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# VOICE OF LABOR

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## RUTHENBERG TRIAL NEARS END

### Machinists in Chicago Secure Increases in Rate of Wages

By A. OVERGAARD.  
 For some time negotiations have been going on between the manufacturers and the organized machinists in this city for a new wage scale, the old one expiring on May 1, 1923, which finally resulted in a settlement for 93 cents per hour for machinists, \$1.06 for tool makers and an advance in proportion for specialists. It is unfortunate, however, that not all the trades in the metal industry have their agreements expire at the same time. The lesson should be greater solidarity in the metal trades organizations. The coming year must bring about amalgamation of all crafts in the metal industry and organize the big mass of unorganized in the shops in this country. Then we will be able to force the employers to give in to our demands. Let the slogan for next year be, organize the unorganized and amalgamate the metal crafts into one gigantic industrial organization.

### GENERAL "HELL AND MARIA" DAWES ORGANIZES SCAB GUARDS

VICTOR A. OLANDER COMMENTS ON MOVE OF REACTIONARY "GENERAL."  
 "Blood and thunder" Dawes the cursing banker and noted "financial expert" has organized a scabby strike-breaking and anti-radical organization called the Minute Men.  
 This organization will be non-partisan—open to all except loyal trade unionists. The following paragraphs from the constitution of this gang throws light on what is behind the scheme:  
 "The Minute Men of the Constitution is a nonpartisan association organized to obtain delegates from Illinois to the Republican and Democratic state and national conventions pledged to support the inclusion of the following planks in the platform of each party:  
 'Advocating the renewal and building up of respect for law and the constitution of the United States.  
 'Indorsing the announced position of the government of the United States maintaining that the right of a citizen to work without unlawful interference is as sacred as the right of a citizen to cease work, irrespective of whether he is or is not a member of a labor or other organization.  
 'Declaring that loyalty to the government of the United States must be above and beyond that to any civil or industrial organization working for the interest of special groups or classes."  
 Labor Assails Dawes.  
 Victor A. Olander, secretary of the Illinois State Federation of Labor, issued a statement in which he questioned the motives of the "Minute Men of the Constitution," organized by Gen. Charles G. Dawes last Wednesday in Evanston.  
 He also questioned the sincerity of Gen. Dawes, stating that when the state constitution needed defenders, last fall it was the labor union organizations that came to the front, and not the organizer of the Minute Men, to fight the adoption of a new state constitution.  
 "Six Months too Late."  
 The statement issued by Mr. Olander follows:  
 "This Dawes movement for the alleged defense of the constitution of the country is about six months too late. The constitution needed defenders last December, and it found them among the common people of the trade unionists. Where was Mr.

### Jay Lovestone, Formerly Secretary of the Communist Party of America Takes Stand for Defense

The trial of C. E. Ruthenberg, executive secretary of the Workers' Party of America, enters on its third week with Jay Lovestone, formerly secretary of the Communist Party of America, on witness stand for the defense.  
 The calling of Lovestone as a witness in behalf of Ruthenberg caused much confusion among the prosecution and a hurried consultation was held in order to frame a plan of action.  
 The effect of stool pigeon Morrow's testimony on the jury in so far as it was calculated to reveal secret plots on the part of the communists was completely shattered when the defense testified its willingness to explain matters that were hinted as awful secrets by the prosecution. As we go to press Comrade Lovestone is still on the witness stand.  
 The case will probably be decided by the end of this week. A victory for the defense in the case of Ruthenberg will be a victory for the entire working class of America; a conviction will mean new hope for the

