

WORKERS  
OF THE  
WORLD,  
UNITE

# THE MILITANT



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## General Strike Voted in Textile Convention

### Conspiracy to Break Mpls. Strike Smashed By Committee of 100

#### Haas and Dunnigan Exposed as Aiding Bosses in Fake Agreement

Minneapolis, August 14.—A conspiracy to break the strike of local 574, with the Federal mediators as the spearhead was smashed to bits at the meeting of the Strike Committee of 100 where Haas and Dunnigan had gone to appeal to the rank and file "over the heads of the leaders".

The ugly conspiracy centered around a new settlement proposal of the bosses which would force a "discrimination" clause on the union and hold wage scales at their present miserable levels by means of a complex stalling process.

Prepared behind closed doors, the plot had wide ramifications and was intended as a body blow to the striking drivers. Its entire aim was to throw the onus for continuance of the strike on the union.

Acting in concert, the military, the kept press of the bosses, and the federal mediators planned against the strike as follows:

1. The press reported that Haas and Dunnigan abandoned their original plan in favor of the slavery proposal of the bosses, setting up a hue and cry that the union alone blocked an immediate settlement.

2. The military announced a loosening of the military permit system and at the same time began to slip heavy sentences on pickets in the military court.

3. The refusal of a permit for a strike mass meeting at the parade grounds on Tuesday.

4. A broad hint in the press that Haas-Dunnigan would attempt to cajole the strikers to accept the fake over the heads of the leadership.

But the bosses and their government agents reckoned without their host—the courage and intelligence of fighting strikers and not the cowardice of a herd of sheep.

Haas and Dunnigan were submitted to such a cannonade of dynamite-laden questions by members of the committee of 100, with whom they met last night, that they left the conference room with their tails between their legs, put to shame by the very rank and file they thought would fall for the thinly-disguised swindle.

**A Fusillade of Questions**

After an admission by Haas and Dunnigan, who opened the session with speeches, that militant pickets would be discriminated under the new agreement and that the absence of the fixed minimum of 42½ and 52½ cents would be a blow to the union, the rapid machine-gun fire of rank-and-file questions began to resound:

**Whose plan is this, yours or the bosses?**

The answer was that it is "neither ours nor the bosses'".

**Then whose is it?**

No answer; laughter.

**How do you know the arbitrators won't cut us to 30 cents?**

No answer.

**Why do you go over the head of our Negotiating Committee, and not over the head of the bosses' Negotiating Committee? Are you trying to insult our Committee, or question their sincerity?**

Answer: Oh, no. Your Committee is made up of fine men. We have no criticism of them. They have done their best to get a good settlement in your interests. (Someone yelled "You bet!")

**Why don't you force the 166 bosses to get together and take a secret ballot on the Haas-Dunnigan plan?**

Answer: We can't.

**Then why don't you at least ask them if they are willing to do it?**

No answer.

**Why didn't you make the bosses accept the original Haas-Dunnigan plan?**

We did not have the power to make them do anything.

**Then how do you know you live up to government decisions on the basis of this settlement?**

No answer.

**Will the man from Washington who judges "violence" cases wear a white collar or overalls?**

"He will be fair in any case."

**What is our guarantee?**

No answer.

**If you had been a picket and were now asked to sign an agreement which might bar you forever from a job, would you do it?**

No answer.

**Then why do you bring it up?**

Mediators Squirm

The questions of the strikers pined the convulsing mediators to the wall. They sat through the barrage sweating blood and look-

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### Danger of War Grows as Japs Provoke Soviets

This week's dispatches from the Far East carry the ominous reports of renewed aggressiveness against the Soviet Union by the Japanese militarists and their Manchukuoan puppets. With the arrest a few days ago of 17 Soviet officials employed on the Chinese Eastern Railway there has been a sudden, sharp increase in the tension existing between the two countries.

Relations between the Soviet Union and Japan, strained ever since the creation of Manchukuo into a separate state, have been getting steadily worse. The seizure of the C.E.R. (Chinese Eastern Railway) merely added fuel to the flame and has since then served as the pivot about which the inevitable conflict between the two nations has taken form.

Japan, in continuing its ruthless policy, has been attempting, ever since the seizure of the railroad, to compel the Soviet Union to sell its share in the road. The Japanese militarists have organized bandit raids on the road, blown up bridges and tracks, stolen rolling stock and used every conceivable device to weaken the road financially in their attempt to force the Soviet Union to surrender its share in the road for a song.

The negotiations for the sale of the road have, despite these acts of sabotage on the part of Japan, never made much headway. The Soviet officials always point to the earning power and value of the line prior to the recent period of disorder and ask a much higher price than Japan is willing to concede. The Japanese, on the other hand, pointing to the present disorganized state of the road, the irregularity of trains and regularity of bandit raids, offer a ridiculously low sum for the Soviet share.

#### War Clouds Gather

Having made no headway in their attempt to secure "legally" what they have already seized by force, the Japanese police in Manchukuo resorted to the present action of arresting 17 Soviet officials of the railway. The arrested officials, citizens of the Soviet Union, have been charged by the Manchukuoan authorities with collusion with bandits in recent raids on the railroad. The brazen effrontery of the Japanese-Manchukuoan officials in leveling these charges against the 17 accused, when it is common knowledge that it is the accusers who have encouraged and incited these bandit attacks (frequently with Japanese manufactured arms).

The present arrests have taken on a critical appearance. The Soviet Union, in protesting the summary arrest of its citizens, has voiced fear that the present move is but a preliminary one to the complete seizure of the C.E.R. by Japan.

Precisely what action the Soviet Union will take in this eventuality cannot yet be predicted. In any case, the war clouds, ever-present on the Soviet-Japan horizon, again begin to gather. Now, more than ever, does the slogan of "defense of the Soviet Union" take on real significance for the workers of the world. Any moment may see it transformed into a slogan of action.

### MARINES LEAVE HAITI AS DIRTY WORK IS FINISHED

The Marines have finally evacuated Haiti.

Dispatches in the capitalist press from Port-au-Prince report that the evacuation was accomplished with great solemnity, and considerable enthusiasm on the part of the civilian population. Haitian officials and officers of the Marine Corps exchanged compliments.

In the general rejoicing, it was undoubtedly forgotten, save by the workers, that the marines have accomplished their purpose. American investments have been saved. The revolt of the starving workers has been crushed. The lackeys of American imperialism are, for the time being, firmly in the saddle.

There were conciliatory remarks and compliments passed a-plenty, but the assurance is marines will not return—when it is necessary to protect American property and the sacred rights of foreign investments.

### PHILADELPHIA JOBLESS FIGHT FOR TAINTED FOOD

Philadelphia, Aug. 16.—No one is starving in this country—

But today, a famished crowd of unemployed, "squatters" on the city dumps, fought deputies armed with revolvers, and braved a blazing gasoline bonfire, to get to a truckload of canned prunes, condemned by the city authorities as tainted.

As the crowd advanced to snatch at the cans, the City Marshal and his deputies drew revolvers.

"The stuff's poisoned," the Marshal shouted.

"Who cares?" the hungry men yelled back. "It's something to eat."

The deputies hastily pitched the cans from the truck and poured gasoline over them. The flames mounted.

The crowd became frenzied as they saw the "food" being destroyed before their eyes. They ignored the guns of the deputies, and rushed to the blazing heap, snatching out the cans with sticks, and rushing away with their "loot".

### Club Strikers as La Guardia 'Investigates'

Apparently uninformed of the grave investigation into police brutality against pickets being conducted by Mayor LaGuardia and Chief Inspector Valentine, the coppers swung into action again—while the investigation was going on—and beat up pickets of the Moving Picture Operators Union who were picketing in front of the Rugby Theatre, 823 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

While the Mayor was assuring union leaders that he saw no reason for the police attack with clubs upon pickets at the Commodore Knitting Mills, also in Brooklyn, his coppers were gleefully swinging their clubs against a new group of workers.

