

# 14 DEAD IN STEEL PLANT BLAST

## 56 Class War Prisoners From The Ranks of Chicago Labor! What Can Chicago Unions Do?

FIFTY-SIX members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, all but two of them women, are in the Cook county jail. They have been sent there by Judge Dennis E. Sullivan for picketing in the garment strike of 1924.

The injunction which prohibited picketing was denounced by the entire Chicago labor movement.

But the injunction was issued by Judge Sullivan, who was elected on the republican ticket—the same capitalist ticket on which candidates for public office were endorsed by leading officials of the Chicago Federation of Labor and its affiliated unions.

The members of the I. L. G. W. U. were sent to jail by a judge whose political party was supported by union officials.

The question must be asked now: What do the union officials, who supported the republican party and consequently its injunction policy, propose to do about the jailing of 56 union men and women for fighting the open shop?

We are familiar with the usual mode of procedure—that of interviewing politicians and pulling wires, asking favors and promising favors in return, but this evasion of struggle on the real issue will not do in this case.

The imprisonment of 56 union members for their loyalty to the trade union movement and its principles is a challenge to every union man and woman in Chicago.

These workers have been jailed because they fought against an injunction—a method of outlawing labor unions and their activities which the conventions of the American Federation of Labor have denounced consistently and urged its members to fight uncompromisingly.

Here is a concrete issue for Chicago labor.

Is it to be thrown into the cess-pool of capitalist politics, made a basis of trades and deals with the crooked officialdom of Cook county, become the subject of whispered conferences with labor-hating jobholders.

Or will the jailing of 56 union men and women by an injunction judge be taken into the Chicago Federation of Labor and all its unions and used to arouse and organize a mass protest against the courts, judges and officials of the Chicago capitalist class?

The 56 worker may be pardoned by wire-pulling, but the injunction still stands and Sullivan still holds office.

The official policy of the Chicago Federation of Labor is still that of support of candidates on the democratic and republican tickets.

Will the jailing of 56 of the best fighters in the Chicago trade unions be used to show the dangerous futility of the "nonpartisan" policy which elects only capitalist partisans to office?

The 56 union men and women in Cook county jail are the proof that with its present policy the Chicago labor movement is dependent upon enemies for favors, that the open shop interests believe that they have nothing to fear from labor in politics and that they therefore can jail without fear of reprisal the very best fighting troops of the labor movement.

The release of 56 members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union must be taken out of the back rooms of the capitalist party bosses and made a real political case, made the starting point of a movement which will put labor in politics with its own candidates and its own party.

If the Chicago trade union movement speaks with its own voice and with the determined tone that it can, the 56 will be released. The trade union movement cleared of the stain the support of the bosses' parties placed upon it, and its prestige and power increased immensely.

## Twenty-Seven Garment Workers March to Jail to Begin Terms



Twenty-five women and two men composed a group of members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union who marched from the union's office yesterday to the Cook county jail where they will serve sentences ranging from 10 to 70 days for violating an injunction issued by Judge Dennis Sullivan during a garment workers' strike in 1924. They marched to the jail followed by other members of the union, all singing and laughing.

### What Is Labor's Answer?



## 100 Injured at Gary Inferno of Illinois Steel Co.

(Special to The Daily Worker)

GARY, Ind., June 14.—A terrific explosion which killed 14 or more steel workers and injured over 100, wrecked the coke plant of the Illinois Steel Company at 8:30 Monday morning and threw the whole open-shop inferno of Gary, iron and steel center of the Great Lakes region, into confusion as families and friends of the workers flocked to the mill gates trying to learn the fates of their loved ones.

Immediately after the explosion, company officials threw a heavy armed guard around the plant and refused to give out any information as to the number of dead and injured.

Workers from within the plant report that many more were killed than is officially admitted thru the Gary police department. The DAILY WORKER reporter is on the scene gathering authentic and detailed information. No one is being permitted to enter the plant but first aid workers and police, and a high steel fence surrounds the whole plant.

The extent of the disaster is seen in the fact that all ambulances in Gary were rushed to the plant, while fire department apparatus and police patrol cars are used to carry away the dead and injured.

The explosion was apparently caused by ignition of gases in one or more of the huge coke ovens. Parts of the machinery, steel and burning coal were hurled with terrible force in all directions, while deadly fumes spread over the plant.

### Workers Burned Alive.

The blast dashed many workers to death and injury against the brick and concrete walls, breaking arms and legs and skulls, while the fire that started in the ruins burned many bodies of the dead and cremated the injured that lay dying before aid reached them.

A great cloud of gas and smoke which shot high in the air when the explosion occurred, settled again in the heavy, damp atmosphere, and in the semi-darkness Gary firemen worked with difficulty against the poisonous gases, bringing out the victims.

Meanwhile, at the mill gates and held back by lines of armed steel trust guards, the wives and families of the steel workers waited, weeping and wringing their hands before the monster of steel that had swallowed their loved ones only a few hours before, now to disgorge them, unrecognizable, charred pieces of flesh and bone, or torn bodies covered with grim and blood.

### A Veritable Hell.

Many of the injured were horribly mangled and several of the dead were thrown hundreds of feet by the force of the explosion. The roof of the two story by-products plant was blown off, the debris crushing the workers in its fall, while tons of acids and chemicals were scattered among the workers lying among the flaming ruins, making a veritable hell of burning acid, steel fragments, and flaming building wreckage while over all hung the deadly fumes of poison gases and thick smoke.

