

FOR COMMUNIST  
UNITY IN THE  
REVOLUTIONARY  
CLASS STRUGGLE!

# THE REVOLUTIONARY AGE

WORKERS OF ALL  
COUNTRIES  
UNITE!

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEFENDING  
THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKERS

ISSUED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY  
(Majority Group)

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## Why the Weekly

Without the Weekly—where would we be? How would we carry on the struggle to rebuild the left wing in the reactionary unions? How would we carry on the struggle to consolidate all left wing and progressive forces in the labor movement in the struggle for militant trade unionism? How would we carry on the struggle to break the two-party system and to win the workers for a labor party? How would we be able to carry on the work of making the first beginnings of real Communist activity among the Negro masses? How would we be able to carry on the work of winning the workers to the struggle against unemployment, to the struggle for a concrete program of immediate unemployment relief? How would we be able to carry on the struggle for the reunification of the Communist movement in this country and internationally? How would we be able to carry on the struggle for a return of the official Communist movement to the road of Leninism? How would we be able to carry on the gigantic task of salvaging the prestige of Communism which the present policies of the Communist Party are helping to undermine? All of these tremendous tasks require the WEEKLY REVOLUTIONARY AGE! But we will only be able to KEEP the Weekly Age if we put over the \$3,000-Keep the Weekly Drive. Will you do your share? Send in your contribution! Make collections! Put over the Drive.

## BIG WAGE CUTS DURING NOVEMBER

### Ninety-Three Wage Cuts in 23 Industries

Ninety-three wage cuts for the month of November are reported by the Labor Bureau. These wage cuts took place in twenty-nine industries and included reductions in union rates of clothing, textile, metal trades and printing pressmen. All copper companies and many brokerage houses have cut wages. Farm wages have fallen 12% for the year ending July 1930. The ninety-three wage cuts are listed as "openly admitted" wage cuts. The Labor Bureau, however, reports other wage cuts which are not "openly admitted". One method consists in firing workers and hiring others at a lower rate of wages. These wage cuts are the direct result of the notorious Hoover-Green "no strike" pact of a year ago which tied the hands of organized labor but allowed the bosses free rein in their attacks on the workers.

## SPANISH MASSES JOIN IN REVOLT; WAVE OF STRIKES SWEEPS COUNTRY

### But Workers Are Without Revolutionary Leadership—Reign of Terror Proclaimed

MADRID, Dec. 20.—In spite of the transatlantic aviator, who had been most brutal suppression by the Berenguer government, the Republican movement in Spain is spreading and is assuming ever greater proportions. The outstanding feature in this movement is the intense political and economic activity of the working class. In the course of the last two weeks, the strike movement has spread rapidly, and the general strike which was declared after the military insurrection in Jaen, involved no less than a million workers. Unfortunately the working class is split into several kinds of unions and political groups. The Communist movement in Spain has been almost destroyed by the internal factional struggles, and therefore the revolting workers find no unified leadership which could direct their efforts into revolutionary channels extending beyond the limits of a bourgeois revolution. Therefore, in spite of the broad participation of the working masses in the revolutionary movement, it is still under the leadership of bourgeois and petty bourgeois elements, and military officers.

The number of military revolts has also been spreading. An uprising on the French frontier (Aca, Ayerbe and Huesca) was put down only after two days of fierce fighting. The leaders of the uprising were executed a few days later Major Franco, the

## LEFT BLOC WINS IN LOCAL 1 VOTE

### Progressive Group Carries Cloakmakers Elections BIG WORK NOW AHEAD

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—The election of 26 progressives out of 28 for the executive committee, of six progressives out of nine business agents, and of the progressive block candidate for manager, were the results of the local elections in Local 1 (cloakmakers) of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union which took place in December 16. The results of the elections constitute a striking defeat for the reactionary clique that has been dominating this local and the ILGWU as a whole.

The progressive block, that scored the victory in these elections, is composed of the United Cloak and Dress Makers Progressive League, a left wing organization, and the Trade Union Center which operates on a progressive platform. The minimum program for this election block is printed elsewhere in this issue—(page 5). This progressive block became the object of attack from two directions—from the reactionary bureaucrats of the ILGWU and from the sectarian bureaucrats of the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union (the TUUI organization). The reactionaries of the local (Student, Heins) tried to push

## RYKOFF REMOVED FROM USSR POST

### Out Opposition Leader From High Position

MOSCOW, USSR, Dec. 19.—Alexi Rykoff is no longer chairman of the council of people's commissars of the USSR. He has been removed from this position, thru a formal "resignation", and V. I. Molotov has been appointed to his place.