Six arrests were made. Pickets and bystanders were bruised and trampled upon as the coppers charged with all the old-time gusto.

But, at City Hall, the Mayor showed particular interest in the testimony of witnesses who reported that at the Knitting Mills demonstration, a policeman had rebuked an Irish girl for taking part in the strike.

"What the hell are you doing with these Jews and Wops," the policeman was quoted as saying.

The Mayor, who is himself half-Jewish and half-Italian, pricked up his ears.

And he turned the whole case over to Inspector Valentine, who promised disciplinary action against the policeman involved—if the charge of brutality can be sustained.

Of course, it would seem a simple matter for Chief Inspector Valentine to issue instructions that would put an end to the beating up of pickets. And Mayor LaGuardia is Mayor, and not the foreman of a coroner's jury.

But their preference to hold investigations.

### Food Prices Rise Gougers Active; "No Shortage"

There will be no food shortage because of the drought, Government agencies solemnly assure us.

But the cost of foodstuffs this winter is going to rise sky-high.

The situation, as summarized by the Department of Agriculture is as follows:

(1) Food supplies for the nation as a whole are ample.

(2) Stocks of bread grains and of several other food products are large.

(3) Production of most canning crops will be normal.

(4) Fruits and vegetables are fairly abundant outside the drought area.

(5) The supply of meat, dairy and poultry products will be adequate for the remainder of this year.

In a word, there will be famine only for the worker living on already near-starvation wages.

Price gougers and speculators are licking their chops in anticipation. Food prices, that have already risen ten per cent over last year, are to rise still higher. The thousands now starving will discover this starvation means.

"With smaller supplies and the necessary increase in volume moving through commercial channels, a higher level of food prices on the whole may be expected," the report of the Department of Agriculture reads.

However, the workers will not be without their champions. President Roosevelt has served public notice that he will frown his severest frown upon "chiselers" attempting to profiteer in grain and other foodstuffs as the result of the drought. He will combat—how he does not say—any "excessive" rise in prices.

"Officials," an A. P. dispatch reads, "said they anticipated no development which would make it necessary to use drastic powers; that cooperation was expected from the majority on the Exchange and from food handlers as well."

Nor does William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, intend to accept the situation lying down. He has hurled a typical William Green "challenge" into the teeth of the "gougers".

In the event of a price rise, Green says, the executive council of the A. F. of L. will seek revision of the codes of fair competition in the major industries to provide for an increase in minimum wage schedules.

"If the cost of living is to be affected," he said, with the old fighting spirit that has ever characterized him, "it seems proper and just that wages should be lifted to a higher level. We propose to make plans to meet the situation as best we can, so that the working population will not be compelled to suffer from this changed economic situation."

Not that he contemplates anything rash or "un-American," God as striking for a living wage. God forbid! Green expressly states, lest

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### REPORTERS PICKET SCAB PAPER IN STATEN ISLAND

Newspaper men, members of the Newspaper Guild of New York, are picketing the plant of the Staten Island Advance, Staten Island, New York City.

They demand the re-instatement of Alexander Crosby, news editor of the Advance, who was discharged for joining the Guild. Crosby was with the paper for five years, and had been given a raise just prior to his joining the Guild. The reason assigned for firing him was "incompetency and incompatibility."

Realizing that the very existence of their organization is at stake, members of the Guild have developed unexpected spirit and solidarity in the fight against the publisher of the Advance, whom they defeated before when he sought to block the organizing of employees on the Long Island Press, which he also owns.

It is significant that the Guild refused Mayor LaGuardia's offer to "arbitrate" the dispute. The right of newspaper men to join the Guild cannot be arbitrated, was the reply.

### McMahon Out-Voted by Workers; 500,000 to Strike

Riding high over all moves of the reactionary officialdom for postponement, the overwhelming majority of the 570 delegates to the annual convention of the United Textile Workers, now in session in New York, voted for a general strike on or about September 1.

With a strike of 20,000 cotton workers already in progress in Alabama and the report that 2,000 have joined them in Georgia, the sentiment for a general strike which will involve more than 500,000 exploited slaves from Maine to Alabama, swept over the convention like a mighty tide.

More than fifty resolutions calling for the general walkout were introduced on the first day of the convention, and new adherents were gained every day.

As McMahon concluded his demagogic speech the entire delegation from Alabama, where the workers have faced bullets, tear gas, cops and soldiers, jumped from their seats and shouted for a strike vote.

Then a delegate right from the firing line in Alabama limped to the stage, wounded in head and foot by thugs and guardsmen, and said that he was ready to die for the union.

McMahon, Gorman and the rest of the sell-out tribe that now heads the United Textile Workers, moved heaven and earth to force another delay of the strike. It will be remembered that time and again this rotten clique has threatened strike only to call it off on some flimsy promise of the Washington administration. It took the power of the aroused rank and file to turn the hypocritical talk into action.

Another postponement or a dellout soon after the strike starts is to be seen in the announcement from Washington that McMahon has been appointed a member of the Labor Advisory Board of the NRA. The NRA is already reported to be "ready to act" in the strike.

**Reactionaries Challenged**

As we go to press, voting on a new Executive Council for the U.T.W. is in progress. A progressive wing is challenging the corrupt officialdom in the elections. The strongest guarantee that the strike will not be betrayed lies in the ousting of McMahon and Co. and replacing them with militant left wing workers.

Action on a tie-up in the closely allied silk and hosiery industries is to be taken at the convention today. A strike in these branches of textiles has been long delayed despite convention and executive board decisions to call a strike.

**Strike Demands**

The demands of the strike reveal the coolie conditions under which the textile workers have been slaving. Chief among them is a demand for a wage scale ranging from \$13 to \$30.

Cotton operatives have been working for as low as six and seven dollars a week throughout the South.

Second, but not less important, is the demand for the elimination of the vicious "stretch-out" system. The "stretch-out" is an inhuman speed-up under which the workers are required to operate more looms per person than is physically possible. One of the most intense means of exploitation, it has been a constant demand of the textile workers that the "stretch-out" be abolished.

**The Fight for Recognition**

Recognition of the union and collective bargaining is another cardinal demand over which the strike is to be called. The bosses have in this industry as elsewhere, with the wholehearted cooperation of the NRA, been trying to foist a company union on the workers. Here, as elsewhere, it will again be proven that only battle and not the ambiguous section 7a of the NRA will win for labor the right to a union of their own choosing.

Together with the amended strike resolution, which was adopted as against the proposal of the officialdom, and which makes the calling of the strike within a definite period of time mandatory on the Executive Board, was the provision that the contracts of all locals with the employers be uniform on a national scale.

A resolution condemning William Green for his desertion of the strike in Frisco, unanimously introduced by the Resolutions Committee, was lost after extended discussion by the narrow majority of 193 to 103.

Other resolutions instructing the delegates to the Frisco Convention of the A. F. of L. in October to fight for a labor party and for industrial unionism were adopted by the convention.

**DON'T FORGET THE BOATRIDE**

Tickets for this excursion are available at the City headquarters of the League, 144 Second Ave. The price is \$1.00. The boat will leave Pier 11, East River foot of Wall St. 6 P.M. Saturday, Aug. 18.

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QUESTION BOX

GERALD DAVIS, Philadelphia.—I hope that as a result of this experience it becomes fixed in your mind that when a contradiction exists between what Lenin said and what a Stalinist says, you can be sure that there is something wrong with the statement of the latter.

In the first place it is correct that the Red International of Labor Unions was formed during Lenin's time; or to be more exact, in July, 1920. (In 1921 the Constitution of the R.I.L.U. was published in English by the American Labor Union Educational Society.)

