in the "corn belt," where the "typical farmer" was most plentiful, the farmer who is not a "boss farmer," a farmer-capitalist, who has to work the land (mind I say "the" land, not "his" land, since renters and mortgagees make up about 75% of all farmers and neither can be said to "own" the land they work) himself, is far from enjoying the conditions pictured by the capitalist apologists as given above.

One capitalist writer, who gets alarmed at the

conditions, says that 40 per cent of the farmers are terribly, miserably poor, that 20% are "moderately poor," and only 40% are "getting along." He also says that a great part of the first 40%, the "terribly, miserably poor" are in the Southern states.

Few workers of the North, even of those interested in such affairs, such as the Communists, realize the great morass of misery and degradation into which is sunk the millions of farming population of the South.

Here the "share croppers" by the hundreds of thousands live, no, they exist, on a level only a little above the drab and hopeless starvation standard of the Chinese and Indian peasant. Certainly one who has seen both, will say that even the Russian peasant in the days of Czarism was in some ways better off than the Negro share-croppers or even the "poor white" croppers and tenants of the South.

The agrarian crisis grows always worse. The farmer who produces for the world market, who is not any longer a *self-sufficing* farmer, but who has been brought whether he knows it or not into the commodity production system

of capitalist imperialism, is at the mercy of finance capital against which he cannot fight at all effectively, unless he allies himself with the wage working proletariat. Ninety per cent of all papers the farmer reads are filled with propaganda against him making this alliance.

The farmer is told that the "high wages" (!) of the city workers is the reason he is poor, all sorts of catch-words are invented to make him think that the working class is to blame. He is pumped full of respect for law—though its visible representative, the sheriff, is paid salary from his taxes only to foreclose mortgages against him in behalf of the bankers.

The small town lawyer, doctor, merchant and

banker uses him in too many cases, as a fascist tool to "run out agitators" and to lynch Negroes. But these exercises, if they divert the farmer for a time from a real fight against his enemy, cannot settle anything, cannot remove the economic and political burden of capitalism from his shoulders.

The farmer is poor because capitalism makes him so. In the Soviet Union, the Bolshevik revolution immediately abolished rents for land. If the American farmer wishes to get even a bit better conditions, he will have to fight, and fight *in a revolutionary way*, not depending on Congressmen, but on himself, organized in Committees of Action locally with all other poor farmers.

The farmers must fight or starve. They must organize their fight for big reductions in rents and strike, just as the workers do, to get it—refusing en masse to pay any rent at all.

They must fight against high taxes, but in a revolutionary way—all together refusing to pay taxes until redress is given from this robbery.

Likewise, they must fight against that ancient form of banditry which is legalized as mortgages, refusing to pay the usurers and *en masse* resisting eviction and foreclosures.

In a world market in which distribution of products is all in the hands of great capital—and even they cannot organize it—the cooperative organization is not the remedy and it is, furthermore, captured by finance capital. Hence a revolutionary fight is the only way to gain improvement, and this cannot be done without close alliance with the working class revolutionary organizations. And this implies that the poor farmers must also—since they, too, can receive *permanent* benefit only after capitalism is overthrown—join with the revolutionary workers to help do the job.

HELD FOR MUSSOLINI

Guido Serio, a member of the Communist Party, was arrested at an unemployment meeting at Erie, Pa., on May 11, 1930. On the testimony of an Italian policeman, acting as stool-pigeon for the Italian Consulate, he is now being held under \$25,000 bail for deportation to Italy, as an "undesirable alien." Serio is a political refugee from Italy and as a well-known Italian labor leader in this country and as a powerful anti-fascist, the United States Government is anxious to turn him over to Mussolini for "treatment." The ILD is now fighting his deportation and for his release.



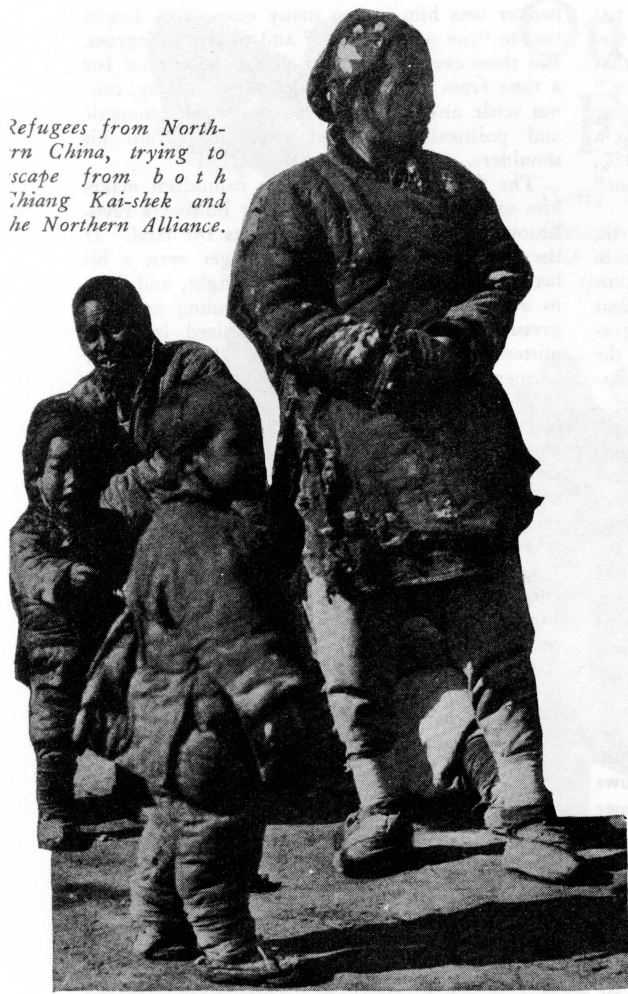
Photo: Ewing Galloway

Many Negro tenant farmers use oxen for plowing

THE STRUGGLE IN CHINA

By MANUEL GOMEZ

Refugees from Northern China, trying to escape from both Chiang Kai-shek and the Northern Alliance.



FIVE years ago, following the May 30th massacre at Shanghai, the weight of imperialist oppression in China was shaken by a revolutionary thunderstorm that focussed the attention of the whole world. Imperialism tried to meet this terrific storm head on, and failed. Proud resistance gave way to maneuvering. The Koumintang generals and bourgeois leaders—the Chiang Kai Sheks, Feng Yu Hsiangs, Wang Ching Weis, Sun Fos and T. V. Soongs—who had put themselves forward as the heads of the revolu-

Labor Imperialist,
Ramsay
MacDonald



British police removing barricades from a main street in Calcutta, India.

tionary movement were much more appalled by the privilege-levelling demands of the workers and peasants in their own ranks than they were by the foreign exploiters. They betrayed the movement cynically, came to terms with the imperialists and Chiang Kai Shek's so-called Nationalist Government was set up as a bulwark of the imperialist powers. But this bastard capitalist regime could achieve no stability in China.

The Kuomintang leaders had not made the revolution. They could injure it, they could force it into fresh sacrifices, but they could not stop it. Today it is more apparent than ever that the movement of workers and peasants is unconquerable. A congress of Chinese soviets has just been held, and we read in the New York Times of June 19th that "the Communist menace in the Yangtse Valley overshadows even the challenge to Nanking's authority by the Northerners."

