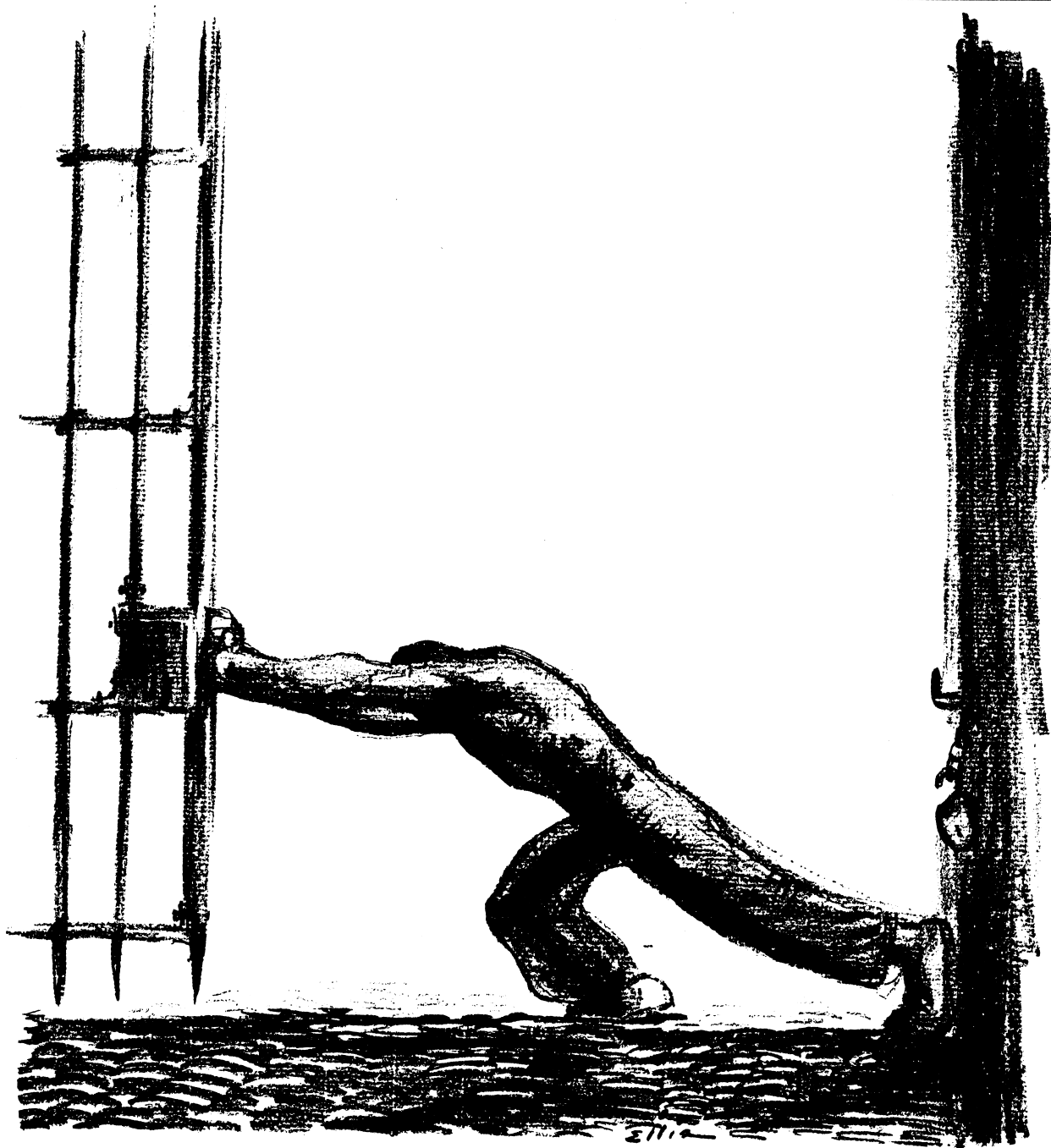


LABOR DEFENDER

January, 1926

Vol. 1—No. 1

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ORGANIZATIONAL NOTES

ATTENTION, I. L. D. SECRETARIES.

Beginning with the February issue THE LABOR DEFENDER will carry a regular monthly department called "Organizational Notes," in which news of activities of the I. L. D. Branches will appear.

All members who have interesting items about the work in their section are urged to send them in for this special department. Make the stories short so they can, whenever possible, be printed in full. State whether you have any objections to having your name printed.

Organizational Basis for I. L. D.

The organizational basis for International Labor Defense is the dues-paying members. This gives the I. L. D. a permanent character.

The need for such an organization is great. Past experience has taught us that the sporadic form of defense organization is ineffective. Such organizations spring up among interested groups in a given case during the fever-heat of the trial, and peter out before the case is over. Especially is this true of long-drawn trials.

Another phase of defense work which cannot be coped with by the temporary form of organization, is the deportation menace.

Foreign-born workers who have given their best to the labor movement find themselves faced with deportation because of their activities, and no one to defend them. In some instances, men who have served several years in prison have been deported because there was no organization to fight for them. A notable recent example of such government action is the Tony Stafford case.

With a membership of 200,000 dues-paying members, International Labor Defense will soon be on the way to becoming a powerful weapon in behalf of persecuted workers and their dependents, regardless of their political or industrial affiliations or opinions.

Every worker, every working-women, every person interested in labor's cause should join International Labor Defense as a dues-paying member and take an active interest in the organization. We should aim to build up a broad mass of dues-paying members into one solid organization, which will stand as a bulwark against capitalist persecution. An organization which will thrash out all problems confronting it at its yearly conferences. An organization which will stand ready at all times to defend class-war prisoners and their families, as well as those being deported for their activities in the labor movement. An organization which will continually raise funds with which to carry out the work it has dedicated itself to.

All Branch and Local Secretaries should consider it their first duty to increase the individual dues-paying membership. All efforts should be bent toward this end. Every I. L. D. member should be made to feel it his duty to get a new member. Nothing should be left undone. All activities should be planned with this aim in view.

Let our slogan be—200,000 individual dues-paying members before the next annual conference!

HELP URGENT!

Two Thousand Five Hundred (\$2,500)

Dollars must be had for the Zeigler frame-up cases before December 15th, and \$3,500 for the Pittsburgh cases. Both of these are scheduled for trial on November 30th. The lawyers demand assurances that this money will be paid before the 15th of December.

Local Chicago has pledged to raise \$1,000 for these cases at its bazaar which takes place December 10-13. Madison, Illinois, promises to send \$300 as a result of the entertainment which they are arranging. Other Branches and Locals are urged to plan special affairs.

Frank Corbishley is in grave danger of being railroaded on the charge of murder, and fourteen of the best fighters in the progressive movement of the miners' union face sentences of long prison terms. A strong defense must be put up!

The state, power, the reactionary Farrington officialdom, the Ku Klux Klan, and the mine bosses are in league against the Zeigler miners. Money is needed at once to come to the defense of these workers.

What will your Branch do to help raise the necessary funds?

MONTHLY PLEDGES.

There are 106 class-war prisoners in the United States, according to our records. Each one of them is receiving \$5 per month from the International Labor Defense. In the case of the members of the I. W. W. the money is sent in a lump sum to the General Defense Committee of the I. W. W. which distributes it to the prisoners. In other cases the money is sent direct to the prisoners.

This is one of the most important phases of our work and must be systematically developed. It means much to the prisoner behind grey walls to have a monthly material reminder that he is not forgotten by those on the outside.

The money should be raised by pledges from the I. L. D. members and their friends. Each branch should start a Pledger's Club and send the names of the pledgers to the National Office for publication in the Labor Defender each month. In cities where there are more than one branch, the secretaries should make their reports to the Local Secretary who will send the names in.

The first name on the list of pledgers is Estella Tarkoff, of Boulder, Colo. We hope that we will be able to publish a long list of pledgers in the February issue and keep increasing it each month.

The Second Annual I. L. D. Conference.

Members of the I. L. D. are urged to begin to plan for the second annual Conference to take place next Spring. Suggestions for problems to be discussed at this conference are welcome. It will be the biggest thing of the kind ever held in America and will give a powerful impetus to our work. Get ready!

The Labor Defender

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A Historic Document

Giving a report of the First National Conference of the International Labor Defense, the first non-partisan organization of its kind in the United States—

Manifesto, Resolutions and Constitution of that conference, with illustrations, can be secured at

I. L. D. NATIONAL OFFICE,
23 S. Lincoln Street, Chicago, Ill.
Price 10 Cents a Copy.

Progress Made, But Not Enough.

Since June 28th the I. L. D. has made much progress. There are at present 120 Locals and Branches all over the country. But that is not enough. It should be tripled at least by the end of our fiscal year.

The February Number

will carry stories of
The Trial of the Pittsburgh Communists.

