

world of May 1 as the International Day of Labor.

May Day, 1891. May Day demonstration in Fourmies, France, was attacked by the police, and nine persons killed.

May Day, 1892. 100,000 workers participate in a demonstration in Lodz which was attacked by the police, and many were killed and wounded.

May Day, 1892. Lenin, in prison in St. Petersburg, wrote a May Day manifesto which was issued to the Russian working class by the "League for the Struggle for the Emancipation of the Working Class."

May Day, 1898. The Social-Democratic Labor Party of Russia, which had just been founded, issued a May Day manifesto to the working class.

May Day, 1899. A 24-hour strike was declared in Barcelona, Spain, in sympathy with an insurrection of the peasants of Catalonia.

May Day, 1916. A tremendous May Day demonstration was addressed in Berlin by Karl Liebknecht, who had just come from the front. He was arrested and the meeting broken up by the military.

May Day, 1917. After the fall off of the czar, May Day was celebrated as a general national holiday.

May Day, 1918. The workers of Russia celebrated the victorious workers' revolution.

May Day, 1918. C. E. Ruthenberg led a monster anti-war demonstration in Cleveland. He was arrested and the demonstration broken up by the police and militia.

May Day, 1919. The Soviet Republic of Bavaria was struck down by the army sent in by the Social-Democrats.

May Day, 1919. The first May Day appeal of the Communist International, which had just been organized, was issued.

Day, 1916 in the height of the world slaughter, Karl Liebknecht, the founder of the Youth International, took tens of thousands of workers into the square opposite the Kaiser's residence and with the slogan "Down with war", "Down with the Government", issuing from thousands of workers throats, began the struggle which ended with the deposition of the Kaiser and the cessation of the war. In 1918, C. E. Ruthenberg led a demonstration of thousands of workers in Cleveland against the war. Both Liebknecht and Ruthenberg were arrested and put in prison for this activity. But the movement which they had begun kept on and is today under the leadership of Communist International and the Communist Youth International leading the workers to victory over capitalism.

In other countries also, May Day became a symbol of the struggle against the war. One of the first things which the left wing workers did when they met in 1910 in an International Socialist Congress at Zimmerwald, was to issue a May Day manifesto to the workers of all countries to take up the struggle against war. In this they were supported by the revolutionary youth organization. One of the first acts of the revolutionary government of Russia, after the overthrow of the Kerensky, was to declare May Day a national holiday.

Today, May Day 1928, calls upon the young workers of this country to live up to the glorious traditions which Karl Liebknecht and other revolutionary leaders have given to May Day. A quarter of a million miners struggling for the most elementary demands, are asking for our support. Thirty thousand textile workers are striking against the third wage cut. Millions of workers and peasants in the Philippines, Hawaii daily feel the heel of American oppression on their necks. The masses of the toiling youth in this country are living under the worst conditions and with no rights. Millions are unemployed. American marines are still conducting a war against the workers and peasants of Nicaragua.

On May Day the American young workers must take up the fight against these conditions. Support the striking coal miners and textile workers! Defeat the war against Nicaragua! Fight for the six hour day and the five day week for young workers! Struggle for the enfranchisement of the toiling youth! Defend the Soviet Union! These are the slogans which will make May Day a living symbol of the struggle for the rights of the toiling youth.

May Day and the Youth

By Herbert Zam

For generations May Day has been a day of solidarity of the oppressed classes. In ancient times the slaves, the serfs and the oppressed peasants would, on this one day of the year, down tools, leave the holes, the caves and the hovels which they called their homes and in the open fields under the clear skies and the bright sun, would give expression to their desires for freedom.

Force Concessions

Even though the celebrations assumed religious form, the social element was the dominant one. The masters were compelled to make concessions to the oppressed on this day and permit the oppressed to play at being the rulers. This was then the form of what later became the slogan of the bourgeoisie, "all men are created equal." It was a method which the masters used to keep the slaves in bondage. The master tried to use May Day to show to the slaves and the serfs that it was the will of the All-Mighty Father that the master should rule for 364 days during the year, and the slaves should "rule" for one day during the year.

However, all the efforts of the master class could not confine the strivings of the toiling masses within this make-believe celebration, and as time passed, May Day became less and less a symbol of religious celebration and more and more a symbol of the struggle against oppression. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, when the oppressed took up arms against their oppressors, May Day was generally adopted as the day on which the blow for liberation was to be struck, and consequently May Day became bound up with the rebellions, mutinies and revolutions of those who fought for freedom.

Day of Struggle

Modern May Day has been adopted by the workers the world over, as the day of international solidarity. Only the reactionary leadership of the American Fed-

eration of Labor refuses to recognize May first, and celebrates the capitalist Labor Day in September. In doing this, they are only endeavoring to hide and obliterate the revolutionary traditions of the American working class. For in the days in the birth of the modern working class movement, the American workers were pioneers in the struggle for labor's demands and May Day was adopted by them as a day of mobilization for these struggles. In 1885, the convention of the Federation of the Organized Trades and Labor Unions, the forerunner of the American Federation of Labor, was held in Chicago. The convention passed a resolution calling for the establishment of the eight hour day, and asking the workers to strike on May first, 1886 to enforce the eight hour day. On May first, 1886 thousands of workers downed tools to enforce the demands, particularly in the city of Chicago where the struggle centered. As a result of this struggle, four leaders of the workers were hanged, one was murdered in prison, and several others were given long terms of imprisonment, on fake charges of having thrown a bomb during a strikers meeting. These workers wrote a chapter in the revolutionary history of the working class and in the history of May Day, which is entitled the Haymarket Martyrs.

Can't Stop Fight

The brutal suppression of the workers movement did not end the struggle for the eight hour day. In 1889, when the second International was founded May Day was declared labor's International holiday; even Samuel Gompers who was present, representing America, voted for it. Later Gompers and other reactionaries turned renegade, and the American Federation of Labor turned its back on May Day.

As a day of International solidarity, of the struggle against capitalism and imperialism, May Day has also become a rallying day for the International struggle against imperialist wars. On May

LENIN ON MAY DAY

"In France, England, Germany and other lands where the workers have already closed their ranks and won important triumphs, the FIRST OF MAY is a General Holiday of the Labor."

"The workers leave the dark factories and parade the main streets in well-ordered lines with flags and music. They show the masters their power grown strong and join in numerous crowded assemblies to listen to speeches in which the victories achieved are recounted and the plans for future struggles are developed."