Now India, which for generation has agonized under British oppression, is straining to be free. India and China together make up one-third of the population of the earth. That these teeming millions should be obliged to struggle against colonial and semi-colonial slavery is a commentary on the humanizing claims of Twentieth Century capitalism. The gigantic forces that their struggle bring into play make it a challenge to the entire structure of world imperialism, and an inspiration to the oppressed masses everywhere.

The causes that produced the upheaval in India are: the growing impoverishment of the people, of the peasantry, workers, petty-bourgeoisie. As in China, the revolutionary force was set in motion by a series of labor struggles—primarily the railway and textile workers. The movement is not the creation of Mahatma Gandhi or the Indian National Congress. The upper-caste Congress leaders, Gandhi among them, for many years had refused even to declare themselves in favor of India's independence, and it was only after menacing popular demonstrations in front of the Congress meeting place that it passed the independence resolution in December of last year.

Swept along by the popular movement, Gandhi and his friends have been obliged regretfully to take up a more and more extreme position. Thanks to their talent for adaptability they have managed to retain a high degree of prestige among the Indian masses, which is still further enhanced as a result of their imprisonment by British imperialism. But are these the true leaders of a revolution which must drive the British out of India, and which obviously must confront the British vassals

Child weavers at Sholapur, India. They get from 10 to 20 cents a day.

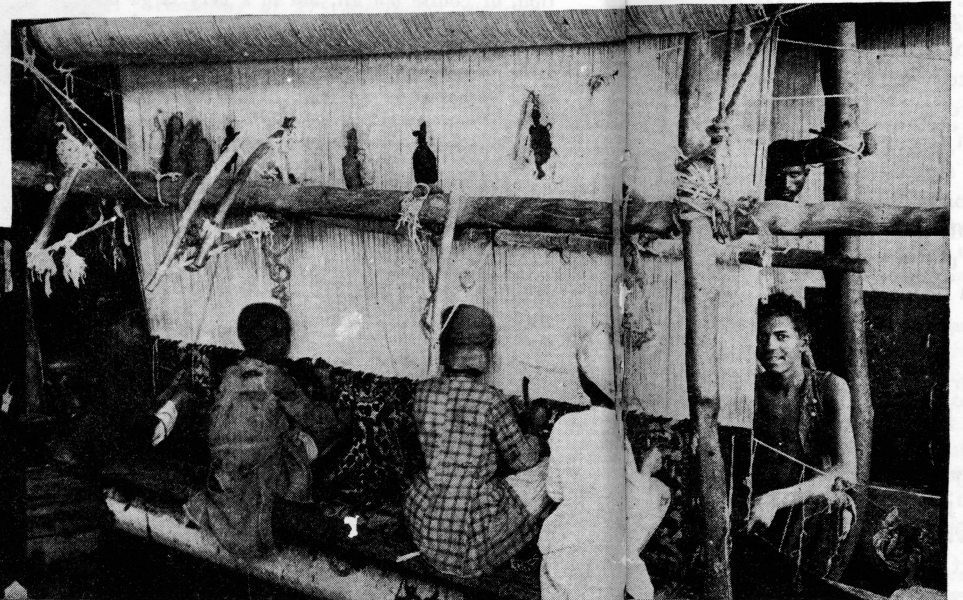


Photo: Ewing Galloway

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STRUGGLE IN CHINA AND INDIA

By MANUEL

GOMEZ

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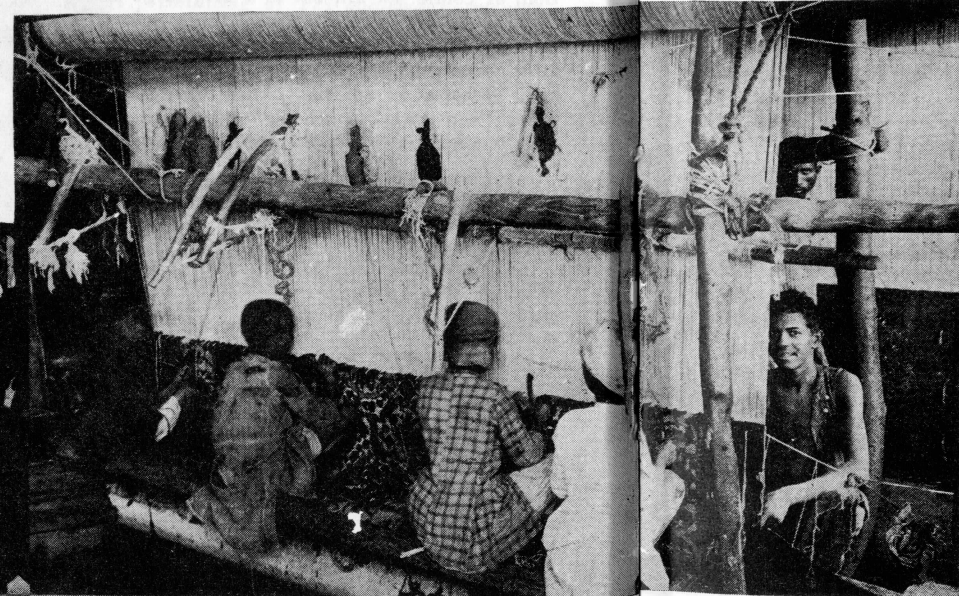


Photo: Ewing Galloway

in India, the native princes, the big landowners, the usurers and all the beneficiaries of exploitation?

One does not need the dread lesson of the Chinese events to answer that question. The Indian National Congress has a long record of betrayal behind it. As for Gandhi himself, this is not the first time that he has appeared prominently on the Indian political scene. In 1921 he turned suddenly upon a promising movement in whose leadership he had figured, and helped to demoralize it precisely when it was reaching a culmination. His present attitude does not inspire confidence that he will be more dependable in the future. What is the effect of his repeated denunciation of all armed movements against the British? Quite simply to play into the hands of British imperialism. He strives to prevent the development of the very revolutions in whose name he speaks. Meantime, he diverts attention from the central issue of overthrowing British rule, by suggesting obscurantist interpretations as to the meaning of Civil Disobedience, by raising the question of prohibition of intoxicating liquor, etc.

