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FOR A FEDERATED LABOR PARTY

Chicago Hears James Cannon Tell Story of Soviet Republic

Victim of Gary Frame-up Goes on Trial Second Time

Charles Usellis Brutally Mistreated by Bootlegging Detectives was Forced to Make False Confession of Guilt.

As we go to press, Charles Usellis, goes on trial once more before special Judge E. Miles Norton in the Lake County Court House on the charge of killing Edward Coy, who died in the Michigan-Central Railroad's Dollar Express wreck at Gary, Indiana on August 20th, 1922.

Usellis had already gone on trial before the same judge and the jury disagreed after a vote of 9 to 3 for acquittal. Attorney Paul Glaser of the defense brought out in the first trial the details of one of the most bare-faced frame-ups in the long history of such American products. Usellis had been arrested on a charge of being an accessory to the displacing of ties on the railroad which resulted in the wreck. Together with him were taken three others, Popovitch, Petrovsky and Tony Alessio, the last of whom admitted that he was a stool pigeon in Local 998, International Association of Machinists (Chicago) to which all the men belonged. Alessio was constantly referred to by Grand Jury, defense, prosecution and Judge as a "shunk."

All four men were given a session with Sergeant Nathan Potts and Connolly of the Gary Police force. With the exception of the stool pigeon, who made his "confession" voluntarily, all the men were tortured in the most cruel and obscene fashion in order to force them to "confess." Doctors who later drew up anatomical charts of Usellis and the others

showed that the bodies of the three men were covered with black and blue bruises and that Usellis' sexual organs had been brutally trod on. As a result of this terrible ordeal, the three men signed "confessions" which were later proved to consist of absolutely impossible statements.

After listening to the evidence no fair-minded person could have any lot of doubt as to their innocence. Witness after witness testified to the effect that Usellis, who was the only one put on trial despite the fact that the "confessions" showed his part to have been purely passive, was as little implicated in the wreck as a man at the other end of the earth.

The second trial is being held because the Michigan Central is anxious to convict Usellis in order to discredit the striking shopmen of whom he was a member.

It is significant that the henchmen of the railroad, the entire political machine of Gary, is now completely discredited by a recent event. Fifty-nine officials of Gary including the Mayor, the Prosecuting Attorney, the Judge, Sergeant Potts, have been convicted of conspiracy to prevent the Federal officials from enforcing the Prohibition Act.

It is expected that the second trial in spite of the deplorable lack of defense funds, will again prove to be a disappointment to the Open Shop Railroad and a victory for Organized Labor.

Workers Party Chairman in Brilliant Lecture Arouses Intense Enthusiasm

Fifteen hundred workers cheered James P. Cannon, national chairman of the Workers' Party of America and fraternal delegate from that party to the Fourth Congress of the Communist International when he delivered his lecture "Russia Today" in Wicker Park Hall, Chicago, on Sunday evening, May 20. The meeting was held under the auspices and for the benefit of the Voice of Labor.

Earl Browder, assistant editor of the Labor Herald, was chairman of the meeting. The Proletarian Singers, under the direction of the veteran Rudolph Liebich, sang several songs, which were applauded and encored. Comrade Browder introduced the speaker at 9 o'clock and for one hour and twenty minutes he had the audience listening attentively to every word.

In the first part of his lecture he dealt with the industrial conditions in Russia, how the peasants are happy under the Soviet regime—the poor peasants who were robbed under the old landlord system—and receive all the products of their land, outside the ten per cent they pay the central government in taxes.

The gradual improvement in the condition of the industries, Cannon stated, is marked by a proportionate advance in the real wages of the workers in these industries. He gave figures to substantiate his statements.

He refuted the hoary capitalist lie that Russia was falling. Even the capitalist press got tired of predicting disaster, but the I. W. W. and S. P. press, behind the times as usual, took up the work where the capitalists left off. Now if you want to learn what is not true about Russia the best place to look for such stuff is in the yellow press.

Cannon declared the political power of the Communist Party was supreme in 1922, that 90 per cent of the delegates to the great trade union conferences were communists. He drew frequent peals of laughter from the audience as he dwelt on the chagrin

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Seattle Central Labor Council Urged to Resist Gompers Attack

A Statement by the National Committee of the Trade Union Educational League

In his ultimatum to the Seattle Central Labor Council, Sempel Gompers gives one more illustration of his autocratic methods and reactionary policies. For a long time this central body has been an eyesore to Gompers. Time and again, exercising its rights within the A. F. of L. constitution, it has dared to break with the 19th century policies of Gompers and to think and act in accordance with our modern needs. It has endorsed amalgamation of the craft unions, recognition of Soviet Russia, the Red International of Labor Unions, independent working-class political action, and a host of other progressive policies.

