

LABOR DEFENDER

FEBRUARY
1931



SPECIAL
·
NEGRO
·
NUMBER



CAPITALIST U. S. A.

as seen by GROPPER



Over 7,000 workers have been arrested in the U. S. during the past year for their militant activities. In California, New York, Washington, Pennsylvania, in all sections of the U.S. workers are organizing and demanding the immediate and unconditional release of all class war prisoners. The I.L.D. Amnesty Campaign is now in full swing.



When the worker returns home after a day's trudging in search of a job he finds his wife and child have been thrown out on the street by the landlord for non-payment of rent. This in the year 1931, in Capitalist America!



The bosses kill, club and jail workers who dare to demand relief for their families—but the workers fight on!

Negro Revolutionists

By HERBERT NEWTON

THE St. Louis Convention of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights passed a resolution which declared in part:

"The Negro peoples are not by any means lacking in revolutionary traditions. The long list of slave revolts, the victorious revolution of the Haitian slaves, the unparalleled heroism and valor displayed by Negro troops in the Civil War, constitute a glorious revolutionary record of which any peoples might well be proud. In these struggles the Negro peoples have thrown up from their midst such indomitable leaders as Toussaint L'Overture, Denmark Vesey, Gabriel Prosser, Dessalines, and many others whose names will live forever in the glorious archives of revolutionary history."

The white American ruling class hand in hand with such Negro misleaders as Dr. Moton, Dr. DuBois, Allain Locke, Kelly Miller, etc., have done everything in their power to defile the revolutionary role of these heroes or pass over their splendid records in ignominious silence. While the names of a few break thru the barrage of conspiracy, the memories of thousands of others are only now and then dug from oblivion.

Nat Turner, Inspirer

Among the latter are such courageous insurrectionists as Osborne Anderson, Dangerfield Newby, John Copeland, Lewis Leary, and Shields Green. These were among the twenty-one led by John Brown who on the early morn of October 16, 1859, captured the town and arsenal at Harper's Ferry. The raid was inspired by the daring exploits of Nat Turner, who years before had organized plantations of slaves to fight their way to freedom, and who, when captured and faced certain death, used the courts as tribunals from which to thunder vitriolic denunciations of the slave holding government.

The unassuming Anderson, the young Oberlin recruits, the fugitive slave from South Carolina, and the clothes cleaner from Rochester, were the heroic figures who joined white abolitionists in a valiant attempt to set the South free. Even the vague and meagre records written by biased and hesitating pens reveal splendid testimony to the courage of these insurrectionists.

Unparalleled Devotion

Just previous to the raid which resulted in his death, Shields Green was asked by



From an old print. En route to Charlestown, Va. to face trial for the rebellion against slavery at Harper's Ferry in 1859. Two of the Negro insurrectionists, bound, Copeland (left), Green (right) following the wagon carrying two sick prisoners, John Brown (right).

Frederick Douglass to accompany him out of danger back to New York. Green looking at the bowed figure of John Brown weighted with pain at Douglass' refusal to aid him, asked: "Is he going to stay?" An affirmative answer being made, he stated in slow but determined words: "Well, I guess I's goes wid de ole man."

Again when Green, under fire, had stolen thru the enemy's lines, and had safely reached the captured arsenal, he was informed that the cause was lost. They were surrounded. The enemy was slowly closing in. There was one chance to escape. Would he take it?

"But de ole captain can't get away?" he asked.

"No," was the reply.

Looking towards the engine house in which John Brown was making his last stand, Green answered:

"I guess I'll go back to de ole man." And back he went—to John Brown and death—proving his devotion to the white abolitionist and the cause for which they fought.

Militant Fighters

Anderson "fought like a tiger" and died like a revolutionist. Leary was riddled to pieces in Shenandoah River on the afternoon of October eighteenth. Newsby was in the thickest of the fighting at the armory gate. He was killed suddenly by a bullet thru his neck. Out of ammunition, Copeland was captured. Writing to his brother a few days before his last, he said:

"I am not terrified by the gallows which I see staring me in the face. . . . It was a sense of the wrongs which we have suffered that prompted the noble but unfortunate Captain Brown and his associates to give freedom to a small number at least, of those who are now held by cruel and unjust laws, and by no less cruel and unjust men. . . . Could I die in a more noble cause?"

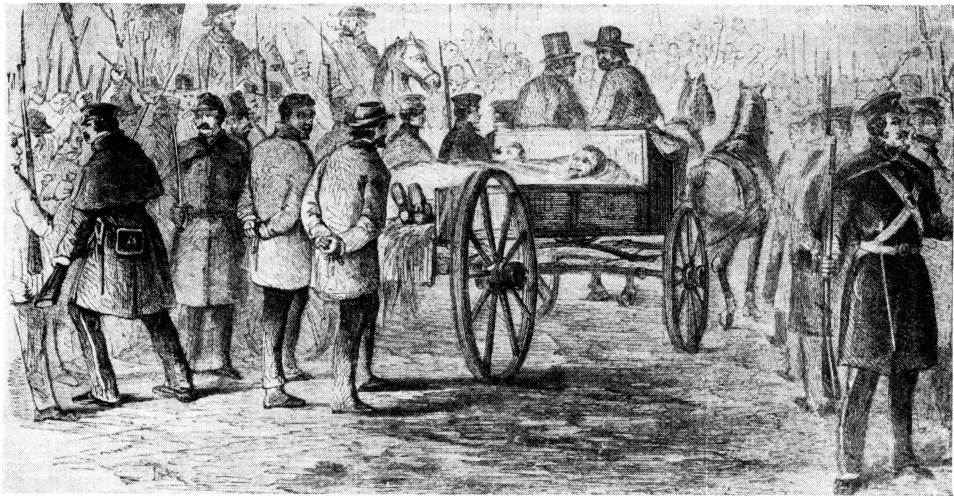
Thus died these unselfish, valiant insurrectionists devoted to the cause of emancipating an oppressed people. The cause, not yet finished, must draw its fire from the valor of these unsung heroes. Let us carry on the struggle they have started.

FOR SOLIDARITY! NEGRO AND WHITE!

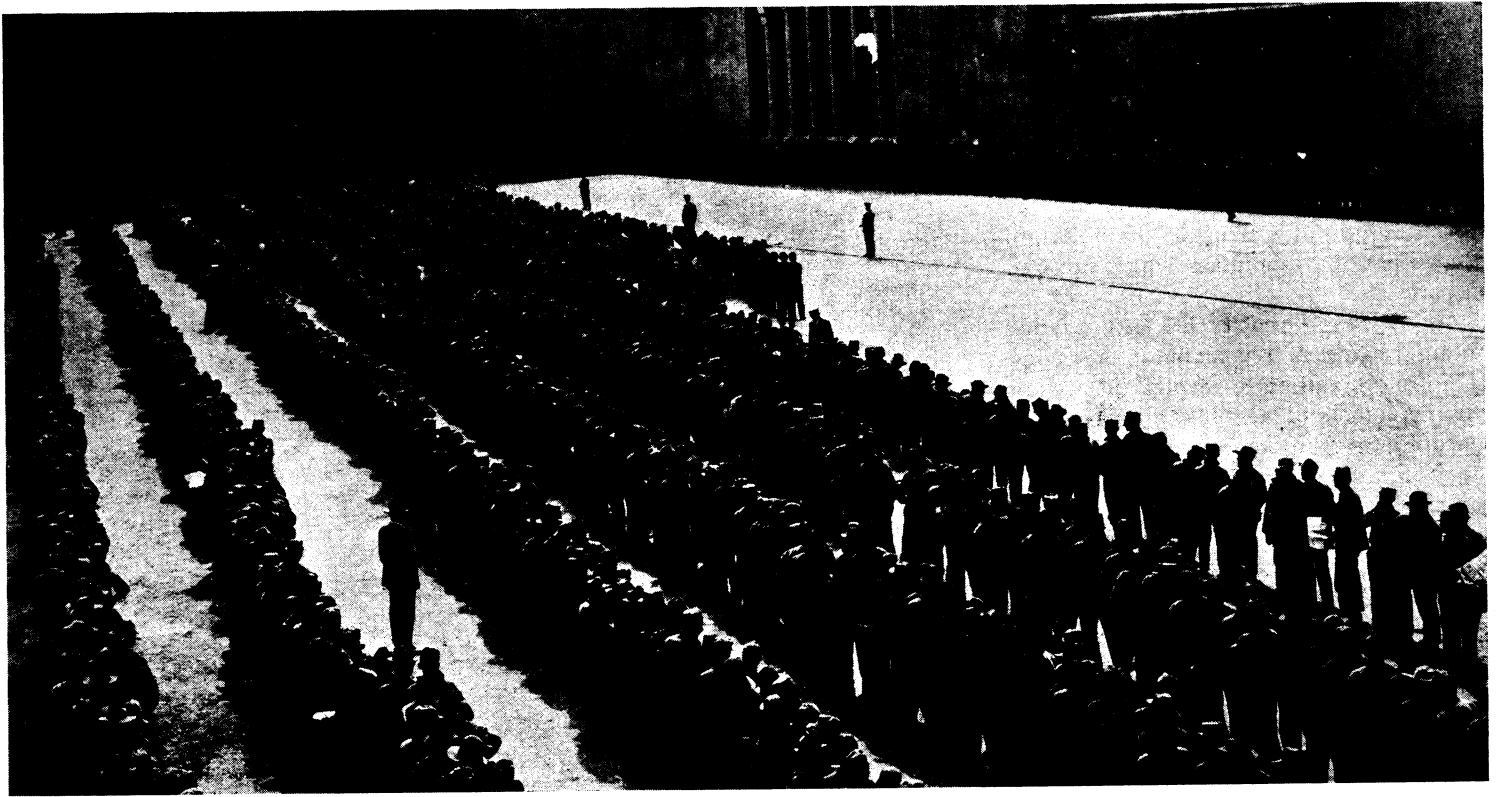
Ten days of intense activity "FOR SOLIDARITY!" of Negro and white workers will be carried out under the leadership of the International Labor Defense, from February 12th to 22nd as part of its EIGHT MONTHS' PLAN OF WORK.

To support this activity this February issue of the LABOR DEFENDER appears as a Special Negro Number, raising the struggle against the infamous Fish Committee, that seeks to draw the line of Jim Crowism between Negro and white workers, that attacks all militant workers and working class organizations. It is especially in this period of unemployment, that the persecution of both Negro and white workers grows more bitter, that the censorship of the workers' press is intensified, that Negro workers as well as whites are deported because of their political views.

Every District Organization of the I.L.D. is carrying through special programs of activity, such as mass meetings, demonstrations, house-to-house recruiting of new members, special study and discussion in all branches of work among Negroes. These ten days of activity must be utilized as a center for developing the "AMNESTY!" campaign, the signature drive for which starts on Sunday, February 15th.



From an old print. En route to Charlestown, Va. to face trial for the rebellion against slavery at Harper's Ferry in 1859. Two of the Negro insurrectionists, bound, Copeland (left), Green (right) following the wagon carrying two sick prisoners, John Brown (right).



