

"The idea becomes power when it penetrates the masses."
—Karl Marx.

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The Mass Lock-Out in Sweden

By ARVID F. VRETLING
(Stockholm, Sweden)

THE present situation in Sweden is characterized by the fact that the capitalists have commenced a wholesale offensive against the working class. The lock-out, which effects 130,000 workers in the most important branches of industry, is the signal for great social struggles. But in its struggle the bourgeoisie is not only aiming at economic ends, but is making a political attack upon the social democratic government and the Communist Party.

Labor Rule a Farce.

The elections in Sweden which took place in the Autumn led to the overthrow of the right bourgeois Trygged government. The social democracy succeeded again in getting the governmental power into its hands. But the taking over of the government by the social democracy does not imply a parliamentary victory, based upon a majority in parliament, for the present government is now, as formerly, dependent upon the favor of the bourgeoisie. The capitalists have understood how to adapt their policy and their tactics to the existing situation. They were perfectly aware that a conflict with the working class would be unavoidable, that the increase in the prices of food was bound to worsen the position of the working class, and that it would therefore be better to form a so-called labor government in order to feed the workers on illusions and thereby keep them quiet. It is much easier to carry out the enslavement of the workers behind the screen of bourgeois democracy and with the help of the social democratic leaders. And in fact the social democratic government has very ably played its role as lackey of the bourgeoisie. The capitalists have made use of the bourgeois slogan of the social democrats, "peace within the country," in order to launch an offensive against the unprepared workers. The effects of the Dawes plan are compelling the Swedish employers to cheapen their industrial products by reducing wages. When the capitalists raised a cry over the necessity of rendering their industry capable of competing in the world market, the trade union bureaucrats, in alliance with the government, agreed with it and thereby warned the workers against taking up the struggle.

When at the commencement of the New Year the collective treaties were concluded between the employers and the workers in the textile and metal industries, the defeat of the workers was obvious. These agreements have resulted in real wages remaining at the same level, as the price of food is rapidly rising.

Fascisti Used to Break Strikes

Some groups of the workers have for long been carrying on an isolated struggle against the exploiters. This is the case with the coal transport workers in Stockholm, the electrical engineers, the workers in the pottery industry etc. In these struggles, as well as in the strike of the agricultural laborers and forest workers, strikebreakers and fascist organizations were made use of on a large scale. In north Sweden it came to regular battles between the workers and the strikebreakers. This fact provided an occasion for the leader of the financial capitalists in the reichstag, Admiral Lindman, to submit an interpellation, as to whether the government was prepared to protect those who were willing to work, i. e., the strikebreakers.

This interpellation, in connection with the new army discipline bill, is the testing stone for the government. In regard to the military question, the social democrats have already approached very near to the proposal of the liberal party and thereby completely ignored their own election pledges. According to the proposal of the social democrats, the military budget will amount to 120 million crowns. Against this proposal the Communists are putting forward the slogan of the "Workers and Peasants Militia." But the bourgeoisie is not satisfied with the proposal of the social democrats and the liberals. It wishes to lay more millions upon the altar of bourgeois militarism. The object of this agitation for armaments is an alliance with Finland and the Baltic countries against the Soviet Union, and the arming of the bourgeois state and its fascist organizations against the workers and small peasants.

Moscow Worries Them.

At the same time there has set in an unexampled campaign against the "adherents of Moscow." The so-called Communist Party of the renegade Hoeglund and the social democrats

are good allies of the bourgeoisie when it is a question of supporting this campaign. The renegade Hoeglund has already landed in the stinking swamp of social democracy and has set himself one task: to do as much damage to our party as possible. For this purpose he employs the basest and most mendacious means. But Hoeglund has no influence upon the masses and is only a gramophone of the revolutionary phrases of Paul Levi and other stranded politicians.

The bourgeoisie, of course, makes good use of this treacherous policy of the Hoeglunders and the social democrats in order to proceed more sharply against the dangerous Bolsheviks. Many workers have been condemned by the court for having fought against the strikebreakers, among these is the secretary of the Young Communist League and two other comrades who have received six months and one month imprisonment respectively.

All this shows quite clearly enough that the bourgeoisie has made all preparations in order to undertake a wholesale offensive against the workers. The lock-out by the employers' federations has caused great excitement among the masses. The government immediately intervened—not to support the workers, but instead appointed an arbitration committee consisting entirely of bourgeois people. The chairman is the present ambassador in Helsingfors, Elmkvist. The first result of this arbitration committee was the postponement of the lock-out until the 16th of March. Now, as previously, the government and the trade union bureaucrats will do everything possible to arrive at a compromise and thereby preserve "law and order in the country."

Workers Demand General Strike.

The Communist Party of Sweden has issued the slogan of the general strike, and this slogan has been received with great enthusiasm at mass meetings held in many places. The social democrats are furious and are attempting by demagogic means to hold back the workers from the fight. In spite of the continually increasing cost of living, the slogan of the social democrats is the maintenance of the status quo. The syndicalists have issued the demonstration slogan: occupied the demonstration slogan: occupied

(Continued on page 5)

IN THE MIDST OF PLENTY



Philanthropist:—Why have you not a home?
Unemployed Building Workers:—We build too many homes.

Party Functions of Nucleus Members

By OSSIP PIATNITSKY

In an article "Nuclei and Local Party Organizations" I dealt with the necessity of continuing the organization of nuclei in factories and of putting before the already existing nuclei all questions connected with the political party and trade union life of the country and all questions appertaining to large sections of workers and peasants.

But here I want to deal only with the work of the nuclei in the factories and with the distribution of functions among nuclei members, which among other things should give an impetus to the activity of all party members, thereby providing an opportunity to draw the best elements of the working class into our Communist Parties.

LET us take for example a medium nucleus of 20 to 30 members in any factory.

At the first meeting, which generally takes place in the presence of the representative of the district or town (in a little town) leading organ of the party, the leading organ of the nucleus (bureau or presidium) is elected. It generally consists of three to five comrades. The latter after getting to know the members of the nucleus, distribute the work among the nucleus, taking into consideration the capacities and inclinations of the nuclei members for this or that kind of party work.

AT its meeting, the nucleus as a whole lays down the lines of work, it draws up the plan of party campaigns, makes decisions on contentious questions which are binding for the nucleus, receives reports from the nucleus bureau and from comrades entrusted with definite functions and defines its relation to them.

All the decisions of the general meeting of the nucleus, and the entire work are carried out by the nucleus bureau and by various nucleus members. I will therefore deal very fully with the distribution of work among nucleus members.

It seems to us that the distribution of work within the nucleus should be as follows:

1. If there is a factory committee in the factory including nucleus members, it should carry out the instructions of the party in the course of its work; these are at the same time the instructions of the nucleus.

In the factory committee they form the Communist fraction which is connected with the nucleus bureau. But in the event of the factory committee not including any Communists, the nucleus bureau should instruct some of the nucleus members to keep systematically in touch with the work of the factory committee, to elaborate various proposals on questions of interest to the factory workers and to place these proposals before the factory committee and the general meetings of the factory, which proposals should be submitted by the members to the nucleus bureau for approval.

As these comrades become familiar with the work of the factory committee and with the questions it deals with, they can be put up as candidates to the factory committee when the time for re-election comes, their candidature being promoted either by the nucleus or by a group of factory workers in accordance with the conditions prevailing in the country (in accordance with the legality or illegality of the Communist Party) and in the factory.

2. Abroad there are in factories and works members of various trade unions (for instance in the railway workshops, carpenters and joiners belong to the woodworkers' union, the locksmiths and turners to the metal workers' union and the unskilled workers to the general workers' unions.)

It frequently happens that there are in the same factory members of metal workers, wood workers and other unions adhering to the Amsterdam Federation, to the Profintern, to Catholic and other federations. The nucleus bureau of such a factory should appoint one or several nucleus members for work among the ad-

herents of the various trade unions and also among workers of the same trade who have not yet joined a trade union.

Party members entrusted with trade union work must study very thoroughly all questions concerning the respective trade union conditions of labor, wages, working hours, etc. They should watch the work of the administration of the local trade union branch, as well as the work of the national and international administrative bodies. They must be regular readers of the trade union press, etc.