Gompers Violates A. F. of L. Constitution.

Because of this Seattle central body has been marked for the slaughter. Gompers died intellectually 40 years ago, and his constant effort, all too successful, has been to cramp the labor movement into the narrow cell of his own restricted outlook. Throwing aside the A. F. of L. constitution and trampling underfoot the elementary principles of free speech, he proposes to force Seattle to abandon its progressive attitude. He demands that it turn back the hands of time, by giving up its advanced policies and by re-adopting his antiquated viewpoint, which it threw overboard 15 years ago. And if it refuses, its charter shall be revoked and the local movement demoralized and broken up.

A Halt Must be Called.

This organized work of reaction has gone on for many years. But a short while ago Gompers illegally and violently reorganized the New York Central Labor Union because of its progressive tendencies, and more recently still he attacked the Minneapolis Trades and Labor Assembly for similar reasons. But his assault upon the Seattle Central Labor Council is the most outrageous of all. The whole campaign is as ineffective as it is stupid and tyrannical. The progressive forces are not intimidated by it. In New York Gompers did not dim-

inish, but increased Labor Party sentiment; in Minneapolis he has strengthened the radicals and given them a better understanding of the task before them. And just as he brandishes his pop-gun of charter revocation at Seattle, the convention of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor shows how little it is terrified by adopting almost unanimously exactly the three measures for which Gompers condemns Seattle—amalgamation, recognition of Soviet Russia, and the Labor Party. Gompers is a modern Mrs. Partington, vainly trying to sweep back the irresistible rising tide of progress.

Reject Gompers' Demand.

It is high time that Gompers' illegal and unconstitutional campaign of reaction in the unions be stopped. The rights of the progressives and revolutionaries have been violated all too long. It is sincerely to be hoped that the Seattle Central Labor Council, responding to its best traditions of militancy, will stand its ground and refuse to be terrorized by the arch-reactionary Gompers. It should stoutly defend its incontestable constitutional right as an affiliate of the A. F. of L. to pass its opinion on all issues confronting the labor movement. The demands of Gompers should be flatly rejected, and if he dares to revoke the charter, the fight should be carried not only to the A. F. of L. convention, but also to the thousands of local unions and central bodies throughout the whole labor movement. Seattle, you have an urgent duty and a great opportunity confronting you. On the one hand, on pain of treason to progress, you must not weaken before the reactionaries; and on the other, if you will but take up the gauntlet for free speech in the unions you will surely win a great victory. In such a fight against bureaucratic reaction and autocracy, the powerful and rapidly organizing forces of progress will be behind you to a man. Let the autocrat Gompers be taught that he is the servant, not the master of the labor movement.

Coming Farmer-Labor Convention will Mark New Era in U. S.

By J. G. BROWN, National Secretary, Farmer-Labor Party.

Of national importance and national interest is the coming convention of the Farmer-Labor Party of the United States, scheduled to begin in the Street Car Men's Auditorium, in Chicago, July 3, 1923.

Invitations to send representatives to this convention have been sent to more than three hundred state and national organizations of farmers, industrial workers and political parties and groups. More than 30,000 invitations will go out within the next few days to local bodies of the same organizations. If any local, state or national body of workers, either of hand or brain, has been overlooked in the sending out of invitations, it was because its address was not known. If any group is unrepresented it will not be the fault of the Farmer-Labor Party. Organizations not reached by our notifications and desiring to receive the call or further information are invited to communicate with the national headquarters of the Farmer-Labor Party, 166 West Washington Street, Chicago, Ill.

This sort of gathering justifies a few observations.

It is the first meeting of the sort ever undertaken in this country so far as the writer is aware. While the Farmer-Labor Party is taking the initiative in promoting the convention, it is not actuated in the least by selfish motives nor with the desire for political advantage. Because of its peculiar position and its form of organization the Farmer-Labor Party seemed to be the best agency for taking a step already too long delayed in the United States.

In every part of the country can be found earnest and devoted spirits who have quit the fight because of the continual bickerings and competitions of various protesting groups over political platforms and party policies. This has gone one year after year. Time has but added to the bitterness. It has reached the point where organizations set up for the alleged purpose of fighting the common enemy and defending the rights of the wealth producers have utilized much of their time and energy in opposing other groups with whom they differ on matters not in the least understood by the rank and file of any of the organizations.