The British Communist Trial.
The Michigan Red Raid.
The Crouch and Trumbull Case.
and pictures, cartoons and news articles on the white terror all over the world.

The Labor Defender

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In the Shadow of the Electric Chair

VANZETTI and SACCO.



When this picture was taken Sacco was on his twenty-fifth day of hunger strike.

* * *

By RALPH CHAPLIN.

Sacco and Vanzetti are still in prison!

This appalling fact bears eloquent testimony to the strength, complexity and cussedness of the capitalist machinery of persecution. It also reveals the lamentable weakness of labor's defense. Both of these workmen are unquestionably innocent of criminal intent or deed; and yet both are in prison.

Of course, it is easy to adopt the fatalistic attitude and say, "Well, such is capitalism and such are the courts that do its bidding." It is easy to make a remark of that kind when one is on the outside and one's own hide is not involved, but a statement of this sort doesn't sound so sweet when one is in prison and the only way out seems to be the door that leads to the death chamber.

If labor defense means anything it means that workingmen unjustly "framed" and accused should be protected both in life and liberty from the clenched fist of masterclass retaliation. Sacco and Vanzetti are not the only example of working-class helplessness in the face of judicial barbarity. Tom Mooney, Ford and Suhr, Centralia are all cases of this kind. There are others not mentioned and others yet to be.

One is safe in saying that there will be persecution added to persecution as long as the present system lasts or until labor develops the power to protect its own.

The technique of defense is almost as necessary to the working class as the technique of combat. It should be studied at least as carefully. One of the best ways to discourage the labor baiters of the country in their desire to build up a modern inquisition is to show them that it is not easy to get workingmen accused of political crimes in prison nor to keep them there. But they will have to be shown. And that is the thing,

with the possible exception of the I. W. W. war time cases that no one has succeeded in doing as yet. The International Labor Defense, profiting by the mistakes and achievements of the past should be able to do yeoman service in this cause.

The vengeful tenacity with which capitalism hangs on to its fettered victims is one of the marvels of the world—that and the apathy of the organized American workers who witness without protest the persecution of its militant members. Mooney is still in prison, Sacco and Vanzetti and the Centralia group are still in prison while Richard Ford, after having served ten long years for a crime he didn't commit, has been re-arrested in order once more to endure the ghastly mockery of a trial and the ghastlier tragedy of imprisonment for life. If any part of the labor movement were only one-half as alert to defend as the other side is to punish, there would be but little difficulty. But the trouble is the workers are seldom alert to their own immediate interests let alone such comparatively remote things as frame-ups and arrests of certain workmen for labor activities.

Then too, it is easy to forget. Life, outside of prison walls moves speedily these days. It is not to be wondered at that people forget. San Quentin and Folsom are full of young men arrested for "criminal syndicalism" and serving from one to ten years. Many were tried and convicted long after the first arrest of Anita Whitney and no doubt, cannot even remember that incident. All of them, or many, were boys in short pants at the time of the big I. W. W. arrest in 1917. There are thousands and thousands of us out here who

HEARING THE NEWS.



Sacco's family after the verdict.

FROM JAIL TO COURT.



Manacled and heavily guarded.

have to think hard to recall the names of Kaplan and Schmidt, Ford and Suhr, Rangel and Cline, as well as Mooney and Sacco and Vanzetti. I have even heard new members of the I. W. W. confuse the names of Frank Little and Joe Hill. The man on the street has heard little or nothing of these cases. And yet, no matter who he is, these cases are things that DO concern him. And he should and can be made to know and to care about them all.

It isn't so much that people can be interested and inspired to action for labor defense because of altruistic or humanitarian motives. Many men and women these days are so motivated and are willing to help. They are good folks and may their tribe increase. But the big thing, particularly with the workers, is to show that these cases are a menace to the life and liberty of any worker with dissenting opinions or the wrong accent or color in America. That is where an organization like the International Labor Defense comes in. If life and accident insurance are good things for everyone, surely liberty insurance is even a better thing, especially for all of us who work for a living in this day and age.

Economic power would be the proper and no doubt most effectual weapon of defense for labor if labor were only awake and aware of its power. No doubt, the boycott would help if it were used with impetus and direction. But one thing that can and must be done is to build up and use to the limit the power of publicity. Let us not delude ourselves that publicity is not a force—and a mighty one. The Dreyfuss case, in France is an example, the federal I. W. W. cases another example. Mass meetings, on an international scale and tons of printed matter with adequate machinery for distribution are as necessary for workers today as were the bows and arrows of his

primitive ancestors. But, here in America, even this mighty force is hampered with exasperating limitations unless used in a way to produce pressure at the one place where results are to be obtained. Take the Centralia case for example. All the national publicity we can conceive of will not swerve the governor of the sovereign state of Washington from his vindictive course unless that publicity is centered largely on the capitol building at Olympia.

During the so-called "amnesty" drive of 1923 three million postcards were printed, each one bearing the president's name and address on the reverse side. These post cards presented the demand "Free political prisoners by Christmas." Hundreds of thousands of these little messages reached their destination. Back of each one of these post cards stood a sympathetic individual or organization or a member of the amnesty league which had been organized by the defense to arrange meetings, get newspaper and magazine publicity and to distribute amnesty literature and cards. I was told in Washington, D. C., just before the last federal prisoners were released that it required a moving van each day to remove the bales of protests that we

THE STATE.



Judge Webster Thayer.

had caused to be sent to the executive mansion.

If the Sacco and Vanzetti case had been a federal instead of a state case there is little doubt but both the pris-

oners would be free men at present. California, Washington and Massachusetts are sovereign states and strong for their rights. One of these rights seems to be that of heresy hunting and witch burning without molestation from the outside. The problem is difficult. But it is one that will have to be met and overcome. After all the purpose of a defense organization is to get workers out of jail. It is also a good thing to keep the light of publicity burning so brightly that it will be hard to thrust new victims behind the bars. As I understand it, this is one of the purposes of the newly organized International Labor Defense. On this point alone it deserves the support, moral and financial of workers and friends of labor everywhere.

Personally, I would like to see something done for Sacco and Vanzetti. I'm sure all right thinking workers inside and outside of prison feel the same way about it. If there ever was a case of horrible injustice this is one. The men, both of them shoe workers, were arrested on suspicion while distributing radical literature. They were held a day or two and then charged with murder and robbery in connection with a bank hold up in a nearby town. Needless to say, they are innocent. There is a wealth of evidence to prove this point. But they were radicals and the open season for radicals was still on. The red raids of Palmer and company were all the style. A bank had been robbed and a man murdered. It would be a feather in the cap of the police to apprehend the bandits. These men were foreigners and radicals and so a great deal could be said to work up public feeling against them. It mattered little whether these sad-eyed, soft-spoken Italians were guilty or not; they would do just as well as the bandits for the punishment—maybe better. They have been in prison for over five years now, standing in the shadow of the electric chair every moment of this time.

The White Terror in Black Pittsburgh

In the city dedicated to steel, iron and coal, also noted because of its association with the name of Andrew Mellon, whiskey distiller who by the grace of Wall Street became secretary of the treasury and by the grace of the anti-Saloon league, chief enforcement agent against the manufacture and sale of liquor—in this fortress of capitalism at its worst, Fred Merrick, outstanding communist and trade unionist and nine other workers are scheduled to stand trial on November 30th on a charge of having violated the infamous "Sedition Act" of the state of Pennsylvania.

This case has been hanging fire for two years and had its origin in one of those hysterical "red raids" that recent American history is so replete with. This particular raid occurred a few days before May Day 1923.

So raw were the methods employed by the federal officers and associated stoolpigeons, that the entire labor movement of Pennsylvania and in fact high officials of the state government expressed their disapprobation of the manner in which those workers were treated.

For days before the raids the public mind was fertilized by a campaign

of lurid propaganda, in order to prejudice the workers against the victims of big business in whose interests the raids were conducted. Bomb explosions, insurrections and general terror were served up in the capitalist press as the future menu of the people of Pittsburgh unless the conspirators were immediately put behind lock and key.

Two days before May 1st, 1923, the agents of Attorney General Daugherty, of inglorious political memory, descended on the Workers Party headquarters in Pittsburgh and on the homes of members. Over twenty arrests were made thruout the city and not one with a warrant. All the prisoners were held from eight to twelve days without a warrant. The sleuths boasted thru the press that America was again saved and the capitalist exploiters who furnish the coin that keep stoolpigeons in clover, could go ahead with their chosen profession of bleeding the workers. Finally all but ten of those arrested were released.

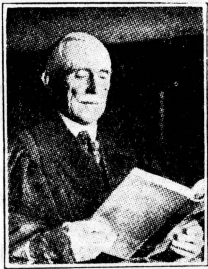
Pennsylvania is infamous all over the world for its brutal treatment of labor. Who has not heard of the Pennsylvania Cossacks? During the Homestead strike, the Great Steel Strike of 1919 and the Mine Strike of

1922, the barons of Pennsylvania were not content with putting the militant leaders of the workers in jail. They did not stop even at murder.

