

The Police on Parade in New York

By ISRAEL AMTER

If the workers of this country still labor under the illusion that the purpose of the police force in every city is simply to run down thieves, murderers, gamblers and bootleggers, they might have had a splendid object lesson in the policemen's parade held in New York.

Marching down the streets in magnificent array, led by "Red Mike" Hylan, the buffoon mayor of New York—the man who raised his own salary from \$10,000 to \$25,000, because he is so valuable and can earn so much more working for a private concern—the police showed quite clearly what they are for.

Police Armed with Rifles

There were the contingents of the plain police, stalwart men, in their well-kept uniforms, with the brass buttons shining for the occasion. There were the motor cycle squads and the runabouts for chasing bandits.

And there were the police armed with rifles, to take care of striking workers. There were the reserve cops ready to serve at any time.

And there were the motor trucks, belonging to the department stores, big milk concerns, etc. These trucks are for special emergency use. They are intended to transport the police whenever large numbers are wanted. When do such occasions arise? Why do the big concerns lend their cars and trucks to the police department?

Big business is working hand in hand with the police department of every city. It was not so very long ago that there were scions of wealthy families occupying honorary positions in the police department of New York. The trucks of the big concerns are at the disposal of the police.

Rifles, machine guns, rapid fire guns, motor trucks, poison gas! This is what they regard as proper police department equipment nowadays.

Object Lesson to Workers

Such "peaceful" demonstrations of force on the part of the police of New York should be an object lesson to the workers. This is what we workers are up against. This is the court of last resort for the bosses. This is what we face every time we show discontent with the conditions that the bosses impose on us. Are you ready to fight against the campaign of the bosses to destroy the unions, increase hours and reduce wages? Or are you ready to let them crush us still more—to use the army of the unemployed against us?

The packers said fight! The coal miners said fight! The textile workers said fight! The garment workers said fight! Workers all over the world are fighting! They meet the same force—the same "peaceful" demonstration on the part of the bosses, which finally leads to an open demonstration and utilization of force against the workers.

The bosses and their government against the workers! They are prepared. Fellow Workers! Learn the lesson of the Police Parade.