As usual, the company paid more at (Continued on page 2)

## ANOTHER FARM RELIEF BILL UP IN SENATE

### Proposes Billion Loan for Farmers

WASHINGTON, June 14.—A new farm relief proposal, providing government subscription of a \$200,000,000 fund to be loaned to farmers, either separately or co-operatively, for exporting their surpluses, was introduced in the senate today by Senator Robinson, democrat of Arkansas.

### Debate Stops at Noon.

With debate limitation effective at noon tomorrow the new amendment may delay a vote on relief legislation until late this week. Farm bloc leaders were hoping to vote on the \$175,000,000 McNary-Haugen bill by Wednesday or Thursday.

The Robinson amendment would allow aggregate loans up to \$1,000,000,000 on commercial securities approved by a board of five in control of an export corporation the act would establish.

## BRITISH MINE STRIKE FUNDS BADLY NEEDED

### Green Is Silent on Aid from A. F. of L.

(Special to The Daily Worker)

NEW YORK, June 14.—"Five years of under-employment and unemployment have made conditions among the British miners so bad that the Miners' Federation can only pay quite inadequate strike benefits, and then only in the most desperate districts. The striking miners and their families are almost entirely dependent upon outside assistance to avoid starvation." This is the report of Evelyn Preston of the Women's Committee of England, accepted by the Miners' Federation as their relief agency.

When Miss Preston saw William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, he seemed concerned as to what the A. F. of L. could do, and whether they could act quickly enough.

### Why Is Green Silent?

A direct appeal to Green was cabled from the Miners' Federation of Great Britain. The British miners feel that the struggle will be long and hard, says Miss Preston, and assure the American workers of the urgency of their aid.

Dispatches of the Federated Press from Washington state that members of Green's staff at the Washington headquarters say they have no knowledge of the receipt of any appeal from the British Miners' Federation for help. Green himself has gone west on a speaking tour that will keep him away from Washington until July. He has never explained the reasons which led him to abandon his original project of giving financial aid to the British miners which he discussed on May 7.

### Unions Must Act.

Until Green appeals to all unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. to donate to the starving families of the British strikers, his staff assumes that (Continued from page 1)

## LA FOLLETTE PLATFORM TO KILL LENROOT

### Makes World Court the Major Issue

(Special to The Daily Worker)

WASHINGTON, June 14. — The block and the axe on which the political execution of Irvine L. Lenroot, senator from Wisconsin, will be carried out in the statewide primary on September 7, are ready for action. The LaFollette organization is to challenge the present senator on issue of the world court and he has not the slightest ground for defense because it was he who led the hosts of the House of Morgan who voted adherence of this country to the world court, the backdoor to the league of nations.

The LaFollette candidate for Lenroot's seat in Governor James J. Blaine. Herman Ekern is the candidate for governor.

### First Plank on Court.

The first plank in the platform, after a pledge to carry out the middle class reform program of the late senior LaFollette, states:

"We are unalterably opposed to the entrance of the United States into the league of nations, and we denounce the administration and the members of the senate who voted to put this country into the league of nations world court as a betrayal of a sacred public trust. We favor a resolution by congress withdrawing America's adherence to the world court.

### Assails Mellon Tax.

"The platform also denounces the foreign debt settlements, condemns 'dollar diplomacy,' favors outlawry of war, abolition of conscription, opposes universal military training; demands repeal of the Esch-Cummins railroad law; condemns Mellon's revenue act, which relieved 'millionaire's taxes'; demands reduction in 'tariff monopolies'; demands justice for the farmer, and declares for freedom of the west from 'domination by eastern industries and financial interests.'"

Get the Point!

## STEEL TRUST DESPERATELY TRIES TO HIDE TRUTH ABOUT DISASTER

The following report was received over the telephone from our representative, H. M. Wicks, at the scene of the Gary, Indiana, steel plant horror. Wicks will have a detailed story in tomorrow's issue of The DAILY WORKER.

By H. M. WICKS.

(Special to The Daily Worker)

GARY, Ind., June 14.—The explosion resulted in the death of not less than fifty. The plant is a mass of ruins. The explosion took place in what is called the laboratory and where they make the by-products of coke, bengal, toluene and naphthalene. This material is crude stuff for T.N.T. and is a by-product of coal made to treat coke. This is what caused the explosion.

Despite all difficulties, The DAILY WORKER reporter saw in one undertaking establishment twelve colored men. The undertaking establishment of R. E. Guy was roped off by a block and colored women and children are standing in line being admitted ten at a time in order to attempt to identify the bodies.

### ROPE OFF UNDERTAKING PLANT.

The dead men have the flesh burned off their faces and chests and are ghastly spectacles. The steel trust has established a complete reign of terror throughout Gary. The steel trust police at the gates of the steel corporation refuse to permit any reporters to enter. However, The DAILY WORKER reporter secured a car and chauffeur and drove by the gates at considerable speed, refusing to heed the signal to "Stop," entered the yards and drove by the coke plants, when police stopped and ordered him out of the yard.

But I succeeded in getting a view of the wreckage. Firemen and police of the company are working amidst the ruins and removing the bodies of the dead and the wounded. It is almost impossible to ascertain who are wounded and who are dead.

### MANY WAIT TO IDENTIFY DEAD.

Those wounded are being taken to the company hospital where there are already 146 and where the streets are heavily guarded with company police and no one is permitted to enter. Large groups of colored and white people are assembled in the vicinity waiting for the opportunity to identify those of their relatives who were working in the plant. Not even the Gary police department are permitted within the yard.

At the undertaking establishment, the people in charge have been given orders not to give out any names whatever of those dead. The people at the undertaking establishment waiting in line all declare that it is the practice of the company not to give out information regarding homeless workers who are killed.

