

WORKERS PARTY IN CHICAGO OPENS STRAW-BALLOTING IN FACTORIES

By MARTIN ABERN

A straw ballot, the only straw ballot of the working class, is being organized by Local Chicago, Workers Party, to take place between September 16 and 25 inclusive.

A cross section of Chicago industry has been selected so that a fairly accurate picture can be gotten of the attitude of the workers toward the

(Continued on page 6)

Straw Ballot Drive Starts in Chicago

(Continued from Page 1.)

Communist candidates, William Z. Foster and Benjamin Gitlow, and the capitalist party candidates, Coolidge, Davis and LaFollette.

The largest establishments in various industries have been selected, among them being the printing, machinery, electric, clothing, food and packing, candy, mail order, railway shops, street car shops, automobile and building industries.

The various factories and plants will be covered by Workers Party and Young Workers League members with a nine days' concentrated campaign. Each factory is in charge of a Factory Captain. This work will be done during the noon hour, when the workers are having their lunch, or at other places between five o'clock and seven o'clock in the morning when workers are coming to the shops or some plants are changing shifts.

Distribute 25,000 Ballots.

At least 25,000 ballots will be distributed during this Straw Ballot. The ballot is called the DAILY WORKER straw vote, one side of the card containing the names of the United States presidential candidates and the other side an advertisement for the DAILY WORKER. Thus, in addition to the straw ballot within the main industries of Chicago, which will be a better gauge of the attitude of the workers than the bourgeois ballots being taken at county fairs, etc., the DAILY WORKER will be made known to thousands of other workers. Straw ballots have but little real meaning, of course, since even the actual elections are only of straw value to the workers, but we can use them as a medium for getting Communist ideas, literature, the Workers Party program before the workers. Then, too, it is another way of carrying on the Communist election campaign in addition to the street and other meetings.

Distribute DAILY WORKER.

The party in Chicago will follow up the factory straw ballot by organizing squads to distribute the 10,000 Special Chicago DAILY WORKER edition for the Foster-Gitlow campaign meeting on October 12, at Ashland Auditorium.

The 10,000 DAILY WORKERS of that edition will be distributed free among the workers at the same factories and plants which will be covered in the straw vote campaign.

This is a logical follow-up of the straw vote and campaign to obtain signatures to place Workers Party candidates on the ballot in Chicago and the State of Illinois.

Party Orientation Toward Factory.

However, the important factors growing out of these campaigns of various kinds in the factories and shops is that gradually the party members will begin to think of carrying on the political work of the party in the shops, mills and factories and will get away from purely internal branch activity or routine parliamentary, neighborhood, middle-class work. Instead of distributing the DAILY WORKER or other literature from house to house and which takes a much longer time, comrades will take it for granted in time that literature should be distributed at the factory gates, either from the outside or inside, preferably the latter. In carrying on these factory campaigns, comrades are learning how much more effective the Communist work is that way. If organized politically within the shop, as shop nuclei, the work will be even better, far more systematized and organized. Factory activity and organization is in the direction of real Communist activity. As such campaigns increase in Chicago and elsewhere, the party members will see the greater benefit and need of shop nuclei organization and will work to organize the party on that basis.

Comrades Asked To Aid.

The party will need an average of 20 comrades a day to cover the various factories properly. There are unemployed comrades who could help every day in putting over the straw vote campaign and DAILY WORKER

and other literature distribution. Comrades should send their wives, daughters, sisters or brothers who can get off for a few hours during the noon period, to help out. The job is not easy and every comrade we can get will be needed. The date of the straw vote campaign is Sept. 16-25 inclusive. Send in your name if you can help;

also the days you can go to the factories. Address the Local Office, 166 W. Washington St., Room 303, or telephone State 7985. You will be assigned to a Captain of the factory and be given the time to report, etc.

Reports of the straw ballot campaign in the factories will be printed regularly in the DAILY WORKER.

MacDonald Exposures Shock Great Britain

(Continued from page 1)

created a sensation equal to that which is now agitating British public life over the uncovering of the \$150,000 dollar bribe received by James Ramsay MacDonald, socialist premier of Great Britain from Sir Alexander Grant, millionaire Scottish owner of the great biscuit manufacturing firm known as the McVitie and Price Biscuit Company of Edinburgh.

Of course Mr. MacDonald has an alibi but it must be frankly admitted that it does not sound very reassuring, particularly to those British workers who have had to go on strike recently for an increase in wages and who were warned by the Christian MacDonald against causing strife in the country or striving for "material" things.

Biscuit King Gets Title.

MacDonald was given the \$150,000 worth of stock in Sir Alexander's company shortly after he became premier. It is also worthy of note that Grant received his title only a few months ago and as the purchase of titles in England is an open secret, the connection between the title and the generous gift is rather obvious.

MacDonald's own explanation of the affair is as follows: When he became prime minister, Mr. Alexander Grant, not then knighted, was worried about Mr. MacDonald's health, and offered him a powerful and expensive automobile with sufficient funds to maintain it and pay the chauffeur. His salary as prime minister and the expenses allowed by the British government for maintaining Downing Street, according to MacDonald's version of the incident, forced him against his will to accept the gift. The \$150,000 was an endowment to pay the expenses of keeping the automobile.