The prison yard in San Quentin where many class war prisoners are incarcerated, including six Imperial Valley workers serving terms up to 42 years, for organizing agricultural workers in California, as well as Tom Mooney, J. B. McNamara and many others.

Raise the Demand for Amnesty

By J. LOUIS ENGDAHL

FOR the first time in America's history the working class emblazons upon its banners the demand for "AMNESTY!" for all class war prisoners. This is labor's reply to the imprisonment, up to life sentences, of more than four score workers, victims of vicious capitalist class justice.

In 1906 the struggle raged for the liberation of Moyer, Pettibone and Haywood; in 1911, labor demanded the release of McNamara; in 1916 the fight began to save Mooney and Billings from the gallows; in 1919 the Centralia fighters were taken to prison in spite of protest; in 1920 began the seven long years of resistance to the burning of Sacco and Vanzetti; in 1922 the Michigan trials of Foster and Ruthenberg; more recently Gastonia, Atlanta, Imperial Valley.

These defense actions, nearly all of which grew to international proportions, developed separately. Capitalist class justice, except during the war, attacked usually on but one front.

Today, however, the working class again suffers under war conditions. This is emphasized by the savage recommendations of the red-baiting Fish Committee. It echoes in 25 prisons and jails over the land holding 94 workers—political prisoners—in their relentless steel claws. Today it is not a fight against an individual

persecution, but against the boss terror.

McNamara and Schmidt, Mooney and Billings, the Centralia comrades, have already been behind bars from ten to twenty years. Their jailers repeatedly refuse to release them. These have been recently joined by the Imperial Valley and the Portland prisoners.

The hammer blows of "AMNESTY" must pound hard at the prison gates of San Quentin and Folsom; Walla Walla and Angel Island; Blawnox and Moundsville; Harts Island and Ellis Island in New York. The world knows no bastilles more infamous than these.

The new year saw many governors inaugurated in the states where labor's militants are caged alive in their prison tombs. Pinchot, in Pennsylvania, and La Follette, in Wisconsin, are heralded as "progressives." Yet it is in their states where the growing terror has raged hungrily for its working class victims. While this is being written delegations are being mobilized, protests are being organized, demanding the immediate release of the prisoners. As in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, the "AMNESTY!" demand grows in California and Washington; from New York to Oregon; it is being raised on the roar of every unemployed march for "Work or Bread!" It lives in every

effort of labor. It is a militant fight.

The methods of the struggle are being studied, discussed and organized in all the branch and affiliated organizations of the International Labor Defense. This is the life-blood of the Eight Months' Plan of Work that builds the International Labor Defense into a mighty, mass defense organization of the American working class. The gathering of the Million Signatures for "AMNESTY!", for the release of all class war prisoners, for the repeal of all the criminal syndicalist laws, starts on February Fifteenth, immediately following the presentation of the monster Unemployed Insurance Petition to congress on February tenth, to which the International Labor Defense has given its fullest support. The "AMNESTY!" Signature Drive will continue until June the first, growing into a militant counter-offensive against the Fish Committee recommendations, the terrorization of the foreign-born, and all persecutions of labor.

Raise the demand for "AMNESTY!" Demand the right of all class war prisoners to be recognized as "politicals." Resist the growing terror of the boss class on all fronts. Make this whole struggle a driving force in all the growing battles against unemployment and hunger.



The prison yard in San Quentin where many class war prisoners are incarcerated, including six Imperial Valley workers serving terms up to 42 years, for organizing agricultural workers in California, as well as Tom Mooney, J. B. McNamara and many others.

Firestone's Slavery in Liberia

There Are No Less Than 5,000,000 Chattel Slaves in the World in 1931

By ROBERT W. DUNN



A Liberian Negro slave on one of Firestone's rubber plantations.

SLAVERY exists in some 20 countries. It exists in Africa, Asia, and in Latin America. It exists, in effect, in many Southern states. It exists in a little country called Liberia on the west coast of Africa. This country which now has about a million and a half population was founded in 1822 as a "haven" for Negroes escaping from American slavery. The motto of its founders was "the love of liberty brought us here." It has been nominally a "free and independent" republic since 1847.

Today Liberia might better be called Firestonia. For it is practically the annexed territory of the Akron rubber magnate who has a million acre concession there on which he is developing rubber plantations. He got the concession in 1925 with the help of Mr. Hoover who was then engaged in his loud campaign to break the British rubber monopoly.

Firestone is the one big capitalist in Liberia. And he has, according to competent observers, been exploiting the Negro workers there by one of the worst forms of colonial slavery. He pays money to chiefs of native tribes who in turn force their people to work for him. He pays the government and chiefs about a cent a man per day. The chiefs and the government do the rest.

American workers may have been a little confused when they read in the paper the other day that Secretary of State Stimson had sent a "strong note" to Liberia about slavery. Stimson, the friend of Firestone, raising a howl about slavery. How come?

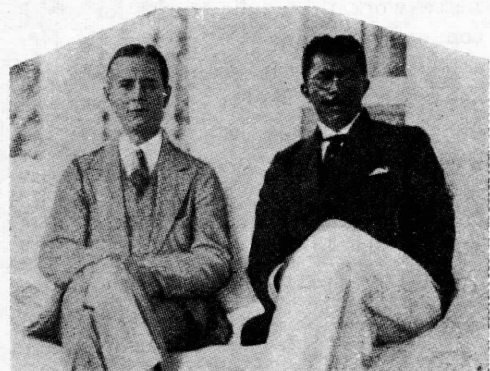
One explanation was not far to seek. It seems that some rival powers, chiefly Britain and France, both admitted and notorious owners of slave colonies in Africa, had brought pressure to bear on the League of Nations to have an investigating commission look into slavery in the Hoover-Firestone protectorate. The committee of inquiry went and found that the most atrocious forms of slavery exist in Liberia. They were about to expose the system.

With this storm approaching, and knowing what was in the report, Stimson shot his noble note to Liberia. This made Stimson, in the eyes of headline readers, appear to be a great humanist, interested in combatting slavery. Then came the report of the commission: "Horrors of Slavery and Conscript Labor in Liberia Bared." It looked on the surface as though Liberia was an independent state and that Stimson first, and then the League of Nations, was interested in reforming her.

But the fact is that Liberia was run on the orders of the Washington-Wall Street government in the very days when its slavery system was in full flower. It was the Coolidge-Hoover regime that helped Firestone grab his fat concession. And it was the same set of polished hypocrites who picked the expensive financial advisors who, since 1927, has been dictating the public expenditures and regulating the military establishment of the country. It was only after the rubber deal had been put through, with stout State Department pressure, that the Finance Corporation of America (a Firestone firm) in 1927 granted a \$5,000,000 loan at 7% to the Liberian government. It was the now-discredited President King of Liberia who was the willing agent in these deals. All of which were so shady that the State Department refused to give out the text of the agreements entered into between Firestone, the National City Bank and the Liberian puppets. And King in 1928 issued a statement *through the U. S. State Department* that there was no forced labor in Liberia!

Stimson who has always countenanced virtual slavery in other American imperialist possessions has known of slavery in Liberia ever since Firestone first set foot on African soil. He kept his mouth shut, of course, till rival imperialist powers, interested in thwarting his rubber dictatorship there, forced the investigation which, incidentally, is but a thin whitewash for Firestone. For the official report says Firestone now does not "consciously" employ labor "which has been forcibly impressed." In plain words this means that he hires labor from native chiefs and asks no questions. Nothing on the books, you see, to show that Firestone traffics in slavery!

But President King is the goat and is held responsible for the mess, while the vice-president of the country is shown to be neck deep in the slavery business. They resigned. Incidentally, it was this same President King whose picture appeared in the Negro reformist magazine, *Opportunity*, (November 28, 1928) sitting comfortably "on the Veranda of the Executive Mansion" of Liberia beside the hand-



Harvey S. Firestone, Jr., with his slave agent, ex-President King, of Liberia.

some Harvey S. Firestone, Jr. And this same Negro magazine then carried a pretty story by a certain J. C. Young, press agent for Firestone, which told the Negro uplifters of the National Urban League that "a new world is in the making at the western edge of Africa." Mr. Young wrote that "Mr. Firestone is optimistic about the future of western Africa."

Workers must remember that the imperialist system everywhere is founded on slavery—in some places chattel slavery, in other places wage slavery. Colonial workers and farmers in imperialist lands must unite against slavery in all its forms.

Negroes in Steel

by Paul Peters



Photo: Ewing Galloway

IN the Pittsburgh district fully one man in every three in the steel mills is a Negro. But this proportion does not tell the real story of the black man in the steel industry. Where the work is hardest, the hours longest, the pay lowest you will find the bulk of the gangs composed of Negroes.

It would be hard to find more ugly or fierce work than falls to the lot of the common laborer in the open-hearth. Here a man spends whole nights sweating in a gassy checker-chamber. Or maybe he must crawl through the sewers of the furnaces, far under the ground, shoveling up slime in a bucket. Often he is put on a "hot job"; that is, tearing down the upper structure of a furnace while the bricks are still red-hot. About this heat in the steel furnaces there is a peculiar gassy, nauseating, sapping quality which I cannot describe. The worst effects of this work could be eliminated if furnaces were allowed to cool for several hours before repairs are made. But this of course would obstruct the efficiency program of the United States Steel Corporation — self-styled "corporation with a soul" — and what are the lives of a few common laborers compared with U. S. Steel profits?

Most of the men on the open-hearth labor gangs are Negroes. White men occasionally work with them, but only with the tacit understanding that as soon as there is an opening, they are promoted to the "floor." "Up on the floor" a man becomes at once a third furnace helper— or "slagger." From that position he may be advanced to second helper, first helper, eventually even smelter boss. The com-

mon laborer gets \$4 for his eight-hour day. The slagger gets about \$5 a day (he is paid by tonnage). Needless to say, it is the rare, rare Negro who gets on the slagging gang. Still rarer is the black man who becomes a second helper. There he must stop. Despite U. S. Steel propaganda about "no discrimination," it is a bald fact that no Negro ever runs a furnace, no matter how able he may become.

The mill I worked in paid the highest wages in the entire steel industry. At Sparrows Point, Maryland, common labor gets as low as 25 and 30 cents an hour and puts in a twelve-hour day. In Birmingham, Alabama, conditions are still worse. Both Negroes and white men in such mills as the Allegheny Steel Company near Pittsburgh still put in 14 hour shifts, and every other week do "the long turn"—that is, work 24 hours at a stretch to give the other shift a day off.

Before I worked in the open-hearth, I was a day laborer in the masonry department and the general labor department. Here the gangs were half white, half black. We worked ten hours a day at 44 cents an hour. Every day we had to report to our shanty before the whistle blew to discover if there was work for us. If not, we were sent home. Even when we were on night shift and had slept the day through, we were often sent home. When the mill needed us, we worked eleven or twelve hours a day. They called this overtime and felt we ought to be grateful to get it. This generosity we were not allowed to refuse; nor were we given overtime rates. Sundays, holidays, an occasional rest day that every man needs:

these mean nothing to the U. S. Steel.