### BRASS CHECK TELLS MUTE STORY.

However, The DAILY WORKER reporter succeeded in obtaining one name from a colored relative. One man, Marvin Kimbro, a young colored worker, is scarred almost beyond identification. The reporter saw a check number, the workers are given numbers instead of names. This number was "26023." That was the mute evidence that he was ever a human being. At some of the undertaking establishments where there are white men, the company has ordered all people excluded and it is impossible to ascertain the number of dead in the establishments.





# Workers (Communist) Party

## NEW YORK PARTY MEMBERSHIP MEETING TO HEAR REPORT ON PLENUM NEXT FRIDAY, JUNE 18

A very important party membership meeting to listen to the report on the last plenum of the Central Executive Committee will be held on Friday, June 18, at 8 p. m., at Webster Hall, 119 East 11th St., corner 3rd Ave., New York City.

Comrade C. E. Ruthenberg, general secretary of the party, will report for the Central Executive Committee. Admission will be by new membership book only.

Every party member is urged to attend the meeting and become acquainted with the latest decisions of the party.

## PARTY 'FORWARD MOVEMENT' BEGINS AS MEMBERSHIP MEETS

THE largest mass meetings of party members held by the party are expected to take place in the district headquarters during next week when C. E. Ruthenberg, general secretary of the party, speaks on "The Tasks of the Party in the Light of the Decision of the Communist International."

All district offices have been notified to do their utmost to bring every member of the party in their territories to the meetings, so that they be fully informed in regard to the meaning of the decision of the Enlarged Executive Committee of the Communist International, the attitude of the central Committee in carrying it into effect and the immediate campaigns of the party. The meetings, in addition to informing the membership on the party situation, will be utilized to mobilize the membership for a big forward drive in every phase of the party work.

The united labor ticket campaign, the campaign to increase the membership of the reorganized party, the campaign in the trade union to stimulate the building of a broad left wing movement will be taken up in detail.

The meetings to be held are the following: Buffalo—Wednesday, June 16, Finnish Hall, 159 Grider St., 8 p. m. BOSTON—Thursday, June 17.

NEW YORK—Friday, June 18, Webster Hall, 119 E. 11th St. 8 p. m. PHILADELPHIA—Saturday, June 19. PITTSBURGH—Sunday, June 20, Labor Lyceum, 35 Miller St. 4 p. m. CLEVELAND—Monday, June 21. DETROIT—Tuesday, June 22, Finnish Hall, 5969 14th St. 8 p. m. CHICAGO—Wednesday, June 23. MINNEAPOLIS—Friday, June 25.

Local organizations of the party outside of the headquarters city should send as many comrades as possible to attend the membership meetings.

## LOCAL CHICAGO, WORKERS PARTY, TO HOLD SECTION CONFERENCES THIS WEEK

Section 1—Today—3427 Indiana Ave. (rear).

Section 3—Today—Vilnis, 3116 S. Halsted St.

Section 6—Thursday, 17—Schoenhofen Hall, cor. Milwaukee and Ashland.

Section 4—Friday, 18—19 S. Lincoln St.

Section 5—Friday, 18—2406 N. Clark St.

## New York Workers Party Will Hold Picnic June 27

NEW YORK, June 14.—Workers (Communist) Party, District 2, is giving a picnic at Pleasant Bay Park, Sunday, June 27. The Hungarian Athletic Club football team and a baseball game between the Young Workers (Communist) League and the Workers (Communist) Party will be the features at the picnic. Admission is 35 cents.

## Cannon Speaks at Kansas City Banquet

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 14.—James P. Cannon, secretary of the International Labor Defense, will speak at a banquet arranged by the local International Labor Defense, with the active co-operation of the Croatian Ladies' Educational Club, Tuesday night, June 15, at the Croatian Hall, 5 Elizabeth St., Kansas City, Kansas, at 7 o'clock.

Music will be furnished by the Young Workers Croatian String Orchestra.

## SECTION THREE, CHICAGO, CONFERENCE MEETS IN VILNIS HALL TONIGHT

Section Three, Chicago, section conference will take place tonight in Vilnis Hall, 3116 South Halsted St. All delegates are urged to be at the hall at 8 o'clock sharp.

## Cleveland Militants Asks September Date Be Kept for T. U. E. L.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, June 14.—The Trade Union Educational League is arranging a picnic and dance for Sunday September 5, at the Sachsenheim Garden, 7001 Dennison Ave. All members and friends of the league and all sympathetic organizations are requested to reserve this date in order to assist the league to conduct a successful affair.

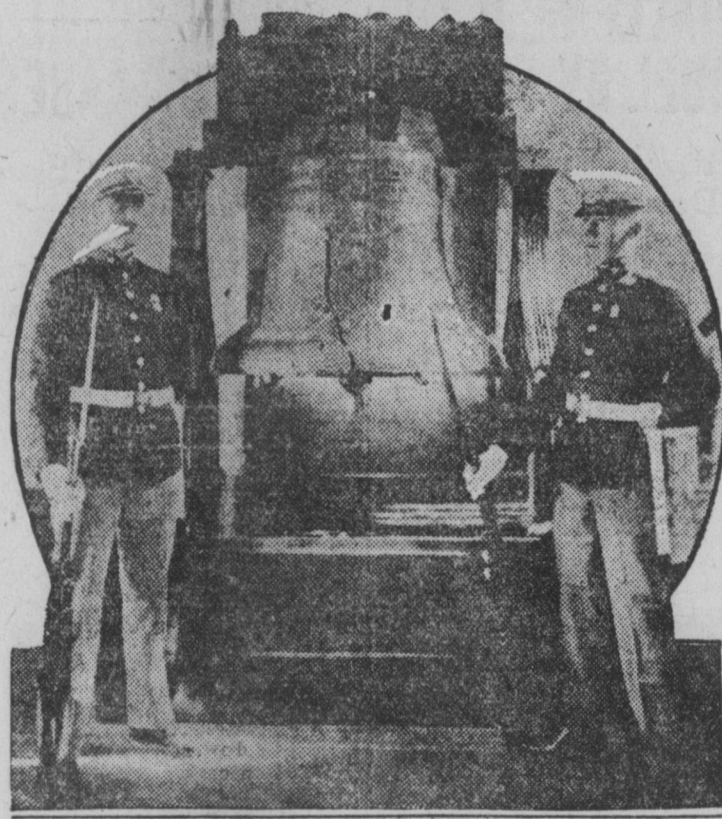
## Cleveland Machinist Local Contributes to Aid British Strikers

