

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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## FASCISTS MURDER RED LEADER

### Kill Henning, Communist Councillor; Workers In Big Protest

HAMBURG.—Emil Henning, Communist councillor of this city, was murdered by a band of armed Fascists (National-Socialists) on Saturday, March 14. Henning and another Communist, Cambley, were on the way back to the city after a meeting in the suburbs when they were accosted by three Fascists and shot down in cold blood. Henning died. Cambley was severely wounded.

Henning was especially hated by the Fascists because of his active Communist work among the small peasants in the territory around Hamburg.

The entire labor movement is deeply aroused over this horrible Fascist murder. Hitler, the leader of the Fascists, has officially "disavowed" the act but has demonstratively taken over the legal defense of the murderers, having assigned his own personal lawyer to this case. Resolutions are pouring in from labor organizations calling for a united front to fight the menace of Fascism.

## SOCIALISTS BACK GERMAN CRUISER

### Socialist Group Decides To "Abstain" on Vote, Thus Saving Budget

BERLIN.—The Reichstag fraction of the Social-democratic party decided on March 28 to abstain from voting when the appropriation for Cruiser B, Germany's second battle ship, comes up in the Reichstag next week, giving as their reason "consideration of the political situation as a whole."

The Social-democrats are therefore going to make possible the passage of the cruiser bill, since against their votes the bill could not pass. They are thus helping in the development of a new German militarism and nationalism and are agreeing to spend millions of marks for war purposes at a time when hundreds of thousands of workers are literally starving. The pretext for this lining up with the reactionaries is that "otherwise the Bruening government would fall and in new elections the Fascists might win." A fine pretext for doing the work of the Fascists now, for demoralizing the labor movement, and for helping the bourgeoisie!

As the Berlin papers point out the leaders of the Social-democratic party are "making it into a thoroughly bourgeois party as far as its policies on domestic and foreign questions are concerned—a liberal party, it is true, but a bourgeois party nevertheless."

## MINERS PROTEST ILLINOIS SELL-OUT; DEMAND NEW CONVENTION

### Big Resentment Rising In Soft-Coal Field; West Virginia Miners Form Independent Union

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — About 10,000 miners have answered the sell-out of John Walker and the other leaders of the former "Reorganized United Mine Workers of America" by forming an independent organization in the Kanawha field under the leadership of Frank Mooney and Fred Keeney. They declare they will "fight

## Labor Must Unite To Smash The Bosses' Offensive

### Reactionary Drive Proceeding Full Force Along Lines of Fish Committee Report

On January 17, 1931, the Fish Committee investigating the revolutionary labor movement made a report to the House of Representatives. Among its recommendations, the following were the most important:

1. That the Communist movement of this country be declared illegal.
2. That the naturalization laws be amended to cancel the United States citizenship of Communists, to forbid naturalization of Communists, to refuse admission to Communists into the country, and to deport foreign-born Communists already here.
3. That all Communist and revolutionary newspapers and other literature be declared non-mailable and non-transportable from one state into another.
4. That an embargo be placed on Soviet products.

These recommendations have not yet been passed by Congress; as a matter of fact, officials, they have not yet even been considered. But what has happened in the last few months?

1. In Oregon a young Communist received a sentence of 10 years in prison merely for belonging to the Communist Party. In Ohio a number of Communists are arrested under the "criminal syndicalism" law because of their adherence to Communism. Four Southern states—Texas, North Carolina, Louisiana, Alabama—are rushing thru "criminal syndicalism" laws avowedly aimed to make the Communist movement illegal. In Texas two unemployed organizers were kidnaped by a Klan mob, with the open connivance of the authorities, brutally beaten, and only saved from death. To all intents and purposes, the Communist movement is being declared illegal in all parts of the country.

2. The most ruthless anti-foreign born drive since the war has been initiated by Secretary of Labor Doak. Hundreds of foreign-born workers have been arrested and deported to countries where death awaits the militant worker.

The leaders of the Lawrence textile strike are threatened with deportation. The most militant workers among the San Antonio Mexicans are facing deportation. A Finnish Communist in New York is about to be sent back to Finland, the land of Fascist terror. Preparations are now being made for the withdrawal of citizenship from naturalized workers for their militancy.

3. The brutality of the drive against the foreign-born is only matched by the viciousness of the drive against the labor press. In May 1930, the first step was taken when the Post Office declared the "Revolutionary Age" to be "unmailable" and denied it second-class mailing rights. Since then nearly a dozen labor papers have suffered the same fate: the "Young Worker", the "Vida Obrera", the "Laborer", the Anarchist "Cultura Proletaria", etc. It is quite clear that the government has initiated a systematic drive to root out all fighting labor papers.

4. The drive against the Soviet Union is sharpening. Secretary Mellon has already ordered an embargo on Soviet pulp and lumber. An embargo on manganese is coming. A complete embargo on all Soviet imports is being discussed.

What does all this mean? It means

that the United States government, ably supported by the various State governments, is now running full speed ahead in carrying out the recommendations of the Fish Committee report! Every important one of these recommendations is already being carried out into practice. Whatever may be the fate of the Fish committee report in Congress, as far as the working class is concerned it is already passed by the only power in this country that the capitalist class, and is already being carried out by the government—the obedient servant of Wall Street.

The Fish Committee recommendations are intended to provide the basis for the bitterest attack on the labor movement, on all elements who are ready to fight, that has been witnessed in many years. Wage cuts, union smashing, open-shop drives on the one hand—arrests, deportations, political persecutions on the other. The Fish Committee recommendations constitute the political program of the offensive of capital that is now raging throughout the country.

The wave of terror spreading over the country—expressing itself in "legal" persecution and in "illegal" mob attacks—is part of the planned offensive being conducted by the bosses of the United States against the working class and its organizations. The bosses are making this attack on the workers in order to intimidate them and prevent the expression of the growing unrest and dissatisfaction in their ranks. They are making this attack as a cover for their wage-cutting and union-smashing drive. They are making this attack in order to crush the signs of revolt among the millions of unemployed. They are making this attack in order to prepare the ground for sending millions of American workers to be slaughtered in the next war for the benefit of Wall Street.

The attack is beginning on the Communists—but it will certainly spread to every worker and workers organization not ready to lie down and crawl before the capitalists. The " Toledo Union Leader" is a thousand times correct when it declares in its issue of January 31: "The recommendations offered by this outfit (the Fish committee) are led by T.N.T., as it is only a step once the Communists are somewhat suppressed to make all laws of suppression apply to the union movement."

Every worker and every workers organization—no matter of what political or religious views, no matter how conservative—is threatened by the bosses' offensive. The only way this offensive can be beaten is by a united front of labor workers! Trade unionists! The danger is great and imminent! We must unite our ranks against the bosses and against their reactionary offensive!

## OPEN MEET CALLED ON BOSSSES OFFENSIVE

"The Reactionary Offensive and the Tasks of the Communists" will be subject of the Open Discussion Meeting being arranged by the New York organization of the Communist Party (Majority Group) for Friday evening, April 3, at 63 Madison Avenue. The attacks of the government against the working class and its organizations and press have been growing by leaps and bounds in the last few months. Yet the workers find themselves divided and powerless in the face of these bitter attacks of the bosses. Thru its sectarian and splitting policy the official Communist Party has been prevented from playing the part it should in unifying and mobilizing the workers. What the problems of the revolutionary workers are in this difficult period will be thoroughly discussed at this meeting. All comrades are urged to attend and bring sympathizers with them.

alone until a new international is formed."

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—The wave of protest of the miners in the Illinois mining towns over the sell-out "peace pact" recently concluded by the Fishwick-Walker-Germer-Hindmarsh forces with the Lewis machine in the United Mine Workers, is growing very fast. It is reported that as a result of the sell-out 20,000 coal miners in this field are withholding dues from both the International and the district organization.