The removal of comrade A. Rykoff from his post will unquestionably do no good at all to the workers state. Rykoff is one of the most capable old Bolshevik forces in the Soviet Union while Molotov, who replaces him, is at the very best altogether a third-rate figure. Worst of all, however, it must be recognized that the removal of Rykoff only marks an advanced stage of the destructive factional-bureaucratic methods which the Stalin clique has been using for a number of years against every sign of opposition that has arisen in the Communist movement, within and without the USSR, to the great detriment of the revolutionary movement.

### Progress of the Buy-Now Drive

As an aid to the Buy-Now campaign the Government is trying to block Russian sales and purchases in this country. Further, the Post-Office Department has cut off 3% of its letter carriers force in residential districts. That should increase the demand for American goods, and, of course, decrease unemployment.

## WHILE THE JOBLESS STARVE . . .

### DRASTIC REDUCTIONS ON ALL FURS

Offering Lowest Prices in Years

including a beautiful  
**CHINCHILLA WRAP**  
reduced to \$9,500

and an exquisite  
**RUSSIAN SABLE COAT**  
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Two unusual models  
at less than cost of reproduction

**Gunther**  
FURS

666 FIFTH AVENUE, Near 53rd St., NEW YORK

An Ad in the "New York Times"

## LABOR-LIBERALS IN SELLOUT PACT

### MacDonald Forms Deal With Liberals

### BOSS POLICY SHOWN

LONDON, Dec. 18.—The rumors of a definite Liberal-Labor pact that have been running riot here for the last few weeks were finally confirmed today in the speech of Prime Minister MacDonald at the Parliamentary Labor Party caucus.

The basis of this pact is: Agreement on the part of the Liberals to maintain the present Labor government in power by sustaining its most important measures. On its part, the Labor government pledges itself to put thru an "electoral reform" measure thru which the Liberal representation will be increased considerably.

This pact between the Labor government and the Liberal party proves in the most striking manner that the Labor government is carrying thru a completely capitalist policy, such a capitalist policy in effect, that the Liberals are ready to agree with it. This agreement with a capitalist party will have the effect of opening the eyes of the British workers as to what their right-wing leaders really are: errand-boys for the capitalists.

## U.S. Business and Czarist Plotters

### The YMCA and Harvard University Take a Hand—The Fourth Article in the Series "Anti-Soviet Plots in the United States."

We have already seen that it was proposed to have Bakhtmetoff become a member of the National Committee of the Y. M. C. A. As we have pointed out, it was only the temporary unpreparedness of the Russian White Guard forces that was responsible for Bakhtmetoff's appointment being momentarily delayed.

### The YMCA Takes a Hand

But the Y. M. C. A. is much more deeply involved in Russian White Guard affairs than even the suggested appointment of Bakhtmetoff would indicate. The Y. M. C. A. has what is known as the Russian Student Fund. This fund exists for the purpose of giving money to students who are to prepare themselves to help "Russian reconstruction", at some future date. Three years ago there appeared an article in the *Russian Student*, a magazine published by the Russian Student Fund, stating that "Russian reconstruction" has begun and that students could now go back to Russia. This Fall, however, the *Russian Student* changed its tune and score. It then said that: "It is moral suicide to go back to Russia today."

The *Russian Student* is an artificially maintained magazine. It really has no basis of existence, except as a White Guard organ maintained by American capitalists. It is published in the English language and has a circulation of about two to three thousand. Its circulation is primarily amongst Americans who contribute money for its publication and who are interested contributors to all phases and kinds of Russian, monarchist activities in the U. S. On its board of directors, are such figures as Professor Stephan P. Duggan, a prominent educator-politician, Mr. Strong, of the National Trust and

## INDIAN UNIONS FOR MASS STRIKE

### All India Unions Adopt Important Decisions

### REVOLUTION ON RISE

CALCUTTA, India, Nov. 20.—A general strike against the steadily worsening economic conditions of the Indian workers as well as against the campaign of repression of the British imperialist administration was decided upon by the Executive Committee of the All-India Trade Union Congress on November 18, 1930. The same session passed resolutions congratulating the workers of the G. I. P. Railway for their brave fight against the imperialist administration, condemning the Round Table Conference, expressing support of the struggles of the peasants, and demanding the release of the Meerut prisoners.