Reporting upon the international council of trade and industrial unions of June, 1920, which laid the basis for the R.I.L.U., he states: "The question that raised most discussion was that of the tactics of the Communist revolutionary elements within the trade union movement in connection with the old mass unions."

"It may have been possible on other questions to compromise in order to secure agreement, BUT ON THIS CARDINAL QUESTION NO COMPROMISE WAS POSSIBLE . . . neither the Communist International nor the TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS (emphasis ours) affiliated to it could put forward any other motto, because for the revolutionary elements to leave the unions would mean playing into Lenin's and Gompers' hand."

Now as to the contention that the present "red" unions were formed primarily to organize the unorganized. This argument cannot stand up either in the face of an analysis of such a position or in the face of the facts as stated in the official Party documents or as the matter actually developed in life.

Point 1. The theoretical basis for the new unions (7th National Convention of the C.P.U.S.A., 1930) was that the A. F. of L. is "outright fascist" and since a fascist organization is only fit to be destroyed, "only on the basis of the Trade Union Unity League will the Party be able to assume the leadership of . . . economic struggles."

Point 2. If the new unions were formed primarily to organize the unorganized, it would be reasonable to expect that the new unions would be formed only where none with a mass base existed. The Stalinists, however, split the Amalgamated Food Workers' Union and formed the Food Workers' Industrial Union; the National Miners Union was maintained in the face of the mass U.M.W. of A.; and the Needle Trades Workers' Industrial Union exists alongside the mass I.L.G.W.U. These cases which are not mentioned would only further destroy the Stalinists' contention.

Point 3, which concerns the C. P.'s position prior to the inception of the T.U.U.L. requires fairly lengthy quotations which will be given in order that the matter can be cleared up once and for all, and so that no accusations can be leveled against us that we make use of hastily snatched quotations. Since other questioners are pressing for answers, lack of space requires that this be—CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.

COMRADE H. M. K., Philadelphia—Unfortunately, since they are out of print, or their publishers out of business, there is no record of all the versions, in English, of Lenin's "Left-Wing Communism." A check-up at the N. Y. Public Library shows that the only copy on file is a French translation.

However, there is handy, in addition to the one recently published by the International Publishers an edition entitled "Left Wing Communism, An Infantile Disorder," published by the Marxian Educational Society, 1921; and an edition entitled "The Infantile Sickness of 'Leftism' in Communism," published by the Contemporary Publishing Association in 1920. The latter translation appeared simultaneously with the first Russian, French and German editions.

A comparison of the 1920 "Infantile Sickness" copy with the latest International Publishers publication indicates that, as far as can be judged by the various subject headings, the text covered by both is the same. Both editions have in their appendix Lenin's correspondence with the Dutch Communist Party, an article about Turatti in Italy, etc. Except for some typographical errors it will probably be difficult to show why the 1920 edition is "inadequate."

However, the Stalinists will bear watching. They are making a turn in their trade union policy and a slight distortion of a sentence or the addition of a word, particularly in that part of Lenin's work which deals with work in the reactionary unions, might help them in their oily manoeuvres, especially since it is this chapter which stands as a condemnation of their whole policy.

LEFT S. P. ite, N. Y.—Because of lack of space, our answer to the Boston Yipsel of August 4 did not go completely into the question raised which may account for the impression you got. It was never intended to convey the idea that the question of proletarian power might be settled by the ballot box even under certain circumstances. No! The question of power will be decided by the dynamics of the class struggle of which elections are, at best, but a crude barometer.

You will find an answer to Kautsky's "Terrorism vs. Democracy" in Trotsky's pamphlet "Dictatorship vs. Democracy" which was written as a reply to Kautsky.

POLITICAL CHANGES IN MEXICO

The Significance of the Impending Crisis in the Government Party

There is a rumor in Mexico that the governing National Revolutionary Party is in the midst of serious internal trouble, that may lead to a split.

On the one side, according to this rumor are the supporters of the newly-formed fascist organizations: the brown-shirted "Mexican Revolutionary Association and the green-shirted "Pro-race Committee". Supposedly directing this group is the present president in office, A. Rodriguez.

On the other side are those elements of the ruling class who see in these groups a peril, and who think that the democratic ways of ruling the masses are still good enough.

Rumors of Split

Mexico is a land of rumors. The large illiterate population, the timid newspapers (even from a bourgeois point of view), the general unsettled state of affairs causes this condition. Even the lowest peon has a friend, or a friend of a friend, in the large governmental bureaucracy who will tell him "confidentially" all sorts of fantastic stories. This rumor, however, has grounds for belief.

The various fascist organizations have been experiencing some growth lately. The usual collection of social filth, the refuse of life, has been flocking into these organizations: Ex-governmental officials, unemployed generals, colonels, captains and lieutenants (and Mexico with its 25 years of revolution and counter-revolution is more populated with men wearing, or entitled to wear, epaulets than it is with doctors); petty-bourgeois alarmed at Jewish and Chinese competition; ex-landowners who dream of the glorious days of peonage under Porfirio Diaz; ambitious students; lackeys of the imperialist groups who are getting the worst of the scramble with American finance-capital; and the usual lot of degenerated proletarians recruited at the nearest cantina and instructed at the given signal to shout "Vive Mexico", "Mueren Los Comunistas" and "Abajo los Judios y Chinos"—for the price of a brown cotton shirt and a half litero of Tequila.

Above all, Catholics are entering these fascist organizations in large numbers and becoming the chief and most militant elements in all the demonstrations. Composed of such elements, these groups are a danger to the Calles faction which is in power and which represents American imperialism in alliance with the large native capitalists. The latter, which gained its standing in the struggle with the feudal and clerical elements, as well as the former, have everything to fear from these fascist organizations, made up of reactionary, clerical, feudal elements and those imperialists whose interests clash with Wall Street's.

For fists, for mass support, the Calles group depends upon the peasants who were given a few hectares of land, and very liberal promises—for the future of course, and on the proletariat, whose support was gained because of fear of loss of the social reforms won during the revolution (Article 23 of the Constitution and the Labor Laws).

These fascist organizations, being liberally supplied with funds from German, French, Spanish, Catholic, and in all probability British sources, elements high up in the government have enrolled in them.

This trivial fact may illustrate this. The Department of War, rumor has it, advised all foot-loose officers to join these movements. It also gave its band to the fascists to be used at an entertainment of the brown shirts at the Bull Ring. A few days ago Calles came to the capital, it is said to personally liquidate these organizations. Upon his arrival the army band was withdrawn.

The main step that lends credence to these reports is the motion passed July 28 by the Central Committee of the National Revolutionary Party, expelling anybody from its ranks who joins any organization of a political type—a move directed against the shirted ones.

Analogy with Kerensky

The Calles Party in Mexico is built upon many elements and classes similar to the Social Revolutionary Party of Russia in 1917 or the Kuo Min Tang of China was in 1927. These elements (supporting one of the imperialist factions, of course) attempt to "unite" the nation, and to suppress the class struggle in the interests of a "national" task. In Russia it was to carry the war to a successful conclusion. In China it was to "drive the imperialists out". In Mexico it is to liquidate the clergy and the feudal elements.

There is another analogy. All these parties appear in the period between the downfall of the political government of the ultra-reaction (the overturn of the dynasty in China, the March Revolution in Russia and the overthrow of the Czar, and revolution against Porfirio Diaz in 1910 in Mexico) and the victory of the proletarian revolution, supported by the poor peasantry.

In this period Kerensky appeared in Russia and Calles in Mexico. The duration of this period depends on the specific conditions in each country and the relationship of

class forces. In Russia this stage lasted but several months, in Mexico years. Basing itself generally upon the petty-bourgeoisie they represent the vacillation of this class which hopes to complete the bourgeois revolution without having recourse to the proletariat. A task of such magnitude is beyond the possibility of any class in modern society but the proletariat. Speaking concretely of Mexico the only class that can abolish the clergy, give land to the peasants on either an individual or collective basis, and free the land of imperialism is the proletariat organized in its own class form, the dictatorship of the proletariat.

