

# THE YOUNG WORKER

An Organ of the Militant Young Workers

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THE YOUNG WORKER  
Stands For  
Unionizing the Youth!  
Equal Pay for Equal Work for  
Young and Old!  
A 6-Hour Day, 5-Day Week for  
Young Workers!  
Abolition of Child Labor!  
A Fight Against Capitalist  
Militarism!  
A Fight Against the Boss Class!  
The Workers' Republic!

## FARMER-LABOR PARTY ON JUNE 17

By MARTIN ABERN, Executive Secretary, Young Workers League

ST. PAUL rates to the huge June 17 convention to organize the Farmer-Labor party of the United States are pouring into this city by the scores, ready to go ahead with the work scheduled by the traitorous statement by Robert LaFollette, which was made with the intention of preventing the formation of an independent political party of the worker-farmer. The viewpoint of the rank and file fighters for a farmer-labor party in speaking of LaFollette and J. A. H. Hopkins, of the so-called Committee of 48, can be summed up in these few words: "Good Riddance!" Both of these political tricksters have already been repudiated or made doubtful by such well-known figures in the movement for independent political action as Duncan MacDonald, candidate for governor in Illinois; Tom Ayres, candidate for U. S. senator from South Dakota; John C. Kennedy, secretary of the second largest state farmer-labor party, Washington; Wm. Green, secretary of the Progressive party of Nebraska; Wm. Mahoney, Robley Cramer and C. A. Hathaway, of the Minnesota movement; Joseph Manley, secretary of the Federated Farmer-Labor party; Wm. Bouck, of the Western-Progressive Farmers, and dozens of others.

### Western Electric Exposed!

#### LEAGUE OPENS CAMPAIGN FOR YOUTH LABOR

Y. W. L. Program For Youth Stated

By KARL REEVE

Thousands of young workers are being used by the Western Electric company to scab on the older workers by working under the speed-up system at a lower standard of living and for lower wages than the older married workers can exist upon.

While waiting in the employment office I had the opportunity to notice that a large majority of those hired by the Western Electric are youngsters of high school and college age. I counted 22 young men under 18 years of age, in short pants, waiting in a line of 60 people to ask for a job.

Those admitted in to be interviewed by Mr. Noble were mostly college lads around 20 years of age who had quit school. One straw boss told me, "The Western Electric company tries to save its face by running a technical school which pretends to take the place of the college. In reality they teach nothing in their technical school except how to become a faster worker or how to drive other slaves as an ill-paid straw boss.

I was given a job as a straw boss, and was insulted by getting a lot of hot air about loyalty to the company as a slave to the low salary offered me.

The law is that boys under 16 years of age are not allowed to labor, but the Western Electric hires boys who are obviously closer to 14 years old than they are to 16. I talked to several score young men, both in the employment office and inside the plant. The large majority of the men who work in the Western Electric, and this means thousands of young workers, are all the same type. They are inexperienced, many of them holding down their first job in industry; they are enthusiastic about gaining promotion.

Young men with no experience in the hot air talked by every large employer—that there is plenty of chance for advancement—take the Western Electric dope as gospel truth. "The Western Electric caters especially to young men. In Tuesday's News there was a large advertisement of the Western Electric company featuring a cartoon "Hawthorne Johnny," he's stupid like a fox." This ad was especially run to show the many boys working at Western Electric that the company is thinking of them—of their problems and troubles. The company is "for these boys," according to the bank peddler.

The Western Electric also gets out a monthly magazine, The Western Electric News, a weekly paper, the Microphone, and numerous bulletins and pamphlets explaining the virtues of the company. The thousands of dollars spent on this propaganda is chalked up to expense, and comes out of the profits garnered from the labor of the employees.

Stop Instead of Wages. The company also conducts the Hawthorne club for loyal employees and gets the boys and girls to forget their low wages by conducting numerous socials, dances, amateur plays, social events, sporting events, speeches and entertainment.

All this bunk to cloud the real facts. (Continued on page 2.)

#### PLUTES GET BRILLANT IDEA FOR WORKERS TO KISS THEM ON CHEEKS

NEW YORK CITY.—Workers can now forget all their sorrows. They can forget child labor, coming wars, unemployment, injunction government, Teapot Domes and strike-breaking presidents.

