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International Press Correspondence

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FIVE CENTS

Coal Operators Refuse to Negotiate; Walkout April 1st

WORKERS STAND FIRM

Will Not Be Trapped By Separate Agreements

Indianapolis, March 21. — Suspension of work by all union coal miners at midnight March 31, was ordered today by officers of the United Mine Workers of America, the call being the first ever issued for both bituminous and anthracite workers to walk out simultaneously. Six hundred thousand men will be directly affected by the order, it was estimated officially.

The issuance of the call came with the recent strike vote of soft coal miners, not completely tabulated, but it was said officially that the work of the union's board of tellers had progressed to such a point as to show every field voting overwhelmingly in favor of a suspension. Indications were that nine-tenths of the miners favored the walkout.

WHERE BLAME RESTS
The suspension order, which said blame for the walkout in the soft coal fields rested with the operators for refusing to negotiate a new contract with the union, and with the failure to reach a new agreement with the hard coal operators, was mailed by office employees at the union's headquarters here in the absence of officials.

Altho 600,000 men are affected by this strike call it is certain that by April 1 at least 735,000 miners will quit.

Unity Convention, Communists and Socialists Meet at Berlin

A unity convention of Communists and Socialists will be held in Berlin, March 25.

An effort will be made to unite the working class movements of the world into one offensive mass against capitalism.

The call was sent out by the Third International and the Executive of the Second International has already agreed to attend.

The Communists hope that in spite of the bitter disagreements for the past four and one-half years, the different fractions will be able to arrive at a basis for unity.

Profiteers Busy Mill Workers Rebel

KLAMATH FALLS, ORE.—Three thousand mill workers are on strike in southern Oregon and northern California against an attempt to institute the nine-hour day. The Western Pine Manufacturers' Ass'n charged by the federal trade commission with profiteering and violating the trust laws, decided to put the increased working day into effect March 1, fourth anniversary of the eight-hour day in Pacific northwest lumber industry.

LEITCH HELPED BOSSES STING WORKERS IN COMPANY UNIONS

C. A. MOSELEY.
(The Federated Press)

During the war and for a year or more after the armistice, when labor was in a strongly fortified position, various cure-alls for the labor question were submitted to the manufacturers by alleged experts in industrial relations. The plans called for a situation in which the lion and the lamb should lie down together, while a little "expert" should lead them.

Among these fledgling sociologists was one John Leitch. Mr. Leitch, to label his commodity, stole a radical term, Industrial Democracy, calmly overlooking the fact that it was an expression used by the I. W. W. Mr. Leitch claimed indeed to be the founder and discoverer of "Industrial democracy," notwithstanding that the words formed the title of a book written Sidney and Beatrice Webb in 1897.

Various manufacturers paid Mr. Leitch a fat fee to put over alleged industrial democracy on their unsuspecting workers. It was done at a time when labor was in a position to use the whip-hand. It was done in many cases to ward off the unionizing of the shop. It was supposed to be "something just as good" as labor unions—in fact a great deal better, since there were no union dues to pay and the company bore all the expense.

The form of organization called for the election of a senate and a house, "just like the United States constitution," as Mr. Leitch explained. The officers of the company were the cabinet. Mr. Leitch failed to point out that the cabinet, unlike that under the United States constitution, was hereditary and had an absolute power of veto over the acts of the two houses.

The senate and the house met on the company's time, on the company's property. In nearly every case, some members of the office force were elected as delegates. They could be safely trusted by the management to support the company's policies and to report to the management the attitude of every other delegate. The shop delegates, for some mysterious reason, were usually what are called "company men." Those who were not felt no freedom of expression. Every delegate was afraid of his job, or of being discriminated against. The senate and the house, in nearly every case, functioned beautifully for the company, and at a time when the workers, if organized in unions, were in a position to assert themselves.

At this time a writer in the magazine Factory, which is read not by the workers but by managers and superintendents, published an article in which it said frankly that the experience with "industrial democracy" had shown conclusively that production was speeded up, while the real management was in no way taken out of the hands of the executives. Could anything be finer—from the employers' standpoint?

Then came hard times, when labor was no longer in a position to assert itself. What has become of the spurious "industrial democracy"? In most cases the workers have awakened to find that they were "stung," that John Leitch had sold them a gold brick. The managers appeared before joint sessions of their senate and house, crying hard times, and explaining the necessity of reducing expenses. The workers "voluntarily" reduced their own wages, knowing very well that if they did not do so the management would, since they, deprived of union support, were defenseless. The force was reduced, thus throwing out of work many who had pinned their hopes to the new form of industrial management. Many of those who were discharged had bought stock in the company which employed them,

under plans for the workers to "own" a part of the industry. The employees' stock, in most cases, carried no voting power. In taking it, the employee was merely loaning his money to the company.

Now comes Printers' Ink, devoted to the profession of advertising, in its issue of Feb. 23, with an article, "What Happens to Industrial Democracy in Hard Times?" It says very plainly that many manufacturers have thrown the whole thing overboard to save the ship from financial distress, that the workers are blaming the companies for "perpetrating a hoax." It says that, in the workers' minds, "suddenly it became a pet scheme of an official to 'put one over on them' when labor conditions were decidedly advantageous to labor."

During the reign of "Industrial democracy," there was a great development of the employees' house organs, magazines published by the company for its workers. Some of them were, typographically, excellent. Vast sums were spent on this sort of propaganda. Nothing could have been more insipid, colorless, thought-destroying than these house organs. Nothing liberal ever crept into their columns. Success psychology blossomed therein. The workers were flattered by the publication of their babies' pictures, by jokes about their fishing trips, by the publication of their bowling scores. Anyone at all familiar with this alleged "literature" knows it only too well. It, too, has done its work, in currying favor with the workers while they held the whip-hand. Employees' house organs are now dying like flies.