### Judge Liberal With Documents

ST. JOSEPH, Mich.—Agents of the Department of Justice, who are the star witnesses for the prosecution in the case of C. E. Ruthenberg, held forth from the witness stand during the last two sessions.  
 Agents Spolansky, Shanahan, Loeb and Wolfe told how they came to Bridgeman on Saturday, August 19, to look for the convention of the Communist Party and how they went to the sheriff of Berrien county to induce him to make the raid. Spolansky told of long distance telephone calls to various parts of the country during the two days, during which negotiations were evidently the documents without warrant was illegal under the state and federal constitution. The motion was denied by Judge White.  
 Judge White ruled that the program be admitted as evidence and the defense made a formal motion of exception to his ruling. Louis Loeb, another federal agent, upon taking the stand this morning asked to be permitted to correct the testimony he had given on Friday, stating that he had phoned to his wife and refreshed his memory. On Friday Loeb volunteered to the jury, "Yes, I almost voted for Ruthenberg for mayor of Cleveland when he ran on the socialist ticket." When Ruthenberg was consulted on the subject he was not sure as to whether to consider that a compliment or not.  
 Atty. Gen. Dougherty of the State of Michigan appeared in the court room this morning, evidently to stiffen the prosecution by his usual support.

### FOSTER RECEIVES OVATION AT LABOR DEFENSE MEETING

ROBERT BUCK AND JOHANNESSEN DELIVER FIGHTING SPEECHES.  
 Declaring that the "prosecution of communists in Michigan is an assault on the Trade Union Movement, an assault on democracy and an assault on human liberty," Robert Buck, editor of the New Majority and National Chairman of the Labor Defense Council, opened the mass meeting in Ashland Auditorium on Friday evening, April 27, called for the purpose of giving support to the movement for the defense of the communists now on trial in Michigan.  
 The Labor Defense Council is not out to defend Communists; the Communists are well able to do that," stated Buck.  
 The other speakers were Anton Johannessen, Chairman of the organization committee of the Chicago Federation of Labor, William Z. Foster, Sec. of the Trade Union Educational League and Moritz Loeb, Sec. of the Labor Defense Council.  
 Buck delivered an eloquent and powerful speech in which he applied the rod of castigation to the political hides of the capitalist plunderbund and their lackeys, particularly Burns, Dougherty and their retinue of stool pigeons.  
 Anton Johannessen who took a prominent part in many noted defense fights told of several detective-hatched plots to railroad radicals to prison and to the gallows. Burns he declared was the prince of all the anti-labor plotters. A favorite trick of Burns is to make raids on Saturday, secure indictments on Saturday and convictions whenever possible on the same day because the Sunday papers have a larger circulation than the week day editions and are more widely read. This gives the lies and plots hatched by the notorious labor hater wider circulation.  
 Johannessen finished by saying that union men would either have to line up with the communists on trial in Michigan or with William J. Burns, the jury fixer and those who are behind him.  
 Moritz Loeb appealed for funds to carry on the battle for the defense of the communists. He thanked the workers of the United States for their splendid response in the past and hoped they would continue their support until the fight was won.  
 Foster was introduced by Buck who paid an eloquent tribute to the great labor organizer. The audience applauded for fully two minutes when Foster rose to speak.

### MICH. FEDERATION OF LABOR FIGHTS ANTI-SYNDICALIST LAWS

REPRESENTATIVE DELEGATION APPEARED BEFORE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.  
 LANSING, Mich.—Repeal of the Michigan criminal syndicalism law is being pushed by the most imposing labor delegation that has ever appeared before the legislature.  
 Eight federated labor bodies in the state and many individual unions were represented in the hearings before the Judiciary committee of the house that characterized the law as an anti-labor measure designed to break up trade unions. This is the law under which Wm. Z. Foster and C. E. Ruthenberg and other union men and women were indicted in Berrien county.  
 The Michigan State Federation of Labor, the Detroit building trades councils and bricklayers' councils, the state council of painters and the Detroit Typographical council headed the list of labor organizations.  
 The opposition has attempted to block the hearing and may prevent a vote on the repeal measure.  
 "The man behind the criminal syndicalism bill when it was passed in 1919, was Henry Leland, of the De-

### "Get to Hell Out of Here" Is Order to the Workers

Martins Ferry, Ohio, April 28.—The meeting at which James P. Cannon was scheduled to speak here tonight was stopped by the police. A crowd of coal miners from nearby camps found the hall locked against them and policemen on guard to stop the meeting.  
 "We don't need no law to stop Bolsheviki meetings," said the chief of police to a committee of miners who went with Comrade Cannon to the city hall to protest against the suppression of the meeting.  
 A large crowd which gathered before the hall was dispersed by the police. The men who came to the meeting, mostly coal miners, are treated as "foreigners" in Martins Ferry; and Martins Ferry is a "100% American" town. "Get the hell out of here," shouted one of the officers of the law, "this is the United States and you can't meet here."

