

# LABOR ACTION

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AMERICAN WORKERS PARTY

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## C.P. Members Club Workers on West Coast

### Left Opposition Meeting In Los Angeles Disrupted

### Girl's Arm Injured

### A. W. P. Branch Calls for Workers to Oppose Terrorism

LOS ANGELES.—Sticks, clubs and rubber hose were used by members of the Communist party who rushed the door of a Left Opposition meeting here, throwing the hall into bedlam and severely injuring a girl's arm. Police intervened and the Communist party members ran.

The American Workers Party in Los Angeles denounced the disruption as hooliganism.

#### Struck With Hose

Struck on the arm by a rubber hose, while selling literature, the girl asked the men why they were striking her. She explained that she was a member of the Proletarian party.

"It doesn't make any difference if you are not a Trotskyite," she was told. "You have no business attending one of their meetings."

Police offered to protect the meeting against further assault but the seventy-five people in the hall refused and the meeting was broken up. Selmar Shactman, member of the American Workers Party, had spoken two or three sentences from the platform when the assault began, the disrupters rushing the door swinging clubs.

#### Against Terrorism

In a resolution after the affray the American Workers Party declared the CP had officially adopted Hitler tactics. Deploping Fascist methods, the resolution urged the great need for unity among all working class groups against terrorism.

"Such tactics following so closely upon the Madison Square Garden incident, it is obvious that the official Communist Party not only does not condemn but officially condones and recommends the use of Hitler and Mussolini tactics in its relations with other working class organizations.

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## Mass Meeting in Irving Plaza May 1 Sponsored by AWP

The May Day meeting of the American Workers Party, a program full of high spots, was announced today.

Art Young, dean of American radical cartoonists, will speak on "Hell on Earth". Theodore Dreiser, world famous author, will speak on "Tragic America." Louis F. Budenz, Herman Gund and Larry Cohen of the AWP will discuss "What Price Unity?"

James Rorty will read his revolutionary poems, the announcement states, and revolutionary dances will be given by Virginia Mishnun. A. J. Muste will be chairman.

The meeting will be at Irving Plaza, 15 and Irving Place, at 8 PM, Tuesday, May 1.

## Electric Men Demand Plan Be Restored

### Local No. 3 Progressives Fight Move to Drop 3000 From Union

NEW YORK.—A petition of approximately 1,000 signatures of members of Local 3, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, demanding that the Unemployment Allowance plan recently railroaded out of existence by Bert Kirkman, president of the local and former member of the Socialist Party, be restored and improvements submitted, was forwarded to D. W. Tracey, International President.

"Abolition of the plan will automatically drop about 3,000 men from the union," Moe Smith of the progressive forces declared. "Unemployed and unable to pay dues, men who have been members in good standing from five to 30 years now stand alone without any protection unless the International Office adopts measures to reverse the decision."

#### Submits Resolution

The resolution to abolish the plan was submitted by Harry Van Arsdale, Jr. Van Arsdale is out of Sing-Sing on a writ, having been convicted and sentenced from 6 to 12 years for shooting two opposition members in the electrical

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## 'New America' Theory False Budenz States

### Denies Middle Classes Will Revolutionize Production

### "Idea Fantastic"

### Only Workers Can Lead, A. W. P. Official Declares

"There is a strange theory in the land, particularly present in the New America group, that the workers' revolution will be put through by the middle class," Louis F. Budenz of the American Workers Party, speaking at the AWP conference in the Engineering Building declared.

"This nonsense is exceedingly dangerous. The workers, in revolutionizing the productive system, will have to win over the support of other groups and sections in society, but to imagine that the middle class, the liberals, or any section of small business and professional people will take the lead in revolutionizing production by taking power and setting up a Workers Republic is fantastic.

#### Middle Class Confusion

"The notion, blindly straddling the facts, may sound attractive to people struck by the insanities of capitalism but who are yet afraid of the class struggle, afraid to join with the workers. But it is a dangerous illusion and springs from middle-class political confusion."

Indicting American radical parties for not studying the psychology of the working masses, Budenz said that the workers are tired of being told that they are downtrodden and miserable. They are hungry for a different message. Many of them want to know how control may be taken. Others are looking back with the American Federation of Labor and William Green to 1929.

#### Can Control Machine

"The workers are afraid of revolution because they do not understand how to take control. Like middle-class liberals and pseudo-radicals many of them fear the industrial machine might get in a jam.

"But the productive machine can be taken over. The workers have the intelligence; in their day to day work and struggles they develop the strength and the discipline. Taking the lead, but with the aid of other sections of society who are being shoved by the crisis into the proletarian ranks, the workers in America will revolutionize industry and replace capitalism with a Workers Republic."

## National Guard To Drill Often

WASHINGTON.—Young men who belong to the National Guard and receive a few dollars a month will drill oftener this year. The war bill appropriating \$316,228,991 for fighting purposes will whip the home companies into shape for quick calls to action.

"They will drill 48 periods each year and the extra cost will not be wasted," said a government spokesman for the bill.

National Guard units are "loaned out" to big industrialists by the state and national governments to break strikes, critics of the bill said. They are also used to disperse hungry crowds.

## Bill Reich Is Held on Riot Blame in Ohio

#### TELEGRAM

Bill Reich framed and found guilty on first count. Decision is being appealed.

COLUMBUS, Ohio.—To justify their brutality when they charged into a peaceful group of men, women and children, injuring many the Columbus police department attempted to "frame" Bill Reich, one of the victims. The group of unemployed had assembled to protest the treatment of an evicted family. Reich was pulled from the speakers stand and slugged into unconsciousness by the cops.

After four days in the hospital he was rushed to jail and held on charges of "disorderly conduct" and resisting an officers."