It is only by familiarizing themselves with all questions connected with the respective union that they will be able to agitate among the workers in favor of adherence to the union, to criticize the activity of the leadership of the unions and to introduce at the trade union meetings of this or that undertaking proposals concerning the unity of the trade union movement and the introduction of necessary changes in the personnel of the administration should the latter be unsatisfactory.

I have dealt in such detail with the work of the nucleus members entrusted with trade union work in the factories, because it is of the utmost importance at the present juncture to draw all unorganized workers into the trade unions and to agitate

among trade union members for trade union unity. We must realize that these are the two necessary conditions for a successful struggle against capitalism, as the experience of the last few years has shown.

It goes without saying that agitation for trade union unity must be concern of all the members of the nucleus, but the comrades specially entrusted with this work must make a deeper study of this question in order to provide the other nucleus members with the material necessary for agitation.

During elections to trade union conferences the above-mentioned comrades, as trade union experts, can be put up as candidates from the nucleus. These comrades should, and in fact, must be connected with the Communist members of the administration of the respective local trade union who will give them information and instructions concerning trade union work.

THE work of the Communist fraction in the trade union administration will also be much easier if it can depend on comrades doing systematic work among trade union members, in the factories where the nucleus functions. The comrades should of course work in the factory under the guidance of the nucleus bureau.

and if the latter deems it necessary, periodical reports on the results and the methods of work should be presented by these comrades at the nuclei meetings.

3. The idea prevails in some of our sections that election work is not the business of factory nuclei, but is mainly the business of street nuclei in the residential districts of the workers. But this is not so, for work connected with municipal, state and national elections will also require the continuous attention of several comrades.

It is essential to ascertain in good time where workers live, to have them entered in the lists of voters, to provide them with election literature, to gather information concerning the opponents and to place this information before the members of the nucleus in order to give them material for agitation and to organize mass attendance of workers at the election meetings of our party, etc., etc.

4. If the said factory has different shops, the nucleus bureau is to appoint a responsible nucleus member for work in each one of the shops. These comrades will have to be in charge of the entire many-sided party work in the shops.

5. If women are employed in the factory, one or several nucleus members should be instructed to work among them in accordance with a plan elaborated by the department of the local or district committee for work among women. Even if the factory does not employ women, efforts should be made thru the workers of that factory to draw their wives and daughters into the Communist movement.

WORKING women and housewives (workmen's wives) can play, and are playing an important role in the labor movement: in the movement against high cost of living, during strikes and election campaigns.

At the recent elections in Great Britain and Germany a considerable number of workmen's wives voted for the conservatives in Great Britain and for the Catholic center, the social democrats and the nationalists in Germany.

WORKING women and workingmen's wives must be drawn into the working class movement, and the best way of getting at them is in the factories and workshops and thru their husbands and fathers. This work is of the utmost importance and our nuclei must pay due attention to it.

(To be continued)

NARRER FRONTS ON MAIN STREET

By DAVID COUTTS.

Ya ever been off Main street, Bo,
Dat goes from Noo Yawk plumb to Chi;
An' keeps agoin' whar ya go,
Until it hits de Rockies high?
An' still goes funder, far dan dat,
'Cause I been out to Frisco town;
An' foun' de folks on Main street eat,
Wid "Native Sons" to hol' it down.

I been on Dumbbell Alley, too,
What runs from No'th to Nu Orleans;
Whar half de folks er plumb Ku Ku,
De oddsers shy at Darwin's themes.

Noo Yawk? Dat's little Main street, Bo,
Dey hustle 'roun' like crazy men;
To get a job to build or sew,
Ya grab some beans an' back again!
An' jobs! Say, Bo, dat's heaven or hell,
Dey all love work, dat's plain to see;
An' jump a hick from Kewanee.

De boss kin ride 'em rough and raw,
Er starve an' coop 'em in a trap;
Dey'll mill aroun' an' loudly jaw,
But hell, dey're still astandin' pat.
Der unions? Huh! Dey're Main street, too.
A hunnert whar dere shud be one:
Each Babbit craft a stinkin' stew
O' prayer book, graft, an' thug an' gun.

An' Chi? Dat town's Hickville sure,
Dey fight o'er jobs o' nailin' tin;
An' sign a pact made scabbin' pure,
Er sellin' votes fer crooks to win.
Ya talk o' graft? Well go to Chi,
Dey sell dat town just twice a week;
A franchise dere comes extra high,
A thousand han's ya got to heap.

A thousan' union Babbits sell,
The "Right to Work," er no-strike laws;
Each little craft corrupt as hell,
An' Main street unions is de cause.
But talk to dem, dey're wise as owls,
Dey'll tell ya dey have won some fight;
But all ya see's dead hopes and ghoulis,
W' workers trimmed o' every right.

On Main street when ya look aroun',
Each little souf has goods to sell;
W' world all warped an' narred down,
To countin' dirty coin peimell.
He sells his soul to hold a job,
His boss de banker an' de trus';
Dey work de game to prey an' rob,
While Main street dies, for die dey mus'.

Kluxers, scabs an' hates galore,
Er bred on Main street's narred fronts;
An' caste is addin' to dis store,
O' hates what workers bear de brunts.

Dese narred fronts from coast to coast,
O' craft and caste, O' jobs an' stores;
Er all on Main street, why den boast,
O' Main street every man abhors?

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Sessions of Enlarged Executive of the C. I.

(Continued from last issue.)

Speakers of Sport International Comrade Podvoysky (Communist Party of Russia) calls the attention of the executive to the Sport International. The sport movement comprises ten million workers and twenty million petty bourgeois youth. This constitutes a vast reserve for the social-democracy and the bourgeoisie.

The Communist parties must influence the sport movement ideologically and furnish good instructors to it. The speaker then announces that in October, 1926, there will take place in Moscow an international Olympiad under the name of "October Sport Celebration;" he therefore asks for support.

Comrade Kreibich (Communist Party of Czechoslovakia) is of the opinion that Zinoviev's theses are not sufficiently well motivated and that Zinoviev has bound himself up too much with the left. The speaker is also of the opinion that the present analysis of Anglo-American relations was originally that of Comrade Trotsky. Their common fear of the collapse of capitalism, the Eastern question, the colonial and the Russian questions, strengthen the co-operation between England and America. To emphasize this co-operation more than the conflicts between these two countries constitutes no opportunism. Of course, even the Communists are disappointed somewhat with the decline of the revolutionary wave, and because the revolutionary wave was not sufficiently utilized for the Communist parties.

The right danger can be overcome thru democracy and free discussion. The right danger consists of the circumstance that many workers have broken away from the social-democracy, but are unable to pursue a Bolshevik policy. It is difficult to decide which danger is greater—left or right. The left leadership is committing grave mistakes.

Both the right and left must be fought. The speaker accepts Zinoviev's theses because they contain the concretization of Bolshevization, and emphasize democracy and free criticism. Without adaptation to concrete conditions, Bolshevization remains on paper only. The main error consists in the exaggeration, and forcible execution of Bolshevization.

The main danger facing the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia is not a split but deterioration. The Czech workers need conviction, for they are not as strong in matters of discipline and authority as the German worker. The executive should offer good advice, but should not treat the various questions commensurately.

Neurath (Communist Party of Czechoslovakia) refutes the idea that stabilization has set in in Czechoslovakia. The tax and tariff policy of the bourgeoisie and the discharge of state employees, are directed against the proletariat, the petty bourgeoisie and the small peasantry. The politico-strategic position of Czechoslovakia as the lackey of French imperialism, the nationality problem and the agrarian question again hinder stabilization. The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia strove to carry out the decisions of the Fifth Congress in the trade union question. The party will support the revolutionary trade unions as long as these carry on a fight against Amsterdam; however, the party is against a policy of splits. Kreibich has just spoken against commissary treatment, but there was a time when he was for it. Kreibich spoke of the mistakes made by the left, but he has forgotten the October defeat which was caused by the right. The new party executive did not wish to apply Russian experience and discipline mechanically. The party executive gives to the plenum a report on the activities of the party. The party strove and is striving for Bolshevization; it will carry out the decisions of the congress, and will combat opportunism.