Both Alex Howat and Oscar Ameringer have already come out against the "peace pact." In the March 14 issue of the *American Miner* (formerly the *Illinois Miner*—the official organ of the former "Reorganized U.M.W.A.") Ameringer came out with a front page blast against the Walker-Lewis "agreement." A convention of the Illinois district is demanded to let the rank-and-file have their say.

The Conference for Progressive Labor Action has issued a declaration condemning the Fishwick-Walker sell-out.

## BIG INCOMES GROW IN CRISIS

### Million Dollar Incomes For 1929 More Than For Year 1928

## MASS MISERY MOUNTS

At a time when about 8,000,000 men are unemployed in this country, when at least 20,000,000 people are in acute misery because of unemployment, when wages are being slashed on every side—the number of those in the United States who have an income over \$1,000,000 a year has grown from 496 in 1923 to 504 in 1929—the so-called "slump year." These figures were made public on March 15 by the Internal Revenue Bureau.

The great growth in millionaires' incomes since 1914 is shown in the following figures: 1914—60; 1915—120; 1916—206; 1917—141; 1918—67; 1919—65; 1920—33; 1921—21; 1922—67; 1923—74; 1924—75; 1925—207; 1926—231; 1927—290; 1928—495; 1929—504.

In spite of the economic crisis, the total net income of corporations and individuals have both risen in the year. Net incomes of corporations amounted to \$10,261,014,000 an increase of \$23,774,001. Net incomes of individuals have reached \$24,579,236,977, an increase of \$151,508,802.

About two-thirds of the total income tax paid came from investments of capital. It should be remembered that the huge salaries and bonuses of corporation officials are counted under "wages and salaries."

As usual, the income tax figures show the fundamental law of capitalist system: wealth, power and luxury concentrate at a dizzying speed at one pole of society (the capitalists—the owners of the means of production) while poverty, misery and starvation concentrate around the other pole (the workers). The idlers get richer and richer—the toilers, who produce everything, get poorer and poorer. And every crisis, every calamity, is another occasion for the enrichment of the former and the impoverishment of the latter. This is capitalism!

## A. JAKIRA DEAD OF CANCER

### Communist Leader Dies After Many Months Of Illness

Abram Jakira, assistant secretary of the International Labor Defense, died on Friday March 20, after many months of illness and suffering from a cancer in the throat.

A. Jakira was active for many years in the revolutionary labor movement. He was active in the left wing of the Socialist party before the split and he helped to form the Communist Party in 1919. He was secretary of the illegal Communist Party in a period of great difficulty. Afterwards he was district organizer in the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh districts and played an important part in the miners strike. He was arrested many times as a result of his activities.

To the last his thoughts and interests were entirely with the Communist movement.

## ANTI-LABOR BILLS IN FOUR STATES

### Southern States Prepare "Syndicalism" Laws for Passage

NEW ORLEANS.—Four Southern states are now pushing legislation for the repression of the labor movement, especially of its militant section.

In Texas and North Carolina criminal syndicalist laws aimed at the Communists and militant workers are now before the state legislatures. The North Carolina law provides a penalty of 10 years. The Texas law carries a 1 to 4 years' sentence.

In New Orleans the city council is preparing to pass a new ordinance making it a crime to print revolutionary literature or for working-class organizations to even hold meetings.

In Alabama the state legislature, not satisfied with the present criminal anarchy law which provides for ten years in prison for militant workers and farmers, are putting thru a new and more drastic law aimed directly at the Communist Party. At the same time the present vagrancy law will be amended to include all Communists as vagrants liable to one year on the inhuman chain gang.

## STATE A. F. of L. IN OPPOSITION TO JOBLESS INSURANCE BILL

### Against Mild Mastick Bill; Proposes "Survey" As Unemployment Relief; Green for War Profits

ALBANY.—Representatives of the New York Federation of Labor and of the labor-hating open-shop National Association of Manufacturers joined, on March 18, at the legislative committee hearing in opposition to a bill providing for compulsory unemployment insurance.

The measure introduced by Senator Mastick and Assemblyman Steingut, would set up a compulsory insurance system with optional contributions by employers so as to provide for unemployment reserves of \$10 a week for workers more than 18 years old and \$5 a week for all under that age. No worker receiving more than \$40 weekly would be included in the system.

John M. O'Hanlon, secretary of the State Federation, stated that his organization "was backing a measure of its own sponsorship which provided for a survey of the whole unemployment situation needed before specific legislation was drafted."

Noel Sargent of the National Association of Manufacturers, bitterly attacked the bill, especially the section providing for compulsory contribution by employers.

Professor Joseph E. Chamberlain of Columbia University delivered the main argument in support of the bill.

Again the representatives of the capitalists and the supposed-to-be representatives of labor stand side by side uniting fighting against every proposal, no matter how insignificant it may be, for improving the conditions of the workers. The Mastick-Steingut bill is certainly no adequate unemployment insurance bill but because it threatens to place the least bit of burden upon the capitalists, the leaders of the State Federation of Labor rise up against it—and in the name of labor! Like President Hoover and Secretary Doak, the labor "leaders" want to fatten the unemployed workers with "surveys."

WASHINGTON.—Speaking in the name of "labor", William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in testimony before the War Policies Commission here on March 17, came out against legislation for the conscription of capital and other wealth, the limitation of profits, the fixing of prices, etc. in case of war.

A. J. Lovell, legislative representative of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, took the same stand.

The representatives of the organized labor movement have thus aligned themselves, openly and publicly, with the most reactionary industrialists and labor-hating exploiters all over the country, who are also opposed to the conscription of capital and any idea of limitation of war profiteering. All the newspapers comment on this action of the labor "leaders" in "joining with the employers!"

The truth is that Mr. Green and his whole official crew are not leaders of the workers in their fight against the bosses; they are really lieutenants of the bosses in the labor movement, doing the dirty work of the bosses in the unions.

## FRANCE DEMANDS "HANDS OFF"

### Protests Interference In Drive for Leadership of Continent

PARIS.—What is regarded as a perfectly plain warning was handed out on March 17 by the French papers recognized as semi-official spokesmen of the Foreign Office that "there must be no outside interference in the relations between France and Italy."

This warning is taken to aim directly at England in view of Foreign Secretary Arthur Henderson's recent remark that Great Britain might "help in solving the Franco-Italian deadlock."

The semi-official warning of the French Government to Great Britain shows how far advanced already is France's drive for hegemony on the continent and the displacement of England from that position. It will be recalled that several months ago French banks extended gigantic loans to Poland, Rumania and Yugoslavia. The next objective of the French campaign was Italy, the relations to which had been very strained recently. After prolonged negotiations, a deal was made: France extended a huge loan (\$100,000,000) to Italy to enable Mussolini to effect a temporary respite in the acute economic crisis that marks the growing collapse of Fascism; on the other hand, Italy conceded French naval supremacy in the Mediterranean in the recent French-Italian naval pact. Other outstanding issues in the deal were matters relating to Italian colonial possessions in Africa.

The arrangement with Italy represents a tremendous political victory of France over Great Britain and, to some extent at least over the United States. Henderson's intense desire to intervene in the Franco-Italian settlement and France's sharp warning immediately followed.

This is dynamic being piled up for the next great explosion of world war.

## AFTER US—THE DELUGE!



The parasites of today, like the old French aristocrats, revel in riotous orgies, while millions starve. But their day of reckoning is coming!

## OPPOSITION RISING AGAINST GANDHI "PEACE PACT"; SPLIT EXPECTED

### Bombay Local Congress Split; All-India Congress Coming; Betrayal Arouses Terrorist Threats

NEW DELHI.—The revolt within the ranks of the nationalist movement against Gandhi's "truce" with British imperialism is growing very fast and is spreading widely in the National Congress itself. It is everywhere expected here that at the next

All-India National Congress (Karachi, March 1931) a split will be practically inevitable.