This explanation might be accepted without even the batting of an eye, provided all Englishmen were imbued with MacDonald's christian socialist ideas, but unfortunately they are not and already the radicals in the Labor Party and the left wing elements in the trade union movement are calling for the head of the man who betrayed them to the capitalists.

The British workers are now beginning to realize that MacDonald had good and sufficient reasons for dropping the "capital levy" demand after he entered Downing Street. How many more members of the Labor Party government have been purchased by the capitalists is the question now on the tongue of every British worker who has eyes and ears open?

MacDonald received the stock to "endow" the car last March and the biscuit manufacturer received the title in June. In an interview given by MacDonald while returning from a golfing expedition in Scotland, he stated that he was considerably pained over the publicity received by the stock transaction. (Anybody in his position would.) He was not so much concerned about himself as he was for the reputation of his good friend, Sir Alexander, who should be able to enjoy his title, which was given him by the King, because of his munificence in giving away libraries

much money to endow libraries and keep automobiles in gasoline as it does to buy a title.

Conservative and liberal party leaders, being in the same boat with the premier, are not saying very much. But the masses are disappointed. They trusted "Mac," which showed that they lack discernment. This affair, has done more to disillusion them in their "hero" than any number of interviews on socialism according to Saint Ramsay.

Some of the opposition papers, urge MacDonald to surrender the car, which would mean surrendering the "endowment." It might be said that the car would be a public reminder of the graft, whereas the people would forget all about it as they did about Lloyd George's connection with the Marconi scandal if the car is parked out of sight.

Sir Alexander Grant, made matters worse by explaining the "endowment": "I gave the car to Mr. Mac-

Donald in order to save his health, for he was riding altogether too many hours in the crowded subways."

If the anger of the British working class means anything, MacDonald may need a subway to save his health by keeping out of the way.

The extreme right wing in the British labor movement has received a severe blow in MacDonald's exposure as a common grafter. The comparison between his venality and the stainless record of the Communist leaders of the Soviet government is frequently drawn. While the conservative and liberal parties may reap immediate political advantage from the situation, it will mean more for the British working class that this false image is knocked down, than a mere election victory.

The Bolshevik-hating, christian socialist, democratic, church-going pacifist, British premier, is now exposed as the Albert B. Fall of the Labor Party government.

AS WE SEE IT

By T. J. O'FLAHERTY.

(Continued from page 1)

he actually accuses the Republicans of being crooks. He says they have not honesty or virtue and lacking both how can they be otherwise than crooks? The orgy of open graft that reigned in Washington during the Harding administration furnishes the donkey jockey with plenty of ammunition with which to assail his political competitors, but we have a faint idea that two prominent Democrats figure in the graft, one of them at the receiving, the other at the giving end.

BUT for the "non-partisan" conduct of Edward L. Doheny and Harry Sinclair in bestowing their favors on Democrat and Republican alike in return for services rendered, it is extremely unlikely that Mr. Davis would be leading the "embattled forces of progressive democracy" today. That duty would have fallen on the shoulders of the beady-eyed William Gibbs MacAdoo, whose long nose smelled the flesh pots around which Harding's bonny buzzard's hovered and whose long fingers found their way into the spacious pockets of the generous Doheny. The G. O. P. is graft ridden. But the elephant can stick out his tongue at the donkey and say "You too."

"U. S. Rushes Ships to Honduras: Land 100." So runs a headline in the daily press. And why does the United States rush ships to Honduras? The answer is: to protect American interests? Whose interests? The answer is: The interests of American bankers, and manufacturers who are exploiting the natural wealth of Honduras and the workers of that country. Yet there are millions of American workers who get thrilled when they see the pictures of American warships in the movies. They applaud as if they belonged to them. But the American warships never travel far to protect the interests of the workers.

THE American Charge d' affaires, in Honduras has warned the rebel leader, Gen. Gregorio Ferrera, that

the holding of a peace conference is impossible unless they stop their advance on the city of San Pedro. In other words the United States government will insist that the civil war continue until whatever faction is approved by Wall Street wins the upper hand. And then the rebel leaders will face the firing squad. When Charles Evans Hughes puts forth the alleged interference of the Soviet government in the domestic affairs of the United States, he evidently forgot that his agents were working in every country from Mexico to Argentine, openly stirring up revolts, when it suits the interests of American capitalists suppressing them when the situation is the reverse.

THAT pious but bloodthirsty fraud, Cardinal Mercier of Belgium, who aided the Allies so well during the world war is again misrepresenting Jesus. Like all the sky pilots who howled for blood during the great carnage, the Cardinal is now as vigorously howling for peace. He makes exceptions tho. The "notorious Communists" are the exceptions. Bolshevism, says the worthy peddler of spiritual dope, is radically atheistic. "Christ and He alone is King of peace." Too bad the bloodthirsty cardinal did not remember this in 1914 when the Germans invaded Belgium. He might have left the defense of Belgium to Jesus. Mercier, like the American windbag, Billy Sunday, is one of the foremost ranter against the working class movement.

RAMSAY MACDONALD has published a new edition of his book on Socialism. He deplores the materialistic spirit which the workers have developed since the war. It seems they were more spiritualistic prior to the year 1914. But today, they oftentimes are tempted to violence in their struggles against the capitalists. The workers in MacDonald's opinion should suffer in silence rather than dislocate the social machinery by unseemly quarreling with the capitalists. What a disgusting hypocrite!