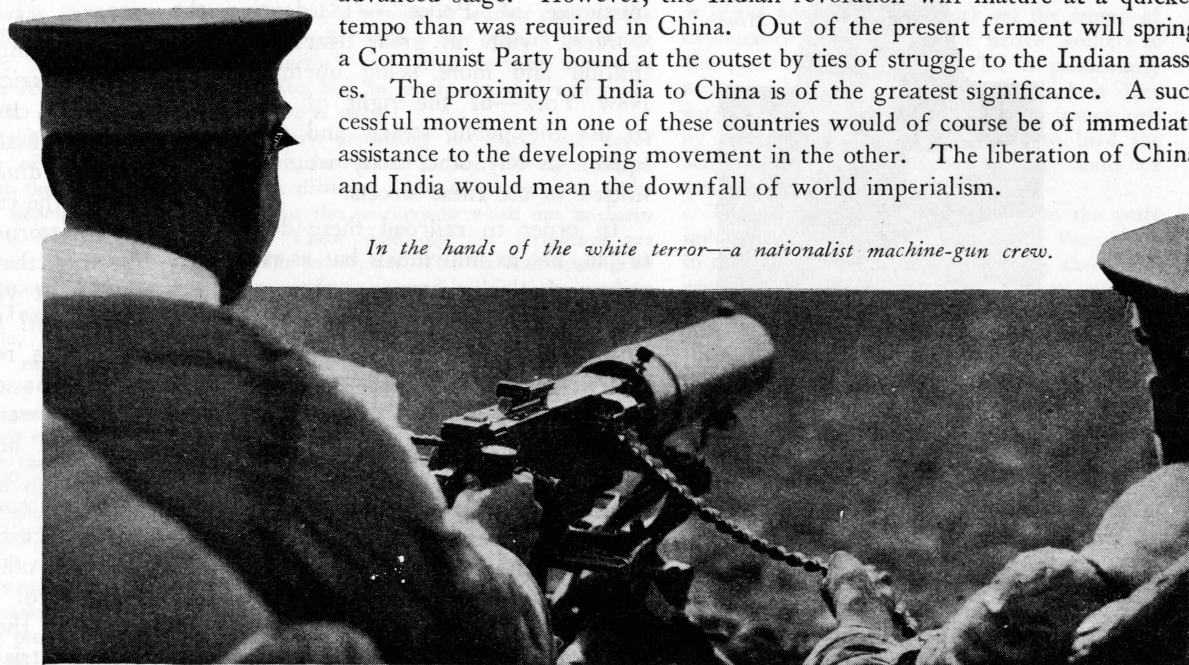
The British do not fear Gandhi, even though they have been constrained to put him in jail. In fact a reading of the British capitalist press gives one the unmistakable impression that they are counting on him to put through a "conciliation" agreement at the proper time. They fear such things as the attack on the arsenal at Chittagong, as the mass insurrectionary outbursts at Sholapur and Peshawar, as the growing "Red Shirt" organizations among the peasantry and the general strike movement among the workers. The repressive tactics employed against the workers' and peasants' movements have been literally murderous.

It must be admitted that there is evidence of something lacking in the Indian revolutionary upsurge, notwithstanding its inspiring progress up to now. One misses a certain unifying element, a center of operations, conscious delineation of the line of advance and an integration of practical fighting forces. Of course revolution must be looked upon as a process, even though the process is compressed into relatively short, violent stages, and these shortcomings doubtless will be overcome in due course. That they cannot be entirely overcome so long as the Gandhi banner is not discredited among the Indian masses goes without saying. Something more is plainly necessary, however: the development of a fairly strong Communist Party.

In China, where there is an experienced Communist Party which has gained influence over broad masses of workers and peasants, the revolution is at a much more

advanced stage. However, the Indian revolution will mature at a quicker tempo than was required in China. Out of the present ferment will spring a Communist Party bound at the outset by ties of struggle to the Indian masses. The proximity of India to China is of the greatest significance. A successful movement in one of these countries would of course be of immediate assistance to the developing movement in the other. The liberation of China and India would mean the downfall of world imperialism.

In the hands of the white terror—a nationalist machine-gun crew.



A coolie porter of Calcutta, India



Photo Ewing Galloway



New York Demonstration, March Sixth

mittee, elected by the unemployed workers in New York, to petition the City Government for unemployed relief.

The verdict that was rendered in this case should not result in a sentence of these defendants for the reason that this verdict is a political verdict rendered as a part of the effort to solve the unemployment question by means of suppressing the unemployed workers. It is like all the other means of capitalist agencies to meet the unemployment problem. This effort is one, not to relieve the condition of the unemployed, but to suppress the protest of unemployed and other workers.

By the rendering of the verdict in this Court we see one instance of many instances wherein the ruling class of this country endeavors to pass over the economic crisis at the expense of the working class and to prevent any protest.

The case hinges around the effort of the Chief of Police—I mean the “Commissioner of Police”—to deprive the workers, while in great distress—a half million and more being unemployed in New York—of the right of citizenship to use the public streets and the public squares as any other body would be permitted to use these streets.

In order to railroad these defendants to jail, not as individuals but as representatives of this movement, their constitutional rights, so-called, have been abolished. Such rights are only for the Dohenys, for the rich grafters, for the capitalist masters of this country.

We were denied bail, in defiance of the constitution, and this court was glad to see bail denied; it did not raise its voice.

We were denied a trial by jury, which this court participated in denying us. The deliberate political purpose of denying to us a Jury trial was to prevent the issues, which were really involved in the trial,

from becoming public, from being made a public issue.

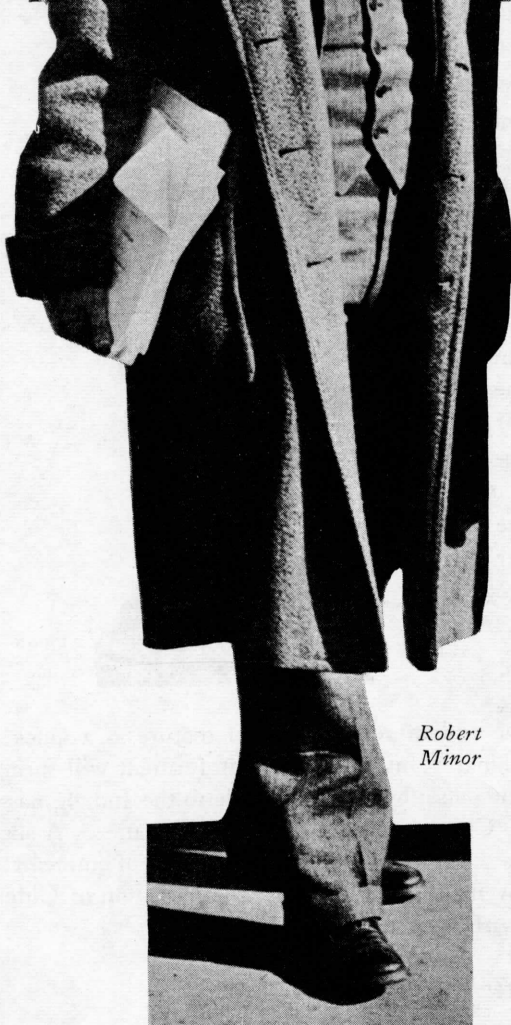
We were even denied in this Court the right to present our evidence for the defense, after the “people” had presented a case which was obviously and carefully cooked up for the purpose of avoiding bringing out the truth. . . .

We call this capitalist justice. This court, in sentencing us today, is giving such an example of capitalist class justice. We were tried here, in fact, not only for the demonstration of the unemployed workers of the Sixth of March, but, as was obvious in the conduct of the court and of the District Attorney, we were also tried for the coming event, of the demonstration of the New York workers on May 1, which will be much bigger. . . .

I will say that the District Attorney’s office, engaged in this prosecution, showed itself bound to conviction, absolutely regardless of any evidence whatsoever.