The real significance of the "peace pact" concluded by Gandhi became clear when the Mahatma stated that the "swaraj" ("self-rule") he had in mind was something quite different from complete independence from Great Britain but was quite compatible with India remaining a part of the British Empire. This helped to make it clear to the workers, peasants, and city petty bourgeoisie adhering to the Congress that Gandhi's "truce" was really a surrender of the national cause in favor of some concessions of benefit exclusively to the Indian bourgeoisie.

When Gandhi visited Bombay a few weeks ago he was met by one hostile demonstration after another, greatly to the astonishment of the pro-British press. At one meeting the demonstration against him was so serious that it took considerable time before he could get the chance to speak. Everywhere he is greeted with shouts of "Independence" and "Free political prisoners!" It will be recalled that according to Gandhi's "truce" a good half of the political prisoners (those charged with "violence") are not at all included in the "amnesty" promised by the Viceroy.

In Bombay the split in the local All-India National Congress (Karachi, March 1931) a split will be practically inevitable.

## This Is Your Paper -- Save It

We are at the end of our wits. We are at the end of the rope—UNLESS you come across generously and promptly. This will be the last weekly REVOLUTIONARY AGE—UNLESS you send on something to keep your paper going. This is no empty call. We are in dead earnest.

There is no need of telling you that you can't keep going a vigorous, clear-cut, fighting Communist weekly without subsidies, without advertisements, and without money. There are no wealthy liberals ready to depart with a red cent or a leaden nickel to insure the life of the REVOLUTIONARY AGE. Just now there are no generous uncles in

our family. It's just you poor wage-slaves in these United States that must help and help plenty and right away. You know how to bear the cross. We are asking you to chip in your last few cents, your friend's last few cents, or anybody's to this emergency fund. Unless we get help within a week, the Communist movement will lose its cleanest and hardest-hitting battler. This would be a major disaster for the whole American working class.

We are not kidding. We are not complaining. So far the support for the REVOLUTIONARY AGE has been first rate. But we need much more support—and many more supporters.

Sacrifice. More sacrifice. Still more sacrifice. This is nothing new to the devoted, loyal revolutionary fighters, to the class-conscious fighters, to the Communists. See what devotion, sacrifice and energy are doing to rebuild the Soviet Union and speed up Socialist construction. That's the spirit we need to save and build the REVOLUTIONARY AGE, the clearest Communist voice in the American capitalist wilderness.

The REVOLUTIONARY AGE is in distress! Will you be a lifesaver? Jump in and save the REVOLUTIONARY AGE. We are counting on you.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE  
COMMUNIST PARTY  
(Majority Group)  
New York City  
AN OPEN MEETING  
will be held on  
FRIDAY EVE., APRIL 3, 1931  
at  
63 Madison Avenue  
Subject:  
THE REACTIONARY OFFENSIVE  
AND THE TASKS OF  
THE COMMUNISTS  
Bring Sympathizers

# A BREATH OF LIFE IN THE A. C. W.

## "Amalg. Clothing Workers Progressive Circle" Formed

A breath of fresh life has entered the stagnant and bureaucrat-ridden atmosphere of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers here with the formation of the *Amalgamated Clothing Workers Progressive Circle* and the issuance of a declaration by this group entitled: "Why Have We Organized the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Progressive Circle?"

This declaration should be read by every tailor and by every needle trades worker generally. Unfortunately lack of space prevents us from publishing the declaration entire; we will give a summary of it and some extracts.

The statement opens with an analysis of the conditions of the needle trades workers today—wage-cuts, speed-up, unemployment, piece-work, the gradual loss of all hard-won union conditions. It is made clear that this steady worsening of conditions could only have taken place with the consent and thru the help of the union officials who are supposed to defend the workers.

The much-heralded unemployment insurance plan of the Amalgamated then comes up for a scathing indictment. It is shown how under the administration of the corrupt union officials this unemployment fund becomes a source of support for the official clique, a sort of graft. The unemployed workers, who are literally starving, get nothing—less than charity!

Graft permeates the Amalgamated everywhere, the statement charges. The reader of *Revolutionary Age* who remembers the report in the Amalgamated published in the March 7 issue "Will Thieves Fall Out . . ." will hardly need any proof of this but the statement provides it amply.

The corrupt clique policies rule unchecked in the Amalgamated. The bureaucrats are cynically resorting to the old policy of despots: "Divide and rule!" They are trying by all sorts of schemes, to set out the Jewish tailors against the Italians, the Lithuanians against the Polish, the operators, tailors, cutters and pressers against each other. Even anti-semitism has been brought into the union!

After this thorough description of the unbelievable conditions in the trade and in union, the statement goes on: "For all these reasons we have organized ourselves, bringing together the individual voices of rebellion into a strong group, so that, with united forces, we will be able to achieve better conditions for the tailors and again build up the union of long ago for the purpose for which it was organized."

"We will fight for the following fundamental change of policy in our union so that it shall serve the interests of the workers: (1) The immediate inauguration of the 40-hour week in the industry. (2) Week-work instead of piece-work. (3) Our union shall make use only of the weapon of the workers against bosses—the weapon which served our union so well in the past: the strike instead of peace with the bosses. (4) A minimum scale of

wages. (5) Work cut by union cutters should be made in union shops. (6) The immediate abolition of overtime, Saturday and Sunday work, so as to diminish unemployment. (7) Local unions shall have the right to withdraw their officials if they do not carry out the decisions of the membership. (8) Our union shall cease persecuting members for criticizing the policies of the leadership of our union. (9) The reinstatement with full rights of all those who were expelled or suspended from our union for criticizing the officials and proposing policies in the interests of the workers. (10) The unity of all needle trades workers in one union as the best means to fight the bosses. (11) The unemployment insurance shall be administered and distributed thru a central and file committee. Payments shall be made to all unemployed, whether in good standing or not, and in cash and not in dues stamps."

# International Conference

## Continuation of Reports

(Continued from the last issue)

"About the Social-democracy. In the last general election (1928) the Social-democrats lost a little, but in the 1930 municipal elections they made advances in certain districts. In one district, where the Sillen-people took over the Party apparatus, the Social-democrats completely retrieved the 1928 losses and more. It is clear that the Social-democracy has the support of large numbers of workers. The split in the Comintern movement certainly helped the Social-democrats. Many workers actually asked us: 'When will the next split take place—and where?'"

"I believe that the advance of the Social-democracy will soon be checked. I believe that in 1932 when the next general elections will occur the Social-democrats will register considerable losses."

"Within the Social-democracy there are various tendencies. There is a minority tendency led by Hoglund and Strom in control of Stockholm and various places in the provinces. And there is the old leadership, with Per Albin and Joranson at the head, controlling the entire party apparatus of the parliamentary fraction. These two tendencies are fighting each other bitterly, the differences among them are quite serious, and I believe that we can count on a real outburst within Swedish Social-democracy after the 1932 elections, perhaps even before."

Report on FINLAND by a Swedish comrade: "Unfortunately Comrade W— (of

# ATTACK USSR AT VIENNA MEET

## Central European Economic Conference Raises Cry Over "Dumping"

VIENNA.—A bitter attack against the Soviet Union was one of the principal subjects to be considered at the first session of the Central European economic conference that opened here on March 18. The attack was conducted under the smoke-screen of an "anti-dumping" campaign.

"When one sees how all the great industrial exporting States of Europe and America are running their feet off under the pressure of the unemployment problem to get orders in connection with the Russian five-year plan," said Count Max Hoyos, president of the Budapest Chamber of Agriculture, "and when one thinks that another 64,000,000 rubles (about \$32,000,000) is soon to be invested in the plan, it sends a cold shiver down one's back."