The bosses have got religion. The Golden Rule is to be the order of the day and every worker is expected to fall into the open arms of his dear boss and kiss him on the cheek.

The American propaganda group of the international golden rule society was just organized at the Bankers' Club here. Among the members of the national committee are such well known golden rulers as Newton D. Baker, Charles G. ("Hell-an'-Maria") Dawes, Theodore Roosevelt, Charles M. Schwab, and Leonard Wood of Filipino fame.

No information as to results so far has yet been given.

#### WILBUR RAISES VOICE FOR BIG AMERICAN NAVY

Navy Must Dominate in Case of War

By CHARLES WITTER.

WASHINGTON.—Adding his voice to those who demand a huge American navy and army, Secretary of the Navy Wilbur, called for the increase of American naval forces second to none at a meeting of Republican women in the District of Columbia.

"I stand absolutely for a 100 per cent navy, the equal, at least, in every respect of any power on land or sea," he declared. Altho I say at least 100 per cent equality, I see no reason why we should not undertake also to advance our navy along lines not restricted by mutual agreement so that we will again be in a dominating situation and can again secure mutual limitations on all activities along lines at present unrestricted by any treaty."

It is becoming increasingly plain that all these preparations for the increase of naval and army forces has only one aim—making the United States ready to participate in an approaching war on an equal basis with any other great power. Wilbur's frank statement is that the American navy should "dominate" that of any other country; in other words, we should be in a position, as soon as possible, to beat the navy of any other power in battles on the high seas.

Situation Is Critical. Agitation against America in Japan is increasing every day and feeling is running very high. The slightest incident may again set the slightest of war into action. War may be declared on the slightest pretext, as was shown by the assassination of the Austrian archduke in Serbia in 1914. A similar wild deed may be the first step towards a new war in which the investments and colonies of the imperialist capitalists of this and other countries will be the real bone of contention over which the workers will be told to lay down their lives.

#### G. O. P. TEAM IS FASCIST AND SCAB HERDER

Reactionaries Coolidge and Dawes Run

CLEVELAND.—Calvin Coolidge, the moron president who took credit for breaking the strike of the Boston policemen for better conditions, will make the run for the presidency on the Republican party ticket. Charles Dawes, head of the would-be Fascist Minute Men of the Constitution, leader of the open shop drive in the state of Illinois, and author of the imperialist, war-making, Dawes reparations report on Germany, was selected by the G. O. P. to be Coolidge's running mate for the vice-presidency.

The convention was one of the most reactionary in the career of the Republican party, and the candidates selected to run are typical of the platform adopted. Not a word is said about the terrible conditions of the child laborers in this country. Not a word is said about the dangers of new wars coming to the youth of this land. Instead, the demand is made for a bigger and improved army and navy. The imperialist schemes of Morgan are endorsed wholeheartedly. The plank on labor is a pipin for the way in which it gets around any fundamental stand with beautiful phrases.

LaFollette Gets it in Neck. The allegedly progressive LaFollette platform, which was presented by the Wisconsin delegation, was flung out of the committee without 10 minutes of discussion. These same LaFollette supporters, who had only recently made a big fuss about the June 17 convention and the Communists in it, raising the red scare, got a taste of it themselves, when they were booed and hissed every time they voted against the machine.

"Ship 'Em to Russia!" The boos who were the tools of the machine always yelled at the Wisconsin delegation, "Ship 'em back to Russia!" even when they presented the mildest propositions. Like inmates of a lunatic asylum, the delegates from the various states would start parading around the hall whenever one of their favorite sons were mentioned. Pretty soon they cooled down under the icy touch of the well-oiled ("Teapot") machine, and the J. P. Morgan candidate was finally accepted. Dawes is well known as the head of the Central Trust company of Chicago, which is a link in the J. P. Morgan financial chain. Morgan is thus assured of a personal lackey in the high places of the government.

LaFollette Up a Creek. The funniest part of the whole convention is poor LaFollette. After having denounced the only strong movement for independent political action, that which is now gathered at St. Paul, he was rewarded for his faithfulness to the reactionaries by being kicked around in the convention at every single opportunity.