It is common knowledge in New York that District Attorney Crain represents the most corrupt political machine in the history of the United States, and he, by his subordinates here in this court, conducted the case upon that basis. The District Attorney has stated publicly, after the trial, that this conviction was the most important victory of the year, a victory for whom? Crain’s masters! . . .

In this room, in the court room, we heard one of the judges of this court render a verdict of guilty after the evidence had been heard—or what was allowed to come in had been heard—we heard the court, one of the judges, render the verdict of guilty without consultation with the other two judges, after the case was closed. That was obvious, due to the fact that the verdict was prearranged before the trial proceeded. . . .



Robert Minor

(The following is the speech of Robert Minor in the courtroom before he, Wm. Z. Foster, Israel Amter, Harry Raymond and Joseph Leston, New York unemployment delegation, were sentenced. This speech was often interrupted and Minor was not permitted to conclude.)

WE should not be sentenced today for the following reasons: We five defendants were arrested when we appeared at the City Hall with a petition to present to the City Government. We were arrested while serving as a com-



THROUGHOUT nine countries in the Antilles and Central America the United Fruit Co., one of the most hated tentacle of American imperialism is called "The Company," and the huge industry which it controls: "Green Gold." In other Latin American countries American imperialism exerts its control, and carries on its criminal exploitation under a varied collection of masks, but "The Company" has no intermediaries, no native lackeys with whom to cover up their crimes. In the region where it has its plantation it rules, in some places, as in Honduras where bananas are 80% of its foreign exports, the capitol is located where the Central Office of the United Fruit Company is located.

On December 31, 1928, "The Company" had a capital stock and surplus of \$181,029,000. Among its fixed assets there were: total improved acreage of 405,773; 1,642 miles of railways; 600 miles of tramways; sugar mills; steamship lines. The total export of bananas in 1928 was 71,666,426 bunches with a fixed value of \$68,438,000. These figures cover seven countries: Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama, Jamaica, Colombia and Cuba, where it exploits 92,047 acres of sugar land.

Honduras is the best example of how the "blessings" of imperialism transform the economy of a country, and make it fully dependent on a single industry. This country is wholly dependent on the exploitation of bananas, 80% of its commerce is banana, the national puppet government lives in the capital (Tegucigalpa), but the ruling power is in Tela, where the United Fruit Company has its main office. Twenty years ago it was a country dependent on agriculture for its life, but it was a varied dependence—coffee, cattle, bananas, ivory nuts, wood, etc. These industries were the property of big landowners, who exploited the workers as much as "The Company," but the character of the industries did not make the lot of the workers as miserable as the present mechanized and centralized exploitation of bananas. There was a large number of small peasants, which the company has transformed into peons. On a coffee plantation where there was an abundance of uncultivated land, the workers had patches

of land where they could grow some corn, raise a few chickens and pigs, but today the only difference between mining camp in Pennsylvania and the United Fruit Company plantations, is that in Pennsylvania they "have no bananas," nor malaria fever.

This huge industry has under its sway about 150,000 workers herded in malaria-infected shacks living under conditions of semi-slavery, because blacklisting by "The Company" makes it impossible for you to get even a house in which to starve. The workers live in shacks in the most congested manner, contagious diseases are the property of all. The main task of the company doctors is to keep the workers' hospital. It is the hardest thing to get into the hospital, and the doctor's job is to see they do not remain there long. All sickness is treated with big doses of quinine, because they take for granted that the sickness is malaria, otherwise they get detestable laxants. A worker came to the dispensary one day with a fish bone in his throat and the "doctor" was going to treat him with quinine. He had to wait one day and walk miles to have it out.

Wages vary according to work, but never exceed more than \$1.50 a day. Every kind of work has a different form of payment to make it harder for the workers to work out uniform demands. Those who dig for irrigation get pay by cubic meter, and it is the contractor who does the measuring; on road building the workers are paid by the square meter; the cutter and loaders per each bunch. The company only deals with workers when it comes to payment, in all other activities the contractor acts as intermediary.

Payments come once a month. This is done in order to force the workers to get loans from the company, which are made in company coupons, which are accepted only in the company stores, and which further reduce the wages of the workers. But the company has many other tricks: the smallest coupon is two dollars, and it take two days to make that much, so the skilled contractor is there to see that work is distributed in such a manner that the workers do not make that much in a day, for which they

Collecting bananas on the United Fruit Company plantation in Costa Rica

cannot even be paid for in a coupon at the end of the month. Any worker who dares demand payment in money before pay day is blacklisted for three months.

A very large number of Negroes have been brought to work in these large "banana factories." This large immigration of Negroes serves two purposes: it delays the organization of the workers because the Negro workers are from Jamaica and do not know Spanish. The company creates intense prejudices among the native workers giving the Negro workers certain privileges such as the newest shacks, and if there happen to be any shacks with mosquito netting, they go to the Negro worker, foremen, contractor. The best paid jobs go to the most servile Negroes. On the other hand, the Negro who is better adapted to the work set the tempo of exploitation, speeding up the native workers to the point of exhaustion. This is particularly acute in the loading of steamers which is done with a conveyor, and the working day is measured by the number of hours it takes to load the ship, which is never below sixteen hours of steady work.

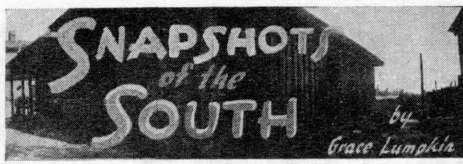
The labor movement is limited to the petty industries in the towns. Communist Parties are in their infancies handicapped also by their local composition without any mass contact with the workers in the imperialist enterprises and the agricultural workers in general.

The American revolutionary movement has tremendous obligations to these workers. The task is made easier by the fact that in these regions there is a large English speaking population and the work must be carried on simultaneously in English and Spanish. The LABOR DEFENDER is eagerly sought by the workers and even in places where they cannot read it they get a great kick out of the many interesting pictures. An effective distribution of the American literature will not only help our comrades but will also serve to demonstrate to the comrades the growth of the class struggle in the United States.

"GREEN GOLD"



by
Ricardo Martinez



WESLEY, a grizzled mill hand sat by a neighbor's fire on a Saturday afternoon. He was working only three day a week, and admitted that the job might not last. People were going into the bread line, but as for himself, he says, he won't beg charity.

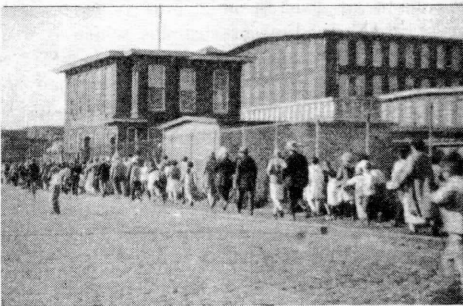
"When my children," he says, "Tell me, 'I want some bread' and I got no bread to give them; I'll pick up my gun and go in a store and take what I need. I got a right to bread and my children got a right to bread. It won't be stealin'. I'll take just what we need. An' I won't take from the poor storekeepers, I'll take from the rich."



The typical shack of the Negro worker of the South. The "homes" of the white workers are hardly any better.