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Young Workers League Holds Second Annual Convention

Enthusiasm, determination and efficiency were the principal characteristics of the second annual convention of the Young Workers' League of America that opened its sessions on Sunday, May 20, in the Workers' Lyceum, Chicago. This young organization transacted its business in a manner that challenged the admiration of observers who have attended many conventions of labor and radical organizations. The speeches made were of a high order, good feeling prevailed during the sessions, but this did not prevent a thorough discussion of matters about which a difference of opinion existed. Those who had the pleasure of attending the opening session had no trouble in arriving at the conclusion that this group of earnest young rebels is a force to be reckoned with in the labor movement of this country.

There were twenty-six regular delegates present from all sections of the country, representing 2,100 members in fifty-four central bodies and ninety-six branches. There were also three fraternal delegates, two from local Socialist Sunday-Schools and one from the Young Workers' League of Canada.

Harry Ganne, in making his report for the national organization, announced that the Young Worker, the official organ of the league, had a circulation of 5,000 copies a month.

Martin Abern, who was a fraternal delegate to the Young Communist International, reported on the world situation and the tasks of the Young Communists. Jay Lovestone represented the C. E. C. of the Workers' Party and urged closer relations between the two bodies.

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Foster and Johnstone to Speak at Picnic on May 30th

There will be an amalgamation picnic on Decoration day, May 30—the first big picnic of the season—and this is going to be a notable working class social event. It will be an outing especially for the benefit of the militant workers in the trade union movement—a combination of recreation and education.

To provide music for the dancers during afternoon and evening, a union orchestra of five pieces will be in attendance. And there will also be athletic games and events galore. The Danish-American Athletic Club and members of the Young Workers' League will engage in a soccer football contest.

Among the speakers for this occasion will be Jack W. Johnstone, former secretary of the Stock Yards Labor Council and member of the Painters' union, who has just recently returned from a trip in Russia and Germany, and William Z. Foster, secretary of the Trade Union Educational League, who is also "Amalgamation's" leading exponent. Each of these speakers will have a message of great interest for progressive trade unionists.

Refreshments, hot and cold, and a nice luncheon, will be available for all throughout the day.

The picnic will be held in Chermanska's Grove, at Ogden Ave. and Desplaines River. This is a beautiful grove, furnishing ample accommodation for all who attend—and none should miss the opportunity. Take any route to Twenty-second St. and Cicero Ave., and then the Lyons-Berwyn car to Desplaines River. Come early—and avoid the rush!

James Duncan of Seattle will Measure Swords With Gompers

By E. W. SHIMMONS.

(Fed. Press Staff Correspondent.)

SEATTLE.—Attempts to stop the lifting of the Seattle Central Labor Council charter by the A. F. of L. for alleged violation of its constitution and general policies are being made. General inside opinion is that the charter will be lifted as part of Pres. Gompers' campaign against the "radicals" in the A. F. of L. movement, the Seattle council being looked upon as the center of radicalism in the northwest.

One committee is seeking to safeguard financial and other interests of the council so they will not be jeopardized by any action the A. F. of L. may take. Chief of these is the controlling stock of the Seattle Union Record Publishing Co.

If delays can be obtained matters concerning the regularity of the Seattle council can be brought before the national A. F. of L. convention in Portland, Ore., next October and a fair hearing given on all charges. There Secy. James A. Duncan, who aroused Gompers' ire several years ago with a One Big Union resolution in an A. F. of L. convention, will have opportunity again to cross swords with Gompers. Duncan is the dominant figure in the Seattle council.

LOOK AT DATE ON LABEL

The date of expiration of your subscription to the Voice of Labor is marked on the address label. Look at it, and if your subscription has expired, renew at once. You cannot afford to miss the Voice of Labor.

The I. W. W. and the International

By JAMES P. CANNON.

Some time ago the I. W. W. "settled" the question of international affiliation by the very simple process of refusing connection with any international body. Caught in the conflicting currents of the world movement, the "one-track minds" who controlled the organization found the situation entirely too complicated. They could not answer the question, "Which International?" So they solved the problem by saying, "To hell with them all!"

Peddling Capitalist Lies.

This decision sufficed for a time. No doubt many of the members suspected that the question had something to do with "politics," and were well satisfied to be quit of it. The Russia-hating Sandgrenites could well afford to be quiet for a while. They had control of "Solidarity" and they reasoned, quite logically too, that the steady publication of capitalist press lies against Soviet Russia would have the effect of estranging the leaders of the Red International. As for the outspoken internationalists and communists in the I. W. W.—the expulsion and the gas-pipe dealt with them.

Much Dissatisfaction.

