

Workers of the World Unite!

You Have Nothing to Lose But Your Chains!

WORKERS' CHALLENGE

VOL. I, No. 6

New York

April 29, 1932

PRICE 5 CENTS

WAVE IN UNITED STATES

Sees Coal Strike At End of One Month Embracing 685,000 Men; While Textile Strike Increases Power

MAY DAY

International Labor Day! The day on which labor throughout the world takes revenge on the victories and defeats of the past year and prepares for the struggle that must arise during the next year, the day on which the ruling classes of the world tremble at the very thought of the Giant Labor marshaling its forces for even twenty-four hours. They know that every act of the masses of labor contains the germs that portend their inevitable destruction, so on this day their hirelings, the police, the cossacks, the militia, the prostituted editors, and the whole crew of hangers-on of capitalism prepare for action against the workers. The police and cossacks march to smash their forces, the editors dip their pens in the vitrol of mediocrity, the speakers flatter their plaudits, all for the purpose of preventing action on the part of the workers. When May Day has passed the ruling classes again breathe more freely, the tension relaxes, the dividend again pile up and the exploitation of labor proceeds.

May Day, 1932, has never produced calamitous effects upon the structure of capitalism, but the spirit of May Day, the spirit of International Solidarity, the spirit of the workers, has developed the possibility of inevitable disaster for this

...in the past, there have been periods of partial success as well as periods of agonizing defeat for the masses of labor. But despite the devastating effects of the after-the-war period when labor exhausted by the terrific imperialist struggle, was unable to seize its opportunity to destroy capitalism and establish its supremacy, despite the unrelenting betrayal of the servants of capitalism, posing as leaders of labor—the last year has shown a marked change in the world movement.

Labor was soothed into abandoning the militant struggle by the new promises of the reactionary labor leaders to the effect that the solution for all our ills lay in a gradual, peaceful improvement of the conditions of labor under the benign auspices of the gradually weakening ruling class. Instead of conditions improving according to the predictions of the cowardly labor leaders of the right and center parties of the world, the condition of labor has gradually grown worse, until it is plain to everyone that salvation for the working class cannot be achieved through a policy of inaction. The workers, who, during the past two years, followed the leadership of the compromisers, are turning to the left again. A new period of the struggle has set in, and throughout the world on this May Day the class-conscious workers are preparing to resist with all their organized might the encroachments upon them by the arrogant capitalist class. The workers have demanded that reductions in wages, lengthening of hours and the attempt at destruction of labor organizations must cease.

In the United States every labor organization, during this period of black reaction, has suffered severe set-backs. The cowardice of the so-called leaders of American labor has resulted in steady inroads being made upon the condition of life of the workers in this country, until labor is being forced from its position after another by the combined assaults of the employers, the police, the courts, the army and every other branch of government, finally stood with its back to the wall. They could retreat no farther. It was a question either of fighting for our very existence or disgracefully submitting to the yoke of the most tyrannical slavery the world has ever seen. For months it appeared that labor was too exhausted to fight again.

But, simultaneously with the rise of a new wave of the struggle in Old Europe, the workers in the United States struck a blow at the master class. The first blow was delivered in January of this year by the textile workers in Rhode Island, who, after a solid century of slavery, arose as one man in a spontaneous elemental strike, without preliminary organization and knowing but little about any form of labor organization. Since that struggle began the ranks have increased until it embraces all the New England Textile region and on this May Day we will find them holding firm and their power increasing from day to day.

On April 1 came the gigantic mine strike that met with a response so magnificent that it exceeded by far the hopes of the most optimistic. Never before on this continent has there been such a strike. After a month of struggle the ranks are still increasing and ever larger numbers of workers in other basic industries, particularly on the railroads, are agitating for a sympathetic strike with the miners.

The employers' drive against labor, disguised under slogans such as the "open shop" and "the American plan," although partially successful in inflicting severe defeats upon labor, has been met at last. Labor, instead of submitting slyly to the slavery of the employing class, has retaliated. Instead of meekly surrendering to the vilest aggregation of labor-hating reaction-



"Come On NOW! All Together!"

