

Worker Correspondence

1000 WORKER CORRESPONDENTS BY JANUARY 13 1927

YELLOW CAB CO. SEEKS TO COIN BIGGER PROFITS

Long Hours, Low Pay Is Workers' Share

By a Worker Correspondent.
The Yellow Cab Company uses every possible means to reap larger profits. When a man is hired by the company he is forced to buy a uniform from the company for \$32. He is then compelled to go on a school car without pay for two weeks. After the expiration of the two weeks he is hired as a driver on a 27 per cent commission basis.

Average Wage \$15.
Out of this he is forced to buy his own gas which costs him 10 cents a gallon. The average wages of a cab driver is about \$15 a week. While schooling a beginner they seek to impress on his mind that he can live on the tips and save the rest.
The driver's time is not his own. He is forced to stay out until his bookings are sufficient to suit the floor man. If the driver happens to check in with a small booking the floor man accuses him of loafing.

Work Long Hours.
A driver works from 13 to 18 hours a day. Often he is told to take an order to a certain destination. On arriving at the place where he was ordered to go he is informed that the party has left or has taken a different cab. In this case the driver loses. He wastes his time and burns gas for which he is paying out of his own pocket.

It is nothing for a driver to report for work at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and wait until 3 or 4 before he gets his car. The old cars are in a very bad condition and have to be hauled into the garage for repairs while the driver has to wait for two or three hours before he can take it out.

Docked For Lost Parts.
If a driver happens to lose a chain it is taken out of his pay. \$3 for a chain, \$5 for a robe, \$5 for inner tubes, etc. This encourages one driver to steal from another to avoid paying for articles that are lost.

A fleet of gold starred men, known as canaries, who turn you in for every little thing they consider wrong, is maintained by the company. They receive \$5 a week extra for their role as company spies.

When a driver quits and turns in his uniform they allow him but \$5 for the uniform. They then clean it, repair it and resell it to another driver as a new uniform for \$32.
It takes the driver all day to get his money when he decides to leave the employ of the firm. This is done so that many of the drivers, disgusted at the conditions they were forced to work under, may leave the employ of the firm without trying to get their last week's pay.

Red Tape to Get Money.
The driver is sent to the cashier. The cashier then sends him to window three; window three to window seven; window seven back to the cashier. The cashier denies she has any record of any money coming to the driver. Finally the cashier locates it and informs the driver that the sum was kept by the company as a payment on the uniform. The drivers for the Yellow Cab Company are in this way often forced to pay twice for a single uniform.

To keep many of the newcomers from quitting immediately they have changed the bonus system so that you must now work six months to get the bonus where before all you had to work was one month to get this measly bonus.
Those who leave the company before the half-year is up lose the bonus. When bonus time approaches many of those who are due to get the bonus are fired on some pretext and rehired when the distribution period has passed.

Underpaid Starters.
The drivers are not the only ones that are underpaid and overworked. All of the workers for this company are in the same boat. The starters work seven days a week for \$12 a week. They work from 7 to 12 and then go off from 12 to 4 and return at 4 and work to midnight. The following day they come on at 12 and work to 4 and the next day they start again at 7 and work to 12 and work from 4 to midnight. This prevents them from getting a day of rest, forcing them to spend double cartage during the week. Formerly they worked nine hours a day, 6 days a week or 54 hours a week. At present they work 62 hours a week, seven days a week.
The Yellow Cab Company, thru this arrangement, saves one week's wages on every three starters. They save \$18 a week by making the workers work longer hours and seven days a week.

WRITE AS YOU FIGHT!
Open your eyes! Look around! There are the stories of the workers' struggles around you begging to be written up. Do it! Send it in! Write as you fight!



