

Down with exploiters, "rugged individualists" and tyrants.

LABOR ACTION

For a workers' world — peace and plenty, justice and freedom.

Volume I. No. 4.

New York, N. Y., Monday, May 15, 1933

Price 5 Cents

Congress of Nazis Call 2 Thousand For Forced At Capital Labor Camp

Socialist Gathering Indicates Unrest Among the Masses

URGE REFORMS Set Up Permanent Continental Congress of Workers and Farmers

WASHINGTON, D. C. (Special) —Two thousand delegates assembled here on May 6-7 in response to the Socialist sponsored call to a new "Continental Congress." Although representation was overwhelmingly from Socialist Party branches and Socialist controlled unions and fraternal organizations, there were some delegates from unemployed leagues, farmers organizations, the Conference for Progressive Labor Action.

The meeting of so many farmers and workers, despite the fact that a considerable number of organizations were eliminated because of the nature of the call, and despite the action of the American Federation of Labor, which a few days before the date of the Congress advised its affiliated unions not to participate, is an indication of the unrest stirring among the masses.

Emil Rieve of the American Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers served as chairman of the Congress. Among the speakers were John A. Simpson, president of the National Farmers Union; Senator Lynn Frazier of North Dakota; Norman Thomas of the Socialist Party and A. C. Townley former leader of the Non-Partisan League, who brought a message from the National Farmers Holiday Association, which had just declared a national strike to take effect on May 13.

Simpson Defines a Radical

Simpson of the Farmers Union wished the Farmers Holiday Association success in their strike and declared himself a radical. "A radical," he explained, "means a man who has the intelligence to know his rights and the courage to fight for them. A conservative is a man who worships dead radicals."

"This country can be divided into two classes," he went on, "one class includes the 120 million workers and farmers and their families. They are the debtor class. The other class includes about 10,000 individuals. They are the creditor class. This creditor class we must wipe out. They consider themselves safe now. They even think that the workers like them. The Czar thought that his people loved him until the revolution came."

Reports Adopted

Among the reports adopted by the Congress were: an immediate initial appropriation of 3 billion dollars for direct unemployed relief; the 5-day week and the 6-hour day without reduction in pay; a 6 billion dollar appropriation by the Federal government for public works; electric facilities for one-third of the American people dwelling in rural areas; a complete system of government insurance to provide for unemployment, sickness, accidents, maternity and old age; legislation to take all children under 16 years of age out of industry and put them into school; public ownership and operation of all the means of public transportation, of public utilities, of natural resources and of basic industries, to be operated by boards of administration on which workers, consumers and technicians are equally represented.

The most important work of the Congress was the setting up of what is intended to be a permanent national organization to be known as the Continental Congress of Farmers and Workers. A provisional National Committee of Correspondence and Action was appointed. This committee is to consist of 26 members, with political groups, trade unions, farmers, unemployed, educational, student

Troops Arrest Labor Heads and Put Unions Under Fascist Control

CONSCRIPT LABOR Small Farmers and Peasants Back Program, Hitler Declares

BERLIN (Special). — Moving swiftly to smash independent trade unions and inaugurate a policy of forced labor throughout Germany, Fascist storm troops arrested all labor leaders and took charge. The unions will be "Hitlerized."

The drive followed a thunderous speech by Hitler before May Day throngs in which he announced that collective wage agreements would be cancelled. His Cabinet, he declared, would inaugurate a policy of conscript labor.

The compulsory labor service, it was announced by Hirtl of the Nazi Labor Department, will include conscription of 350,000 young men into labor camps in 1934. Young Germans will not be allowed to marry or become citizens until they have put in six months in a labor camp, the announcement said.

At the same time compulsory military training will be enforced throughout Germany.

"The future of our program is assured," Hitler said, "because the small farmers and the peasants are strongly behind us."

Preparations to destroy the works of 160 writers on May 10 are going forward in student ranks inaugurated by Fascism. The books of Upton Sinclair, most popular American author among German workers, will go up in flames with the flower of world culture, including the works of poets, novelists, philosophers and scientists who have put forward arguments for governments of justice and freedom for the working masses.

Inflamed by anti-Semitism and hatred for class-conscious workers of all nationalities the Nazi on (Continued on Page 2)

Mooney Congress Maps Broad Plans

1,300 Delegates Set Up National Council of Action

CHICAGO.—A nationwide Mooney tag day May 20.

A nationwide petition campaign. Another Free Mooney Congress.

These were the steps decided upon by the 1300 delegates in the Free Mooney Congress in Chicago. The assembly represented the broadest front of labor and radical organizations to gather in America in recent years.

Setting up a permanent National Mooney Council of Action consisting of 43 members to coordinate the rising tide of sentiment for Mooney's release into a national organized drive, the Congress called for complete unity of all organized groups. Rules adopted by the delegates for unity exclude factional attacks in the immediate struggle for freeing the labor martyr.

Plans for the May 20 tag day to raise funds to conduct the fight on an unprecedented scale cover scores of cities and towns.

The delegates representing labor organizations from coast to coast went on record for fighting other worker's cases and for Negro rights. Millions of names, it was predicted, would be collected on petitions in nationwide circulation demanding Mooney's release.

Numerous investigations made since the imprisonment 17 years ago reveal that Mooney, active in organizing workers, was framed by California money interests to "get him out of the way."

The meeting date of the next Free Mooney Congress has not been announced.

CHILDREN BATTLE SWEATSHOPS



HARRISBURG, PA.—Long hours, ill treatment and pitiful wages, as low as five cents a day for a 54-hour week, is capitalism's reward to girl workers in Pennsylvania.

Public indignation has flared up at disclosures of demoralizing sweatshop slavery, but powerful financial interests reaping profits from exploiting child labor have clamped down on public officials and the State Legislature, blocking all attempts to rescue the children.

Girls and women working two weeks are paid \$1.65 in some plants, while weekly wages of \$1, investigations have shown, are common. Thousands of girls, poverty stricken and in desperation, sell themselves into long hours of labor, ranging up to 16 hours a day, for average wages of less than 2 cents an hour.

In Allentown where child workers in shirt mills struck against wages of 15 cents to \$2 a week, relief authorities threatened to withdraw donations of food from their families. Frightened by this threat, parents forced the underfed children to return to the mills.

May Day Over Fire 45 From World Marked Camp Dix, N.J. By Conflicts As Agitators

NEW YORK—May Day celebrations over the world dramatically brought to the fore the international conflict between working masses and their governments. While heavily armed troops and augmented police forces stood ready to shoot and club the half-paid and unemployed masses into submission, should occasion arise, the giant parades and meetings in many countries showed a new spirit in working masses for unity in coming struggles.

In New York 75 thousand workers, split into separate parades, poured into Union Square. The disunity was due to the fact that Socialists refused to parade with the Communists. Thousands of rank and file Socialists remained after the Socialist demonstration to hear speakers of the united groups.

Nineteen thousand policemen were on duty in the city, six thousand concentrated along the parade routes and in the square. Over the World

In Vienna the government, in the hands of capitalists, lined the streets with machine guns and barb-wire to keep workers from parading. Eight thousand steel-helmeted soldiers were stationed throughout the city.

In Spain all industry was halted by the workers. Madrid was completely closed down. It was believed to be the most absolute commercial paralysis ever enforced in any country in modern times.

In Copenhagen Denmark, 100,000 workers demonstrated.

In Tokio, Japan, the workers celebrated in two groups, due to splits. One hundred and sixty were arrested and jailed.

In London the Independent Labor Party and the Communist Party joined in a united May Day in Hyde Park.

In Moscow a million workers, peasants and soldiers marched through Red Square in the biggest demonstration and show of strength ever staged by the workers government.

