

Use Teapot Dome and Daugherty to Organize

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER.

TEAPOT DOME, the Daugherty investigation and the scandal in the Veterans Bureau, have given positive proof to theories the militant workers have held relative to the unscrupulous methods by which mammoth fortunes are amassed and the wage earners in all industries deprived of all voice in government.

The oil industry pays its workers a starvation wage; it works them ten and twelve hours per day and it fights organization with every weapon from bribery to the black-jack. In Texas, Oklahoma, California and Wyoming, the oil interests during the war were protected by the department of justice and recent evidence in the Daugherty investigation shows that this spying upon and persecution of labor organizers, the penetration of labor organizations with spies, the framing of criminal charges against active workers, has been carried over into peace time and is now a recognized function of the Burns-Daugherty department of justice.

The cost of production in the oil industry is low and from the Teapot Dome scandal we learn that the natural resources from which fabulous profits are made cost the exploiters nothing but a few cheap bribes. To protect this stolen ownership the whole machinery of capitalist government was used and only because of the conflict between rival groups of capitalists and the general economic breakdown did the fla-

grant nature of the thefts become known.

There is the greatest indignation among the workers, farmers and the lower middle classes as a result of the exposures; an indignation that is being expressed in political revolt. Undoubtedly there will arise not only a third party movement directed against corruption in government, but a class farmer-labor party directed against capitalist government as such. Something more is needed. The disillusionment of the workers in the oil industry—the key industry for capitalism in the event of war—must be utilized to build permanent and powerful economic organization; in the oil fields and in the oil refineries a great organization campaign should be launched.

In the agricultural districts the awakened farmers must turn their efforts not only to the political organization for election campaigns but they must begin to build class-conscious economic organizations of exploited farmers.

Thru the entire labor movement

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the Teapot Dome scandal and the actual and indisputable proof of the connection of governmental agencies with the terroristic activities of the oil and other employers must be used to arouse the workers to the need for 100 per cent organization of American industry.

If the officialdom of the American Federation of Labor was alive to the opportunity and not living in the past, 1924 would see a powerful political movement of the workers and farmers based solidly on the economic organizations of the two groups.

As it is, the militants will have to redouble their efforts and by added industry, with the Teapot Dome and the Daugherty investigation as their text, strive to make up for the incompetency, cowardice and ignorance of the officialdom of the American labor movement.

It is entirely possible that in the new farmer-labor movement that will crystallize June 17 will be found the weapon that combining economic and political organization will sweep from power not only certain agents of capitalist governments and bring a new alignment of political forces but that will also dethrone the official misleaders of organized labor and open the door for a period of militant endeavor and worthwhile victories.

The Prince of Wales does not mind so much breaking his neck but he does not relish the idea of missing his whisky. So long as the gullet can function, other mishaps will not be considered serious.