

Capitalists Admit Starvation of Workers

By I. AMTER

I.

THE COMMUNISTS need not search far for facts to expose the rotten starvation conditions of the unemployed workers and their families. Mere reading of the capitalist press makes this clear. This article will bring forward some facts that have been disclosed in the capitalist newspapers in the most recent period, which will give an indication as to the actual situation and the shameless manner in which the capitalists, through the state and city governments, with the aid of the A. F. of L. and "socialist" party leaders, are trying to make the workers accept these conditions.

In the city of New York, according to Raymond W. Houston, assistant director of the Emergency Work and Relief Bureau, there are 1,160,000 needy. Of these, according to Houston, there are at least 410,000 "in desperate want." According to Welfare Commissioner F. W. Taylor, "the average unemployed head of a family on the waiting lists of the emergency and relief bureau has been out of work eighteen months." The need, he says, is "as great, if not greater than last winter." Taylor adds: "Never in the history of the city of New York has there been so much poverty and misery . . . never have so many families reached the end of their resources. Never have so many been threatened with eviction, illness through lack of nourishment and even starvation as at the present time." In fact, he states: "Hundreds of thousands of people dwelling in the city of New York will be faced with starvation during the summer and fall of this year." Although it is "claimed" that the health of the children has been better than in many years, physicians declare that "the test will come in a few years," when the children will show the results of undernourishment and starvation.

Tuberculosis is raging particularly in the

working class neighborhoods. Whereas on the average in New York City the death rate from tuberculosis is from 66 to 71 per 100,000, in the worst working class sections, particularly in Harlem, it ranges from 127 to 260 per 100,000. Among the Negroes it is 306 per 100,000 and among the other colored races, such as Japanese, Chinese, etc., it is 700 per 100,000. These are the fruits of unemployment, starvation and everything that accompanies them. The situation among the Negroes is aggravated by the high rentals that they have to pay, the congestion in the tenements, their unsanitary condition, etc. As a further indication of the condition of the children, the Child Welfare Board of the U. S. government admits that there are more than 13,000,000 defective children in this country. They are suffering from tuberculosis, weak hearts, pellagra, flux—just as physicians in Germany are now warning the German government that the rising generation will be a weakened one, owing to starvation. Besides, 16,000 babies and 10,000 mothers in New York City die needlessly at childbirth—owing to poverty and lack of proper care.

In New Jersey, with 600,000 destitute officially recorded, the starvation process continues, with no hope of relief. Throughout the country, according to a national survey made by the "Survey" in 37 cities, the situation is most serious. The report declares: "With no sign of improved employment, with relief needs growing and with relief funds dwindling to exhaustion, they (the unemployed) turn their blind eyes to the future, where already the specter of another winter is rising." The report continues: "The casual employment opportunities that ordinarily arise at this time are absent this year." (This is clear comment on Hoover "seeing signs of improvement," the fake campaign of the American Legion and American Union of Labor off-

politicians feel that the case has been forgotten. The son of Ward, billionaire baker, got away scot free after murdering a young sailor. These are only 2 examples. Pages could be written about the exploitation, starvation and miseries of the children of the working-class; about the death of children in damp unsanitary tenements; about child laborers in factories and sweatshops, killed and crippled by flying machinery; about the horrors of reformatories and state charity institutions.

There is only one country where there is no unemployment, no starvation and where the children are healthy, happy and given every opportunity known to science for physical and mental development. That is the Soviet Union, land of the workers.

The first consideration of a workers' government in the U. S. would be to feed and care for the children of the working-class.

cial for "1,000,000 jobs.")

The Labor Department report for March shows that there were 1.5 per cent less men employed than in February, and wages were reduced 2.4 per cent in the same period.

Thus it is clear that 12,000,000 workers and their families in the United States are starving, relief is totally inadequate, the municipalities are doing nothing, the state and federal governments can think of nothing but give plums to the bankers and manufacturers, put more taxes on the workers, increase the war budget—army, navy, national guard, etc.

And the outlook? Charles Schwab states that the "depression might be of five of six years' duration"—and his remedy for the situation is "sweat," meaning work. This charlatan and faker, who continues to pocket the huge dividends of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, says: "There is one great thing for the real man today and that is to sweat—to go to work, to do the best he can under the circumstances to build for his industry, build for his home, and build for his country for the future. That is the only remedy for the depression."

This is heaping insult upon misery. The workers want to work, but there are no jobs. They want to eat, but are denied the right to buy. They want their families to grow up in comfort, but are compelled to go to the relief bureaus and are denied relief.