In Glasgow, Scotland, two thousand and jobless marchers were interrupted by the police. Many were beaten and one demonstrator was carried to a hospital.

In Mexico City thirty thousand workers marched. Twelve leaders were arrested, including three women.

In Manila twelve were arrested and scores injured when police attacked a workers' parade flying a red flag.

In several South American countries governments in the hand of special interests suppressed all attempts of the toilers to meet on May Day.

Says Farm, City Labor Must Unite

Will Manage Their Own Business or Perish, Townley Declares

HITS MONEY LORDS Farmers in Strike Plans Against Rule by Food Gamblers

WASHINGTON, D. C. (Special). —Conditions for the farmers of the country are going from bad to worse, declared A. C. Townley in a speech delivered to the delegates of the Continental Congress which convened here on May 6 and 7. Townley, leader of the powerful Non-Partisan League movement in North Dakota just after the war, is not impressed with the New Deal of Roosevelt. "People are already beginning to talk about the good times they had under Hoover," he asserted.

"The producers of food and the workers in mine, mill, shop, and office should join hands in a mighty federation to bring about the free exchange of their services and goods without restraint from the gambling money lords," he continued. "They must manage their own business or perish from the earth."

"The delegates of millions of farmers assembled in Des Moines call on all producers of wealth all who work in any capacity, to join in a national movement for self defense. Exchange of goods and services ought to be arranged between the farmers and the unemployed on the basis of cost of production."

"The farmers plan to put into immediate effect a plan for a fair and just distribution of their goods. They will refuse to deliver food products into the hands of food gamblers. The farmers' strike is not against the starving unemployed but against the gamblers' system of distribution which has brought it about that the farmer starves no matter how much food he produces."

"We propose neither to buy nor to sell except through distributive (Continued on Page 2)

5000 in Scottsboro March to Capital

Crowds Cheer Marchers Demanding Freedom of Negro Boys

NEW YORK—Over 5000 Negro and white workers, representing many shades of religious and political beliefs united in a trek to Washington to voice their determination that "The Scottsboro Boys Shall Not Die." Coming in buses, trucks and battered private cars, the marchers, many of them women, and including even a few children, came from all sections of the United States.

The marchers did not represent themselves alone. In many cities Scottsboro Action Committees were formed to carry on the work of the National Scottsboro Action Committee of which Louise Thompson is Secretary and A. J. Muste and John T. Godber of the CPLA are members. In many cities send-off meetings and marches were held as the local delegates, who had been elected by their organizations, joined the line of march.

Workers everywhere showed that they knew the march was their march. Clubs and union halls were at the disposal of the marchers. Food was provided by labor organizations. As the marchers paraded through the Negro sections of Philadelphia and Washington, thousands lined the streets, cheering, waving and applauding. In Wilmington, police attempted to provoke a riot, but working-class discipline prevailed as it did throughout the entire affair.

In Washington, President Roosevelt said he was "too busy" to see the committee chosen to see him.

Relief Struggles Mount As Jobless Leagues Increase

If Officials Say Bad Then It Must Be Good

DESLODGE, Mo. — Seventy-five men walked five miles to a meeting of the unemployed here. They came from the town of Leadwood.

"The news got into our town that you were going to hold this meeting," a young man speaking for the group, said. "The relief officials told a couple of the men that if they came to it it would be about the worst thing they ever did for themselves. So we figured if they were so anxious to keep us away there must be some good reason why we ought to be here."

Two leagues were organized on the spot and arrangements made for a big meeting in Leadwood.

Parson Tells UL Organizer To Stay Out

MOUNT CARMEL, Pa.—"But we are going back to that town," said Mike Demchak, Felix Frazik and Mike Bender who were arrested in Northumberland, near here, while organizing the unemployed.

The three organizers told of being arrested by a preacher on charges of disorderly conduct. They were rushed before a justice of the peace and solemnly warned never to come to organize the unemployed in that town again. The preacher is head of the local relief station, they said.

"But we are going back," said Demchak. "We will organize the workers to fight for adequate relief and to get lights, rent and water paid in Northumberland."

Demchak, Frazik and Bender have been active in building up an unemployed league of 500 members.

"We are kept on the jump here," they explained.

"May 1st we staged a demonstration in front of the home of our state Senator and demanded that he make a motion upon the Senate floor to discharge the Committee on Pensions and Gratuities that holds the bill that would provide for old age pensions."

"Our demonstration got results as our Senator voted to discharge that committee."

The local League fights for old age pensions, unemployment insurance and adequate relief in all forms.

Jersey Jobless Plan Convention

NEWARK, N. J. (Special). Unemployed in New Jersey, stung to action by the refusal of the present Legislature to do anything for jobless relief, will formulate demands for State-wide action at a meeting of unemployed union delegates to be held on May 21, 10 A. M. at St. Regis Hall, 34 Park Place, Newark.

Dozens of organizations and associations of unemployed exist in the State at present and the purpose of the conference is to work out a program for activity that will voice the demands of all the State's unemployed workers.

Among the demands to be made are: uniformity in the administration of relief; no diversion of relief funds to pay gas and electricity, such payments to come from swollen utility profits; cash relief, no grocery orders; work relief, not home relief; no impoverishment of workers before relief is given.

Unemployed leagues from North Jersey are invited to communicate with Warren C. Montross, 80 Sylvan Street, Rutherford, N. J.

Public Officials Alarmed by Growing Strength of Unemployed

MISSOURI ACTIVE State Conventions Prepare For National Meet in Ohio

COLUMBUS, Ohio. — Organization of the unemployed of this state is growing in intensity as the date for the national convention approaches and the authorities, becoming alarmed, attempt to stop the movement. From all over the state come reports from township and county organizations of strikes, eviction battles and mass protest meetings. Hardly a day passes without the formation of some new league. By July 4, as things look now, the unemployed of this state will be organized solidly.

As an illustration of how the unemployed respond to interference from the authorities the recent fight of the Unemployed League of Hilliards is interesting. This is a small town of about 1500, 8 miles out from Columbus. It has had a small league, meeting peacefully in a church for several weeks. Its members get relief at the town clerk's office in a garage.

Mayor Excited

A few weeks ago one of the league members was accused of advising the men to ask for Kroger store orders instead of orders on independent grocery stores where prices are higher. A fight was precipitated in which the brother of the Township Clerk, an independent grocer and a couple of the unemployed were involved.

The Mayor got excited and sent his little errand boy, the marshal, to suggest that meetings could no longer be held in the church. A call for a mass protest meeting was immediately sent out by the Hilliards League and on the following Friday night hundreds of unemployed came from all over the county. The meeting was a huge success, defying the deputy sheriffs who waited on the outside of the crowd, and decided to demand permission to meet in the Hilliards School building in the future.

As a result of this fight hundreds of new members have joined the league and the Columbus papers have advertised the unemployed movement throughout the state.

In preparation for the national convention the office here has received reports that two more states will hold conventions in June. North Carolina and Missouri. California has already had its state convention and elected delegates and Pennsylvania will hold a convention in June.

GRAHAM, Mo.—Cooperation between farmers and the unemployed is essential, according to Henry N. Moore, chairman of the Nodway County Protective Association of farmers in Northwest Missouri.

Speaking of the general conference of the Association planned for the Western part of the state, Moore said, "The farmers realize the need for combined action with the unemployed." An organizer from Missouri unemployed leagues will be invited to address the conference, he stated.

Protesting foreclosures and agitating against the high cost of license plates the Nodway farm movement has organized ten counties.

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo.—All relief has just been cut off in this city of 18,000 inhabitants and only milk tickets are being given out. Relief officials have stubbornly refused to ask for Federal aid.