Pittsburgh is the centre of the greatest steel trust in the world. This powerful institution spends millions every year in a so far successful effort to keep the workers unorganized. Its spies infest the labor unions of Pennsylvania and particularly in and around Pittsburgh. Two of them were recently exposed—both occupying executive positions in the trade union movement. Those rats supply the material out of which the slicker sleuths weave their lurid yarns for public consumption.

THE FIRST VICTIM.

Since the above article was written, Edward Horacek, one of the defendants was tried and found guilty. His case will be appealed to the higher courts. Fred Merrick, also a member of the Workers Party, pleaded "no defense", renounced membership in the party and was let off with a ten year suspended sentence. A complete report of the trial will appear in our next number.



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Judge Webster Thayer.

The Frame-up on the Zeigler Miners

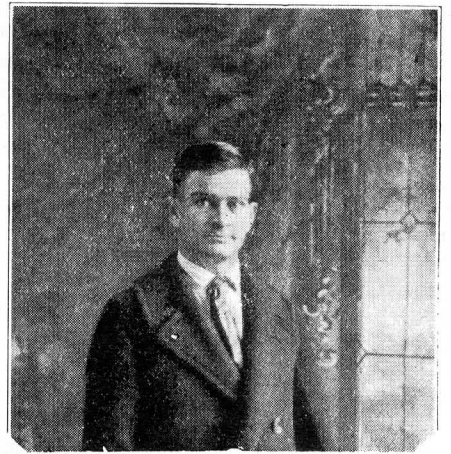


HENRY CORBISHLEY.

Progressive Mine Union Leader.

The man who is now charged with the shooting was not in the vicinity of the affray that ended in death. But he and the seventeen other coal diggers were the leaders of a strike and also leaders of the progressive movement in the U. M. W. of A. They are no more guilty of the charges against them than Tom Mooney or Warren J. Billings. They are being framed-up for the same reason that Mooney and countless other fighters for the workers have been framed-up.

What's the background? Many years ago the Leiter interests started a mine at Zeigler. The mine was in operation only a short time before the company clashed with the coal diggers. Leiter armed the mine with gattling guns, mounted huge searchlights on the tippie and brought in a small army of gun-men. The struggle raged on for years. Zeigler was and is looked upon as one of the



FRANK CORBISHLEY.

Framed-Up on Murder Charge.

By THURBER LEWIS.

Not since the Mooney trial, has so brazen a frame-up been perpetrated against members of the working class as the recent conspiracy against the progressive miners in Zeigler, Illinois. Twenty members of the United Mine Workers' Union were indicted by a hand-picked grand jury on the testimony of a dozen witnesses who did not see, but who were drilled to say in unison that they saw the eighteen coal miners assault one man with "malicious intent to murder." One of the twenty is charged in addition with the murder of one of his own fellows who died under the fire of a gun operated by a member of the Ku Klux Klan. This latter, after being charged with the murder by the coroners jury on the testimony of men who saw the shooting, was freed by the same hand-picked jury that indicted the twenty.



MINERS HALL WHERE FIGHT STARTED.

staunchest champions of the coal miners interests in Southern Illinois. The Zeigler miners gained a reputation as fighters. Of late years the Ku Klux Klan came. Zeigler fought them too. Glenn Young, of Herring fame, threatened time and again to raid Zeigler and clean it out. But he never tried. Nevertheless the Ku Klux Klan became strong in Southern Illinois. It is still strong. Even coal miners have been hood-winked into membership. Irresponsible members of the union joined the klan surreptitiously. But it never got a strong foothold in Zeigler.

Local 992 of the U. M. W. of A., Zeigler, is known as a progressive local. It controls Bell and Zoller mine No. 1. It elected Henry Corbishley, a staunch progressive, its president. The sub-district officials at West Frankfort are reactionary. The sub-

district president is a man named Fox, the vice-president, D. B. Cobb, cogs in the Farrington district machine. Henry Corbishley ran for sub-district president last year. He was defeated. He was defeated by fraud. Fake ballots, doors taken off election rooms, counting out of votes—the usual labor fakery—figured in the elections and made feeling against the sub-district machine run high—especially in Zeigler. But this isn't all. There are many more reasons why the sub-district machine earned the distrust of the miners. In Local 992 the sub-district consistently supported a small group of known klansmen who, for a time, held office. They were thrown out finally. One of the sub-district spies who was Alec Hargis, treasurer, found guilty of fraud. We shall hear of him later.

For two years local 992 had been having trouble with Bell and Zoller mine No. 1 over the weighing of coal. The output is so large that it is virtually impossible for one man to weigh the coal correctly. The union has a checkweighman at the scales. Seven times the checkweighman was changed. None of them could record the weights: the coal was run over the scales too fast.

Last August the checkweighman on the job threw up his hands. The job was hopeless. The company would neither slow down the cars nor grant an assistant. The checkweighman went to Corbishley, the president of the local and said there was no use. He was sworn under the law to weigh the coal correctly. He couldn't comply. He put on his hat and coat and told Corbishley to inform the men that he was going home. This Corbishley did. Their coal was not being weighed and the men walked out of the mine.

Then the sub-district took a hand. Vice-President Cobb came over to "adjust" the matter. He went into conference with the operator and wrote evidence for four days on testimony of a hundred miners, only four of whom said anything at all favorable to the company. Then Cobb went into secret session with Berger, the mine manager. Berger demanded the removal of the local officials and that the men return to

work. Cobb walked out of the room, announced that the local officials were deposed and ordered the men back to work. They didn't go.

Cobb then called a special meeting of the union. He brought in Sub-district President Fox and a district board member, Hindman. He gathered his few klan forces for the meeting. They must elect new officers and return to work. The men refused and the meeting adjourned.

But before the men left the hall, a klansman, Asa Wilson by name, struck an old miner, Bert Farthing, of sixty-nine years who had spoken in favor of the union's action. Farthing's son, Oscar, was nearby. He defended his father. The fight began to spread. The miners say Cobb pulled out a black-jack and attempted to use it. He didn't get far with it. He, along with a number of others

Cobb and supported by Lon Fox. They charged the twenty-six miners with conspiring to murder Cobb. No one took the charge seriously at first.

It seemed ridiculous. There was nothing to support it. But the twenty-six were arrested and held in \$2000 bail.

After a lawyer was hired and the endangered miners thought the situation over they began to realize the gravity of the charges. They began at first to sense and then to see that a conspiracy was at work. A CONSPIRACY IN WHICH THEIR OWN OFFICIALS WERE TAKING THE LEAD AND WHICH WAS VIGOROUSLY SUPPORTED BY THE MINE OPERATORS AND THE KU KLUX KLAN. They awakened to the fact that there were men in Zeigler who were willing to swear to anything against them. Their fears were justified.

In the preliminary hearing, eighteen of the twenty-six were bound over to the grand jury. In some instances the accusations had been too raw. Some of the accused were not even at the meeting, many had left the hall before the fight started. So the figure had to be cut.

The grand jury met. Wheels had been turning meanwhile. Never was a jury better picked. It was the kind of jury to which evidence means nothing. The highly incriminating evidence against Alec Hargis was placed before them. They set him free. But someone had to be held for Sarovitch's murder.

Frank Corbishley,

Henry Corbishley's brother, was chosen. The jury indicted him for murder. It also indicted the twenty miners, including Frank Corbishley, for conspiracy to assault and kill D. B. Cobb.

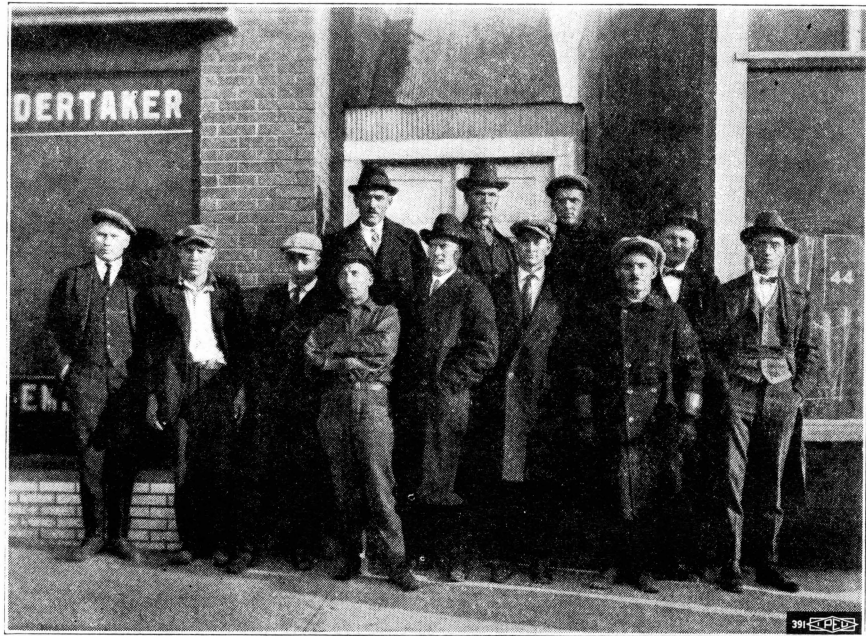
That is the way frame-ups work. All you need are witnesses who will say what you want them to and a jury that will take their evidence for gospel truth. Both of these were easily found in Franklin county and as a result twenty men face prison—one of them the gallows.