Once more the workers have been "stung." It is to be hoped that they have learned the lesson.

Government Backs Coal Operators

(Federated Press)

WASHINGTON.—Coal operators have the "inside track" with the Harding administration, and there will be no effective intervention by the chief executive to prevent the nation-wide attack on the United Mine Workers of America April 1 unless public opinion shall be powerfully stirred meanwhile.

That is the basic fact in the situation facing miners and operators a fortnight before the crisis of their dispute.

President Harding has as his most influential adviser the same Herbert Hoover who has been inviting the newspaper correspondents to report that a finish fight in the coal industry is probably coming.

As his attorney general he has Harry Daugherty, life-long corporation lawyer, who has already indicated that he will go even farther than Mitchell Palmer was prepared to go in crushing "disorder" in the event of a strike.

As his host during his present cruise in Florida the president has

(Continued on Page 2)

INQUEST INTO MURDER REVEALS BRUTAL DETAILS

EUGENE LYONS.
(The Federated Press.)

Providence, R. I. — Brutal details of the shooting in front of the Jenckes Spinning Co. mills of Pawtucket, R. I., which resulted in the death of a bystander and the wounding of a score of others are being revealed as Coroner Thomas F. Vance, in the presence of the Portuguese consul, Gilberto Marques, strike leaders and newspaper men, proceeds with the inquest into the death. Efforts to pin responsibility for the murder of Jose Assuncoia the coroner is still failing, although the coroner is still looking for the proverbial "mysterious woman" who may have seen a striker shoot.

The testimony indicates pretty clearly that the shooting was unwarranted, that the command to fire was given by Mayor Robert A. Kenyon of Pawtucket, that the victim was struck several times with a rifle as he lay dead in a pool of his own blood, that several men who ran to the assistance of a girl who was being mauled by the police were clubbed to unconsciousness, and that the arresting officers continued to beat a striker even after they had him handcuffed.

Early on the morning of Feb. 21 about 500 pickets were moving in front of the Jenckes mill. Private guards and local police were reinforced by the militia sent into the valley the day before. A "dead line" was established and the strikers kept strictly on the safe side of it. When Organizer John J. Thomas, United Textile Workers, arrived on the scene, the police under command of Sergt. Tim Flynn, were driving the strikers away. Learning from the sergeant that the mayor was personally in charge that morning, Thomas obtained permission to interview him.

"I asked him," Thomas testified at the inquest referring to the mayor, "to grant me five minutes to walk the pickets down to the street to gather them together and lead them away. This he refused to do, stating that the street must be kept clear."

About the same time a man and a woman crossed the "dead line", heading for the mill. They were apparently "loyal" operatives and were not molested. They were followed by Virginia Almeida, a 19-year-old striker. According to her own sworn statements, she was crossing the street when a policeman grabbed her, tore open her coat, and poked a club into her chest. Then she was thrown to the gutter and screamed for help. The first two men to respond were clubbed into unconsciousness. Others arrived. The picket line broke.

All the witnesses testify to hearing the command "Shoot!" given. Many of them say it was given by the mayor, others qualify by saying "someone who resembled the mayor." Mary Tavares, who was within five feet of Mayor Kenyon, says he gave the order. As she ran away from the scene, a bullet clipped a piece of her hair.

It is believed that the Portu-

guese consul will press a charge of murder against the mayor if it is established that the crowd received no warning.

Aurora C. Fernandez testified that she was close to the police at the time Miss Almeida was attacked. She said that the police were clubbing everybody, but that the man arrested and shackled got the worst of it. Francis P. Fielding, member, Carmen's union, despite the fact that he had been warned by a policeman to "forget what he saw," gave a vivid picture of the treatment accorded this one striker. His story was corroborated by a newspaperman who saw the prisoner brought into the station house, bleeding profusely with his head severely beaten.

The Rhode Island strike is centered in the Pawtucket and Blackstone valleys, the first under the leadership of the Amalgamated Textile Workers of America, the latter under the A. F. of L. organization, the United Textile Workers. The town of Pawtucket, where the shooting took place, is in the Blackstone valley, that is, in the A. F. of L. territory.

People Robbed While Buying Gas Mantles

(Federated Press)

NEW YORK.—Criminal conspiracy is charged against three big corporations and eight individuals—one of the latter an assistant district attorney of Philadelphia—in indictments returned here by a federal grand jury which has been investigating the monopoly in gas lighting mantle and equipment. The indictment charged restraint of trade in violation of the Sherman act and monopoly in the street lighting business in about 200 cities in the United States.

The three corporations named are the United Gas Improvement Co., the Welsbach Co., and the Cities Illuminating Co. The eight individuals are high officers of these and other companies.

In the charges it is set forth that the conspiracy was formed in 1904 and that by 1910 the conspirators controlled absolutely the entire output of street gas light mantles. Then, the indictment says, the trust increased the prices of gas mantles in more than 200 cities throughout the country. Some of the cities named have more than 24,000 street lights using gas mantles. This action comes only two months after officials of the General Electric Co., testifying before the Lockwood investigating committee, admitted that the General Electric controls 95 percent of the incandescent electric light lamp business of the country. It was shown that in 1921 this concern's profits on lamps alone totaled \$20,000,000, and that in order to escape taxes the company since its organization has juggled its accounts by "writing off" \$110,000,000 from the book value of plants which cost \$182,000,000.

RULING-CLASS KILLED 180 WORKERS IN SOUTH-AFRICA

By W. N. EWER.
(Cable to The Federated Press.)