Reich was convicted on the first charge at the hearing Wednesday. The verdict was immediately appealed.

## FERA Strikes Worry Relief Heads in Ohio

### Jobless of 15 Counties Unimpressed By Coercion

#### By BILL REICH

COLUMBUS, Ohio.—Strikes of FERA workers in fifteen Ohio counties, demonstrations and protests in others, have thrown consternation into the ranks of relief officials. Vain threats and coercion are being attempted to get the strikers back to work. "This is a serious thing," said Gen. F. D. Henderson, State Relief Administrator and Commander of the Ohio National Guards. "A strike against the Government is not quite the same thing as a labor dispute."

He threatened to starve the workers into submission by withdrawing all relief funds from communities on strike.

#### 30 Cents an Hour

The statewide strike was called by the Ohio Unemployed League

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## Leagues Join Auto Strikers; Courts Forbid

TOLEDO, O.—Two sweeping injunctions against the Lucas County Unemployed League and the United Auto Workers federal union has been the answer of the Auto Lite Company and the Bingham Stamping Co. to the strike of workers in automotive parts plants here. . .

#### Mann Picket Lines

The court edicts, handed down by the Court of Common Pleas, are striking recognition by the employing interests of the cooperation between the Unemployed League and the unions in this vicinity.

The Unemployed Leagues have manned the picket lines with the striking auto workers, at the same time that the Central Labor Union has cooperated in the demands of the unemployed through the Joint Committee for Adequate Relief.

#### Mass For Relief

A mass demonstration for relief was staged by this committee, on the heels of the issuance of the injunctions. Employed trade unionists and unemployed joined in the demand for decent measures for the protection of the jobless.

The injunction issue has become a challenge to organized labor in Toledo, it being realized that the future life of the movement depends on vigorous action against court intervention in strikes. The leagues have urged that they are ready to meet the issue squarely.

## Students Paint League Fights

COLUMBUS, Ohio.—Students in the unemployed school of the league are busy covering the class room walls with pictures of recent eviction fights. The first evening they covered the class room walls with white paper. The next evening they began murals picturing the league struggles.

In one corner is shown a huge factory closed down with a sign "No Help Wanted." Between the windows is a breadline. On a large wall the students are painting an eviction fight. The final mural in the room will be a march on the state house. The marchers will carry banners for a Workers' Republic.

## Negroes and whites Unite; Tobacco Employees Join Unemployed League

#### (Special to Labor Action)

GREENSBORO, N. C.—Threats by the R. J. Reynolds and the Brown Williamson tobacco companies to dismiss employees who join the Unemployed League indicate the employer alarm at the growing strength of the organized unemployed in North Carolina.

Many of the workers are joining the League in defiance of threats from the bosses. Working in the tobacco plants, many of them earn only \$5 a week.

#### They Stand Together

Relief officials attempted to divide the grievance committee of the League by refusing to see a committee of Negroes and whites. The committee stood its ground and refused to confer with the officials unless they saw them together.

The officials finally gave in.

#### Back To The Farm

Since the abandonment of the C.W.A. program the "back to the farm" slogan has been raised. Unemployed who have fallen for this find themselves stranded as soon as they get their seed planted.

Automatically cut off from relief, they are stranded on "their farms" without food or a means of support for their families.

## No Shortage of Men

PINE BLUFF, Ark.—In the fields surrounding the Tucker Prison Farms thirty-six men are hitched to farm machinery, doing the work of mules.

"There is a shortage of mules," superintendent Steadman explained.

## FLASH! FLASH!

#### RECOVERY

WASHINGTON.—"The individual worker's real wage today is no higher than it was a year ago, in spite of all efforts to raise it," says the conservative AF of L. A press dispatch reports federal relief expenditures cut nearly 50 percent. Figures released by government statisticians indicate that a national 32-hour week in "prosperous" times would leave a permanent army of 4 million unemployed.

#### CRACKING DOWN

BIRMINGHAM.—By Cracking down on the government and threatening "civil war" Alabama coal operators won the right to pay their miners 80 cents a day less.

CLEVELAND.—5,000 workers in Fisher Body plant strike for wage increases, shorter hours and union recognition.

#### RECOVERY!

Tide Water Oil reports net profits of \$7,265,301. Montgomery Ward February-March profits \$1,000,000. American Tobacco 1933 profits \$17,401,207. Standard Oil \$17,600,000. National City Bank \$4,500,000. Niagara Hudson two-months profits \$1,311,000. Associated Gas & Electric "write-up" placed at \$88,103,000. General Food profits \$3,679,650 for three months.

#### STEEL WALLS

EUROPE.—Belgium has launched plans to build a wall of steel between herself and Germany. The wall will be impregnable against any army, military engineers say, and will be similar to the wall of steel built by France.

May Day meeting at Irving Plaza, 15 and Irving Place, 8 PM, announced by American Workers Party. See story on this page.



## FERA Strikes Worry Relief Heads in Ohio

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in protest to the dropping of CWA and to the low wage scales and reduced relief ratings under FERA. In many counties wages have been lowered to 30c an hour.

The strikers demand recognition of the Ohio Unemployed League as the official organization of the organized unemployed, a minimum of 30 hours work per week at 50 cents per hour, supplementary relief for large families and adequate compensation for illness and injuries incurred on relief jobs.

### Threat Wins \$1,000,000

Many concessions have been granted by county relief authorities. A minimum 50 cents per hour rate, increased relief ratings, and concentration of work so as to eliminate time lost in going to and from the job. Threat of a strike obtained an additional \$1,000,000 of federal relief funds.

The essential demands, however, have not been granted. The workers have attempted by mass picketing and peaceful demonstrations to win their points.

