

THE DAILY WORKER

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The Illinois Miners Meet

The DAILY WORKER warmly greets the Peoria Convention of the Illinois Mine Workers, and thru it the 100,000 organized coal miners of the entire state.

The United Mine Workers of Illinois constitutes the largest district unit within the miners' international union. What the Illinois miners decide, therefore, has a tremendous influence on the activities of the whole international.

Big issues are up for decision this week. The appointive power of the Farrington administration will be under fire. The rank and file wants to elect its spokesmen. Illinois miners will again be called upon to take action on the reinstatement of Alex Howat, expelled president of the Kansas District.

Action will also be taken against the Ku Klux Klan. It is hoped that this will be decisive, a resounding repudiation of the flirtation with the Klan carried on by International President Lewis.

There is unemployment rampant, not only in the coal industry of Illinois, but thruout the nation. This is another problem, out of which grows the wage cutting efforts of the bosses.

Unemployment and wage cutting are two issues that link up the coal miners with the workers in all other industries. But the Illinois miners should, and to a very great extent they do, consider all their problems from the standpoint of the welfare of the whole labor movement.

It is, therefore, to be expected that the Illinois miners will take definite action, not only on the gathering at Peoria, next Sunday, of the class Farmer-Labor forces of the state, but also on the mass National Farmer-Labor Convention to be held in St. Paul, Minn., June 17th.

We greet the delegates to the Peoria Miners' Convention as militant warriors of the workers against the whole capitalist class. The decisions of the convention will show how well they have learned to fight.

After Five Years

Five years ago the convention of the International Furriers' Union met in Chicago, a united organization, militant in spirit, proud of its achievements, and with enthusiasm for the future.

This week another convention of the Furriers' Union is being held in Chicago. Unity has been mutilated under the blows of the fascist club of the yellow socialist regime that maintains with force its seat in the administration saddle.

The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, at Boston, has its Sigman, and the Furriers' Union has its Kaufman. Both of these are a blight upon progressive action of the workers in the needle trades.

In spite of all the efforts of Kaufman's dictatorship, to exclude all semblance of opposition in this year's convention, there will be dissenters to face reaction and sound the appeal of progress.

It is time that Mussolini rule in the Furriers' Union, as in the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, came to an end. Let the delegates to the convention realize that this year is a good time to end it.

One By One They Fall

The British government is planning to turn the old imperial Russian embassy in London over to the Soviet Delegation. Vladimir Sablin, czarist diplomat, has been allowed to maintain possession for the seven years since the czar fell.

Thus the tentacles of the old czarist regime are clipped, one by one. Russian Soviet rule has secured possession of similar embassies in Rome, Berlin and other European capitals. One by one the citadels of the czarist reaction fall into the hands of the Soviets.

Judge E. H. Gary, chairman of the United States Steel Corporation, announces that the steel trust is not contemplating cutting wages. No doubt he has been reading about the stubborn fight of the car builders of the Pullman Company, who objected to having their wages slashed by this powerful corporation, that gets its inspiration from the steel profiteers.

"Liberty" is the name of a new weekly issued by the Chicago Tribune. We should say "Liberty" to think as the Tribune tells you to think.

Some Allies Against Communism

By J. Louis Engdahl

VERY few workers are aware of the fact that there is a socialist congressman in Washington. If we are any judge, the voice of Victor L. Berger is not heard far beyond the neighborhood of his own desk in the House of Representatives' office building.

George Washington, surveying Virginia and Pennsylvania in the early days of the colonies, in an effort to steal as much land as possible from the Indians, didn't allow himself more latitude and longitude than "Vic" Berger in his speech, as he dipped in to all the problems confronting the human race.

Will the gentleman please tell us what the Socialist Party really stands for—give us something of an outline of the party's principles.

THE German workers set the pace for labor in other lands outside Russia. The British workers will follow their example. They will in time put their stamp of disapproval on the MacDonald regime, that urges increasing the British navy to defend British imperialism, that threatens force against the restless and oppressed masses of India, Egypt and other colonial dependencies.

THIS reply is typical of Berger's whole speech, which is really a study in pathos. Berger could have made pretty much the same reply, and probably did, when someone asked him what the People's Party stood for, when he attended its convention as a delegate in St. Louis, Mo., in 1896.

BERGER is like the bird in the jungle that warns the hippopotamus, uncouth monster of primeval places, of the approach of its enemies. Berger tries to warn capitalism of its enemy—Communism. But there is a big difference. The hippopotamus, lumbering along, has a chance of escape. But the capitalist system is here and it can't get away, it cannot escape, except thru its complete extermination.

