

STATE POLICE IN FACT ARE FAR FROM ROMANTIC FICTION OF "PROTECTORS" OF PEOPLE

(Article VI.)

By MANUEL GOMEZ.

There is steady pilgrimage of fat bellies to Springfield these days. Several thousand bankers and manufacturers have made their way to the capitol thus far, for the exclusive purpose of jamming the Dunlap bill thru the state legislature and setting up a state constabulary in the face of the workers and poor farmers.

Five hundred capitalists from all sections of Illinois descended upon Springfield in a single day, the Chicago delegation of 150 being led by no less a personage than W. R. Dawes, president of the Chicago Association of Commerce and a members of the famous Hell an' Maria family. Among the

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various organizations represented were the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, the Illinois Bankers' Association, rotary clubs, kiwanis clubs, automobile clubs, etc.

All suddenly interested in protecting rural communities!

The Line Up.

Opposed to these mighty ones are the poor farmers themselves, as well as every labor organization in the state worthy of the name.

What this important struggle is about the readers of the present articles must now thoroly understand. In this concluding article, I intend to sum up briefly everything that has been brought out before relative to the scheme to establish a state police and to draw a few conclusions.

In my earlier articles I have shown:

(1) That the Dunlap bill now before the Illinois legislature provides for the establishment of a heavily armed, military police force, free to invade any community in the state at will, with or without the sanction of those communities.

(2) That a vast and expensive campaign of propaganda is on foot to deceive the workers as to its real purposes and to bring about the acceptance of the measure.

A Business Man Bill.

(3) That altho it is pretended that the state police bill is for "rural protection," it did not originate with the farmers, but with bankers and wealthy business men, who are at present its chief backers.

(4) That its purpose is industrial, to break strikes and to interfere with every organized effort on the part of the workers to better their conditions.

(5) That insofar as its purpose touches the lives of rural communities it is as an enemy of the poor farmers, in the interests of landsharks, money-lenders, monopolists and railroad magnates.

To Suppress Exexploited.

(6) That a state police force means a system of permanent system of international law, with complete disregard of constitutionally guaranteed rights, such as free speech, free press, freedom of assembly, etc.

(7) That the scheme is simply a development of the present tendency of American capitalism to build up a powerful centralized governmental machine to protect its monopoly profits from the "encroachments" of those whose labor power produced them.

(8) That all the above is proved not only by the conditions surrounding the agitation for the Dunlap bill in Illinois, but by the actual experiences of military police establishments in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, New York, Colorado, etc., and by the depredations of the notorious Royal Northwest Mounted Police of Canada.

The continued pretenses of the capitalists that they want to protect the

poor farmer are revealed as a miserable hypocrisy. What could three or even the maximum of seven troops of 65 police thugs do to suppress "crime" in the rural sections of Illinois, a state with an area of 55,000 square miles?

Concentrated Suppression.

Nothing. They will be used against the workers and poor farmers, concentrated in special areas (as in Pennsylvania) and shipped into an industrial center whenever a conflict is on between the boss and the workers.

And the people of the state will be obliged to support and maintain this private army of capitalist gunmen. Seven troops at a very conservative figure would involve a first direct cost of from \$1,000,000 to \$1,200,000 a year. Add to this the cost of equipment—guns, pistols, uniforms, motor cycles, ammunition—and the poor farmers, already taxed to an unendurable degree, would suffer another serious blow.

Sign of the Intensified Struggle.

The class struggle intensifies. The state police force is for use in that struggle, on the side of the bosses. But the workers are not idle. They are putting up a militant resistance. The most class conscious section of the workers, under the leadership of the Workers (Communist) Party, is alive to the realization that the power of government is always the power of the ruling class in society (and in the United States that means the capitalist class!): it knows that when the bosses agitate for an extension and centralization of state power they are only forging a new weapon of their own to protect their stores of ill-gotten wealth. The present scandalous campaign for a capitalist-owned state police force in Illinois should serve to convince every worker who has ever been in a struggle, who has ever been on strike, to understand that what the Communists have been exposing is true.

For a United Front.

A united front of all labor elements together with the poor farmers, will put the fear of proletarian might into the hearts of the puffy legislators in Springfield. It is the only way in which the Dunlap bill can be defeated. The Workers (Communist) Party is lending its full support to the establishment of such a united front. The Chicago and District 8 organizations of the party have already made themselves felt in the fight against injunctions now being waged in this state; they were instrumental in bringing the call to action before hundreds of local unions and fraternal organizations thruout the state. An even mightier effort is needed if the workers are to defeat big business in the attempt of the Dunlap bill to put them under perpetual martial law.

(This concludes the series of articles on state police.)

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