Front Row, Left to Right: William Bartash, Eddie Maliske, John Lake, Stanley Pauraz, Henry Corbishly, Frank Corbishly, R. B. Slivansonin, Frank Skibinski. Rear Row, Left to Right: Martin Simich, Bert Farthing (69 years old), Ignatz Simich, Matt Crnoevich. The other defendants not in this picture are: Charles Corbishly, Oscar Farthing, Pete Blazin, Steve Meanovich, Ed Wise, Marina Soyat Walter Bielsky and Mike Karadich.

from both sides were injured. The shot was fired. Mike Sarovitch, an earnest supporter of Local 992 was about to leave the hall when a bullet stopped him. It tore through his vitals and lodged in the side of Board Member Hindman who stood near. The miners say the shot was fired by Alec Hargis of whom we have heard before. There were at least ten miners near the door who swore they saw him fire the shot. His gun was taken from him and is in the hands of the Zeigler Chief of Police. Hargis escaped but was later arrested.

Four days after warrants were served on twenty-six members of local 992. Among them was Henry Corbishley and his two brothers. The warrants were sworn by D. B.



Front Row, Left to Right: William Bartash, Eddie Maliske, John Lake, Stanley Pauraz, Henry Corbishly, Frank Corbishly, R. B. Slivansonin, Frank Skibinski. Rear Row, Left to Right: Martin Simich, Bert Farthing (69 years old), Ignatz Simich, Matt Crnoevich. The other defendants not in this picture are: Charles Corbishly, Oscar Farthing, Pete Blazin, Steve Meanovich, Ed Wise, Marina Soyat Walter Bielsky and Mike Karadich.

The Labor Defender and the I. L. D.

The First National Conference of the International Labor Defense, held in Ashland Auditorium, on Sunday June 28, 1925, declared for the publication of a magazine as soon as the organizational basis of the I. L. D. was strong enough to support it. This point has now been reached and the first issue of the "Labor Defender" January, 1926, marks real step forward in the work to which the I. L. D. has dedicated itself.

The "Labor Defender" will be devoted exclusively to the purposes outlined in the program for the I. L. D. at the National Conference. It will carry illustrated stories of all current cases of persecution of the workers in this and other countries, and will attempt to revive the interest of the labor movement in the more than one hundred men who are now confined in the various prisons of the country because of their activity in behalf of the workers.

We aim to edit the "Labor Defender" in such a way that all class-conscious workers, regardless of their political affiliations or views on tactical questions, will feel that it is their own—a common meeting ground for all honest fighters in the movement.

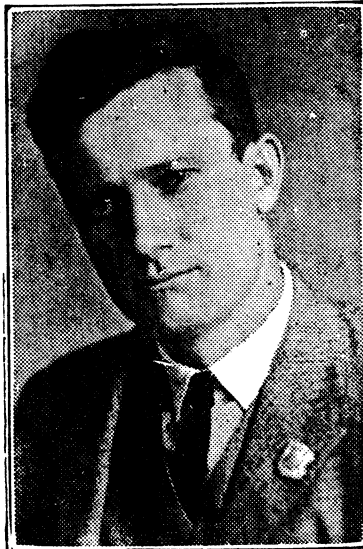
We have ambitious plans for the "Labor Defender." Not only do we intend to deal with current cases of workingclass persecution at the hands of the legal arms of the employers' government, but we plan to retell the historic struggles of the American working class in the past and thus help build up in the minds of the coming generation of workers a regard for the tradition of the movement, and the spirit that enabled the men and women of those days to sacrifice their lives and liberties in the struggle.

To this end we are planning a whole series of articles about the American labor martyrs and about the battles in which they were the central figures. The story of the titanic battles of the early days of the struggle in America; the Haymarket martyrs; Martin Irons and his work; the Everett massacre; Fanny Snelins; Frank Little and many others will be told again in the "Labor Defender."

As this magazine aims to be the voice of the class war prisoners it is entirely fitting that one of our most prized features should be a department specially devoted to letters from those who are behind the bars in the interests of labor. Every month we will print letters from our imprisoned comrades. We will try and build up communication and

bonds of solidarity between those in prison and individuals and organizations thru the I. L. D. taking upon themselves the responsibility to provide funds for the prison comforts and necessities of prisoners as well as to look after the needs of their dependents.

The "Labor Defender" as the official organ of the I. L. D. will mirror the work of this organization whose advent was hailed with joy by scores of class war prisoners. Our first issue tells only a small part of our activities since the I. L. D. was launched. But one campaign alone, the



JAMES P. CANNON,
Secretary of I. L. D.

fight to save the lives of Mathias Rakosi and his fellow workers from the Horthy dictatorship of Hungary, told in word and picture, bears eloquent testimony to the work an organization like the I. L. D. can accomplish. There is no doubt but the campaign waged in this country to save Rakosi, had considerable effect in determining the decision of the notorious Horthy to call off his hangmen.

The International Labor Defense according to the second article in its constitution: "aims to fraternally unite all forces willing to co-operate in the work of labor defense into a broad national organization based upon individual and collective membership that will stand as an ever-willing and ever-ready champion for the defense and support of all workers and exploited farmers, regardless of their political or industrial affiliations, race, color, or nationality, who are persecuted on account of their activity for the class interests of the workers and exploited farmers."

This program should appeal to every class conscious worker regardless of affiliation. There are branches

of the I. L. D. in almost every state in the union and before long we expect to have branches in every city large and small.

The dues in the I. L. D. are only nominal—ten cents a month. In order to get a complete picture of the International Labor Defense, its aims and organizational structure we suggest that you send to the National Office, 23 South Lincoln Street, Chicago, Illinois, for a copy of the "Manifesto, Resolutions, Constitution" adopted at the National Conference. The booklet costs only ten cents. Subscribe to the "Labor Defender." One dollar will bring twelve issues to your door.

DEFEND YOURSELF!

By Frania Richter

They're murdering your brothers, proletariat—

And you're asleep!
In deadly agony their arms outheld
For help they cry,
For revenge they cry—
Don't you hear?

Thru Europe marches—deep in blood
White Terror;
And you look calmly on,
While, deadly gashes on their heads
Your comrades fall,
And for help cry;
For revenge they cry!
Can't you see, oh proletariat,
In deadly agony their arms outheld?
Don't you hear?

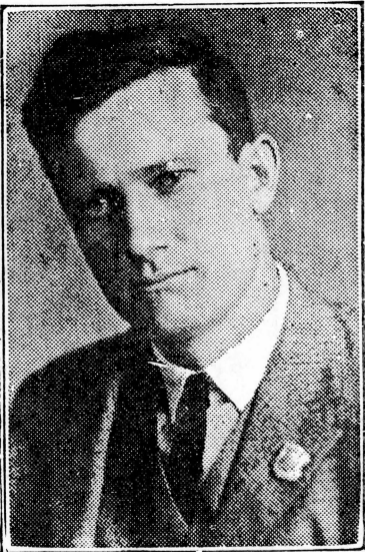
To the Earth's four corners
Alarms to attack are blast.
Will you wait, till the last
Of your comrades drops by the foe's hands?
Till tighter is wound the iron band
And you too are knocked to the ground?

To arms, oh proletariat!
To arms ye all with hands and head!
Full is the cup of blood, of woe!
You are the people!
Down with the foe!
Defend yourself!

(Translation from Bohemian by Charles Kolarik.)

Austria—The Bankers' Bantam Nation.

A congress of the Russian counter-revolution took place in Vienna on September 10. 108 delegates participated. The Austrian government which is so obedient to the anti-labor nod of the international bankers who own it, professed complete ignorance of the presence of the white guard Russians. The Vienna police who pretended to know nothing about the presence of the Czarists have proven not to be so blind to the presence of revolutionary workers whether they be from Russia, Hungary or China, which proves that the international bankers are getting their money's worth out of the Austrian government.



JAMES P. CANNON,
Secretary of I. L. D.