THE COAL STRIKE

May Day finds the great coal mine strike entering the second month, and still gaining. Every day industrial paralysis creeps over larger areas of this industry, until from an attitude of watchful waiting, the mine owners and the other industrial hangers-on of the United States are becoming alarmed. Preparations to terrorize the miners in the great steel district of Pennsylvania have been completed, and every provocative measure is being used in order to break the solidarity of the ranks of the striking miners.

The last stronghold of reaction in the large non-union fields of Pennsylvania are fast falling before the onslaught of the organizers for the miners. In the vicinity of Johnstown, where the Coal and Iron Police have ruled with an iron hand, under the leadership of a creature who through twenty years of constant terror was the first decisive defeat of their lives. The chief of the Coal and Iron Police lives at Howell, a mining town, and had boasted that his home town could not be organized, but it is now in the ranks of the union and the shaft is laid.

NEW YORK TRADES COUNCIL TO ASSIST W. VA. STRIKERS

Executive Board Member of United Mine Workers Appeals to Workers of New York to Come to Aid of 20,000 Miners in West Virginia Who Face Starvation.

Following an appeal by Lawrence Dwyer, of the executive board of the United Mine Workers of America, for relief for the starving miners of West Virginia, the Central Trades and Labor Council last Thursday night voted its constitutional delegates, and instructed its secretary to call upon all affiliated unions to also take action that will help bring food to these coal miners.

Dwyer thanked the delegates for their response, and assured them that he felt certain the entire organized labor movement of the city would not be slow to respond to the appeal. He had pictured the destitute conditions of the miners, told of the hardships of emptying granaries and emptying stomachs. Food is needed at once, he said.

STRIKE BREAKERS

While the mills are being closed Judge Gary and other spokesmen for the steel corporation are assuring the public that the mills face no shortage.

The general gathering will be at 110th St. and Park Circle Monday, May 1st at 2 P. M. All Manhattan and Bronx organizations and comrades are invited to attend there. Another demonstration will be held under the joint auspices of the Amenity Alliance and the Lithuanian Progressive Society of Greater New York at Grand St. at 10 o'clock Monday. The latter organization is composed of eighteen affiliated organizations, including locals No. 54 and No. 42 of the Amenity Alliance and the Lithuanian Progressive Society of Greater New York.

A third meeting will be held in Newark, N. J., and a fourth in Hudson, N. J., under joint auspices of local committees and the Amenity Alliance.

Eviction of Miners Continues

The Hoesdale Coal Company of Morgantown, W. Va., has been evicted from its former employment of deputy sheriffs and (Shaw) and other men of the corporation. Reports are being circulated that the mines are being worked for operations and that shafts will be imported from New York.

The strike breakers that they receive in New York will be things and East side gun-men from the Cherry Hill district, or some equally notorious place who frequently leave home in order to serve as operatives for the Baldwin-Felts and other detective agencies engaged in strike breaking.

In Canton, Ky. miners and their families are also being thrown out of their homes by company guards. In some sections the companies claim to own the highways, so that they are not even public highways where these evicted families can stop

over night. They are driven out of the country. The same tactics are being employed against the miners and their families to Colorado and Utah, where the company-owned mines have recently broken into at night and wholly families with their belongings thrown out onto the streets.

Lock Haven, Pa., miners have been evicted from their homes by the Kettle Creek Coal Mining Company with the aid of the sheriff of the county. Starting at one end of the town with deputies and constables and proceeding to the other the miners and their families were told to pack up and get out of the town. In that time everyone was busy carrying out the orders, for fear of repetitions of the horrors that have been inflicted upon miners in other towns who refused. Whole towns and hamlets that contained no empty houses a few weeks ago are now deserted with the exception of a few of the hangers-on of the corporation, like the hangers of the company stores and their families.

The peaceful attitude of the miners in the face of these evictions are lacking the courage and backbone to try and their attempts to provoke retaliation are becoming even more contemptible and cowardly.

Injunction Moderated. The injunction issued against the miners in West Virginia by Federal Judge McClintic has been practically nullified by the decision of Judge Martin A. Maguire, U. S. District States Circuit Court of Appeals at Richmond, Va. The most drastic features, such as the prohibition of organizational work, and the order for the strikers to remove their tent colonies have been declared illegal and only that part of the injunction acts legal in themselves, such as the use of violence and intimidation.