UNION

Jim struck with the N. T. W. Union. He already had one lung gone from his long years in the mill. The Bosses put him in jail and kept him there. When he came out of jail the other lung was almost gone. He lay on his bed in the front room of the house, a folded towel across his eyes. The doctor had given him something to make him "sleep." His wife and children sat around the fire. The tubercular two year old child sat in its mother's lap and cried. But the cries did not wake Jim over on



On the picket line at Elizabethton, Tenn. where the slaves of "Happy Valley" struck against the rayon barons.

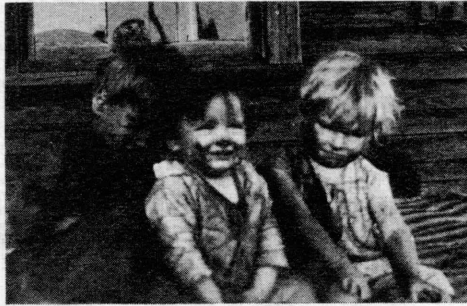
the bed. He was too far gone. A few days before, someone said, he had been strong enough to talk. And part of his talk had been about the union. He had said, "We've got to keep on with the union." Now they expected him to die at any time. He was almost gone. And no one in the family had a job. Mills were

"curtailing," working half time, third time or not at all. Maybe, after Jim had gone the family would go to the country—back to the mountains.

SUPPER

John's wife asked us to come in and get some supper along with the children. "We've just got potatoes, but you're welcome," she said. One of the neighbors, a tall gaunt man refused. "I figure," he said, "Now I ain't got a job I don't have to eat so much."

The five children went into the kitchen to eat. Everyone else stayed in the bedroom. Someone spoke up. "If I can get the money I'll take my family up where hoot owls are alarm clocks. It's better in the mountains."



These children, born of tubercular parents, also have T. B. Their father works 16 hours a day in a foundry and has contracted lead poisoning. They live in Rome, Georgia.

CITY

In the city there was a three day drive for the Associated Charities. Mellow-voiced speakers appealed to "those who sit in comfortable homes" to give to the poor. Loud speakers carried the appeal into the streets. "Twenty-one families evicted today," the voices said. "Eighty-five yesterday. How many tomorrow?"

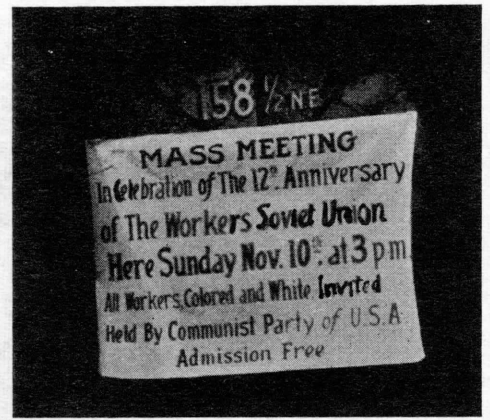
At the public charities building a long line waited to receive cracker crumbs, stale bread and cabbages donated by the merchants of the city.



The hovels of the workers on the outskirts of Atlanta, Georgia. The building towering in the rear is the new \$5,000,000 city hall.

MOUNTAINS

About thirty miles from a railroad in the Great Smoky Mountains there is an abandoned lumber camp. On each side of a winding creek are shacks built by the lumber company for its workers. Some of these shacks are empty, but many of them are rented by the poor of the mountains. The mill work is finished and the land for miles around now be-



For the first time in the South—XIIth Anniversary of the Soviet Union celebrated in Atlanta, Georgia, with Negro workers invited to sit in the same hall as the white. For carrying on these activities 6 workers now face the electric chair in Atlanta.

longs to a rich man who lives in a far away city. Occasionally he comes up with a party of friends to fish in the creek and to see that his overseer has collected all the rent money.

Last winter this overseer evicted six families from the shacks for non-payment of rent.

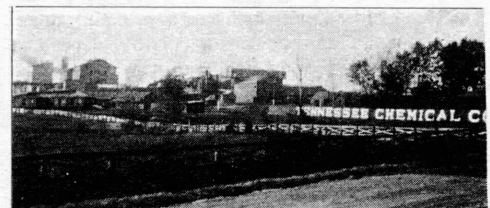
The rich man owns the mountains and the coves that were once the property of the free mountain people. Over Pinnacle Mountain up



A typical Southern worker's shack, almost ready to topple over.

through Possum Cove Mrs. McCown lives in a two room log cabin. She stopped hoeing in the garden to talk. "Hit's bad here," she said. "We figure we'd better take the children and go to the mills."

It is almost impossible to move away from the rich man. Across the range Andrew Mellon has bought up the mountain land. On this side the man from the city owns everything. "Outside" in the mill villages the rich man owns the mill. Play see-saw. Go down to the village or up to the mountains, whatever good it will do. Anywhere poor folks go they find the Boss.



The South becomes rapidly industrialized. Here is a large fertilizer plant, one of five, belonging to Armour & Co., at Nashville, Tenn. It employs 700 Negroes at the worst kind of work.

IN A TOKIO DUNGEON

BY A FORMER PRISONER



Three of the many Tokio conductoresses on strike listening to the speakers on May Day.

I WAS a second year man when the notorious student affair occurred in which two or three of my classmates were involved, but the incident was the baptism of fire of the student revolutionary movement. The movement, subjected to persecution, swept all before it like a fire. Tyrannical pressure of the suspected students by the police authorities and faculties became harsher, and the more rigorous the control, the more fanatical became the resistance. The arrest and detention of students were frequent, but cells in police stations and prisons only proved cradles of communism. One year and a half after the student affair, I advanced from the student social movement and joined the practical movement, giving myself up to the propagation of communism. Nearly one year after this, I was thrown into prison.

March 15, 1928 at five in the morning, when I and three others were sleeping in the office of a society to which we belonged, we were arrested by five detective officers in plain clothes and were taken to a police station. The detectives searched the place and seized three private letters addressed to me. Just before our leaving, one of the detectives said politely that we must come to the police office. He observed that we had to be there for a moment, but the moment meant 45 days in the police station and one year in prison.

On arrival at the police station, we were thrown into a detention cell before examination.

The cell was familiar. It was a resort for many leaders of the labor, social and farming movements.

Its size is nearly the same in all police stations—nine feet by eight feet. The ceiling is as high as that of Western houses. There is only one window, seven or eight feet from the ground. The cell at another police station where I was once kept had no opening except the doorway. "Detention cells" is a dignified name, but those who know them call them "buta bako" or pens for keeping pigs.

When I was pushed in, I found 23 men packed close in a small room. They were dirty and unkempt. They were more like badly fed bears than human beings. The cell smelt of dirt and sweat and was full of stinking odor. In a moment or two, I began to feel a strong nauseating smell from a bucket in a corner, and it was with effort that I kept from being sick. The room was crowded to overflowing, but there was space for bed-bugs, lice and fleas. I made a passage through men crouching on the floor, and seated myself with my knee-caps turned upwards. Scarcely had I sat on the floor than I felt insects creep over me, my back, around my neck and my arms.

I remained in this disgusting place for three days and three nights. I was taken out of doors once each day, neither for washing or examination but to comply with the rule that prisoners must not be kept after sunset next day without examination. I was taken from the cell and led from the yard entrance to the front door by a detective, and thence back to the cell again.