Story of Fight to Save Mathias Rakosi

World Labor Saves Rakosi and His Fellow Workers from Horthy's Hangmen. American Workers Under Direction of International Labor Defense Play Notable Part



Mathias Rakosi



Zoltan Weinberger

Mathias Rakosi, former People's Commissar in the short-lived Soviet government of Hungary, was saved from the jaws of death at the hands of the Fascist dictatorship of the notorious Horthy, by a world-wide protest of labor, initiated by the International Red Aid and supported by labor defense organizations in every country in the world.

As The Labor Defender goes to press the news has arrived that the court martial instituted to try Rakosi has declared itself incompetent which probably means that Rakosi and his co-defendants will be granted civil trials. With Rakosi were arrested over one hundred members of the Independent Socialist Party. The plan of the Horthy government was to execute ten of the leaders including Rakosi and Weinberger, letting the others off with prison sentences.

The power of labor was never better demonstrated than in this campaign even tho only a fraction of its strength participated in the mighty demonstrations held thruout the world.

That the Horthy government thirsted for Rakosi's life there is no doubt. The capitalists and big landowners hated him. Why? When the battalions of the central powers retreated, defeated and demoralized before the victorious armies of the allied nations in 1918, revolution followed in their wake. The masses who were dragooned into the bloody shambles of the capitalist war revolted, only to see their efforts drowned in a sea of blood, in every country except Russia.

The Hungarian workers and peasants raised the standard of revolt. They organized a Soviet government but they were not strong enough to sustain themselves. They were crushed under the iron heel of the Hungarian

bourgeoisie aided by world capitalism and particularly by the Wall Street bankers. The story of the short-lived but glorious venture is recorded in history and will forever remain a bright page in the annals of labor's struggle for power. Here we are dealing with one chapter of the white terror that followed the

overthrow of the proletarian government headed by Bela Kun. The supervisor and general butcher of this period is Admiral Horthy, commonly called by the sobriquet: "The Hangman of Hungary."

Mathias Rakosi was one of the People's Commissars in the Bela Kun cabinet. He spent

most of his adult life in the service of the workers and peasants. When the Soviet government of Hungary was crushed he was arrested and doomed to the gallows. But the long arm of Red Russia stretched across the frontier and Rakosi and hundreds of others were saved from execution. They were exchanged to Soviet

Russia for Hungarian white guards in the custody of the Workers Republic.

Horthy's firing squad was kept busy until he thot that all opposition to his dictatorship was crushed. Labor unions and all political workingclass organizations that dared stand on the platform of the class struggle were outlawed. But their spirits were not daunted. In their hearts the fire of revolt was still blazing.

Mathias Rakosi was safe in Soviet Russia. But he was not content with serving the cause of labor in a land where labor was already free and where a powerful Red Army existed to protect labor against its enemies, native and foreign. Rakosi decided to return where the battle raged the hottest, where the gallows and the firing squad were the probable penalty for one caught in the act of organizing the workers. Rakosi returned to Hungary.

He was arrested by Horthy's bloodhounds and with him over one hundred others—members of the Independent Socialist Party.

The government of the capitalists, big landlords and of the international bankers was in great glee. Horthy promised a speedy trial by court martial and a still speedier execution. Rakosi and his comrades after being subjected to torture of a kind unsurpassed in mediaeval days were to be dragged before drum head court martial and executed two hours after the verdict which was already written. The verdict would be "guilty."

But the bloodthirsty Horthy government reckoned without the international workingclass. No sooner was news of the arrest made public than a campaign of protest was organized that mobilized millions of workers in every

country under the sun to save the lives of the leaders of the Hungarian working class. The international Labor Defense responded for the workers of the United States and here is the story of our campaign told in words and in pictures: On receipt of a cable from the defense organization in Berlin on October 9, a giant campaign of mass meetings and demonstrations was organized. Hungarian consulates in New York and Chicago were picketed and also the Hungarian legation in Washington. Mass meetings were held under the auspices of the I. L. D. in the following cities: Philadelphia; Kansas City, Miss.; Washington; Minneapolis; Pittsburgh; Chicago; Boston; Cleveland; Buffalo; and New York.

The New York section of the International Labor Defense picketed the Hungarian consulate in that city continuously since the campaign to save Mathias Rakosi and his comrades was launched. More than fifty members of the I. L. D. were arrested by the police during the demonstrations.

In Washington, the police attempted to break up the demonstration in front of the Hungarian legation but failed. In Chicago, newspapers took photographs of the demonstrations but with one exception all of them killed the story. This was done, according to reports, at the request of the Hungarian consul.

The I. L. D. cabled a protest to the prime minister of Hungary. It was

THE HORTHY GOVERNMENT.



signed by the National Executive Committee. At the same time a wire was dispatched to a long list of American liberals requesting their

THE MARTYR. BY UPTON SINCLAIR.

Dedicated to the Horthy Government,
Hungary.

You torture him; his wild heart-beats

Turn to tumult in your streets;

His quivering eyelids shake the town;

His moaning breaks your dungeons down.

government by his agents in this country. In order to calm the protests of the international workingclass, the Horthy government sent out deceptive stories purporting to be "confessions" made by Rakosi and others that their treatment at the hands of their captors was most humane. As a matter of fact Rakosi's lawyer (a right wing bourgeois advocate) was not even allowed to visit his client in order to consult with him on his defense.

In protest against their inhuman treatment the prisoners went on hunger strike. Their brutal jailers prescribed "artificial nourishment."

permission to sign their names to another protest cable to the Hungarian government and to the Hungarian minister in Washington.

The following gave their consent to the message: Upton Sinclair; Roger N. Baldwin; Clarence Darrow; William Holly; Robert W. Dunn; Andrew T. McNamara; David Rhys Williams; Robert Whitaker; Edward C. Wentworth; Bishop William Montgomery Brown; and Alice Stone Blackwell.

The Hungarian minister in Washington is an aristocrat who is married to a daughter of the Vanderbilts and is said to have considerable influence with secretary of state Kellogg.

The indignation aroused in the United States by the new wave of white terror in Hungary was communicated to the Horthy gov-

I. L. D. MEMBERS IN NEW YORK PICKETING HUNGARIAN CONSULATE.



THE HORTHY GOVERNMENT.



I. L. D. MEMBERS IN NEW YORK PICKETING HUNGARIAN CONSULATE.



Before the tube was inserted into the throats of the victims, they were first beaten over the head with rubber clubs. While in a state of unconsciousness, the prisoners were "nourished" until they fainted and had to be carried back into their cells, and many of them to the hospital.

Horthy's surrender to the great protest of the workers of all lands is no guarantee that he will not seek some other method of getting rid of an enemy of capitalism. The workers must be on guard.

The action of the class conscious workers of all lands in rallying to the support of their class, unknown to them personally, is a hopeful sign for the future. It is a demonstration of the spirit of international class solidarity which presages the downfall of capitalist rule the world over.



PICKETING HUNGARIAN CONSULATE IN CHICAGO.

Anita Whitney Sentenced to San Quentin

California's famous bastille, San Quentin, opened its jaws to receive another victim of the criminal syndicalism laws of the "Golden State" when the United States supreme court refused to accept jurisdiction in the appeal of Charlotte Anita Whitney, who was sentenced to serve from one to fourteen years imprisonment on a charge of membership in the Communist Labor Party.

Miss Whitney was convicted in 1920. The state supreme court upheld the decision of the lower court and the august body presided over by Mr. William Howard Taft concurred by evading the issue.

When the news of the supreme court decision reached the public, telegrams of encouragement began to pour into Miss Whitney's home. Men and women prominent in bourgeois circles, who until now took a neutral position on the syndicalist law, see in the imprisonment of one of the most prominent women in California an incident that will bring widespread publicity unfavorable to the state.

Tho the latest victim of the syndicalist law of California could avail herself of her social position to seek relief from the imposed sentence she refused to do so, but courageously takes her place with the scores of propertyless workers who are languishing in California's dungeons.

Efforts were made in some circles to induce comrade Whitney to seek a separate pardon for herself and to separate her case from those of the I. W. W. victims of the criminal syndicalist law. The International Labor Defense, which bases its activity on the class struggle, opposed this

policy. We declared that the attempt to get special consideration for comrade Whitney because of her prominence and influential friends would blur the real issue involved and weaken the struggle for the repeal



CHARLOTTE ANITA WHITNEY.

of the criminal syndicalist law and the release of its victims.

On November 3 the National Office of the I. L. D. sent out the following circulars on the question:

November 3, 1925.

TO ALL SECRETARIES IN CALIFORNIA:

Policy on Anita Whitney Case.

Dear Comrades:

The refusal of the Supreme Court to overrule the conviction of Comrade Anita Whitney has provided a basis for a new campaign against the California criminal syndicalist law, and for the release of its victims. A number of our locals have recog-

nized this fact and have commenced agitation on this ground.