Zetkin Agrees with Theses.

Comrade Clara Zetkin declares that she agrees with the theses, because

they accelerate the world revolution thru Bolshevization. She polemizes against Ruth Fisher's allegation that the right accept the theses because they wish to participate in the leadership.

No one desires to discard the present left leadership, but under the given circumstances others must also be allowed to take part in the work.

The Spartacus League has historical merits; during the war it propagated the transformation of the imperialist war in civil war; it created an illegal tradition, and supported the Russian revolution. None the less the speaker has always advocated the participation of the new generation in the party leadership.

The speaker warns against expulsions from the German Communist party. The left party executive has done much creditable work, but there are a few weaknesses, as in the trade union work where the number of Communist fractions has decreased. The loss of votes in the recent election can be explained partly by the difficult objective situation, and partly by the insufficiently active and concrete struggle against the Dawes plan. The speaker agrees with Ruth Fisher that partial demands are very important, but she denies that Brandler ever wanted to displace revolutionary agitation with partial demands. Brandler has committed other mistakes, not this one, however. The German Communist Party was insufficiently active in the economic struggle.

Situation is Not Acute.

MOSCOW, March 29.—(By mail)—At the evening session, Comrade Varga spoke: "There is at present no acute revolutionary situation; there is no immediate struggle for power on the agenda. The bourgeoisie is convinced that great masses of workers believe in the durability of capitalism."

"The bourgeoisie very cunningly tries to widen the gap between the skilled and unskilled workers, and between employes and officials. It plays off the native and foreign workers against each other. All of this naturally weakens the fighting capacity of the proletariat."

The speaker admits a relative social stabilization, but points out that the economic stabilization is a lower degree. This may be observed mainly in the sphere of circulation as well as in that of currency and credits. The speaker states that the West-European crisis was caused firstly by the growth of productive capacity beyond the limits of the available markets; secondly, by the industrialization of the colonies; thirdly, by the partial elimination of the Soviet Union from the world market. The speaker then proceeds to a detailed analysis of the situation in England. The present situation in England reflects the future of the European industrial countries.

The German stabilization is accompanied by crises. Austria is undergoing an acute crisis in spite of stabilization; it has 300,000 unemployed.

American capitalism is still on the upgrade, but the present boom is nearing its end. The so-called "Scissors" which was the cause of the agricultural crisis, disappeared in the autumn of last year, which fact the bourgeoisie and the social-democrats are wont to interpret as stabilization. But the rise in prices of agricultural products was only a passing episode, caused by the poor crops. In the last few weeks a new drop in prices set in, thus reviving the agricultural crisis. This crisis can be liquidated only by restricting production. A repetition of the agrarian crisis may be expected in the next few years. The effects of the Dawes plan have not yet been felt on the world market. The passive trade balance in Germany means an improvement in the other countries. However the German payments of interest which are soon to begin, will sharpen competition and the conflicts. The extent and the duration of the stabilization should not be overestimated. There is at the present time no acute revolutionary situation, but

the stabilization on the other hand, will not last many years.

Comrade Nestcheriakov (Communist Party of Russia) points out that high prices are a world phenomenon, a fact not sufficiently appreciated by the plenum so far. On the basis of our experience in Germany and elsewhere, the various parties should start extensive campaigns which should include the co-operatives. In Europe the co-operatives alone count 5,000,000 members. This army must be utilized in the struggle against high prices. Up till now, it was the Communist Party of France alone which has made an attempt to carry out the high-cost-of-living campaign.

Conflicts More Acute in France.

Comrade Treloint (France) then takes the floor and points out that in France, the difficulties and conflicts are becoming more acute. France is on the threshold of an acute economic crisis caused by the revival of German industry, by American competition, the "stabilization" of the franc (all of which renders French export more difficult), and, last but not least, by the colonial crisis. It might be possible to increase exports by reverting to inflation, but this would mean the impoverishment of the petty bourgeoisie—which is more dangerous in France than it was in Germany. Unemployment is beginning to be felt.

Not all illusions have as yet been dispelled, but a certain disappointment can already be noticed. The approaching crisis sharpens the conflict between Communism and fascism. French fascism is a petty bourgeois movement started and encouraged by the big bourgeoisie, which fact distinguished French fascism from German or Italian fascism. In France, three out of the eight million proletarians are foreigners. The bourgeoisie attempts of course to play off the native and foreign-born workers against one another. The anarchists play the role of white guards. In many places the social-democracy aids fascism against Communism, as for example,

in Lille.

Under such circumstances the French Communist Party is carrying on the Bolshevization process; it combats all right tendencies, it reorganizes the party on the basis of shop nuclei, it strives to be in close contact with the masses in the struggle against the bourgeoisie, it supports partial demands, and strives to pursue a correct policy in the peasant and colonial questions. The struggle against the right tendencies is meeting with success. Trotskyism has been liquidated, although Trotsky's influence in our party was strong. Only a small group is trying to develop a right faction, nationally and internationally, against the Leninist policy. There are no serious leftist dangers. The speaker then describes in detail the activities of the Communist Party of France, the various political campaigns, the trade union work, the progress made in reorganizing the party on the basis of shop nuclei, the work among the foreigners, etc. The party's recruiting campaign increased the membership by 30 per cent. The party apparatus was reorganized; extensive colonial campaigns (Morocco, Egypt, the Chinese question); the activities of our municipal and state parliamentary fractions; the drawing of the workers' correspondents into party work thru the Humanite.

Our main task at present is: to improve the work of the party apparatus, to render the shop nuclei politically active, to bring the party organization in the province up to the same level with our Paris organization, to intensify our trade union campaign and the struggle against fascism, to improve our work among the foreign workers, to establish better and closer connections with the national-revolutionary movement in the colonies. The active functionaries of the C. G. T. U. who have Communist sympathies, must be won over to the party.

The Communist Party of France will conduct its work on the basis of Leninism. (Applause.)

Nation-Wide May Day Demonstrations

INQUIRIES and information coming into the national office of the Workers Party regarding this year's May Day celebration indicate a nationwide demonstration that will surpass any previous May Day in the party's history. Every town in which there is a party branch should arrange such a meeting and notify the national office.

The smaller towns should obtain May Day speakers thru their district offices. As soon as a meeting is arranged, each party organization is requested to send in full information regarding name of speaker, address of hall and time of meeting. We will give these meetings publicity thru the DAILY WORKER.

Don't fail to notify the national office.

Meetings arranged up to the present time are:

- New York, N. Y.—Speakers, William Z. Foster and Moissaye Olgin.
- Philadelphia, Pa.—Speakers, Ben Gitlow and Oliver Carlson.
- Boston, Mass.—Convention Hall, Garrison St. (Near Mechanic's Bldg.) 7:30 p. m. Speaker, Wm. F. Dunne.
- Cleveland, Ohio.—Slovenian National Home, 6409 St. Clair Ave., 7 p. m. Speaker, J. Louis Engdahl.
- Warren, Ohio.—May 2. Speaker, J. Louis Engdahl.
- Akron, Ohio.—May 3, at 2 p. m. Speaker, J. Louis Engdahl.
- Canton, Ohio.—May 3, at 8 p. m. Speaker, J. Louis Engdahl.
- Toledo, Ohio.—May 4, at 8 p. m. Speaker, J. Louis Engdahl.
- Chicago, Ill.—Temple Hall, Van Buren & Marshall, at 8 p. m. Speakers, James P. Cannon, C. E. Ruthenberg, Martin Abern and Max Schachtman.
- Decatur, Ill.—Speaker, M. Chlofsky.
- Pullman, Ill.—Speaker, Barney Mass.
- Madison, Ill.—Croatian and Bulgarian speakers.
- Christopher, Ill.—Corbisley and others.
- Milwaukee, Wis.—Freie Gemeinde Hall, 8th and Walnut streets, at 7:30 p. m. Speakers, Max Bedacht and Tom Bell.
- Gary, Ind.—Speaker, Harrison George.
- Kansas City, Mo.—Speaker, M. Gomez.
- St. Louis, Mo.—Speaker, M. Gomez.
- Grand Rapids, Mich.—Sunday, May 3, at 2:30 p. m. Sons and Daughters Hall, 1057 Hamilton Ave. N. W. Speaker, T. J. O'Flaherty.
- Muskegon, Mich.—Sunday, May 3, at 8 p. m. Speaker, T. J. O'Flaherty.
- Minneapolis, Minn.—Sunday, May 3. Speaker, Robert Minor.
- Hibbing, Minn.—Speaker, Robert Minor.
- Buffalo, N. Y.—Speaker, Earl R. Browder.
- Rochester, N. Y.—May 2. Speaker, Earl R. Browder.
- Eric, Pa.—May 3. Speaker, Earl R. Browder.

