

Miners On Trial For Treason To Mine Barons

William Blizzard, First of Defendants to Be Tried After Judge Decides Trial Must Proceed. Stool Pigeon Testimony Taken First in Effort to Railroad Union Men to the Gallows.

Charged with "loving" war against the State of West Virginia, twenty-three officials and members of the United Mine Workers of America were placed on trial Monday, April 24, in Charleston, W. Va., for treason before Judge J. M. Wood in Circuit Court, in the same little court house where John Brown, noted abolitionist, was tried and convicted for his insurrection at Harper's Ferry, more than sixty years ago.

These men, who included high officials of the miners' union in this State, were selected by the prosecution as the first to be tried of more than 700 men who are under indictment for treason, murder, conspiracy, inciting to riot and various other crimes, in connection with the march of armed miners last fall on the non-union Logan and Mingo County coal fields in Southern West Virginia.

There were hundreds of indictments returned, but law prosecution only selected twenty-three to start with. The first day a motion to quash the indictments was made on the ground that they were faulty, but this was overruled by the judge and the trials ordered to proceed. The defense announced that the trials would be held separate and William Blizzard was the one chosen to stand trial first.

PUBLISHERS TO WAGE FIGHT AGAINST UNIONS

Open Shop Branch of American Newspaper Publishers Association Created at Convention for Purpose of Smashing Printing Trades Unions

The first witness was one Edward Reynolds, a coal mine worker and member of the union and undoubtedly a stool pigeon, otherwise he would not be testifying for the state of West Virginia in its instance, conspiracy to railroad to the gallows members of the miners union, whose crime consisted in endeavoring to organize their fellow workers and to suppress the murderous system of mine guards that holds the mining region of West Virginia in a constant state of terror. Reynolds testified that he led one army of miners and Blizzard led the other and that their object was to capture and kill the sheriff, Don Chaffin, of Logan County, Chaffin is one of the tools of the mine barons and his brutality had aroused the ire of the miners and there is no doubt that Blizzard had something to do with it, another stool pigeon.

The trial is merely an attempt to take advantage of the resistance of the miners, which was actively without exception for the purpose of railroad to the gallows members of the miners union, and in order to accomplish this there is no doubt to which the servants of the coal barons will not sink, even to judicial murder.

The defense attorneys favored the stool pigeon, Reynolds, to admit that he was prejudicial against the miners officials, because he had been sentenced to thirty days in jail for having stolen money from local miners' unions. He served the sentence in Fayetteville before coming to Charleston.

The progress of the trial is being closely watched by union labor throughout the United States and everywhere is expressed the determination to prevent "retrials" against these men as the part of the mine barons, whether they attempt to carry out their nefarious plot under the guise of legality in the profitless courts, before a shaming judge in West Virginia, or by the continued use of hired thugs from the lawless State where "mine guards" are recruited to carry on the murderous assaults upon the workers and their families.

OPEN FORUM IN BROOKLYN ON "THE UNITED FRONT"

The English Branch of the United Front has arranged for an "Open Forum" at its headquarters 19 Signet St., Brooklyn, on Thursday evening, May the 4th at 8:30 P. M. A prominent speaker will outline the various interpretations on "this important subject." Discussion will follow. Admission free.

Mill Owners Resume War On Strikers

Shoot Picket and Then Arrest Him, Bomb Mill Rools and Blame Strikers in Order to Create Terror

Last Wednesday one picket was shot and two others arrested in Pawtucket, R. I., while picketing the Jencks Spinning Company plant. When a number of strikers were picketing a gang of deputies, without giving any warning whatever, opened fire shooting one man, who was immediately taken to a hospital where examination showed that he had been hit in the back and that the bullet had lodged against a bone, thereby preventing fatal results. After the wound was dressed he was taken to the Tenth District Court, where he was sentenced to sixty days in jail on a assault charge. Then, in the hand of the mill owners a new tactic gets shot by thugs is convicted of assault, while those who do the shooting receive the adulations of the upholders of "law and order."

Dynamite Their Own Plants

The employers, in order to discredit the workers have been devising new stunts all day. They have resorted to bomb planting on their own property. Dynamite these tactics on the part of the employers, the strike, now in its fifth week is still holding firm and in many places is gaining from day to day. It is here to stay. The Harding administration, elected as the representative of the manufacturing interests and serving a policy of narrow nationalism as opposed to the broader interests of capitalist imperialism, has maintained a policy of isolation. It is to be feared that the Harding administration, elected as the representative of the manufacturing interests and serving a policy of narrow nationalism as opposed to the broader interests of capitalist imperialism, has maintained a policy of isolation. It is to be feared that the Harding administration, elected as the representative of the manufacturing interests and serving a policy of narrow nationalism as opposed to the broader interests of capitalist imperialism, has maintained a policy of isolation.