The reactionary republican convention, program and candidates, have given the Compers-LaFollette policy another whack on the head.

Why should anyone be poor in this world, when there's enough to make all rich.

#### Delegates Flocking to St. Paul.

From all over the country the delegates are flocking to St. Paul. Whole caravans of poor farmers' delegates are arriving from North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska and other northwestern states, travelling in Fords. Delegates are coming in from Washington, California, Oregon, Montana, Colorado, Minnesota, Missouri, and what is more important from the industrial states of the east and middle-west: Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. In fact, there are delegates from practically every important state in the union.

The prevailing opinion among the delegates is, of course, for the immediate formation of an independent political party, representing the interests of the workers and poor farmers, with its own presidential and vice-presidential candidates, and candidates in all the states on a farmer-labor ticket. All the preparations are being made for the actual building up of a political organization. The national arrangements committee, it is announced, is meeting continuously, working out the basis for a constitution and a program for the new party which will be representative of the interests of the productive elements in society. The party to be formed will represent the class interests of the workers and exploited farmers, and will not be a miserable hodge-podge of petty bourgeois, middle class and prosperous farmers' demands.

#### Many State Parties Now Organized.

The party to be organized already has the backing of numerous state parties which have announced their adherence to "June 17." Strong class parties are now in existence in such strategic states as Minnesota, New York, Illinois, Ohio, Massachusetts, Missouri, California, Colorado, the Dakotas, Washington and elsewhere. These parties, together with numerous local city organizations, form the backbone of the strength of the new movement. The news of the nomination of Coolidge at the Republican convention and the quick rejection of the so-called LaFollette program has merely confirmed the stand of the farmer-labor parties for an independent class party, irrespective of the personal wishes of Robert Marion LaFollette.

The Communists, represented by the Workers Party and the Young Workers League, are pointing out that the deflection of LaFollette and the lesser lights like Hopkins and Schaper, clears the field for the nomination of a real class farmer-labor ticket and the adoption of a clear cut, class program for the new party.

The convention proper is expected to go into session immediately on June 17 and will most probably last three days. The eyes of the workers and farmers are eagerly watching for the outcome.

#### JEHOVAH, CHRIST AND HOLY GHOST UNITE TO DOPE SCHOOL CHILDREN

By JOSEPH NARBRIK

NEW YORK CITY.—Three machines for the religious poisoning of the minds of working class children in particular, and others in general, met here to unite on a common platform for the teaching of religion to children.

The leaders of this new movement include D. de Sola Pool, rabbi of the Spanish and Portuguese synagogue, Michael Di Lavelle of the Catholics and Watson E. Moore of the Protestants.

All of them bemoaned the falling off of interest in religious matters. It seems that nowadays people are looking for pie on earth instead of in the sky.

Archbishop Hayes, speaking of brightened America, said: "What a land of promise this is." It seems that the venerable monsignor has become hopped up with his own dope!

#### COMMUNISTS ACT AGAINST POLISH WAR ACTIVITIES

PRAGUE, Czecho-Slovakia.—The workers' committee of the railroaders, led by the Communists, prevented the shipment of munitions to either Rumania or Poland because of the preparations being made by these reactionary governments for military action against the workers' republic of Soviet Russia.

The huge Skoda munitions works at Pilsen, controlled by the reactionary French steel magnate, Schneider, has been working overtime shipping munitions to the two French-controlled countries, which has been renewing their anti-Russian activity lately. Especially has this been the case with Rumania which has been fighting Russia over the question of Bessarabia. This has now been stopped.

This incident shows that the workers can do to prevent war once they make the attempt.

The workers of the world were never so restless. This is a sign that the masses are awakening to the realization that they are being fleeced in order that the small minority may live in splendor.

#### Twelve of Norway's Red Youth Arrested for Anti-Militarism

The secretary of the Young Communist League of Norway, Henry W. Kristiansen, as well as Jorgen Vogt and ten other prominent comrades, have been arrested by the Norwegian government for carrying on Communist anti-military work. The basis of the charges are an anti-militaristic article in the league's official organ, "Klassenkampen," and the resolutions of the last convention on anti-militarist work.