In the labor shanties there is no segregation between black and white. In the bath houses, however, the races are kept distinct. A man quickly discovers too that when there is a lay-off, it is the black workers who suffer most. Just as they are singled out for the meanest jobs, so they are the first to be fired.

After the 1919 strike, when the U. S. Steel was forced to change from a two-shift to a three-shift day, they hauled in more Negroes from the South. They housed them five and six in a room. Negroes told me that even for such miserable accommodations they paid \$4 and \$5 a week; so scarce were living quarters. To a Southern Negro wages seemed high. But, as he soon learned, so were living costs. Four dollars a day does not go far, especially when you work only two or three days a week six months of the year. Besides there is the steel mill's compulsory insurance: \$1.15 a month whether you work one day or 30. And once or twice a year, so that the U. S. Steel may "go over the top" in this hospital or that "community chest" campaign, each man is summoned before his department superintendent and forced to cough up two or three days' hard-earned pay.

There's a new generation springing up now. The sons of these Negro steel workers know what they are up against. A deep implacable rancor is brewing in them. When the next big steel strike breaks—and it will break one of these days, despite desperate U. S. Steel attempts to crush every move for unionization—the Negro in the steel mill will be heard from.

Negroes in Steel

by Paul Peters

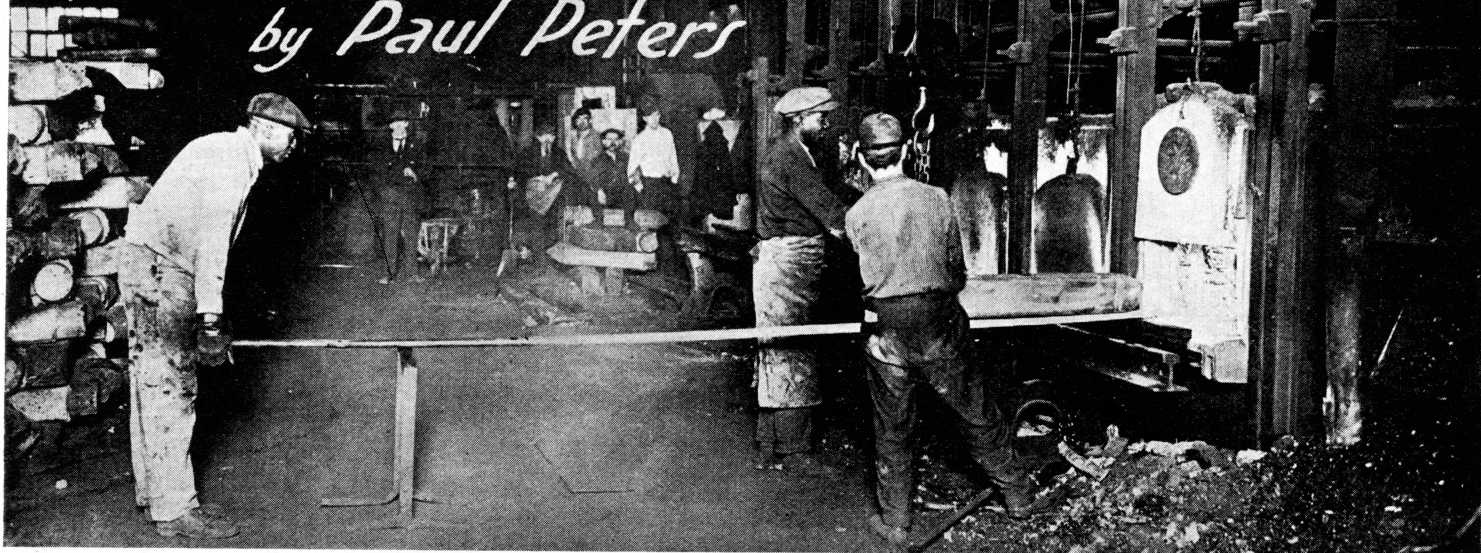


Photo: Ewing Galloway

Arkansas and Manhattan

By GRACE HUTCHINS



Left: Negro and white farmers in Arkansas marched on the merchants and took food for their starving families.

Below: A "jungle" in New York City. Homeless and jobless workers keeping warm in the open.

In Manhattan

Spectacular charity programs in New York City include a fund of \$8,000,000 supposedly raised by Wall Street financiers, to grant jobs for a few of the 800,000 unemployed. But workers from their earnings gave over \$1,300,000 of the amount collected. Then New York's racketeering mayor, Jimmy Walker, took time off from jazz long enough to set up

RED CROSS "welfare" experts in England, Arkansas, set up relief headquarters in the fire department. Farmers, starved out in the farm crisis, stood in a double line and waited, waited—for a cent's worth of food.

It seems there was just a dollar a month or about one cent a meal per person to distribute. The rest went for salaries and overhead. Two 15c. cans of condensed milk must last a whole family two days and women without milk were trying to feed little babies.

So 500 farmers took matters into their own hands. In a spontaneous hunger march, women and men, many of them armed, moved on the town and demanded food from the shops. They got it. Local merchants saw to that. Shopkeepers were afraid of workers' mass organization and hunger march.

Below left: Newark, N. J. unemployed attacked by police.

Below right: Hunger march in Brooklyn, N. Y.



they didn't stop to wait for orders from the National Headquarters of the American Red Cross Society in Washington, D. C.

Thirty-six Thousand, Two Hundred Dollars for Arkansas Added by Red Cross. Total Sent to State's Drought Sufferers is \$230,000 — Will Aid 50,000 Families. Proposals Spur Congress, yelled the headlines in capitalist newspapers. All of \$4.60 for a starving family. But it was more than was given out before the

a relief committee. For his relief fund the 125,000 city employees are to provide cash out of their earnings—\$250,000 a month for 6 months. So workers are really feeding fellow-workers, while the "welfare" agent gets \$50 a week for handing out the food package and Wall Street-Tammany gets the glory, plus the larger profits.

TO HELL WITH SUCH CHARITY, shouted the farmers and they knew what they wanted. We demand the Workers' Unemployment Insurance Bill with its provisions for adequate relief for unemployed workers and their dependents.



Guido Serio

The Attack on the Foreign Born

By GILBERT DAY

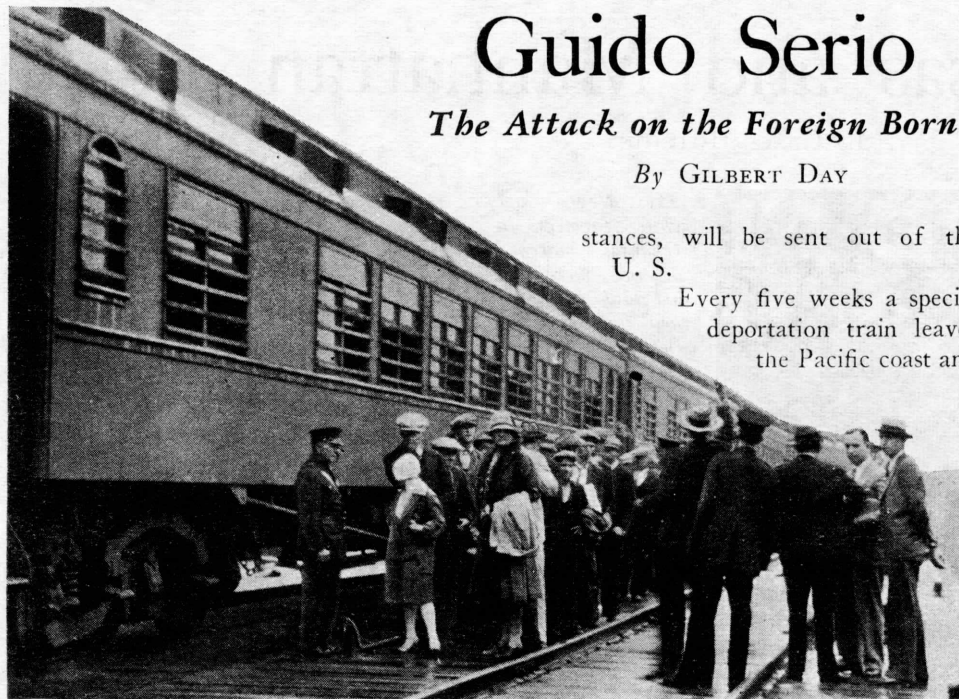
stances, will be sent out of the U. S.

Every five weeks a special deportation train leaves the Pacific coast and

the city or be killed. Serio refused to leave but proceeded with his organization work.

In October, 1922, the fascists marched on Rome and the black shirt terror of the Italian ruling class commenced. The fascists came to Serio's home, shot at him, gave him a number of times the castor oil treatment and the political police squad arrested him almost daily.

In January, 1924, the fascists took control of the union, Serio refused to recognize the leadership of the black shirts. One evening early in 1924 Serio was attacked by a group of fascists, shot twice in the leg, stabbed in the face and arm and left for dead on the street. A group of militant union workers found him and placed him on the ship Duilio for America. Late that night the fascists came and



Special deportation train with barred windows like a prison, arriving in New York with hundreds of workers on it gathered by the Department of Labor for deportation.

THE story of Guido Serio, anti-fascist leader who is being haunted by the Department of Labor for deportation to Italy and a certain execution there, is the story of hundreds of foreign born workers in the United States to-day. The attack on foreign born militants and their deportation is openly part of the program of the ruling class. And not only militant workers who happen to have been born on foreign shores will be deported, according to the program outlined by the new Secretary of Labor when he took office last month, but all foreign born workers who have committed some minor "crime" because of economic circum-

picks up at appointed spots throughout the continent batches of deportees gathered by the immigration officials, and proceeds to New York where they are shipped off to the countries of their birth. This deportation train has become to the foreign born the symbol of misery and death itself. Within the train, barred like a prison cell, there are hundreds of workers, sick and healthy, sane and insane, babies whose age is counted in days and old men and women who can hardly walk. This is the U. S. government's special deportation train, a gift placed at the service of foreign born workers.

But Uncle Sam's special delight is to deport any worker who has dared to show resistance to the ruling class of America. And Guido Serio is one of them. When the workers and peasants in Russia took over the land and factories and became masters of that country, Serio was a national organizer for the Seaman's Union in Italy, and when in 1920 Italy attempted to ship arms to Kolchak, Serio was one of the leaders in his union who prevented the three ships, Rosdato, Persia and Nippon from being loaded with rifles and ammunition to murder the victorious Russian workers. From that day on Serio assumed the leadership of the militant group in his union.