STEEL CORPORATION WANTS LABOR AT 25 CENTS AN HOUR

The steel plants in the Calumet district, for the first time since the strike, are asking for men to work in their plants. In Gary, East Chicago and other plants, the men have appeared on the gates asking that they be wanted. This is the first time there has been any evidence of scarcity of labor in this region since the war.

Press dispatches say that "many foreigners have, during the depression returned to Europe." The steel trust papers now say these foreigners are badly needed here. During the steel strike of 1919 the same papers demanded the foreigners for damping to strike against the Empire of Judge Gary.

The significant sum of 25 cents an hour is the inducement offered by the steel mills to men who apply for work. Because they cannot get men capable of existing on that amount they state that there is a scarcity of labor.

CHICAGO PREACHERS SEEK RELEASE OF I. W. W. PRISONERS

Resolutions asking the President to release 113 political prisoners held in federal prisons and to give special consideration to those charged with conspiracy against the United States on the ground of membership in the I. W. W., were adopted Tuesday night at a meeting of the First Methodist church in Chicago.

The Rev. Howard Agnew Johnston, preacher of the Chicago Church, presided. The Rev. M. P. Borntun, declaring that the prisoners lost their liberty through war-time hysteria, followed him. Prof. R. M. Lovett of the University of Chicago read two poems of Ralph Waldo Emerson on the subject of the prisoners to be emancipated and released.

Cossacks, Sheriffs and Thugs Start Orgy of Murder Against Strikers In Pennsylvania Mine District

STANDARD OIL DEFEATED IN GENOA DEAL

British Royal Dutch Shell Gains Concessions in Rich Baku Oil Fields and Far Outdistances Standard Oil Group as Monopolist.

The rich oil fields of Russia are to be developed and exploited by the British Royal Dutch Shell in partnership with the Soviet government of Russia. An agreement to this effect was signed in Genoa, May 1st, by agents of the Shell group and Leonid Krassin, one-time Soviet representative in London, and now acting on the Soviet delegation in Genoa.

This has been the most intense competition between the British concern and the Standard Oil and, although it appears as merely competition between two gigantic monopolies, it is really a very definite imperialistic struggle between Great Britain and the United States. It is known that the control of oil is the one absolute triumph of any dominant imperialism at this time. In Great Britain the government has supported every wish of the Royal Dutch Shell and thereby helped it to win concessions everywhere oil is obtainable.

"A Victory for Britain" The stroke of imperialism, the most important event that has occurred at Genoa since the signing of the Ruten-German treaty, places the American monopolists at a distinct disadvantage in the struggle for World Supremacy. Although financially the strongest nation, the United States has been completely outwitted in its struggle to obtain strategic economic and military advantages. This is due to the small part to be fact that the Harding administration, elected as the representative of the manufacturing interests and serving a policy of narrow nationalism as opposed to the broader interests of capitalist imperialism, has maintained a policy of isolation. It is to be feared that the Harding administration, elected as the representative of the manufacturing interests and serving a policy of narrow nationalism as opposed to the broader interests of capitalist imperialism, has maintained a policy of isolation.

United States Loses Out "The effect of this agreement upon the rivalry between the United States and Great Britain can be nothing other than a further move toward an open break between the two imperialist powers, leading to an inevitable war. There are, unfortunately, in the radical movement, who are so glibly as to take the words of statesmen as true expressions of the political trend of nations, without considering the fact that material life itself is every day giving the lie to the official statements. Particularly in this case is the case in an impending armed struggle between the United States and Britain over the control of the oil fields of the world.

Arrest Finnish Communists

Because the Central Committee of the Finnish Communist Party issued a call to its followers to support Soviet Russia against the Finnish Government in the dispute over the springing in Karelia the arrest of its members and of the responsible editors of the Finnish Communist papers has been ordered, according to a Helsinki dispatch in the Berliner Tagblatt. Most of the Communist leaders, including two members of the Municipal Council of the Finnish capital, have already fled to Sweden and several others managed to make their escape. Following the defeat of the Karelian insurgents by the Russian troops the Finnish Government has increased to more than 1,000, making the problem of maintaining the Finnish frontiers a serious one.

The struggle between the striking miners and the Coal Barons began in earnest in the vicinity of Uniontown, Pa., the done of last week, after nearly four weeks of quiet since the beginning of the strike.

The splendid solidarity of the miners shown during the strike in this region, which furnishes a great deal of fuel for the Steel Corporation, gave no opportunity to the state non-unionist (cossacks), sheriffs, police and other tools of the mine and steel interests to crush the strike by force as they have always endeavored to do in the past. The miners knew the character of the mental and moral pervers who serve the predatory capitalist interests, they knew that the slightest excuse to turn the strike into a slaughter would be taken advantage of by their mortal enemies, the servants of the Coal Barons, so they even went to absurd lengths to maintain peace in the strike zone.