The petty bourgeoisie and the upper reaches of the peasantry hope to avoid this by throwing their support behind Calles. He will prove a broken reed to them.

Stalinism and Leninism

There is yet another analogy that from the viewpoint of the struggle between Stalinism and Leninism is of great importance. In the following we naturally exclude Russia. In both China and Mexico the working class and its party was harnessed to the chariot of the bourgeoisie by the Stalinists. Just as Chiang Kai Shek was hailed as liberator of the Chinese from imperialism so was Calles. The masses were instructed to build an iron wall of defense around Calles by the Stalinists. These are the results of the theory of "the democratic dictatorship of the proletariat and peasantry."

But "parties" built upon so many classes, antagonistic classes moreover, are not parties. They split apart into warring parties, each party with its own class, in time of crisis. In 1917 the Social Revolutionaries split into a pro-Kerensky pro-war wing, and into a left pro-Soviet wing. Broadly speaking this separation divided the peasantry from the big bourgeoisie. The Kuo Min Tang in 1927 split into two groups: a left and right Kuo Min Tang. The same will take place in Mexico. The seemingly powerful National Revolutionary Party will collapse in moments of great stress, from the right as well

as left side. The Communist movement in Mexico must push this forward.

The unity of these above mentioned parties is only "secure" because of a lull in the struggle of the classes. Where the class struggle is given free play and even encouraged, as was the case in Russia, these parties last only a few days. In China where the class struggle between the workers and native capitalists was suppressed by all the strength that Stalin had, the Kuo Min Tang maintained an appearance of unity from 1924 to 1927. Again the turn in the events of 1927, the stunning defeat given the proletariat has kept the Chinese mass movement from reappearing. The major difficulties for Chiang Kai Shek and the bourgeoisie supporting him now is from the right.

The working class of Mexico has been dormant since 1927. The number of strikes, and their militancy have been decreasing. The agrarian movement seethes below the surface, appearing only in nightly expeditions of the white guards of the land owners who attempt to do the same to peasant leaders—or has degenerated as far as pleading on the part of peasants before the agrarian committees of the National Revolutionary Party.

Under such conditions of comparative peace in the class struggle the National Revolutionary Party has been able to maintain unity or what appears to be unity.

Labor on New Upswing

Speaking at least from the point of view of the working class, there are signs that this peaceful period is drawing to a close. The number of strikes and their militancy is increasing, due to the same economic-political conditions that work for the increase of the number of strikes in the U. S. The leadership of the union movement has been forced by pressure from the workers to at least talk radically.

And the peasants are not satisfied. The increasing activity of the urban workers will without doubt awaken the class struggle in the village.

With the greater and greater pressure of the class struggle, the

National Revolutionary Party will collapse into distinct groups: the kulak peasants, the large landowners, the native industrialists, the commercial grand and small capitalists, the artisans, the imperialists.

The poor peasants and the proletariat will be thrown into space to evolve toward the Internationalist-Communist at a rate of speed which partly will depend upon the efficiency of the work of the Mexican League.

New Stage Approaching

We may witness one act of the drama very shortly. Elements who attack the National Revolutionary Party from the side of the right may find themselves uncomfortable. Members and groups may be expelled. Calles may defend democracy. They can permit themselves this luxury because of the inactive attitude of the mass.

But with increased movement of the workers and peasants, many of the sections and individuals now supporting Calles may find themselves taking up the arms they are forcing the fascists to drop now. Calles may make friends with his present enemies. But renewed revolutionary activity on the part of the masses does not mean that the upper classes will solidify themselves but will probably result in further disintegration of the bloc that Calles has under control now into a left social democratic section and a right fascist one. Embryos of this division are to be seen at present.

All this places a very delicate task upon the vanguard of the proletariat, the L.C.I. of Mexico—to fight against our enemy and the enemy; to fight against the fascists while training the workers to have faith only in themselves; in their own arms, their own government; the dictatorship of the proletariat; their own party and their own international; and to teach the masses that Calles and the class he represents can neither liquidate the reaction, nor abolish fanaticism, nor give land to the peasants, nor bring socialism. The masses, led by the proletariat, are the only ones that can do this.

The solution of this problem in a proletarian manner depends upon the rapidity with which a real Communist Party can be built in Mexico and that miserable caricature that now bears that name is eradicated politically.

—C. C.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND THE STALINISTS

The following incident should serve to illustrate to what abyssal depths the Stalinist conception of international solidarity has sunk. In cases where the hand of reaction reaches out and seizes a fighter for the proletariat one would expect that every section of the labor movement, irrespective of other political differences, would unite to wrest the victim from the enemy. Not so with the Stalinists. Unless they have a private concern in the case they wash their hands of it because they have "interests separate and apart from those of the working class".

This is illustrated in their criminal neglect of Torgler, who was reported to have had differences with them, up till the time rumors of his death were heard. Then the Stalinists said: "Now that Torgler is dead let us redouble the fight for Thaelmann."

The instance at hand is an interview between Godfrey, the secretary of the Belgian Young Socialists which numbers some 35,000 members had with Kossarev, the secretary of the Young Communist International. Kossarev was asked why the Young Communists of Belgium (500 members) had refused a united front proposal made by it for the purpose of defending the 4 German youths arrested by the Dutch police during the International Youth Conference and deported back to Hitler Germany. Kossarev replied that they "had no time to waste defending Trotskyists who are in the vanguard of the counter-revolution." We have no doubt that this declaration of solidarity will be extremely pleasing to Hitler and his catthroats.

REACTIONARY DECREES IN HOLLAND

Reaction is paving the way for Fascism in Holland. Following the crushing of the spontaneous uprising of the unemployed, reported in this column two weeks ago, the government has undertaken repressive measures against the revolutionary section of the labor movement and passed laws aimed directly at the Revolutionary Socialist Party (Dutch Section of the I.C.L.), the Independent Socialist Party and the Stalinist party. First is the Sedition Bill. Second, the passage of another bill making it impossible for any party to be represented in parliament unless at least three members are elected. Third, a deposit of 250 guilds must be paid before candidates can be nominated. This deposit is forfeited unless at least three members are elected. Fourth, another law has been approved making it illegal for any paid official of a trade union to sit on any public body. This would strike directly at comrade Smevliet, chairman of the R.S.P., who is likewise one of the officials of an independent trade union movement as well as being a member of parliament.

One further word on Holland. We are not at all surprised to see a reprint in the New Leader, for August 11th, in the column "The Workers Abroad", of the account of Peter Schmidt of the revolt of the unemployed in Holland which is practically a verbatim reproduction with the exception of the part that deals with the treachery of social-democratic trade union leaders who called the police when workers came to them for help. Very convenient, but obvious facts cannot be concealed that way.

VANDERVELDE ON THE UNITED FRONT

Emile Vandervelde, president of the Second International, and leader of His Majesty King Leopold's Most Loyal Opposition, indicates how enormous was the mass pressure for united action in France when he said in an article published in the Petit Provençal: "I am fully in accord with Leon Blum, with Paul Faure and with Lebas that it was morally impossible for them to decline." He refers to the unity offer of the Communist Party of France. It was "morally impossible" because the French proletariat was clamoring too loudly for the united front and any bureaucrat, Stalinist or reformist, that stood in its way, would be immediately discredited and brushed aside. To accept the united front was to save the face of reformism temporarily. And Vandervelde, being no novice at political squirming, was well aware of this.