The proposals which have been made for Comrade Whitney to seek individual pardon because of her prominent and influential friends has raised the question of policy which must be settled. The policy of the I. L. D. is set forth in the following telegram to Comrade Manya Reiss, secretary of the I. L. D. local of Los Angeles:

"Our policy on Whitney case to use it as basis for agitation unconditional release Whitney and all other victims criminal syndicalist law and for repeal this law. Not opposed in principle asking for pardons but would be wrong to make special appeal for Whitney and make distinction between her and I. W. W's. because she has prominent influential friends. On contrary we should take these advantages in her case to help I. W. W. All demands for release Whitney should be coupled with demand for release I. W. W's."

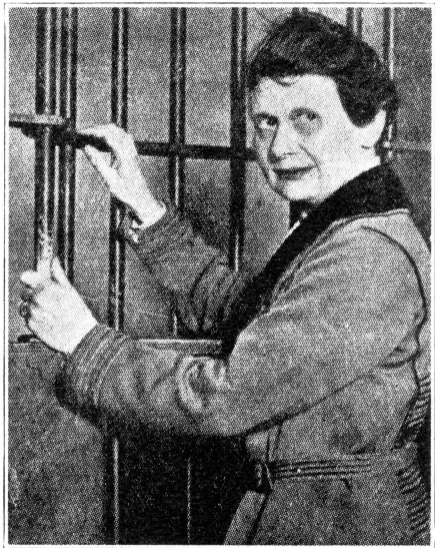
The I. L. D. is a class struggle organization and is decidedly opposed to a line of action which would obscure the fact that the criminal syndicalist law is aimed at the workers' movement, or which would draw in a line between Comrade Whitney and the members of the I. W. W. who languish in California prisons as victims of this law.

On the contrary, we believe that the case of Anita Whitney could be directly connected with them, and that we should take advantage of the prominence and publicity given to her conviction to again bring the case of the I. W. W. prisoners before the workers of California, and arouse them to protest in their behalf.

Comrade Whitney herself has taken this stand. She has endeared herself to the class-conscious workers by her refusal to separate herself from the working men in



PICKETING HUNGARIAN CONSULATE IN CHICAGO.



CHARLOTTE ANITA WHITNEY.

the California prisons who had been convicted under the criminal syndicalist law.

In her first public declaration after the action of the Supreme Court, she said,

"Let the governor release those men from prison and not concern himself with a woman who has the thousands of influential friends that I have. He has had a long time to pardon the others, the poor men without influence, who are in San Quentin on the same charges that I am guilty of."

The I. L. D. believes that Comrade Whitney has taken the right stand, and that her action will inspire the class-conscious workers of California to a renewed struggle

against persecution on the basis of the class struggle.

The branches and members of the I. L. D. in California should put all their energy into the work of organizing a campaign of protest and publicity, utilizing the prominence given to the case of Comrade Whitney. They should conduct a campaign by means of mass meetings, demonstrations, publicity, and resolutions from labor organizations under the slogan of:

"UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ANITA WHITNEY AND ALL OTHER VICTIMS OF THE CRIMINAL SYNDICALIST LAW"

and

"REPEAL OF THE CRIMINAL SYNDICALIST LAW"

Fraternally yours,

James P. Cannon,

Executive Secretary.

Telegrams requesting a pardon for Miss Whitney have poured into to Governor Richardson from many organizations and prominent individuals. A delegation from the American Civil Liberties Bureau sought an interview with Richardson but he refused to discuss the case.

Cases I. L. D. Is Defending or Cooperating With Existing Defense Organizations

The Haverhill Frame-Up—The case of John Merrick, a shoe worker in Haverhill, who was framed up in January, 1923, of placing a bomb in front of shoe factory. Merrick was an active union man. Tried and convicted. Out on bail while case was being appealed. Case came up again in October. I. L. D. is helping.

The Farrell Case—In January, 1924, the police raided the headquarters of the South Slavic Branch of the Workers Party and searched the homes of 13 workers of Farrell. As a result of this, 6 workers were arrested. Two were tried and found guilty. An appeal was made for a new trial. The cases against the other four are pending. I. L. D. is defending this case.

Ford and Suhr—Two Industrial Workers of the World organizers arrested in 1913 during the Wheatfield hop riots, when 2,300 men, women and children rebelled against unbearable conditions on the Durst ranch at Wheatfield, Calif. A district attorney and a deputy sheriff were killed during this famous riot. Ford and Suhr were charged with their murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. On Oct. 7, 1925, Ford was paroled from Folsom prison after serving 11½ years and immediately rearrested on a second murder charge growing out of the same riot. He is now in danger of being convicted and railroaded to the gallows on the second charge. The General Defense Committee of the I. W. W. is in charge of the defense. The I. L. D. is helping.

John Buksa—Arrested on a Wheeling, W. Va., street car for dis-

tributing the Workers Party program. Tried and found guilty under the "Red Flag" law of West Virginia. Case now being appealed. I. L. D. providing the defense.

In addition to these there are a number of deportation cases. A list of them will be given in the next issue of the magazine. Each issue of The Labor Defender will contain a story about one of the class-war cases.

The Zeigler Frame-up—Twenty union miners facing long terms of imprisonment, and one, Frank Corbishley, in danger of being railroaded to the gallows on a charge of murder. Case booked for November 30. I. L. D. helping the Franklin County Defense Committee.

The Pittsburgh Trials—Ten workers arrested April 27, 1923, indicted on charge of violating the state sedition law, while peaceably assembled in a hall. Trial set for November 30. At least \$3,000 is needed immediately. The I. L. D. is providing legal defense. Ella Reeves Bloor is in the Pennsylvania field trying to raise the necessary funds. The Pittsburgh local writes that help from other parts of the country is necessary.

Crouch and Trumbull—The case of two soldiers in Hawaii who tried to organize the Hawaiian Communist League at Schofield Barracks. They have been transferred to the Island of Alcatraz. Attorney Austin Lewis is in charge of their defense for the I. L. D.

The Michigan Case—The case of 31 communists who were arrested during the famous raid on the

Bridgeman convention August, 1922, for "secretly" assembling to consider methods of developing a mass communist movement in America. All are out on bail. The Ruthenberg appeal in this case must be prepared soon, and funds are greatly needed. I. L. D. is defending this case.

Benjamin Gitlow—Charged with violation of the state criminal anarchy law of New York state in 1919. Convicted in 1920. Served part of his term. Released on an appeal to the supreme court. Appeal denied, and Gitlow returned to Sing Sing November 10, to serve the balance of his term. His release can be effected only if the workers will organize an effective protest. Every branch of I. L. D. is called upon to organize such protests.

BIRTHDAYS OF CLASS-WAR PRISONERS.

- Dec. 5th—John Hiza, Folsom Prison, Calif.
 Dec. 5th—J. M. Rangel, Huntsville Prison, Texas.
 Dec. 9th—Tom Mooney, San Quentin Prison, Calif.
 Dec. 16th—C. F. McGrath, San Quentin Prison, Calif.
 Dec. 20th—Henry Matlin, San Quentin Prison, Calif.
 Dec. 20th—W. Rutherford, San Quentin Prison, Calif.
 Jan. 18th—Richard Ford, Marysville Prison, Calif.
 Jan. 24th—Jack Nash, San Quentin Prison, Calif.
 Jan. 24th—F. Franklin, San Quentin Prison, Calif.
 Jan. 27th—Peter Dirks, Thomaston Prison, Me.
 Jan. 27th—Dan Fallon, Thomaston Prison, Me.

Ben Gitlow Returns to Sing Sing



Ben Gitlow, recently remanded to Sing Sing by a decision of the Supreme Court.

Scarcely had the ballots in the New York mayoralty election been counted when Benjamin Gitlow, communist candidate for mayor, received his orders to return to Sing Sing penitentiary,

there to serve the remainder of the term of imprisonment imposed when he was convicted in the early part of 1920 for an alleged violation of the criminal anarchy law of the Empire State.

Ben Gitlow goes to Sing Sing while Jimmy Walker, the song and dance mayor-elect of Tammany Hall, goes to Florida to recuperate after his election campaign.

This criminal anarchy law of New York state was placed on the statute books long before the rise of the Soviet government threw the international capitalists into hysterics. When President McKinley fell before the bullet of a crazed assassin, this law was passed by a legislature lashed into frenzy by the venal capitalist press. It was never exhumed until the employers found it useful for the conviction of a leader of the working class.

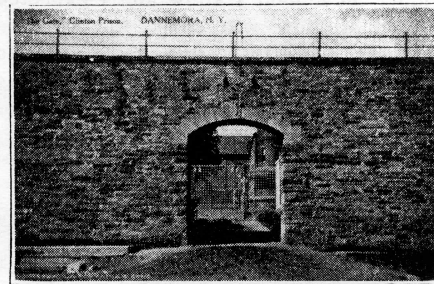
It was never dragged out of its

dusty pigeon hole until the year 1919 when the capitalists of the United States found a queer and uncomfortable sensation along their spines as a result of the red spectre of Communism that reared its head in Russia and threatened to spread over the world. The government of the state of New York dug up the criminal anarchy law and went on a hunt for victims. Among those captured was Benjamin Gitlow.