Unemployed workers, unorganized since an attempt at organization a year ago resulted in failure, met in the court house and formed a new league. They voted to go to the Mayor and demand that he make immediate application for (Continued on Page 2)

Farmers and City Workers Should Unite

Use Force of Numbers and Eat While You Strike

Townley Says

(Continued from Page 1)

agencies controlled by the producers themselves.

"Just as the farmer has the right to the land no matter who holds the mortgage, just as the farmer has the right to use the force of numbers if necessary and to break the rules called statute law made by the money lords, so the miners have the right to the mines because without them they must starve, the railroad workers have the right to the railroads because without them they must perish, the clothing workers have the right to the clothing factories because on them their existence depends.

"Let the city workers enter into cooperation and solidarity with the farmers and then you will be able to eat while you strike."

CPLA Pledges Support

NEW YORK, N. Y. — Pledging support to the nation-wide farm strike called by the National Farmers Holiday Association for May 13, the Conference for Progressive Labor Action, in a letter to Milo Reno, president of the Association, asserts that "this militant action on the part of the farmers of 18 states was a fitting reply to the martial law declared in Western Iowa against the intolerable conditions to which the food producers of the nation are subjected.

"We find that 17 million workers can be thrown out on the streets and the farmers brought to the point of starvation and evicted from their homes and farms without martial law being declared against the bankers, industrialists and profiteers," continues the letter, "but if the slightest disturbance takes place in connection with the protest of the masses of the people, the troops have to be called out against him."

"The only answer to such action is the organization of the masses of the people in order that they may take control of their own destinies and eliminate those who are oppressing them."

Relief Struggles Mount As Jobless Leagues Increase

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BONNE TERRE, Mo.—Angry unemployed workers and employees of the Dolesite mine in this town caught the relief official on the street and were going to beat him up for proposing to the mine that it substitute unemployed men for the men at work, paying them in relief instead of wages. The relief head convinced the men the story was untrue.

Efforts to break up the recently formed organization of the unemployed, headed by Gus Carlee and Karl Lore, gave rise to the rumor it is thought. The local paper, the "News-Register," has assured the public that the constable together with the county sheriff prosecuting attorney and Federal officers are investigating the movement "whose object is to promote friction among the unemployed," and implied that it is a move to organize the lean miners.

When the workers found the chief of the relief organization on the street there was a near riot.

We're Just a Happy Family Says Exploiting Mill Boss

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Pleading for industry to operate on "Christian principles" and not a shorter work week, E. J. McMillan, a big manufacturer and president of the Berkshire Fine Spinning Associates, told the House Labor Committee that the workers in his plant are "just a happy family."

"What do you pay them?" he was asked.

He admitted that women average \$12 to \$13 a week and that beginners get from \$9 to \$10.

"Just what is your idea of Christian principles?" the question came.

"You'd find our plant just a happy family," the manufacturer replied.

SEARCH IOWA FARMERS IN MILITIA RULE



Iowa militiamen, setting aside courts and the law to break the spirit of protesting farmers, are shown searching their victims. Farmers are getting a taste of strikebreaking tactics to which workers are accustomed.

Sees Bankers Behind Federal Economy Plans for Railroads

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Appealing to farmer, labor and veteran organizations to cooperate in opposing the "selfish interests" who try "to create friction between the classes of people we represent," A. F. Whitney, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, in a recent statement, attacks the theory that reduction of the present low wages of a million railroad workers would help the farmers by bringing about lower freight rates as "the rankest kind of false propaganda" in which the "wage-cutting hand of bankers" may be seen.

Proof of this, thinks Mr. Whitney, lies in the fact that "the railroad management's have never, in connection with recent wage conferences and requests for wage reductions, even intimated that they would use any part of the money saved by reducing wages for lowering freight or passenger rates."

Pointing out that wages constitute less than one-half of the total railway operating costs, the statement declares that "if railroad wages were reduced 50 per cent, and the entire amount passed on to the farmer, in the form of lower freight rates, the farmer would not be substantially benefited. When we consider the reduced purchasing power of a million railroad workers, as a result of wage reductions, the farmer would be actually and seriously injured."

With 800,000 railroad workers already thrown out of work, Mr. Whitney declares that "an economy program which threatens to result in more unemployment among railroad workers is criminal and those guilty of foisting such a plan upon the public should be ostracized and regarded as public enemies."

Mass Protest Legal Terror In Coalfield

GILLESPIE, ILL. — (Special).—Flaying public officials in Illinois for the reign of terror carried on against Progressive Miners in Franklin and Perry county, Claude Percy, president of the Progressive Miners of America, told a mass meeting in Belleville that officials from the Governor down are responsible.

"I do not see how a Jewish Governor of Illinois," he said, "who leads his own state to join in a worldwide protest against the persecution of his race in Germany, can fall to take action to stop the persecution of the miners within his own state. It shows a lack of moral courage."

Miners and their wives told President Percy stories of miners being dragged from their homes and beaten unconscious. Sitting with him on the platform was the widow of Henry Arnold, murdered progressive miner.

The meeting was in protest against atrocities.

"A hungry child is a hungry child," Catherine De Rorke, Women's Auxiliary representative for southern Illinois, said in describing the terror in Perry county. "It doesn't matter whether the child's father is a Progressive miner or pays big dues to keep John Lewis' family in luxury. But the sheriff of Perry county and the Mayor of Du Quoin are not concerned. They refuse to let the miners meet anywhere in the county."

Atrocities in Franklin county were described by Mrs. Glossop, Belleville Auxiliary president. She told the gathering that mine families were living "under the lash of the law."

Public officials, state, county and municipal, were blamed for the reign of terror. They are operating hand in hand with coal companies and the Lewis machine to crush the Progressive fight for a clean union, speakers said.

Quaker City UCCL Evicts Constables

Jobless Half Hundred-Fifty Evictions Without Losing One; Cites Law

PHILADELPHIA, PA. — (Special) — The Philadelphia Unemployed Citizens Cooperative League during the past few months, has handled over 150 eviction cases and has not lost a single one.

Workers are constantly wronged not only by legislation placed on the statute books but by being kept in ignorance of what the law really is so that they may take advantage of it as the rich, who are able to employ high paid attorneys, constantly do. By finding out the exact provisions of the Pennsylvania law in regard to evictions the U. C. C. L. has not only stopped dozens of cases where proceedings had actually been begun but has unquestionably prevented landlords from even beginning proceedings in many cases. The League has found that the following provisions in regard to evictions obtain under the laws of Pennsylvania:

1. Constables must not use force in making levies.
2. They cannot use a borrowed key or passkey to enter a house.
3. They must actually enter a house in person to make legal levy.
4. They must wait then five full days before having appraisal made.
5. The appraisal must be made by two realty owners.
6. The tenant has the right to refuse entry to the constable or his deputy.
7. The tenant cannot exclude a constable from premises after the appraisal has been made, when the constable reenters to make the sale.
8. Police entry into the house is not legal service.
9. After a writ of restitution has been served, 30 days must elapse. Then the constable must obtain a summons from a Magistrate and serve it. After another eight days, judgment by default is granted. Then another 10 days must elapse for an appeal from the writ of restitution. When this time has elapsed, if the tenant still refuses to vacate the premises a writ is issued and force can then be used to obtain possession of the disputed premises.
10. Between April 1 and September 1 of each year, the original 30 days is cut down to 15 days.

Since the constables in Pennsylvania are not officers of the law and consequently may not use force against citizens, the unemployed gather under the leadership of the U.C.C.L. at the place where an eviction is threatened. They explain to the mass meeting as well as to the tenant threatened with eviction what the provisions of the law and the rights of tenants really are. In this way faced with an aroused and intelligent public constables are diverted from serving the legal papers. Thus the tenant is left in the possession of his home as a result of the militant action of his fellow workers.