Former President Michael Haensch of Austria and Richard Riedl joined in the attacks.

# LOVESTONE SPEAKS IN CHICAGO ON EUROPE

## Discusses Crisis and Tasks of the Communists

CHICAGO.—"Europe in 1931" was the subject of Jay Lovestone's address at the meeting arranged by the Chicago organization of the Communist Party (Majority Group) in Mirror Hall on Friday Evening, March 13.

Lovestone showed the grave crisis confronting the international working class because of the chaos and disruption brought into the Comintern by the false policies of its leadership. "This was especially costly to the revolutionary movement because the working class is thus denied effective Communist leadership just at a time when it needs leadership most, when its opportunities are so great and when the capitalist system is fighting for its very life." Great stress was laid by the speaker on the menace of Fascism and of the "Socialist" parties in the present world crisis. The program of working class unity and militant action laid down by the International Communist Opposition Conference was presented to the workers in detail by Lovestone.

A lively discussion and interesting questions and answers followed. Despite the terrorism of the Party bureaucrats a number of Party members came to the meeting.

# FIFTEEN YEARS IN



Tom Mooney When He Was Sent to Jail

# SHOE WORKERS IN UNION VOTE

## Boot and Shoe Elections Here; Workers Should Vote Progressive

Elections for officials and for a new executive board of Boot and Shoe Workers Union will take place on March 31, 1931.

Conditions in the shoe industry in New York today are miserable. But in the face of these conditions we find the shoe workers of New York practically unorganized. As a result of the wrong policy during the last lock-out and strike the Independent Shoe Workers Union has collapsed and is no longer able to give leadership to the shoe workers. As a result of this breakdown, the Boot and Shoe Workers Union has again come into the New York shoe market.

The present leadership of the Boot and Shoe, however, has done nothing to better the conditions of the 1,500 workers who are employed in the shops which have signed agreements with the union.

They continually talk of an industrial union, the shop delegates system, fight against wage cuts, etc., these are mere phrases and are not carried out in reality.

There was no real fight against wage cuts, no enforcement of the closed shop and even the vicious system of security meets with no resistance from the leadership.

It is in the face of these conditions both in the industry and in the union that a group of progressives call upon all the workers to vote for candidates who will fight for the following program:

1. Organization of the unorganized.
2. For the closed shop! No hiring and firing! No discrimination!
3. Abolition of all securities as payments for jobs! Against all forms of yellow dog contract!
4. Fight against wage cuts!
5. Equal division of work! No overtime during this period of unemployment!
6. No arbitration! Agreements and settlements to be made directly between the workers representative together with an official.
7. Rank and file control of the union.

(a) Regular meetings of shop chairmen.

(b) Paid and unpaid officials of the union to be elected by the membership. The membership to have the right of recall.

8. Full democracy in the union. No discrimination, suspension or expulsion for expressing differences of opinion on economic or political questions.

9. Agreements for the N. Y. shops shall be placed before the membership for approval and, when approved, the agreement shall be signed by the New York district officials.

10. Vote against the tax at the present time.

# LABOR GOV'T HIT IN COMMONS VOTE

## MacDonald Defeated On Election Bill; Chaos in Liberal Ranks

LONDON.—By a vote of 246 to 242 the MacDonald Labor government suffered another defeat in the House of Commons on March 16 in connection with a clause in the new electoral bill abolishing the representation of the universities in Parliament. This defeat was made possible by the absence of a considerable number of Laborites, by the anti-government votes of some others, but especially by the deep split in the Liberal party group. The Liberals in caucus had decided to support the government measure but on the floor of the House a good section, under Sir John Simon, voted against, others abstained and less than half stood by the MacDonald government.

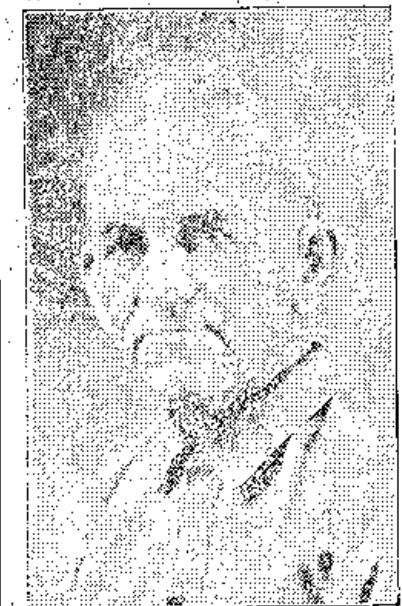
Altho the issue itself is not of any importance, the defeat of the government brought to a head the crisis in party relations that had been developing for a long time. Caucuses of the Labor and Liberal parties were immediately held. At the Labor party caucus MacDonald called attention to the "laxity" and "lack of discipline" of the Labor members and demanded better "cooperation." He was answered by a number of members that he "would get co-operation when he began in carrying thru the socialist pledges upon which he had been raised to power—and not before."

At the Liberal meeting, which bore a "private" character, the anti-Lloyd George faction was not even present. Lloyd George pointed out that its divided action the Liberals were making themselves "absurd" in the House when "were they compact and disciplined," they "might be a force." (At this meeting the Liberal whip (floor leader) in the House of Commons resigned his post as a protest against the lack of unity in the Liberal group.)

Meanwhile rumors are current that MacDonald is contemplating a coalition government together with the Liberals. It is thought that Lloyd George would then be offered the post of trying to "solve" the unemployment problem in which the Labor government has had one miserable failure after the other to record. Lloyd George's much-heralded plan is to borrow huge amounts and use it for public works!

The mere Labor government continues in office the more does it lose all pretense of "labor" character and become a completely capitalist government, hardly to be distinguished from the Liberals.

# —A CALIFORNIA JAIL



Tom Mooney As He Appears Today

# The Youth Movement

## A "Shock Plan" That Shocks.

Recently the District Committee of the Young Communist League of Chicago issued a plan for work in one of the large shops. In accordance with "third period" terminology, it is called "Shock Plan for (Name of Shop)". We can say of the plan that: "The mountain labored, and a mouse was born." The District Committee labored, and a Rubie Goldberg caricature was born.

The high-sounding military phrases used in the plan would make us believe that we are on the eve of civil war. But regarding the misuse of military expressions, we find the plan "full of sound and fury signifying nothing." Why are we suddenly confronted with such elaborate plans for every-day work? Because the present leadership of the League has substituted words for substance. The "Plan" cannot be considered simply as a product of the stupidity of a few comrades in Chicago; rather it is a direct result of the new policies introduced into the League by the Y. C. I. Let us see what this brilliant plan of strategy is:

"1.—Shock Troop composed of six comrades employing the chain brigade method of work." We are stunned by this occult terminology. What is this "chain brigade method of work?" But we are soon set aright by the prosaic explanation: "It calls for the division of troop into three-groups of two each. Each group to have a certain function to perform in a specified period of time according to the aim placed by the troop as a whole." Why these fancy names for simple functions? Is it the first time in the history of the League that comrades were assigned for special activity at shops? The writer has in mind a noona meeting arranged by himself and another League member. About 800 young workers listened to our speakers. Over 25 Young Workers (all that we had on hand) were sold. Contacts were made with twenty-five young workers. And yet, no "shock plans" had to be manufactured, no trumpets blown. That was part of our daily task.

In the next paragraph we find: "Our plan calls for the 'storming' of the shop, from every possible angle." Again the explanation that follows shows that "storming" consists of ordinary activity. But in the "third period" making contact with young workers becomes "storming" the shop.