The Struggle in Nova Scotia

By MAURICE SPECTOR

THE immediate causes of the Nova Scotia struggle were the refusal of the British Empire Steel corporation to restore the credit to the miners at the company stores and to provide work of at least four days work a week. The twelve thousand miners of Nova Scotia inclusive of the maintenance staffs, affecting fifty thousand men women and children, went out on a strike that has already lasted over seven weeks.

But behind the provocative cutting out of credits and sabotage of production was the determination of BESCO to force a ten per cent wage cut below the 1924 rates, a determination in line with the whole past policy of the corporation to reduce the living standards of the miners to the level of coolies and no less in line with the whole world wide capitalist offensive on the miners of the world under Dawes capitalism.

THE present one hundred per cent strike is by no means the first great struggle of the miners against this ruthless corporation. At the present time when the Canadian middle classes, the politicians, priests, parsons, social service workers etc. are systematically confusing the root causes of the struggle and blurring the class issues involved by their "relief" propaganda, it is necessary to shout from the house tops that capitalism and only capitalism is responsible for the oppression, starvation and degradation of the miners.

Nova Scotia is one of the poorest spots in Canadian capitalism. It is dominated by the gigantic British Empire Steel corporation, one of those war and post war products of capitalist, concentration and monopoly.

BESCO was formed by the merger of all the coal, iron and steel and shipbuilding companies of Nova Scotia.

The merger was considerably facilitated by the coal-lenders by which the kept politicians of the provincial government graciously gave to Besco practically all the coal in Nova Scotia—one of the richest fields in the world.

FROM its inception, the policy of Besco has been far excellence to get something for nothing. In the process of trustification, the already inflated capitalization of its constituent companies was still further watered to the tune of over \$19,000,000. Successive governments have pampered Besco to a sickening degree. It has received over \$8,000,000 in bonuses and nearly three-quarters of a million dollars in remission of duties at the hands of kindly capitalist politicians who will not hear a word about "demoralizing doles" for the unemployed.

For services to government departments, Besco has received no less than \$77,138,459. It has charged the government \$39 a ton for rails which it was able to deliver to the foreign market for \$24 a ton. But the appetite of a corporation whose aim is to batter by restricting output and intensifying exploitation, is insatiable. Besco demands a still higher tariff from the government and still further wage reductions for the men.

FACED by such an incarnation of capitalism as Besco, the miners of Nova Scotia have been driven along the channels of militancy and class consciousness. Their condition has been that of direct poverty, and semi-starvation. There has been the lowest wage scale of any district in the coal industry of North America. Working an average of about one hundred and fifty days a year in the last three years, the Nova Scotia miner has averaged between \$500 and \$1,000 a year.

As a consequence of such conditions the miners have been forced to strike for a wage contract every year. As at the beginning of this year, the corporation has always demanded a wage-cut. Their experiences with the policies of Besco has developed these Canadian miners into one of the most

radical sections of the United Mine Workers of America and the best class fighters in the Canadian labor movement. To the great alarm of the Canadian bourgeoisie and the trade union bureaucracy, this radicalism manifested itself in the miners' attempt early in July 1923 to obtain permission (refused of course) from the U. M. W. of A. executive board to affiliate with the Red Labor Union International. The Communist Party became very influential in the district.

IN July 1923 about 4,000 steel workers employed by Besco in Sydney went out on strike for recognition of their union and better conditions. At the behest of Besco the government rushed in the militia. The miners demanded the withdrawal of the military and when this was refused, went out on strike. At this point, the government, the military, and Besco were joined by their ally Lewis the bureaucrat head of the U. M. W. of A. who outlawed the miners' strike as a "violation of contract."

The military coerced the miners, the government threw the strike leaders into prison on trumped-up charges of sedition, and Lewis served for his masters by arbitrarily deposing the radical miners' executive and appointing his own henchmen.

THE strike was mercilessly broken—but let it be remembered, not a murmur of protest from the middle classes and upholders. They enjoyed the spectacle as cheerfully as the breaking of the militant Winnipeg general strike a few years before.

In September of the same year, the royal commission appointed to investigate the causes of the strike reported among reasons which are irrelevant, the low rate of wages, the long hours, the refusal of the company to recognize the Steel Workers' Union, irregular employment, unemployment and the high cost of living. The report of the commission brought with it, of course, no improvement of conditions. On the contrary, Besco prepared to present the miners with another ten per cent wage cut at the beginning of 1925.

THE miners meanwhile seized their first opportunity when permission was finally granted to hold a convention and to elect another executive which was regarded as left-wing and as likely to continue the fighting policies of Jim McLachlan who since his release from prison has been editor of the Maritime Labor Herald. In spite of the utmost provocation of Lewis, the miners held a frimly to their unity. The One Big Union clique in Winnipeg who while not a union have large funds accumulated from their profitable gambling competitions, endeavored to split the miners away from the U. M. W. of A. but when they did not succeed, they managed to split off a few hundred miners in Pictou county.

Following Besco's announcement that wages must be reduced, the minister of labor, the notorious Jimmy Murdoch who had done so much to break the postal workers strike last summer, appointed a conciliation board under the Lemieux act to investigate the dispute. About the same time the privy council in London decided that the Lemieux (industrial disputes investigation) act was invalid as "ultra vires" of the federal house which had enacted it. But regardless of this decision, the "conciliation board" could have accomplished nothing much more than it did—which was merely to shake its head wisely, say it was too bad, and recommend another inquiry by royal commission. While applying for the board, Besco was going right ahead with its provocative arrangements for the lockout.

THE corporation resolved to precipitate matters by the drastic weapon of starvation. Besco ordered its company stores to immediately cancel all further credits to the miners already on the brink of starvation, and to extend its lockout at the southern collieries 2, 4 and 6. When the corporation refused to

heed the ultimatum of the miners' executive to restore credits and immediately provide at least four days work a week, the miners walked out solidly taking the maintenance men with them. John L. Lewis at once wired Premier Armstrong that the withdrawal of the maintenance men was contrary to the laws and policy of the U. M. W. But the miners paid no attention.

THE strike was on—a one hundred per cent strike but from the very outset its leadership has been given all true working class friends of the miners the gravest concern. The bourgeoisie adopted a way of trying to break the strike, in accord with a changed situation. The directors of Besco itself were unblushing in their frank avowals of determination to starve the miners out.

Vice-President McLurg of Besco in a public interview openly declared his reason for believing that the miners couldn't win to be that "they could not stand the gas" that is, starvation. But the bourgeoisie as a whole worked more cunningly.

FIRST, there is an election in the offing and military intervention by the King government, would be political capital for the Tory opposition thirsting for the fleshpots of office.

The Tories have already exploited the Nova Scotia situation to discredit the liberals. Cynical Tory politicians have slobbered all over the miners and have demanded from King that he send relief, knowing very well that he would take refuge behind the inevitable British North America act and that they themselves were let out of doing anything.

NEXT, there is the genuine fear among the middle classes of the hold and progress of the ideas of the class struggle among the miners. They have a real fear and hatred of the influence of McLachlan, of the policies of the Maritime Labor Herald, of the prestige of the Communist Party. They remember the application for affiliation to the R. I. L. U. And they remember the militant strike of solidarity on behalf of the steel workers.

So the cry has gone up among them as expressed by Canon Scott in his letter to Premier King that the district must be "saved from Bolshevism." The method of capitalist intervention that has been adopted therefore in this instance is not coercion but throttling the strike with "kindness."