London. — While South African government troops are breaking the last resistance of the Rand general strike and their allied commanders, the outbreaks of fantastic stories in the capitalist press are apparently designed to pave the way for drastic measures of reprisal. Some of these stories are to the effect that the strikers' course was inspired and financed by "Moscow" in an attempt to paralyze one of the financial nerve centers of the world. The stories represent the strikers as savage maniacs engaged in wholesale assassinations of the natives.

The cold facts are these:

The so-called revolt began last January as a result of the men's refusal to accept the demands of the mine owners for reductions in wages and for the replacement of large numbers of white workers by low paid black labor. During January the negotiations proceeded in the Rand in absolutely orderly fashion. Nevertheless large numbers of armed police were drafted. Johannesburg capitalist papers began to talk martial law. Then the negotiations broke down. The owners refused to concede anything.

In the first weeks of February there was a little sabotage. February 13 Premier Jan Smuts issued a provocative manifesto calling for strike breakers to go to work and offering "protection by the full power of the state." The next day picketing was forbidden and pickets were arrested. The week after that the papers reported the first cases of serious violence.

The government replied by strengthening its armed forces and sending airplanes to patrol the Rand. Meanwhile the strikers formed into "commandoes," mostly armed. The first firing was the result of the attempt by police to break up a demonstration march. One or two strikers were killed. Troops and more armed police were imported into the towns with airplanes March 8.

The same day saw ugly attacks on natives by isolated individuals and small groups. Twenty-five natives were killed. The Industrial Federation and also the extremist labor groups issued strong appeals for a cessation of these attacks. March 10 spasmodic encounters suddenly developed into something like civil war.

The accounts have been confused. Some versions allege that the dom-

strikers attempted to capture Johannesburg. This is very doubtful. It seems more probable that when the government troops were quite ready began attacking outlying districts where commandoes were concentrated.

Government airplanes bombed all the chief labor centers, triumphantly reporting a "direct hit" on the Benoni Trade and Labor hall. Eighty persons were killed March 10 and one hundred March 11. The principal leaders were killed. The losses of police and troops are very small.

The strikers seem to have put up a strong fight but have gradually been surrounded and captured. Over 6,000 strikers are under arrest. Fordsburg was the last point to hold out. The commandoes are breaking away to the hills.

New Trial Demanded For Sacco and Vanzetti

NEW YORK.—More than 600 men and women, at a meeting here under the auspices of the Workers' Defense union, unanimously adopted a resolution demanding a new trial for Sacco and Vanzetti. Ten policemen in uniform and more than a score of city detectives stood about throughout the meeting, both inside and outside the hall. Other than eyeing everyone suspiciously, however, they took no part in the proceedings.

No More Until June

Washington. — Seventeen countries have exhausted their right to send emigrants to the United States during the remainder of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1922, according to the immigration bureau's report as totaled to March 8.

These countries are Belgium, Bulgaria, Hungary, Greece, Yugoslavia, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Lithuania, Palestine, Syria, Turkey, other Asiatic regions outside of Siberia, Afrika, Australia, New Zealand, and the Atlantic islands other than Portuguese.

Countries whose quota is almost exhausted are Albania, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Luxemburg, Roumania, Armenia and the Pacific Islands.

It is notable that Germany and Russia have the largest unused quotas for possible immigrants except that for the United Kingdom. Some versions allege that the dom-

Jack Carney,

the fiery little Irishman, whom the capitalists put under \$40,000 bonds during the war, is coming to Duluth.

Do not fail to hear him at **WORKERS HALL, 19th Avenue West and First Street, Sunday, March 26th, at 8 o'clock.**

Come early. You will learn something.



RUSSIAN FAMINE VICTIMS

MORGAN-CONTROLLED INTERESTS STARVE WEST VIRGINIA MINERS

(By The Federated Press)

Thirty-five thousand miners' families in West Virginia are on the verge of starvation because of the widespread unemployment in the coal fields—unemployment due, the miners and union officials charge, to the pressure exerted on the operators by the United States Steel Corporation. These thousands of miners and their hungry wives and children are not on strike.

In Mingo county 1,100 miners are still locked out because they demand the right to organize.

The following article, the 4th of a series prepared by the American Civil Liberties Union, 138 W. 13th St., New York City, depicts the manner in which the power of the Steel Trust is used—together with that of other entrenched interests—against the West Virginia miners.

"If the United States Steel Corporation tomorrow said: 'Let the unions in West Virginia be recognized,' they would be recognized," Samuel Untermyer, noted lawyer, and himself, perhaps, the largest individual stockholder in the Steel Corporation, told the United States Senate committee on education and labor during its recent investigation into industrial conditions in the unorganized coal fields of that state.

Behind the so-called "open shop" drive in West Virginia, Untermyer declared, are the United States Steel Corporation, and the Pennsylvania Railroad, both "sponsored" by J. P. Morgan & Co. These corporations, he said, are attempting to put the coal industry of West Virginia on a "solid" non-union basis and use it as an entering wedge to smash unionism in the entire coal industry of America.

Tracing the ramifications of the J. P. Morgan concern through the innumerable corporations in which it holds stock or is represented in interlocking directorates, Untermyer showed the senators the mighty influence wielded by the Steel Corporation in the battle of the coal operators against the United Mine Workers' organizations in West Virginia.

"The Steel Corporation," he said, "does not need to own a very large part of the Pocahontas field (McDowell county) in order to control the labor situation there. That is not necessary at all. If they have got an interest in it their power is great enough for then to control their other ramifications."