CLEVELAND, Ohio, June 14.—Machinists Local Union, No. 439 after considering the big struggles now being waged by the workers both in England and the United States, donated \$10 to the British Miners relief and \$25 to the Passaic Textile strikers relief.

## Crew of Schooner Geneva Is Rescued

PORT ARTHUR, Tex., June 14.—Seven members of the crew of the schooner Geneva, which burned to the water's edge off West Palm Beach, Fla., were rescued from an open boat by the tanker Gulf of Port Arthur, according to radio advices.

## Old Liberty Bell Under "Arrest"



United States marines, American imperialism's police, watch the Liberty Bell in Independence Hall, Philadelphia. Many thousands are expected to pass the bell during the Philadelphia Sesqui-Centennial celebration.

## PLANNING JEWISH SOVIET REPUBLIC IN SOVIET UNION

### Territorial Region Allotted in South

(Special to The Daily Worker) MOSCOW, June 14.—The central executive committee of the Soviet government has legalized the setting aside of a part of Ukraine and Kherson as an autonomous Jewish Soviet Republic. From the central Ukrainian republics, it is planned to settle 25,000 Jewish families as a colony, the Jewish colonization plans previously undertaken having had a great success. The new Jewish Soviet Republic will have its own representatives in the central governing body of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics.

## NEW YORK I. W. A. HOLDS SERIES OF OPEN AIR MEETS

### Campaign Meeting with Great Success

(Special to The Daily Worker) NEW YORK, June 14.—The open air campaign of the New York section of the International Workers' Aid continues with marked success.

The following meetings have been arranged, on which committees of Passaic strikers will be present and speak.

The meetings are as follows: Wednesday, June 16—7th St. & Ave. A. Speakers: J. Oblans, Sylvan A. Pollack, Margaret Unjes, J. Sorenson and Sam Nessin.

Thursday, June 17—Columbus Circle & 59th St. Speakers: Pascal Cosgrove, John McDonald, Sylvan A. Pollack, Chas. Raiss and J. Sorenson. Friday, June 18—Prospect Ave. & 163rd St. Speakers: Sylvan A. Pollack, Edward Stevens, Chas. Mitchell and Chas. Raiss.

Saturday, June 19—Intervale and Wilks Ave. Speaker: D. Benjamin, Louis A. Baum, Chas. Raiss, Sylvan A. Pollack and Sam Nessin.

WRITE AS YOU FIGHT!

## A NEW NOVEL by Upton Sinclair

(Copyright, 1926, by Upton Sinclair)

### WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE.

Dad and his young son, both dressed alike, and richly, are motoring over a smooth and flawless concrete road towards a barrier of purple mountains. The boy sits next to his father, eager-eyed, alert. His father is his hero. They reach the mountains and climb higher and higher. Then down the other side at a good clip, with a weather eye for speed cops, whom Dad hates. As Dad drove he mused to himself. He used to be Jim Ross, teamster, then he was J. A. Ross and Co., general merchandise, at Queen Center, California, and now he is J. Arnold Ross, oil operator, on his way to Beach City to sign a lease. Beside him sits "Bunny" thinking of altogether different things. They come to Santa Ynez, a newly built, white painted, California town. The only hint of the old west was a solitary cow-boy in "chaps" and an old Indian mumbling his lips. For the rest, it was like any other main street town—with its nationally advertised magazines containing all the nationally advertised advertisements of the nationally advertised ranchmen came in to buy. They leave the town and hit it up on a broad boulevard called Mission Way. There were signs with queer Spanish names indicating a history behind each one. "Bunny" asks Dad what happened in "Verdrugo (Executioner) Canyon." Dad doesn't know. He shares the opinion of the manufacturer of a nationally advertised automobile—that history is mostly "bunk." They go thru town after town of rectilinear blocks and whizz by "sub-divisions." By dint of constant passing of other cars they come to Beach City. They put up at the big hotel and in the lobby meet Dad's "lease-hound," Ben Skutt. They are seeking to gain possession of some valuable oil lands for which a number of concerns are competing. Those that own the lands at first insisted on a proposal to agree to share alike, but soon intrigues have split the groups. A number of oil-operators attempted to bribe some of the more influential ones to gain possession of the lands. Skutt enters the scene with J. Arnold Ross when the discord is at its highest point. He attempts to get the property owners to sign a lease with Ross. A number of the property owners refuse to sell, threatening to break away from the rest. The moment when threats begin to fly thick and fast Skutt introduces J. Arnold Ross.

VII

Old Mrs. Ross, Bunny's grandmother, was accustomed to protest strenuously against a boy being taken about on these business trips. It was enough to destroy all the sweetness of his nature, she declared; it would make him a hardened cynic in his childhood, all this sordidness and hatefulness of money-grabbing. But Bunny's father answered that that was life, and there was no good fooling yourself; Bunny would have to live in the world some day, and the quicker he learned about it the better. So there the boy sat, on his perch in the window sill, watching, and recalling his grandmother's words.