More amusing (if the tragic consequences are omitted) than the preliminary instructions are the tasks set for the individual comrades. We quote one case: "Aim at the end of two weeks: Labor Sports Union Club, following links in chain brigade, 1. Brigade of two (Comrade Y and Z)

# ZIMMERMAN TALKS ON "COLONIAL REVOLT"

## Next Subject At Interracial Forum To Be "Migration and Adjustment" by Carter

I. Zimmerman, active for years in the All-American Anti-Imperialist League delivered an interesting and instructive talk on "The Revolt of the Colonial Masses" at the Frederick Douglas Interracial Forum, 1660 Fulton St., Brooklyn, Sunday, February 15. After clearly explaining the various steps in the chain of imperialism Zimmerman went on to give concrete illustrations in the case of China, India, etc. The role of American imperialism in the Philippines, Cuba, Haiti, and the Virgin Islands, was exhaustively outlined. The role of the revolting colonial masses as the natural allies of American workers, black and white, in a struggle against their common oppressor, world imperialism, was the lesson that was drawn and clearly placed. There was an interesting and lively discussion by the Negro and white workers present. A specially interesting feature of the discussion was the declaration in favor of Communism as the only solution for the problem on the part of one Negro worker, of a letter received by him from a friend telling of the latter's struggle against American imperialism in the West Indies. At the next meeting of the Forum on Sunday, March 29, Elmer A. Carter, editor of the Negro magazine *Opportunity* will speak on "Migration and Adjustment."

# NEGRO LIFE IN BROWNSVILLE

by J. S.

During the past few years Brownsville has become one of the most important Negro sections of Brooklyn. Whole streets such as Bergen St., Rockaway Ave., Herkimer St., Dean St., Thatford Ave., Atlantic Ave., etc. are concentrated Negro sections. Here we find Negro barbers, Negro butchers, Negro grocers and thousands of Negro workers, showing that this section has become in reality a Negro community.

The housing conditions in these sections of Brownsville are the worst imaginable. The people live in old dilapidated shacks or in decayed brick houses. Those who can afford to live in better houses pay 20% more for rent than the whites. Very rarely does one find steam heat or electricity. Those who are fortunate enough to have hot water must make it themselves. The toilets are off the kitchen and usually without a bathtub. Yes in "prosperous America"

you will even find toilets in the cellar and rooms illuminated by kerosene lamps.

The moment you enter one of these homes you feel and see unspeakable poverty. In a few minutes of conversation, exploitation and discrimination of the worst sort is revealed to you. Whether the rent be \$16 or \$40 the cry is the same. "The landlord will not fix the plumbing, the landlord will not fix the flooring, the landlord will do nothing but see that the rent is paid on time." A few examples will give a concrete picture of housing conditions in Brownsville. On Atlantic Avenue, one family has four rooms. There are no improvements. The toilet is in the cellar; the only water they have is cold water. For lighting purposes kerosene lamps must be used. Again on Atlantic Avenue another family pays \$30 for four rooms. Here they have electric lights but nothing else. The toilet is off the kitchen and contains no bathtub. They make their own hot water. On Dean St. the average rent is \$20 for four rooms. The only improvement is electric lights. These few examples are typical of the whole Brownsville section. The formation of a tenants league is an immediate necessity in Brownsville.

Workers in general in Brownsville are exploited. The Negro however is more exploited than any other of his fellow workers. The mass of the Negro women of Brownsville work in the laundries. They work 12-14 hours a day, 6 days for 25c an hour. They are carefully watched by the boss or foreman who sees that not a minute of their time is wasted. The workers must not talk to each other. Their whole attention must be given to their work. They are being constantly speeded up under the threat of being fired. Any signs of militancy are immediately rooted out. Equally exploited are the Negro workers in the textile mills, the needle shops, and in the coal yards of Brownsville. Organization is therefore imperative. The Negro workers together with the white workers must form shop committees in the different shops and factories to push the work of organization.

Only the cartoons of Rubie Goldberg can adequately characterize such plans. This is indeed "planfulness" with a vengeance!

Our gazettes do not merely set a goal for two weeks, for we find:

"Aim at end of four weeks:—To have a shop organization committee in which there must be no less than five youth.

"1. Brigades to be organized as we reach this stage of our campaign, based on our experience in the first lap. By this stage, however, concrete demands must be reached for the shop youth.

2. Within this time to organize a special meeting of youth connections and contacts. Also the organization of a house party."

"Aim at the end of sixth week—to have a Shop Nucleus of no less than five members."

The meaningless nature of these instructions need no comment. They speak for themselves.

If you think that the plan so far has been ridiculous, you are mistaken. They have a day-to-day schedule which goes as follows:

"Thurs. Jan. 22, 8 A.—Q. & Q. Scouting in (name of shop) territory for soup kitchen. Report back at once.

"Thurs. Jan. 22, noon—Investigative opponents. Make contact (P. and R.)

"Thurs. Jan. 22, 2 P. M.—Investigative territory for gym quarters (Q.)

"Thurs. Jan. 22, 6 P. M.—House to house for recruits to L.S.U. (A-A-B)

What came out of these wonderful plans? Exactly what was to be expected. Nothing! At the factory gates, they made contact with a girl who turned out to be a stoolpigeon. While they were busy propounding the above schemes, they forgot or were unable to hold a Liebknecht meeting! And Gil Green, N. E. C. representative, was in Chicago for weeks assisting in making plans for calling "conferences" on every conceivable issue. No conferences were held, of course. And Gil Green returned to New York to report his successes.

What is the root of such elaborate stupidity? The responsibility cannot be placed upon the backs of individual comrades. The causes for these ridiculous plans are to be traced to the policies introduced in the American League by the Y. C. I. two years ago. There was ushered in a new set of policies completely at variance with every bit of common sense and experience. There was introduced the mechanical transference of methods of the Soviet Union into the U. S. Our Russian comrades have developed a five-year plan for the development of Socialism. Therefore the Chicago League must have a "six-weeks plan" for its activity! If the plan of the Chicago League were carried to its logical conclusion, it would set the date for the revolution. If precisely at the end of six weeks we can have "shop nucleus of no less than five members", why should we not set the date which the Red Army should be created?

Such are the "successes" of the league when real accomplishments are possible. A period which should have meant a League organization growing in influence membership, turns out to be a period of decay and demoralization.

# The Economic Life of Soviet Russia

by CALVIN B. HOOVER  
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# ANTI-RED PLOT IN AKRON

## Accuse Alleged Communist Of "Sabotage" As Scheme to Hit Labor Movement

AKRON, Ohio.—What appears to be an obvious government plot to provide a basis for a vicious drive against the radical labor movement of this state was made public on March 19 here in the announcement that a "confession" has been obtained from Paul F. Kassay, "reputed Communist," that he "had planned to see to it that the navy dirigible Akron would never take the air," i.e., had planned to injure it in the course of construction.

An attempt is also being made to link up the Soviet Union with this case. It is declared that when Kassay's house was searched "Communist literature was discovered" as well as "letters in a foreign language." Soon it will be "discovered" that the "foreign language" is Russian and that "letters" are "instructions from the Soviet government."

It appears quite clear that the case is probably a plain frame-up against Kassay so as to "create" a "plot!" The purpose of the whole thing is to stir up public feeling in Ohio against Communism and against radical labor as a cover for proceeding with the fullest brutality on the basis of Ohio's vicious "criminal syndicalism" law or perhaps for even passing more stringent legislation.

# Garvey Urges Imperialism

The Negro is a long-suffering victim of white racial chauvinism and imperialism. His suffering will only end with the end of these twin evils. But Marcus Garvey, self-appointed Moses of the race, calls upon them to imitate and admit that the very evils that oppress them. "When it is considered there are 400 million African souls in the world, We can find no reason why they should not be linked in one universal Imperialism . . . her scattered children must reassemble . . . and Princes come out of their country."

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# PROTEST RISES AGAINST GANDHI

(Continued from page 1)

India National Congress is already an accomplished fact. While details are not yet available, it seems that the split has taken place on the issue of the Gandhi-surrender and along class lines—the workers, peasant, and lower petty bourgeois elements against Gandhi and the native bourgeoisie and other upper class elements for him and his policies.

