

# How the Socialist Party Fought Lenin to Betray Mooney

By SAM DARCY.

THE socialist party from the very beginning did everything it could to throw obstacles in the way of developing a real mass movement of protest against the attempt to railroad Mooney and Billings. This was especially obvious in its insidious attacks upon Comrade Lenin as a "German propagandist" when he organized the first demonstrations in Russia for the freeing of these two class war victims.

On April 26, 1917, at a crucial point in the world war, the New York Call, the then chief organ of the socialist party, carried a heading: "Propagandist From Germany Said U. S.

Opposed Socialism and Had Hanged Mooney."

The "propagandist from Germany" was none other than Comrade Lenin. The slanderous title was that given to Lenin by the czar and the imperialists.

For the New York Call, Lenin was not the world leader and defender of the working class heroically fighting for Mooney's life, but "a propagandist from Germany."

Under the chief heading of:

"Radical Starts Russia's Anti-American Trouble."

This foul sheet tried to undermine the demonstration of Russian workers under Lenin's person leadership to save the lives of the two American fighters, Mooney and Billings, by characterizing it as German propaganda. We reprint the story from the Call verbatim:

LONDON, April 25, 1917.—Petrograd reports today laid DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN THAT CITY SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE DOOR OF GERMAN PROPAGANDISTS.

Nikolai Lenin, a Russian radical, who returned recently from exile in Switzerland, through Germany, is said to have roused a mob to frenzy by declaring that America was a enemy to Socialism and that Thomas J. Mooney, the San Francisco labor leader, at present under sentence of death, with every likelihood of getting a new trial, had already been executed.

United States Ambassador Francis armed the embassy when the mob arrived. Quick work by officials and soldiers, in contradistinction to Lenin's statements, averted an actual attack.

This story was not the accidental work of some reporter on the paper. It was the policy of the socialist party. The very next day, in a leading editorial, the Call quiets its readers against any alarm in the Mooney case. The Call says, in part:

"Naturally the news reached these people in a garbled form. Mooney has not been hanged, and he will not be hanged."

So no one need worry. "These people" were

two imperialist powers which flows out of the attempt of one country trying to undersell the other at the expense of the workers of both countries.

Only now, the campaign is being started by the T.U.U.L. The National Textile Workers' Union and the Workers International Relief set aside Saturday, July 19, as International Solidarity Day.

The Fifth Congress of the Red International Labor Unions is examining the Wool workers strike in England, will also examine the activities of the R.I.L.U. adherents in the U.S.A. in support of the English Wool strike. To effectively support the R.I.L.U. we must support all of its sections in all of its struggles.

alarmed over nothing. Mooney "will not be hanged!" Almost simultaneously with the appearance of this editorial attempting to quiet the alarm aroused by the Petrograd workers who carried through their demonstration in the face of Kerensky's and Francis' machine guns, there took place in the Petrograd Duma building a touching scene of love between the imperialist ambassador and the Russian "socialist" shaky government. The news dispatch on the Mooney story in the New York Call of the 26th also informs us that two days after the Mooney demonstration:

"A public exhibition of the cordial relations existing between Russia and the United States was given Monday night when Ambassador Francis and Prof. Paul N. Milukoff, Minister of Foreign Affairs, shook hands in the city Duma before an immense throng."

These disgusting felicitations between the "socialist" Kerensky government, with the aid of the American "socialist" party and the open imperialists, did not succeed in defeating the heroic work of our Russian comrades. The New York Globe, one of the leading New York papers of the time, now out of existence, reflected the aroused sentiment among the masses. In commenting on the demonstration, it says:

"Remarkable is it that no inconsiderable number of Americans will learn of Thomas J. Mooney because radicals in far-off Petrograd attempted a demonstration in front of the American embassy in protest against his execution which the Petrograd agitators mistakenly assumed had occurred."

"His comment forced from the editorial lips of a bourgeois paper lights up the whole scene and reveals the socialist party's miserable desertion of Mooney and Billings. The socialist party had at this moment about 100,000 members, yet Americans learned of the Mooney case because Comrade Lenin showed its importance. And even after this demonstration these shameless traitors had the temerity to throw their poisonous "socialist" party torch into the face of heroic revolutionary workers in order to blind the masses to the bloody deed which was to be performed by their masters!

But this comment only tells part of the story. The United States government, headed by that "famous peacemaker," Wilson, was desperately trying to keep Russia from making a separate peace with Germany. The masses of the Soviet Union demanded peace. Kerensky promised peace to the masses, but continued to fight on the side of the allies. Following the demonstration in front of the American embassy in Petrograd, Ambassador Francis sent a panicky cablegram to Wilson informing him of the growing hostility of the Russian revolutionary masses to the reactionary American government. The opportunist Wilson was shrewd enough to see that the United States government could lose face even more with the Russian masses if the executions were carried through. It was too dear a price to pay. Efforts to have them executed were then dropped entirely and their sentence definitely commuted to life imprisonment.

Following these events, one looks in vain through the "socialist" press and activities for any word in defense of Mooney and Billings. That is, until its recent efforts to appear as the Messiah to the two victims of the most atrocious frame-up in history. In fact, every effort was made by the socialist party, American Federation of Labor and other similar friends of Mooney and Billings to send them to their death as soon as possible. But this is for another telling in the near future.