ALL the dangers that Berger warns capitalism against are inherent in it—graft, corruption, war, militarism, child labor and all the rest. Capitalism cannot escape from them, any more than pre-war socialism can escape from the treason to the working class inherent in it, and that is working daily for its complete elimination from the field of the class struggle.

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Literature - - Music - - Drama

By ALFRED V. FRANKENSTEIN. The annual prize contest of the Chicago Musical College was held at Orchestra Hall last Saturday night. There were two prizes for pianists, one for violinists and one for singers. Joe Harding won the violin prize, Harold Strong and Dorothy Kendrick the piano prizes, and Arlene Durkee the vocal award.

THE VIEWS OF OUR READERS ON LIFE, LABOR, INDUSTRY, POLITICS

Sad State, West Virginia. To the DAILY WORKER: I have done my very best to get subscribers for the DAILY WORKER, but have made no success. The people here are in very bad shape. There has been no work for some time. I have showed my friends the paper. Everybody says it is a fine paper. And so long as I can get a dollar I will never be without the DAILY WORKER, as my wife and I know it is one of the best papers ever printed.

NEW YORK, May 12.—J. P. Morgan found it more agreeable and safe to discuss how he and his wife got back without their passports than to explain what part he had in the proposed allied loan to Germany under the Dawes plan of reparations. After he had arrived on the Homeric, he intimated that since the United States government was not to participate in floating half of the proposed German loan, J. P. Morgan & Co. was the private firm most likely to take over the issue for disposal.

THE Grieg piano concerto which followed is quite different. It is a big and powerful work, conceived not as a solo with orchestra accompaniment, but as an integrated composition, in which orchestra and piano play equally important parts. The second piano prize was awarded for the best performance of a concerto by Xavier Scharwenka. The two movements played by each contestant contain in them the same sort of brilliant tunes that made Scharwenka popular with his "La Paloma."

Each singer sang a different operatic aria. Miss Durkee, the winner, sang the familiar "Keunst Du das Land" in Thomas "Mignon." The other arias were from "The Prophet" by Meyerbeer, and Verdi's "The Favorite."

Judging a contest of this kind is no easy job. So much weeding out has occurred beforehand that the final contestants are pretty evenly matched. The violinists and singers present differences in tone quality, which the pianists do not, and all have differences in interpretation. There is generally little difference in technical ability shown. Judgment must be on the basis of tone, for violinists and vocalists, interpretation, and that scarcely definable quality known as musicianship. The judges were Fredrick Stock, Leopold Auer, Rudolph Ganz, and Herbert Witherspoon.

For instrumental solos, it contains bits of music here and there, and the rest is tuneless and foolish technical display. The Grieg piano concerto which followed is quite different. It is a big and powerful work, conceived not as a solo with orchestra accompaniment, but as an integrated composition, in which orchestra and piano play equally important parts.

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Promises of adventure more alluring than those held out to would-be world travelers, in the well-known navy recruiting poster, "Join the navy and see the world," are suggested in the plans to enlarge the United States coastguard service in conformity with the president's crusade for the enforcement of the Prohibition amendment. The men will be specially drilled to man the "dry navy." Old salts object to this appellation but as Uncle Sam's ships are now in business of collecting bills for Wall Street bankers, whose clients in South America fail to cough up on the dot, there is no reason why the pride of a respectable sailor should be hurt by serving on a rum fleet. He will be in a position to drown his grief at any rate.

In order to cut down expenses the London Zoo authorities are putting geese and llamas to trim the lawns. The geese are kept from straying by wire fencing and the llamas are tethered by a long rope which gives them a twenty-foot grazing circle. Human beings used to do the work, now being done by the Zoo guests. But the human beings insist on eating three times a day, sleeping in beds and doing other little things that cost money whereas the geese and llamas have to be fed anyhow. Thus the Zoo authorities kill two birds with one shot so to speak by having them work and eat at the same time. If the capitalists keep on economizing at the present rate the workers may be obliged to come back and outbid their competitors in the grass-eating contest. Either that or they must make the capitalists provide fertilizer for the grass which is about the only function they could decently perform at this period in world history.

AS WE SEE IT

By T. J. O'FLAHERTY

"I am not a Communist and have I never agreed with Lenin," declared Berger in congress. "Moreover, I would rather use a hundred years to bring about a new world, a better world by evolution, with all the blessings of civilization, than bring it about by the bloody revolution."