The official Communist Party is in a state of complete impotence, without members and without influence. The Communist Opposition, on the other hand, following the line of Comrade M. N. Roy, has already established an organization and developed extensive contacts among the organized workers. The influence of the Communist Opposition will be a significant factor in mobilizing the masses in the nationalist movement against the Gandhi surrender.

# BOMBAY—The betrayal of the interests of the national movement by Gandhi thru his surrender pact with Lord Irwin has aroused the indignation of the terrorist elements of the radical petty bourgeoisie. Gandhi has received numerous threats of violence from various sources while he was in New Delhi, with scathing denunciations of his shameful conduct in washing his hands of tens of thousands of political prisoners in prison on charges of "violence" for whom Gandhi's "peace pact" makes no provision whatever for amnesty. Posters were distributed throughout New Delhi on the evening of March 20 threatening terror if all political prisoners, including the heroic Bhagat Singh, were not released.

The heroism of these terrorists and their devotion to the cause of national liberation can only be admired but their tactics must be rejected. They do not see the power of the masses nor the necessity for mass organization; they place all their trust in the heroic act of the individual. In the case of Gandhi, it is even possible that a terrorist act against him may help him pose as a "martyr" and even increase his prestige among backward masses. What is necessary now is to continue the work of enlightenment and organization of the workers, peasants and city poor for the revolutionary struggle against British imperialism, against the native landlords and big bourgeoisie.

RE AD!  
Revolutionary Age



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## THE POOREST RICH COUNTRY IN THE WORLD

**S**LUMP or no slump, crisis or no crisis, the army of millionaires grows rapidly in the United States. In the world's poorest rich country the ranks of no-occupation at the top—coupon-clippers—mount as quickly as does the army of no-occupation at the bottom—the unemployed, jobless pauperized workers.

Crushing evidence of the correctness of the Marxian analysis of the class foundations of American society is thus revealed in the report of the Bureau of Internal Revenue just issued. On the basis of income tax payments for the year preceding, it is evident that there are at least forty to fifty thousand millionaires in the country. Even the income tax reports (carefully manipulated and skillfully distorted especially by the wealthiest) show that 38,650 persons received, in 1929, annual incomes of \$50,000 or more. And this in a year of the worst stock market crash in the history of the country! In the same year when over \$50,000,000,000 were burnt up on the stock exchange, the number of those who not only are worth a million or more but whose income increases yearly by a million dollars or more, has risen to 1504.

Unprecedented in the history of capitalism, and, for that matter in that of any class society before the present system, is such a phenomenon!

From 21 in 1921 to 207 in 1925, 390 in 1927, and 496 in 1928 is the record of constant growth of the kingpins of multi-millionairedom in Uncle Shylock's domain. That's just why the United States is the world's poorest and richest country at the same time. Viewing the matter socially, historically, it can be said that the gap between the top and the bottom in the American class society is greater than the gap in any previous system or in any other country based on the exploitation and oppression of one class by another. The gap between the pyramid builders and rulers of Egypt was never as wide as it is today between the skyscraper builders and bankers in the United States.

Of special significance is the report of the Bureau of Internal Revenue this year. The year 1929 was a decisive year in American economic and therefore in American class development. It was the year of the highest production peaks yet attained by any country under capitalism. Precisely for this reason was it the year of the beginning of the most deepgoing economic crisis which not only rocked this country's productive apparatus but also was the signal for and the start of a world crisis of the most gigantic dimensions. Obviously, the topmost layer of the ruling class was not so very hard hit by the stock market debacle. Obviously they had MORE to lose and yet lost LESS than most people believed.

It is clear that what we said a long time ago on this question was very true. First of all, the number of workers who owned stocks was grossly exaggerated and, at most, constituted an insignificant fraction of the stock owners of the country. Then, even the middle class, which was so much sucked into the whirlpool of speculation, was harder hit than generally believed. At the same time, we cannot emphasize too strongly the fact that the wealthier the income tax payer the more easily could he report big losses and the more actually could he recover real losses.

What does this mean for the country? For the class developments and struggles in the country? The middle class had been much impoverished. It was compelled to sell its stocks and bonds for next to nothing. The big capitalists have bought them for a song. The richest have grown still richer. The middle class has grown poorer. And the working class has been driven into the worst horrors of poverty! Thus have the gaps between the classes been widened by the very severity of the economic crisis. Digging beneath the surface of government statistics, we can truly say that the country has become a land of a hundred thousand millionaires and a hundred million very poor—constantly exposed to the cruel lashes of poverty, hunger, and misery. The deadly speed with which wealth is being concentrated is furthermore shown in the latest financial reports of such giants of industry as the United States Steel Corporation, the General Electric Company and the American Telephone and Telegraph Corporation.

But the social pyramid is inverted. It is standing on its head. As the base of the workers, poor farmers, and lower middle class layers widens, the top, the point, of the pyramid (multi-millionaires) narrows. The objective basis for sharp class battles is thus being prepared. When the day of reckoning does come it will be brutally decisive. The awakening of the American toiling masses is slow. Just for that reason it will be rapid and intense when it does come.

Today, the cloud of revolutionary working class struggle can be seen on the horizon no more than the size of a man's finger. However, the storm is brewing. The class lines are tightening. Tomorrow, this cloud will be the size of a hand. The day after, historically speaking, it will be a mighty sky-filling of a fist—the fist of the proletarian dictatorship beginning the building of a new, a classless society.

Let no one grow impatient or lose his head and flee to the cover of high-sounding but meaningless "revolutionary" phrases. Let us remember the message of Lenin: "In the United States it will be harder for the working class to win power but it will be easier for our class to construct the Socialist society."

## "FIVE INCHES OF BANANA A DAY . . ."

"Eight unemployed girls lived on five bananas a day." The story of these girls is told by Miss Frances Perkins, State Industrial Commissioner of New York State. "They found that ten cents worth of bananas gave greater satisfaction than ten cents worth of any other food. Using a yardstick as a measure the girls cut the bananas into eight equal portions. About five inches of banana was each one's daily meal. Two dollars a week scraped up among them gave the girls enough money to rent a shabby room in an unpleasant neighborhood."

And this is the richest country in the world, the richest country in all history!

These girls are no exceptions. Says Miss Perkins: "Distress from unemployment among single women is now unprecedented." As a matter of fact, the eight girls mentioned seem to have been rather fortunate: they had a few cents for the bananas and the two dollars for the weekly rent. What about the tens of thousands of girls who have neither?

And this in a country in which the number of men with a MILLION DOLLAR INCOME increased from 60 in 1914 to 504 in 1929! And this in a country in which the wealth of the rich grew tremendously during and as a result of, the economic crisis!

Unemployed girls live on five inches of banana a day. But one spoiled and pampered brat of a robber-baron in Washington spends \$230,000 on one "coming-out" party!

This is capitalism! An insane and inhuman system where the small handful of blood-sucking parasites roll in luxury while the workers, who produce all the good things in life, drag out their lives in poverty, insecurity and misery.

Away with this crazy system which is driving the world to chaos and destruction. It must make way before Communism in which the vast masses of humanity for the first time in many, many centuries, will be able to win an existence worthy of human beings.

## The Next War

# How It Will Begin

Everything Ready - Only A Dress Rehearsal - New York Wiped Out - Aircraft Destroy British Factories

by Bertram D. Wolfe

"Wars will no longer be declared," writes Colonel Fuller, winner of the gold medal of the Royal United Service Institution for his essay on the warfare of the future, "but like a tropical typhoon there will be a darkening of the sky, and then the flood!"