Real Struggle Now Beginning. As the strike continues and the industries of the country become paralyzed at the rate of production, the real test of labor's approach. So far there has been no great reputation. The strike has caused the policy of the employers was to endeavor to leave the miners in a state of submission. The starvation policy can be effective if the industries will be closing one by one, until the nation's life is paralyzed. The laborer has to take advantage of the coal resources and in many places the transit systems have only a few weeks of coal left.

When nation-wide action is instituted against the workers on strike, the first reaction will be to close the mines and workers must be prepared to take up their fight. The kept mines and other means of supply will endeavor to create the idea that the necessities of the other workers and to alienate the support of other organizations from the strikers, so that the government can step in and to crush the strike. Any action taken by the government against the workers should be the signal for a general strike of all the workers in the basic industries, such as railroads and other transportation industries.

Next day the machinery of government of struggle on the part of the American workers that must, constantly develop into ever greater action. Not only must the government be kept in agitation be definitely eliminated, but we must go on to ever greater achievements and make every effort to bring upon the defense of the employee class into the world class in the United States, the working class becomes the living class of the country.

STRIKE VOTE ORDERED BY RAIL CONVENTION

At the convention in Chicago representing the 600,000 organized employees of the railways of the country, a statement was made by the employees department of the American Federation of Labor, an order that a strike vote has been taken. This is a reply to the attempt of the railroads and the government to crush the railroad workers organization. Bert M. Jewell, and other officers, who then yellow struck by explaining that "if there is a strike it will be in protest against the closing of the railroads in refusing to recognize the rail labor board. These officials are too cowardly to attempt to force the displeasure of the government to brand the rail labor board for what it really is a camouflage behind which the magnates operate to destroy the union. It was obedience to the decision and promises of the labor board that lured the men in the federated units to accept the 12 per cent reduction a year ago. The employers and the rail board, in order to force that reduction, threatened a further reduction, which gave the labor lieutenants of capitalism a chance to pose as defenders of the interests of the men protesting against stand firm between them and another wage run.

It is an old game and has been played many times. We suggest that the organization prepare to strike at once. While the same strike is still gaining momentum, another six hundred thousand added to the million already on strike in the mining and textile industries will make things interesting to the apoplex of the "open shop" and the "American Plan in Industry."

MORE SHOOTING IN TEXTILE STRIKE

State Troopers at Compton, R.I. Shoot Strikers As Employers Grow Desperate in Face of Unflinching Solidarity of Workers.

Troopers resumed their assaults upon striking textile workers by running amuck at Compton, Rhode Island last Monday night and shooting and severely wounding two brothers. Fortunately the wounded were taken to a hospital in Providence and according to later reports are doing well.

All interest in the Pawtucket Valley centered on the shooting and a thorough inquiry into the affair was ordered by Governor Sabin, because of the conflicting reports.

New York State Political Prisoners Admitted to Bail

Certificate of Reasonable Doubt Granted in Case of Ruthenberg and Ferguson. Will Also Liberate Glick, Winetsky and Larkin.

On an order issued by Judge Benjamin N. Cardozo, Charles E. Ruthenberg and Isaac E. Ferguson, serving sentences on charges of violation of the Espionage Act, were granted bail. The order was granted on the ground of a reasonable doubt of their guilt. The judge also granted bail to the following: Louis Glick, a leader of the Socialist Party; William Winetsky, a leader of the Communist Party; and Louis Larkin, a leader of the Workers' Party.

It is proposed that a reasonable doubt of the guilt of the strikers be established by the publication of the New York State Constitution, which provides that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law. The strikers claim that the state is depriving them of their property without due process of law.

Mill Owners Threat to Break Strike. Rumors have been circulating in Rhode Island to the effect that the mill owners are going to break the strike by large-scale importation of foreign-made goods.

Defiant Attitude Toward Bosses. The strikers have been defiant in their attitude toward the bosses. They have refused to accept any compromise that would mean the end of their struggle.