Landlords Hesitate

When all the steps above indicated have been carried through, the actual eviction under Pennsylvania law must be carried through by the sheriff under order from the court. This process is an expensive one. Consequently landlords are frequently discouraged from making any further effort to throw tenants out on the street. If a landlord is determined to get possession of a house, it may still be more advantageous for him to arrive at an understanding with the tenant and the U.C.C.L. Under such an agreement the landlord pays the expenses of moving the tenant and his first month's rent in a new location.

The Philadelphia U.C.C.L. urges all unemployed organizations to study carefully the laws in their own states and to insist upon the passage of legislation fully protecting the rights of tenants if the laws in their states are at present unsatisfactory.

WORKERS, FARMERS!

Write LABOR ACTION about conditions in your section. Order Bundles of LABOR ACTION to sell to your friends, neighbors and fellow workers!

FROM THE FIRING LINE

Lucas County Jobless Meet In Toledo, Organize League

From Toledo, Ohio, a call was sent out to the Lucas county jobless, saying in part:

"A convention is being called to get a true picture of the economic breakdown. . . . We are all in the same boat, and hope to meet on a common level regardless of race, creed or political party, to try to arrive at an immediate program to eliminate the cause of poverty in our land of plenty."

The report of the call and what happened comes from B. H. Williams who has joined the Ohio Unemployed League forces at Columbus and covered the convention.

He writes—

The result was a gathering of "forgotten" men and women in Toledo, telling of unbelievable conditions, plotting a united course of action adding another strong link in the chain being forged by the Ohio Unemployed League.

Sponsored by S. M. Sponseller, Albert A. Fair and T. G. Selander, the "Unemployed Economic Convention" represented many villages and townships, farmers and the unemployed, leagues and councils, lefts and A.F. of L. unions—almost all elements in Lucas county. A Negro group, the "Rainbow Club" of 400 members, sent able representatives. Domestic workers, school teachers, auto, railway and union men came to tell of the breakdown and to see what could be done.

Arnold Johnson from the Columbus office of the OUL was chairman. The convention lasted three days, beginning on the morning of April 21, and there were seven sessions.

The first day and a half were consumed in taking evidence on economic and social conditions. Delegate after delegate told stories of actual starvation, of inadequate relief administered by hostile trustees and other agencies

Congress of 2,000 at Washington

(Continued from Page 1)

and youth groups to have representation. State conventions are to be called within 90 days for the establishment of state committees and coordinating the work of local committees.

Local committees of action are to be established under the supervision of state and national committees. Their function is "to stimulate and coordinate united mass action for the aims of the Congress." Local committees are intended to fight to secure adequate local relief and increased employment, to assist workers in industrial struggles, help unemployed workers in struggles against evictions and for adequate relief, assist the farmers in their organized activities, carry on educational work.

Labor Party Resolution Voted Down

Resolutions urging that immediate steps be taken to build a united political party of the farmers, workers and professional groups, and for efforts to bring the fighting left-wing groups in the labor movement also into a united front for action on concrete demands, were turned down by the Congress. There were, however, large numbers in favor of such action and undoubtedly these demands will be raised again in state conventions and in local councils of action.

"The Continental Congress furnished renewed evidence that the workers and farmers are demanding action," said Louis F. Budenz, Executive Secretary of the Conference for Progressive Labor Action. "Some of the leaders of the Congress at least were compelled to take a much more radical position than they had intended to, under the pressure of the rank and file. The Congress was organized on too narrow a basis. It failed to take sufficient steps toward bringing all elements together both on the political and on the economic field. Nevertheless, good results may be achieved if the proposed local councils of action bring together all elements in the labor movement and really organize for action on unemployed relief, the 30-hour week, wagecutting and other matters, and do not confine themselves to pious resolutions and windy speeches."

Mill Village Worker Hopes "They Strike"

Textile worker writes about labor conditions in the mill village of Caroleen, North Carolina. Workers barely manage to live.

He writes—

I have a friend living in Caroleen and I spent Sunday night with him. He is a night doffer on spinning. His mother, a widow, I imagine near 60 years of age, occupies one end of the same old box house. She is a spooler on day shift.

Sunday night when she started to bed she called back to her son and said "They say the night hands are going to strike tomorrow night and if they do don't you have anything to do with it for it won't do any good and you will just be out of a job."

My friend laughed and said, "Well, mom, how do you think I can run that spinning by myself?" "I hope they strike," he said after she had gone to bed. "We barely manage to live on the wages we get."

I left Caroleen and the strike failed to come off but I heard the weavers were working up a strike and the company found it out before they got ready and the basement weavers struck anyhow and part of another department and they fired 15 of the leaders.

The day I was at my friends the State Board of Health was making the company clean the little wood house toilets. An old Negro preacher and a Negro boy were dipping them out with a rope and a bucket. When this operation began the people would go in and close the doors to try to keep out the awful odor. Yet in face of all this our mill owners tell our Northern friends that Southern mill operatives are the best paid and the best cared for of any workers in the South.

IN NEW YORK

FREE LECTURES

CPLA Headquarters, 128 E. 16th Street

Friday, May 19, 8:30 P. M. "The International Labor Movement." Speaker Ludwig Lore.

Friday, June 2, 8:30 P. M. "Functioning in and Through Mass Organizations." Speaker A. J. Muste.

Friday, June 16, 8:30 P. M. "Future of the CPLA; It's Task in the American Labor Movement." A. J. Muste.

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FOREIGN NOTES

By CHARLES LAGNER

GERMANY

In the central office of the Hamburg American Line the executive officials of that line observed the birthday of the German Reich's Chancellor with a celebration during which the Chairman of the Control Board, Marius Boeger, delivered himself of an enthusiastic Hitler eulogy. Every Nazi will now choose this line when he makes his next trip to the Fatherland...

Since then convention units and county councils throughout the state have elected additional delegates. The Southern California delegation will leave in a caravan of some ten automobiles. They propose along the way to gather up delegates from farmer and unemployed groups and march on to Columbus to a nation wide effective organization of the victims of capitalism—and lay the basis for a new America—a workers' and farmers' America.

GREAT BRITAIN

The Independent Labor Party of Great Britain has withdrawn from the second International and is making an effort to connect with the Third International at Moscow without official membership, however, since it recognizes that there are serious tactical differences which cannot for the present be overcome.

HOLLAND

In the election to the Dutch lower house the Social Democrats lost more than 6000 votes, polling 798,669 against 804,714 in 1929. The Communist Party profited by their loss, receiving four instead of two

California Jobless Win New Victories

By ANTHONY RAMUGLIA

THE movement of the organized unemployed in California is fast developing social vision, and militancy. There was a state convention of the U.C.R.A. in Oakland, across San Francisco over the Bay, April 10-11-12. The convention adopted a resolution to send a delegation of five to the Columbus, Ohio, National Convention of the Unemployed.

The fight on the convention floor on this issue, on two occasions, was heated. There was drama at one stage of the second fight, when state Chairman Krueger, awaiting anxiously to get into the fray and blast to smithereens the two lonely advocates of the Columbus Convention, fumbling nervously in his hands a copy of Labor Action from which obviously he was to quote some dreadful sentiments, was anticipated by your correspondent who read in part the stirring convention call to the delegates, from LABOR ACTION, and emphatically endorsed the sentiments therein expressed, and defended them. There was drama a few minutes later again when Dr. Wendell A. Diebold arose and in his resonant vibrating voice stirred the unemployed delegates by pointing out the national character of the unemployment problem, the acuteness of the suffering of the unemployed, the necessity of national action, of vigorous action, of a new Declaration of Independence. And the delegates on a roll call voted better than three to one for participation in the Columbus Convention.

mandates, the Revolutionary Socialists—a socialist secession movement of two years standing—which had placed candidates in three districts for the first time, won one seat. The success of the latter is the more remarkable since the S. P. H. and the C. P. H. have been unanimous in the bitterness with which they fought this new revolutionary party....