Gitlow is a worker and so are his father and mother. The iron of rebellion in his soul was forged into steel in the foundry of the class struggle. As a member of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers' Union, he was no stranger to the class war. In the factory and outside he never hid his hatred of capitalism. The bosses knew him, feared him and hated him.

When the Socialist Party split in 1919, Benjamin Gitlow associated himself with the Left Wing. With several others he was indicted under this moth-eaten anarchy act for being responsible for the manifesto of the Left Wing of the Socialist Party that appeared in the Revolutionary Age, organ of the Left Wing.

The prosecuting attorney painted a dreadful picture of what would happen to society unless the jury sent Gitlow to prison for ten years. The trial was held shortly after the Winnipeg general strike, and the prosecutor had the jury licking their parched lips as they saw a mental



Clinton prison in Dannemora, New York, where Gitlow spent part of his sentence.

photograph of a large city, without milk, water or food while men like Gitlow stood over them with gory bayonets ready to disembowel them at the quiver of an eye lid.

The prosecutor won. Gitlow went to prison. Harry Winitsky had already gone up the river. James Larkin followed Gitlow. After him went C. E. Ruthenberg and I. E. Ferguson. Others who went to jail in New York state on the same charge were Ignatz Mizher, Paul Manko, Minnie Kalnin and Anna Leisman.

Governor Smith pardoned Larkin, Winitsky, Mizher, Manko, Kalnin, and Anna Leisman. Ruthenberg and Ferguson were released on a writ of error and are still untried. Gitlow's case was taken to the United States supreme court, as a test of the constitutionality of the New York criminal anarchy law. The supreme court rendered a decision upholding the law and Gitlow now goes to serve the remainder of his term behind the gray walls of Sing Sing.

here over the shopmen's strike, one doing life and the other ten to life.

Give my regards to all those who are worth while and to h— with the rest.

From Oahu Prison, Honolulu,
P. O. Box 3289,
Honolulu, T. H.,
Oct. 11, 1925.

Mr. James P. Cannon,
23 South Lincoln St.,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Sir:

Your letter dated Sept. 22nd and a check of \$5 duly received and contents noted.

You inquired of me if I have dependents. I will state that I have a wife and four children. They are on the verge of destitution. They went to the United Charity headquarters for an aid. They were refused and turned down. I presumed that the invisible hand of my enemies is on the job. They even control that very institution.

I certainly deeply appreciate of sending me the \$5, which immediately I give to my family to relieve them, and your efforts to come to their aid will be appreciated too.

VOICES FROM PRISON

From St. Quentin Prison, Sept. 30, 1925.
Mr. James P. Cannon,
23 South Lincoln St.,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Sir:

Was very much surprised and pleased to receive your kind and welcome letter and check for five dollars. Want to thank the International Labor Defense for same, and here is hoping the said International grows stronger and stronger all the time, not for the benefit of those in prison but for the welfare of all the workers. Rightly, it should have been the first International organized some forty odd years ago instead of now, then the trade union movement would have been built upon a solid foundation. Several years ago it was tried but

the A. F. of L. & J. leaders in Washington frowned upon it. Did you ever see any progressive move that would benefit all the workers that was not frowned upon by said leaders?

The A. F. of L. & J. leaders (the J. is for Joiners, they join everything in the land) are too closely interwoven with the system and will get the workers nowhere. Well, I am only wasting my time as well as yours talking about them. I consider all of them enemies of all the workers in the land, they belong to too many fraternal orders. One can not be on the fence in this industrial age.

Have McNamara who is associated with you to get in touch with Thorpe of his organization and get data on two members

My wife resides at 1013 Gulick Ave., Honolulu, T. H., if you desire to communicate with her.

From the beginning of my undertaking the labor movement I know and I expected that such a blow will come, for my enemies were powerful. But my desire to serve the laborers to the best I can was the only motive of giving everything I have for that cause of the toilers. Jail will not fear me at all to continue my work. Soon I obtain my freedom again.

Yours truly,

FROM THOMASTON, ME.

Dear Comrade:

We the undersigned wish to thank the International Labor Defense for the recent five dollar remittance to each of us, and assure you it was an agreeable and welcome surprise.

We realize that there are so many unfortunates situated like ourselves that it takes a lot of money to render assistance and more so when there are dependents needing help, fortunately for us we have no one who requires any aid for if they did, they would have passed out long ago for lack of food.

Your monthly remittance will enable us to buy tobacco and stamps during the rest of our sojourn here.

Please convey our sincere thanks to our Comrades. We remain,

Fraternally yours—

FROM SAN GUENTIN PRISON.

My Dear Mr. Cannon:—

I want to thank you and your group for the donation of \$5.00 which came safely. It will be used for the only dissipation which I indulge in here, books.

In looking over the names of your committee I find many of my old friends. A good lot indeed. I wish you would thank them for me.

At present my good sister is looking after those who should be getting assistance from me and unless some misfortune befalls her we will be alright. It is mighty fine of the Council to take the interest they are taking. Most of the world has forgotten us. It is too busy keeping out of the way of the Frankenstein Monster that civilization has built and which seems to be bent on the destruction of its builders.

Again thanking you for your fine action, I am,

Fraternally yours—

FROM THOMASTON, Me.

July 19, 1925.

Dear Brother:

I received your letter and minutes etc. of the June 28 conference. Was very pleased to read that the move for coalition of small defense clubs into one big defense body was successful—a move that should be for the best interest of class war prisoners and their dependents, throughout the country and abroad, if carried out in accordance with the resolutions which I received from

you. Though I cannot fully understand how it is going to work, when different organizations, with a difference of opinion, in regards to the best way of taking care of their imprisoned fellow workers, commence to argue the point, about the merit of their respective brand of belief. But you see I came from Sweden. That might be one reason for me not being able to understand. I had been in the United States but a very short time before my arrest. Also had a very poor command of English, and a very limited view of the labor movement of America, my sole experience being with the Intl. Seaman's Union, and they quit me cold when I got into this jam. Now I have been behind the bars over four years, without any help and encouragement from anybody of my "once brother members." However it strikes me that your plans (politics thrown aside) for relief of prisoners and their families, if carried out, will make for greater confidence and solidarity among the militant workers.

I understand that I am to be deported to Sweden some time next December. Tough, isn't it, to come to the land of liberty only to serve a term in jail or rather pen and shipped back? I suppose that it is all for the best, for were it not for such as I, immigration officials would starve to death these hard times. I have five more months to serve here and any word from you will be appreciated.

Yours for Intl. Freedom.

FROM REPRESA, CAL.

Dear friend:

Your letter of September twenty-second with the enclosed check for five dollars reached me a week ago and I greatly appreciate both.

I have been watching the news articles telling of the organizing and building up of your organization and I must say that it was the first thing accomplished in the labor movement for several years which really gave me a thrill. I have been an exponent of the idea of united defense for the entire movement for many years and was at one time a delegate to the old International Workers Defense League of San Francisco. To my mind there is absolutely no reason why every sect and faction in the entire labor, liberal and radical movement,—even including the reformers,—single taxers, etc., should not build up and maintain a single defense committee through which all cases having a bearing upon the movement can be handled. Trade Unionists, I. W. W.'s, Socialists, Communists and all the rest are at all times subject to persecution and prosecution because of their activities in behalf of the workers and no matter how much their political and economic principles may differ the principle that the persecuted must be defended will remain common to all;—therefore I say,—let us all stand solidly together on this common ground.

A monthly allowance,—be it ever so small, means more to men in prison than I can tell you in this letter and the knowledge

that dependents on the outside are also being looked after is another big item to them. Personally I am fortunate enough to be without direct dependents.

Thanking you again for your efforts in my behalf and assuring you that organization has my approval and best wishes and that I shall do what I can to aid you in building up the membership, I am,

Yours for the Workers all the time.—

FROM ALCATRAZ, CAL.

Comrades!

In sending us to Alcatraz, the American military machine unconsciously gave us a greater insight regarding the necessity of an increasing fight against imperialist militarism. Our faith in Communism makes life endurable for us, for we know that the present misery in which the masses live is not always to be. Life under the iron heel of militarism should convince anyone of the evils of the present system. We see the present evils, but our vision is of the future—of the Communist society when all will be free. Our bodies are in prison for daring to think for ourselves while in the army; our hopes and aspirations, however, are with you who are fighting for our great cause. Carry on, Comrades! No compromise! We desire our freedom, but rather than take back one word or repudiate one act in our fight against imperialist militarism, we would spend our lives in prison.

A REST PLACE FOR POLITICALS.