A HOWL suddenly goes up in the capitalist press and forums that a calamity has struck Nova Scotia. Relief must be sent immediately. The capitalist game is to represent the crisis as due to some sort of natural catastrophe some earthquake or tidal wave or famine disaster—a pure case for philanthropy.

There was never word from these same sudden philanthropists when the miners of Western Canada were starving as they still are from the effects of a five months' long struggle against the western coal operators.

THE trade union bureaucracy has taken its cue as usual from the bourgeoisie. On behalf of the Trades Congress, President Tom Moore donated the paltry sum of \$500 towards relief. He visited the scene of hostilities gave it the "once-over" and complacently returned to report in his Congress Journal that the days of "red" leadership of the district were over. Other than that \$500—nothing.

This Trades Congress affiliated with the Amsterdam International which in the emergency of the outbreak of war is pledged to declare a general strike, has not even convoked an emergency conference to consider active aid to the miners. The business of the Trades Congress was to mobilize such forces as it had to prevent a repetition of the disaster which overtook the isolated struggle in District 18 (Western Canada) where company unionism has raised its head.

BUT all that Moore can think about is to "save the district from Bolshevism." To the same end Lewis himself forgoes down directly to participate in the negotiations for a settlement.

And what of the leadership of the strike, the present miners' executive? President McLeod obtained his office by virtue of support he received from the militants on the district, who were led to believe he was a sincere sympathizer of the left wing program and of the former Livingston-McLachlan executive, deposed by Lewis.

NEVERTHELESS, consciously or unconsciously McLeod has been abandoning the road of class struggle and has leaned on the charity and the good will of the middle classes and trade union bureaucracy. He went so far as publicly to deny that the policies of his executive and those of the Maritime Labor Herald under the editorship of Jim McLachlan, were the same.

This is a one hundred per cent strike but there has not been a single mass meeting of the men called since its beginning seven weeks ago. The maintenance men have been withdrawn but there has been no picketing of the maintenance men, the corporation has maintained.

BUT the worst action of McLeod and his associates on the executive—an action tantamount to a betrayal—and one, that evoked sharp protest from the rank and file has been his behaviour towards the \$5,000 that the Russian workers sent in the name of international solidarity.

The McLeod executive had allowed all relief activity to fall into the hands of the bourgeois citizens committee formed in Glace Bay. The Russian money was sent thru Jim McLachlan to the miners and when he offered it to the citizens' committee, the gang of parsons, priests, politicians, lawyers, etc., who make it up flung turned it down on the ground that its acceptance would hinder the "public" from giving. This was a bare faced piece of sabotage of the class interests of the workers and internationalism. It was an insult and slap in the face to the Russian workers and the R. I. L. U. but neither McLeod nor any of his executive registered the angry and categorical protest that was due on behalf of the miners.

THESE actions of McLeod's have evoked sharp warnings from the Communist Party. The Communist Party would not and will not do anything that could be interpreted as disrupting the ranks of the miners at the moment of struggle. But that is precisely why it has not been able to remain silent without warning the miners of Nova Scotia against the poison of class collaboration and the example of Sherman in District 18 who was also once elected on a left wing ticket and then went over to the reactionaries.

The capitalist press is already exultantly drawing its conclusions from the "moderate" tactics of McLeod. Whatever the outcome of the struggle, the left wing and the Communists have been a thousand times justified in their program—when they demanded amalgamation, a clean sweep of the yellow bureaucracy from the office, when they demand Canadian trade union autonomy, a Trades Congress with real executive power and international trade union unity.

WHATEVER the outcome of the struggle, the Communists and the left wing continue to make the nationalization of the mines under workers' control more of an issue than ever before. The immediate program that the Communist Party has been propagating, mines nationalization, a six hour day, a minimum wage and closer unification of the miners organizations in Canada must be pushed with the greatest possible vigor.

Get a sub for the DAILY WORKER from your shopmate and you will make another member for your branch.

Labor Exchange Reorganization in U.S.S.R.

By I. RESSNIKOV.

A PART from isolated cases prior to the revolution and mainly during the war, we must record that the real development of the labor exchange began only after the February revolution. Labor exchanges came into being as mediatory organs and retained this form also in the beginning of the post October revolution period. In connection with severe unemployment caused by the demobilization of the army and curtailment of industry, the labor exchanges extended their functions considerably, paying doles to the unemployed, organizing dining halls and night shelters for them, etc.

In the epoch of military Communism when all able-bodied persons were obliged to work (with certain exceptions laid down by law), labor exchanges became state organs for the supply of labor power and formed part of local labor departments such as the sub-department of accountancy and distribution of labor power, which was the title under which they functioned until the introduction of the new economic policy. At that time it was not possible to employ people at will (an exception was made in the case of persons whose work is of a confidential nature and in the case of experts.)

Since 1922, when the new economic policy began to operate, labor exchanges came again into being; whilst the obligation to engage labor thru the exchange remained in force.

Persons not registered at the labor exchange had no right to be engaged and employers of labor transgressing this rule had to answer for it before the law.

EXCEPTIONS were made in cases demanding political reliability or special knowledge on the part of the person to be engaged, and also in case the labor exchange could not satisfy the demand of the hirer within the stipulated time. In such cases the hired persons were registered at the labor exchange after their engagement.

Thus even in the period of NEP the monopoly of the labor exchange in connection with the hiring of labor, and obligatory registration of agreement remained in force.

Persons registered at the labor exchange could not be engaged out of their turn; this applied to all professions and occupations.

ENTERPRISES and institutions required carefully selected employes with a definite qualification. As the labor exchange had to observe the sequence on the register, it could not always give satisfaction to would-be employers, and it invariably happened that considerably fewer persons were engaged than were sent by the labor exchange.

In view of these exceptions were allowed for a number of professions and posts when in accordance with specially published lists (such lists were published on several occasions) would-be employers could engage workers registering them subsequently at the labor exchange.

ON the one hand the obligation to hire labor thru the exchange resulted in those who had already found work, who went from one place of employment to another, being obliged to go again thru the labor exchange thereby increasing the number of those on the register.

On the other hand the fact that unemployed received doles and also enjoyed other privileges (they live almost rent free, pay very little for communal services and are almost free from taxation), caused a great influx into the labor exchange of fictitious unemployed, namely people who registered not in order to get employment, but merely to benefit by the privileges of unemployed workers.

HOW large was the percentage of these so-called unemployed can be judged by the results of the re-registration and of investigations which were made almost everywhere. For instance an investigation of all the cases of unemployment was carried out in Moscow in the autumn of 1924.

As the result of this investigation 42,117 people were taken off the register of the labor exchange, namely 39.2 per cent of the total number of unemployed.

IT was discovered that among those who had registered as unemployed there were people who kept two servants, were the owners of shops and frequently whiled away the period of unemployment in Crimean sanatoria.

The labor exchanges were full to overflowing, and moreover many of those on the register were utterly unqualified people.

ACCORDING to the date given by Comrade Hindin in his pamphlet From the Labor Exchange to the Employment Bureau, out of the total number of registered unemployed there were on July 1, 1924, 26.2 per cent who had never worked for wages, and 7.8 per cent who had not done any work since Jan. 1, 1922, while 59 per cent of the unskilled workers had never worked for wages.

IN July, 1924, there were in Leningrad among the 146,000 unemployed over 90,000 women, most of them with no qualifications whatever. Out of the total number of unemployed 60,000

work, or on the registration of that person on engagement without the assistance of the employment bureau, a note to this effect is made in the documents of the unemployed and as the same documents are required at the insurance bureau and for the registration of the contract, hence no abuses can take place.

Experience has shown that such a method is also very convenient for the unemployed, as they need now only to go to the insurance bureau.

REGISTRATION of unemployed at the employment bureau is voluntary. Moreover, the bureau does not register all unemployed, but only in accordance with the demand. Those who wish to be registered have to undergo an examination as to their qualifications. This enables the employment bureau to send only people for whom there is a demand. The bureau does not give any certificates to the unemployed and is in no way responsible for them. The bureau does not make any charges to the unemployed for its services. A small initial fee is taken from the employers of labor.