NEW PRIZES

for the best worker correspondent's story sent in this week to be published in the issue of May 28

- 1—WHITHER RUSSIA? In this brilliant book by Leon Trotsky every worker will find the latest facts about the world's first workers' government in Soviet Russia.
- 2—One year subscription to THE WORKERS MONTHLY—twelve issues for a year's pleasure and benefit.
- 3—THE AWAKENING OF CHINA, by Jas. H. Dolsen. A new book that should be in every worker's library.

Novy Mir Gets Help from Chicago Friends at Workers' House

By a Worker Correspondent.
A bouquet of flowers at the Novy Mir concert and dance Saturday night at the Workers' House brought in over \$275 and was won by Mrs. Topler who received 14,225 votes at one cent a vote. The next highest vote received by Mrs. Maller was 13,272. About \$400 was raised for the benefit of the Novy Mir at this affair. It was one of the most successful affairs held in the Workers' House during the season. The hall was packed to capacity by friends of the Novy Mir and its Chicago worker correspondents who arranged the affair.

The program proved to be "as advertised"—very interesting. Mr. Koltunov, the Russian singer, made quite a hit with his new version of the popular workers' song "Dubnushka," winding up with the International, the audience joining in. Mrs. Maller, the dramatic soprano, won the audience by her beautiful singing to such an extent that over \$132 was raised in an attempt to win for her the bouquet of flowers. Miss R. Rubin was greatly applauded for her beautiful Russian songs. The Workers' House Singing Society and all others who participated in the program received their share of recognition from the audience. The Russian actor, Comrade Pokatlov, who conducted the flower contest, stated that he never raised so much money in such a short period of time, but he certainly worked hard and earned the big flower that he received from the winner of the contest.

The dancing lasted until 2 a. m.
WRITE AS YOU FIGHT!

Southern Baptist Church Convention Condemns Teaching of Evolution

By a Worker Correspondent
HOUSTON, Texas, May 24. — The Southern Baptist Church went on record to oust any pastor who believes evolution, or teaches it in any form. They urged all members to vote for prohibition candidates, regardless of party affiliations.

J. Frank Norris, declared when the convention accepted John D. Rockefeller's offer of aid in large amounts, "The Baptist Church is becoming the religion of Standard Oil."
Negroes were denied representation. Delegate William Ripley, Tennessee, gave the reason, "a Negro is a Negro."

Several foreign missionaries spoke. Three from China admitted a strong anti-religious movement, but they all prayed that god would convert the radical youth among the heathen Chinese. One from Canton had meetings broken up by radicals shouting "China for Chinese. Down with imperialism!" "Chinese merchants are very ungodly," declared the sky pilots.

The chairman, McDaniels of Richmond, Virginia, said "The purpose of god's calling this convention is to attend to his interests, we must see that the \$9,000,000 co-operative program is adopted." This program calls for \$9,000,000 to be dug up by the lowly rank and file, each year. The whole program led up to the adoption of the "9,000,000 annual co-operative program." That was the main purpose of the convention being called.

A special train carried many delegates to Galveston where the annual Bathing Girl Revue was in progress, tho they condemned the revue at the convention.

REACTION HAS FREE HAND IN CROATIAN MEET

Progressive Resolutions Are Steamrollered

CLEVELAND, May 23.—The resolution committee reported and proposed resolutions of little moment to the South Slavic workers in this country. Only one aroused considerable discussion. There are two homes in Jugo-Slavia where poor children are given a training for three years and then handed over to manufacturers and big peasants for exploitation. One of the schools is under the control of the Peasant Party, the other under that of the democratic (manufacturers) party.

The Communists supported a proposal of the Svetkovites (renegade Communists) in committee to demand that both schools be combined and the bureaucrats be cleaned out. On the floor of the convention the Svetkovites turned tail. They saw that they were in too close contact with the Communists and the Progressive Bloc and brought in a compromise resolution, which the reactionaries promptly accepted. The alliance of the Svetkovites and reactionaries was complete.

After the motion was passed the priest, Stephanovich, who is the chairman of the resolution committee, the Svetkovites and the reactionaries could be seen in whispered conversations.