Yes, they were a mean bunch, sure enough; Dad was right when he said you had to watch out every minute, because somebody would be trying to take something away from you. These people had simply gone crazy, with the sudden hope of getting a lot of money in a hurry. Bunny, who had always had all the money he could use, looked down with magnificent scorn upon their petty bickering. You couldn't trust such people around the corner, he decided; there was nothing they wouldn't do to you. The fat old woman in the yellow satin dress, with her fat red arms and her fat legs cased in silk—it wouldn't take much more to have her clawing somebody's face. And that hatchet-faced man with the voice like a buzzsaw—he would be capable of sticking a knife into you on a dark night!

Dad wanted his son to understand every detail of these business arrangements: the terms of the lease, the provisions of the law, the size of the different lots, the amounts of money involved. He would talk about it afterwards, and it would be a kind of examination, to see how much the boy had really understood. So Bunny listened attentively, and put this and that together, remembering the points of the lease as he had heard his father going over them with Ben Skutt and Mr. Prentice while they were driving out to the field in the latter's car. But the boy could not keep his mind from going off to the different personalities involved, and their points of view, and the hints one got of their lives. That old fellow with the stooped shoulders and the gnarled hands—he was some kind of poor workman, and you could see he was unhappy over this arguing; he wanted somebody he could trust, and he looked this way and that, but there was no such person in the crowd. That young woman with the nose-glasses, she was a hard one—what did she do when she wasn't quarreling? That elderly couple that looked rich—they were very much on their dignity, but they had come to get their share, all the same, and they weren't having any generous emotions towards the "little lots"!

The old gentleman drew his chair over beside Dad and began a whispered conversation. Bunny saw Dad shake his head, and the old gentleman drew away. Dad spoke to Skutt, and the latter rose and said: "Mr. Ross wishes me to make clear that he isn't interested in any proposition for leasing a portion of the block. He wouldn't put down a well without room for offset wells. If you people can't agree, he'll take another lease that I've found for him."

This struck a chill to them, and stopped the wrangling. Dad saw it, and nodded to his "lease-hound," who went on: "Mr. Ross has an offer of a lease on the north side, which has very good prospects, because we believe the anticline runs that way. There are several acres which belong to one party, so it will be easy to agree."—Yes, that scared the wits out of them; it was several minutes before they were quarreling again!

Where Bunny sat in the window-sill, he could see the lights of the "discovery well," now shut off and awaiting the building of tanks; he could hear through the open window the hammering of the riveters on the tanks, and of carpenters building new ladders along the slope. His attention was wandering, when suddenly he was startled by a whispered voice, coming from the darkness, apparently right alongside him: "Hey, kid!"

Bunny peered around the edge of the window, and saw a figure, flattened against the side of the house. "Hey, kid," said the whisper again. "Listen to me, but don't let nobody know you're listenin'. They musn't know I'm here."

Bunny's thought was, "A spy! Trying to find out about the lease!" So he was on the alert; he listened to a steady, persistent whisper, intense and moving:

"Hey, kid! I'm Paul Watkins, and the lady what lives here is my aunt. I dassen't let her know I'm here, see, cause she'll make me go back home. I live on a ranch up in the San Elido, and I run away from home 'cause I can't stand it, see. I got to get a job, but first I got to have somethin' to eat, 'cause I'm near starved. And my aunt would want me to have it, 'cause we're friends, see—only she'd want me to go back home, and I can't stand it. So I want to get somethin' to eat out of the kitchen, and when I earn some money, I'll mail it to her, so I'll just be borrowin', see. What I want you to do is to unlock the kitchen door. I won't take nothin' but a piece of pie, and maybe a sandwich or somethin', see. All you got to do is, tell my aunt to let you go into the kitchen and get a drink of water, and then turn the key in the door and go back into the house. You come out the front door if you want to, and come around and make sure it's all like I tell you. Say kid, be a good scout, 'cause I'm up against it, it's sure tough not to have a meal all day, and I been hitch-hikin' and walkin' a lot 'o' the time, and I'm done up. You come out and I'll tell you about it, but don't try to talk to me here, 'cause they'll see your lips movin', see, and they'll know there's somebody out here."

(To be continued.)

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### Britain's Deep Crisis

Dispatches from Great Britain speak of the belief in official circles that if the financial aid from the Russian unions to the striking miners can be stopped the strike can be broken.

This does not speak very well for the labor movements in other countries and certainly it is in contradiction to the stereotyped anti-Soviet propaganda of the capitalist press which pictures the Russian workers as miserably underpaid and underfed.

Yet they have enough money, it seems, to have made the biggest strike donation in the history of the world labor movement.

But the support given by the Russian trade unionists is not the real reason for the drive against Russia by the British government. The truth of the matter is that the coal strike is breaking the back of British capitalism. The export of coal has fallen from 2,000,000 tons in April to 263,000 tons in May.

Exports of other goods have fallen off by \$30,000,000 and imports have decreased \$115,000,000 in one month.

The British government therefore needs some issue which may serve to obscure the facts of the collapse and direct attention to other quarters. It must appear as the defender of British civilization and it is trying to do so.

But the stubborn truth will not down. British capitalist government has produced a crisis which it can alleviate only by reducing the wages of miners to the starvation level and forcing them to work on those terms, by in turn proceeding in the same fashion against the rest of the working class, and by recapturing markets now firmly held by the rivals of British capitalism.