The resolution after analyzing the (Continued on page 2)

## Congress Rejects Relief to Jobless and Farmers

### Compromise on "Drought Relief" Appropriations But No Relief For Famine; No Jobless Relief Measure Even Proposed!

### CONFLICT OF EXPLOITERS BARED; WORLD COURT POSTPONED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Although formally a compromise has been reached, it is clear that Hoover has won the game he and the Senate were carrying on of "playing politics at the expense of human misery."

"Mules Win!" In the debate on the "drought relief" measure mules won over men. The House rejected the Senate amendment for a \$60,000,000 appropriation by a vote of 225 to 147 and then passed a measure appropriating \$20,000,000. Later on, at a conference between the two Houses, the sum was raised to \$45,000,000. But it was care-

fully arranged that only the richer farmers should profit by this appropriation, the poor farmers being treated with brutal contempt. The full callousness of these "relief measures" was shown in the determination of the Administration and of Administration supporters, to prevent a cent of the \$45,000,000 from being used to relieve the starvation and hunger that is raging thru so many farm regions. It is perfectly "legal" to use appropriations to buy oats for mules but Congress carefully struck out of the measure the word "food" for humans. To add insult to injury,

the secretary of agriculture, Hyde, was given power to allocate this money—the same Secretary Hyde who only a short time ago declared that relief for mules is "scientific" but that relief for starving farmers and their families is "a dole, pure and simple." "Coming from Missouri, Secretary Hyde thinks it more imperative to lead mules than men," declared Senator Connally of Texas. "I am going to wire Texas families to stop raising children and go to raising Missouri mules."

The whole struggle in Congress uncovered an open clash between the representatives of the interests of financial-industrial capital and of the big farmers and agricultural capital. Very little attention was paid to the millions of poor farmers.

The House bill appropriating \$150,000,000 for use of Federal Farm Board "to help stabilize crop prices and provide for more marketing" (that is, for increasing the hold of the marketing trusts over the farmers) was reported on favorably by the Appropriations Committee but was held up thru the resistance of Senator Borah.

Nothing for the Unemployed Absolutely nothing was done or even proposed for the relief of the unemployed. The entire Hoover program consists in the carrying thru of public works long ago decided on and in getting "scientific statistics." Meanwhile, let the unemployed starve and freeze! To use some of the millions of wealth wrung out of the working class to relieve unemployment distress is, according to the errand-boys of the bosses sitting in Washington, "unscientific" and "a dole pure and simple!"

"Playing politics at the expense human misery"—that character one-hundred percent the swindle of boss politics.

### WORLD COURT POSTPONED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations decided today by a vote of 10 to 9 to postpone consideration of the World Court protocols until December 1931.



CHRISTMAS 1930—FOR THE WORKERS

## UNEMPLOYMENT UP 2% IN NOVEMBER; BOSSES PROFIT ON JOBLESS RACKETS

### Wage Cuts Accompany Unemployment; Millions Forced Out of Workers

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—A decrease of 2.5% in employment and 5.1% in payroll totals during November, as compared with October, in fifteen major industrial groups, was announced yesterday by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor. The sharpest decrease was registered in the manufacturing industries.

Especially significant is the fact that "per capita earnings of workers in manufacturing industries in November 1930 were 3.5% lower than in October"—which is the statistical way of saying that the growing unemployment is accompanied by a sharp wage cut offensive.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—Over \$1,185,000 has been extracted from the miserably wages of about 175,000 employees of New York business houses as the "contributions" of these firms to the fund of the Wall Street "Emergency Unemployment Committee" (the Prosser committee). A half a million dollars has been forced out of the employees of eight of the largest business houses here, including New York Telephone Company, Consolidated Gas, Metropolitan Life, Western Electric, Western Union, etc.

These companies which are so generous with giving away the wages of their employees are known as the worst exploiters of labor in the country. Wages are miserably low already and the unemployment crisis is used by all of them as a basis for initiating a big wage cut drive. The "contributions" of the firms, which the boss papers hail as gifts of the employees, were really forced taxes, and if any employee refused to give what was told to the Wall Street committee, he ran the immediate danger of being fired.

The big bankers, manufacturers and merchants, pile up the millions out of the sweat and toil of the working people. Then, when because of their insane capitalist system millions of workers are thrown out of work they become "generous" and levy taxes on the workers who happen to be employed so as to give the appearance of dealing with the critical situation and try to stave off a real system of unemployment relief.