The anxious optimism-filled days of diplomatic maneuvering to put the other fellow in the wrong will suddenly stop—silence, an iron censorship, searchlight extras, "We have been attacked!" Or, if it is against Russia, the headlines: "Red Hordes Overrun Bleeding Poland, Finland, Roumania!"—And then the sky will be darkened with clouds of airplanes, the earth will rumble with gigantic tanks, the land will resound with the tramp of marching men, and a dozen world centers of industry and civilization will be wiped out at once.

shrieks from 134 metal propellers as the aircraft squadrons of the battle fleet swooped down in mass attack. "Led by the Martin bombers and flying low . . . close behind and

done to others . . . inhabitants in a few hours were subjected to forty-six terrific attacks of high explosives and gas shells." (New York Times, August 16, 1930.)

The British board of strategy reported after air raids on London that the city could not be defended. The attacking planes were able to fly too high for anti-aircraft guns (loaded planes have been making height records of over 25,000 feet) and were able to swoop down at a speed of four miles a minute. When struck instead of dropping their poisonous load a bomb at a time, the whole load of 5 to 10,000 lbs. of poisonous gas comes down at once!

Again we recall the words of Francis Garvan:

"As a sower of death a bombing plane is more effective than a 50,000 ton battleship. The intimidation and slaughter of non-combatants, the razing of cities and destruction of crops, crippling of transportation and sinking of ships will go on simultaneously.

"One manufacturing plant can

### LAND BATTLESHIPS



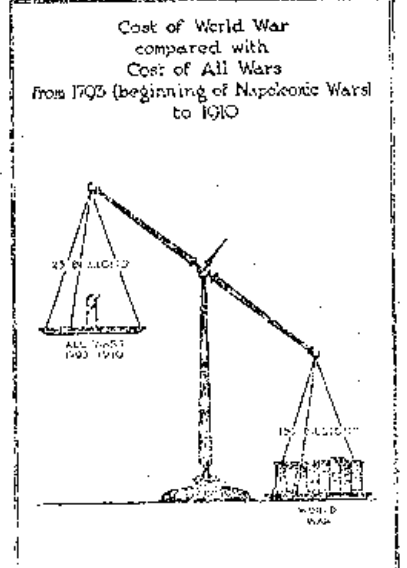
above the big torpedo planes came the corsairs . . . each carrying six machine guns and a full complement of torpedoes and high above them soared the fighters flying in V's . . . To the West over the Hudson, soared the Los Angeles, accompanied by two blimps and the navy's metal-clad dirigibles . . .

The attacking torpedo planes had drenched the midtown with gas, had demoralized the section with high explosive and were off on the same mission downtown. . . . (New York Times, May 10, 1930.)

At the same time that New York was being blown to atoms, its inhabitants toasted to a crisp by incendiary bombs and the whole area rendered uninhabitable for months by being drenched with poisonous gases:

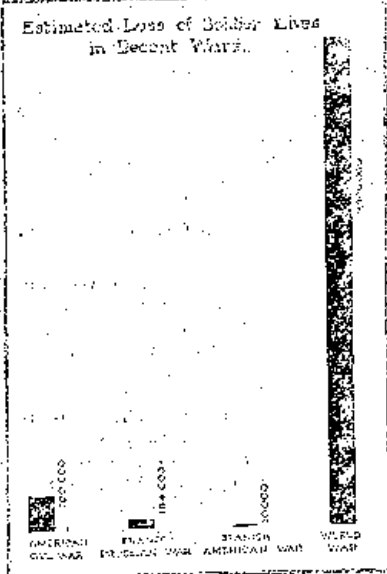
Aircraft Destroy British Factories

"In three full days of fighting, three of Iceland's (northern England) important industrial towns and one great seaport were rendered untenable and much damage was



produce enough poison in one day to stifle the life in a city like London."

Next Week: "SCIENCE GOES TO WAR."



blank to be filled out the last moment.

Prior to the last war, confesses Sir Arthur Nicolson, leading British diplomat,

"the mobilization scheme prepared in 1910, had worked from the first moment . . . without a hitch. All that remained by 9 P. M. on Aug. 4, 1914, was to dispatch the warning telegrams to every British consul on the face of the globe. The telegrams had already been printed in advance and had reposed for years in what was known as the War press. All that was required was to affix with the rubber stamp the one word 'Germany' in the blank space."

Only a Dress Rehearsal

Yet the first world war was only a dress rehearsal for the second. On Jan. 13, 1931, Secretary of War Hurley told reporters:

"We have not failed to profit by the lessons we learned in 1917 and 1918. Our plans then for mobilization of man powers and of industry were vague and incomplete. Tomorrow a different and brighter picture would be presented. With the declaration of war by Congress there would spring into immediate action elaborately and carefully conceived organizations for the marshalling not only of trained forces of soldiers but of industrial resources . . ."

"For ten years selected officers have been studying the situations under which our national security might be jeopardized and have determined the kinds and amounts of supplies needed in such emergencies . . ."

For years we have been searching out and listing factories suitable for the production of guns, airplanes and the many other items on our list. We know just where these factories are located and just what they are capable of producing . . ."

Investigations of the availability of raw materials have been made . . . Eminent men in all branches of industry will be brought together to serve in a governmental agency . . . for coordinating and unifying the industrial effort we must put forth.

"I intend to concentrate much of my effort while in office on the plans for industrial mobilization." Obviously, there will be no time for a declaration of war. "To dally over a prize-winning essay quoted above, will be considered as foolish as a Fontenay courtesy—a wave of a flame hat—'Gentlemen of France, fire first!'"

Without warning, wave upon wave of airplanes will appear over the big cities of the world. Airplane carrier fleets will cross the oceans and release their swarms within sight of the "enemy" shores.

New York Wiped Out

"New Yorkers who were sleeping late yesterday morning in the mid-town area were awakened by the roar of many motors, the

## THE SPIES MUST BE DRIVEN OUT!

A Letter from the Anthracite

Wilkes Barre, Pa.

In the month of October, two South-Slavic workers were denounced to the Federal officials as "illegal" immigrants and radicals. These two workers were taken from their places of work and put into the county jail. Some months after their arrest, they were sent to Yugoslavia where both of them will feel the heavy hand of reaction because they were both army deserters.

The arrest of these two workers raised some suspicion that it was the work of a spy in the Communist Party or among the sympathetic workers. The arrested workers made some suggestions as to who the spies might be and there was an understanding then that the Party and the International Labor Defense would investigate the matter immediately. But of course the whole matter was soon forgotten.

Attack Renewed

On March 7, 1931 at 1 P. M., company police seized the mine worker, N. K., and dragged him from the mine in which he was working to the company office where Federal detectives were waiting for him. There he was kept a few hours, questioned, and then taken to his home for further information. On March 17, at 4 P. M. the same Federal detective came seeking information as the residence of Nick Borich.

The Cat Is Out of the Bag

The suspicion that there was a spy at work again arose. Then the cat was let out of the bag! On March 17, at 9 P. M., in an argument between the worker N. K. and Mike Vranjesh, Jr. the truth came out. Mike Vranjesh, Jr. shouted to N. K.: "You will get to a place where you will

keep quiet all right!" The meaning of these words were plain; no explanation was necessary. Mike Vranjesh, Jr. knew so much of the activities of the Federal detectives. Mike Vranjesh, Jr. himself is a young worker and we doubt if he himself did the denouncing. But he certainly is in close contact with some one or more who are in touch with the government agents. And these people are either Party members or sympathizers with whom Mike is in contact. Whatever may be true about himself, we have the full right to believe that he knows something about the denunciation of these workers because of the plain statement that he made. We put this up to the Party officials. Are they going to take action and investigate and find the guilty ones? Or will they let things go on, let more workers be victimized, and let the spies go untouched?

—A Wilkes Barre Worker

## INTER RACIAL DANCE

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## BOOKS

DYNAMITE, The Story of Class Violence in America, by Louis Adamic. The Viking Press, New York, 1931.