### STANDARD STEEL CAR MASSACRE

HAMMOND, Ind.—Civil suit for damages and injuries sustained in the massacre of union workers in the Standard Steel Car Co. strike in September, 1919, will be tried in the Lake county seat at Crown Point this term of court. After almost four years without any local or federal investigation of the deaths of four workers, Steve Evans, one of the wounded unionists, is demanding damages for the 100-odd pieces of buckshot poured into his body by the car company's guards and the police. Evans, who is now crippled, is supporting himself by conducting a little store in Hammond.  
 The massacre occurred during the national steel strike of 1919, shortly after Gen. Wood had relinquished command of the Gary steel district. The Standard Steel Car Co. is one of the interests of the Mellon family, represented in Pres. Harding's cabinet by Secretary of the Treasury Andrew W. Mellon. Its open shop policy was thoroughly supported by the Hammond city authorities and apparently winked at by the federal government. Shotguns and army trucks belonging to the government were used by company guards in their attack upon the unarmed gathering of strikers. Unlawful use of this property has never been investigated. A blacksmith, two railway carmen and a laborer were killed and a score of workers wounded when the volley was fired by guards and police at the

### Stool Pigeons Retail Adventures

ST. JOSEPH, Mich.—Francis Morrow, the government stool-pigeon, is on the witness stand, retelling his story of the communist convention at Bridgeman, as part of the prosecution's case against C. E. Ruthenberg.  
 Morrow follows the same tactics as in the Foster case. He saw everything that happened at the convention, even several things at the same time, and what he did not see or hear he learned through what he calls "party channels." Judge White has ruled that he may tell about what he learned through party channels and therefore the doors are open for him to tell anything he told from the witness stand.  
 Morrow's chief task today was to identify a batch of documents which have been introduced as evidence against Ruthenberg. Judge White has permitted the introduction of every document which the government detectives have testified came out of the barrels buried at Bridgeman even though there is no evidence to connect them with the convention or with Ruthenberg. This, defense attorneys state is a very dubious ruling for the prosecution should there be a conviction and appeal. Evidently, however, Judge White is going to give the prosecution the widest possibility of making a case in this trial.  
 The first document read to the jury was the 1921 program of the Communist Party, which the defense will claim was superseded by a new program approved by the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party and brought to the convention by Ruthenberg. The latter program has already been identified by one of the government detectives as coming from among papers found in Ruthenberg's suitcase.  
 The prosecutors seem very anxious to introduce in evidence a copy of the "A. B. C. of Communism" by N. Bucharin. To effect this they produced a portfolio numbered 78 and had Agent M. Wolf, of the Department of Justice testify that he found a copy of this book, an English edition, hard to find in the United States, in this

James Cannon, Recently Returned from Russia Will Speak on "Russia Today" in Wicker Park Hall, 2040 North Ave., on Sunday Eve., May 20, 7.30 P.M.





The Movement in Norway

By DR. KARL F. M. SANDBERG.

The annual meeting of the N. W. P. closed Feb. 28. Oscar Torp, a 22 years old electrician, was elected chairman...

The national meeting of the Young Communist League was held March 1. Bucharin represented the C. I. Schatzkin and Arvid Vrieling the Y. C. L. and Gustaf Johansson the Swedish Y. C. L. 150 delegates were present...

The national meeting of the Norwegian Federation of Labor opened March 4 with guests present from Sweden, Denmark, Russia, Germany and Finland. It was 2 1/2 years since the last meeting...