As the crisis developed in Italy the union was split in two factions, the Communists and the fascists. Serio proceeded to Venice on an organization tour for his union and Giuriari now chairman of the Chamber of Deputies and secretary of the Fascist Party and at that time secretary of the Venice Fascists ordered Serio out of



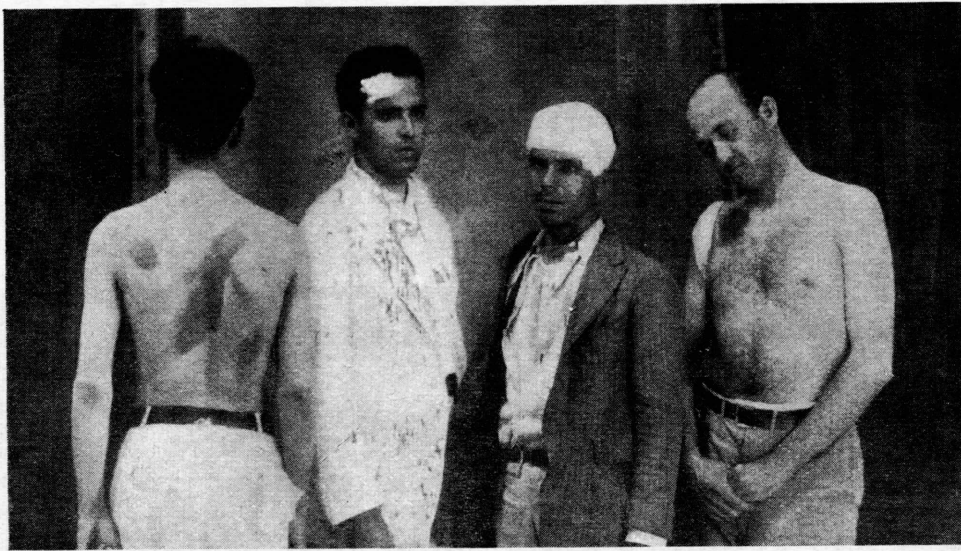
Guido Serio, militant left wing leader persecuted by the Department of Labor.

attempted to remove him, but a large group of workers protected this ship and she sailed before the government could take action. Within a few hours the fascists burned down Serio's house and almost killed his wife.

In the U. S. Serio became very active in the militant labor movement and in anti-fascist work. Black shirt spies working in conjunction with U. S. dicks had been following and watching him for years when finally came his arrest in Erie, Pa., and the attempt to deport him to Italy and his death. This is the story of Serio, the story of hundreds of workers in Oregon, in California, in New York and in many other sections of the country. The bosses' drive against the foreign born is on!



Sick worker dragged off deportation train by officials.



Four workers in Havana, Cuba, who were attacked and brutally beaten up by the Machado police at a demonstration arranged by the Cuban section of the International Labor Defense in protest against persecution of foreign born.

THE YANKEE TERROR in CUBA

By R. GOMEZ

THE rise of Gerardo Machado to the presidency of Cuba marks the moment at which Yankee imperialism obtained absolute hegemony, after having defeated every attempt of the Cuban bourgeoisie to recover the position it had held during the years of the European war.

In the post-war year several general strikes took place in which a half million workers participated. In 1925, strikes paralyzed eighty-five sugar mills, causing a consternation amongst the Yankee bosses which made the very foundations of colonial oppression tremble. Machado as a shareholder of a subsidiary enterprise of the General Electric Company, played the role necessary to defeat all resistance to the policy of imperialist oppression and principally to subdue the masses of workers and peasants.

The First Blows

From the day on which he obtained power, Machado began his spectacular campaign of violent persecutions. The first steps were directed against the Union of Industrial and Agricultural Workers in the sugar industry, which was dissolved. In 1925, Enrique Varona, leader of the union, was assassinated. Following this crime more than a hundred peasants in Moron and Ciego de Avila were slaughtered, "disappeared or committed suicide," and throughout the country the Rural Guard killed the best known leaders of the sugar strikes of 1925.

In 1926 the terror reached its climax. The leaders of the National Workers Federation were placed on trial and more

than fifty railroad workers were murdered in their heroic strike. Alfredo Lopez, founder and leader of the National Workers Confederation of Cuba, "disappeared" in the very heart of Havana, and nothing has ever been heard of him since.

During the course of these persecutions many of the most important trade unions of Havana and other provinces were broken up, some directly, and others as a consequence of the imprisonment of their members. In this manner more than one hundred organizations were destroyed, and those that survived suffered the consequences of the terrorist regime.

The terror had been skillfully conducted. The most violent blow struck was the assassination of Julio Antonio Mella, the leader of the Cuban workers and one of the leaders of the Communist Party. The murder of Lopez was an attack on the National Workers Federation of Cuba. The crime of Noske Yalob was designed to sow terror among the Jewish workers; the killing of Claudio Brouzon among the Spanish workers; that of Santiago Brook among the Negro masses; that of Jose Wong among the Chinese workers, and finally the assassination of Thomas Grant, an American railroad worker, shows that in its oppression of militants, imperialism does not differentiate between nationalities. The murder of Rafael Trejo, a student leader, was designed to subdue the anti-imperialist spirit of the petty bourgeoisie. With the crimes against Dumenigo, Torres Diaz, and other leaders of the railroad workers, as well as the killing of Grant, a blow was aimed at the ranks of

the railroad workers; with that of Varona, at the sugar workers.

AFTER FIVE YEARS

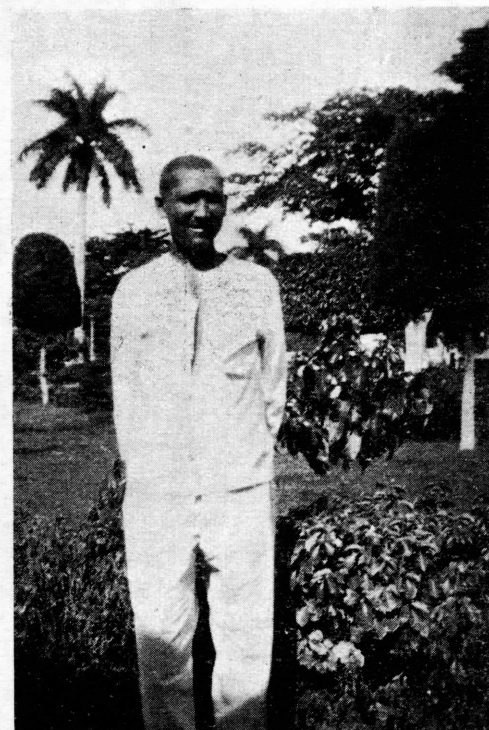
The total number of victims in five years speaks volumes. One thousand poor farmers and workers were assassinated; more than five thousand arrested; more than thirty trials against revolutionary leaders; more than two hundred organizations were declared illegal; one hundred of them have been practically destroyed; the most brutal methods of torture applied to militants; the suppression of the entire working class press; the closing of many workers' centers, and the brutal attack on all street demonstrations.

There are actually more than five hundred political prisoners in the jails of Cuba, among whom there are fifty leaders of the working class movement and the Communist leaders of the student movement, who are in danger of their lives.

Our Duty in the U. S.

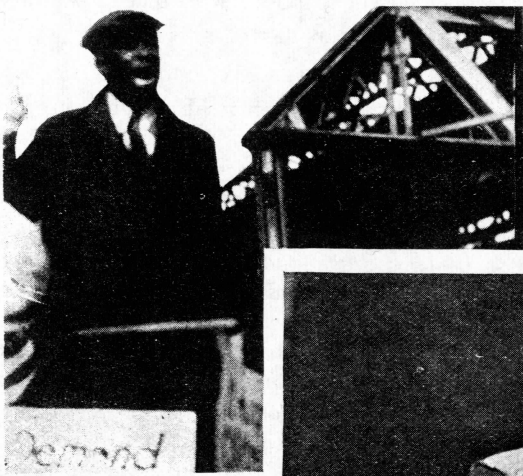
The American proletariat must give its moral support to the workers and peasants of Cuba, demand unconditional release of all class war prisoners; expose the crimes of Machado, agent of Wall St.; demand that all persecutions cease, and organize a mass protest for the victims of Machado's terror.

Let us organize an international campaign to support with all our might the fight of the Cuban workers and peasants against our common enemy—Yankee imperialism.



Juan Prego, torture victim, driven insane. He was accused of investigating the murder of Santiago Brook, Negro leader of the Marine Workers Union.

The Negro Worker in the U.S.A.



(Above) The Negro worker is coming more and more to the front in the fight against unemployment. F. E. A. Welsh of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights speaking at an unemployment demonstration in Brooklyn, N. Y.