The hundreds of thousands of dollars forced out of the employed workers by their bosses will now be used in graft, soft jobs, and the financing schemes of indirect wage cuts, by firing workers and hiring unemployed at lower wages, thus "relieving the situation."

The workers must fight for: a system of government unemployment insurance to be paid for by the bosses and immediate government relief for the millions of unemployed and their families.

How the Wall Street "Emergency Unemployment Committee" is using the money forced from the meager wages of tens of thousands of New York workers for the purpose of financing a vicious wage-cutting drive on a large scale is shown in the report of this committee that it has provided "20,540 unemployed men and women who are heads of families" with jobs at \$15 a week! These jobs include painters, carpenters, and other forms of skilled and unskilled labor.

What a vicious racket: municipal departments and bosses can now fire employees and thru the Wall Street committee get unemployed workers for the jobs—at much reduced wages! How long will workers stand for such rackets?

Get on the Job! Put Over the \$3,000 Drive!



Einstein and Marx

Theory of Relativity and Dialectic Materialism

by Will Herberg

We have emphasized more than once in these articles that the theory of relativity has generally been utilized to undermine the foundations of philosophical materialism...

Relativity, Relativism and the Absolute

The relativity of time and space gives rise to two sorts of philosophical problems. In the first place a sharp distinction must be made between the relativity of Einstein and the "relativism" of the empiricist-idealist philosophers...

A more serious problem is the question of the apparent subjectivity of relativity. We say: "A length (space-interval) on System A (moving at constant velocity in reference to System B) is shorter to an observer on System A than to one on System B..."

The Criterion of Existence

The essential feature of Einstein's scientific methodology is given in the famous dictum: "What cannot essentially be observed, cannot be said to exist..."

Now it certainly must be admitted that in formulating this criterion Einstein is quite ambiguous and lays himself open to the idealist-empiricist interpretation...

What these results actually do declare is that the only way the existence of anything can become known to man is through entering into his experience...

Marxism, being materialistic, maintains as a first principle that reality exists independent of and prior to human thought...

On the other hand, the Newtonian ("common sense") conception of "absolute" space and "absolute" time as "empty forms of existence..."

But the bottom falls out of this hitherto insuperable obstacle once we approach nature from the point of view of the relativity physics...

Unity Out of Disparity

"In nature there are no irreconcilable contradictions, no fixed lines of demarcation or distinction and if certain contradictions and distinctions are discovered then their immobility and absoluteness are read into nature by us alone..."

This expresses in the clearest possible form the basic proposition of dialectics in natural science. The irreconcilability and absolutely mutually exclusive character of space and time, matter and energy...

But the bottom falls out of this hitherto insuperable obstacle once we approach nature from the point of view of the relativity physics...

THE SWISS ELECTIONS

How quickly the ultra-left course has told on the fighting powers of the Communist Party of Switzerland was shown by the recent elections in Basel for candidates to the Buerger-rat...

It is impossible not to discern clearly the partisan struggle in philosophy, a struggle which ultimately expresses the tendencies and ideology of classes hostile each other in modern society...

—LENIN

Minimum Program of the Block between the United Progressive League and the Trade Union Center in Local 1, I.L.G.W.U.

- 1. We will work and fight for the strict carrying out of the conditions of the cloakmakers won thru long struggle.
2. To organize and establish a mass organization and picket committee which shall patrol the shops that violate union conditions.

Problems of the Needle Trades

Two Tactics for the Left Wing

by Chas. S. Zimmerman

In the needle trades there are today two fundamentally distinct tactical lines fighting for recognition among the masses of the left wing and progressive workers...

The Line of Isolation

One tactical line is championed by the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union, under the direction of the Trade Union League...

and join the NTWIU; this policy is admittedly a dismal failure. Well, then, what are these "united front committees from below"?

Destructive Contradictions

The contradiction in the policy of these "united front committees" is a contradiction rooted in their very nature: the contradiction between regarding the reformist unions as "company unions" and the gesture made at carrying on work within them...

The reality of the situation demands in the most imperative manner the organization of a strong opposition within the reactionary unions. The false line of the NTWIU...

today than it has had all along. It certainly cannot stop the development of the progressive movement.

The Block With the Trade Union Center

What is the real situation? Several weeks ago a group of cloakmakers, members of Local 1, I.L.G.W.U., organized the United Cloak and Dressmakers Progressive League...

In the elections taking place now in Local 1, the United Progressive League realized that it was necessary to form a block of all progressive elements in order to defeat the reactionary administration...