But instead, Berger continues with the usual broadside against the Soviet regime, concluding with, "In America also we shall soon have to decide the question whether the English or the Russian method is to be followed. What is it to be—a MacDonald or a MacLenin?"

BERGER'S speech is a confession that the socialist party is not a class party, that he does not pretend to speak for the robbed and exploited workers and farmers. He was most blunt about this when he said: "There is so little difference between the socialists and the progressives, and the so-called radicals of every description, that I cannot understand why they do not get together."

And again: "There is not much difference between honest progressives and the socialists. . . . There is virtually no reason why honest progressives should stay out of the socialist party."

ALL of which has put the Bergers and the Hilquits, with their socialist party in a dilemma. While they flirt around with the alleged progressives, these remain in the old parties, while the thinking workers and farmers are demanding a class Farmer-Labor Party. It is thus that the memberless socialist party goes to the progressive convention at Cleveland, July 4th, while all class conscious elements turn to St. Paul, for the June 17th Farmer-Labor gathering.

MOST pathetic of all is the fact that Berger, in his speech, and elsewhere, tries to traffic with the 20-year prison sentence imposed upon him for alleged violation of the espionage act. His declaration sounds like the outbursts of Edwin Denby, deposed secretary of the navy, the other day, that if he had to choose between being shot and repudiating his part in the Teapot Scandal, he would rather be shot. But there is no danger of that.

So with the Milwaukee socialist. Referring to his trial and conviction, he confesses, "If I had to do it over again, I would do it all over again, as sure as my name is Victor Berger." But capitalism will not trouble Berger again. He is safe, for them.

EVENING during the past five years, since Berger joined with others in expelling the Communists from the socialist party, have shown that Berger was inspired by pro-Germanism during the war, and since, rather than by anti-capitalism. During the war Berger wanted to save German supremacy from Wall Street. Now he wants to save Wall Street from Communism. He lost during the war because world imperialism is more powerful than narrow nationalism. And he will lose again, no matter how many rambling speeches he may be permitted to make in congress, because there is no power on earth that can stop the growing masses of workers and farmers from marching to world victory under the standard of Communism.

Capitalism has had its day! So has Berger! They will pass together, allies to the last—AGAINST COMMUNISM.

Count Salm Von Hoogstraeten may not be an early riser and according to the early-bird-early-worm philosophy of Benjamin Franklin, the Count and a hearty breakfast would not on very intimate terms, as a general rule. But Von Hoogstraeten, hereafter known as the Count, never heard of Benjamin so he kept on staying in bed until two o'clock in the afternoon and spending the rest of his time getting married to ladies of charm and high birth plus wealth. When the plug turned into a minus so did the Count. As a result he had hardly fingers enough to count his wives on.

He was very ambitious and decided to make his mark in the world. He did not join a Rotary Club or Association and decided to use his feet instead of his head. Armed with two slippery hoofs he finally glided his way into the affections of Millicent Rogers, daughter of Col. H. H. Rogers of New York, Standard Oil Company millionaire.

In the meantime thousands of American slaves, some of them members of the Ku Klux Klan, American Legion and the Masonic Order were sweating out thousands of dollars for the coffers of the Standard Oil Company. Millicent Rogers and her Count were tossing these dollars across French barns in return for snappy cocktails. With their dainty feet on the rail and inspired by the spiritual pabulum, the pair mated and presented old millionaire Rogers with a fat accomplice. The Colonel did not like it worth a darn, but the Count was on the inside track.

American workers were slaving for a few dollars a day for Standard Oil Princess, but the Count using modern technique, was making more per hour than any New York Times brick-layer flying to work in the morning in his modish airplane ever dreamed of. The Count was deeply in love. Who would not under the circumstances? Old man Rogers tried to frighten him away from his feminine teapot Dome, but the Count had his leases in good condition and furthermore claimed squatter's rights. Denby and Archie Roosevelt with a squad of marines could not drive him off his reservation.

Finding that force was of no avail, realizing that unless he got rid of the Count, he probably would have to support half the population of Austria in a few years who might claim relationship with his son-in-law, the Old King finally decided to talk money. The Count figured the time he spent on Miss Rogers and deserted the Colonel with a bill for \$100,000. This the Colonel gladly paid and left for America carrying his more or less damaged princess with him. After all a man who wants to get along in this world can do so provided he is ambitious. Here is an excellent lesson for American workers. Any good American worker may become president or marry his boss's daughter.