For this ex-Minister of the King, who wept bitter tears at the funeral of Albert, the united front offer was not accepted so as to bring power to the struggle against Fascism but rather because it was "morally impossible" to decline the offer. That Vandervelde and his colleagues in France have found a convenient ally in the Stalinists in hamstringing the united front, confining it to meetings, speeches, etc. but not to struggle is manifest in the same article. Here Vandervelde attributes the turn of the French C.P. to the new position occupied by the U.S.S.R. internationally. This position has led the Soviet Union to follow a policy of attempting to maintain peace at all costs, even at the expense of revolutions and upheavals in European countries. Vandervelde and Co. certainly do not want any drastic change in the capitalist countries where they hold down fat jobs. The Stalinist parties must follow blindly and obediently the foreign policy of the U.S.S.R. Politics make strange bedfellows!

tion in peace time leads to social patriotism in war time. The alternative is a revolutionary Marxist party, to the exclusion of reformists and centrists.

3. Oneal and Waldman have no bones to pick with the assumption to power of the German and Austrian Social Democracy in 1918. They are opposed to presenting the problem in the same manner as the declaration; they are against saying anything at all about it in the declaration. On the politics there is no disagreement.

The Revolutionary Policy Committee therefore has made a serious mistake in advising the Socialist party members to vote for the Detroit declaration of principles. No explanatory statement of such an action can wipe away its support of a centrist program. Undoubtedly many militant Socialists think that a support of the Detroit declaration is a blow at the Right wing. The "Militant" group accuses those left wingers who oppose the declaration as supporters of the Right. But is not this the universal cry of the Centrists? By their very position between the extreme right and the genuine left wing they threaten the latter with the growth of the former and the former with the growing power of the latter. At this stage with a small and hesitant left wing in the S. P. the Centrists warn them of their "support" of the Right. Tomorrow when the left wing grows stronger the Right wing will be warned of this new danger by the centrists.

What is needed is a clear cut revolutionary program and grouping in the Socialist party. This means an unambiguous struggle against the rights, Thomasites and the self-styled "Militants". It means a fundamental understanding of the revolutionary road to power, of the task of the workers' party in the struggle against war and Fascism and the need for a new revolutionary workers' party. Such a party cannot be a member of the reformist Labor and Socialist International. The revolutionary workers in the Socialist party—if they are to break from reformism and centrism—must demand a break with this International and proclaim the need for a new, a Fourth International.

Only along this path can the left wing Socialist forces contribute in a progressive and revolutionary manner to the solution of the problems of the American working class.

—JOSEPH CARTER.

The Crisis in the Socialist Party "Bogus" Democracy

(This is the second of a series of articles on the problems facing the members of the Socialist party.—Ed.)

Even among the more advanced militant workers in the Socialist party the Detroit declaration of principles is hailed as a revolutionary document. Their enthusiasm is heightened on the one hand by the attacks on the right wing, on the other, by the absence of a genuinely revolutionary criticism of the document within the Socialist party.

Surely, we are told, a document which opposes the "bogus democracy" of capitalist parliamentarism and calls for its replacement by "workers' democracy" is a revolutionary one. The Old Guard gives aid to this interpretation by howling: communism.

What does "bogus democracy" mean? Kantorovitch again comes to our assistance: ". . . real democracy is incompatible with capitalism. Real democracy will only be made possible by the abolition of class divisions in society." ("The Socialist Party at the Cross Roads") "What Socialist would not give lip-service to such a statement? One can find the same view expressed in Hillquit's "From Marx to Lenin"; but did this make Hillquit a revolutionist?

Kantorovitch goes no further than general remarks on the question of socialism and democracy. And for good reason! For only yesterday when the old "Militants" group showed the changed character of democracy since the World War and stated that the parties of the Labor and Socialist International "have made a fetish of democracy" Kantorovitch replied: "But Comrade Shapiro and the Militants never seem to have thought that their anti-democratic propaganda must be very welcome to capitalism. It is a strange case of class collaboration." (American Socialist Quarterly, April, 1932, page 40). No less!

Now the Old Guard repeats the argument of Kantorovitch—by quoting his past statements! The phrase "bogus democracy" plays into the hands of the reactionaries, they shout. However, if Kantorovitch's recent interpretation of the phrase were put into the declaration of principles, Oneal and Lee would find little to disagree with. In a word, the phrase is used so as to appear near-Communist and yet Socialist; to satisfy the Thomasites and the militant workers. On the fundamental question of democracy and socialism the declaration is not in irreconcilable conflict with the position of the Old Guard.

Does the declaration of principles fare any better with its statement

of "workers' democracy"?

This has been discussed at some length in previous issues of the Militant. But let us examine Kantorovitch's utterances on the question. "A workers' democracy as the term is used in the declaration of principles means a democracy where franchise is based on useful service to society, and nothing else." It includes both the transition period and the final goal (socialism), according to Kantorovitch, "but in the declaration of principles it applies to the final goal." (p. 15)

What an explanation? In the first place, it is obvious that the declaration formulae is intentional vague, so as to unite the largest, even if conflicting, forces behind it and permit the left wing Socialist to think that the S. P. is for the dictatorship of the proletariat! Does not the "Militant Program" of Kantorovitch state that both terms are synonymous? On the other hand, has not Thomas repeatedly stated that workers' democracy is not the dictatorship of the proletariat?

But Kantorovitch goes further: in the declaration the term "workers' democracy" refers only to the final goal. Which means that it takes no position—that is no positive position—on the all important problem of the transition period between capitalist rule and socialism! Instead of the declaration reading: "workers' democracy, that is socialism" so as to make the full meaning clear, the latter phrase is omitted, thereby giving the impression of supporting something revolutionary! Can one imagine any greater deception than this apparently innocent phrase!

The So-Called Minority Revolution Many Socialists may be ready to grant that the declaration of principles as a whole is vague. But they are convinced that it is unequivocally revolutionary where it proclaims that if the capitalist system collapses in a general chaos and confusion, the Socialist party, "whether or not in such cases it is a majority will not shrink from the responsibility of organizing and maintaining a government under the workers' rule."

According to Kantorovitch: "No communist, however, would subscribe to the above paragraphs"; and so as to make it clear that he is anti-communist he states that "The declaration of principles does not call for insurrection and violence." Then how is this "non-majority" revolution to be attained? What does it look like in real life?

To this Kantorovitch responds triumphantly: Look at Germany and Austria in the period immediately following the World War!

# Fraternal Orders Begin Drive Against Labor

"Nation-wide Drive on Reds Planned," "Citizens Committee Organized To Combat Reds," "Assaults Communists for Strike Activity," "Hunt Reds Among Jobless," "Citizens to Organize to Curb Reds." Translated, these headlines mean nothing more nor less than that a concerted effort is now in preparation to exterminate the labor movement. To crush labor if and when it lifts its head. To stem the tide of the growing strike struggles throughout the country. To scare and bewilder the workers. To confuse the issues. To crack down on the unions. To establish an open-shop America. To pave the way for Fascism.

That the above are not the usual run of scare-heads common to the boss press is attested by the fact that they flow from resolutions adopted by various mass organizations of the petty-bourgeoisie—the fraternal lodges.

From Atlantic City comes the news that the Grand Exalted Ruler of the Elks has pledged to enlist his entire organization, numbering 500,000 in a battle "against radicalism." "The time has arrived in America," says he, "when the issue is between the Star and Stripes and the Stars and Stripes. We are talking our devotion to the institutions of the United States and to act our love of country." It should not be necessary to go into a detailed analysis of such a statement. The reference to talking and acting is all too clear.

At the convention of the Knights of Pythias held this last week in Chicago, the 700 delegates present "cheered a proposal that the lodge's military department (are these the embryo of our American Storm Troopers?) merge with the National Guard in the event of Communist emergencies." Again it does not require any too much perspicacity to translate "Communist emergencies" into strikes, struggles of the unemployed, etc., etc.

In Cincinnati the Order of Eagles adopted a resolution to "condemn all Communism as we know it today, and likewise all kindred theories or doctrines. . . ."