We are not making any election deals or uniting with anybody. We came to an understanding with the Center group on the basis of the following program...

"It is clear for us that some of those with whom we are making this block have sinned considerably against the workers. They will have to work actively to make up for their past. They will be able to do this only thru proving thru action that they are willing to fight in the interests of the workers..."

This action in forming an election block should certainly be welcomed as a first step in the crystallization of a fighting progressive opposition...

"What must be our attitude to this oppositional movement? (The American trade unions—Editor.) There are still in the actions of many of its leaders relies and traditions of an ideology alien to us..."

Such are the two tactical lines proposed to the needle trades workers. One leads to isolation and impotence, to strengthening the hold of the reactionary bureaucrats...

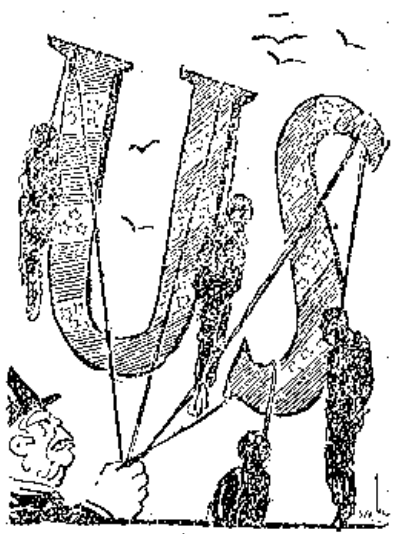
The wide-awake needle trades workers already see which line of policy holds out the promise of victory for the left wing. They will rally in thousands to the rising new left wing and progressive movement.

In the west there are still certain 'Communists' who... want to attack the trade unions from the outside and who regard them as enemy organizations...

—STALIN, 1926.

The Story of a Lynching

In view of the tremendous increase of lynchings within the last year we publish below the story of a typical lynching as told in Scott Nearing's book "Block America"...



Henry Lowry, a Negro about 40 years of age, was lynched in Arkansas under conditions which typify the lynching practice as it has developed in the United States...

Lowry, with his wife and a 6-year old daughter, were living on the farm of O. T. Craig, a large planter in Mississippi County, Arkansas...

As Christmas approached, Lowry, the Negro, asked Craig for a "settlement". He had been working about two years for the white planter...

Lowry escaped from Arkansas and was arrested in El Paso, Texas, where he was held by the police until two deputy sheriffs arrived to take him to Arkansas...

All of the evidence indicates that the plans for the lynching were very carefully laid and that hundreds of persons participated, directly or indirectly, in carrying the plans into effect.

Shoe Workers Forum

A Plea for Unity in the Shoe Trades

by Jack Grossberg

It is hard to remember a time when the situation among the shoe workers was more confused than today! Never was the need for a powerful union of the shoe workers more urgent than today...

The chaos in all existing shoe workers unions makes it more necessary than ever to have a clear analysis of the problems confronting us and to work out a clear line of policy for organizing the shoe workers...

It is for the purpose of getting your viewpoint on the best methods of organizing the shoe workers of New York that we have started this Shoe Workers Discussion...

Every shoe worker—no matter to what union he belongs or if he belongs to no union at all—may write in this discussion...

Write your article or letter. We will print it just as you write it. Only it must be no more than 600 words.

Shoe workers! Let us make this discussion an expression of all points of view among the shoe workers!

The first article in this discussion, written by Sidney Jonas, former vice-president of the Independent Shoe Workers Union, was published in last week's issue. Got it! Read it!

The shoe industry in New York is composed of three grades of shoes, made by 25,000 shoe workers divided in the following categories: (1) stichdown shoes, a cheap grade shoe; (2) felt slippers, for housewear; (3) high grade ladies shoes.

The Stitchdown Shops A few words about the conditions in the various shops. In the stichdown shops, the workers work for starvation wages and long hours. Sanitary conditions in the shops are inadequate and as a result disease lurks in every corner and endangers the health of the workers...

In the felt slipper shops we have seasonal work. The workers are forced to work under the same conditions as in the stichdown shops for a miserable wage of \$25 to \$30 a week for unskilled workers who comprise 10% of the crew, the rest of the workers in the shop being mostly unskilled young workers...

The Ladies Shoe Line Now let us take the third and most important branch of the industry in New York City, the ladies high grade shoes. Rationalization in this line has been advanced to such a high stage that the season of work is reduced to no more than five to eight full weeks twice a year...

Organization of the Workers No more than 1500 of the 25,000 shoe workers today are organized and