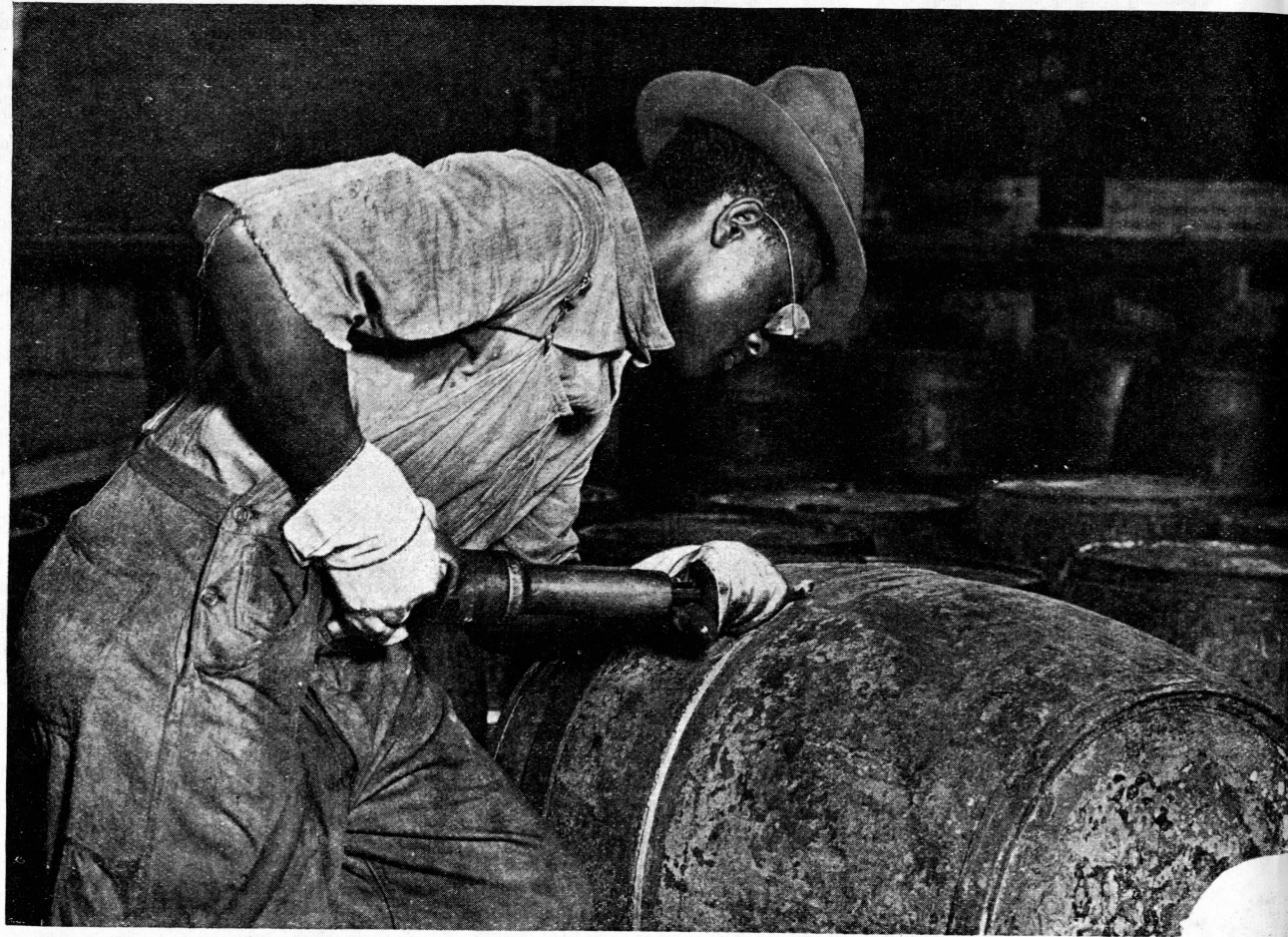


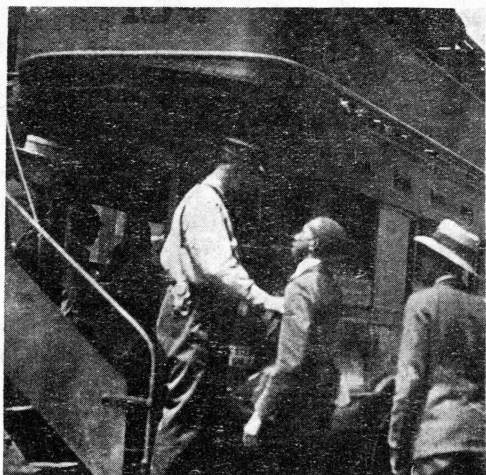
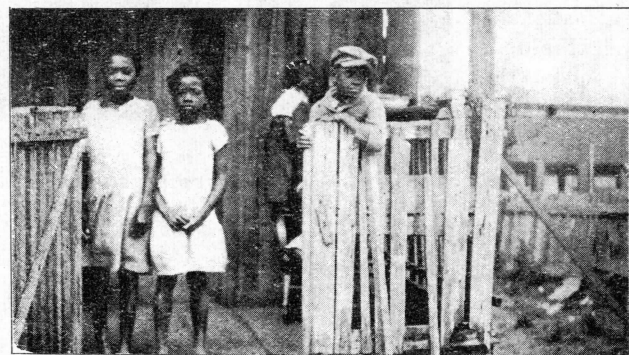
Photo: Ewing Galloway

(Above) Chipping with a compressed air tool. Since the war millions of Negroes have entered industry where they are bitterly exploited and discriminated against. The Negro today is organizing with his white fellow worker in the fight against the ruling class.

(Below) "This bus for whites only." Jim-Crowism—a device used in the attempt to divide Negro and white workers—is practiced in capitalist U. S. A. both North and South.



(Below) "Our daddy hasn't had no work for months." Poverty stricken children of Negro workers near Mobile, Alabama.



(Right) When these Louisiana Negro workers, men, women and children have finished picking "their" cotton they will be in debt for their food and ragged clothes. This is the present-day form of legal slavery.



(Right) The bullets around this cop's waist are furnished by his capitalist masters to fight white, as well as Negro workers. (Below) When the whole family works the Negro worker eats (almost) every day. This Birmingham, Ala., child and her mother do the washing for the rich to eke out the father's earning.



(Below) Raymond Gunn, Negro worker, tied to the roof of a school house in Maryville, Mo., and burned alive.



(Below) Negro and white workers labor—and struggle—side by side.



Chattel Slavery

by Art Shields



Photo: Ewing Galloway

TENANT farmers are the new slaves of the southern states. There are cotton slaves, tobacco slaves, rice slaves, according to the region. But slaves.

The Negroes are more oppressed than the whites. The white tenant farmer at least can change his master. After getting in a crop and seeing the entire proceeds go to landlord, storekeeper or banker he may pile the family possessions into an old wagon or Ford, if he has a wagon or Ford, and move to a new piece of land, to share-crop for a new master.

But if the Negro tries to move he may find himself arrested for debt-evasion or on any one of a dozen other improvised charges. Chain-gang life on a county road, under a brutal "cap'n" who uses whip or gun freely is as bad as the hell that the Baptist evangelists shout about.

The tenant works for a percentage of the crop—theoretically. But the landlord sells the crop and collects the price. If a Negro farmer insists on a full 50 per cent of the sum taken he may be listed as a "bad nigger." And the "bad nigger" becomes game for the deputy sheriffs who are rounding up prisoners for the road gangs.

In 1919 the Negro cotton tenants of eastern Arkansas organized a union to obtain the going price for their cotton. That was a boom price year. The landlords were selling the cotton at high prices and

paying the tenants off in low. The union met in a Negro church. Planters' gunmen shot up the meeting. Some of the Negroes fought back. Whites as well as Negroes fell. Then the white state militia came from Little Rock, drove the Negroes into the cane brakes and killed—some say 50, some say 300.

"Confessions" were extorted by an electric chair. Negroes were placed on the hot seat and shocked and blistered until they said what was wanted. . . . (Yes, only a year ago an Arkansas judge had such a third degree electric chair brought into the courtroom and ostentatiously destroyed).



Tenant farmers live in ramshackle huts like these in the South

Twelve Negroes were sentenced to death, several score to the penitentiary.

The sentences were eventually reversed, but the tenant farmers' union had meanwhile been destroyed. Not free to vote, to organize, subject to arbitrary arrest, seeing little or no money, what is the Negro tenant farmer but a slave?

For several years after the war the Negroes were less bound to the soil. They went north by the hundreds of thousands into steel mills, coal mines and to other industrial jobs. Or they shifted to the southern industrial cities.

Better roads and the automobile made it a little easier to escape from debt-slavery. But industrial depression came. Unorganized, unemployed whites began pushing the Negro off his city jobs. Many Negroes, and whites too, went back to the land again. And on the land they are slaves of the owners of the land.

They are "carried" by the merchants until the cotton is sold. He gives them flour, baking powder, corn meal, coffee, sugar, 'fat back' on credit. And credit prices are always high. Then at cotton selling time he presents his account. How is the farmer to know that the accounts are honest? If he accuses the merchant of padding the accounts, then he becomes a "bad nigger," And the chain gang looms. Sometimes lynching. Sometimes he is just informally shot. Then the coroner lists the killing as a "justifiable homicide."

The Post Office Starts its Wartime Activity

By HARRY GANNES

WE are back in the war days. The Post Office is again being used to strangle the revolutionary press. One of the main proposals of the Fish inquisition is to outlaw the entire revolutionary working class press. But even before these proposals were made action was taken against the *Young Worker*, *Young Pioneer*, and *Vida Obrera*, Spanish language organ of the Communist Party in the United States.

When the German fascist censors stop issues of the *Rothefahne*, daily newspaper of the Communist Party of Germany, they at least give specific reasons. But the Post Office Department in the United States when ordering the suppression of these three papers, cut them off with one word—*unmailable*. No amount of pressure by the International Labor Defense could evoke more detailed information.

"The solicitor (a polite word for shyster) for the Post Office Department holds these papers to be unmailable." This is the extent of the decision. When the Anti-Imperialist League in 1928 demanded the withdrawal of marines from Nicaragua, one of the post office officials got the bright idea of branding this propaganda as *indecent*. It is "indecent" to attack imperialist murder.

What is behind the *unmailable* decision? Why were the *Young Worker*, the *Young Pioneer* and *Vida Obrera* picked out for special attack?

When the *Young Worker* was banned, the Post Office Department specified three issues, May 1st, 1930, May 19th, 1930, and June 2nd, 1930. The May 1st issue called on the young workers "to fight the bosses' wars;" the May 19th issue carried as its leading headline: "U. S. Prepares for War!" And the June 2nd issue tells the youth to celebrate July 4th (when the bosses stir up the young workers to war frenzy) by mobilizing for unemployment insurance.

There is a mad race for armaments going on in all capitalist countries. Professor White of Michigan says capitalism must have a war to get rid of its surplus before the whole system bursts, as well as to slaughter off the unemployed. Admiral Pratt, chief of staff of the U. S. Navy, insists that Congress spend \$1,100,000 to "disarm" so that the United States will be ready for the next war. Secretary of War Hurley informs the American "public" that the United States is better prepared for war than at any time in 1917, even after war was declared! Armament bills go through the House and Senate like hot cakes—\$78,000,000 for new cruis-

VIDA OBRERA

Vocero de los obreros de habla española.

VOL. III - No. 20

The YOUNG PIONEER

PRICE: 5 CENTS

Obreri

The Paper of the Workers' and Farmers' Children

Policía

YOUNG WORKER

Published weekly by the Young Communist League of America, at 64 Belmont St., Worcester, Mass. Entered as second class matter October 12, 1927, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., and at other Post Offices at Worcester, Mass., March 2nd, 1928, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates: \$1.50 a year; \$1.00 for six months. Single copies: 5 cents a year. Mail all material and money to Young Worker, 28 Union Square, New York, N. Y., for transmittal.

Monday, May 19th, 1930

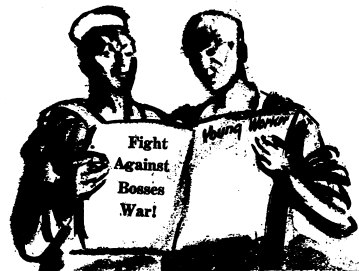
U. S. PREPARES FOR WAR

LYNCH NEGRO; TERROR GROWS

Government Responsible for Mob Violence

SHERMAN, TEXAS.—Since the coming of George Houston a Negro worker in this city on Friday, May 9th, there has been a reign of terror directed against the Negro workers of the city. Four blocks of Negro homes were burned to the ground. Typewritten notices were sent to the Negroes demanding they immediately leave town, or their homes would be destroyed. Professions at Postmaster T. A. Governor of the state of Texas has made it appear that he will punish the individuals responsible for the murder and the consequent terror. However,

MEMBERS OF ONE CLASS



30,000 GOBS IN MANEUVERS

Sailors Must Unite With Workers'

Fight Bosses' War

BULLETIN: AFNY the fleet leaves New York City it will be reviewed by Hoover at Chesapeake Bay on Tuesday, May 20th. The war maneuvers of the ship and air fleet started at San Francisco. This is the first time that maneuvers have been held in so many sections of the country, at one time, since the ending of the world war. By SAM HERMAN 30,000 sailors of the combined Atlantic and Pacific fleet came last week to N. Y. City. None other than Commissioner Whelan,

The three militant papers banned from mails by the Post Office Department. Note the front page articles in *Young Worker* exposing imperialist war preparations and the lynch terror in U.S.

ers with bombing plane decks; \$30,000,000 to modernize battleships; \$450,000,000 to keep up the navy; \$500,000,000 for the war department, and the end is not yet.