BUT the abolition of the monopoly in connection with the engagement

workers will be safeguarded. For from the viewpoint of the trade unions this is of the utmost importance.

EMLOYERS have the right to engage labor power to suit their requirements. But factory, workshop and local employe committees register the engagement of every newly engaged worker. Thus, trade union control over the engagement is even stronger than before. Moreover, special paragraphs are inserted into collective agreements making it incumbent on employers to give preference to trade union members, non-members being engaged only in the event of none of the trade union members being able to do the required work. At the same time the engagement of a nonunion worker must have the sanction of the union. These measures are a sufficient guarantee that trade union members' interests are safe, and experience has already given proof of this.

ANOTHER safeguard is that trade unions take a direct part in the establishment of employment bureaus and in the formation of these bureaus' committees. Altho there are representatives of economic and state organs in these bureaus and committees,

IT WORKS LIKE MAGIC



were unskilled workers mainly from the villages. To provide work for such an enormous number of people is of course extremely difficult even if it could be done systematically, and the fact that all these unemployed were registered at the labor exchange did not actually help them and greatly impeded the activity of the exchanges.

That is why it was proposed in the summer of 1924 that the labor exchanges be reorganized and be converted into employment bureaus.

The government monopoly in connection with the engagement of workers has been abolished.

PEOPLE may be engaged and can find work for themselves without having recourse to the labor exchange. The labor exchange itself becomes an ordinary employment bureau and registration there is voluntary.

Unemployment doles and various privileges are henceforth not dependent on registration at the labor exchange, but are granted in accordance with the economic position of the unemployed person. Unemployment doles are paid at the proper insurance bureaus and their branches. In order to prevent doles being paid to those who have already found work, the following method has been adopted in Leningrad: when a person is sent to

of workers does not mean that private employment bureaus can be established. In accordance with the law, the peoples' commissariat of labor and its organs retain monopolist rights as intermediaries in the connection with the engagement of workers.

In the interest of proper control all contracts between employers and workers must be registered.

AS to the control of unemployment thruout the country, trade union members have to register as before with their unions, which will be found quite sufficient. But of course those who are not registered in the employment bureaus, cannot be properly controlled. But if one takes into consideration that there are not more than 5-6 per cent out of the total number of manual and brain workers not registered in trade unions, one can see that only a very small number of people can escape control. Thus, statistics will not suffer much from this reform. Such in general is the character of the reform.

BEFORE dealing with the methods of its application and with its results, it is essential to ascertain what influence trade unions will have under the new conditions on the engagement of labor power, and also to what extent the interests of the organized

the predominance of trade union influence in them is thereby guaranteed.

Of course the reform of the labor exchange does not solve the question of unemployment. But it certainly makes it easier to help the unemployed. And we see already that after the reform the number of unemployed sent to work is growing, and this in spite of the fact that those provided with temporary work are not taken into account.

THIS reform is all the more important as it has given an opportunity to ascertain the exact extent of unemployment, which turned out to be considerably less than the number of registered unemployed gave one reason to assume. At the same time it has made it much easier to give the unemployed effective help.

REMEMBER MAY 23!

The John Reed Junior group is arranging a surprise party and dance Saturday, May 23, at 1902 W. Division St. All friendly organizations are requested not to arrange other affairs on that date.

Getting a DAILY WORKER sub or two, will make a better Communist of you.

The Struggle of the Workers in Norway

By CHRISTIAN HILT
(Oslo, Norway)

AT the national conference for industrial peace in Oslo at the end of January, the director of the Norwegian State Bank, Arne Rygh, described the results of the wholesale lock-out in 1924 in the blackest colors and sharply opposed a repetition of the industrial conflict in the present year, maintaining that a fresh prolonged conflict would render in vain any attempt to stabilize prices and to raise the value of the currency. In view of the increasing rise in prices the bank director could not deny that higher wages were justified.

Norway's "Gompers."

The national debt of Norway to the foreign and native capitalists has actually attained such enormous dimensions that a real increase of wages cannot be granted without a considerable reduction of profits. Of the state budget, which amounts to about 350 millions Norwegian crowns, 130 million crowns are devoted to payment of interest. The government has only granted the sum of 4.5 million crowns for bonuses to civil servants on account of high prices. An all-round increase of wages of the civil servants would completely wreck the state budget, which for several years has shown a huge deficit. Private industry, which is not on a high level of development in Norway is working under great difficulties which have been reflected in a number of great bank failures during the last few years. The situation is so serious that a sudden fluctuation in the value of the currency—be it either up or down—would involve disastrous consequences for the state finances and for the whole of the capitalist economic life.

Demand Sacrifices from Workers.

These facts must be borne in mind when judging the present political situation in Norway. For the capitalists and their government the sole question is "restoration of financial life" and therefore the interest of the country is at present concentrated upon the course of the negotiations between the employers and the trade unions regarding the new wage regulations in the collective treaties.

On the day before the commencement of the wage negotiations the chairman of the Norwegian General Federation of Trade Unions Ole O. Lian suddenly died. His successor as the representative of the workers in the negotiations, the chairman of the Metal Workers Union, Halvard Olsson has already in a speech declared himself in favor of the prolongation of the collective treaty without wage increases.

The negotiations after proceeding for a week, were broken off. The national arbitrator will now make his attempts to arbitrate as prescribed by law. And should they also fail, the liberal government is prepared to prevent a strike by an arbitration law. Probably a majority of liberals, agrarians, conservatives and social democrats will pass the law in the storting. The workers will thus be palmed off with trifling wage increases and the trade union bureaucrats as well as the capitalists, will be able to breathe again.

Communists Demand Conference

The Communist members of the trade unions have attempted to force the discussion of the trade union tactics for the fight against high prices, unemployment and class justice by a national conference until Easter—after the conclusion of the negotiations.

The Communist Party of Norway thereupon applied to the General Trade Union Federation of Norway with the suggestion that the latter should convene a general workers' conference to deal with these questions. This demand was rejected by the reformists. Such serious questions must not be dealt with by unqualified bodies! Instead of this the executives of the trade unions have been called together and when the thing is finally settled, the Trade Union Congress, which would not in the ordinary way be held until 1926, will probably be convened in the course of the summer or autumn in order to endorse the activity of the secretariat and to elect a successor to Ole O. Lian as chairman of the General Trades Union Federation.

Financial Condition Serious.

The death of the reformist leader of the Trade Union Federation, Ole

O. Lian, has caused equally profound regret in capitalist circles in Norway as did the death of the Swedish social democratic state minister Branting and the death of the German President Ebert. The whole bourgeois press recognized in him a gifted leader. The president of the storting, Lykke, delivered a memorial speech in parliament, on the day of his funeral the employers allowed the workers to cease work at 12 o'clock, the bourgeois State Minister Mowinckel was present in person at the funeral celebrations at the workers' headquarters, and even the king sent a wreath. The chief organ of the Norwegian labor party, 'Arbeidetsblad' in spite of its well-known "Leninist" attitude, took part with the bourgeoisie in lauding Lian. The editor, Tranael, who as leader of the trade union opposition had for years bitterly opposed the bureaucrat Lian, now fiercely attacked the chief organ of the Communist Party of Norway, Norges Kommunistblad because it had ventured in its obituary article to express the truth that the course followed by the reformist Lian could only result in the ruin of the Norwegian labor movement.

The storting decided some days ago to forbid speeches and demonstrations in the neighborhood of the storting. The occasion for this was that Comrade Mauseth, at the end of January as the leader of a deputation of unemployed, after the demands of the unemployed were rejected by the government, in a speech delivered out-

side the storting referred to the first president as the "scoundrel Lykke" and called out: "Long Live the Soviet Republic of Norway!" This characterization of President Lykke was quite correct. President Lykke is the chairman of the enlarged board of directors of the Norwegian Commercial Bank, and as such has violated his obligations as president of the storting in concealing from the storting the former secret gifts of millions to this bank when the storting proceeded to grant it further millions.