At Lima, Allen County, a crowd of 2000 booed Gen. Henderson's stupid attempts at intimidation. At Newark, Licking County, FERA strikers paraded with 600 strikers from the Pharis Rubber Co. A general strike loomed when 800 employes of the Wherle Foundry threatened to walk out in sympathy with the other workers.

### Help Auto Workers

At Toledo members of the Unemployed League picketed several Auto-parts factories on strike. An injunction was obtained to restrain the League from these activities. The sheriff sent deputies to enforce the decree.

In Franklin County where over 500 workers laid down their tools, vicious newspaper propaganda was turned against the League. Headlines halfway across the front page of the Columbus Dispatch screamed "LEAGUE CALLS STRIKE, ONE MAN QUILTS WORK."

### Strikers Remain Out

In Mahoning County, FERA work has not been started. Relief officials have become entangled in graft, red tape and petty politics while the unemployed starve.

Other counties where strikes or demonstrations occurred are: Jackson, Fairfield, Meigs, Woods, Ottawa, Sandusky, Athens, Butler, Columbiana, Pickaway and Erie.

The strikers threaten to remain out until all demands are met. This will be entirely possible since, as far as can be learned, all strikers have been receiving the customary food orders.

## Electric Men Demand Plan Be Restored

(Continued from Page 1)

workers headquarters, and is at present business manager of the local.

Attempts to remove Van Arsdale have failed. International President Tracey, refuses to act in the matter, progressive members charge.

The Allowance fund, which keeps unemployed members in good standing, protects insurance policies, old age pensions and gives other benefits to the membership, has paid out some two million dollars since its inception. The fund is made up by a 15 percent assessment of working members.

David G. O'Hara, financial secretary, characterized the plan as the best had by any labor organization. O'Hara was elected by progressive force, defeating the former treasurer who in 1922 was convicted on a charge of robbing the local funds and insurance benefits belonging to widows of deceased members.

## How Many Pairs, Mr.? But First Let's See Your Money

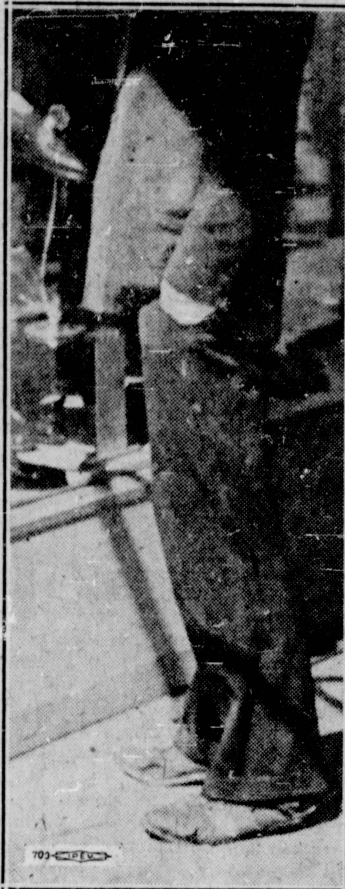


(Federated Pictures)

With his own shoes shined but no customers, the man above poses for a snapshot to go with a newspaper story on what they call "recovery."

There are customers for shoes, the second picture shows, and there are shoes to be bought. But something keeps the customer out of the store while the clerks inside nap and shoe workers are idle.

If the man by any chance gets money, prices of shoes immediately rise. Can you beat it?



## Workers Party Strikes at Theory of Social-Fascism

### The Anti-War League Must Change Its Policies; Cites Madison Square Garden Affair

NEW YORK.—Charging that the official Communist party theory of social-fascism, which leads to breaking up meetings of other working class groups, and its tactic of the united front from below, make it impossible for the American League Against War and Fascism, dominated by the Communist party, to build an effective united movement against these evils in the United States, the American Workers Party informed the League today that it could no longer take part in its activities until the disruptive policies have been renounced.

### Cite Garden Affair

"It is matter of life and death to develop truly effective action," the AWP statement to the League said. "But to enter a legless man in a race against an able-bodied runner and say that we must bet on the legless man because he is the only entry wearing our colors is sheer insanity." The AWP cited against the League its recent declaration that the Madison Square Garden affair, where a mass meeting was disrupted by the official Communist party, was not within its jurisdiction to pass judgment on.

"The American Workers Party agrees that Social Democratic policies and tactics are inadequate and false, but to class Social De-

### Due For A Fall

"We are asking the International President to restore the Allowance fund and submit proposals that will safeguard the good standing of the membership," Smith said. "The present corrupt leadership is due for a fall this June, when officers are to be elected. Their attitude seems to be that unless they maintain control they will disrupt the union."

### STRIKE

ST. LOUIS.—3,000 workers in Chevrolet body plants strike for reinstatement of 115 union men.

mocracy and Fascism as being the same thing, as twins, leads to utter confusion. We submit that the League at once concern itself with the following ends:

### Ask Public Statement

"That the Communist Party officially, publicly and clearly fascism. ate the theory of social-fascism. That it publicly repudiate the tactic of the united front from below. That it make clear that it unqualifiedly condemns the tactic of breaking up the meetings of other working-class organizations. That the CP agree that the united front is to be for specific and clearly stated ends to be striven for by specific and agreed-upon methods, and that agreements made are to be kept."

"Failing a satisfactory solution of these problems, we must finally withdraw and seek more effective ways of building the united front against war and fascism," the League was told.

## Newark Notes

### Public Meeting

A. J. Muste and Karl Lore will speak in Newark May 2. Comrade Lore, New Jersey organizer for the AWP, will discuss "The Need for a New Revolutionary Party." Muste will present "The American Workers Party Program." Meeting at St. Regis Hall, 34 Park Place, opposite Hudson Tubes, 8 PM.

### AWP Dinner

The Newark branch will give a dinner May 18. V. F. Calverton, Ludwig Lore, George Schuyler and Louis F. Budenz will speak. Place and price to be announced later.