Mrs. Walter Richee, of Good Hope Farm, Clear Lake Wisconsin, has offered a place of rest at her home for a short period for one of the released political prisoners. In a letter to the secretary of the International Labor Defense, Mrs. Richee says:

"I notice by your circular Miss Benton of Granada sent me, you are raising a fund for a short rest for political prisoners on farms. Now, at present, I have nothing in the line of cash to send. I hope to have some later to apply on relief for the boys now in prison and the families depending on them, but farming is in too bad a way to be able to do much."

"What I am writing about this time is to offer our home to some political for a rest. If you wish to know anything concerning us I refer you to Cora Myer, Milwaukee, and Irene Benton, Granada, Minnesota."

I only wish the farmers were as advanced as the workers are in their organizations. The farmers are being closed out one by one and are flocking to the cities and are willing to work cheap."

Secretaries I. L. D. Locals!

In ordering supplies from the National Office, several comrades have become confused in the terms to be used for the various supplies.

If you wish membership dues books, please designate them as "Membership cards." If you wish dues stamps, simply say "Dues stamps," or so many "Dues Stamp Books." (Each dues stamp book contains 40 dues stamps.)

Class Persecution in Other Countries

In Roumania.

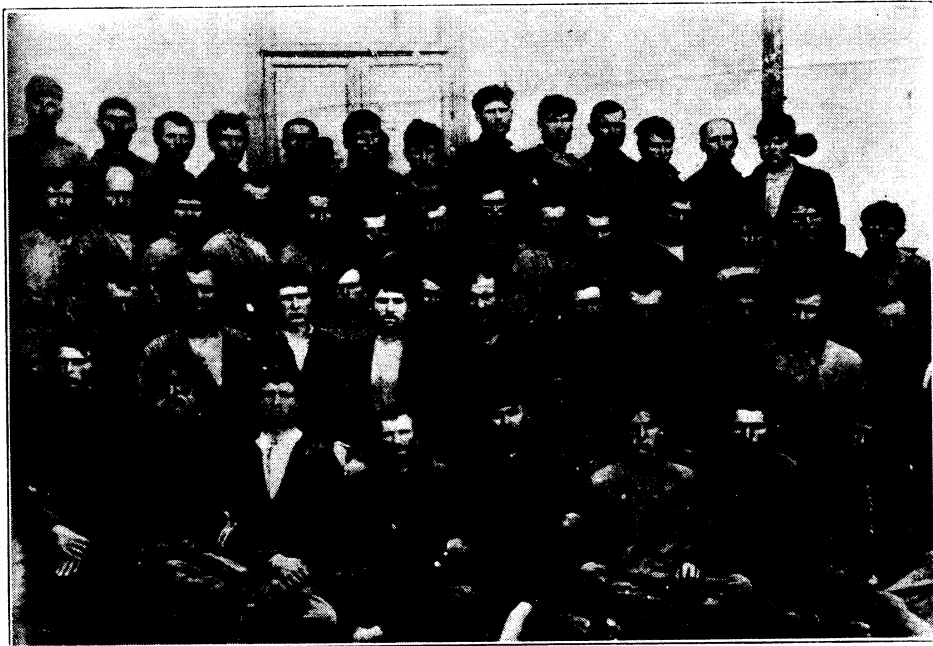
Five hundred peasants are on trial in Roumania. The minister of war ordered the court to get thru with the trial by November 9. Night sessions were held in order to expedite business. The 500 peasants were obliged to stand up during each session, after doing several hours hard labor. The court bristles with machine guns and the odor from the semi-drunken judges is not soothing to the nostrils. The lawyers who try to defend the accused are not permitted to bring out all the facts. The whole trial is a farce. Meanwhile, the Queen of Roumania is writing for the Hearst press on how to keep young and pretty and how to succeed in life. John D. Rockefeller has many oil wells in Roumania and thru this persecution the bandits who run the country hope to win John D's favor.

* * *

In Merrie England.

There was a time when anybody could get up in Hyde Park, London, and even tell the truth about the King to the extent of calling him an imbecile without any greater risk than having some king-loving moron ejaculate "My word!" and depart for the nearest "pub" to drown his sorrow in a tumbler of suds. But those days are gone—except in the column conducted by the mentally petrified fossil, Arthur Brisbane, in the Hearst papers. Arthur believes that free speech is still free in John Bull's main island, even in spite of the arrest and prosecution of twelve leading members of the British Communist Party. And this is what they are charged with: "having on divers days since January 1st, 1924, unlawfully conspired together to utter and publish seditious libels and to incite divers persons to commit breaches of the Incitement to Mutiny Act, 1797, against the peace of our Lord, the King, his Crown, and dignity."

There you are! It is hard to say whether the crown prosecutor is confusing the Lord worshipped by Billy Sunday with the king, in his capacity of lord of the British Empire, but our ruling class try to maintain



Roumanian Prisoners Heavily Manacled.

a connection between both. The British government has declared the Communist Party and the Monority Movement illegal organizations. To explain why, would take up too much space to tell in this issue, but in our next, we hope to give a good deal of space to the British Communist trial which is liable to be of great historic importance. It proves at least that the "boys of the bulldog breed" who used to trample with equanimity on their subject peoples in years gone by, are now getting nervous about their slaves at home.

* * *

In Bulgaria.

The white terror in Bulgaria has caused the loss of so many working class lives that the situation beggars description. Bulgaria is one of Great Britain's puppets and the Zankoff government is supported by the

pounds of Threadneedle Street just as Hungary is bolstered up by the dollars of Wall Street. So widespread has been the reign of terror in Bulgaria that it is estimated that at least every peasant family is mourning the loss of at least one breadwinner. The Roumanian and Bulgarian overnments are co-operating with each other in crushing the labor and peasant movements in both countries. The member of the Bulgarian peasants' union, Amonov, who was recently sentenced to death in Bulgaria and enjoyed "the right of asylum" in Roumania has been handed over to the Bulgarian authorities.

A worker by the name of Rossin who has arrived in Moscow, the sanctuary of the oppressed, declared: that Zankoff will continue the terror because as soon as he calls off his bloodhounds the workers and peasants who are suffering the tortures of the damned will revolt. Much indignation was aroused among the Bulgarian workers when they learned that Ramsay MacDonald, leader of the British Labor Party, was banqueted by the Hungarian government, at the same time that the Prussian diet with the votes of the socialists and the communists passed a motion demanding the release of the working class victims of the Horthy government.

* * *

In Mussolini's Detention Camp.

Only two months ago the capitalist press published Mussolini's boast that he had granted general amnesty "for social peace." Fifteen thousand prisoners were released and the capitalist press boasted that the blackshirt dictator had a heart that melted with love for the sufferings of the people. But the facts? It turns out that of the fifteen thousand released only a little over one thousand were workers, the rest being fascist perverts of some kind or other. And of the comparatively few workers who were released some were arrested on their way to their homes and returned to the bastilles. This is the way Mussolini shows his clemency.



A Group of Greek Prisoners.



Roumanian Prisoners Heavily Manacled.



A Group of Greek Prisoners.



\$5

to each

CLASS-WAR PRISONER

International Labor Defense is sending \$5 monthly to each of 106 class-war prisoners and \$20 monthly to dependents.

WILL YOU TAKE CARE OF ONE?

From Thomaston, Me., Penitentiary (signed by a group)

"We, the undersigned, wish to thank the International Labor Defense for the recent \$5 remittance to each of us, and assure you it was an agreeable and welcome surprise.

"We realize that there are so many unfortunates situated like ourselves that it takes a lot of money to render assistance, and more so when there are dependents needing help. Fortunately for us, we have no one who requires any aid, for if they did they would have passed long ago for lack of food.

"Your monthly remittance will enable us to buy tobacco and stamps during the rest of our sojourn here."

From San Quentin Penitentiary

"Was very much surprised and pleased to receive your kind and welcome letter and check for \$5 enclosed. Here is hoping International Labor Defense grows stronger all the time, not for the benefit of those in prison but for the welfare of all the workers."

"It is mighty fine of International Labor Defense to take the interest they are taking. Most of the world has forgotten us. It is too busy keeping out of the way of the Frankenstein Monster that civilization has built."

From Folsom Prison, Calif.

"Your letter of September 22nd with enclosed check for \$5 reached me two weeks ago and I greatly appreciate both.

"Trade unionists, I. W. W's, Socialists, Communists and all the rest, are at all times subjected to persecution and prosecution because of their activities in behalf of the workers and no matter how much their political and economic principles may differ, the principle that the persecuted must be defended will remain common to all; therefore I say:—let us all stand solidly together on this common ground.

"A monthly allowance,—be it ever so small, means more to men in prison than I can tell you in this letter, and the knowledge that their dependents on the outside are also being looked after is another big item to them"

JOIN OUR \$5-A-MONTH PLEDGE FUND

INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE,

23 South Lincoln St., Chicago, Ill.