Aim Blow at Militants.

The reactionaries aided by the Svetkovites also put across another sinister motion, viz., that any one against the constitution of the United States, would not be admitted to the organization. The intent of this clause in the constitution was apparent: It was to entrap the militant South Slavic workers in this country, who in the class struggle may come into conflict with the law. Svetkovites and reactionaries joined on this issue. During the heated discussions, the chairman did not like the militancy of the progressives.

Noticing Comrade Zinich, member of the South Slavic bureau of the Workers (Communist) Party, he said: "For the last time, I order Mr. Zinich to leave the floor of the convention." Zinich did not leave.

During the report of the editor-in-chief of the organ of the union, an attempt was made to eject Comrade Zinich from the floor. The Communists in the convention immediately ran to the back of the hall, where they shot Zinich was seated, but he was in the gallery. The reactionaries did not dare to lay a hand on him.

Progressive Bloc.

The united front of the reactionaries and the Svetkovites prevented all working class resolutions from being presented to the convention. The progressive bloc did not show sufficient aggressiveness when the motion was made to accept the resolutions committee report, which turned down all proposals of the progressives. There was too much passivity. Had this been a trade union convention and had as large a bloc of progressives been present, there could not have been such peace in the convention. The result was that resolutions in favor of the International Labor Defense, in favor of recognition of Soviet Russia, for a Labor Party, for joining the unions, were not read, but steamrollered.

In reporting on why the resolution in favor of the International Labor Defense was turned down in committee, the priest Stephanovich said that the organization supports and defends anarchists and I. W. W.'s. The last he drew out and emphasized so as to terrorize the convention. Nevertheless the convention voted \$100 to the International Labor Defense.

The convention's drawing to a close after nearly three weeks of work. The progressive bloc comes out of the convention strengthened and organized to carry on its work during the next three years till the next convention.

Picnic Tickets for Sale at Many Stations in City

Tickets for the picnic given by the Russian, Polish and Ukrainian Workers' Clubs on Sunday, June 6, at Marvell Inn Grove are now for sale at the following stations:

Workers' House, 1902 W. Division St.; Russian Co-operative restaurant, 1734 W. Division St.; in the office of THE DAILY WORKER, 1113 W. Washington Blvd., and by all members of the Russian, Polish and Ukrainian Workers' Clubs.

Tickets bought in advance are 40 cents. At the gates 50 cents. Get your tickets now!

Russian I. L. D. Branch Meets Wednesday Night

The Russian branch of the International Labor Defense will meet Wednesday, May 26, at 8 p. m., at the Workers' House, 1902 W. Division St. All members are requested to come in time, at 8 p. m., and bring their Russian speaking friends. All members are also requested to bring their membership cards.

TWENTY MILLION AUTOS IN U. S. AND FLIVVER PRODUCTION INCREASES

NEW YORK, May 24.—The Copper and Brass Bulletin states that the increase in automobile production has raised the consumption of copper in that industry to a record figure of 245,000,000 during 1925.

The automobile output of 4,314,636 cars in 1925 was an increase of 20 pct. over 1924 and the Automobile Chamber of Commerce figures show that 1,138,408 cars were produced in the first three months of 1926, which rate if maintained will send automotive production for 1926 still higher than in 1925.

The number of automobile registrations in 1925 passed 20,000,000, being a rise of 13 per cent over 1924.

TOM MANN TALKS ABOUT STRIKE TO BERLIN WORKERS

English Strike Is an International One

(Special to The Daily Worker)
BERLIN, May 9 (By Mail).—During an airplane stopover between Moscow and London, Tom Mann, veteran minority leader of the English trade unionists, addressed in Berlin three crowded meetings held under the auspices of the International Workers' Aid. His main plea was that the workers of other countries should make it their business to see that no coal was shipped from their shores to England.