Every day, as the strike peacefully progressed, the cossacks, sheriffs and police became more arrogant. The peaceful demeanor of the strikers finally aroused them to a fury, worse than they have ever shown in the face of resistance in previous strikes. A series of provocative acts in the district on the part of the so-called State authorities failed to produce the disorders desired, so on last Friday they deliberately committed murderous assaults upon groups of striking miners, their wives and children at a place ten miles from Uniontown, Pa., and known as Tower Hill No. 1 of the Hillman Coal Company, and at the Orient Mine of the Orient Coke and Coal Company. Without a moment's warning a peaceful assembly of strikers and their families was assaulted by combined forces of cossacks, sheriffs and mine guards, with clubs and guns. Many shots were fired into the crowd near the Tower-Hill mine before it was possible for any defense to be made. Finally the miners, under the direction of half a dozen ex-service men, now striking miners, organized a line and made a stand against the cossacks. The thugs deliberately fired point blank into the crowd and wounded many miners, but it was impossible to obtain the exact number. Many of the wounded are expected to die. After this volley the women in the crowd rushed forward, thinking the state troopers would not shoot into their ranks, but they were mistaken, as there were a number of shots fired, although the action bewildered most of the thugs and prevented a massacre.

CHILDREN OF PRISONERS PARADE FOR AMNESTY

Stop in New York on Journey to Washington in Effort to Gain Freedom of Fathers Who are Political Prisoners

Last Wednesday there was a parade in New York such as never been witnessed in this metropolis. It was a parade of twenty-five children of the working class proceeding on a weary journey toward Washington to camp in the neighborhood of the White House until noticed by the government. The objective is obtained in either case.

Reinforcements were rushed to the area from every part of the district, until the place was literally overrun with thugs, armed to the teeth. A total of twelve arrests were made, fifty men and three women, charged with felonious assault and battery and inciting to riot. As it is usual in such disturbances, the gunmen start the riots and then arrest their victims for inciting the disturbance. Worst of all is the fact that the courts have ruled that the government interests not less than the gunmen themselves, always consider the victims of these assaults. Being capitalist hirelings, they could not do otherwise. The employers of labor absolutely own and control every cent of state power. Therefore, labor always gets the worst of it in the courts, especially when there is a strike.

Shoot Two-Year Old Baby

At the Orient Mine a gunman, known as a mine guard, who had been made a deputy sheriff last month, and was acting indiscreetly every day, shot the child of a two-year baby girl, Mary Haven, and it is thought she will die. He

Assault Women With Clubs Instead of continuing the gun-fire, the state troopers used their clubs against the women and the women fought back as best they could. Then ensued a general melee, wherein the men went into action against the women. On gunman, Lieutenant Charles J. Smith, is charge of some of the cossacks of the district, although the women were a strike and the gun jammed and before he could adjust it so it would shoot a number of men had women seized him, disarmed him and gave him a sound beating, nearly tearing one of his eyes from his socket. He is now in the hospital, where it is said he will recover, although he will bear marks all his life as a constant reminder of his deplorable profession. These other state policemen were also seriously injured, but all will recover.

Last Days of the Paris Commune

By R. W. Fougate (Continued from last week)

But we could not get far. There was preparing his army. On April 2nd it was ready. He turned his guns on Paris that day. That day, the Commune was born. The Federals, as the National Guards were called, and the Versailles, as the troops of the Government were called, were at the battle. The Versailles were the aggressors. They were the ones who started the fighting. They were the ones who were the aggressors. They were the ones who were the aggressors.

The day of April 3rd was followed by the appointment of Chereux to command the whole Guard. He was supposed to have distinguished himself in the American war. By that it is meant, Chereux destroyed the Commune. He completely destroyed the Commune. He completely destroyed the Commune. He completely destroyed the Commune.

Twenty-seven days of the Commune were destroyed. Chereux was arrested, and a young officer named Roud took his place. Roud was the front was divided under three competent generals: Dubouché, Buisson, and Roud. Roud was the front was divided under three competent generals: Dubouché, Buisson, and Roud.

Inside the Commune... On March 31st the Commune fell. It had had time to outline a general policy and to begin, clumsily and hurriedly, the creation of a Workers' Government.

Inside the Commune there was a majority and a minority. Very tough, very hard, very strong. They were the ones who were the aggressors. They were the ones who were the aggressors.

REACTIONARY MINE OFFICIALS FIGHT "MINERS' VOICE"

Labor Starts Working Hand in Hand With Reactionary Business Interests Urge Sheriff To Stop Agitation for Militant Action in Strike Area. The officials of District No. 1 of the United Mine Workers of America are fighting the "Miners' Voice" because it is a threat to their power. They are fighting the "Miners' Voice" because it is a threat to their power. They are fighting the "Miners' Voice" because it is a threat to their power.