The United States Steel Corporation, the committee was shown by the miners' officials, leases more than 62,000 acres of land in the Pocahontas coal field, just southwest of Mingo county. It owns 53,736 acres of vein area, and 32,662 acres of surface area in Logan and Mingo counties, where Don Chafin and his subsidized army of deputies, and the Baldwin-Felts detective organization administer the "law and order" in the small mining communities. It is these organizations which have offered violent resistance to the United Mine Workers' efforts to organize this territory.

In addition to these holdings of the Steel Trust in southern West Virginia, it owns, just southwest of Mingo in Kentucky, more than 108,000 acres of coal lands. On its Kentucky holdings the corporation has built what is probably the largest coal mining plant in the world. On this plant is expended in 1917 and 1918 more than \$3,500,000.

The ally of the U. S. Steel Corporation in W. Virginia, Untermyer pointed out, is the Pennsylvania Railroad. The Pennsylvania controls, through interlocking directorates and other "high finance" methods, including mortgages, bonds, stocks and holding and operating companies, the Norfolk & Western is the largest and most important coal-carrying road in the southern part of the state.

Through the Pocahontas Coal & Coke Company, the Pennsylvania and the Norfolk & Southern sublease to the United States Steel Corporation its holdings in McDowell county.

The Pocahontas Coal & Coke Co. owns in its own name 300,000 acres of coal land in the Pocahontas coal field, the richest coal producing section in the state.

Untermyer charged—and the charge remained undisputed—that J. P. Morgan & Company controlled both of these powerful agencies of industrial oppression; the United States Steel Corporation and the Pennsylvania Railroad.

The Steel Corporation, he added, is the largest operator in the State of West Virginia. Its subsidiary, the United States Coal & Coke Co.,

produced in 1920 more than 5,000,000 tons of coal. In McDowell county it operates eleven plants and employs 3888 men—or nearly twice as many as the next largest company in that field.

Attract and Subtract

T-bone Slim
If we admit we are unfit—
We are unfit if we admit.

To wit:
To thus admit, a lack of wit—
I do submit—is proof of it.
Proof of it? I mean of wit—
To thus admit the lack of it.

Sure. Surely we are entirely fit to be trusted with the truth of all open-convivances, openly arrived at, sure Mike...

Lets have 'em. It is the sacred obligation, and a patriotic duty, of the peoples servants to keep no secrets from the public.

To keep a secret from the people is like refusing to tip your hat to the boss—

There is an under current of suspicion that our public servants are getting to be too darn radical in this respect.—The nerve of them!—to try to insinuate by their action that we, the people, are unfit to know all the facts...

What will the foreigners think of us?—us, bliffe bellied, and blooded, citizens of this fair democracy... if they get wind of it, what?

The other day I heard a story about two I.W.W. feeling each other out—you know how wobbles are.—They are as careful as a professional beau with a new mash—until they get a line on the other fellows view point.

Well, says one.—"Things would stand a little improving in places, Times are pretty hard." "Yes, you're right. Its pretty tough on the poor people—but I guess—next spring president Harding will start the ball rolling.—I think Harding is a very good man, don't you?" "Good?—why, that man is the best president we have ever had—Lincoln wasn't in it with Harding—It took Lincoln four years to free a million and a half slaves. Harding has freed nearly seven million in less than a year."

"By Gee, thats right—and maybe if we keep him in office he'll free the rest of the slaves while Hank Ford throws a harness on Mississippi..."

"Yes, maybe—" I have been a staunch supporter of Warren—he comes from my own state.—God bless her,—and him... Ohio is the territory in question—Ohio has produced as many bums as any state in this union, (counting myself)—but she has also favored our beloved country with presidents... Now it happens, that the Industrial Workers threatened to inscribe on their banner the revolutionary watchword "Abolition of the wage System." What did Harding do?—Did he lay down. No. He saw his duty... and got in the middle of road, spread his hands, and said stop! "We must get back to normalcy."

With that one historical sentence he abolished the wage system insofar as six million slaves are concerned.

Not many of them have seen a pay envelope since.

Released From One To Enter Another

The Civil Liberties Union asks that all prisoners who are to be deported be given a chance to close up their private affairs before sailing, and that if the Department of Labor fears that they will abuse this privilege before sailing it should put conditions in the bail bond, but should not deny them this liberty on mere presumption of bad faith.

Bail has generally been allowed where political sentences have expired, but it has been refused recently in cases where sentence was commuted. The case over which the issue has been drawn is that of James Mulrooney, an Australian convicted in the I. W. W. cases at Sacramento, in 1919. Mulrooney's term in Leavenworth expired February 22, but the department has lodged him in jail at Kansas City, refusing to accept bail, although it admits that a long time must elapse before he can be deported.

Consumers And Miners Exploited By Owners

DUPOIS, PA.—A call to the public to join with the miners to force out the facts of the "hopelessly messed coal industry" by federal action, has been issued by the convention of District No. 2, United Mine Workers of America. The convention, representing the 45,000 mine workers of central Pennsylvania, reminds the public—the coal consumers—that their coal grievances grew out of the same causes as those of the miners. Publication of all the facts by the government is urged as the first step in a fundamental reorganization of the industry.

The convention, which was in session all last week, declared that "the necessity of public ownership of coal mines, and the economic and human waste of private ownership," have been conclusively demonstrated, and congratulated the union's national convention for creating the nationalization research committee "to transform the miners' policy of nationalization from a vague aspiration into a fighting program." The members of this committee, appointed by President John L. Lewis, are John Brophy, president, District No. 2, chairman; William Mitch, Terre Haute, and C. J. Golden, Shamokin, Pa.

The call to the public says in part:

"Slowly the feeling that has long been in the minds of the miners is growing in the mind of the public—that the coal industry as now owned and operated is a hopeless mess, a basic public utility run and ruined by a group of financiers interested only in private profit and therefore inevitably careless of the public as well as of the living conditions and even the lives of the miners."