There is another method for the prolongation of restraint. Arrested men are taken from one police station to another. When I was held under restraint from March 15 to May 2, I was taken to 15 police stations. I hear that it takes more than seven weeks to go the round of every police station within the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Police Board. Prisoners are as a rule allowed to wash their faces every morning, but at the police station where I was kept under restraint I was not allowed to wash even once during 45 days on the excuse of too many prisoners.

The police station to which I was first taken was notorious for the brutal treatment of prisoners. One of the turnkeys who was cavalry reservist was especially barbarous. He carried a thick club made of cherry wood, two feet long, and with it he habitually struck the prisoners. In some cases a prisoner whom he disliked was beaten for no reason but yawning. A man who sat beside me was struck with that club on the back, on the head and on the limbs, and was at last bound up with heavy chains on the charge of resistance, but the charge was false, because the man only uttered a few words. This was by no means the worst cruelty. In the dead of night, sleepy in spite of the lice and fleas and the close, stale air, we were sometimes roused by the sudden noises of kicking and by shrieks of pain. Such incidents in prison life are not infrequent. When the plaintive cries that Koreans utter, when they are badly treated, reached our ears through thick doors, we felt our blood tingle in our veins from rage, and we often beat the door and tried to break it open.

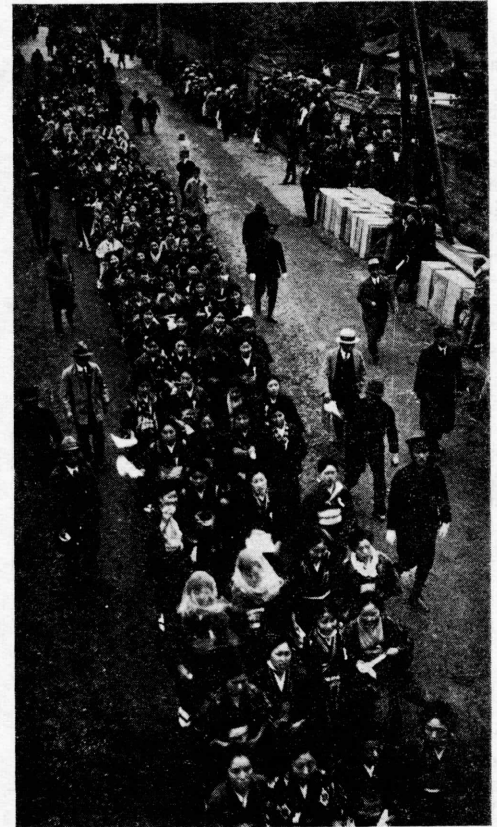
It was the remark of an assistant police inspector, who examined me that a month at the police cell was equivalent to three months in prison, but during my subsequent experience in

a prison, I found that a month of life in the police cells was as long, without any exaggeration, as a year in the prison. Judging from my emaciated state, the treatment I suffered at the police station was as harsh and cruel as could be. However hard-hearted a murderer may be, he will, according to a detective, confess his crimes, provided restraint extending over 29 days is repeated three times; three restraints covering 87 days all together. So barbarous is life in the "pig pen."

What do they do when they examine? They are crafty and artful, skilfully trying to trap the suspected persons, or roughly handling them to make them confess. Police men use bamboo-swords frequently, make suspected men hold pencils between two or three fingers and then press their hands forcibly, causing after a little time intolerable pain, or they thrust pieces of bamboo under their finger nails, or sometimes tie them up with chains suspended from the ceiling so that they cannot lie down. Communists were treated with special harshness. When a friend of mine came back after examination his face was so distorted that I hardly recognized him. The next day I was made to hold a pencil between my fingers, while my hand was squeezed by a policeman with great force. This was repeated for four hours till I was faint.

These facts are open secrets known by everybody engaging in the movement, but in no case was persecution so cruel as the torture inflicted upon workers recently.

The doubt comes across my bosom. I feel like asking: who has sown the seeds of communism?



The Tokio May Day parade of 10,000 consisted of many car and bus strikers and demanded freedom for hundreds of class-war prisoners.



Voices *from* Prison



"Liberty" Drawing by Aaron Lebedinsky

JOE CARR IN FINE SPIRITS

Fulton County Tower,
Atlanta, Ga.

Received your letter today, with the clipping from *The World*, so I thought I would write and let you know I received them. Boy, that sure is a good picture of the Tower. You say you got a letter from home? Well, I was getting mail from home every other day, up till last week. I do not know what is wrong now; maybe the officials here will not let me have it.

Well, comrade, I am feeling fine, never felt better in my life, although I think I would feel better if I were on the outside taking part in the class struggle.

I send my thanks to the ILD for helping my family, for I do not know what they would do if it were not for the ILD, as my dad is not able to work, and my sister is only making ten or twelve dollars a week, and there are nine children at home and my dad and mother, so you can see that they could not live if it were not for the ILD.

Well, comrade, not much to write about in here, so will close, with regards to all.

Long live the ILD!

JOE CARR.

Enclosed find receipt signed for five dollars received by me for the month of May. I also wish to thank everyone for helping the I.L.D. with this fund. Mother also sent me word that she had received a check from you, and asked me to write you her thanks. By the newspapers I have noticed that the Ohio Supreme Court has reversed the decision in the conviction of three of your members. There is no finer way to tell labor you are on the job at all times.

JOHN J. CORNELISON.

FROM THE ANTHRACITE

Pittston, Pa.

Mrs. Mary Bonita wrote to me and asked if I would answer the letter send her. She is a dependor of the Labor Defense because her man is at the Eastern penitentiary at Philadelphia, Pa., for having shot and killed Frank Agati, a contractor in the Pennsylvania coal company mine in Pittston more than two years ago. He had to shoot this man in self-defense at the office of the U.M.W. of A. of which this Frank Agati was an organizer as well as contractor. He was an organizer for his fare and not for the interest of the miners. Bonita was chairman of the local Union No. 1703 and came several times to the office, not for Agati but to meet Rinaldo Cappellini at the time president of district No. 7 U.M.W.A. (a renegade and betrayer of all the miners) with the intention to speak with him for the miners whom he was representing and of whom everyone was idle. For such thing he met what he met and now he must stand in jail for not less than 6 years and not more than 12 years.

She thanks us very very much for the help which you give her in sending the check of twenty dollars a month because, if she don't have this she will have to go begging because on this part of the county we have no work at all for women—only for miners, and the miners are near all idle except the Pittston Coal Co.

This is the condition of Pittston and around here: we have about 15,000 miners idle although some of these may work a day or two per week.

Hoping that the people will some day in the very near future open the eyes once forever and shake up the present bad system and condition. Yours for Mary Bonita.

JOHN FORNIER

AN OLD FIGHTER SENDS GREETINGS

San Quentin, Calif.

The check for \$5.00 and your letter arrived Saturday. I am grateful to you for the donation. There are many small comforts we can buy in here that help to make the time less dreary. It helps me quite a bit to know that I am not entirely forgotten by those who are doing their best to help us the only way that is possible.

I wanted to send a greeting for the May Day issue of *THE DEFENDER* but I neglected to think of it early enough to reach you in time before the issue went to press.