Other changes were to the effect that the "Miners' Voice" was trying to create a dual organization, which would be a threat to their power. They are fighting the "Miners' Voice" because it is a threat to their power.

The members of the International, who mostly belonged to the minority, were the ones who were the aggressors. They were the ones who were the aggressors. They were the ones who were the aggressors.

ASK NEW TRIALS IN SACCO-VANZETTI FRAME-UP CASE

Benjamin Gitlow, former Socialist assemblyman and prominent New York radical, has written a new book which he has titled "The Sacco-Vanzetti Case." It is a book which is a threat to their power. They are fighting the "Miners' Voice" because it is a threat to their power.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA

The United Toolers of America, an organization of trade unionists, which has an active part in all struggles of the working class for the purpose of evolving more efficient forms of action, has been publishing a periodical, "The Miners' Voice." It is a threat to their power. They are fighting the "Miners' Voice" because it is a threat to their power.

There have been four issues of the paper since it was first published. It is a threat to their power. They are fighting the "Miners' Voice" because it is a threat to their power.

It is a threat to their power. They are fighting the "Miners' Voice" because it is a threat to their power. They are fighting the "Miners' Voice" because it is a threat to their power.

(Continued next week)

WOMAN GETS FOURTEEN YEARS FOR BELONGING TO COMMUNIST PARTY

Miss Anna Whitney loses appeal to District Court of Appeals to get Anne Inman Verdict Rendered by Hiresing Capitalist. The District Court of Appeals at San Francisco upheld recently the conviction of Miss Anna Whitney, a prominent clubwoman and socialist worker, who had appealed from the decision of the trial judge who sentenced her to fourteen years in prison.

It is in the United States that the maintenance of ways has been forced to go on strike which has been fit to ignore the rules and rates of pay as provided for by decisions of the United States Railroad Labor Board.

COMMITTEES SELECTED BY INTERNATIONALS FOR CONFERENCE

Clara Zetkin, Karl Radk and M. Frossard, the last named secretary of Communist Party of France, have been selected by the Communist International to sit on the council of five, decided upon recently by a conference of the Communist Party of France.

KUZBAS - THE FIRST AMERICAN PROLETARIAN INDUSTRY

Kuzbas, Sibirk Nadzifskiy Zavod, Urala. Information can be secured from Kuzbas, Room 303, 110 West 43rd Street, New York, N. Y. Tel. BR 1-1000. Finnish copies 15 cents.

MASS MEETING AT THOMAS

By August Valentin. On Sunday April 9th a mass meeting was held at Thomas, W. Va. in Session's Opera House.

The main reason for this meeting was to express the situation in the railroad workers. The railroad workers were the ones who were the aggressors. They were the ones who were the aggressors.

BEN GITLOW RELEASED FROM PRISON ON BAIL

Benjamin Gitlow, former Socialist assemblyman and prominent New York radical, has written a new book which he has titled "The Sacco-Vanzetti Case." It is a book which is a threat to their power.

WOMAN GETS FOURTEEN YEARS FOR BELONGING TO COMMUNIST PARTY

Miss Anna Whitney loses appeal to District Court of Appeals to get Anne Inman Verdict Rendered by Hiresing Capitalist. The District Court of Appeals at San Francisco upheld recently the conviction of Miss Anna Whitney, a prominent clubwoman and socialist worker, who had appealed from the decision of the trial judge who sentenced her to fourteen years in prison.

COMMITTEES SELECTED BY INTERNATIONALS FOR CONFERENCE

Clara Zetkin, Karl Radk and M. Frossard, the last named secretary of Communist Party of France, have been selected by the Communist International to sit on the council of five, decided upon recently by a conference of the Communist Party of France.

KUZBAS - THE FIRST AMERICAN PROLETARIAN INDUSTRY

Kuzbas, Sibirk Nadzifskiy Zavod, Urala. Information can be secured from Kuzbas, Room 303, 110 West 43rd Street, New York, N. Y. Tel. BR 1-1000. Finnish copies 15 cents.

TO ALL READERS

You are requested to send the following information to the Editor of the Workers' Challenge: (a) Name and address of your club or group in your city. (b) When and where your club or group meets. (c) Your own name and address.

JAP INTRIGUE IN MARITIME PROVINCE

The Special Delegation of the Far Eastern Republic received the following cable from the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Far Eastern Republic: On April 16th the Dairen negotiators were broken off. An agreement had been almost reached concerning all questions except that of fixing the date of evacuation. The Japanese refused to sign the agreement unless the date of evacuation was fixed.

BOOKS & PAMPHLETS

The United Toolers Publishing Association has established a Book and Pamphlet Department. Assortments of books for Libraries and for Study Classes, upon order, will be provided for the readers of the Workers' Challenge. From time to time lists of the best pamphlets, the burning questions of the day, will be announced. Readers should take advantage of our Book Department and send in their orders without delay.