### Anti-Company Union Campaign

The committee working on a survey of company unions in the Newark area has completed the major details of its inquiry. The next step will be positive action. If you are interested in this and want to help build genuine unions write to Anna Horn, 129 Madison Ave., Irvington, N. J.

## Indian League Organizer Vindicated of Armory Theft

### Texas Frame-up Fails as Confessions Link Stolen Guns With Desperados

By CARL BRANNIN

DALLAS, Texas.—The attempt to railroad L. C. Keel, unemployed organizer, has apparently collapsed. Three men, two of them kinsmen of Raymond Hamilton, South-west desperado, admitted this week that they had received and concealed two Browning automatic army rifles and 100 rounds of ammunition, stolen from a government armory at Ranger, Texas, Feb., 19. Keel and three fellow workers had been arrested for the theft.

Authorities believe that Hamilton and Clyde Parrow, another outlaw, robbed the armory and left the spoils with the three men who have confessed.

### Organized Thousands

Keel and the three workers are out on bail. The Chamber of Commerce crowd has made frenzied efforts to railroad them.

A Chickasha Indian of strong personality, Keel has organized thousands of unemployed and CWA

workers in his county and adjoining counties into the Workers Cooperative League. The league has been a thorn in the side of local politicians, using mass pressure to remedy bad relief conditions. After picking Keel up the rangers ransacked his home and terrorized his wife, telling her that she would probably never see him again as they had "the goods on him."

### Sheriff Invents Plot

Keel submitted conclusive proof that he was in Houston on the night of the robbery. The sheriff claimed that one of Keel's associates had signed a confession implicating him in a conspiracy to arm the unemployed with stolen weapons and secure their rights by violence. Bail was set at an exorbitant figure, but was later reduced to \$1,000.

Now it looks as if they'll have to cook up another charge or turn Keel and the others loose. Keel will make full use of the situation for more intensive organizational work.

## Let Railroads Have Profits Franklin Says

WASHINGTON.—The railroads demand further wage cuts. The railroad workers demand wage increases.

"I cannot avoid the conclusion," said President Roosevelt, faced with this delicate problem "that during the remainder of this year, it is very important that increased earnings (of the RR companies) should be used in the rehabilitation of the properties and in providing such added and improved services as the increased service may demand."

The railroads the President speaks for have just topped their 1929 earnings of \$511,000,000, climbing in 1933 to \$533,000,000. Meanwhile a total of 66 percent of the railroad workers who owned homes or were paying on homes in 1929 have lost them since that time, one million are out of work and 150,000 are working for the railroads for from \$5 to \$7 a week.

## C.P. Members Club Workers on West Coast

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"The point has now been reached where no language or criticism can be strong enough to prevail upon the official Communist Party to refrain from such terroristic, hooliganistic and fascist methods.

### Conference Proposed

"In the face of the aggression of the capitalist class, the fascist tendencies in the Roosevelt administration, the growing war danger, the assault upon the workers standard of living, the increasing anti-liberal and anti-working class sentiment arising among capitalist organizations in the city of Los Angeles and throughout the United States, the crying need today is a united front against all acts of aggression regardless of its source.

"We members of the Los Angeles branch of the American Workers Party propose a united front conference of all workingclass organizations who recognize that the danger of terroristic and fascist attack is held in common, and that ways and means of organizing in common defense is an immediate issue of the day. We are ready to participate in such a conference at once."

## Workers Are Fighting Back

### Want Cash and Homes National Leader Tells Pinchot

HARRISBURG, PA.—Relief is inadequate and men and women, long out of work, are fighting back, Anthony Ramuglia, president of the National Unemployed League, told Governor Pinchot and the state emergency relief board. "Relief schedules are low and the unemployed are tired of food and clothing orders. They want cash," he declared.

Ramuglia spoke for delegates from leagues in Luzerne, Columbia, Northampton, Northumberland, Monroe and Lehigh counties. The delegates came to the state capitol to demand higher relief schedules and larger appropriations.

### Would End Evictions

Attacking the present distribution system, the National President said the leagues are demanding the payment of rent and no more evictions.

"Recent events in Pittsburgh and Allentown where crowds fought officers seeking to evict families show that the organized unemployed are fighting back," the state relief officials were told.

The emergency board allocated \$9,739,285 for work relief, food and clothing for the rest of April. League leaders said the sum was inadequate.

## New York Notes

### Conference Results

Attendance at the eight sessions of the AWP Week-end Lecture Series varied from 75 to 250. Seventy-five copies of the AWP Programmatic Statement, 100 copies of LABOR ACTION, and 15 LABOR ACTION subs were among the items sold. Seventy-five names were turned in for future notices, and two workers applied for Party membership.

### Saved From Mussolini

The life of Anthony Bellussi, Italian born anti-Fascist, was snatched from the hands of the fascists last week by 400 workers and intellectuals who packed Stuyvesant Casino to raise the funds necessary for his "voluntary" departure to Costa Rica. Had the funds not been raised, the U. S. Government, which insists that Bellussi leave the country, would have handed him over to Mussolini's butchers.

Among the speakers were A. J. Muste, James P. Cannon of the Communist League, and George Novack.



## In the UNIONS

By KARL LORE

In 1918 Dr. William A. (Kerensky) Wirt was school superintendent and all around flunkey for the powers that ruled the steel trust town of Gary, Indiana. The teachers had begun to organize. The American Federation of Teachers had been formed a short time and the Gary pedagogues built Local No. 4 into a strong and energetic body; but Dr. Wirt knew that his masters didn't like organization. Gary's steel slaves, owned body and soul by the steel trust, might get the idea too. So he fought the union and by 1924 the local was dead, disbanded because he had terrorized the teaching staff into turning back its charter.