The *Young Worker* stresses these facts. It mobilizes the youth against the bosses' war preparations, appealing to them, in the event of war, to turn the bosses' war into a civil war. Hence the *Young Worker* becomes unmailable.

It is no accident at all that the November, 1930, issue of the *Young Pioneer* is singled out for murder by the Post Office Department. The workers' children hungry and starving know there is something wrong. They see their mothers and fathers worried. They see neighbors evicted. They themselves sit out on the streets in the cold with the miserable furniture sprawled on the sidewalk. The November *Young Pioneer* tells them the meaning of 13 years of the Soviet Union. It points out to the workers' children what the children get and have to look forward to in the Soviet Union and what they face in the United States. This rankles the bosses. So they try to strangle the voice of the revolutionary children.

As for *Vida Obrera*, it has been singled out for special treatment by the authorities. Before the *unmailable* order, many Latin American workers were arrested by the immigration authorities for deportation.

More than 60,000 Mexican workers were shoved over the border in 1930 for the crime of—being unemployed! The Latin American workers in the United States, whose fighting organ is *Vida Obrera* (Workers' Life), not only take part in the every day struggles in the United States, Cuba, Argentina, Mexico, but aid in the revolutionary struggles in Latin American countries. With the intensive drive for trade now going on between Britain and the United States in Latin America, with Latin America rocked by a whole series of revolutions, the American bosses do not want the Latin American workers in the United States to know the truth. Besides, *Vida Obrera* was growing rapidly, guiding the road to action of hundreds of thousands of bitterly exploited Latin American workers in the United States.

The *unmailable* order is the beginning of the gag-rule. The entire revolutionary press is threatened. There are many ways of fighting. The revolutionary press must be strengthened. Those papers attacked must be given the support of every class conscious worker so that they can build up their circulation without the mailing privileges, though a ceaseless fight must be made and is being made by the International Labor Defense to force the bosses' government to revoke its order. Only mass demand of the workers will do this.

WHENEVER the Red Army of the Chinese workers and peasants has any new victory, the American capitalist press will surely pull its stuff about the "killing" and "looting" and particularly about the "inhuman actions" towards the missionaries, Angels of Imperialism. The sensational account of the amputation of a British missionary lady's finger, proven to be a lie, when the Red Army was advancing toward Wuhan, is a glaring example of the deliberate attempts of the bosses' press to create a smoke screen to cover up the white terror and bloody bombardments of the U. S. gunboats in China.

Workers, look at these pictures! This is a daily occurrence in China. It is imperialism and its Chinese agent, Chiang Kai Shek at their job of butchering workers. Under the cover of "restoring peace and order in China" American imperialism is rushing all means to help the Nanking Government to carry out their butcher's campaign against the Chinese Revolution, and now it is considering a huge loan to bolster up Chiang Kai Shek.

From reports compiled in the reactionary press, the Chinese Red Aid found that during the first eight months of 1930, 64,220 revolutionary workers, peasants and students were murdered, 6,220 in cities and 58,000 in villages and 2,540 were imprisoned. The province of Hunan ranks first in massacres with 3,000, next comes Kiangsu with 600, Kwangtong and Chekiang with 500 each. The city of Chagsha comes first in imprisonment of revolutionists with 4,500, next Shanghai with 1,490; Hankow 1,120; Peking 800; Canton 630.

The methods of killing and torturing revolutionary workers and peasants cannot be described in words. These pictures show only half of the true state of affairs. The Chinese Red Aid in its report tells of 12 different methods of torture.

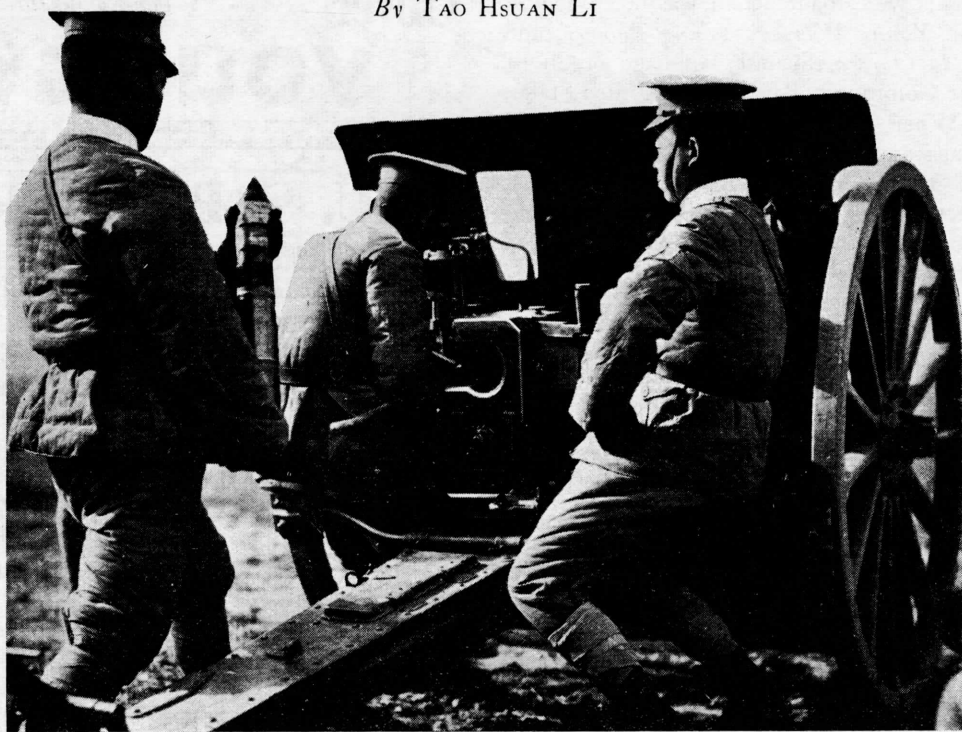
The Red Aid in enumerating the tortures inflicted upon Chinese militants lists many ingenious and cruel practices but as



A militant Chinese worker "legally" executed by the imperialists.

Imperialism and Chiang Kai Shek

By TAO HSUAN LI



Imperialism and Chiang Kai Shek at their job of butchering workers and peasants in China.

they are *unprintable* we can list here only two or three. They are as follows: "*Pulling the head, the hands and the feet of the victim in different directions in the air by means of a specially made implement, and then striking the body with sticks or forcing the victim to breathe in suffocating gas. Hanging by one or two thumbs in the air, loading baskets of bricks across the shoulders or on the feet and then whipping the victim. Stamping the bare body of the workers with red hot iron plates until the whole body looks like roasted meat.*"

The Red Aid states that "far more terrible than being shot to death is the corporal punishment scarcely heard of outside of China which is always applied to revolutionary workers and peasants after their arrest and before their execution."

However, in spite of the white terror of the imperialists and Chinese militarists, the Revolution in China is making gigantic advances. The struggles of workers in large cities are increasing both in scope and depth. The peasant uprisings are spreading to the north. The Soviet Power

is firmly established in the Central and Southern part of China. The first Soviet Congress of last December created the provisional central Government which will be the basis of struggle for the establishment of the Soviet Government of workers and peasants of the whole nation. The anti-Communist campaign of the Nanking Government has so far met with set backs everywhere. The Chinese workers and peasants are determined to carry out the destruction of the system of exploitation and the white terror of the imperialists and native bourgeoisie. They will succeed.

Realizing the crumbling power of its tool, the Nanking Government, and its unsuccessful campaign against the Soviet Revolution of the Chinese workers and peasants, American imperialism is again rushing reinforcement to Chiang Kai Shek in the name of "restoring peace and order, and developing public works." 1,000,000,000 ounces of silver will be sent to Chiang not only to crush the Chinese Soviets but also to organize war against the Soviet Union, the first Workers' Republic.

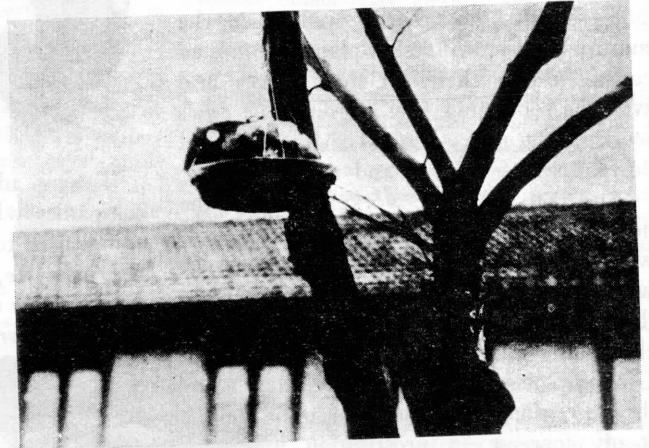
BLOODY CHINA

(Left) Student Communists in Hankow being taken through the streets, bound, between soldiers, to be beheaded. (Right) Heads of two militant workers who were executed.

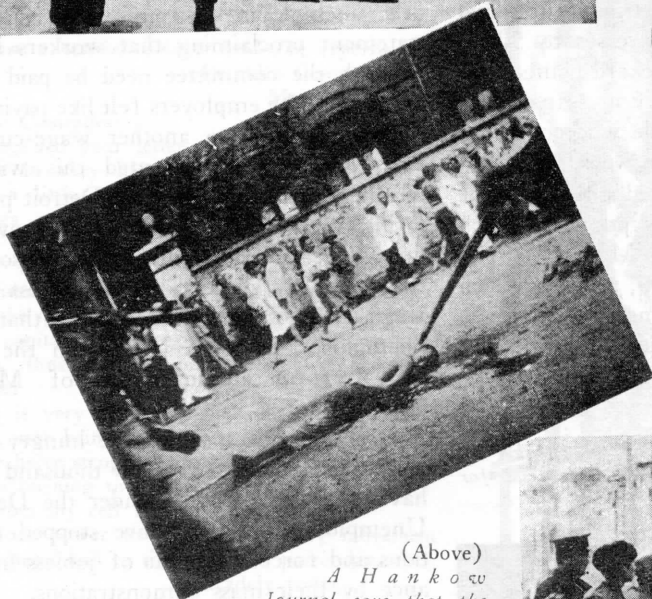


(Below) Head of militant worker who was executed by the Chiang Kai Shek government, for revolutionary activity. The head is placed in a wooden vessel and tied to the top of a bamboo tree as an object lesson to the rebellious workers and peasants.

(Below) Arrested while distributing anti-imperialist literature, bound and taken for execution. At the time of going to press, the Red Aid Society of China reports "140,000 revolutionists butchered within the past six months."



TERROR



(Above) A *Hankow Journal* says that the Chinese authorities chopping off the heads of Communists, leave the bodies lying in the streets for days and then adds "it is very disagreeable for ladies on their way to the race course to have to pass by these bodies." To remedy this the authorities have consented to leave the head near the body.



(Above) White Terror in Hankow! Hundreds of workers butchered by the ruling class. (Left Center) Two workers and two students arrested for commemoration of the Canton Commune and in China this means death. They are heard shouting, "We die for Communism!"