From the heart of the terror belt of the United States—Alameda County in California—comes the news that District Attorney Earl Warren is the head of a county-wide organization which has elaborated the following seven point program:

1. To list and classify all persons

advocating the overthrow of the American government.

2. To make these records, including criminal records, available to every police department in the country.
3. To act as a clearing house for all information concerning all radical activities of this character.
4. To see to it that school and other public buildings are not used for disloyal purposes.
5. To see that propaganda disloyal to the government is not secretly distributed to school children.
6. To keep in constant touch with immigration authorities, the naturalization department and the intelligence units of the Army and Navy for the purpose of exchanging information concerning radicals.
7. To militantly strive for the deportation of all alien radicals.

The first meeting of this committee of legal and extra-legal vigilantes will be sponsored by the East Bay Rotary Clubs. As a result of the activities of this arch-reactionary Warren not a worker's home is safe from attack by his ardent gorillas. In one issue of the Oakland Tribune is listed the places of ten different workers homes or organizations that have been smashed up by the District Attorney's hooligans.

And as a centralizing feature of all these activities comes an A. P. dispatch from the seat of the New Deal—dirty day government, Washington, with the headline reading: "Hunt Reds Among Jobless." Who are the "jobless reds?" Those who refuse to starve in silence. How to deal with them under the New Deal? Grant 75,000 Krags (rifles a bit antiquated—but not too antiquated for purposes intended) to the American Legion. That gang of professional and semi-professional killers will know upon whom to use them.

So from Atlantic City to the Bay area in California—from coast to coast—one can see a clearly calculated effort on the part of all the agencies of American reaction to band together to crack down on the rising head of American labor. These fraternal lodges of the petty-bourgeoisie and the bourgeoisie proper can become the organizing center for American fascism. They are organizing. We must organize, too. American labor is only now learning to pronounce its syllables.—Wait till it learns to talk!

# Behind the Algerian Massacre

### Economic Factors Provoking the Recent Anti-Semitic Riots

A drunken Jewish soldier in a mosque—race and religious riot—this is the way French authorities and the bourgeois press explain the recent massacres in Constantine, Algeria. Glibly we are told that "anti-Semitism has long been an issue in Algeria," and asked to believe that a vague something called "race antagonism" makes men murder their neighbors.

But let us look at the class stratification in Algeria, and try to place Jews and Moslems within it. The Moslems include Berbers, Arabs, Arab-Moslems, and Negroid-Arab mixtures; of these, the Arabs and Moslems are racially Semites, like the Jews, and the Berbers are semi-European, semi-African types, like many of the Jews too. There is no clearly traceable racial difference between any of these groups.

**Class Differences**

However, there is a sharp class difference between the Jews and the other native Algerians. The Moslems, who make up the great majority of the population, are peasants, shepherds, workers, artisans and petty tradesmen. A few are large semi-feudal landowners. The Jews, on the other hand, are merchants, industrialists, hardly without exception part of the large and petty bourgeoisie, sharing this class position with French, Italian and Spanish traders.

Algeria is largely an agricultural country. The best land, a strip along the coast, fifty to a hundred miles wide, has been appropriated by the French colonists, of whom there are 750,000. In order to strengthen the authority of the colonial government, the French enfranchised the Jews in 1870, forty years after the invasion of Algeria. On the other hand, the Moslems are subjects but not citizens. They may become citizens by one of several roads: serving in the French army or navy or colonial civil ranks; learning French, or owning property enough to make them considerable taxpayers. Citizenship involves subjection to French law, whereas Moslem subjects are judged by Moslem law, which privilege, however, entails the penalty of little or no voice in government.

Nominally Algeria is supposed to be "part of France," and has deputies and Senators in the national Parliament. However, they are elected only by the bourgeoisie,

the Moslems having a small voice in purely local government, wherever there are enough non-Moslems to guarantee French control. On the other hand, the Jews have a full voice, and though native Algerians, the same privileges as French colonists.

**Pressure on Moslems**

The economic pressure on the Moslems has steadily grown greater as the French expropriated more and more land—before the invasion owned tribally or communally—and turned it into private property. Greater and greater numbers of Moslem landless were then drafted into factory, mine, and road-building work, while the rest, remaining peasants or shepherds on a petty scale, were exposed to the exploitation of the merchants, traders and banker-usurers, among whom the Jews are conspicuous.

At the same time the Italian and Spanish tradesmen in competition with the Jews, and some under the thumbs of the Jews, nurse a constant petty-bourgeois grievance. Nazi propaganda among this class, which includes some Moslems, recently elected a whole municipal government in the city of Oran, on an anti-Semitic ticket. Spread to the peasants and some of the workers, it becomes at the same time a locally useful tool against the Jews and a German thrust at French colonial strength, since Algeria is one of the richest and most powerful of French colonies, supplying wheat, olives, oil, wine and wool, and providing a great and richly exploited market for French goods.

**Dividing the Colonials**

Moslems suffering under the French colonial yoke are held down by several mighty forces: first, the political and economic weight of

the European-Jewish bourgeoisie; second, the colonial army, which in the true shrewd method of French imperialism consists almost entirely of native Algerians, officered by Frenchmen. As a check upon this army, the Foreign Legion, used only for "war" purposes while the natives act as "police" completes the picture. Thus revolt becomes a giant's undertaking, to be carried out usually with foreign aid—German, during the War—or else indirectly, by means of anti-Jewish riots. And thus a Moslem attack on the ghetto in Constantine is allowed to "wear itself out," the native Algerian troops ignoring it and the French authorities keeping the Foreign Legion in the background. In this way the Jews pay dearly for their privileged political and economic position; much as in Palestine.

The problem, from a Communist viewpoint, resolves itself into the typical colonial set-up, not fundamentally different from the picture in Latin-American countries, religious and racial differences notwithstanding. In Algeria, as in most colonies, the weight of crisis is felt more heavily than in the boss-country, for exploitation is always carried to the utmost in them, without even the counter-check of political democracy or labor organization. Revolt is therefore always close to the explosion point, and it generally takes on a nationalist character. In Algeria, the nationalists are led by petty-bourgeois French, or French creoles, or by Mohammedan tribal chiefs; in Latin America, it is led by petty-bourgeois European natives, and by Indian or semi-Indian "generals" much like Chinese war lords. But in all these places, the nationalist parties, when triumphant, will always make a deal with the imperialist power, becoming weapons to be used against the proletarians, who of course are the force that, in case of a triumphant nationalist revolution, has actually put the petty-bourgeoisie in power.

In the bourgeois press, it is a far cry from a drunken Jewish soldier in French uniform, starting a race-riot in the city of Constantine, to a Mendetta policeman in Cuba cracking down on a sugar-worker. But race, religion, and uniform are secondary characteristics of the identical mechanism of exploitation and repression.

—JEAN MENDEZ.

# Drought and New Deal Ruins American Farmers

In the midst of a severe agrarian crisis produced by the contraction of the foreign market and the incapacity of the American workers to purchase the necessities of life, the American farmers are now faced with the most destructive drought in the 75 years during which the Weather Bureau has kept records.

While the drought, in which 27 million persons in 24 states are affected, has caused a damage running in excess of 5 billion dollars, the Roosevelt administration has so far allocated only 165 million dollars for relief purposes. This amount is not only totally inadequate, considering the amount of damage wrought, but is insufficient to even feed the millions of people affected.

As a result of the crops destroyed, thousands of farmers will be thrown into bankruptcy. Almost 250,000 animals are killed daily for lack of feed.

Agricultural experts maintain that prompt action by the government in shipping feed to drought areas and the removal of cattle to other regions would have saved a good proportion of the live stock.

This was not done, however, as it would have interfered with the government's agricultural program to reduce "surplus" and boost prices.