### What the Militant Youth Expects From the June 17 Convention

The militant young workers of the United States expect the farmer-labor convention in St. Paul, June 17, to go on record for the following demands which are based on their political and economic needs: the minimum at the present time:

1. The complete abolition of child labor under the age of 16.
2. A minimum wage for young workers.
3. A six-hour day and five-day week for the youth in industry and agriculture.
4. Firm opposition to the increase of military armaments to be used in imperialist wars.
5. A demand for organized labor to have a voice in deciding the work of bodies like State Militias, Guardsmen and other official forces which are often used against the interests of the workers in times of industrial conflicts.

Will the farmer-labor convention put itself squarely and clearly on record for these demands?

The Young Workers League of America is keenly watching the answer!

### CATCHY PHRASE BRINGS DEATH TO 48 SAILORS

Tragedy of "Join Navy and See World"

SAN PEDRO, Calif.—Forty-eight young fellows, in the best years of their life, were sent to their death here in an explosion in Turret No. 2 of the United States battleship Mississippi. The cause of the explosion remains mysterious, but what is too tragically evident is the departure of 448 comrades to the rest of the crew.

Most, if not all, of the youths joined the navy thru the alluring posters which told them to "Join the Navy and See the World." They did not know that they were joining the police force of American capitalists to protect their financial investments in the Caribbean sea or Latin-America or any other place to which they might be called. They did not know that they were to be mere tools in the hands of American capitalists for the shooting at ships which were being manned by young workers of other countries.

Mystery May Unfold. The mystery of the explosion is highly to be suspected. Rumors are current that some new murder weapon was being tried out and that the youths were the victim of its failure. The remainder of the crew of the battleships are not being allowed to go on shore leave or in any other way communicate with the outside world. Questions are being raised as to

whether the things that the comrades of the dead might tell would not be unpleasant to the high officialdom of the navy and government.

"Sympathy" for the Dead.

Secretary of the navy, Curtis D. Wilbur, has sent messages of sympathy to the nearest relatives of the dead. This is the consolation given to the dead who gave their lives on the altar of American imperialism.

### CHILD SAVIORS TURN OUT TO BE CHILD JAILERS

(By The Federated Press) NEW YORK CITY.—Imprisonment of children by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children in New York is charged in testimony by August Heckscher at the state supreme court investigation of the society. Heckscher, who gave the society its \$2,000,000 building, objects to the use of the building.

Children "Restrainers." "It turned out that the society's function was to pen up for several days children who were wanted by the courts for one purpose or another, and then as soon as that purpose was served, cast them loose on the world with no attempt to follow up and improve their lot," he testified. Three hundred times as many children are "restrained" by this society in Manhattan alone, as in the British Isles by the similar society there, he said.

### A Brave Soldier Boy Fought for His Land and This is the End

SAN FRANCISCO.—Frank Coffrey, a war veteran recently discharged from the base hospital at Palo Alto, fell violently ill in a lodging house where he had taken refuge. The landlady phoned the central emergency hospital and was refused an ambulance, the hospital saying that it was not an emergency case. A few hours later Coffrey died. The coroner is investigating the liability of the emergency hospital.

### Is the U. S.-Japanese War Coming?

NEW YORK CITY.—Retired Rear Admiral Bradley A. Fiske, in a letter to the Secretary of the Navy, Curtis D. Wilbur, just made public here, hints at the necessity of speeding up the improvement of American naval forces because of a possible war with Japan.

"It may be pointed out that the Japanese and Americans have taken attitudes that are irreconcilable and that the Japanese have virtually broken off diplomatic relations by giving their ambassador a 'vacation'..." Such attitudes and such acts have usually preceded wars, tho they have not always been followed by wars.

"If Japan should go to the extreme of taking the Philippine Islands and thus force us into war, we should find ourselves in a deplorable condition because of the lack of trained men as well as of other requisites."

Shall it be again?

## AMERICA'S THREE MILLION CHILD SLAVES BY MAX SHACHTMAN--PAGE 2