ADVERTISE THE WORKERS' CHALLENGE IN YOUR LABOR UNION

Communist and Christianism, By Bishop Brown, 25c. A. B. C. of Communism, By Bucharin, 50c. State and Revolution, 25c. Proletarian Dictatorship and Terrorism, Radk, 25c. 15% off on bundles of 10 or more.

SUBSCRIBE FOR THE WORKERS' CHALLENGE

The Workers' Own Newspaper. 6 months, \$1.00. One Year, \$2.00. Address: 84 East 3rd St. New York, N. Y.

WORKERS' CHALLENGE

A Weekly Labor Paper

Published by the
**UNITED TOLLERS PUBLISHING
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

94 East Third Street
New York, N. Y.

Subscription \$2.00 per year
\$1.00 for six months

Application for second class mailing privileges
filed with the Postmaster at N. Y., April 12, 1922

Vol. 1 May 6, 1922 No. 7

"TREASON"

William Blizard, a miner, is on trial in Charles Town, W. Va., charged with treason. He is the first of some 300 defendants that the State of West Virginia expects to try on this charge. The specific charge is that the miners organized an insurrection which resulted in the death of one deputy sheriff. The deputy was defending the system of terrorism that has been established in West Virginia by the mine owners for the purpose of crushing by force any attempt to organize the slaves of that state. The district was absolutely dominated by the mine barons and controlled by the mine barons. Every atrocity had been perpetrated against the miners, their wives and children. There is no other creature in nature that is so devoid of a decent emotion as the mine baron. To compare them to beasts would be a foul libel upon the beasts. They are not human, they are not even animals in the ordinary sense of that term. They represent an institution that is unique in the history of America. Every large industry has its thugs and gunmen, a veritable private army of terror, for the purpose of preventing effective labor organization.

In West Virginia the miners had been driven to the wall by the mine barons. Either they had to submit to the chains of absolute slavery or rebel. They did rebel. Spontaneously they arose in two groups and pitched against the tyranny that had enslaved them. The mine barons were the most part native-born Americans, who had lived all their lives in the mine district of West Virginia. Just as their ancestors knew how to fight so they learned how to fight. Probably they were mistaken in laboring under the delusion that the government represents all the people and that the mine barons had usurped the powers of government. At any rate, they were mistaken. They imagined that the real traitors to the government were the mine owners and that in their effort to destroy the mine-gang system they were acting as loyal citizens, upholding the traditions of the Republic.

If the government were really a disinterested institution, created and perpetuated for the preservation of the interests of all society the theory of the miners would be correct. But they, as well as the majority of the other workers in the United States, have yet to learn that the government is a particular instrument of oppression held in the hands of the capitalist class in order that they may impose their will upon the working class. The class that is economically dominant in every capitalist nation on earth is also the class that controls the government. The laws of government are made, not to be obeyed by the people in whose name they are made, but to be imposed upon the working class and violated with impunity by the ruling class whenever it is to their interest to do so. So in West Virginia we have the spectacle of a government that is completely overthrown by the constituted government and establishing in its place a reign of terror carried out by the scum of creation from the red light districts of cities, who parade under the name of "private detectives" and "mine guards". In the absence of democracy which is observed in other places was found inconvenient and was contemptuously thrown aside and made direct force substituted. This violent destruction of the government of West Virginia evoked no action from the alleged authorities of the state, for the simple reason that the mine barons were their masters and they knew it. But when the miners endeavored to establish their own hands and re-establish the constitutional government, they were arrested and charged with the crime of treason.

The impulse to draw analogy between the Harpers Ferry raid of John Brown, 63 years ago, in the vicinity of Charles Town, is irresistible. John Brown was tried for his life in the same town where these miners are on trial, convicted and hanged because he led a force against the slave owners who controlled the government of West Virginia and so outraged the State government. The crime of John Brown was that he opposed the slave system by force of arms. But a few short months after the hanging of Brown the slave owners had lost political control of the government and, although they attempted to set up an opposition government of their own, were defeated after a four years' struggle. Brown, the traitor to the slave power of the South, who hanged as a fanatic for the crime of treason, is remembered to this day and for sixty-three years children in the school rooms of the nation have sung the ballad connected with his martyrdom. As is usual in such cases, no one can remember the names of the persecutors of John

Brown. Of course that fact did not help Brown in any way, but it may serve to impress upon the persecutors of the miners in West Virginia today the fact that, although the reptile press of the nation flatters them and prints their fulminations against the defendants, the contempt of decent people will assure them oblivion as soon as the trials are over.

That the analogy between Brown and the miners will be carried to its conclusion is preposterous. There will be no hanging in West Virginia as the result of this trial for treason. The workers of the United States will see that. Instead of concealing the murders of miners in West Virginia under the cloak of legality the real barons of the mine industry will have to continue to resort to open murder as they did in the case of Sid Hatfield and Ed Chambers.