**Prices Soaring**

Prices of commodities are soaring in the meantime in expectation of a shortage this winter. And Secretary of Agriculture, Wallace, declares that: "You can't have a drought like this without an advance in prices. That is inevitable. There is nothing one can do about things of this sort."

While conservative agricultural economists claim that there is enough food supply for domestic requirements, the monopolists and the government are busy spreading scare stories of a food shortage in order to increase prices. It is generally conceded that the greatest damage was caused to feed for live stock, which amounts to 60 percent of the total gross income of agriculture.

The Roosevelt administration's handling of the drought situation will not only fail to aid the rehabilitation of the destroyed areas, but will only serve to further accentuate the crisis which has plagued the American farmer since 1920.

**Causes of Crisis**

We will here try to summarize the causes which have led to the present crisis.

As a result of the World War, European agricultural production was reduced to approximately 25% of normal by 1918. This led to a tremendous increase of American agricultural production. The gross income of American farmers which amounted to \$6,900,000,000 in 1913, rose to \$16,900,000,000 in 1919. Land prices took a tremendous upward leap as the prices of farm products soared to unheard of heights.

In order to finance this colossal expansion, farmers mortgaged their holdings to acquire additional acreage. The mortgage debt increased from \$3,300,000,000 in 1910 to \$7,900,000,000 in 1920. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimates that land prices were 70% above normal during the war.

With the end of the war European agriculture began to regain its place in the world market. The huge mortgage burden of the American farmers accumulated at inflation prices during the war and the elimination of the European market, contributed to the financial crisis of 1920. Between 1920 and 1930 more than 450,000 owners lost their farms and mortgage indebtedness increased to over 10 billion dollars. Tenancy increased by over 250,000.

**Drop in Value of Farm Products**

While the farm income for 1919 amounted to 15 billion dollars, it fell to a little over 3 billion in 1932. At the same time the value of property dropped from 78 billion dollars to 44 billion. Taxes on the other hand increased over 150% since the war, while prices of farm products were only 52% of their pre-war level.

In the face of the contracting export and home market, production continued to expand at an increasing pace. American capitalism was faced with the curse of plenty. Cries of "overproduction" were heard on all sides while over 40 million people were forced to live on charity and another few million on the borderline.

The Roosevelt government, in line with its "New Deal" program, set up a plan for disposing of the "surplus," which the workers whose buying power had been constantly reduced by unemployment and the NRA minimums were unable to absorb at the artificially inflated prices established by the government.

The program called for the aban-

donment of 50 million acres of productive land. This wholesale destruction of primary wealth was subsidized by the government to the tune of over 3 billion dollars.

At the same time the Public Works program calls for the outlay of more than 300 million dollars for dams, irrigation, flood control, and soil erosion reclamation—to bring hundreds of thousands of new acres into productivity.

Thus we get a classic example of planning under capitalism! First, a reward offered for not producing—while at the same time spending millions to increase productivity. The logic behind it all being to stabilize prices above the level determined by world competition.

Now the drought has come to the aid of the government and with one fell swoop has accomplished the objective of all its planning: Tens of thousands of farmers' crops have been destroyed (without benefit of government subsidy). Live stock slaughtered for lack of feed and water. Thousands of farmers thrown off the land as a result of destroyed crops and failure to pay mortgage indebtedness.

—WASSERMAN.

## Left Wing Needed in Paterson

Paterson, August 15. The deep going ferment among the silk workers is rapidly coming to a head. This ferment has two aspects: on the one hand there is anger against the bosses because the few gains which were won in the last strike are vanishing before the workers' eyes; and on the other hand there is strong resentment against the present union officialdom, particularly because of its failure to meet militantly the encroachments against the union.

The conditions now prevailing in the industry as a whole are the direct consequences of the failure to win the 6-hour day and 5-day week during the last strike. The compromise settlement only postponed the struggle on this fundamental issue. However, the leadership of the Associated, and particularly of the United Textile Workers, failed to utilize the respite in order to consolidate the workers' ranks, nationally for a nationwide struggle. This demand can be won in no other way. Instead of acting, the officialdom of the Associated together with the U.T.W. officialdom talked "left" and then acted very much to the right.

**McMahon's Empty Threats**

McMahon, of course, spares nei-ther words nor his wind bellowing about the need of the 30-hour week, and the calling of a general strike to enforce the demand. McMahon has grown gray and sleek screening his servile obedience to the bosses with "militant" blabbing. A few months ago he sold his threat of a textile strike for a few phony promises of Roosevelt's Board; and, of course, he is ready to repeat his performance upon orders at any hour of the day. At the U.T.W. convention, now in session, more than fifty resolutions were sent in by Southern delegates on the first day demanding the general strike. A strike, "if necessary." But as the New York Times itself smugly reported, such a strike will never take place if the decision rests with McMahon and his gang alone.

In Paterson, too, there has been no end of militant talk, but in reality the bosses have been having it all their own way. Undercover wage cutting is not the exception but the rule. The recent "raise" of 12 (twelve) cents a week which was granted by the Arbitration Board is just a little spice to season the jokers in the contract. Chiselling on the yardage is getting worse, as are the conditions generally. Unemployment is becoming more and more widespread and with it the pressure of the bosses naturally increases. Only a stone's throw away, practically in Pater-

son's backyard, as the last issue of the Silk Shuttle reports, a stretch-out has been introduced, 6 looms at \$1.25 per 100,000 picks in a shop which has just reopened. Tomorrow, the stretch-out will move into the heart of Paterson itself, that is of course unless the workers do something about it. What has the union officialdom done?

**Keller's Achievements**

The "progressive" achievements of Keller, the general manager, have already been reported in the Militant, which were crowned by his expelling the militants who opposed him. The membership rebelled and voted to reinstate these militants—but the long overdue general membership meeting has still failed to materialize. Naturally, feelings are running pretty high against Keller these days in Paterson. The workers find an outlet for their grievances in indignation first, and later in actions.

But the problems facing the silk workers immediately go beyond Keller. At present there are other burning issues. For one thing, there are the expelled who must be reinstated; union democracy must be safeguarded; then there is a need to shift immediately to a militant policy in the union, rebuff the onslaughts of the bosses and achieve complete industrial unionism; and finally preparations must be planned and fulfilled for a nationwide general strike.

**Build the Left Wing**

By now it must be clear to every silk worker, despite the activities of the National (Stalinist) Union (clique) that the way out in silk is through building the American Federation of Silk Workers. The building of the Associated is the central problem locally. Despite its present obvious and dangerous weaknesses the Associated must be maintained today, in order that tomorrow it may be solidified. What decides is the strength and morale of the militants in the union. The formation of such a left wing was long delayed, and only now is in process of crystallization. The United Silk Workers Club has taken the lead in this direction, but the real job has still to be done. Once the left wing is formed it will serve as the greatest bulwark of the union. It and it alone can provide the proper leadership in the union. Without the left wing, the union is like a ship without a rudder and is at the mercy of every shifting wind and current, to say nothing of shifty people who are always ready to sow additional confusion.

If McMahon is able to sell out at his leisure, it is only because there is no left wing inside the U.T.W. And in the last analysis the plight

## Knit Goods Strike

(Continued from Page 1)

leadership that they have called a general strike, while here they are found in the shops WORKING. It never occurs to them that the strikers' committee who are so easily "fooled" would think them scabs for working while a general strike in the industry is on or that they might even jump to the conclusion that the "Industrial" general strike call was a fake. Of course, such stupidities will inevitably grow out of their theory of dual unionism.

It should be said at this time that the general strike situation of the knit goods workers commands complete unity and that the continuous agitation by the Stalinists only results into splitting the ranks of the workers who are now in a fight primarily for improved working conditions in the industry. Particularly, does such disruptive propaganda and action befog the minds of the newer elements in the union who are badly lacking in the knowledge and experience of the class struggle. It is clear that the Stalinist policy plays right into the hands of the bosses and it is therefore necessary that the workers abandon these disruptive tactics and splitting policies by joining the struggle for one strong union of the knitted garment workers against the bosses.