Stripped of all the false issues, such as "Soviet gold," etc., the miners' strike is one of the manifestations of the bankruptcy of British capitalism, a part of the process by which Great Britain is being forced to play second fiddle to the more virile American capitalism.

The British coal miners are bearing now the brunt of a struggle which burst upon the world with dramatic suddenness thru the general strike and which again will involve inevitably the whole British working class.

Seldom in all the struggles of labor has a single group of workers been called upon to shoulder the responsibility which rests now upon the miners and their leaders.

To fail to give the maximum support to the miners means to strengthen British capitalism and to aid it in its attempt to crush the British labor movement.

### The Furriers' Union Sets an Example

The Furriers' Union has given an answer to the question which confronts every union at the end of a strike, i.e., what to do with the strikebreakers.

The Furriers' Union says "Fire them first, turn them over to the union for discipline, and then we will consider each case on its merits."

The union is strong enough to enforce this demand and a special committee of the union has been set up to deal with the matter.

The Furriers' Union has set an example for the whole trade union movement in this respect. To leave the strikebreakers in the shops without punishment for their treason to their class is to give the bosses a nucleus for anti-union organization and discourage the men and women who go hungry and are clubbed and arrested while on the picket line.

It should be a cardinal rule of every union that no strike settlement which does not include the discharge of strikebreakers be made except when the union has had to accept a defeat on its major demands.

One of the most shameful acts of the right wing leadership of the British trade unions after the general strike was to sign an agreement which acknowledged the right of the bosses to continue the employment of strikebreakers and which allowed, because of this, the members of the union to be blacklisted.

### Gary as a Pacifist

Now that it has become the vogue for statesmen, war munitions manufacturers, heads of armament trusts and imperialist war mongers generally to conceal their preparations for future world slaughters of the workers under the slogans of pacifism it is not surprising to hear a belated echo of the boresome Coolidge utterances from Elbert H. Gary, head of the steel trust.

At a luncheon in honor of the German industrialist, Dr. Paul Reusch, Gary advocated an international association of steel producers as "a step in the direction of abolishing war." In his speech the American apostle of the scab shop in industry unintentionally let the cat out of the bag regarding the last war.

Relating the fact that he met Dr. Paul Reusch in Brussels in 1911, Gary said that at that time he believed if the steel producers would stand together they could prevent war and added that he still believes it. Here is a plain repudiation of the twaddle of Mr. Gary during the war to the effect that the conflict was over opposing principles of "Kaiserism" and democracy and an indirect confession that steel had something to do with it.

His expressed desire for an international steel trust is intended to include only continental European producers who can be used in the imperialist struggle against Britain, and the pacifist disguise in which the question is approached is much too thin to conceal the preparations for the next titanic conflict of nations that is being prepared by the imperialists while the statesmen of the various countries pass from one fertility to the next in the series of international conferences that are being held thruout the world, with each conference exposing the irreconcilable contradictions that can only end in war.

Only international working class action against the capitalist brigands will end war.

World court senators voted for "peace." They can now enjoy all the peace of private life, away from the turmoil of legislative combat.

# The Confused Mr. Calverton

By WILLIAM F. DUNNE.

V. F. CALVERTON, editor of the Modern Quarterly, reviewing Saposs' "Left Wing Unionism" in the May-July issue of that publication, commits an error for which there is little excuse on the part of a super-intellectual who views the class struggle from the undisturbed quietness of the classroom.

The error is an error of fact and is one of those mistakes which occur so frequently in the writings of the intelligentsia who are trying to make a case against the Communists.

CALVERTON says: "The Socialist Labor Party of today, with its firm faith in dual unionism as the only solution, is as absurd as the Workers Party when it declares itself INFLEXIBLY OPPOSED to dual unionism."

The emphasis is ours. "Dual unionism" in America means the so-called independent unions outside of the American Federation of Labor, or the tendency to build unions outside of that body in competition with its affiliated organizations.

THE Workers Party is not now and never has been "inflexibly opposed" to such dual unionism. It approaches the whole question from the standpoint of Marxian dialectics on which the whole program of the Communist International and its sections is based. In other words the Workers Party, in determining its program in the various sections of the labor movement, never asks:

"Is this union a dual union?" Rather it asks:

"Is this the union which represents the workers in this industry best, is this the union which can attain the maximum results for the workers during a given period?"

If the last question can be answered in the affirmative, the Workers Party will support such a union whether it be inside or outside the American Federation of Labor.

CALVERTON continues:

"At the present time, for instance, despite the present stand of the Workers Party, Saposs cites several factors that more than likely 'may lead Communists to support independent unions.' The great number

of dual unions in many industries in itself is a salient reason why a change in the attitude of the Workers Party may occur in the near future.

Calverton predicts a change in a policy which has never existed except in his own mind. He thinks the Workers Party is "inflexibly opposed" to what he calls "dual unionism" whereas what the Workers Party actually is opposed to is anything which divides and weakens the working class. If it develops, for instance, that the textile workers can be organized outside of the American Federation of Labor and that such an independent union can function as well as the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, the Workers Party can support the move without having to change the dotting of an I or the crossing of a T in its program.

MR. CALVERTON and the group of which he appears to be the spiritual head, have, from time to time, accused the Communists of disregard for facts, unrealism, undue reverence for phrases, etc.

It is plain from the review from which we quote that Calverton himself is victimized by such phrases as "dual unionism" (considering unions only in their relation to the A. F. of L.) and that in addition such an obviously accessible fact as the position of the Workers Party on this question has never attracted his attention.

"The scientific spirit," that self-admitted attribute of the detached intellectual which urges him ever onward in the hunt for the Holy Grail of pure truth, seems to be laid aside whenever the Calverton out gets within what it believes is striking distance of the Communists.