Hunger--1931 Model

By ROBERT CRUDEN

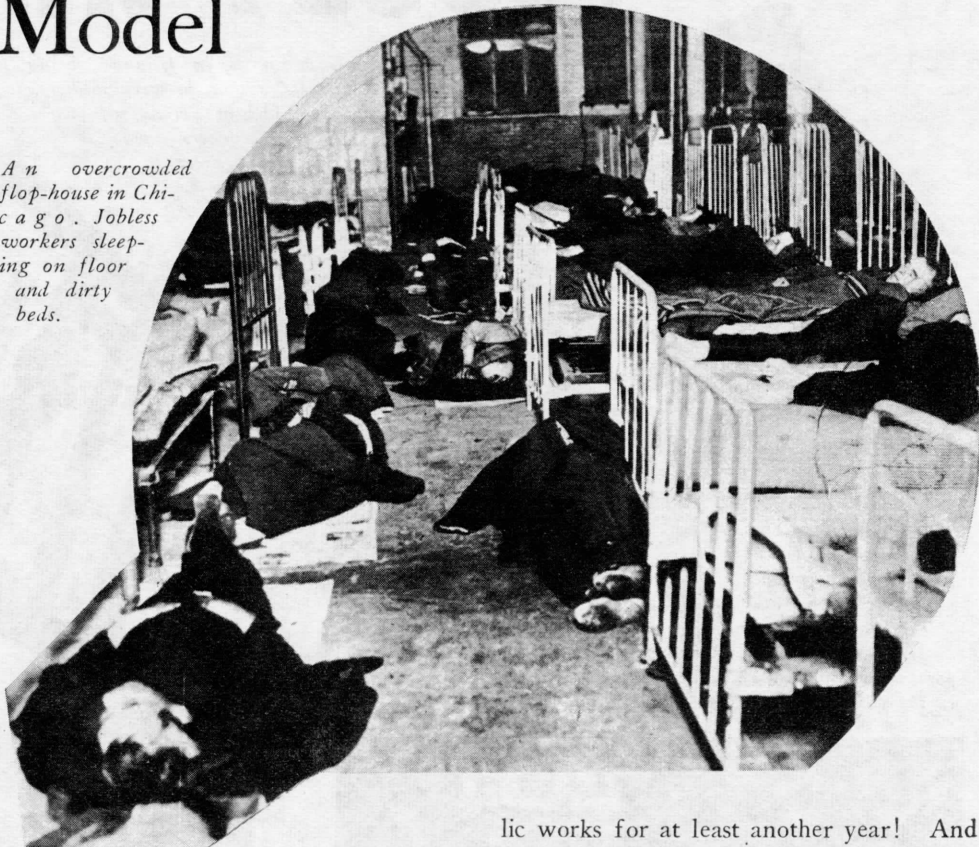
DETROIT'S second winter of unemployment has closed in on its 200,000 jobless. With neither money nor clothes, neither food nor hope, they are facing the long drawn-out misery of the snow and the winds with a legacy of bitterness born from their disillusionment with Mayor Murphy, the man whom they helped elect "to relieve unemployment."

Murphy, as soon as he became mayor, met with the "captains of industry and finance" to talk over unemployment. He then appointed a committee of bankers, industrialists, ministers, teachers, A. F. of L. officials, etc., "to relieve unemployment." All of these efforts were played up with columns of ballyhoo in the press. The jobless began to hope.

But the Ford plants continued to lay off—50,000 have been fired since the summer. The Chrysler plants continued cutting down their skeleton forces and even the remaining few get only one day's work a week. General Motors pared down both its workers and their wages.

And then the office workers got it in the neck. Office workers in the auto plants were laid off en masse and the remainder were given stiff wage cuts. Banks pushed through mergers and hundreds of bank clerks and tellers were pushed out of jobs. Girl employees have been especially hit by the depression—which may account for the steady increase in prostitution in recent months.

An overcrowded flop-house in Chicago. Jobless workers sleeping on floor and dirty beds.



Taking advantage of this situation the companies which have been running have cut wages to the bone. *Murray Body, for example, has been working six and seven days a week, ten to fourteen hours a day—and for this the workers get \$14.50! One worker in this plant had a pay check showing \$2.50 for 14 hours' work!* The Cadillac plant has cut wages in general 15% and then gave the strikers additional cuts, amounting in many cases to 50%. The Briggs Body and Packard plants have jacked up their compulsory insurance rates one dollar a month—while workers in the latter plant make \$9.60 a week!

Many of the unemployed still hoped for an immense public works program which would give them work. Mayor Murphy promised an \$18,000,000 project which would "relieve unemployment." But even this mirage has disappeared, for he has endorsed the bankers' program of no pub-

lic works for at least another year! And as if the sting in that were not sharp enough an exception was made in favor of projects on which Welfare Dept. labor is used. This labor is free labor, for the workers receive no pay. They receive from the Welfare Dept. coupons allowing them to get a minimum of groceries for their families and themselves!

The workers had hardly had time to digest the significance of this when the mayor's unemployment committee issued a statement proclaiming that workers hired through the committee need be paid only as much as the employers felt like paying—a polite prelude to another wage-cutting drive. They supplemented this with a headlined announcement of Detroit plants hiring early in 1931—a direct move to flood the city with penniless workers so that the bosses can successfully put across their wage-cuts. This is the answer that the unemployed have received from the liberal, reform administration of Mayor Murphy.

It is an answer which the hungry jobless will not accept. The few thousand who have already organized under the Detroit Unemployed Councils have stopped evictions and forced the issue of jobless insurance by their mass demonstrations. Machinery has already been set in motion for the election of delegates who will invade Washington on February 10 with the demand upon Congress that it adopt the Workers Unemployment Insurance Bill. This is the hunger-born demand of the jobless—this is the answer of the workers to the bosses' attacks—*work or wages.*

No insurance for the unemployed! But slop from the breadlines for these hungry workers.



Lealess, Nesin and Stone of the October 16 Unemployed Delegation who face trial for demanding relief for the jobless.



Voices FROM Prison

The hard winter months are here when hardship is at its height amongst the workers. No money to pay rent with, no coal to keep the room warm when the landlord has not as yet evicted one, no bread or clothes for the children. Class war prisoners are gladly performing their revolutionary duty in prison but their starving families on the outside are a constant worry to them. The Winter Relief Campaign established by the I.L.D. is trying to remedy this situation. Will you help?

(From the wife of a militant who is serving 6 to 12 years in the Eastern Pennsylvania Penitentiary)

Just a few lines to let you know that we are still alive. Dear friend, it's one month since you have sent any money and my children need shoes and one boy is in need of some clothes and I can't afford to buy them anything unless you send us some money.

Hope you send us some soon, with best regards.

Sincerely yours,
MRS. BENITO.

(From Warren K. Billings' Mother)

Brooklyn, N. Y.

Just received the check and thank you for same. I was worrying about it and it was hard to make the best of it. Trying is very hard when you have no money.

MRS. BILLINGS.

(From a worker who is held for deportation)

Franklin County Jail,
Malone, N. Y.

Dear Comrades:

Received your letter and \$5.00 check, which came in very handy. It will permit me to buy a little extra things, which may be little things outside, but are great things in this cell.

I am watching with great interest your splendid work in behalf of class war prisoners. As the present crisis deepens, it also increases the capitalist persecution against the working class, thus making your defense work much harder.

It is very hard for me to sit behind these bars, not being able to even put a finger in these fierce struggles of the working class, when I am burning to put in my whole self.

From my cell I can only say:

More power to the revolutionary movement in general and to the I.L.D. in particular.

Comradely yours,
LEON MABILE.

(From the wife of John Lynch, who is serving 10 years in West Virginia)

Flemington, W. Va.

I received your check of \$20.00 and thank you very much for same. I have filled out the questionnaire and am sending it in this letter.

My husband is in good health and gets along fine, the only thing that bothers him is worry over his family at home.

With best wishes,
MRS. JOHN LYNCH.

(From Eugene Barnett, I.W.W. prisoner serving since 1919 a sentence of 25 to 40 years for revolutionary activities)

Walla Walla, Wash.

Dear Comrades:

I received the book which the I.L.D. ordered sent to me and I thank the Comrades who sent it. Any authentic book on present day Russia will be much appreciated. Also letters from American, or any English speaking Comrades over there, telling about the true conditions as they are.

The worker who fails to support the I.L.D. in every possible way is sure to pay in tears and blood in the years to come.

The I.L.D. may be too radical for the servile slaves who meekly stand in line six or seven hours for a nickel or a bowl of watery soup. But it is the one defense organization that has a plan of action that is clear cut and which it will not have to be ashamed of the next decade.

Fraternally yours,
EUGENE BARNETT.

(From the wife of one of the Woodlawn prisoners, serving five years under the Flynn Anti-Sedition Act.)

Ambridge, Pa.

Dear Comrades:

I'm sorry to say that the only support that I am getting is from the I.L.D. I do appreciate it.

I was to see Pete about two weeks ago, he asked me if I was getting my regular check. If I wasn't getting any help from the I.L.D. I hardly know what I would do.

ANNE MUSELIN.

(From a California prisoner who is serving 10 years to life).

San Quentin, Cal.

Dear Comrades:

I was notified by the prison authorities that *Radnik* cannot reach me here any longer. Upon inquiry I was told it is not permitted to come in here because it is a Communist paper.

The class war prisoners here have been receiving eight different papers but the prison officials have now stopped them all. And the books sent us here have been destroyed.

As a class war prisoner I am appealing to all workers to raise their voice of protest against the capitalist state and its lackeys who are stopping the workers in prison from reading working class literature.

Comradely yours,
MIKE MIKSICH.

IN A FIGHTING MOOD

(In a letter from San Quentin, after 19 years in prison, McNamara writes:)

It is a joy and pleasure to receive such a letter as yours, from a militant who is going through the struggles on the political and industrial fields.

The fields were never so fertile for planting the seed that will bring forth a harvest of workers who will forever dismiss any hopes, or entertain the faintest idea of advancing further than the working class.

As I sit here year after year, I fail to recognize one solitary militant leader in the ranks of the A. F. of L. in recent years. In all walks of life there are militants who are willing to make untold sacrifices for the cause. But among the A. F. of L. I cannot find a single individual leader who is either militant or courageous enough to sacrifice himself to the workers he should represent.

Convey to all the militants in the I.L.D. my profound appreciation for the struggles and sacrifices they are making for the benefit of all the workers.

J. B. McNAMARA.
No. 25314



by Gropper



by Gropper

Immediate Tasks of the International Labor Defense! For a Mass Defense Organization!

The Second National Organization Conference, held in New York City, December 27-28, and attended by District Organizers from all the major districts except those on the Pacific Coast, by members of the National Executive Committee and leading functionaries, declared that no sufficient results have been achieved for the initial activities of the EIGHT MONTHS' PLAN OF WORK during the first two months' period. This includes registration of the membership, organization of shop branches, carrying through of the Prisoners' and Prisoners' Dependents Winter Relief Campaign, the Labor Defender Campaign, Imperial Valley Week, and the beginnings of the Amnesty Campaign with discussions in the branches. It includes preparation, discussion, adoption and carrying through of similar programs of work in the districts.