Those of us who recognize the need of the class conscious elements to aid the as yet backward workers in their struggle for better conditions on the job, shall join the workers where they are to be found, to spur them on for greater militancy in their struggle for better living conditions.

—A KNIT GOODS WORKER.

of the Associated lies also in the lack of a functioning left wing there. The big and immediate job before all the militants is twofold: on the one hand they must defeat the demagogues, job-seekers, disrupters and cliques who thrive on trouble and who put their personal interests above the interests of the union; and on the other hand they must fuse so solid a front as to teach the bosses that an end must be put to the disgraceful chaos and misery now prevailing in the industry. Only a left wing can accomplish this task. It is the need of the hour. A real left wing in Paterson today means a real left wing in the U.T.W. tomorrow and the dawn of a new day for textile workers.

—SILK WORKER.

## Drivers Smash Conspiracy

(Continued from Page 1)

ing for the first chance to make a get-away.

Following the questions, the union leaders, William Brown, Vincent Dunne and Miles Dunne began to pound away at them, denouncing the proposal, demanding to know whether the mediators associated themselves with the plan.—If they did not then why had the press reported them in agreement and would they make a public statement disassociating themselves from it?

Dunnigan stated in reply, that he neither endorsed nor rejected the new proposal, but that he would make no statement or enter into any quarrel with the press.

Here the reporter for the Organizer entered the discussion. He told Haas and Dunnigan that he would print any statement by them in the organizer disassociating themselves from their reported agreement with the scheme in the boss press. He wanted to know whether, when that appeared, Haas and Dunnigan would enter into controversy with the Organizer or whether it is only with the boss press they do not like to fight. This question, met with a round of laughter by the strikers, received no answer from the mediators.

**Backing Down**

After the federal mediators had again stated that they did not desire to endorse the proposal but merely to submit it for discussion, they left the conference room.

A brief discussion ensued and then by unanimous vote the strike committee of 100, upholding the policy of their Negotiating Committee, rejected the new scheme and instructing the union president to write a letter to that effect.

Both the union and the confidence of the strikers in their leadership came out of this session immeasurably strengthened. For more than a week the Organizer had been cautioning the drivers to watch out for tricks and maneuvers, and advising them to maintain eternal vigilance.

The splendid showing of the committee of 100 demonstrated that they had been well prepared.

**BOUND VOLUMES OF THE MILITANT**

There are only a limited number of Bound Volumes for the year 1933 on hand. They can be obtained from Pioneer Publishers at \$1.50 post-paid. This holds for any part of the United States.

All letters, subscriptions, bundle orders, donations and any inquiries concerning or intended for the NEW INTERNATIONAL magazine, are to be addressed to: THE NEW INTERNATIONAL STATION D. P. O. BOX 119 NEW YORK, N. Y.

**BROWNSVILLE COMRADES ATTENTION!**

The social affair, in connection with the three volumes of the "History of the Russian Revolution" scheduled to take place on August 18th in the headquarters of the Brownsville branch 1776 Pitkin Ave. has been postponed due to the moonlight excursion which occurs on the same date. Watch the Militant for announcement of new time and place for the blowout.

## Youth Defeat F.D.R. Aides

(Continued from Page 1)

Central Bureau. These included proposals for social insurance, against the militarization of the youth, against the C.C.C., C.M.T.C., R.O.T.C. and transient camps.

A resolution on education was introduced to the conference which condemned education which had any other than "scholarly ends" against the domination of education by "political groups, religious groups or economic interests". It should be mentioned that the National Secretary of the Y.C.L., Gil Green and a representative of the Yipsels were members, together with liberals, on the resolutions committee. Education above classes!

The representative of the Spartacus Youth League took issue with this conception as utopian and undesirable under a class system. An N.S.L. delegate amended the resolution by cutting out this and other sections. The objectionable section was defeated.

Another dispute arose on the resolution on war and Fascism. Among the proposals made was one calling for the support of the Soviet Union peace proposal for general disarmament. A sound basis for united front of pacifists and Stalinists! The Yipsels present were silent on this point. The S. Y. L. representative briefly explained the role of armaments today; in wars between imperialist nations, against colonial peoples, against the workers at home. To ask the imperialists to disarm is to ask them to abdicate. Further, the slogan of disarmament is based on the notion that the emancipation of the working class is possible without arms. His organization, the S.Y.L. could not subscribe to such a slogan. He introduced an amendment: "Defend the Soviet Union Against Imperialist Attacks." An N.S.L.er defended the slogan of disarmament as a method of exposing the capitalists who talk in favor of disarmament but refuse to disarm. The S.Y.L. amendment was defeated.

The organizations at the Conference agreed that they would fight for the right of all youth groups to be represented at the Congress. Now that the Congress is out of the hands of the Central Bureau for Young America it is expected that this will be done immediately.

**AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The City Committee of the N. Y. District wishes to thank Comrade Ed Robbins for the donation of a typewriter to the organization. We appreciate comrade Robbins' spirit.

## Newark Meeting On Minneapolis

Newark, N. J., Aug. 13.—A meeting in the Minneapolis strike was held here today under the joint auspices of the American Workers Party and the Communist League.

The meeting was attended by over 70 workers, most of whom remained until the end of the question and discussion period which ended at 11:40.

The speakers, Rosenberg of the A.W.P. and Kotz of the C.L.A., gave an account of the conduct and progress of the strike; an analysis of the role of Joe Olson and the role of the C. P.

The Stalinists and their sympathizers present repeated the accusations and criticisms made in the Daily Worker against what it calls the Trotskyite leadership of local 574. They were treated to refutations made by direct quotations from the union's paper, the Organizer, and other literature. They were not particularly pleased to learn that even the capitalist press in Minneapolis was aware of the Stalinists' role and had printed a story pointing out that the "166 noble employers, Dan Tobin, and the Communist Party are united in their attacks on the leadership of local 574." The story also contained the information that "no one seemed to like the poor leaders of 574 but the truck drivers."

The enthusiastic response to this meeting was another testimonial to the increasing recognition of the League's intelligent and correct trade union policy.

The Newark branch of the Communist League is undertaking an organizational drive and urges all sympathizers and Militant readers in Jersey to communicate their addresses to L. Nagy, 843 So. 19th St., Newark, N. J. An interesting series of lectures and classes are being prepared for the Fall. We urge our sympathizers to cooperate. —J.K.

## Food Prices Rise

(Continued from Page 1)

anyone take undue alarm at his "fighting" words.

"We do not contemplate strikes. Not at all! We want to avoid strikes!"

"We hold that the interests of the wage earners can be protected only through Government administration of the NRA."

That is Green's message to the workers who are underpaid and underfed as never before in American history, by the grace of God and the NRA.

A cold winter threatens, and a hard one for the workers of the United States of America, richest land under the sun. If prices are high now, they must go still higher. Workers who hunger, must now starve. For the drought has completed the work begun by the NRA farm administration in plowing under corn, wheat and cotton. God himself came to the aid of the Roosevelt-Wallace farm program and food prices will rise, as high as he contemplated, and higher.

But where, in any statement issued by our beaming President since the drought began, has there been one word about a corresponding rise in wages?

Where, Mister Green? The upshot of the whole business is, that under capitalism workers must starve. If there is a surplus, they must starve because of the surplus. If there is a shortage they must starve because of the shortage. But starve they must.

If the number on your wrapper is **237** or smaller, your subscription to The Militant expired. Do not delay. Send your renewal in at once and so save us unnecessary labor and expense. If you cannot renew at this time let us know how soon you can.

Don't forget the Boat Ride Saturday, August 18. Boat leaves Pier 11, foot of Wall St. at 6 P.M.