International relations was the next number on the program. It was first finally and definitely resolved to leave the Amsterdam International. It was further resolved that the A. F. L. and its unions at every opportunity shall work for the seating of Russian trade union delegates in the respective international unions...

The trade union situation was next taken up. The debate on this took place behind closed doors. A manifesto was adopted. It calls attention to the capitalist offensive against the working class as an international fact...

All members were instructed to take active part in the co-operative movement. Ole O. Lian was re-elected chairman, Aaroe secretary. The compulsory arbitration law was defeated in the Norwegian voting March 14, 65 to 45...

PRESENT SITUATION IN AMERICA

By ALEXANDER HOWAT. (Special to the Voice of Labor.)

When this country entered the great World War a few years ago, no class of people were ever appealed to in such high sounding phrases of freedom as those used in urging the American people to engage in the European war...

Following the declaration of war, the front pages of the daily press, billboards, and glaring posters on every hand, flashed the news that this nation had joined the world war to overthrow autocracy, and establish freedom and justice for the people everywhere...

Firms in the belief as to what had been told them by the representatives of the government concerning the action of this nation in joining the world war, the organized workers of the entire country responded to every call; they made every sacrifice; they left nothing undone as they understood it to make the war a glorious success, and to establish the principles for which they were told they were fighting for.

Some seventy or eighty thousand members of the Miners' Union joined in this gigantic conflict. What is true of the miners as to the part taken by them is also true of the workers everywhere, notwithstanding the many promises that were made to organized labor, to encourage them to put forth their best efforts during the war, yet we found at the close of the war that the promises that had been made amounted to nothing...

While the workers were fighting and dying, as they believed, to make the world free from every form of tyranny and oppression, the profiteers, the great employers of labor, and the law-makers of the nation were preparing then for another assault against the organized workers...

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Packer Charity

The Morris family, having made a gift of \$500,000 to the pension fund, absolve themselves from future liability, though the sum will care for the pensioners only for a period of 15 to 18 months. At that time, each of the pensioners will receive the amount of money he has paid into the fund, plus interest compounded at 4 per cent.

Active employees too will suffer. Those who remain with Armour & Co. will get full pension rights up to 11 1/2 years, but no longer. A fight may be made on the ground that the merger was really effective last October and that since then Armour's Morris plant and has been deducting the regular pension assessment of 3 per cent from the payroll, thereby making itself liable for the maintenance of the plan.

CHARLESTON, W. Va.—West Virginia state police, whose abolition seemed likely earlier in the session, will have at least two years more to beat up and shoot trade unionists. The legislature, by a vote of 45 to 44, laid on the table the bill repealing the constabulary statute.

PRIVATE LESSONS IN RUSSIAN By DORA ARIEW Experienced Teacher. 2706 Potomac Ave. Evenings from 7:30 to 10 P.M. Tel. Brunswick, 1968

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DEBS AND THE UNITED FRONT

The following letter was written to Eugene V. Debs by C. E. Ruthenberg, National Secretary of the Workers' Party.

Eugene V. Debs, Terre Haute, Ind. Dear Comrade Debs:—

My attention has been called to a statement published by you, setting forth what purports to be disruptive activities of members of the Workers' Party in relation to public meetings which you have addressed.

I am sending this letter to you to inform you that no member of the Workers' Party has been directed or authorized to carry on such activities in relation to your meetings.

The attitude of the Workers' Party in regard to a united front among all working class organizations is well known. It has repeatedly been expressed in public statements and appeals to other working class organizations.

I am enclosing a copy of our statement "For the United Front of Labor," addressed to all labor unions, all organizations of working farmers, the Farmer Labor Party, the Socialist Party, the Proletarian Party, the Socialist Labor Party, and the Industrial Workers of the World, from which I quote the following:

"The Workers' Party proposes that all working class organizations, labor unions, workers' benefit organizations, working-class political parties and working farmers' political and economic organizations get together to present a united, common front against the common enemy—the employing class. To achieve this united front of labor, the Workers' Party proposes that all working-class organizations, regardless of political differences, get together and marshal their forces on the basis of the following immediate program:—

"1. Amalgamation. "Immediate concrete steps should be taken to amalgamate the present craft unions into fighting industrial unions.