We cannot resist the temptation to express a sense of rejoicing at the spectacle of the mine barons attacking their enemies and in the defense of their interests, whether they are fully conscious of those interests or not. Such actions are evidence that the industrial system has not destroyed the sense of honor of American workers and that they will fight when forced to do so.

No matter what the outcome of this trial of William Blizard may be, the working class of America will never consider him guilty of treason. His action in defending the interests of his class may be treason to the ruling class and it may not be long until any action in the interest of the working class may be construed as treason by the government, but it is not treason to the committee of the capitalist class. But to the class conscious worker there is only one treason a worker can be guilty of and that is treason to his class.

HIGH-SALARIED UNION OFFICIALS

Five and ten thousand dollars per year union labor officials are quite common in the labor movement in the United States. There are three officials who obtain over twenty thousand a year from the dues of the members of organized labor. Such salaries remove the official from the ranks of the working class and place him in the ranks of the high-salaried executives of the petty bourgeoisie. An individual obtaining such a salary no longer thinks in the terms of the working class.

It is a matter of total indifference to the paid officials of the average labor union whether the rank and file labor obtain the best possible wages and conditions of organization, so long as they remain content to pay dues into the organization in sufficient amounts to assure the continuation of their salaries. The predominant feature of this high-salaried officialdom is the unanimity with which they agree that arbitration is the best of all possible ways to settle labor disputes and that the strike is a thing which advances no one's interests. A special corps of officials who, instead of strengthening the organizations of labor in order to achieve demands by force of numbers, spend their time delving into dusty statistics in order to present a case for labor before some arbitrator, who invariably serves the interest of the employer. The field of battle in the industrial war between capital and labor is transferred from the industrial environment to the comfortable of the conciliator. It is much easier for the labor leader to sit around a table, smoke perfectos and swap funny stories with the statisticians of the employers and to put the blame for the loss of the strike on the conduct of a strike against the employer, than to go to the front, no matter how the decision goes, the workers continue to pay dues, thereby making secure the jobs of the twenty-five dollars per week while they, the statisticians, experts, educational directors and the whole crew of leeches that thrive upon the misery of the workers. In case of a strike the situation might reach such a point that the workers would be forced to forego the strike until the questions involved in the struggle were settled, therefore the leaders of labor would be deprived of their fat salaries for a time.

Through arbitration and conciliation the wages of the organized workers in the United States have been constantly reduced the past year and a half and every day sees further reductions. In not one instance have we heard of a proportional reduction in the high salaries of the officials. On the contrary, the American and Clothing Workers in Chicago and Rochester were compelled to take wage cuts, while their officials of the type of Hillman and Schlesinger endeavor, through rhetorical camouflage, to turn these painful defeats into victories on the spurious plea that the employers wanted still greater reductions. Although the clothing workers have been reduced and the beneficiaries confirming the reductions duly pronounced by the officials, the officials have not been reduced. They take "educational" directors are still drawing from seventy-five to one hundred and twenty-five dollars per week while they teach a perverted economics to the workers in an effort to justify the betrayals of the other officials who supervise the misadministration department. One of the chief functions of these "educational" directors is to create plausible excuses for the refusal of the officials to call a strike against the employers. We happen to be personally acquainted with a number of these "educators" and there is not one of them that has even the slightest conception of the

function and aims of the labor movement. Their whole opinion is based upon the impotency of the organization when it comes to a struggle against the employer. The statistical experts are the ones that furnish figures for Hillman & Co. to delude the workers with.

Against this constant betrayal by the high-salaried officials of labor is arising a strong tendency among the rank and file of labor to place laws upon the union books to the effect that the salaries of all officials shall be at the minimum scale paid journeymen in the trade; that seems to be a wise move and one that should be encouraged by every militant in the country. The idea that because an individual has been elected to office in a union he should be set apart as a superior person is fast coming into disrepute in the American labor movement and the sooner the rank and file of all unions take steps to place the officials on the same terms as the average worker, the sooner will we be able to get rid of what concerned about the wages of the workers who pay dues in order that the organization may exist. Of course, in order to prevent the officials from being elected, the statisticians and educational directors will proceed to marshal evidence to the effect that the gallant leaders of labor can secure even greater salaries working for the capitalist class. In that case they should be requested to immediately proceed to get on the payroll of the capitalists. There are thousands of plain rank and file workers in the labor movement of this country who can serve their fellow workers as officials just as well as the most high-salaried professional labor leader we have today, and do the work at the same salaries they receive at the bench or the machine.

The idea of the superiority of the high-salaried labor official is on a par with that other hoax to the effect that the capitalists have control of the wealth of the nation because they are superior people.