He is still superintendent of schools in that city. Fear for their jobs and of wage cuts are constantly held before Gary's educators. Unlike other cities where the salaries are based upon a fixed minimum scale to which increases are made with years of service, each teacher's compensation depends on the "success mark" chalked up by the school principal who has practically arbitrary power to move it up or down. It is clear that no teacher who believes in such outlandish things as organization can hope to get a very high mark.

Dr. William A. Wirt was certainly the right man to find the revolution hiding behind the rose bush in the back yard of the White House.

### Another Miners Revolt

Another secession movement is under way among the coal miners. In Illinois and in Pennsylvania the Progressive Miners and the United Anthracite Miners were formed in rebellion against the United Mine Workers. Now from Washington comes word of an organization known as the Western Miners Union which is fast sweeping over that state and which plans to carry the organization message into other western coal fields. A number of mines are out on strike under its leadership, very effective picketing has been carried on and a women's auxiliary has been organized which has done excellent work. Harmful as it certainly is to the best interests of the miners to have this division in their ranks, it is probable that there will never be a united union of the coal diggers as long as John L. Lewis is the President of the United Mine Workers of America.

### New National Unions

Whether the American Federation of Labor likes it or not it is going to be faced in the near future with the problem of deciding what to do about a number of new national industrial unions which have organized themselves and are asking for charters from the A. F. of L. In the glass industry a national industrial union of 15,000 workers has been formed as the Federation of Flat Glass Workers of America. There were sixteen Federal and local unions represented at the organizing conference held in Columbus, Ohio.

A stiff kick in the pants for the A. F. of L. policy in the basic industries was administered by the workers of the Lynn, Mass., plant of the General Electric recently. Some months ago a number of A. F. of L. Federal Unions, two independent unions and one company union, organized the Electrical Industry Employees Union, a vertical union, outside of the A. F. of L. In a vote supervised by the Regional Labor Board the E.I.E.U. entered the lists against both the A. F. of L. and the company union and won a smashing victory for the industrial form of organiza-

tion. The vote was 2,744 for the E. I.E.U., 1,513 for the company union and 75 for the A. F. of L. This independent organization is not opposed to affiliation with the A. F. of L. At their next convention they plan to apply for a charter in that body. But they are insistent on the need for an industrial union.

Federal Unions in metal fabricating plants in many parts of the country are striving toward a national organization also. This may be the next field in which definite action is taken. Workers in Aluminum, aeroplane, radio and other industries have already taken preliminary steps.

### Newspapermen Get Smart

The recently formed Newspaper Guild is learning what organization means. It has won its first victory in signing an agreement with the Philadelphia Record which provides for the checkoff of union dues and the closed shop. It doesn't work so easily everywhere however. The N. J. Guild Bulletin reports that the movement is forging ahead in Hudson County, that Atlantic City is organized and that the growth in South Jersey can be measured daily. In Paterson, however, intimidation and coercion have been used to prevent organization. Mr. Haines of the "Evening News" of that city doesn't like the Guild and is determined to keep it out of his paper.

The main worry of the publishers seems to be to keep the Guild free from "entanglements" with the rest of the labor movement. The issue of affiliation with the A. F. of L. is coming increasingly to the fore however as the news-men and women realize their identity of interest with other organized workers.

### Union Briefs

The latest "American Federationist" A. F. of L. organ, carries a stiff attack on General Motors for their refusal to recognize the unions. On page 374 of the same issue it prints a full page add for that same labor hating outfit. . . The first local of librarians ever to be organized in the U. S. has formed out in Butte, Montana as an A. F. of L. Federal Union. . . Everybody's organizing. The latest is a local of three surgeons in Marion, Ohio.

## U. S. Farm Bill Means Sabotage Hacker Says

NEW YORK.—President Roosevelt's signature to the Bankhead bill means government sabotage of efficiency in agriculture.

This is the opinion of Louis M. Hacker, nationally known authority on farm problems.

Speaking at a conference of the American Workers Party, Hacker described the bill, which forces every cotton grower to limit production as "a tragedy, a wreckage of efficiency."

"There will be a lessening of mechanization, a steady decline of modern methods. The whole program is one of government sabotage," he said.

Growers who produce more than their allotment under the county quota cannot move the excess to the market, according to the new law, without paying to the government a 50 percent tax on the value of the cotton.

Agriculture has always been used in America, Hacker said, by the industrialists. The present plan to export agricultural products springs from a desire of the capital industries to get cheap import raw materials and is not designed to help the farmers.

### NEW YORK READERS

LABOR ACTION wants subs, but it also wants a table on which to wrap up the subs it has! The office is badly handicapped for lack of table space. Can't you "chisel" one for us somewhere? Anything from a card table to a pool table is welcome! And always, of course, we need typewriters!

## Evictions Will End If State Is Organized, Leader Says

ALLENTOWN, PA.—One of their comrades arrested for protesting the eviction of a widow and four children, 300 league members who crowded City Hall to demand his release were driven into the street by police swinging clubs and fists. A police cordon was thrown about the building to hold back the crowd.

### Cites Indignation

Anthony Ramuglia, National League President, returning from Harrisburg where he had laid before the state relief board, league demands for cash relief and cessation of evictions, told the Allentown unemployed that indignation against scanty relief and mounting evictions was cementing into a

solid organization every unemployed league and man throughout the state.

"This fight against evictions cannot be won permanently until this organization is complete and statewide. The National League must have an organization in this state of at least 50,000 members, and we will shortly have that many," he declared.

Leagues, he said, have been formed in Carbon, and Berks county in the past few days and are in the process of formation in other sections. The Luzerne County League which sent delegates to Harrisburg has 3,000 members, but is not yet affiliated with the National organization.