"It is time for the consumers to stop kicking and think out a plan. To give definiteness to their kick, we offer them our committee's first report on The Mismanagement of Coal. We miners have a policy, the policy of nationalization, which we believe is as good for the public as for us."

The nationalization research committee also has in preparation and expects to give out in a few days two other reports, How to Run Coal and Compulsory Information on Coal—A Public Fact-Finding Agency.

Friends Expect To See James Larkin Freed

HARRY GODFREY.
Pardon, or at least parole, is believed to be in store for James Larkin within a few days. Larkin, Communist, leader of the Irish transport workers and devoted worker for working-class freedom, was sentenced two years ago by a New York court to imprisonment for five to ten years for alleged "criminal anarchy."

If Governor Miller pardons or paroles Larkin, which friends of the latter believe on good authority he will, the action will be accompanied by a characteristic justification on legal and "moral" grounds.

Larkin's trial in the Spring of 1920, probably was the worst travesty of justice, the most besotted debauchery of court procedure, that ever stained an American court. He was prosecuted by Alexander J. Rorke, an assistant district attorney of the shirt-tearing, flag-waving, piety-shrieking kind, who stooped to the lowest tricks of vituperation and slander to make the jury think that James Larkin was an "alien enemy," "an archangel of assassinations," who with "illy-white fingers" would starve all the babies of the United States to death.

He was "tried"—prosecuted would be the more accurate word—by Justice Bartow S. Weeks, who lived with Rorke in insolence and studied effort to prejudice the jury.

And thru the whole trial—as, it may be mentioned, thruout all the other "criminal anarchy" trials in New York—not a scrap of evidence was introduced to show that Larkin ever had murdered or intended to murder anybody, or that he had ever incited or tried to incite anybody to such an act, or that he had attempted to "overthrow the government by force."

When Larkin was arrested the police not only had no warrant, but they stole from him papers, which would have been important helps in his defense. The court made no effort to have these papers returned.

When Frank P. Walsh recently argued the case for Larkin on appeal before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, he charged again and again that

"Three Soldiers' Insulted Lieut. Dawson

(Fed. Press Staff Correspondent.)

New York.—Last fall a book was published in America called "Three Soldiers," by John Dos Passos, who himself was a soldier in the American expeditionary force. If you haven't seen war, and want to know what war does to everything that is decent in human nature, go buy a copy of "Three Soldiers." Read three pages and no one will have to urge you to read the rest. It tells for the American soldier what "Under Fire" told for the French; what "Men in War" told for the Austrian. But that isn't what this piece is being written about. No sooner had the book come from the press than it began to sell. For a little time such bourgeois papers as the New York Times ignored it, but they soon found that people were reading it—perhaps even believing it. That, of course, wouldn't do. The plain unvarnished truth about the army in war—mustn't get into print; not even as much of it as might be put into print without subjecting the author and the publisher to prosecution for obscenity.

So the Times called upon Coningsby Dawson, poet-soldier in the Canadian army—who by the way was an officer—and one of the most romantic and plausible glorifiers of this war, in particular. (Should it, perhaps, be called the "late" war?) Lieut. Dawson responded, pithily. In a long, spiteful and vituperative article, which was given the place of honor in the Times' "Sunday Magazine," and which was entitled "Insulting the Army," he denounced "Three Soldiers" and its author.

But that, seemed, if it affected the sales of the book at all, to send them up faster than ever. So a fortnight later the Times again printed a long, conspicuously featured diatribe against "Three Soldiers," but more temperately done and written with especial zeal about pointing out such facts as that "Three Soldiers" was slightly inaccurate in describing a certain type of hand grenade.

This was followed, in the Times, by three long editorials denouncing the book, and column after column of letters from army officers and American Legionists, almost all of the same tenor.

Other New York newspapers for the most part decided to say nothing; and except for their book reviews—many of which, by the way, praised it highly—their comments were mainly of the "on the other hand" kind.

One of Lieut. Dawson's assertions was that "Three Soldiers" was either a "base libel" on the American armies, or the hideous truth. Well, Dos Passos, who has been in Europe since the war, is back in New York. He was much surprised when told that the book had created any commotion. He couldn't understand it.

"It's true," he said simply. He didn't know, he said, that it would "start anything." He merely wrote it—before he returned from France—because he thought the story was worth writing, to "get it off his chest."

"I didn't know America had any illusions," he added. "I was only in this country one week during the war. I had signed up with the French Ambulance Service long before the United States went into the war, and served in the Vosges in the spring of 1917. Then I came back for one week because I had to get a waiver on account of my eyesight in order to join the American Army Ambulance Corps. Finally I managed to get a waiver, and I went right back."

His "three soldiers" were typical, he said, of the "under dog" in the army, and he tried to show what the "under dog" underwent in the army.

"And as a matter of fact," he declared, "the people in the book were people I knew. A good deal of the book was put down almost word for word, as people told it to me, or directly from actual happenings I witnessed myself."

Larkin was treated by the court as a guilty man before the verdict was reached, and that Justice Weeks materially assisted in the prosecution. Walsh showed how, after Larkin came to America in November, 1914, to effect a union of Irish and American labor, he tried eleven times to return to his home in Dublin, but was prevented by the British government.

Walsh, in a recent article in an American magazine, declared "it was his (Larkin's) broad vision and unconquerable energy which rescued Irish labor from the depths into which it had been flung and laid the foundation of the Irish labor movement as it now exists."