A further argument against reduction of wages of labor officials to the level of the rank and file labor is that it would have the effect that a high salary prevents the official being tempted to accept bribes from employers. A glance at the records of the Brindell in New York, the "Umbrella Mine" Boyles of Chicago and other creatures of odious record in the labor movement is some evidence in refutation of that assertion. But, aside from any illustrations to the contrary, there is a way of eliminating one of the chief reasons for a labor official. That is for the rank and file to be always on the job and refuse to empower any officer of the union to enter into any agreement with the employers without the sanction of a rank and file committee of undoubted integrity.

There are no arguments for the high-salaried officials that will stand the test of critical analysis and there are thousands of arguments against them. The greatest argument is the lack of experience and the membership of American labor unions as our ranks are shattered by the onslaughts of our enemies.

MAX COHEN

We have received several inquiries regarding the recantation of Dr. Maximilian Cohen, who a few weeks ago appeared in the Superior Court of New York, pleading guilty to charges of criminal anarchy pending against him and asked for and obtained clemency from the court. Just why anyone should be interested in such an ignominious exhibition is not clear. The recantation of the membership of American labor unions as our ranks are shattered by the onslaughts of our enemies.

However, we will assert that from our knowledge of his history, his streak is not a recent acquisition. It has always been in the movement; he was one of the first to indulge in mendacious charges against everyone who disagreed with his infantile concepts of the revolutionary movement. No individual, no matter how clean his record or what his achievements had been, escaped the vile insinuations of this petty bourgeois "intellectual". He first appeared in the movement a short time before the left wing split and was one of those who labored under the delusion that the revolution was just around the corner. He had an undying hatred for any person who had the temerity to suggest that perhaps it would be advisable to concentrate on educational work in order to prepare the workers for an intelligent part in the struggle. Anyone who suggested that the revolution must be supported by a majority of the workers was branded as a traitor and a death contempt in the eyes of Max.

He was like a great many others of his type, who, on the wave of enthusiasm that swept the world as the reflex of the Bolshevik victory in Russia; believed that the World Revolution would be over in a few months, so he wanted to be in the heart of the movement. He visualized himself as a Commissar of an important post in America; he considered himself one of the candidates for the position of the Lenin of America.

When the course of events dispelled the idea of an immediate revolution, the valiant Communist turned to the task of playing against him. The soft berth he had expected at the hands of the proletariat did not materialize and to reconcile himself to the long, arduous task of convincing the majority that his position is correct, was

repugnant to the "militant" soul of Max. Therefore it involved the danger of occasionally facing jail. This predicament brought to light the true nature of this mountebank and he cowardly crawled before the courts and asked forgiveness for his past actions as a capitalist.

It is well that he exposed himself now, rather than later. While professing to speak in the interest of the proletariat he was one of the worst enemies of that proletariat, as his conception of the revolution would only have brought down class any part of the working class endorsing it.

He is characteristic of the coward afraid to go jail. He is on a par with those other creatures of revolutionary phraseology who, in order to save themselves from the inconvenience of a prison term, testify for the state, march to "ideological documents" or some other "innocuous" act that the prosecution desires.

We are asked if we consider that Max Cohen was a stoopid. No, we do not think so, although in this respect we are more charitable than he would have been.

He is merely a cheap, yellow, petty-bourgeois individual of the working class, anxiously awaiting his appearance to lead them into the promised land. When his services were no longer required, or rather when he could no longer obtain an easy living off of the movement, he repented, rather than step into the rank and file and work as thousands of his betters have always worked.

CAPITALIST JUSTICE

The gunmen of the coal barons of West Virginia, who deliberately murdered Sid Hatfield last August have gone scot free after a farcical trial. In the annals of criminology there is no record of a more cold-blooded murder than that which resulted in the death of Hatfield. Unprovoked and at the entrance of a court-house to answer to a framed-up indictment, he and his former assistant police officer in a small mining camp in West Virginia were attacked and brutally murdered by a gang of professional killers.

Every official of the county in which the trial occurred is owned by the same corporations that own the gunmen who murdered Hatfield, so it would be rather absurd to anticipate any other outcome of such trials. The bought-and-paid-for court has declared them not guilty "according to law"—the law of the Coal Barons, but from the reports coming from that section it is plain that the jury were not these creatures innocent, and it is hardly likely that any of the defendants who were acquitted of the murder of Sid Hatfield, will long remain in that section of West Virginia.

The acquittal of these thugs is one phase of capitalist law and order; a concrete example of that euphonious abstraction called justice.

Another phase of that same justice is the recent conviction of two women in a Bronx Court on a felonious charge, for having distributed a mildly radical leaflet and a few handbills advertising a mass meeting. They were members of the working class and had never harmed any living person as far as any evidence brought forward against them showed, yet because they held political opinions at variance with the interests of the dominant capitalist class of this country they must suffer imprisonment. In the benighted state of California another woman is sentenced to fourteen years in the penitentiary for the crime of having been a member of the Communist Party and the I. W. W.