## The Manager Speaks

The subscription campaign in April came in like a lamb, but seems to be going out like a lion. After a sluggish start, returns are speeding up, and coming in bunches of ten and even fifteen.

But it is still early to publish detailed figures, and all we'll say now is that Newark, Paterson and Toledo, in the below-100 quota, are running a close race for first place, and that in the over-100 class the New York Branch and the national office are tied at about 10 percent of their quotas.

George Perkins, a steel worker in Youngstown, Ohio, was the first member of the Vanguard of 100 to send in ten subs, with one extra for good measure.

"Hank" Mayer of Virden, Illinois, was second with a dozen subs and a note:

"Enclosed is \$3.25 for subs for several militant workers who have subscribed, or to whom I want to send the paper because they should know what LABOR ACTION and the AWP mean. Send me another book, and I will get ten more, and these will be for six months or a year."

### AND YOU READER!

What is LABOR ACTION to you? And what are you doing for the campaign? As some subs come in,—and others don't, I find myself wondering what you think about it, if you think!

Unemployed workers are scraping up subs out of their relief pitances. Comrades who have continuously sacrificed to build the paper have contributed once more to pay for branch greetings in this issue.

toward an

## AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY LABOR MOVEMENT

draft program of

## THE AMERICAN WORKERS PARTY

112 East 19th St., N. Y. C.

price

25 cents

## NEWS REEL

By A. A.

"Cotton Industries Position Held Best in Six Years", shouts a New York Herald-Tribune headline. . . Best for whom? Ask the textile workers, they know!

Here's one more manufacturer who has no use for the Tugwell bill! We quote the following from a trade-paper:

Washington, D. C.—The Federal Food and Drug Administration has found that mothers working in the New England textile mills are giving their infants a preparation which is supposed to be a cough remedy but which in reality contains morphine, and hence is a soothing syrup.

Dr. W. G. Campbell, administration chief, says that a quantity of the product has been seized on the grounds that the labeling—for coughs, colds and bronchitis, is fraudulent.

The mothers, according to Dr. Campbell, give their children the preparation before they leave for work in the morning.

The label of the bottle containing the so-called cough remedy gave directions for its use for infants.

More than 35,000,000 Americans are without visible (and invisible for that matter!) means of subsistence.

The United States is spending at present twice more for the Army and Navy than it did before the World War.

The deadly parallel—deadly for the workers!

### Headlines

Child Labor Vote Killed by Senate . . . Industries Fight Unemployed Insurance . . . Morgan Company Sold Air Stock Just Before Cancellation Mail Contracts . . . Alabama Troops Bar Strikers . . . Slum Clearance Plans Tabled by Administration . . . Utility Reports Rise in Income . . . Anaconda Copper Shows 27% Gain . . . Nickel Plate Net Up . . .

Or, in the words of our daily press, Recovery is Definitely Under Way—for the capitalists.

### More Economy

New York City effects sharp cut in appropriation for Board of Health services to school children. . . Too bad for the children, but the Chase National Bank, the National City Bank and the other Rockefeller and Morgan banks must get their pound of flesh.

Great Victory for Gen. Johnson, the NRA, the New Deal, Code Compliance, "cracking down", dead cats and what have you! Union City, N. J., pants presser fined \$100 and sentenced to jail for thirty days because he pressed a suit for 35c, a whole nickel less than the minimum prescribed by the code. Weir, Budd, the Fifth Avenue Coach Company, Frick and the General Motors must be just trembling in their respective boots!

Workers Protect your Family in Case of Death, Sickness or Accident!

## Workmens Sick and Death Benefit Fund of the United States of America

ORGANIZED 1884

Sick Benefit for Men

\$6, \$9, \$12 per week

Sick Benefit for Women

\$6 and \$9 per week

INCORPORATED 1899

350 Branches, 50,000 members throughout the States

Assets \$3,566,000

Sick & Death Benefit paid since organization: over \$19,000,000

Age limits: 16 and 45 years of age

Free medical care through local physician

Hospital Benefit \$18 per week for four weeks in any year

DEATH BENEFIT \$175 to \$885, according to age at entry

Children Insurance, Assessments 10 Cents per month

Benefits range from \$20 to \$200.

Information through the Main Office 714 Seneca Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Telephone: HEGEMAN 3-4058

### GREETINGS

to  
LABOR ACTION  
from  
Forsyth County  
Unemployed League  
North Carolina



LABOR ACTION

With which is merged LABOR AGE

Published on the first and fifteenth of each month by the CONFERENCE FOR PROGRESSIVE LABOR ACTION 112 East 19th Street, New York City

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Organ of the AMERICAN WORKERS PARTY

MAY DAY

MAY DAY BELONGS TO THE FIGHTING WORKERS. It was first observed as a labor holiday in the United States in connection with the struggles of American workers in the 1880's for the eight hour day. Then it was adopted by European workers until at last it became a world-wide labor holiday. May Day reminds us anew that workers get what they organize and fight to get. Not by reliance on employers or government but by reliance on themselves do they advance.

Striking American workers, North, South, East and West, in automobiles, steel, oil, textiles, agriculture are acting on this conviction at this very time. To all these fighters the American Workers Party extends fraternal May Day greetings.

MAY DAY IS THE DAY OF LABOR SOLIDARITY. "Divide and rule" has ever been the slogan of Labor's enemies. They sow confusion, arouse bitterness, create divisions among the workers. This May Day finds tendencies and tactics in the labor movement which have brought us to such a pass that it is impossible to get united action even on so simple a matter as trying to get Tom Mooney out of jail or defending a class war prisoner. That confusion must be ended. On this tragic May Day the American Workers Party dedicates itself anew to work for united action on the part of all workers and working-class organizations, despite their political, religious, national, racial or other differences.