Reign of Terror Due to Ku Kluxers

TAFT, Cal.—A veritable reign of terror exists throughout the whole of the West Side oil fields of Kern county as a result of the increasingly bold activities of bands of armed and hooded men during the last few weeks. Posing as members of the Ku Klux Klan, these gangs have taken out, beaten and tarred or oiled and feathered three business men, caused nearly a score of others to leave the district, and sent warnings to perhaps 50 others, including the mayor of Taft.

Taft is an armed camp. Not even in the days of the old frontier did so many citizens carry pistols as are doing so now through fear of the activities of the Ku Klux Klan, the night riders, the vigilantes.

People are being driven out of Kern county. They are not stopping to consider the source of warning sent, but are taking chances.

Government Backs Coal Operators

(Continued from page 1)

Ned McLean, owner of the Washington Post, which has conducted a savage editorial propaganda against the United Mine Workers for years past, and which distinguished itself by its hysterical denunciation of the unions during the great steel strike of two years ago, McLean is one of the president's close advisers.

Secretary of the Treasury Mellon, one of America's richest men, is a heavy owner of the securities of a large number of the industrial corporations in the Pittsburgh district, and is identified with the financial group which is seeking to smash the miners' organization this year.

Secretary of War Weeks and Secretary of the Navy Denby are even more "hard-boiled" than Mellon and Daugherty. They would probably welcome an opportunity to warn Harding against any intervention when the operators seemed to have a chance to restore feudal conditions in the coal fields of the central states. Each has slashed the wages of government employees under his control in brusque disregard of the appeals of the unions for negotiation of the issue.

Secretary of Labor Davis, who is counted as a mere hand-shaking ornament to the official family, with neither authority nor influence is permitted to announce that the government "cannot and will not" take any step to prevent the strike except to "suggest" that the operators meet the union spokesmen in conference before they break off relations. He explained that after the strike has gone on long enough to prove that the public is suffering for want to coal, the government will be in a position to go into court and ask for injunctions compelling a resumption of mining.

It was far different in the fall of 1919, when Judge Anderson enjoined the miners, under the Lever act, from stopping work. At that time the operators were resisting and increase in wages, and the miners had to act. Now, when the operators want to starve the miners into taking a reduction in wages and a surrender of working conditions, the administration finds itself powerless to prevent the operators from undertaking the fight, even though such a struggle once started will be almost impossible to control.

As though to emphasize the class character of the government at this moment, the United States supreme court dismissed the appeal of counsel for Alexander Howat and the Kansas coal miners' organization against the constitutionality of the Kansas industrial court act. The supreme court finds itself without authority to deal with the case. Howat and his organization must fight it out in Kansas.

Coal operators' lobbyists here are trying to learn the probable strength of the alliance made by the railroad labor organizations with the United Mine Workers and the Longshoremens, last month, at Chicago. They are taking precautions lest a part of the railroad workers start to throw in their lot with the coal miners after the coal strike is under way.

The miners say they do not anticipate a rail strike in connection with their own defensive suspension of work.

MUSIC FOR MEN.

"Nice doins up at my house today—My wife and the cook had the darndest fight y'ever see." "Well, which side are you on?" "I'm neutral—I hope they both leave."

RAILROAD OFFICIALS CIRCULATE PALAVER

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers are circulating bulletins which they are anxious to have the public read.

They seem to be harboring the delusion that the public thinks that the railroad workers are well paid.

The public in its final analysis consists of the masses of the working people who are all underpaid. They may not know the exact number of cents that the railroad workers carry home in their envelopes but they know that R. R. workers like all other working people are getting it in the neck.

The general public that is class conscious would like it if the railroad workers would cease to want to appear loyal and faithful to McAdoo and those who rob them. They would be glad to find some evidence of this in their bulletins. But they won't find it in bulletin No. 2, which follows:

Spokesmen for the railroad interests have charged that during the period of Federal control the workers took advantage of the labor shortage to wring excessive and unwarranted wages from the government. This claim has been put forward with the obvious object of prejudicing public opinion against railway workers.

In the interest of truth it is important that the facts be established.

Testifying before the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce, February 1, 1932, William Gibbs McAdoo, former director general of railroad during the first year of Federal Control, said:

"An absolute essential to the achievement of these imperative needs (relieving the unprecedented congestion of traffic and restoring efficient operation of the railroads) was to satisfactorily dispose of the labor problem."

"Railroad employees throughout the country were thoroughly discontented and strikes were impending everywhere."

"The railroad executives had testified before the Interstate Commerce Commission and elsewhere that railroad wages were below the scale paid in competitive industries and had been seeking increases in rates in order that they might increase wages."

Railroad Labor Grossly Underpaid
"Railroad labor was grossly underpaid and there were many grave abuses in the matter of working conditions on the railroads which needed correction. "It was clear that railroad employees could not be expected to work for the railroads at lower rates of pay than they could command in the competitive industries throughout the country."

"The high cost of living had made it impossible for many of them to live on the wages they were receiving, and it was clearly in the interest of justice and right to say nothing of the wisdom and reason of the policy, to bring their wages to a level which would enable the railroads to command the requisite amount of service and to prevent continued depletion of their forces, with the constant labor turnover which railroad managers themselves had insisted was one of the reasons why they were unable to make the railroads function efficiently."

Before the Interstate Commerce Commission, in March, 1917, President Underwood, of the Erie; President Samuel Rea, of the Pennsylvania; President Smith, of the New York Central, and several other railroad executive complained that the low wages being paid workers were driving thousands of men out of railroad service and preventing the efficient operation of the railroads.

Commission Chosen to Study Wages
Mr. McAdoo testified that between the co-ordinating demands of the workers and the managers for increased wages he was unwilling to act solely upon his own judgment. Accordingly, on January 18, he created a Railway Wage Commission to inquire into the subject and make a finding.