The present situation demands the most energetic speeding up of all activities in order to achieve the demands of the EIGHT MONTHS' Plan.

Some of our basic shortcomings, that hinder the carrying through of the EIGHT MONTHS' PLAN OF WORK and the building of a mass organization, are as follows:

Toward a Mass Organization

1. The actual beginning has not yet been made to organize in the shops in spite of the fact that this was an outstanding demand of the Pittsburgh Convention and of the April 6th Organization Conference. This still remains our most important task. The beginnings must be found in intensified defense activities in the workshops, while at the same time not neglecting the international (English language) branches and the branches for foreign-speaking workers, the Young Defenders (Youth) and the Junior Defenders.

2. The educational and propaganda work has been insufficiently developed. We have not given enough attention to the preparation of outlines for discussions, pamphlets, leaflets, classes, including special classes for functionaries. We must build the LABOR DEFENDER into a mass organ. District Bulletins are issued very irregularly, if at all. They should appear monthly.

3. Insufficient attention to work among Negroes. Although many Negroes are drawn into the organization, wrong methods result in their failure to remain in our organization.

4. Failure to place in the foreground, as our first obligation, the care of prisoners and prisoners' dependents.

5. There is still too much clinging to legalism, and resistance to mass protest policies. This results in failure to develop mass activities.

6. Poor functioning or absolute failure of district committees to function and give aggressive leadership to defense struggles.

7. Impermissible tendencies to develop district autonomy which militates against the closest collaboration with the national and international organizations.

8. Failure of many districts to respond to national and international campaigns. This was especially true of the Dec. Sixth Imperial Valley-Colombia (Banana Strike) Demonstrations.

9. Insufficient attention to our tasks among the Latin-American workers, especially among the Mexican toiling masses in the Southwest

where they are being deported back to Mexico by the thousands.

10. Failure to utilize local situations for mass campaigns (New York City—arrest of October 16th Unemployed Delegation; Serio, Lee, Machado, Kenmotzu and other deportation cases, anti-injunction struggle, etc.)

11. Not sufficient development of closer relations with the militant industrial unions.

12. Lack of effective support to outstanding struggles of the working class, mobilizing resistance to capitalist class justice. This includes the unemployment campaign, the Moscow trial of the counter-revolutionary engineers, defense of the Soviet Union, fight for social insurance, struggle against imperialist war, fight for the protection of the foreign-born and against the Fish Committee, participation in election campaigns on the basis of our program for resistance to boss-class persecutions. This wrong attitude grows out of a too narrow carrying through of defense activities. It rejects this mass work and thus isolates our organization from the broad masses of the working class.

13. Almost complete failure to develop proletarian competition between the various district organizations. Failure to inaugurate such activities in the branches and between members.

Our Immediate Tasks

The rapidly sharpening and increasing class battles demand a speeding up of all phases of

Build the Labor Defender!

The building of the LABOR DEFENDER, the central organ of the International Labor Defense, into an effective instrument of mass struggles against the growing persecutions of labor, is one of our most valuable weapons in creating the mass protest that alone is able to combat the growing mass terror.

Every district organization faces the task of mobilizing every branch and affiliated organization, as well as wide strata of sympathizers for this effort—50,000 readers for the LABOR DEFENDER by July 1, 1931.

We are facing the Sixth Year of the LABOR DEFENDER. This is the most important year in its history. The terror grows bloodier, more oppressive, in every land where capitalism rules. During 1930 there were 7,000 arrests in the United States.

Every issue of the LABOR DEFENDER becomes a center of agitation against the growing terror. This February issue is devoted to arousing new masses of workers and small, poor farmers to the necessity of work among Negroes, the most oppressed section of the population.

The March issue will be a Special Woman's Number, joining in International Woman's Day, March Eighth.

The LABOR DEFENDER must and will find a response among the workers. This can be done on the basis of dealing with day-to-day struggles of the workers, especially on the basis of persecutions growing out of the savage attacks of capitalist class justice.

The campaign for the building of LABOR DEFENDER is on! Every reader gets a new reader! Fifty thousand readers by July First!

work called for by the EIGHT MONTHS' PLAN along the lines clearly established at the Pittsburgh Convention and supported by the April Sixth Conference.

1. Hastening the work to develop educational and propaganda activities in the factories and to form shop branches.

2. Carrying through the drive for 15,000 dues paying members. A broad system of proletarian competition should be organized in connection with this drive. The membership drive is not something separate and apart from the general work of the I.L.D. On the contrary, every campaign, every step taken by the I.L.D., and the whole EIGHT MONTHS' PLAN OF WORK must be utilized for turning the I.L.D. into a mass organization.

3. Strict enforcement of policies relating to non-payment of fines, reliance on self-defense in the courts rather than on high-priced lawyers; development of mass protests against the persecution and imprisonment of workers rather than expensive bail and fruitless appeals.

4. First attention to Prisoners and Prisoners' Dependents' Relief; adoption of prisoners, patronage letters, building of sustainers' prison Relief Fund, energetic carrying through of the Winter Relief Campaign. Adoption of prisons and prisoners in other countries.

5. Careful planning and carrying through of educational and propaganda work in all its various phases.

6. Special effort to develop work among Negroes through sufficient attention to this phase of the EIGHT MONTHS' PLAN, especially ten days of intensive effort, February 12-22.

7. Development of work among youth and children through the building of the Young Defenders and the Junior Defenders.

8. Strengthening of all leading committees and drawing of VOLUNTARY WORKERS rather than creation of expensive apparatus with crippling overhead.

9. Widest possible support of the Publication Program, especially that part of it calling for monthly pamphlets and leaflets for mass distribution.

10. Organization of schools, worker and photo correspondents' groups, and functionaries' classes.

11. Internationalization of the outlook of our entire membership through raising banners of struggle for colonial and semi-colonial countries (Latin America, China, India); fight against fascism, especially in European countries, and defense of the Soviet Union.

12. Development of proper approach to the agrarian masses. Utilization of the Imperial Valley case for this purpose.

13. Developing approach to women workers in the factories as well as women in the homes. Participation in International Women's Day demonstrations, March 8th.

The Second National Organization Conference, to be followed by Organization Conferences in all the districts must develop new energy for carrying through the EIGHT MONTHS' PLAN OF WORK for rapidly developing the International Labor Defense with a mass organization of struggle in resistance to the attacks of the enemies of the working class.

Literature for Workers

THE STORY OF THE IMPERIAL VALLEY, by FRANK SPECTOR. *With an introduction by John Dos Passos.* A graphic working class story of the struggle of the agricultural workers in the Imperial Valley, California, and their imprisonment of up to 42 years.

(I.L.D. Pamphlet No. 3)

SEDITION, by J. LOUIS ENDAHL. A well written pamphlet exposing the sedition laws used by the capitalists to throttle all militant working class activities. *Profusely illustrated.*

(I.L.D. Pamphlet No. 2)

DEATH PENALTY. The case of Georgia bosses against Negro and white workers.

(I.L.D. Pamphlet No. 1)

5 cents each \$3.50 in bundles of 100

"LABOR DEFENDER, 1930"

An attractive bound volume, gold lettered on red cloth, containing the 12 issues of the LABOR DEFENDER during the past year. A realistic presentation of working class history in pictures and articles. —\$1.50

The Worker's Pictorial

Send in your subscription to the

LABOR DEFENDER

80 EAST 11TH STREET, ROOM 430
NEW YORK CITY

NAME

STREET

CITY

\$1.00 A YEAR

Any one of the following FREE with one subscription:

I.L.D. Calendar illustrated with 12 cartoons; The Frame-Up, by Vern Smith; Steve Katovis, Life and Death of a Worker, by Magil and North; Chemical Warfare, by Donald A. Cameron; Modern Farming—Soviet Style, by Anna Louise Strong.

I. L. D. CALENDAR

of the class struggle, with 12 great cartoons by Fred Ellis, William Gropper, Robert Minor and Morris Pass.

made on twelve sheets, in two colors, backed with red sturdy board.

DO YOU KNOW

when and where the first great unemployed demonstration took place in the United States?

Or about the "Molly Maguires," a great miners' secret organization?

Or what John Brown said before his execution?

These historical events as well as all important militant struggles of the past year are told in the I.L.D. calendar. A rich mine of working class information!

The I. L. D. calendar should be in every home as it is a useful and decorative object, as well as educational.

SELL OR GIVE ONE TO YOUR FELLOW WORKERS!

AN EFFECTIVE PROPAGANDA WEAPON!

Single copies 50 cents each.

Special rates to organizations.

Net proceeds from sale of 1931 calendars goes to the Winter Relief Campaign.

Send your orders to

INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE

80 EAST 11TH STREET, ROOM 430

NEW YORK CITY

GASTONIA VICTIMS WRITE FROM SOVIET UNION

Thank Comrades and Fellow Workers

Fred E. Beal, K. Y. Hendrix, Joseph Harrison, and Clarence Miller, four of the Gastonia defendants who escaped prison terms of 15 to 20 years, write from Moscow, U.S.S.R., on December 30th, 1930, to answer the attacks against them in the capitalist press. Attacks upon them and upon the international working class movement appeared in most of the capitalist daily newspapers and in the liberal weekly and monthly journals. The comrades write in part:

"We wish to express our gratitude to the Communist Party, to the I.L.D., as well as to individual comrades who have taken part in the collection of money to cover the bail forfeited by our departure. Please spread this statement among the workers and tell them that we want no aid from people who spread lies about the revolutionary labor movement and the Soviet Union."

The collection of money to cover their bail is not yet complete. Comrades and friends! Answer the attacks upon the Gastonia victims with all you can spare to pay back the workers who advanced the money for their bail. Many workers who lent this bail money are now jobless and need it back. Send at least \$1 and more if possible.

I.L.D. Bail Repayment Fund

ROOM 430, 80 EAST 11TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

Phone Stuyvesant 3816

JOHN'S RESTAURANT
SPECIALTY: ITALIAN DISHES

*A place with atmosphere
where all radicals meet*

302 E. 12th St. NEW YORK



**For the
WINTER
RELIEF
of
Class War
Prisoners
and
Their
Wives
and
Children**



94 WORKERS ARE SERVING SENTENCES OF FROM SIX MONTHS TO LIFE

For Militant Activities

Behind prison bars they are "doing time" for their devotion to the interests of the working class. They participated and led the struggle against capitalism and its terror, and now their wives and children on the outside world are in need of the elementary essentials of life, BREAD, RENT, COAL, CLOTHES.

WILL YOU HELP ?

Capitalism has its Red Cross to fool the workers with their stale crumbs of bread and high pressure publicity. The workers have organized their own Winter Relief Campaign of the International Labor Defense.

Will You Let Our Prisoners' Wives and Children Starve ?

These workers performed their revolutionary duty and now they are behind prison bars for us. Shall we let their wives and children suffer hunger and cold?

Rush your contribution to

WINTER RELIEF CAMPAIGN

The International Labor Defense

80 East 11th Street, Room 430

New York City