NORWAY

The Norwegian Labor Party which belongs neither to the Second nor to the Third International and whose program is based on a foundation of revolutionary socialism, has a membership of 87,315, an increase of 5000 over last year. The party has proposed to the Communist Party of Norway that they work on the basis of an organizational united front, but its offer was declined. "The C. P. can consider a united front only on a communist basis," says the General Council of the Labor Party in an announcement to Norwegian labor. "But a united front that retains the organizational split between us is a mere chimera. We are convinced that a united front within a single party is the only method whereby the fighting strength of the working class can be strengthened.... Our party is prepared at any time to enter upon negotiations with the C. P. N. to bring about the consummation of such a united organization.

prosecute, and Haddon was discharged. Printed notices have been pasted on numerous gas and electric light meters. "Do Not Turn Off, by order of the Unemployed Cooperative Relief Association." In cases where gas and electric inspectors have disregarded the notices and shut off the meters, the unemployed crews have promptly turned them on again.

Three weeks ago a celebrated eviction case trial went on in Huntington Park. The case lasted nine days. Mr. Gibbs and his family had been evicted for non-payment of rent. The unemployed Unit in Huntington Park moved Mr. Gibbs and his family and furniture back in again. Mr. Gibbs was arrested and charged with trespassing. The unemployed procured the gratuitous services of Mr. Wirin, an able attorney who reads "Labor Age" and "Labor Action." For nine days the trial lasted. It cost Los Angeles County over \$1000 to prosecute this unemployed worker—and the blamed jury—not only acquitted Mr. Gibbs, but took up a collection for his family. This was hailed, and rightly so, by the unemployed as a distinct victory.

THE unemployed of California organized in the U.C.R.A. are evolving into a compact organization. The U.C.R.A. has in this state over 100 Units with an average of 1000 families registered in each Unit. The articulate elements in the movement instinctively understand by this time, that the U.C.R.A. has tremendous potential power. How to exert this power,

how to get actual power in the state is the problem they are pondering over in their minds. The consciousness of the growth of their numbers and organizational compactness, is giving the unemployed a different outlook. There is no longer the tendency to win favors from individual politicians. That has been nearly eradicated by the growing influence of the progressive elements.

THE potential power of the movement may be dissipated of course if the unemployed go off on some half-baked notion. There is in some quarters the idea that the U.C.R.A. should incorporate, become a legal entity, and go into cooperative production. In fact some Units have already done so. Schemes of how to beat the depression, how to get into production and make jobs, abound like weeds in uncultivated soil. There are notions of soup and credit slips, and what not.

Beside these notions, are ideas of political action of the traditional A.F. of L. sort. Some speak of interviewing the politicians and supporting those that promise this or that for the unemployed. Others want to throw an election against one group to another because one group has threatened to cut off our gas.

Then there are those who depend entirely on mass action, and direct action. The idea, however, of independent political action as workers and farmers is gaining headway. "The State power—if we had state power" one worker remarked to me. "The State power—that is an idea worthy of consideration," I replied.

The future turns this movement will take depend on conditions of course—but greatly upon the hand of experienced progressives. Great is our responsibility.

"Just Get A Group Together And Go After What You Want"

By CARA COOK

I LIVE in the attic room of a member of the Ohio Unemployed League. His name is Arthur and he is a skilled painter, a union member. Pearl is his young, bob-haired wife; "brother" the six year old; Vera, blue-eyed, chubby 18 months. Arthur had, during prosperity, started to buy through a building loan company, the eight room, half-house in east Columbus. That meant regular monthly payments, but painters were working steady, with good wages. There was a four-piece upholstered parlor set and a radio and a washing machine. They never quite achieved a Ford. Taxes amounted to around \$200 a year.

Arthur has been unemployed now a year and a half, and his savings are exhausted. Since he "owns" a home, he cannot receive city relief. He cannot meet his mortgage payments, and the association has given notice of foreclosure. Taxes are out of the question. The house is neglected and growing shabby and dirty. The other night Vera died suddenly in convulsions, her lung tubercular-infected. Pearl and the boy must be examined, the doctor says; she has a deep cough. Arthur's eyes are wild these days. He comes to the League office.

JOHN Carr, 37, lost a leg in the mine, but he got a good cork one in its place, and worked as well as before, though not in the mine—odd jobs. A family of four, beautiful kids, the oldest 12. He used the cork leg so hard it wore out, then he couldn't work any more. The list of permissible relief items

doesn't seem to include cork legs. John's family has been moved to the poor house; he is a "bum" on society. He has joined the League.

WE drive into Marion, Ohio, past Warren G. Harding's monstrous memorial. We visit the local relief headquarters and receive, as proof of their efficient system, a mimeographed grocer's schedule of relief allowance PER WEEK.

The total is: \$1.25 per week for family of 2-3 1.50 per week for family of 4-5 2.38 per week for family of 6-7 2.83 per week for family of 8-9 Families of 10-12 (and there are many) are listed "same as 8-9."

IN Hilliards, a village of a couple thousand about eight miles from Columbus, they held their league meetings peacefully for weeks until in a little fist fight and argument about too expensive grocery orders one of the league members got a cut on the chin. The mayor, through the town marshal tips off the church janitress to stop the league meetings there. She obeys. At the next meeting, instead of the usual 50, there are about 300 from all over the county. It is held in the miserable shack of a member, and overflows into the yard and street. Flags hang on the porch; the meeting opens with prayer and the Star Spangled Banner.

Bill Truax talks to the men, "and we don't want trouble, but if this meeting is busted up we'll come back next week with all the unemployed league members in Ohio;" an Ohio State University professor speaks; the deputies hang around the outskirts of the crowd. Nothing happens, except some good publicity and a stream of new members into the office. They include:

PETE, an evangelist for the Church of the Nazarene. He knows the southern counties like a

The boys pointed to a row of dump-py outhouses in the back-yards. A woman running with a shawl clutched over her head toward one of these houses thought we were looking at her. "Kitchen sinks? We never heard of them things before. What's a bathtub?—a wash-tub like the men use?"

"But you told me you have running water? Where is it?"

"We thought you was meaning the creek. That's running water, ain't it?"

I explained. They were delighted. "Oh, the Super's got that! The Super's got it fixed that way—the water comes down outa the mountain. He has, honest!" The urchins were proud of the fact that the "Super," the big boss in a mining camp, had running water.

WE had arrived at Jim Ball's front gate. I gave TR a nicker for carrying the suitcase. He took it hesitatingly. The boys crowded about, full of wonder.

TR's blue eyes were question marks. He looked at me. He looked at the coin. He turned it over in his hand.

"What is it?" he asked. "What do you think?" I said. I thought he was spoofing.

"I don't know," he said. "I know what it is," cried one of the boys. "You play 'em in slot machines. Don't you, mister?"

"Shucks, I know what it is," declared a small boy. "It's money!" Golly, was it really?

"Real money?" "Sure." "But it don't look like it. It ain't like the kind we have."

"You are talking about scrip. This is real money." "And I can spend it at the commissary?"

"Sure." "I'll buy me a bag of tobacco!" And away they went.