This commission was composed of the late Franklin K. Lane, then Secretary of the Interior; C. C. McChord, member of the Interstate Commerce Commission; J. H. Covington, chief justice of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, and W. R. Wilcox, Chairman of the National Republican Committee.

"This Commission," Mr. McAdoo testified, "upon exhaustive investigation found that railroad labor HAD BEEN DEFLORABLY UNDERPAID, and recommended an increase ranging from 43 per cent for the lowest paid to nothing for the highest paid."

"In this connection, the findings of this commission utterly refute the charges that railroad employees took advantage of the war emergency to wring undeserved and unreasonable concessions in wages from the government. The Commission said:

"It has been a somewhat popular impression that railroad employees were among the most highly paid workers. But figures gathered from the railroads disposed of this belief." After a year of war and two years of rising prices—when "each dollar represented in its power to purchase a place in which to live, food to eat and clothing to wear, but 71 cents as against the 100 cents of January, 1916"—these wage rates were being paid by the railroads, according to the Wage Commission:

One hundred and eighty-one thousand six hundred and ninety-three (181,693) men received between \$60 and \$65 per month; 312,761 received from \$65 to \$75 per month; the average pay of clerks was \$56.77 per month; section men received \$50.31 per month; the average pay of unskilled labor was \$58.25 per month; station service employees averaged \$58.75 per month; freight brakemen an flagmen averaged \$100.17; and passenger brakemen and flagmen averaged \$91.10.

Less than 3 per cent of all employees were receiving in excess of \$150 per month.

Workers Steadfastly Loyal.
Mr. McAdoo quoted the following from the report of the Wage Commission:

"That there has been such steadfast loyalty to the railroads, and so slight a disposition to use the lever of their necessity and their opportunity to compel, by ruthless action, an increase of wages, is not without significance and should not be passed without public recognition."

These findings of the Wage Commission that railroad labor was not getting living wages. Mr. McAdoo said, where the sole basis for making a wage increase retroactive to January 1, 1918.

Mr. McAdoo continued: "Until recently no question was ever raised as to the justice and propriety of the increases in wages so made. . . . There was not the slightest complaint from any railroad executive that the wage increases promulgated on General Order No. 27 and in the supplements thereto were too high; and never at any time during that year were railroad wages too high."

"The fact is that railroad employees worked for less pay during the war than any other class of industrial workers doing similar work. The further fact is that no fair complaint can be made of the part the railroad employees performed during the war. The realization that they were working for their government in the stress and strain of war, that their patriotic service was essential to victory, and that they would be fairly treated inspired and spurred them to unusual effort and to faithful service."

Value of Workers' Sacrifices
"The railroad employees patriotically gave up privileges and concessions which their organizations had obtained through many years of negotiation and controversy." These sacrifices, Mr. McAdoo added, in the cost of making locomotive repairs alone, resulted in an annual saving of \$50,000,000.

The evidence, then, is that railroad workers were not overpaid, but that they were, before and during federal control, underpaid, a discrimination that did not affect their loyal and efficient services.

Robert Minor Starts On Speaking Tour

NEW YORK.—Robert Minor perhaps the best known labor cartoonist in the world, and a journalist of international fame, starts March 19 on a nationwide speaking tour in the interest of an English daily newspaper to be published by the Workers' party of America, of the central executive committee of which he is a member. His first appearance will be in New York City. Other meetings will be held in Newark, N. J., Paterson, Jersey City, Trenton, Reading, Pa., Baltimore, Philadelphia.

HONOR

HAL BROMMELS

"Here lies a loyal patriot,"
And "Here's a fighter brave."
What is there that these men have won?—
A deep and chilly grave.

There walks a fattened parasite,
And there a justice mean.
What is there that these men have won? —
A hatred deep and keen.

In jail there sits a rebel true,
He fought to make us free.
What is there that these men have won? —
The love of you and me!

"KUZBAS" AN OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICAN WORKERS

Prospectus, "Kuzbas": Room 303, 110 West 40th St., New York.

This pamphlet is issued by a group of American workers sympathetic to the plans of the R. S. F. S. R., who are willing to go to the length of emigrating to Western Siberia and settling there for a long period in order to aid in the economic reconstruction of the country. The present pamphlet is chiefly a description of the geography, resources and opportunities of the Kuznets Basin. ("Kuzbas" is an abbreviation of these two words), not omitting references to the hardships that would necessarily be encountered by the American workers for at least a year or so after their arrival. We shall not attempt here to give a complete synopsis of its contents, but believe the statistical information will be of interest to those of our readers who get the book. Toward the end there is an interesting questionnaire to be filled out by those American workers who wish to comply with the invitation of their comrades to go to Russia. Probably no better support could be given by this organization than by reprinting, as we do herewith, the appeal issued on January 15 at Moscow, to American workers, by the All Russian Council of Labor Union as communicated by Rosta-Wien, January 17, 1922.

"The working class of Soviet Russia, under the most difficult circumstances and in the midst of the greatest disorganization, is creating new forms of life. In this strenuous struggle it is the first problem before the working class to reconstruct big industry, which has been heavily damaged by the war and the blockade, as well as by the offensive of the Russian counter-revolutionists and foreign imperialists. Big industry is the bulwark of the proletarian revolution in its struggle against the capitalist world and the basis of the future Communist Republic.