When this "insult" of the president by the "seditious" Comrade Mauseth was dealt with in the storting the members of the labor party and the social democrats, along with the bourgeois parties, sharply condemned this "rude" and "coarse" abuse, and four representatives of the social democratic group even voted for the prohibition of speeches in the neighborhood of the storting as mentioned above.

The workers of Norway have only one choice: either they must follow the lead of the reformists and help the capitalists "to restore economic life," which means increased exploitation and robbery, or they must follow the Communists and overthrow the capitalists dictatorship. The latter means irreconcilable fight against the capitalists state, against the armed white guards, and before all fight against the reformist trade union bureaucrats, whose task it is to avoid this struggle by every possible means.

Strategy of the Communists

The famous letter from the Communist International to the Mexican Communist Party—

5

In which not only is outlined the policy for the Communist Party of Mexico, based on the facts of the struggle in that country—

CENTS

But also the strategy for Communists of all countries.

From any authorized Agent or by mail direct from the Daily Worker

No worker who wishes to understand the fundamental strategy of the Communists should omit it from his reading.

ANOTHER FORM OF CHILD LABOR

Recent investigation made by a member of the Cincinnati Juvenile Protective Association brings to light a form of exploitation of children that has not been known heretofore. We are all more or less acquainted with the exploitation in the canning factories, in the textile mills, in the sweatshops. But how many of us know of the way talented children of the working class are being exploited every night in the theaters?

The child on the stage is regarded a fortunate little being possessing talent for which his parents receives big compensation.

But this is what the report tells us: "Fifty children employed in so-called amateur night performances were studied. It was found that the children were engaged by regular booking agents and paid anywhere from 50 cents to \$3 a night. Conditions under which the children work were found frequently to constitute a menace to both health and morals."

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Housing Problem of New York Workers

By MAX REISUL.

GOVERNOR SMITH of New York at the annual dinner of the West Chester County Chamber of Commerce held in Billmore Hotel appealed for support for his proposition for support for his proposed constitutional amendment to the New York state constitution to empower the state to issue bonds for \$300,000,000 for elimination of railroad grade crossings in New York state.

Mayor Hylan advocates an amendment to the same ill-fated constitution to empower the state to issue bonds for \$275,000,000 for subway construction.

About the same time the commission on housing of New York state issued a report advocating a constitutional amendment to the same constitution to empower the state to appropriate funds for credits for building houses in New York City since the housing condition here is now worse than ever before, two-thirds of the people who cannot afford to pay more than \$9 per room being in a miserable plight.

The Smith and Hylan amendments were introduced in the form of bills in Albany.

Not a move has been made in Albany, not a word has been spoken, by the "friends of labor" who are in power, for the constitutional amendment to relieve the housing conditions.

These "friends of labor," these capitalist bloodhounds can readily find nearly \$600,000,000—they can readily find hundreds of millions of dollars when it comes to hand them over to robbing railroad companies, or to make political capital for themselves. But when it is a question of actual relief for workers from the sky high rent burden, thru state aid—these same "friends of workers" mysteriously disappear.

Governor Smith says that elimination of grade crossings is necessary to protect human life and not only human life, but also property values. Here is where the cat comes out of the bag; altho he sheds a tear for life, his heart really pangs for property values. He says that in eleven months of 1924, 123 persons were killed at dangerous

crossings, and not only that happened, but business development is arrested by present conditions.

We doubt if Governor Smith would appeal for credit of \$300,000,000 to protect 123 persons from being killed at crossings if property values were not increased. The report on industrial conditions in America shows that 2,500,000 industrial accidents to workers happened in one year, of which more than 23,000 proved to be fatal.

But Governor Smith never suggested to the state legislature to appeal to congress to end this industrial massacre. But here property values are adversely involved. He does not appeal for an amendment to force the railroad companies to eliminate dangerous crossings so as to protect human life. He does not do that. If he did, the companies would raise such a howl against which neither Governor Smith nor his party could make a stand.

But he does appeal to the people, under cover of protecting human life, to spend the grand total of \$300,000,000 to make possible, thru business expansion the rise of property values.

Mayor Hylan appeal for \$275,000,000 for subways. Subways are necessary, no denying that. But of first necessity to workers is cheap rent in modern, sanitary, dwellings, not in New York City fire traps. Such dwellings at

the moment are of importance which far behind the question of subways and street car fare.

Mayor Hylan never spoke of credits for house building. He could not; he speaks for the landlords. So he make a noise about 5 cent fare which is only a boomerang. Since workers have to pay for rents nearly 30 per cent of their wages. But he is deaf and dumb about an appeal for funds to build houses.

The workers of New York state can only be protected if the state government will force the railroad companies to eliminate crossings, meanwhile appropriate funds, the same sum total of odd \$600,000,000 for which the capitalist adventure're are claiming,—and use that total to build houses and subways.

But this will never be done by a government which is only the political executive committee of the capitalist class.

Only a workers' government will do that. Working men and working women, demand that New York state shall build comfortable dwellings and rent them to you at cost price.

Demand that the city be allowed means to build subways and run them at cost.

This you can expect only of the Workers Party of America.

Demand it right now and support the Workers Party.



BUILDERS AT WORK

Here's a Great Idea from Moscow via Milwaukee.

Fomenko, Yoker and Meyer of South Bend YOU ARE CHALLENGED!

Comrade Shklar, City DAILY WORKER Agent for Milwaukee, has a dangerous habit: he reads Russian Bolshevik papers! And from them he gets these dangerous ideas (to capitalism):

Milwaukee, Wis., April 14, 1925.

The DAILY WORKER, Builders' Column,

Dear Comrades: Recently in Russia, when the Soviet government was floating the gold loan it was customary for the workers subscribing to the loan to name their comrades in the same city or in the distant point calling upon them to do their share. It was a call and a challenge. It worked something like this. Ivan Ivanovich in Moscow would write: "I subscribe to a ten rouble bond and call upon Stepan and Mary of Leningrad to do the same." I wonder if we could not do the same in our second annual sub-drive? Let me start the ball rolling. I am sending you three subscriptions to the paper and call upon Comrades Vera Fomenko, Yoker and Meyer of South Bend, Ind., to do the same.

What is wrong with South Bend? It used to be a pretty active town. And now they are not on the list. I expect to hear a reply to my challenge in the near future.

Fraternally yours,
G. S. SHKLAR, Secretary.

This is a real idea to wake up your local comrades—or those of other locals. Get mad about it! Hurl your challenge at every good Communist you know—and if he wants revenge—let him hurl it at some others.

Whom do you know in Pittsburgh, Painsville or Poughkeepsie—Kingston, Kokomo or Kankakee? Thru this column send him a wicked challenge that will put him on a Communist job. Just like our Milwaukee comrade did who learned the trick from our Russian comrades.

HERE'S YOUR CALL TO ACTION:

I send _____ subs for the DAILY WORKER and call upon

_____ of _____

_____ of _____

_____ of _____

TO DO THE SAME!

In the Second Annual Sub Campaign these comrades have secured new subs on April 16 to build "our daily":

PORTLAND, ORE.—Harry Scolnick (4).

ST. PAUL, MINN.—O. L. Johnson (4); W. H. Wangerin (2); O. R. Votaw; John Lenicek.

PROVIDENCE, R. I.—Ralph Kominsky (2).

DETROIT, MICH.—A. E. Goetz (3).

NEW YORK, N. Y.—L. E. Katterfeld (2); Fred Cammer.

CHICAGO, ILL.—Frank Martin; Sam Hammcrmark; Nick Bull.

WEST CONCORD, N. H.—Jennie Helin.

TOLEDO, O.—N. Beck.

BUFFALO, N. Y.—J. Soininen.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.—F. Lundvall.

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To those who work hard for their money, I will save 50 per cent on their dental work.
DR. RASNICK
DENTIST
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Philadelphia, Notice!
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350 N. FIFTH STREET,
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Eat at the
GLOBE CAFETERIA
Best Foods at Moderate Prices.
14th STREET, COR. IRVING PLACE
(Opposite New York Party Headquarters)

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The Mexican Paintings of Maurice Becker

MAURICE BECKER has for the past ten years been one of American labor's foremost cartoonists. He began his work as an artist on the *Old Masses*, that landmark in the revolutionary literature of America. Becker contributed some of his most smashing and brilliant cartoons to that magazine, and he also served for a period on the *New York Call*, and for several years was the chief cartoonist of the *I. W. W.* periodicals in Chicago.