Well then, these were the mining camp boys, the future miners. I would see the miners and their wives. The masculine and feminine life in a coal camp. The work. Some light and hope, maybe. Misery surely. And the answers to the questions—the results of the long dangerous struggle of the miners for a union and freedom.

(The second installment of this story, telling about the men and women in a Harlan mine camp a year after the long struggle of Kentucky miners in 1931-32 for a union and freedom, will appear in the next issue of LABOR ACTION. Don't miss it.—Editor.)

... KENTUCKY MINERS ...

A Four-Part Story About the Harlan Coalfields

By TESS HUFF

Part I. THE CHILDREN

IT was a freezing cold day the day I got off the one-coach passenger train and saw again the grey weatherbeaten mining camp. I can't give the name of the camp; that would be unwise, as you will see. All about were stuck the puny boxed houses, leaning flues and black smoke. The coal-shakers, the camp, and the entire valley lay in silence.

Beyond the big company store, however, was life—a dozen camp Arabs had managed a grand escape: they were running from all angles at a lad who was dodging through them with what might have once been a football. They saw the stranger wave a "come here" sign and stopped dead in their tracks, wondering what the devil, or who the devil. Then one of the boys took a chance; he came running, followed by seven others. They were little frames hung with odds and ends for clothing, and three were barefooted. The feet, however, were protected against the cold. They were, as the mothers

say, "mortified." That is to say they were encased in layers of thick black dirt that vanished up the pants.

"Do you fellows know Jim Ball?" I asked. "Does he live at the same place?"

No, they didn't all speak at once. The boy who had run ahead was the leader. This once, at least. He had bare feet, very crusty, and blue eyes.

"I know where he lives — over there," he said.

"Can you carry this suitcase?"

time, if it wouldn't snow. Shucks, he had plenty shoes at home, hell fire, a dozen pairs, maybe more. "That's a lie! O John Boles! That's a pime blank lie and you know it. I betcha ain't got one shoe in your house!"

"I betcha I have! You ain't been to my house," said he. Then importantly, "Santa Claus is going to bring me a pair of boots."

They were astonished at this childish ignorance and all began speaking at once. The puddle-holes and deep mud-ruts kept the boys jumping from roadside to roadside. The occasional paths, made with cinders thrown from backdoors, made walking adventuresome and lots of fun, since everyone kept as close as possible to "TR," the blue-eyed boy carrying the suitcase. The camp houses beside the road were dumpy square four-room structures with forlorn flues sticking out. The back porches were piled up with washtubs. Everything was old—old, ugly, dirty, and lost in layers of coal dust. Even the mountains.

"Do you have running water in the camp?" I asked.

It had been two years since I had visited Jim Ball; but I really didn't expect to find that anything so modern as running water had in the meantime been furnished the miners.

"Sure!" and "Shore!" said half a dozen voices. I was surprised.

"And you have kitchen sinks?—and toilets?—and bathtubs?" They were puzzled. "You mean toilets like that?"



book, and wants to go down there and start organizing people into the league, and let the church rest a while.

Moffett, veteran, a bonus marcher, interested only in the soldiers' pension, but finally convinced that the soldier's problem is common with that of all unemployed workers and the League is a hopeful medium of redress for both.

Aker, well dressed, dignified, a bit secretive; turns out to have been unjustly dismissed from the civil service ranks of the state industrial commission, on the excuse of economy; a good job, and his pride is much injured to be "on the street." He wants an immediate investigation of the entire commission's personnel and methods. It will take a bit longer to show him that it's all part of a system.

"Red," alert, bold, walks in, "Well, gentlemen, what's your proposition?" Is convinced it is no racket, and goes off with leaflets to distribute. If he's any good, he'll get his group organized and come back for a speaker.

Joe, Slovenian expelled several years ago from the Communist Party because he criticized its inefficiency; gets the idea quickly and completely; has a large following and a lot of organization experience. He comes back a week later with 300 members' names in a card file, demanding 500 mimeographed leaflets for a mass meeting "with a University speaker."

Fred, whose wife is about to have her ninth baby, and who cannot get more than one quart of milk per day for the entire family from the Red Cross. The "ultimate aims" of the League have little meaning for him, but the machinery of local league pressure is set in motion, and the chances of two quarts look good.

Walker, an unemployed school teacher, with an elaborate educational scheme for the local leaguers, to be organized and taught by unemployed school teachers.

The officers from Jefferson No. 1 with affidavits and a sympathetic lawyer to confer about ousting the local town officials who have mismanaged relief funds.

A delegation of Irate Athens County members—relief is to be cut off entirely there after May 1st, and they are up to see the Relief Commissioner at the Capitol. Three days later the newspapers carry the item: "A hunger march on the Athens County Court House was averted today when the trustees, after an all night session, voted to continue relief another two weeks. The securing of additional funds from the R.F.C. is being considered."

And, never-ending, local league secretaries demanding speakers, speakers, speakers....

SOMETIMES the terrific pressure of their immediate needs overshadows everything else. A man whose family is starving in front of his eyes cannot always appreciate the ramifications of an entire economic order, nor care much about "ultimate objectives." But somehow you feel those will be taken care of if the spirit that is now making itself apparent is maintained. They may not understand all the theoretical explanations of the beloved University professors, who for the most part talk over their heads and with little sense of what it really means to be unemployed, but the unemployed feel right about it. They spontaneously applaud the more radical sentiments, no matter how cautiously they are expounded.

Fear, apathy, selfishness are still there, but they are usually pretty obvious and weed themselves out under the watchful eyes of the membership. They are feeling the power of numbers and mass pressure, and are building up a faith in the power of ORGANIZATION which will carry them a long way. They have achieved enough tangible results to impress the shortsighted and doubtful, though they are often surprised at the simplicity of the League's methods,—"just get a group together, set up your committees, and go after what you want." The growing confidence of the members that this is their own organization, and there is no special axe being ground for anybody, gives the Ohio Unemployed League cause to believe that when its first national convention meets in Columbus on July 4th, it will verily be the occasion of a "new Declaration of Independence" of workers and farmers.

LABOR ACTION

A Weekly Newspaper
Serving the Interests of Workers and Dirt Farmers
Published by the
CONFERENCE FOR PROGRESSIVE LABOR ACTION
128 East 16th Street, New York, N. Y.

Subscription Rates:
In the United States \$1.00 per year in advance.
Monthly trial subscription 35 cents. Canada and foreign, \$1.50 per year.

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Under Direction of the National Executive Committee of CPLA

Volume I, No. 4.

Monday, May 15, 1933

IN WHAT QUARTERS?

WHAT is termed in some quarters his broad, humanitarian attitude toward the veterans as part of the unemployed. . . . This is from a story in the N. Y. Times telling about President Roosevelt's "order permitting enrollment" of 25,000 veterans in Citizens' Conservation Camps.

The Times does not say in what quarters these fine sentiments about the President are expressed. But we can imagine how delighted the veterans must be to have the privilege of re-enlisting in the army even though it is called something else. They are unemployed, their children starving, and the great humanitarian, with tears in his eyes, says, "I'll help you. I'll put you to work in my army—pardon me—forest camps." And the bankers cheered.

STRIKE THE HOT IRON

THE papers are full of reports about workers being taken on here and wages being raised there. The Roosevelt inflation program, we are assured, is bringing back prosperity.

The reason why these things are played up is to make workers think they do not need to organize and fight. Things are going to come their way again, just like that.

Workers, don't be fooled. This economic system will not bring back prosperity or solve the unemployed problem. Even if we have some upturn, millions will still be unemployed. A worker writes us, for example, about a brewery opening up. Formerly it employed 600. Now working full time it employs 100. New machinery has permanently displaced the other 500.