International Affair.
"This is your strike, as well as ours," he told the German workers assembled to hear him. "It is more than an English affair. It is international in its scope and meaning. We aim to strike a blow at international capitalism. To do so we shall need the loyalty and solidarity of the workers of the world."

In an interview Mann outlined the conditions in the labor movement in England preceding the strike.

The Change.
"For many years there have been advocates of a general strike, but the idea was pooh-hoed by the Trade Union officials. The majority of trade union officials in England have been reactionary or indifferent to any change in the present social system. But, as a result of the progressive activities within the unions, partially in the last four or five years, which have been carried on mainly thru the national majority movement, the outlook has been changed. There has been so much effective propaganda in the Trade Union branches that I think as high as 35 per cent of the membership is now with us.

"One hundred per cent are definitely favorable to the elimination of all sectional unions and the establishment of workers' control of industry."

Workers' Republic.
Those are the two big issues being fought in England today. That statement of demands is the English workers' declaration of independence. It is the theoretical preface to the actual and practical writing of a constitution for a workers' republic!

"Men of the type of J. H. Thomas, Will Thorne and Clynes have been checkmating and hindering the growth of this feeling and principle," added Mann. "But, in spite of them, at the last minority international conference which consisted of 870 delegates from the Trade Union branches, without any stipulation given except those their respective branches gave, it was voted unanimously to support the revolutionary measures submitted to the conference. It was a concrete indication of the growth of this idea of control for and by the workers. It gave evidence of the fact that force was possible, irrespective of reactionary leaders."

Rank and File Action.
Mann went on to say that the unanimity and solidarity of the workers of Great Britain in supporting the coal miners was a complete surprise, even to the miners. He also said that he was sure that the situation would not have been initiated by the union leaders. The force of the decision and the action came directly from the rank and file.

Protest Persecution of Greek Workers at N. Y. Mass Meeting

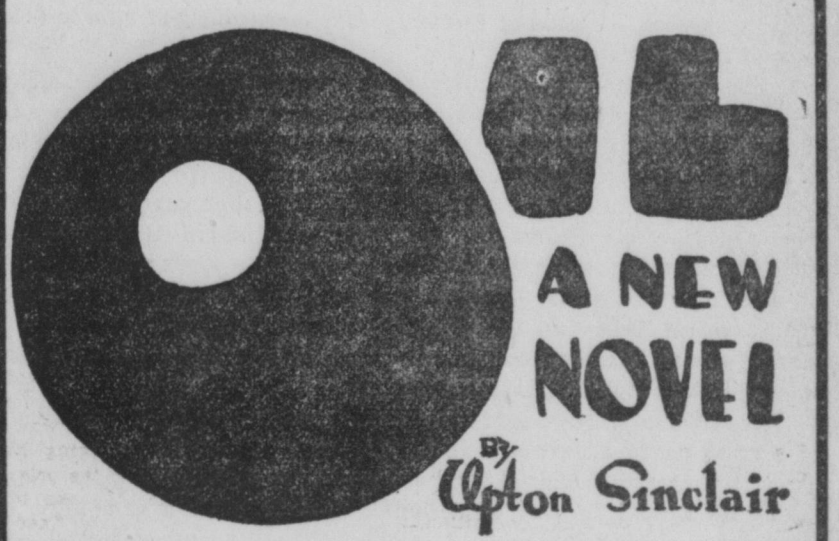
NEW YORK, May 24. — A protest meeting, under the auspices of the International Labor Defense, to protest against the imprisonment of workers and peasants in Greece for the mere crime of expressing their political opinions was held Monday, May 24, at Bryant Hall, Sixth avenue, between 41st and 42nd Sts.

Solon Seeks Probe Into Oil Trust Price-Fixing

WASHINGTON, May 24. — Investigation by the federal trade commission of the "monopolistic conduct" of oil companies in increasing gasoline, kerosene and crude oil prices was demanded in the senate by Senator Trammell, republican, of Florida.



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