MAY DAY IS THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR HOLIDAY. Slimy, would-be patriots seek to play upon the feelings of the workers in each country, to arouse them against the workers of other lands. America for the Americans, Germany for the Germans, France for the French, is their cry. These same super-patriots do not hesitate, however, to make profits in any part of the world at the expense of the workers of every nationality, including their own. Their purpose is to make the workers ready to go to war in order to massacre each other. During such wars the super-patriots do not even hesitate to make profits out of the blood of the workers by selling munitions to both sides. Against all attempts to divide the workers along nationalistic lines, May Day proclaims the brotherhood of the workers of all lands, their unity in the struggle against unemployment, war, fascism, capitalism and the whole insane, crumbling economic system which breeds them.

MAY DAY IS THE SYMBOL OF LABOR'S FAITH, HOPE AND TRIUMPH. The steel trust, the automobile lords, the textile barons, the predatory financial interests in this land and throughout the world will not win. They may gain one temporary victory after another over the working masses. In the end they will lose. We, the workers, will win and establish a world of justice, fraternity and peace. We have been naught, we shall be all!

RAIL UNIONS Vs. ROOSEVELT

BACK in 1916 the organized railroad workers got behind the Adamson 8 hour law. The leaders of the Railroad Brotherhoods, backed by an overwhelming strike vote of the membership, sat in the galleries of Congress with their stop-watches in their hands saying:

"If this law isn't passed by such a time, there will be a general strike on the railroads of this nation."

Congress passed the law and President Wilson signed it.

Then the old men on the Supreme Court bench shook their long beards and said they were afraid the law was unconstitutional. The unions answered:

"We don't care whether you think the law is constitutional or not. Every consideration, including that of public safety, demands that the long hours on the railroads cease. If you declare the law unconstitutional, we will tie up all the railroads of the country until we get the 8 hour day."

The Supreme Court said, "Gentlemen, the law is constitutional."

This significant bit of American working class history comes to mind today when the railroad unions are fighting President Roosevelt who is demanding that they accept for another six months a 10 per cent "deduction" in their wages.

The unions point out that the railroads are making money which is being used to pay dividends on watered stock. They demand that this money go to the workers without any further delay.

The railroad unions have a conservative social philosophy. They have been depending in recent

years on "cooperation" with the management of the railroads.

They constitute, however, the largest and most stable section of organized labor in the country. The rank and file have suffered terrifically from unemployment, short time and wage-cutting. They know that "they have been played for suckers" by railroad bondholders.

The spirit that got the Adamson 8 hour law in 1916 will get results now.

STEEL WORKERS CONVENTION

THE 59th annual convention of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, the A. F. of L. Union in the steel industry gives some startling indication of the militant mood of labor in this basic industry and the growing impatience with the policies of its leadership.

President Mike Tighe announced at the opening session that, as usual, "Puddler Jim Davis" ex-senator from Pennsylvania had been invited to address the convention. To the Amalgamated official-dom Puddler Jim, long a member of the union is "the home boy who made good." To the consternation of the old guard, delegates from Gary, Indiana, rose to challenge his right to speak. Another and ruder shock came when the membership, by an overwhelming majority, overturned the recommendation of the credentials committee and voted to seat lodges whose dues were not paid up.

This is good work. This beginning shows a real determination on the part of the rank and file to have the kind of a union that must be built if labor in the mills is to withstand the attacks of the employers. The year ahead will see a series of drives to obtain union recognition in the great steel plants. No union can make the steel trust back down unless it has real fight, real backbone and a genuine determination to do the job.

One of the resolutions before the convention is for the reinstatement of Elmer Cope, member of the P.O.C. of the American Workers Party who was expelled from the union for his militant position and activity in building the A.A. He stands for the same things that the progressive group who have already shown their mettle, stand for. He should be reinstated in the ranks.

A strong union in the steel mills! At Homestead, at McKees Rocks, at Newcastle and at Ambridge men have laid down their lives to bring it into being. Now there is a real opportunity to bring it into being, to erect a real monument to the brave men who fought that fight. The militants must not let the chance slip by!

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

LABOR ACTION is accomplishing more here than several organizers", writes a steel worker comrade from Pittsburgh. "Its factual stories about what the workers in other sections are doing, and its sane articles and editorials act as a unifying force and a guide to action. It's our duty and responsibility now to see that it comes out regularly and to just as soon as possible make it a weekly."

Similar letters come from comrades in other sections. The demand for our paper is growing fast. Workers everywhere, industrial, professional, agricultural, are hungry for information about the world in which they live, eager to understand why millions of them can find no work and why they must go without the bare necessities when there is an abundance of materials and machinery. To supply this information, to analyze and interpret the forces in capitalist society which are driving the masses into starvation and misery and to point the way out—this is the function of Labor Action.

And this is our responsibility—to build Labor Action. We must make sure that the growing number of workers who look to us for information and guidance are not disappointed. As the comrade from Pittsburgh puts it: "It's our duty and responsibility now to see that Labor Action comes out regularly and to just as soon as possible make it a weekly."

Comrades, members of the AWP, fighters in the revolutionary movement everywhere—we must build our paper. Let us move forward together. Let our slogan be "5,000 new subscribers by July 4!"

It is just this absurd "theory" of non-participation by Communists in reactionary Trade Unions that demonstrates most clearly how light mindedly these "Left" Communists regard the question of influence over the "masses", how they contradict their own outcries about the "masses". In order to be able to help the "masses" and to win their sympathy, confidence and support, it is necessary to brave all difficulties, attacks, insults, cavils and persecutions at the hands of the leaders (who being opportunists and social-chauvinists, are, in most cases, directly or indirectly connected with the bourgeoisie and the police), and to work by every possible means wherever the masses are to be found.—Lenin.