Many of these wage increases mean little or nothing. The boss gives a raise when he wants to get out some production. Then when things slacken a bit he takes the increase away. Furthermore, what does a 10 per cent increase mean to the head of a family who even with the increase gets only \$10 per week, or the child workers in Allentown sweat shops who get \$1.00 per week?

Workers must keep their eyes open and remember that their only hope is in putting up a fight. Inflation means high prices for everything we buy. Accept lower wages and the bosses will eat up all the profits from the little spurt which may occur in business. Strike for wage increases as the shoe workers in New England and the shirt makers in Pennsylvania are doing. See to it that you get the profit out of this temporary upturn!

THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

PERHAPS the most significant thing about the Continental Congress in Washington over the week-end of May 6-7 was the fact that several thousand workers and farmers came together to discuss their problems. This is another illustration that the masses in this country are stirring, that they want action.

The resolutions and declarations of the Congress were in large part good. The delegates responded to radical sentiment.

A congress, however, must lead to action or it is a mere talk fest. When the Continental Congress in 1776 declared the independence of the colonies from Great Britain it meant calling out the troops and getting down to business!

This recent Congress was too much dominated by the Socialist Party. Other organizations were not really drawn in. Thus to a considerable extent the very purpose of the Congress was defeated. The basis of the radical and labor movement must be broadened if we are to get anywhere.

The Congress avoided facing the living issues before it. No criticism of the present officials and policies of the A. F. of L. was allowed, in spite of the fact that the A. F. of L. had once more shown its reactionary character by telling its affiliated unions not to go to the Congress. No effective labor movement will be built in this country by those who do not stand squarely for opposing reaction, autocracy, racketeering and gangsterism in the unions, and for a progressive and militant unionism.

Those in charge of the Congress saw to it that no serious consideration was given to the possibility of developing a united front of all elements in the labor movement, including the left-wing forces, though unquestionably the vast majority of the delegates from outside New York were in favor of exploring such possibilities.

Those in charge of the Congress likewise saw to it that no serious consideration was given to proposals to take steps toward building a united political party of the workers, farmers and other producing groups in this country.

Whether the Congress will prove a landmark in American labor history or a talk fest will depend on whether these problems are faced, and whether the Local Councils of Action, which it is proposed to establish, really draw in all sincere elements among the workers and farmers for definite struggles against the forces which are starving, cheating and oppressing them. All must bend their energies to bring about this result.

Striking Workers Jolt Co-op Plans

SALEM, Mass. (Special).—The much advertised union-management cooperation between the United Textile Workers and the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Co., makers of Pequot sheets, received a severe jolt this week when 1,800 workers walked out on strike against what is in effect a drastic wage cut.

The Pequot Mills asked the workers to accept a plan to increase the number of looms per operator from 20 to 24 which would result in 150 workers losing their jobs.

Resentment among the workers has been growing for a long time, however. Two years ago a so-called research program, endorsed by union officials, was instituted. The workers rightly regarded this program as a speed up scheme from which they stood to lose. The present plan which the company and union officials tried to put over

was the last straw, and the workers rebelled.

It is reported that Thomas F. McMahon, president of the U.T.W., is conferring with Naumkeag officials in an attempt to smooth over the difficulties. Union workers are wondering whether their president still believes that the interests of the bosses and the interests of the workers are one. If he does—well, they are not yet saying what they will do, but your correspondent believes it will not be pleasant for Mr. McMahon.

Going Left?

MENA, Ark.—"Is American culture going left? Economics and politics—where are we headed?"

These questions head the agenda for discussion groups which will get under way for ten weeks when the second annual summer session and camp at Commonwealth College opens here July 3. A labor orientation course open to all and regular classes for enrolled students have been announced.

CAPITALISM

THIS IS HOW IT WORKS

By H. A. H.

ARE WE THE PEOPLE?

"Government of the people, by the people and for the people."

That is what we have been taught to believe our government is. And no doubt there are still hundreds of thousands of workers and farmers in these United States who believe that it is. But is it?

Are you an unemployed worker? Are you a penniless farmer? Are you a jobless school teacher? If so, are you unemployed and hungry because you like, because you are too lazy to work?

Or perhaps you think you are unemployed because there isn't any work to be done; if you are a farmer, because there isn't anybody who needs the food you produce?

But if you just stop for a minute to think, you will see that this is not true. For millions of people in these United States do not have decent places in which to live do not have enough clothing to wear—hundreds are actually starving because they cannot get food. Perhaps this is your own condition.

Yet thousands of factories in which more than enough of these necessities could be produced are closed down and the warehouses of the country are filled with food that is going to waste.

Then why do we have to put up with these conditions? If there are 17 million people who want to work, who want to make the things they need so desperately, who want the food which the farmer wants to produce, why do we have to starve and live in slums and see our children die?

Well, it all seems very complicated. Those who profit from our condition do everything they can to make it seem complicated. But as a matter of fact the reason for our condition is very simple, there is no mystery about it. We, the people, do not own the factories shops and mills. They are owned by the bankers and millionaires. If we owned all the great productive machinery of this country as the workers in Russia own theirs we would be busy making the things we need. We would not have to starve and sleep on park benches, wear rags. The Russian workers are not unemployed.

But we are the people, aren't we? Then if the government is of us, by us and for us, why can't we compel the bankers and millionaires to open the factories and mills. We want them opened, do we not? It is not our will that they are closed, that we are jobless.

The answer, of course, is that the government is not our government. It also belongs to the bankers and millionaires. It listens to them and not to us. The men whom we vote for on election day are not our representatives. They are the representatives of the capitalists who own and control both the Democratic and Republican parties.

Consider our present chief representative in the White House. He is not a worker. He is a rich man, a millionaire. The system which has made him of us, which is starving our children, has treated him very well. He does not see anything fundamentally wrong with it. He is interested in patching it up. In saving the rich men like himself. He does not want us to organize and fight for our rights. He wants us to be patient, to give the bankers a chance to get a stronger hold on us.

But if we are sensible we will not be patient. We will organize. We the farmers and workers of this country will join in mighty organizations for power to take the government away from the bankers and millionaires, to take the productive forces of this great country from those who use them to oppress us. We will do to our profiteers what the Russian workers have done to theirs.

ORDER YOUR BOOKS
from
Labor Action Book Shop
128 East 16th St., N. Y. C.
Send for Price List.

SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS FRATERNIZE ON MAY DAY



When the Socialist Party parade, nearing New York's Union Square, was met by the United Front parade, including Communists, Wobblies, members of the Conference for Progressive Labor Action and many other groups, instead of a clash there was a shouted invitation to the Socialists to stay for the United Front meeting, second on the program. Thousands accepted the invitation.

Art and The Law

NEW YORK, N. Y. — Capitalist vandalism is always accompanied by capitalist justice, administered by night sticks in the hands of capitalist police. This is the lesson that a group of art lovers learned here the other night.

When students heard that the Rockefeller interests had discharged Diego Rivera and were destroying his fresco, on which Lenin had been painted as the hope of those who toil, they planted a peaceful picket line in front of Mr. Rockefeller's theatre located in the heart of radio city.

New York police summoned by the vandals at work within the show place hemmed the pickets in on all sides and then plunged into their ranks with fists and night sticks flying right and left. The mounted police were more than vicious. One girl had her nose almost broken and several others were severely clubbed.

Waving The Flag

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Claiming to be the only patriotic organization headed by President Roosevelt, the United States Flag Association has published a book entitled, "The Spirit of the American Flag," in which worker political parties that advocate ownership of industries by the people are condemned as "unpatriotic."

The patriotic fervor of the author who has followed the flag of his country on the battlefields of three wars is reflected on every page of the book into which he has poured his whole heart and soul," the Flag Association announced.