I am glad to hear of your program of education for the Fifth Anniversary. It is good to know that you are carrying on the fight and showing the workers the need for a labor defense. I am sorry there are so many others in the same plight as I am but such things cannot be helped under present conditions. All of us have tried, and are still doing our share.

Tell the other comrades who sent their greetings that I wish to thank them for their interest in me. I return greetings to them multiplied and hope that their period of incarceration will soon terminate. My best regards and comradely greetings to the defense and the *DEFENDER*.

GUS C. MADSEN.

WE WILL MASTER

San Quentin, Calif.

The International Labor Defense is recognized as one of the foremost organizations that comes to the aid of all toilers who fall in the fight on the industrial field regardless of belief or faction. May its members increase and multiply, so it can continue to prod, with telling effect, the dormant leaders of all craft unions. Such unions are out of place in this machine age. The history of the struggles and sacrifices made by the members of craft unions prove beyond all doubt that they don't deserve their present leaders. The leaders of the craft unions, (there are over a hundred crafts) have led them up to the mouth of the machine. Will they go in and come out "robots" or will they turn to the left and master the machine?

Enclosed find vouchers for August, September, October, December, 1929 February, March, and April, 1930, for five dollars each, which proves that the International Labor Defense is still interested, and looking after the needs of the labor prisoners in California.

May the International Labor Defense, after celebrating its fifth anniversary, have the same militant spirit that Mother Jones showed on her one hundredth anniversary.

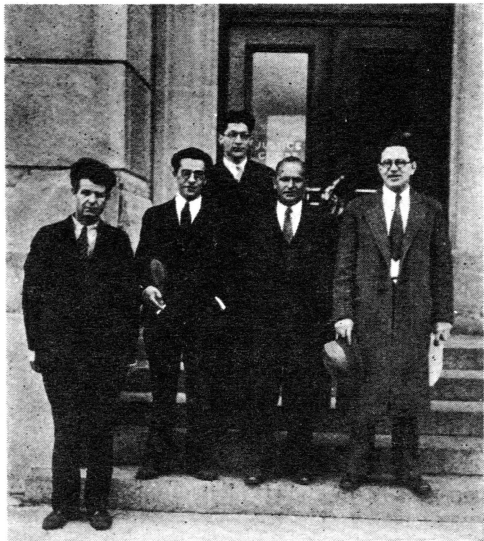
J. B. MCNAMARA.

Yours of May 12th received and wish to thank you for same, also for the check that you so kindly enclosed. You have no idea how helpful it is to one of us to receive something of that nature. For my own immediate needs I could suffice on what I am given here but the assistance I am able to give to my dear wife and boy is what makes my life much brighter here. It not only provides me with some of the more important necessities of life but gives me the opportunity of knowing that I can ease the hardships for my own dear ones at home.

JOHN M. LYNCH.



Workers of Detroit, Mich. sentenced to 90 days for meeting (left to right): Coperean, Conn, Raymond, Carawas, Powers.



Workers of Detroit, Mich. sentenced to 90 days for meeting (left to right): Coperean, Conn, Raymond, Caravas, Powers.



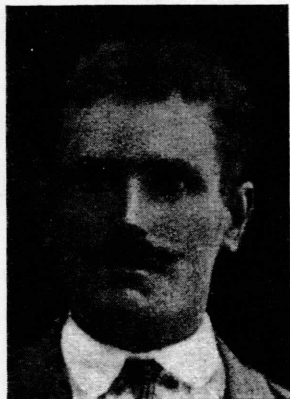
THE CANADIAN DEFENSE CONFERENCE

The Eastern Defense Conference, of the Canadian Defense League, section of the International Red Aid, held at Hamilton, April 26 and 27, was a successful emergency conference, called to combat the reign of terror against the Canadian working class.

The present wave of terror began in January, 1929, at Toronto, when all hall owners were forbidden to rent their halls for Communist meetings and street demonstrations were brutally attacked by the police using tear gas bombs. With arrests under "sedition" laws and deportations the terror spread to all parts of Canada. The entire issue of "The Worker," official organ of the Communist Party of Canada, of August 30, 1929, was confiscated. With unemployment growing and the fight against it also increasing, the persecutions grow sharper from day to day.

The conference of our brother organization was marked by a strong internationalism, in which it had been somewhat lacking in the past. Comrade J. Louis Engdahl, General Secretary of the International Labor Defense, brought greetings from the I.L.D., and a strong bond of solidarity between the Canadian and American sections was forged. A special resolution, pledging the Canadian Defense League to cooperate to the fullest extent in the campaign for the freedom of Leonard Doherty, who is now in jail at Boston and is being framed by Canadian authorities on a murder charge, was passed.

At the conference there were 166 delegates, representing 94 organizations. The League reports 2,500 members in its 74 branches and it has 60 affiliated labor organizations, of which 30 are trade unions. We are impatiently looking forward to the illustrated monthly publication that is to take the place of the present bulletin of the League.



Manteiga Cernados, Cuban worker, who was killed by an army officer during the tremendous May Day Demonstration at Regla, Cuba. Another worker was also shot to death by troops called out by the Machado dictatorship.

BRAZIL

The reaction in Latin America has intensified. In Brazil today, there are more than 35 trade unions dissolved, the Communist Party is driven into illegality; the same with the General Confederation of Labor; the printshop of the Communist Party, where the Party daily paper "O Classe Operaria" was printed, is closed; the leaders of the Land Workers' Federation, a recently formed union, are in prison. Julio Prestes, president-elect of Brazil and former governor of the state of Sao Paulo, where he instituted a reign of terror for the coffee kings, is now in the USA.

The International Red Aid of Brazil has just issued the slogan of 20,000 new members.

URUGUAY

In Uruguay, after many months of prison, they have released Comrade Lazarrga, General Secretary of the General Confederation of Labor of Uruguay. This, after a general strike in the locality. The I.L.D. of Uruguay, from the very beginning of the terror in the country, took up the defense of the prisoners. It demands the release of all those imprisoned in the strike of March 20, the re-opening of the trade union center of the Uruguayan unions, closed by the terror. It has launched the campaign for 1,000 new members by July. Its bulletin for May shows this number will be more than passed, and over-passed, as already on May 28 it had obtained 1,035 members.

CUBA

In Cuba many Communists are in prison, and the best leaders of the trade unions, among them practically all the leaders of the National Confederation of Labor. Deportations continue, a system that adds to the unheard of crimes against the workers of only a few months ago. As reply to this, the Red Aid, which was a decentralized organization, has acquired a national character, with an Executive Committee and branches in all the localities.

MEXICO

In Mexico the persecutions continue intensely. The I.L.D. has been banned and closed. The offices of the I.L.D. have been raided after they were closed.

ARGENTINE

The Argentine section of the I.L.D. has begun a campaign for 20,000 new members by the month of January. The last number of the I.L.D.'s magazine announces that to date the campaign has won 14,000 new members, both individual and collective. By the seventh of November it must attain and exceed the number set.

MOPR ON THE FARM

The I.L.D. work in the Soviet Union is rapidly spreading into the villages. During the spring and autumn sowing campaigns of last year many "MOPR acres" were planted by voluntary Sunday work of the peasants in the MOPR organizations. The peasants gladly lent their implements, grain and labor for the raising of products to be sold for the benefit of the class war prisoners. Many "MOPR acres" were planted on the collective farms and with the spring sowing of this year there were many more such acres planted.