JOIN THE AMERICAN WORKERS PARTY

American Workers Party, 112 E. 19th St., N. Y. C.

Name .....

Address .....

Occupation .....

What's Happening ABROAD

by Ludwig Lore

Austria

Austria has deprived a number of her most prominent Socialists of citizenship. Dr. Otto Bauer, Dr. Julius Deutsch, the leader of the Schutzbund Heinz, the chairman of the railroad workers Koenig and the ex-editor Dr. A. Sturmthal were the first to fall under the ban. . . . 200 Austrian children for whom the Woman's International League for Peace and Freedom had found homes among freedom-loving Swiss citizens, were prevented by the government from leaving the country. . . . According to official figures 1280 families in Vienna alone have been robbed of their supporters by death, disability or imprisonment as a result of the February uprising and must be sustained by public or private means. . . . Two communists who were found in possession of weapons during the February uprising have received prison sentences of 24 and 36 months. . . . The Austrian libraries are being "cleansed" of all Social Democratic, Communist and anti-religious books and writings. . . . According to government reports there are 2500 Social Democrats in Austrian concentration camps; all charged with high treason.

Canada

The growing strength of the Fascist Blue Shirts movement which already counts 25,000 members impelled the Provincial legislature of Manitoba to adopt an unwise essential reactionary law, ostensibly directed against anti-Semitic propaganda, which may, however, at any time, be used against the radical and revolutionary labor movement. . . .

China

The long-heralded government campaign against the Communist Armies has begun with an attack on the city of Tschangtscha. Chiang-Kai-shek has placed 200,000 men and 60 great air bombers in the service of the campaign. . . .

Finland

Seven of the Fascist revolt of March 1932 were sentenced to prison terms of from five months to three years last week. At that time the Lapua (Fascist) Party had taken possession of the city of Mantsala and had demanded that the government carry out a program depriving Communists and Socialists of all civil rights. . . . A law adopted by the Finnish parliament empowers the government to sequester all communist property and to forbid the creation of Communist organizations. . . . The spirit of the Lappo movement dominates the government and the parliament. . . .

France

The recent demonstrations of workers and government officials in Paris ended with the arrest of 940 workers. . . . The Communist deputy Doriot, the founder of the French Communist youth organization, was expelled from the party for "opportunistic policies." He was one of the most active and most popular Communist leaders in the French party. . . . On the Easter morning the 80 year old Calvignac, the first Socialist mayor of the miners city of Carmaux, one of the founders of the Second International, died. . . . The French cooperative societies have organized a sick benefit society for their members which will furnish them with medicine, surgical assistance, with the help of two cooperative drug stores, a large clinic, a dental clinic and an orthopedic institute, all of which be housed in a central building of the cooperative society. . . .

Germany

During the last two weeks members of radical labor organizations were arrested and sentenced as follows: Chemnitz—

one Communist was sentenced to death and another to seven years in prison; in Berlin—one Communist to 12 years in prison; in Breslau twelve workers to 24 years in prison; in Berlin—six young Reichsbanner SPG members to 14 years in prison; in Hannover—three Communists to seven years in prison; in Neusalz—three Social Democrats to five years in prison; in Bolkenhain—1 Communist to four years in prison; Arrested: in Munich 33 Communists; in Essen (Krupp) 18 workers; in Bremen 48 Social Democratic members of the Reichsbanner; in Hamburg 50 members of the Red Front. . . . The former Socialist Reichstag deputy Dr. Marum who was tortured in the concentration camp until he committed suicide was laid to rest by more than 3000 workers although the police had strictly forbidden all demonstrations. The government had offered to release him if he would sign a pro-Nazi declaration. . . . From eight cities in the Ruhr district 3870 children were sent to farms in Pomerania and Schleswig-Holstein as young farm workers to "remove them from the confusing political influences of their home surroundings." . . . Germany's industries are conducting elections for shop chairman, elections which naturally are proceeding under tremendous terrorist pressure. Reports in Nazi newspapers show a depressing situation. In the Ruhr district the official Nazi candidates received 90-96 per cent of all votes, with a participation of 85 to 93 per cent of the workers in the election. In Sachsenwerk (Litch und Kraftaktiengesellschaft) the Nazi polled 91 per cent of all votes cast.

Great Britain

In the British district elections the Labor Party was enormously successful. 25 per cent of the elected deputies were women. . . . The House of Commons is discussing a law to curb revolutionary propaganda. All such propaganda among persons connected with the army and navy is to be severely penalized. . . .

India

In Calcutta a meeting of the Port and Dock Workers called by the union was forbidden by the authorities. . . .

Soviet Union

The tractor factory in Stalingrad celebrated the completion of its 100,000th tractor. . . . The all-Russian Soviet ordered a revision of Russian court procedure and the dissolution of the GPU, the Russian secret police. Henceforward the government will no longer have the right (through the GPU) to sentence offenders by administrative procedure without court trial, to banishment or imprisonment. Every prisoner will be entitled to a public trial. Two thirds of the huge staff of the GPU has been discharged. The dissolution itself will follow shortly. . . .

Sweden

The organization known as "Independent Communist Party" will in the future be known by the name "Socialist Party of Workers and Farmers." It explains in a declaration just issued by the party that is remains unalterably opposed to the revisionist and anti-revolutionary policies of the Social Democratic Parties and their International. . . .

Czechoslovakia

The demand of the Austrian government that the Treasurer of the railroad workers Union Koenig, be extradited to Austria for the "misappropriation of trade union funds" was refused by the Brunn police authorities with the statement that the Dollfuss government was prompted in its demand by political motives. . . . German Fascists in Czecho-Slovakia have founded a "German Labor Union" under the direction of leading National Socialists. . . .