His cartoons are remembered for their boldness, their swift, powerful lines, and for their wholehearted revolutionary fervor and understanding. They ranked with the best work of Robert Minor and Boardman Robinson, and that is saying a great deal; in fact, it is like saying that Maurice Becker was not only in the first rank of the revolution in America, but he was also in the first rank among cartoonists.

For the past few years few cartoons have appeared from the pen of Maurice Becker. One wondered what he was doing, and now the answer comes in the form of an exhibition of

his water color and paintings at the Neumann galleries, East 57th street, New York City.

It always does a lot of good to one who is interested both in art and revolution, and finds it hard to disentangle these two creative activities in his mind, to visit an exhibition such as Maurice Becker's. For here one finds that the discipline, the passion and the social vision that made Maurice Becker a labor cartoonist have helped him also in being a great artist.

The paintings and water colors were all done in Mexico, where Becker spent the last two years. A sophisticated Greenwich Village artist, with a contempt for workers and peasants and the strong, simple realities of life, could not have caught the spirit of Mexico as has Maurice Becker.

With a broad human warmth he paints the faces and forms of the Mexican peon men and women. They are naive people, close to the earth and the sun, but Becker does not regard them as merely quaint or picturesque; he is not that kind of an artist. He regards them as he once regarded workers in his cartoons, as forces of nature, as human

beings, as equals. He understands these Mexican peons—their strength and their weakness, their childlike and maturity. He does not prettify them or sentimentalize them; he does not perfume them or pin pink ribbons on them; these are not the well-dressed poster-people in the Zolouoga paintings, for instance, but crude, sweaty, primitive folk—workers, not artists' models.

There has been much talk in recent years of proletarian art and bourgeois art. What I feel, however, is that such work as Maurice Becker's falls somehow into the category of proletarian art. It has the glamor and solidity of truth, and it presents a whole race of peasants and workers with the simple understanding of one who is a worker and revolutionary worker himself.

It is fine, massive work. Becker has learned how to make paint and brush do what he wants them to do. He has not made the mistake of so many proletarian artists of believing that technique is unimportant, and that the spirit of a thing only matters. Becker's spirit is still proletarian, but he has learned the tools of his art. In some of his paintings one gets the impression of a bold young

master, slashing his way thru difficulties and speaking with sureness and vigor.

In other paintings, such as that of three peon figures, there is a deep emotion that comes from the roots of the tree of life. The static eternal nature of the Mexican land and the Mexican Indian have been felt here and caught in paint.

His water colors were a surprise to me. There is always about Becker's paintings a heavy richness, like that which steams from fresh upturned loam. But these water colors are full of air and delicacy; they are like the light, fragrant wind which plays above the newly ploughed earth in spring. They are bright and happy in color; the paintings glow like rich Oriental carpets, but the water colors sparkle like morning dew.

I am not a professional art critic, but Maurice Becker's work always gives me deep emotional satisfaction, and I know that others find the same emotion roused in them by these deep, sincere paintings of the artist. Is that not a test of great art? What a lot of hypocrisy there is in art, and how much fake emotion a professional art critic has to pump up in the course of a year's exhibitions! But no critic has had to perform this for Maurice Becker—his work has the appeal of all sincere and natural things—it grew in the sunlight and primitive valleys of Mexico, and those who do not like it are those who are not fond of sunlight and clean air.

Maurice Becker ought to receive the congratulations of his labor friends. He has arrived as an artist, but he has lost none of the human sincerity and passion that made him a revolutionist. How rare that is in America!
Michael Gold.

MUSIC • LITERATURE • DRAMA

Machine Rhythms Featured in a Dance Satire

By ESTHER LOWELL.

Against a silhouetted factory background and with great cogged wheel designs overhead, sounds of taxis, street cars, whirling machines, the factory girl puppets with their gray masked faces move in the work rhythms of the machine age in *Sooner or Later*, a dance satire by Irene Lewisohn which the Neighborhood Playhouse is producing in New York. A traffic puppet policeman motions on one side and a puppet tailor gesticulates. A taxi puppet droops and runs his toy machine alternately. A jazz couple of puppets shimmy across the stage. And after the whistle blows they go to their relaxation; a very much gilded revue. The peasant girls wear red, white and blue striped dresses that flash gold. This is *Today*.

The past's rhythms are shown in a scene of a wild tribe praying and performing a ritual around the headman. The tribal workmen and women bring their offerings of work done to the headman and dance again. The future is shown as a crystalline age, the result of the present highly mechanical and scientific age's develop-

ment. Crystalline workers are shown at work against a moving light background projected by the clavi-lux, a color organ which projects colored lights in various evolving forms. The workers are tested for their vibrations before being permitted to attend their evening pleasures, which are mainly by radio.

The preliminary dance interlude of the evening is a medieval scene in which a group of strolling players admirably presents a miracle play in which King David and the Virgin Mary themselves participate in person. This bill of the Neighborhood Playhouse, whose playhouse is in the lower eastside working class district of New York, is one of its most interesting. The 2,000 year old *Hinos* play, *The Little Clay Cart*, was also very attractive. James Joyce's play of intellectuals in Dublin (or anywhere) showed the dramatic power of a purely mental struggle on the stage in their presentation.

Skopp, Fine Musician But Lacks Experience to Put Concert Over

Charles Skopp, the young violinist who played a recital at Kimball Hall presented a far from unfamiliar picture—that of the sincere, well-schooled

musician with the technique but not the experience to put over a concert in first class shape.

He opened with the first movement of the Paganini-concerto, and was obviously rattled during the playing of this long but interested movement by the ill-timed applause of an audience that took every time he removed his bow from his violin that he had finished.

Following was a long and fairly dry set of finger exercises by Bach, called a sonata but really a suite in four movements. It was unaccompanied, as are many of the Bach violin works. The unaccompanied solo is undoubtedly the most satisfactory sort of solo, viewed from all angles, and, after Skopp had conquered his nervousness during the first movement of the sonata, he carried it off in fine shape.

The compositions that followed, all of them of less pretentious size than the first two, gave the soloist a chance to show the purity of his tone, and the light, fast touch of his fingers and bow. He was especially good in the ballet music of Schubert's "Rosa-munde," the chorus of derisives in Beethoven's "Ruins of Athens," and encore called "The Bee."

When he grows the hardboiled shell of the experienced concertist, Skopp will be a splendid violinist.

The Mass Lock-Out in Sweden

(Continued from page 1)

patron of the factories, which however is disregarded by the masses.

The workers wish to take up the struggle now, while the government, with the approval of the trade union bureaucrats, wishes to evade the struggle. This objective and even direct help to the capitalists and their state will destroy the democratic illusions of the working class. Every act of the bourgeoisie will tend to increase the influence of the Communist Party of Sweden upon the masses. The approaching struggles in Sweden and the present position of the workers and small peasants confronts the Communist Party of Sweden with great tasks. The splitting off of the Hoeglund sect with its petty bourgeois and pseudo-revolutionary phraseology was the first step towards the bolshevizing of the party. The struggles which are approaching will be a fiery test for it. The bourgeoisie and their lackeys fear the spectre of bolshevism, but the workers will recognize more clearly that the Communist Party of Sweden is their party and will fight for its slogans.

R. I. L. U. Send Greetings.
Moscow, March 23, 1925.

The Red International of Labor Unions has sent the following telegram into the locked-out workers of Sweden:

The capitalists, strong thru their class solidarity and class consciousness, have declared war on you. It is the duty of every labor organization to render help to their class comrades who are being attacked by capital.

The Red International of Labor Unions and the General Council of the Trade Unions of the Soviet Union send you their fraternal greetings and are ready to support you to the utmost of their powers.

We hope that, thanks to the discipline and the fighting spirit of the bloc of the Scandinavian workers, the attack of the bloc of the employers will be shattered.

Up with the united front against the attack of capital!

Up with the unity of the trade union movement!

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