Free Lies Nailed by Figures. The manufacturers, through the press of the textile district, continue to protest that the wage cut of 20 per cent is necessary to save the industry. They claim that the textile workers of New England would be receiving seventy per cent of their former wages if the strike were to continue.

Wages Far Below Living Cost. A similar attack by means of officials was made by the Amalgamated Textile Corporation, which stated that the wages of skilled male workers in the North, the highest paid of all cotton mill workers, for the 1914 year was \$3,600 for male skilled workers, \$2,850 for female skilled workers, and \$1,921 for male unskilled workers.

CLAIRE SHERIDAN SCORES "SOCIETY" English Socialist's Author Denounces Society's Upper Class in Address to Central Trades and Labor Council of New York and Says Workers More Willingly Respond to Aid of Russia.

Claire Sheridan, the English socialist, who, in Moscow, last year gave the Bolsheviki a lecture on the Soviet officials, denounced the upper crust of society before a meeting of delegates to the Central Trades and Labor Council of New York City last Thursday evening. She said she had found such people unresponsive and that, together with the elemental side of life. In future, she said, she would speak only before people of human understanding.

"I am on strike," she said. "The so-called upper class does not seem to understand the struggle and its justice, which is the daily problem of millions. In behalf of Russian I have addressed several meetings and been vilified by the people I speak of, and I succeeded in raising only a few hundred dollars. I went all the way to Boston and returned with only a few dollars, only \$900 was given. Against this showing was a meeting of workers in Worcester, Mass., which opened only a few weeks ago. Slightly more than \$9,000 was pledged here for the relief of starving Russian children."

Northern manufacturers do not bear and which must be reduced with the average of the South. In North in June, 1921, was 100 per cent higher than the South. It is permitted to 80 per cent of the South. Northern wages will be actually \$372 below the South. Their Southern manufacturers would answer with a reduction in their wages and in the wages of exploitation of men women and children would continue totalling."

May Day Demonstrations. In many parts of the area affected by the textile strike May Day demonstrations were held in order to rally other workers to the support of the strikers. Dr. Lawrence and other points elsewhere plans have been made for participating in the celebration of International Labor Day.

UNITED TOILERS ORGANIZE TO AID COLONIZATION

Branches of Organization Prepare To Co-operate With Colonizationists. To Supply Man Power for Russian Colony. Have Already Been Working With Colonizationists. To Supply Man Power Toward Organizing Activities on National Scale.

The United Toilers of America, through its various branches in the United States, is making its entire organization available to the aid of the Kuzbas organization. In every city or town where there is an organization of the United Toilers, there will be established recruiting stations for technicians and all other workers who are willing to participate in the work of Russia in Baku. Already there has been considerable work done, and it is expected that the work will be another big advance step toward organizing activities on a national scale.

CLEVELAND CONVENTION OF GARMENT WORKERS TO OPEN MAY DAY. On Monday, May 1, the Cleveland Convention of the Amalgamated Ladies Garment Workers will be opened at the Hotel Hamilton in Cleveland, Ohio.

HELP AGITATION IN COAL FIELDS. The English Branch of the United Toilers of America has been working in the coal fields of the United States, where it is being widely distributed in the last few weeks.

AMALGAMATED ACCEPT ANOTHER WAGE CUT. Another "great victory" has been won for the Amalgamated Textile Workers, according to its high-ranking officials, but we have to date received no reports of the officials' actual reduction in the wages of the rank and file of the workers. This time the Clothing Workers' Union of America was forced to accept a 13 and a half per cent reduction.

OPEN FORUM IN BROOKLYN ON "THE UNITED FRONT". The English Branch of the United Toilers of America has arranged for an "Open Forum" at its headquarters 10 Siegel St., Brooklyn, on Thursday evening, April 26th at 8.30 p. m.

Attention! Attention! THE TREAT OF THE SEASON. Extraordinary CONCERT AND BALL given by the International Workers' Club, Section of the U. T. of A.

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"KAMPF" A Yehudianna and Concert has been arranged by the Jewish Branch of the U. T. of A. for the purpose of raising funds for the new Yehudianna. Tickets are 50 cents.