In face of innumerable cases such as these we have described here are those who still blindly believe that law is something impartial that stands above the quarrels of classes in society and administers its mandates to capitalist and worker alike.

To the revolutionist the result of the Hatfield murder case is merely one more illustration of the fact that we are living under the absolute and merciless dictatorship of the capitalist class and that in order that the worker receive a square deal he must strive to substitute for the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie the dictatorship of the proletariat.

IGNORANCE PERSONIFIED

That assinine assumption of humanity and pusillanimous purveyor of putrid punk that calls himself managing editor of the official organ of the Workers' Party of America, wrote an editorial on the treason trials in West Virginia in which he indulged in the cheap, petty bourgeois statement that the capitalist system was on trial in that court room. If so, who is trying it? The Workers' Party?

This is merely a stupid evasion of the real meaning of the trial. It is placing a phase of the class struggle on a level of abstract morality and displays the essential petty bourgeois outlook of this scribbler. If the movement in this country were developed to the point where it was something more than an almost insignificant minority there might be some talk of placing the system on trial, but to indulge in such inanities at this time is pure humbug.

The capitalist system will be on trial only when we have sufficient power, not the trial of working class, to place it as usual, on trial.

MR. GOMPERTS ON SLAVERY

The venerable president of the American Federation of Labor vigorously denounces the Soviet government of Russia on the grounds that it has established a system of compulsory labor. Mr. Gomperts is the staunch advocate of "free" labor, based upon the system of wealth production that prevails in the United States as opposed to the "slavery" of compulsory labor in Russia.

It is true that in Russia compulsory labor exists. No defender of the Bolshevik government, who is honest, would deny the "accusation". The only thing we do deny in connection with the Soviet system is the accusation that the system entails the greatest amount of productivity. Instead of the planless, anarchic system of "free" labor, there exists a scientifically organized system of wealth production, based upon the economic needs of the country. Every laborer is functioning as a part of a nationwide economic plan, originated for the purpose of ensuring the greatest degree of productive efficiency.

Just what is this "free" labor about which Mr. Gomperts and other defenders of the capitalist system of wealth production speak in terms of adulation? The "free" laborer under capitalism is a product of history, no less than capitalism itself. The spokesman of the rising capitalist class in the open market. Ever since feudalism resulted in freeing the serfs from the soil and their transformation into the wage-laborers of capitalism. As Frederick Engels has said, "freedom" of labor meant freedom from labor. Under feudalism the serf was part of the property of the feudal baron and as such was taken care of whether there was work for him to do or not. Under capitalism "freedom" of capitalism he was at liberty to seek another master who would pay him sufficient to exist on or to starve. Free labor only means labor which may be freely bought in the open market. Ever since the dawn of capitalism the wage-laborer has been solemnly assured they enjoyed freedom, until the majority of workers believe to this day in the fiction of free labor under this system of wealth production.

The Soviet system of "slavery" has a number of distinct advantages over the capitalist system of labor that even one so fossilized as Mr. Gomperts ought to be able to see the advantages labor would derive from the inauguration of such a system in the United States. For instance, in the Soviet system of "freedom" of labor in Russia is such as to enable it to dispense with the services of thousands of workers, these workers are immediately transferred to some other sphere of production where they can obtain a share of labor. In the United States, under our laudable system of "free" labor, the closing of an industry means that thousands of men are deprived of a means of earning a livelihood or even a crust of bread. In this country are millions of free born American citizens tramping the roads of this country eagerly searching for a master, for an opportunity to earn a crust of bread. Thousands of families of the working class in this country are facing death through slow starvation, while the gallant leader of the labor forces denounces the only government on earth that offers a security to its workers to the best of its ability.

In denouncing Soviet Russia Mr. Gomperts should also remember that during the war, the United States government inaugurated a system of compulsory labor, whereby every person in this country had to engage in work in a vital industry or join the armed forces. It was a magnificent system of the slavery imposed by this government upon the workers at that time. It might also be mentioned, in passing, that the war period was the only period in the history of the country that American labor, as a class, was secure in the knowledge that there was plenty of work for all, and the only time when the army of unemployed completely vanished.

In Russia there is no army of unemployed and every worker can feel secure in the knowledge that he will have an opportunity to earn his existence. The invention of a labor saving device does not mean, as in the United States, that the workers will be idle, but that the length of their working hours will be shortened. Russia is today controlled by a workers' and peasants' government, therefore it serves the interests of the laboring masses, while the United States is controlled by a capitalist government, which serves the interests of the capitalist class against the workers.

Mr. Gomperts and the reactionary leaders of labor in the United States, through their opposition to labor saving devices do not add anything to the knowledge that the American revolutionaries, that they are agents of the capitalist class and enemies of the working class. Sooner or later the masses of American labor will realize this and they will turn their backs on the leaders who will voice the interests of the rank and file of labor, instead of playing the servant of the ruling class while pretending to plead the cause of labor.