MOPR branches of workers have also participated in the collectivization program by volunteering their help to the peasants, by sorting seed and helping in collective organization. In this way it was easy to form many new MOPR branches in the villages. In one village, consisting of 36 farms, a collective was formed called "Stalin." On the biggest collective farm in the U.S.S.R., the famous "Gigant," a MOPR group of 500 members was organized.



The opening night of the Labor Defender Photo Group exhibition at the Japanese Workers' Center.

OUR PHOTO GROUP

Ever since its formation over two months ago the LABOR DEFENDER PHOTO GROUP of New York City, composed of worker-photographers, has been busily at work demonstrating its value to the revolutionary movement.

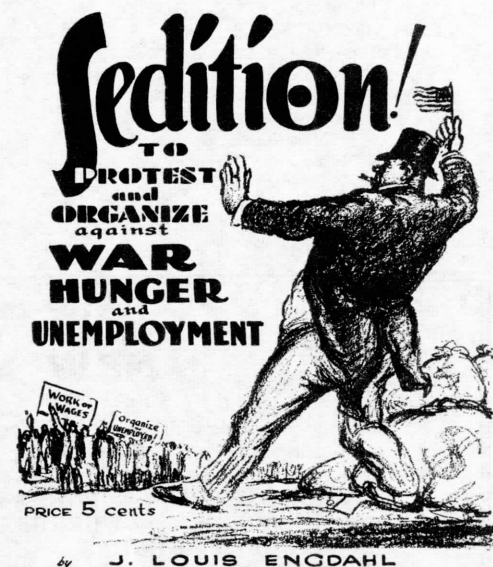
The exhibition of its photos during the week of June 16, opened by a very interesting international entertainment, should be instructive to militant workers throughout the country. One wall was full of photos of the May Day Demonstration in New York City—photos which could not be seen or obtained elsewhere. There were many intimate pictures of workingclass life and struggle that could only be taken by class-conscious workers.

The chief value of the group is that with it the photo is not an ornament. It is something to be used as a propaganda weapon in the daily struggles of the workers. Accordingly, the Group has supplied the workingclass press with photos that could not be obtained elsewhere.

The Group does not limit itself to still photos. Among its members are comrades experienced in the taking of movies. At present the Group is working on an I.L.D. film, parts of which have been received from Germany, which will shortly be shown by the I.L.D.

Similar groups could be formed thruout the country to supply the workingclass press with workingclass photos of workingclass life and struggles. All interested should get in touch with Isabelle Kleinman, Secretary, 799 Broadway, Room 410, New York City.

AN I.L.D. PAMPHLET



The cover to the new I.L.D. pamphlet "Sedition" which is now in its second edition. It should be as widely distributed as possible.

Financial Statement, National Office, International Labor Defense to March 31, 1930

BALANCE SHEET—MARCH 31, 1930

ASSETS			
Cash in Bank	\$	207.85	
Petty Cash Fund		50.00	
Accounts Receivable (less reserves)		10,919.51	
Loans Receivable		123.27	
Deposits		240.00	
Office Furniture (less reserves)		2,296.70	
Total assets			\$13,837.33
Deficit December 31, 1929	\$28,590.89		
Excess of expenditures over Income for the three months	1,932.71	30,523.60	
Total			\$44,360.93
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable	5,913.11		
Loans Payable	11,353.44		
Notes Payable	5,635.80		
Wages Accrued	2,014.58		
Unearned Subscriptions—Labor Defender	1,461.11		
Total Liabilities		\$26,378.04	
Due to Bail Fund		17,982.89	
Total			\$44,360.93

Prisoners Dependents Relief	650.00
Shifrin case	1,100.00
Southern Cases Defense	761.36
Tapolcsanyi Appeal	163.50

Total Defense and Relief		13,399.08
Administrative, Publicity and Organization:		
Secretaries Wages	1,300.00	
Office Wages	2,539.43	
Rent	545.00	
Telephone	311.57	
Stationery and Supplies	362.27	
Postage	469.52	
Telegraph	219.12	
Auditing	400.00	
Interest and Bank Charges	95.94	
Publicity	800.87	
Organizers and Speakers Wages	337.00	
Organizers and Speakers Fares	510.34	
Fourth National Convention	419.66	
Printing	629.74	
Literature	829.46	
Moving Expenses	133.44	
Miscellaneous	18.40	
Language Sections	684.41	

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 1930

INCOME:			
Defense and Relief:			
Anti-Terror	\$	1,496.20	
Foreign Prisoners		215.62	
Gastonia		1,230.30	
January-March Campaign		3,618.45	
March 6th campaign		1,006.04	
Mexican Terror		1,794.95	
Miscellaneous cases		521.55	
Prisoners Pledge Fund		494.55	
Shifrin Defense		257.75	
General Donations		3,919.89	
Bail Fund Donations		20.00	
Totals			\$14,575.30
Administrative and Organization:			
Membership Dues	\$	2,536.70	
Initiation Fees		741.95	
Members at Large		103.23	
Affiliated Organizations		214.97	
Literature		620.01	
Language Sections		900.21	
Miscellaneous		1,108.52	
Total			\$6,225.59
Labor Defender:			
Paid Circulation	5,878.72		
Advertising	225.90		
Donations	17.50		
Total			\$6,122.12
Total Income		\$26,923.01	

Total		\$10,506.17
Labor Defender:		
Printing, Binding and Mailing	2,617.76	
Cuts and Photos	745.33	
Editorial Wages	405.00	
Administrative Wages	585.00	
Promotion	65.52	
Stationery and Supplies	93.00	
Premiums on Subscriptions	65.00	
Commission on Subscriptions	273.86	

Total		\$4,850.47
Total Expenditures		\$28,855.72
Excess of Expenditures over Income		\$1,932.71

BAIL FUND AS OF MARCH 31, 1930

Assets:			
Cash in Trade Bank	\$	53.14	
Cash Deposited as Bail		36,275.00	
Securities Deposited as Bail		142,500.00	
Collateral		8,000.00	
Loans Receivable from Members		6,130.00	
Total			\$192,958.14
Liabilities:			
Loans Payable for Bail (Secured)	27,650.00		
Loans Payable for Bail (Unsecured)	17,424.45		
Bail Fund Loans Payable	11,955.78		
Securities Borrowed for Bail	148,200.00		
Bail Fund Liberty Bond Coupons	4,947.80		
Accrued Interest on Bail Bonds	763.00		
Total			\$210,941.03
Net Liabilities			\$ 17,982.89

CERTIFICATE

We hereby certify that the above statement has been prepared from the books, records and accounts of the International Labor Defense, National Office, at 80 East 11th Street, New York City, and in our opinion reflects the true financial condition of this organization on March 30, 1930.

We have verified by personal communication all of the accounts payable.

Yours very truly,
PRIMOFF & COMPANY,
 By **GEORGE PRIMOFF,**
Certified Public Accountant.

April 26, 1930.

Phone: Stuyvesant 3816

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