"NOVY PUT" COMING SOON. A new weekly in the Russian language, devoted to the interests of the oppressed masses, will appear shortly. This paper will be issued by the United Toilers of America. Its office is at 25 East 3rd Street, New York, N. Y.

"DARBINKU TIESA" This is the publication of the United Toilers of America, printed in the Lithuanian language. It stands square on the basis of the class struggle on the side of the oppressed workers. All communications relating to subscriptions, etc. should be addressed to "DARBINKU TIESA," 104 Massachusetts St., New York, N. Y. This paper is a weekly.

Anniversary MASS MEETING for Release of all political prisoners. FORD HALL, 15 Ashburton Place Boston, Mass. SUNDAY APRIL 29th at 2.30 P. M.

CELEBRATION of the Workers' Day. THE FIRST OF MAY. In Berlin the center of the demonstration was the Schlossplatz where an organization of the United Toilers of America was held. The demonstration was held on Thursday, March 23, when over a million participated in mass demonstrations in the two cities. The demonstration by far exceeded any that has happened since the close of the First World War.

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Progressive Party In Printers' Union Sure of Victory

Last Stand Being Made By Reactionary Machine To Perpetuate Itself In Power As Enemies of Workers.

(Special Correspondence)

The coming elections in the International Typographical Union...

The struggle is on between the reactionary Hays-Barrett combination...

Against this combination the workers members of the union started an agitation some years ago...

Threatens their organization unless they eliminate the machine.

Another charge of the progressive is the expense account of the organizers...

(Special Correspondence)

The coming elections in the International Typographical Union...

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Against this combination the workers members of the union started an agitation...

THE LAST DAYS OF THE COMMUNE

By W. W. POTTS. London, England.

(Special Correspondence)

Forty years ago, in the afternoon of Monday May 28th, 1871...

The struggle is on between the reactionary Hays-Barrett combination...

Against this combination the workers members of the union started an agitation...

What Was the Commune?

What did the Commune mean? What was the challenge this name involved?

(Special Correspondence)

The coming elections in the International Typographical Union...

The struggle is on between the reactionary Hays-Barrett combination...

Against this combination the workers members of the union started an agitation...

INTERNATIONAL TOOL COLLECTION WEEK

The International Workers' Relief Committee has notified the Friends of Soviet Russia...

(Special Correspondence)

The coming elections in the International Typographical Union...

The struggle is on between the reactionary Hays-Barrett combination...

Against this combination the workers members of the union started an agitation...

Relief Army of Labor Being Organized

Workingmen and working women throughout the world are being organized...

(Special Correspondence)

The coming elections in the International Typographical Union...

The struggle is on between the reactionary Hays-Barrett combination...

Against this combination the workers members of the union started an agitation...

Chicago Labor Boycotts Big League Baseball

At the regular meeting of the Chicago Federation of Labor...

(Special Correspondence)

The coming elections in the International Typographical Union...

The struggle is on between the reactionary Hays-Barrett combination...

Against this combination the workers members of the union started an agitation...

WHERE IS HE? Information Wanted!

Editor of the Workers' Challenge: I have read in the last few issues of the Workers' Party...

THE UNITED TOILERS PUB. ASSOCIATION

This book can now be obtained through the office of the United Toilers...

Announcement Extraordinary!

"COMMUNISM AND CHRISTIANISM" ONE OF THE GREATEST BOOKS OF THE DAY.

THEATRE PARTY BENEFIT FAMINE WORKERS

The Society for Relief of the People of Soviet Russia...

BOOK DEPARTMENT

The following pamphlets can now be secured from the Workers' Challenge Book Department...

Subscribe for the CHALLENGE

Do not stop your heads! More workers are now coming to realize...

Orders for all books and pamphlets, that are in print, will be promptly handled.

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ULTRAMARXIST SHOWS ITS FANGS

In the year 1600 in the flower market before the Vatican at Rome, a man was burned... In the year 1922, Cardinal Dougherty, a holy man of Philadelphia...

fundamentals of Marxism, yet he tries to bluff his readers into believing that he is competent to discuss weighty economic problems...

From the whole tenor of the article we would hardly surmise that the bankers had discovered Marx, but we would respectfully suggest that the writer endeavor to discover Marx...