This book presents a spirited account of the history of class violence in the United States—the classical land of violence. It is well done indeed and exerts a gripping interest upon the reader. It makes a worker proud of his class to read the long tale of its heroism, martyrdom and suffering.

Whatever may be the secondary shortcomings of this book, they must all be forgiven in favor of the frank and vigorous pro-labor bias of its author and the complete absence in it of any trace of the hypocritical "horror" of violence paraded by bourgeois writers of all shades. Mr. Adamic openly sympathizes with the working class and its struggles and so refuses to condemn, from a "moral" standpoint, any manifestation of working class violence. On the contrary, he defends (as against capitalist society) working class violence as such and condemns capitalist violence as such, much to the scandal of the Beckmanian New York Times reviewer. Mr. Adamic makes it quite clear that the class war is a war, which, as Bill Haywood used to say, "cannot be viewed thru the stained-glass windows of a cathedral, or thru the eyes of capitalist-made laws." In this war, which never ceases for a moment and which has spread over the whole capitalist world, violence is absolutely inevitable. The social significance of class violence—its "morality"—is to be determined not abstractly but by reference to the aims and ideals which it serves. And since the aims and ideals of labor in its struggle against capital are accepted by Mr. Adamic as worthy as they must be by any one who has the least claim to progressive vision—the use of violence in the class struggle naturally appears to the author just as matter-of-course and as little open to "moral" lamenting as the use of violence in any war appears to a sympathizer of one of the belligerents. The only pertinent question is that of tactical efficacy.

Mr. Adamic's labor sympathies are obviously in the direction of anarcho-syndicalism so that there is a tendency to exaggerate the heroic individualism of the masses and to misconstrue somewhat the social role of violence. For violence is not in itself essentially or independently creative; its social efficacy depends entirely upon the historical direction in which it is used. Force may retard the development of a movement or a system for which there is an objective historical basis and necessity but it cannot destroy it or prevent its emergence. On the other hand, force may serve and very often has served to give the last quietus to an outworn and historically reactionary social structure. Finally, though history force has always been the "midwife of every old society pregnant with a new one" (Marx). But the role of force is always strictly subordinated to the course of social development.

The book makes it quite clear that class violence and class consciousness are not at all interchangeable terms. The violence of Molly Maguires and of the MacNamara brothers, also unquestionably in the cause of labor, were not illumined by the light of class consciousness; the Mollies were anti-Socialist and even anti-unionist; the MacNamara brothers were good Catholics, Democrats and Cooperites! On the other hand the violence of the Chicago Anarchists and of the Wobblies was violence that came with a high degree of class consciousness. What this book makes clearer than anything else is that the conditions of capitalist production are such as to give rise to working class violence at every stage of the development of the class struggle, from the lowest to the highest.

In the United States, working class violence has not yet reached its supreme class role—utilization by a thoroughly trained Marxist party as a revolutionary weapon. We have had no 1907's or Spartacist uprisings. But that should make us cherish our traditions all the more and dare to build upon them.

The latter sections of this book (dealing with racketeering, the prospects for the future, etc.) are very weak in comparison with the book as a whole. Mr. Adamic even harbors some illusions about the "new capitalism". The conclusions reached, although suggestive, are only very partially valid, and, as such, misleading. Mr. Adamic does not point out the absolutely fundamental fact that, although gangsterism (i.e., the use of hired strong-arm men not themselves in the labor movement) may have made its appearance in the unions as a crude class weapon against the bosses, it did not take long before it underwent a complete change: it became the weapon of conservative official cliques in the unions to terrorize the membership and to force it to accede to the most brazen concessions to the employers. In this lies the dangerous character of gangsterism as a trade union method; it tends to make the officials independent of the membership.

It is characteristic of the ideological backwardness of the American labor (al-so Communist) movement that a book of this sort should have to wait for one not organically connected with labor movement to write it. And the book surely suffers from certain defects because of this circumstance. But the whole American working class owes a vote of thanks to Mr. Adamic for having presented to it, in so skillful manner, so spirited a picture of its own best traditions and of its own bitterest sufferings.

—X Y Z

## BETWEEN HAMMER AND ANVIL

PASSOVER NUMBER (With a Side Glance at St. Patrick's Day)

God and the Matzoh Trust

Two sets of praying rabbis got God all mixed up the other day. Rabbi Weinberger, Inc., manufacturer of "high grade" matzohs sued the Matzoh Trust which control 85% of the matzoh trade for injuring his holy traffic in unloved bread. (For the benefit of those readers who don't know what they are, matzohs are a cross between a reinforced biscuit and a phonograph record.) While the jury was out, Rabbi Weinberger prayed to God to give him a good decision with big damages. When the Matzoh Trust saw this unfair attempt to influence the jury, they got a whole battery of rabbis busy praying in the corridors of the Federal Court. God got all confused and the jury disagreed.

God and the 18th Amendment

Rabbis are praying to Hoover for special freedom to distribute wine unquestioned to pious worshippers of the god of Abraham and Isaac. A truly believing rabbi shouldn't need Hoover. Why can't he ask God to change sink water into wine! What's the matter, has God gotten out of practice in working miracles? Or doesn't he really care whether his chosen people drink wine on Passover or not?

The Money Changers in the Temple

Rev. Dr. Fulton J. Sheen preached a sermon against the Soviet Union recently at St. Patrick's Cathedral. "Does it mean anything to you that the Soviet government has committed outrages against the church. The Church is the body of Christ, so we should all feel what is going on."

A Church which preaches a crusade against the workers' government is the body of Mammon. And it keeps its belly round and fat with its shares of exploitation.

Millinery Economics

Rev. W. A. Robbin rises to explain capitalist depression. "It's not the cost of the hat, but of the feather Americans want to put into it, that caused the depression." It's not the feather Rev. Robbins is talking thru—it's the hat.

"The Lord Will Provide"

"Unemployment," reports the United Lutheran Synod, "has now hit the Lutheran Clergy."

Somebody should now tell them: "Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, nor yet for your body what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body more than raiment?"

"Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God."

"Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled."

"Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh."

Don't Lutheran ministers believe in the Bible when they're unemployed?

## EAST SIDE EPIGRAMS

Found on Tombsites in a City Churchyard

I. James J. Walker

In my pearl gray spats  
 And pearl gray stetoson,  
 White autometer,  
 And fifty-five natty changes of make-up,  
 I put on some show!  
 I wrote my own songs  
 And made my own wisecracks.  
 When my blue-clad buddies  
 Cracked Communist heads  
 I said:  
 "Laugh that off!  
 When the unemployed crowded  
 City Hall Park  
 Asking for bread  
 I asked:  
 "When will the ice-cream be served?"

When they didn't get the joke,  
 I told the cops:  
 "Let 'em have it!"  
 That was some crack.  
 When the flop-house, slop line funds ran out,  
 I ran out. I went to Palm Springs  
 'Cause I hate to see people suffer.  
 I put on some show!  
 But there came an election year  
 And hell broke loose with investigations  
 It raised an awful stink  
 And spoiled the show.  
 My gigs didn't go over so hot.  
 I got tired of it!  
 Those dumb eggs didn't know a good act when they saw one.

II. Rabbi Stephen Wise

Here lies a child of Isaac and Abraham  
 Who had a contract with God  
 And knew how to use it  
 And a "mike" and roof-shaking voice.  
 Silver tongue, golden tongue!  
 How I loved to hear myself talk!  
 In peace time I was for peace.  
 In war time I was for war.  
 My reformed temple looked like a bank  
 And the greatest money-changers came to listen.  
 Silver tongue, golden tongue!  
 How I loved to hear myself talk!  
 Now the moss has grown over my mouth.  
 Nobody ever thought of my words  
 after my voice stopped  
 Maybe I never said anything . . .  
 But how I said it!

—B. D. W.