"Our foreign comrades have not abandoned their Russian fellow workers. By opposing intervention that by our joint efforts we will

they have contributed to the victories of Soviet Russia over their enemies and have created the possibility for the Russian workers to deal with economic problems. The growing movement of the proletariat in all countries is forcing the bourgeoisie to change their policy towards Soviet Russia and to end the blockade that has cut off the Russian industry from the necessary foreign technicians and equipment. The calamity caused by the lack of rain and the famine in Russia has met with the warmest sympathy of the workers in all countries, and the support of the famine stricken peasants of the south is increasing every day. All this is a real and tangible support of the Russian working class in their gigantic struggle against economic ruin.

"But this is not sufficient. The direct co-operation of foreign workers is required for the reconstruction of Big Industry. The combined efforts of foreign and Russian workers, shoulder to shoulder in one and the same factory or mine, is necessary to build the foundation for the only Workers' Republic of the world. A group of revolutionary American workers represented by S. I. Rutgers, H. S. Calvert, and others has offered its support in this matter to the Soviet Government. The Soviet Government has accepted this support. The Council of Labor and Defense of the Russian Soviet Republic has made an agreement with this group of American workers, according to which agreement they receive in their management the big steel works of Nadezhdinsk in the Ural, the Komarovo mines in the Kuznets coal basin (Siberia) and other auxiliary industries. By this agreement 6000 American workers are expected to arrive in Russia, in order to start, together with the Russian workers, the reconstruction of industry in Soviet Russia.

"The American workers will have to be prepared to come to a disorganized country and to start their work under extremely difficult conditions. We are confident however that by our joint efforts we will

overcome the difficulties of the first period and that we will bring to life one of the richest coal and iron deposits of the world.

"The American workers will bring their experience in organization and highly qualified production methods, the Russian workers will communicate to their American comrades their revolutionary enthusiasm and their perseverance in the revolutionary struggle.

"Workers of America! The All-Russian Central Committee of the Labor Unions greets your offer to enter our ranks and to create a well founded and mighty socialist economy in Russia. Our combined efforts will be of enormous value; in this way groups of the world proletariat that struggle separately for their freedom will get closer together and will set an example of proletarian solidarity. Combine with us! Help us surmount this difficult period! Keep in mind that you come to a totally disorganized country and that you do not plan a pleasure trip, but a great and difficult task. The perseverance of the Russian proletariat that has defended the achievements of its revolution for four years may inspire you in your efforts.

"The Russian workers will greet their new co-workers with enthusiasm, convinced that the American workers will demonstrate on our economic front their efficiency and experience. With combined forces we will build the proletarian commonwealth; in common labor we will forge the links of brotherhood between the Labor of America and Russia.

"The reconstruction of the Russian industry will guarantee the victory of the first Workers' Republic.

"The All-Russian Central Committee of Labor-Union."
—Soviet Russia.

KING GEORGE AND CORNED BEEF

(Rostan Quillan)

King George of England probably has recently read somewhere that the former distinguished Englishman, though of low parentage, that Shakespeare, for all of his greatness and austerity, manifested his practicality by suing a man for a pound, or five dollars.

At any rate old King George has his name in the papers again. The last time his name was in print was when he prayed so beautifully for the unemployed of England, and the time before that the assassinated press published his fervent wish for the success of the Washington disarmament or limitation of the armament conference.

Now jolly old George is manifesting his wonderful something or other by a damage suit he is bringing against the Rock Island Railroad and President Harding for some sixty-four cases of corned beef.

It appears that the above named corned beef was ordered during the war by the English government under King George's name. It is evident that the English government must use him for something. Now King George is peeved because up to the present time the corned beef has not been forthcoming.

Thus he sitteth himself down and filth suit in the district court

and the indictment is said to read as follows:

King George, the brainless figure-head of England, is the party of the first part, brings suit against the party of the second part, also lacking in the cerebellum but not in brass, for the recovery of sixty-four cases of corned beef, which was intended to feed the English soldiers. I, King George, however, wish to make it clear that in case the corned beef is recovered, the Royal family will not eat any of it. We intend to keep it in case of another war or, in case there is not another war in the next fifty years to feed it to the royal cat, or if the said cat nor the royal hounds will not eat it, to feed it to the unemployed which I understand abound in my kingdom.

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These heroes in Russia who have immortalized their cause, our cause, who have paid in overflowing measures in blood and tears and agony unspeakable, the price of their fidelity and devotion to the oppressed and exploited toilers not only of their own land but of the whole world, now appeal to us for the food that shall save them from perishing as hostages to starvation, and shall we now fail to return in small part what we owe them for what they have suffered in the awful years of the revolution to break the fetters of labor everywhere and set humanity free from the curse of the ages?

In Russia our comrades have suffered and endured beyond the power of words to express to save us suffering; they have gone hungry and naked that we might be fed and clothed; they have bared their heroic breasts to the bayonets and bullets of a hostile and heartless ruling class world to give liberty to the human race; and shall these martyr spirits, these glorious souls and their helpless children now be permitted to die ignominiously for the want of the bread we hold in our hands?

No, a thousand times no! We should merit eternal reproach for our recreancy if we failed in this crucial hour to give and to give promptly, and to give again and again to the full limit of our power.

The starving workers and peasants of soviet Russia cry aloud to us in the throes of their desperation and agony, and unless our hearts are of stone we can hear them by day and by night, and I appeal to every member of the American working class, to every man, woman and child with sympathy for starving fellow-creatures, to every human being responsive to human suffering within reach of my voice, to give and give at once and give freely and to the last dollar and the last penny that may be spared, to the Friends of Soviet Russia, swelling the present contributions a hundredfold, for the relief as far as possible of the awful famine in the struggling soviet republic and for the rescue of the millions of its threatened victims whose cruel and shocking fate would forever shame our common humanity and leave a foul and damning blot on our vaunted civilization.

Ernest P. Johnson

Ernest P. Johnson