"2. For the protection of the foreign born workers.

"All workers in America, native and foreign born, have but one enemy—the employing class. The separation of the American worker into English and foreign language speaking is one of the greatest obstacles to unity of action and class consciousness in the ranks of the working-class. The employers capitalize this condition to advance their own ends of exploitation and oppression. All the workers must get together against their common enemy and repel the attack of the capitalists against the foreign born workers—an attack which is only preliminary to and an integral part of the onslaught against the whole working-class in America.

"3. The International Labor Movement. "The struggle of the working-class is international. The workers of America cannot wage a successful struggle against their own exploiting class and at the same time put their trust in organizations that have been and are hampering and betraying the struggles of their brothers in other countries. The American workers must therefore repudiate the Second, Two and One-Half and Amsterdam Internationals.

"4. Recognition of Soviet Russia. "The workers of Russia have won their strike against their Czarist op-

pressors, capitalist exploiters and the foreign imperialist invaders. The workers of Soviet Russia have succeeded in ending the rule of the landed and moneyed tyrants. They have established a government of the city workers and poor farmers. And this government is growing ever stronger despite the blockade and wars of the French and British imperialist lords of finance and industry.

"The American workers must help the Russian workers maintain their victory and in this way help themselves. We must fight for the full recognition of the Soviet government. The workers of America must aid their Russian brothers in their efforts to rebuild their country and resist the attacks of the foreign capitalist plunderers.

"5. For the Removal of Governmental Obstacles.

"The organization of the American government is replete with the most clever and effective devices to block the development of a powerful, militant working class movement. We propose the removal of all such governmental obstacles now hindering the workers in their struggle against the exploiting class. The united workers should fight to abolish:

"(a) The present rigid conditions making it almost impossible to amend the constitution.

"(b) The supreme court and the veto power of courts over legislation.

"(c) The United States' senate.

"(d) The veto power of the President.

"(e) The present committee system in congress stifling even the faintest voice of protest that a workers' representative might raise.

"(f) The present 48 states system of law serving as a big leaf for the centralized dictatorship of the employing class, the federal government, confusing and making more difficult the struggles of the workers for remedial legislation and further buttressing the whole notorious system of checks and balances

on which the American government is based.

"(g) For a Labor Party.

In the struggle of the workers against the employers the government fights the battles of the exploiting class. The class struggle is therefore a political struggle. The workers must organize an independent working-class political party consisting of all workers and working farmers' organizations, regardless of political differences, and unreservedly committed to the protection of the interests of the industrial and agricultural working masses. The organization of such a mass labor party is indispensable to the establishment of a government of, by and for the city and rural working masses—a WORKERS' GOVERNMENT.

We do not propose organizational unity between the organizations included in this call, but a United Front on these issues, leaving each organization to continue its work as an autonomous body.

In view of the statement above referred to, we would appreciate very much an expression of your views in regard to the organization of a united front of labor on the issues stated.

Fraternally yours, (Signed) C. E. Ruthenberg, Executive Secretary.

Sacco Sent to Asylum

DEDHAM, Mass.—Proceedings to commit Nicola Sacco, victim of a murder trial frameup, to an insane asylum are under way in Judge Webster Thayer's court. Sacco was convicted in 1921 with Bartolomeo Vanzetti of the murder of a South Braintree factory paymaster, but the revelations of perjury and repudiation of their testimony by prosecution witnesses has delayed sentence pending arguments for a new trial. Sacco started a hunger strike in jail in February to hasten the hearing. Mental experts are testifying in court that Sacco has become insane.

VENICE, Ill.—Dr. J. E. Lee will be mayor for the next two years, having been re-elected on the Citizens' Labor ticket. His record in office has been favorable to organized labor.

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