## AMERICAN LABOR MUST AID THE STRIKING BRITISH COAL MINERS

Is American labor going to stand by while the British Tory government while the mineowners, give the British miners a good licking or will it give the financial aid to keep them from being starved into submission? If the British miners are beaten back to work at lower standards it will be a defeat for labor the world over.

Today over a million British miners with their women and children are facing starvation in the front line of labor's struggle against a grasping owner class. One meal a day is their ration. It is a recurrence of the 1921 struggle, which the miners lost after 13 weeks of magnificent solidarity.

Black Friday, April 15, 1921, saw the miners deserted for the first time by the railroaders and dockers of the Triple Alliance. Left to fight alone, they were forced on June 28 to accept drastic wage reductions. Red Friday, July 31 1925, saw British trade union leaders apparently redeem themselves when their threat of a general strike stopped a new joint offensive of mine owners and government against miners' wages.

Events proved, however, that the capitalists were only sparing for time to smash the solid front of labor. But British labor leaders, unwilling to

recognize the class struggle, even when forced upon them, failed to prepare. They were beguiled up to the last minute with the idea that another threat would turn the trick, that the capitalist government would not fight.

Then May 1 1926 the miners were locked out. On May 3 the Trades Union Congress council had an enthusiastic general strike on its hands. The government called it civil war, threatening severe measures likely to provoke reprisals, perhaps revolution. The council, with no definite plan, was more afraid to advance than turn back.

The general strike was called off unconditionally on the flimsy promise that Herbert Samuel, former chairman of the coal commission, would try to persuade the government to accept certain compromise terms. The government had no such intention. It submitted terms which the miners could not accept. The owners said they would handle the industry without government interference. Premier Baldwin, taking orders from the bitter anti-labor members of his cabinet, stepped aside.

A sub a day will help to drive capital away.

## The Struggle in Great Britain

By EARL R. BROWDER.

ARTICLE ONE

THE working class of Great Britain is spending the three-day Whitsun holidays in absorbing the lessons of the collapse of the great general strike, and working out plans for support of the coal miners, whose condition is now becoming serious after 24 days of the coal lockout. For some days the workers were simply stunned by the betrayal of the Trade Union General Council; now they are again asserting themselves, and the leaders are squirming uncomfortably, unable to meet the questions being shot at them.

The date set for the meeting of the executives of all affiliated unions, which the general council fixed at the 25th of June, will find great changes in the British labor movement. The general strike, miserable as was its leadership, has opened a new chapter of revolutionary development. Tremendous forces were released within the working class, long pent up by the traditional British conservatism, the full effects of which will only be registered in the course of future development, but which already puts an entirely different face on the world situation.

How the Strike Began.

THE general strike came as a surprise to everyone, most of all to those who called it and were supposed to lead it, the Trade Union General Council. Everyone knew that on April 30, when the coal agreement expired, something must happen: The government, knowing the weakness of the Trade Union leaders, and underestimating the pressure of the rank and file, thought it would completely isolate the miners and force their surrender. The Trade Union leaders believed that the government would give them an opportunity to surrender gracefully.

Thus, almost without realizing it, the Trade Union General Council found itself leading a revolutionary general strike to which it was opposed and in which it had no faith whatever. Its later shameful collapse was predetermined already in the first days of the strike.

ON Friday, April 30, the king signed a proclamation, under the "emergency powers act," which placed the country under martial law. The O. M. S. (Organization for Maintenance of Supplies), a semi-official fascist strike-breaking organization, was called into the service of the government. Military men were appointed "commissioners" of the different districts of the country. Troops began to move to the most radical working class centers. A million miners quit their work.

On Saturday, May 1, the conference of all trade union executives met at Memorial Hall. Outside the streets were full of processions of workers, who turned the May Day demonstrations into manifestations of support for the miners, full of a fighting spirit,

All over the country similar demonstrations were occurring, and messages poured into the executives, demanding solidarity with the miners.

The Trade Union General Council was overwhelmed by the sweep of sentiment, coming up from the rank and file. A motion calling for a general strike to begin Monday night was put; the general council which opposed it and did not believe in it, was silent because it had no program; and the motion was carried by a vote of 3,650,000 against 49,000.

INTO the hands of the general council was placed the carrying out of the strike, the only definite instruction given being, on a motion by Bevin, "that in the event of trade union agreements being placed in jeopardy, it be definitely agreed that there will be no general resumption of work until those agreements are fully recognized."

Herbert Smith, president of the miners, declared: "We are not going to have peace at any price. We have a clear understanding with the general council that altho we are handing this matter over to them, we must function with them from time to time. Any negotiation must be joint negotiation, and any advice from either side must be considered jointly."

ON Sunday, May 2, negotiations were reopened with the government. J. H. Thomas, arch-reactionary leader of the N. U. R. (National Union of Railwaymen), had taken charge of the negotiations for the general council, while the left wing members seemed to be paralyzed. He quickly justified the deep distrust of the miners, by turning the powers of the general council to forcing the miners to accept a reduction in wages. His part was described later by A. J. Cook, secretary of the miners, in the following words:

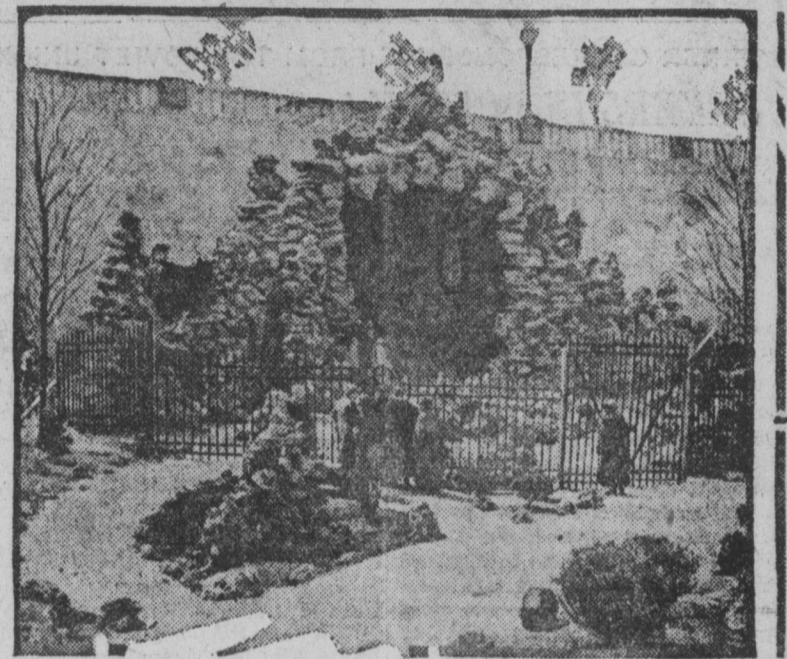
"I have had experience of being bullied in colliery offices; I had experience in 1920 and 1921 in meeting various prime ministers, but never have we been bullied by the employers or the government to the extent that we were bullied by certain trade union leaders to accept a reduction in wages."

"The government knew that, and the coal owners knew it. One man on the other side said to me: 'The T. U. C. will help us,' and the prime minister on more than one occasion publicly thanked the T. U. C." (Speech at Rhondda Valley, South Wales, May 23.)

DOMINATED by Thomas and the right wing, the general council was determined to surrender the miners' cause. Cook and Smith, with the unanimous support of the miners, stood firm. That Thomas was ready to repeat the "Black Friday" of 1921 is admitted by H. N. Brailsford, leader of the I. L. P., who says: "My own impression, from what I heard that evening, was that another rupture and another 'Black Friday' were imminent."

It was the government which changed the course of events. In the

### Grotto of Lourdes Reproduced



This grotto has been erected at Mundelein, Ill., for the Eucharistic Congress. It is an exact copy of the famous shrine in France.

### "Globe Circler" Crossing Russia



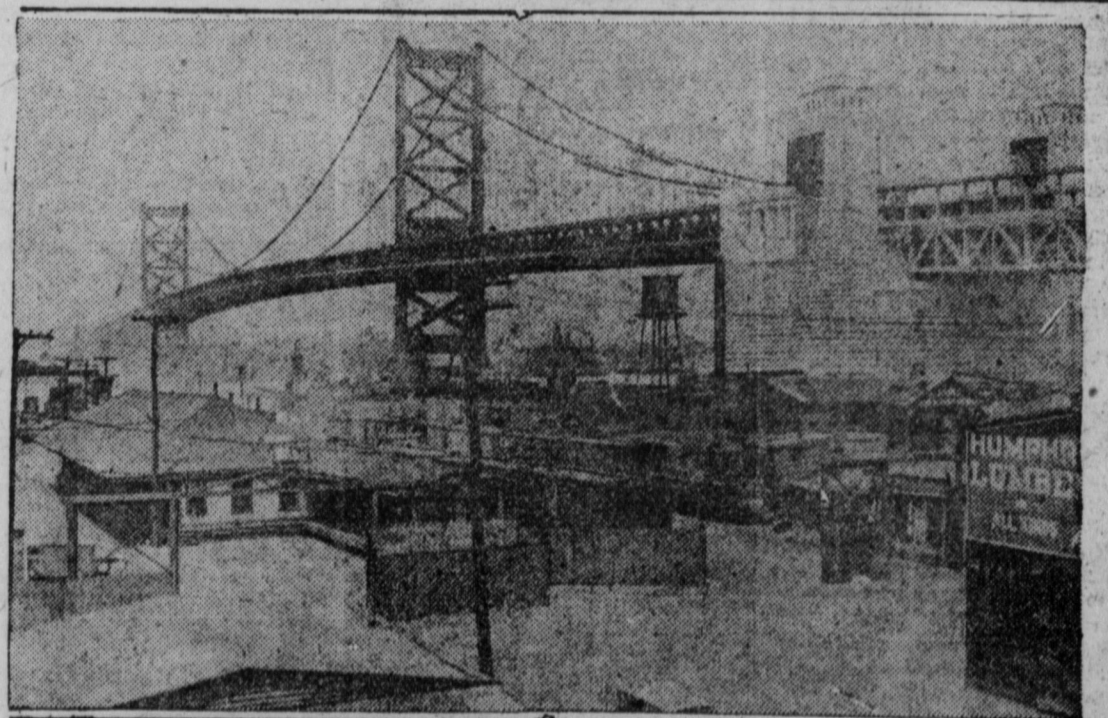
John Goldmark (right) as he arrived by airplane in Moscow to begin his trip by rail across the Soviet Union. He is trying to beat the world's record for circling the globe. He is now enroute across the steppes.

### She Never Gave Birth to a Child in the Coal Mines of India



Princess Naidu is now in London being praised as the most beautiful princess in India. Many other hundreds of thousands of Indian women would be quite as beautiful—if they were given the same pampered attention that Naidu has received, and if they did not have to stay in the coal mines—days together, even bearing children below ground.

### Philadelphia-Camden Bridge Nears Completion



The Philadelphia-Camden bridge, which will be formally opened on July 4, will be the largest suspension bridge in the world.