If the writer knew the A. B. C. of Marxism he would understand that the values of commodities are not measured by gold, but by the amount of labor-power embodied in them...

The editor of the Workers' Party sheet got badly mixed up on the money question in his attempt to display his cleverness as a theoretician and only succeeded in showing his ignorance and exposing himself as a scoundrel...

The historical materialism of this writer is as fraudulent as his professed knowledge of economics. In the same article he makes this remarkable discovery:

reach a point where they become incompatible with their capitalist management. The small of private property would be liquidated...

So we learn from Marx that the system itself generates within itself the elements of its own destruction. The system in its development reaches a point where it can no longer function...

There was a time when the managing editor of the official organ of the Workers' Party would have indulged in a cheap sneer at any individual quoting Marx against some of his sophistry...

Our advice to the intellectual eschews in the Workers' Party, who try to occupy the position of self-appointed leaders of the working class, is to endeavor to discover Marx for themselves...

OUR HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR

Theodore Brentano of Chicago, formerly chief justice of the Superior Court of Cook County, Illinois, has been appointed ambassador to Hungary...

It seems to us that the selection of Brentano as Ambassador to the government of Horthy, the blood-streaked butcher who happened to be a Communist...

Mr. Brentano has long been known in Chicago. His record of public life dates from before the ascension of ex-Mayor Fred Busse to the head of the administration of that benighted city...

enel, rushed into the clerk's office and asked to have the affair "fixed up". He wanted the license dated back to the day the ceremony was performed...

Chicago is a wonderful city and has produced some wonderful statesmen, including the late lamented, Fred A. Busse, who while mayor of Chicago had to marry a woman and carry the only half marriage license in the history of Cook County...

POOLING THE YOUNG WORKERS

The Workers' Party of America is exerting every effort to now annex the Young Workers' League. To get through the net or to wreck that organization...

If the young workers are aware to the dangers that confront them because of their quarrel regarding where the finances are coming from to keep so-called organizers running about the country...

A QUESTION OF TACTICS

Some inquiries arrived at the office of this paper regarding our attitude toward the One Big Union in Lawrence, Mass., as against the United Textile Workers...

The United Textile Workers' organization alienated the support of the Lawrence strikers by refusing to participate jointly with other organizations in a general strike committee...

the mill owners of Lawrence. This action resulted in their repudiation by the rank and file of the workers and the acceptance of the leadership of the O. B. U. by the organization now headed by the strike. Therefore in Lawrence we support the O. B. U.

In the Pawtucket Valley, where the Amalgamated Textile Workers controlled the situation, we support them and likewise in the Blackstone Valley, where the United Textile Workers control, we support them. There are three organizations involved in the textile struggle...

Our duty to them involves fighting for unity of action on the part of all workers in the entire textile district and mercifully exposing for traitors to the working class any set of officials of any organization who stand in the way of such action.

THE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR

Boris Bakhtmetoff is recognized by the United States as Russian ambassador. We were again reminded of this incongruity when he intervened in behalf of Seminoff, the bandit hiring of the Japanese government...

Bakhtmetoff represents no government on earth, yet such is the procedure of the state department that until the stupid Russian traitors are ready to recognize Soviet Russia as the de jure government of that country, Bakhtmetoff remains. The fact that the "government" supposedly to represent never acquired enough vitality to stabilize itself...

Now that Russia has been practically recognized by all other nations or, at least, it is about time the United States government displays a little of that intelligence that human beings are supposed to be endowed with by nature...

RECOGNIZE SOVIET RUSSIA

Now that Russia is definitely recognized as the key to the solution of the economic problems of Europe by all Europe it is an advantageous time to start intensive agitation for the United States' recognition of the Soviet government...

On one question the Communists and the American Legion can agree. That is that General Gregory Semenov should be hanged. There might be disagreement, however, as to who should have the privilege of performing the execution...

On the ground of the class struggle we are invincible if we leave it here, because we are no longer socialists. The strength and power of socialism lies in the fact that we are leading a class struggle; that the laboring class is exploited and oppressed by the capitalist class...

The history of all past society has consisted in the development of class antagonisms, antagonisms that assumed different forms at different periods. Communist Manifesto.