Attacking working-class philosophies for democratic ownership and operation of industries, the author, a military man, pleads for big navies and armies. Upon groups that work to prevent wars he pours ridicule and scorn.

BOOKS FOR WORKERS

Communist Manifesto, by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, 5c.

THE other day I read a newspaper interview of a successful magazine publisher. The great man—and I say great because he has Cleaned Up in the best American manner—explained how he selects the kind of stories that the "common people" like to read. And here's the secret! But a word of caution—don't tell it, because somebody might quit reading the man's magazines, and while that might raise the cultural standard of the community it would only make the magazine business worse. The great editor's formula is quite simple.

Let's say a story about the movie actress, Greta Garbo, comes to the editor's desk. The rewriting begins. And when the story is finished there can be no doubt on three points: (1) Greta Garbo was poor once upon a time, just like the reader; (2) she had her many little troubles, just like the reader; (3) it was something inside her, an "inner something," just the same "something" the reader has, which made it possible for her to triumph over all odds and difficulties and climb to the glittering heights, just where the reader wants to be.

The smart editor, you see, figures

that people who read movie stories, and success stories, and confession stories, get satisfaction from being told that the heroes and heroines were ugly and in poverty and so on, like most readers are apt to be. And it is all a matter of vicarious living; the publisher dishes it out in a score or so magazines and people buy it, and he cleans up, and what have you? I really don't know. For one thing it is certain that a world of people are doing their "dream living" in an utterly false direction.

But it is just this sort of subtle propaganda, made-up and sweetened food for unsuspecting minds, that keeps the "common people" who read these magazines from facing the facts in the world about them, facts which make it literally impossible for them to rise from conditions of want and poverty. Millions read the doctored magazines, millions dream of success in love or the professions or business, yet they think and dream as "individuals," each to himself and for himself, while overlooking facts on the door steps.

The main fact for us all to get straight, is this. The pioneering days in America are over, the country is developed, the chances for individual success have grown less

and less, until today they are very slim. The whole economic system, broken down, gone gooey, is against the success of any one individual. The "common people," who are workers, and the sons and daughters of workers, are put into a position that they can't dream out of. We have to have the courage to face the music.

And this brings me to The Book to read—the book that has done more toward giving courage and a life purpose to more workers and "common people" in the past 50 years than any other book; The Communist Manifesto, written by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. But let me hasten to add, in case you don't like the word "communist," that it has nothing to do with the Communist party in America, any more than it has to do with the CPLA. The Manifesto is the property of all working-class organizations, the bible of the world's class-conscious toilers.

The copy before me is priced 5 cents, it has 44 pages, and in these pages there are great flashes of lightning that illumine the world we live in. You see and understand what's happening not only to the individual, but to the masses, to all society. Best of all you realize that you are not an individual, but that you are one of a great many individuals, all trying in various ways to escape from wage-slavery and the clutches of poverty. And that it can be done! That collectively, we can do it!

Here, I am sure, is the one best book in the world for all workers.

If you like the vicarious business, how's this? The workers are poor and hard-worked, and sometimes hungry; they know many fears and hardships; in short, they do the world's work but they are the world's unfortunates. Then all together they succeed in freeing themselves from slavery, and they build a workers' world, a workers' republic of plenty! If the magazines carry stories more exciting than that, I'd like to see them. And certainly most of us can recognize ourselves in this story, poor and sometimes hungry and all that; that's us, my readers! And we all want to succeed, too, in a big way.

Well, when we translate this little pamphlet into mass action and reality, it will be the biggest triumph and success the "common people" ever had, and I don't know of any other way that we can succeed. Do you?

T. H.

The Devil You Say

By TESS HUFF

The Hocus Pocus of Inflation

A magician came to my town and I saw him pick money from the air, handfuls, handfuls, and it was the easiest way to get money I had seen. I decided I would never be a cowboy or an Indian again, I would be an American and make money.

When I explained to my father my plans for practicing up and snatching half-dollars from the atmosphere he was depressed. But after thinking it over he seemed to be delighted. "It is a good sign," he said. "I believe you are cut out to be a banker."

Pretty soon there was me myself, T. Val-Tasman, making the boys believe I was gathering silver pieces from their ragged clothes. It was fun but the number of half-dollars was always the same and I never succeeded in adding a single one to the stock by any amount of hocus pocus. I see now that I should have been a banker.

When you can make a dollar change to half a dollar and still have the appearance of being a dollar, you are a real magician. And when you can change two dollars that a worker happens to have in his pocket to one dollar, and make him think he has still got two dollars, and when you can rob all the workers of half their money, like Roosevelt and the bankers are doing, that's wizardry on a grand scale and it beats picking money from the air all hollow.

Just how this hocus pocus work is done and why is told by Earl Sparling in a little book called, "The Primer of Inflation," published by the John Day Company, New York, \$1.50. They take your money away and the only place you can feel them touch you is in the stomach.

The rich get richer, of course, but the workers and the masses profit from inflation too, in experience. "Good heavens," they always cry out between the biffs and bangs and the lams and slams of inflation, "How high everything's getting!" They always think prices are going up and that's what fools them. They wouldn't suspect the capitalists and the government of playing them a nice little banker's trick with money.

It is hard to believe a dollar is not a dollar as long as it looks like one. Beans go up in price, as though something had happened to beans. It's all in the trick money.

In many countries inflation has ruined the masses time after time, says Mr. Sparling, whisked away everything they owned or earned. In the United States there have been three inflations, each bringing disaster to the people.

Nevertheless J. P. Morgan is enthusiastic for Roosevelt's inflation. "I regard the action now taken as being the best possible course under the circumstances," says Mr. Morgan.

But the bankers have lots of tricks. Inflation was adopted only as a last resort, mind you, after the trick of "credit inflation" had fished the government, the workers, the people, the "backward" nations, of the last possible "safe" penny.

"Here in the United States each class has its own kind of money. The people use currency; the financial rulers use money created by the bankers."

Who would believe such a thing of our government?

"They, the capitalists, the financiers, the great manufacturers and business barons, are a small band: the \$40,000,000,000 to \$50,000,000,000 of mental money can be split among them in large parts. With it, an intangible money written on bankers' ledgers, they accumulate the tangible things, the real wealth of the nation, its mines, its forests, its billowing acres, its teeming cities, its smoking factories. So that after a while, according to undisputed figures, 90 per cent of the wealth of America accumulates in the hands of 2 per cent of the people."

The devil you say, Mr. Sparling.

Picking money from the air, then, is small stuff. The bankers do it much better indeed. They make their own money, yet take what the people have from their pockets, yet leave it there, and the people see it all the time and think it's there, but it isn't. And that, dear Satan, is magic! I don't think Roosevelt can save such a system. Do you, Mr. Morgan? Do you, Mr. Will? Do you, Mr. Green?

"On With Labor Action"

"Editor of Labor Action:

"We took up a collection at our weekly meeting of the Unemployed Workers League and collected \$2.50. One dollar of this was voted to Tom Mooney's defense and the remaining money was voted to be sent to LABOR ACTION. Our people like the paper very much and it is only too sad that they are unemployed and penniless.

"Enclosed you will find a money order for \$1.50 towards helping to keep your good paper on the press.

"The unemployed are spreading their organizations over the state. LABOR ACTION is the best organizing paper that we have found.

"So on with LABOR ACTION and we will try to do our action on the front in building a great movement of the forgotten men.

"Yours for a united front of the American workers,
MIKE DEMCHAK, Mt. Carmel, Pa."

The spirit of this league shows the way to keep LABOR ACTION on the press. A small sum like this from leagues, localities, branches and groups of workers will keep LABOR ACTION going out to the unemployed masses.

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