But the question of internationalism will not down. The official I. W. W., that is, the surface I. W. W., maintains an attitude of serene and cheerful ignorance of the problems of the world movement. But beneath the surface all is not so well. There is much dissatisfaction with the steady drift of the official organization away from the revolutionary workers of other lands. And if there are no men in the I. W. W. to speak out clearly and boldly against the present official policy of the organization, there are, at least, a few who apologize for it.

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Ruthenberg Scheduled for Sentence on June 4

CHICAGO.—"There is only one fixed date on the court calendar in the Michigan communist case," announces the Labor Defense Council in setting at rest rumors circulating through the labor press regarding the next move at St. Joseph, Mich.

"C. E. Ruthenberg, convicted of criminal syndicalism, has been notified to appear before Judge C. E. White for sentence June 4. At that time, under Michigan practice, the defense will be permitted to move for leave to carry the case direct to the state supreme court on a bill of exceptions. If Judge White grants this motion sentence on Ruthenberg may be postponed until the higher court has heard the case.

"No other case arising out of the Department of Justice raid on the convention in August, 1922, has been fixed for trial. The Labor Defense Council is pushing the defense campaign with energy and will be ready for the next attack by the Michigan prosecution.

Rumors printed in some of the eastern labor papers had quoted Asst. Atty. Gen. O. L. Smith of Michigan to the effect that Robert Minor would go to trial June 4 and that Wm. Z. Foster, freed by a hung jury, would be retried. Another rumor spoke of an intention by the U. S. government to take over prosecution of the case.

AS WE SEE IT
All Alike to Sam
Mussolini is Get'ing Tame
Pity the Tr.

May day is like any other day, the American workers declared Samuel Gompers. Owing to the "fulminations" of radicals the venerable gentleman told his friends, the capitalists, that some people imagine we may have a revolution on some first of May. No fear. Not if Sam can help it. Sam says he marks the first of May down on his note book same as April 1st, which you will note is April fool day. Good enough.

The Stars and Stripes, organ of the American Legion, does not exactly know whether to attack General Dawes or to praise him. In an editorial, entitled "An American Mussolini," it gives the impression that the general is an accomplished hot air merchant who is constantly blowing his own horn. "He is a successful American who has no patience with failures and who regards any and all combinations of the weak against the strong as being the organizations of failures to deprive the successful of their winnings."

The Stars and Stripes believes that Dawes' Minute Men will be something like the Italian Fascisti and will be for the purpose of preventing the organized failures succeeding in securing by combination what they had to get individually. And it is the irony of fate it continues that there is no way for the "successful individuals" to protect their winnings except by organizing with other "successful individuals" for that purpose.

One cannot be sure which side the official writer of The Stars and Stripes would take, but his windup is significant.

"A good many ex-service men will be on his side, and then again a good many are already lined up with organized efforts to advance the masses of failure against the power of the successful individualists. The conflict will go on between these forces for some time, and most of us will sooner or later take sides and be in the heat of it." No doubt about that.

Mussolini is not wild enough to suit all his comrades. There are some who roar in fells where they think he is too tame. Mussolini finds that running a government is not exactly like running a bawdy house. Though the Italians, like all civilized people like to indulge in morose games they have sane fits and appear to be on the road to recovery now. Mussolini notices this phenomenon and is trimming his sails accordingly. The result is that some of his supporters are resigning and urging others to machine guns on those who do not unanimously agree with everything the Fascist gang advocate. Mussolini's undersecretary of state for finance resigned his post a few days ago and his boss accepted his resignation and abolished the post.

A cartoon signifying the anguish of the Chicago Tribune over the failure of the state to bring about the conviction and hanging of the Herrin miners appeared in the Sunday May 13 edition of the Chicago Tribune. It featured a gallows with a wicked looking noosed rope. Near by was a village labelled "Herrin Atrocity." The cartoon was titled, "Cheated." And yet there are thousands of miners and millions of workers who support the capitalist political parties represented by the Chicago Tribune. When the workers become class conscious enough to think of a Labor Party and organize it the murderous plate papers will have something else to worry about.

Mayor James C. Dahlman, of Omaha, Nebraska accepted the office of "grand lictor" of the "Fascisti of America." The organization was introduced into that state by former Kluge Fuller of the realm of California.

Specialists in mental bankruptcy should make a good killing in the United States these years. There seems to be an unlimited supply of the intellectually decreed floating around and their money is just as good as that of a student of relativity.

The purposes of the Fascisti are according to their "grand lickspittle" upholding of the Federal Constitution, the engendering of "pure Americanism" prevention and elimination of the causes of mob violence protection of pure womanhood and upholding the rights of a free and enlightened people to choose their own religion.

