

# The New Magazine

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Editor.

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## A WEEK IN CARTOONS

By M. P. Bales



## In the Wake of the News

By T. J. O'Flaherty

THE headlines tell us that France has joined England to keep the imperialist grip on China. We do not always believe what we see in the headlines and tho we are quite well aware that every imperialist power is guided by what its ministers believe to be the best interests of their ruling classes, it is well to keep in mind that France and England are at loggerheads, are constantly agreeing and constantly disagreeing. Capitalist powers are incapable of honesty towards each other. The basis of the present alleged agreement between France and England in China may be a deal between the two countries in Syria or perhaps an understanding on the Italian threat to France.

THE rapidity with which the imperialist powers change their policies towards each other nowadays is an indication of their instability. Today, Germany is orientating towards France; tomorrow towards England. One day, England ostentatiously shakes the hand of Mussolini; tomorrow the British foreign office attempts to block Mussolini's aim to turn the Mediterranean into an Italian lake. England has tried hard to bring about united action of the imperialist powers against the Chinese revolutionary movement. She cannot hope to crush the nationalist movement unaided. So far the powers have only agreed in principle that foreign interests in China should be protected but they confined their activities to pious wishes.

NOW it seems that the British government has succeeded in lining up France and the United States. What it cost England will be learned later on, provided the United States and France are not making mere diplomatic gestures. Japan, it seems, has decided to curry favor with the Chinese by giving England to understand that Japan does not believe in interfering in the domestic affairs of China. This was not Japan's position a few years back when the infamous twenty-one points were promulgated. But China has more rifles now than then and the Washington agreement took place in the meantime which ended the Anglo-Japanese alliance. Japan's decision to adopt a policy of neutrality in China is due to a change in objective conditions and not to a change of heart on the part of the Japanese imperialists.

FRANK L. SMITH, senator-elect from Illinois, who bought his way to Washington with the aid of 200,000 public utility dollars is determined to present his credentials to the United States senate. Many republicans as well as democrats are determined not to allow Smith to take his seat. But Smith promises to open his bag and make the welkins ring with a story that is liable to send many a respectable senator scurrying to the cloak room. The fact is that Smith is no more the tool of big business than the rest of the senators. Smith knows this and threatens to spill the beans. We wish more elo-

quence to his tongue. Nothing pleases us better than to see crooks tell the truth about each other, unless it would be to see them shoot each other.

THE Chicago politicians who are quarrelling over the spoils attached to the office of mayor are turning out language that should please truth seekers. Edward Litsinger, a candidate, charges Robert E. Crowe, state's attorney, with diverse crimes and misdemeanors against the peace of the people. Hiring gangsters to steal elections is the least of these. Crowe retorts by suggesting to Mr. Litsinger that he deliver up his nephew to justice, said nephew being wanted for stealing a ballot box and a trifling indiscretion known as murder. That should hold Mr. Litsinger for a while.

IT is said that poets are born not made. This seems to be unfortunately true. Prose writers are disagreeable enough but the poets are impossible, all except that poets write to agitate the masses. Most poets labor under the delusion that nothing matters in life except feeding the ego. They are firmly convinced that the whole world is in a conspiracy against them unless their effusions are put on a pedestal and unless everybody connected with a publication from the editor down to the printer's devil stays up nights thinking new schemes to put the poet's merchandise into the hands of the greatest number of persons, which is a worthy aim provid-

ed the poetry is not junk, as it usually is.

AS a rule, poets that throw fits are not geniuses but nuts. Poets that waste good ink singing their own praises are pests. A proletarian poet usually turns in his stuff and hopes for the best. The lads with the pointed chin foliage who live on a few strings of spaghetti a day develop a colic unless their rhyme is properly displayed, tho a proper disposition of most of it would be at the bottom of a spacious waste basket. There are more freak poets in the United States than there are chiropractors in Los Angeles. Most of them have been ruined by radical editors. Once you accept an amateur poet's mental progeny he develops a case of intellectual elephantiasis and crowds the poor editor to the wall. The genuine poet, like the genuine artist, is a modest and agreeable person. The freak poet is a darned nuisance.

### The Next Issue.

The Saturday, January 29th, number of the New Magazine will appear from New York. All matter for the editor must hereafter be addressed to 33 E. First Street, New York, N. Y.

# The Story of Trinity Corporation

"I'll marry a black man and in that way get my divorce from the husband you chose for me!"

If Anneke Webber had not uttered those defiant words some three centuries ago, her father, Wolfert Webber, Holland's famous merchant king, would not have found it necessary to leave his personal fortune of twenty million pounds "to the seventh generation of Webber heirs," a certain Protestant church in New York would not have found it necessary to "borrow" for religious purposes the major portion of the trust fund, then in the hands of the government of Holland, and last but by no means least, a large number of Webber descendants, all members of the great Caucasian race, would not now be placing difficult obstacles in the path of settlement of the century old Trinity Corporation dispute because of fears that the story of the famous Dutch princess' marriage would lower the par value of their stock in the social market.

The foregoing paragraph, briefly, is the whole why and wherefore of the mystery underlying the rather complicated question of Trinity Corporation's strange quarrel to retain the vast property interests in the most valuable section of the city of New York. The church, in so far as its own interest in the matter was concerned, would long ago have cleared itself of whatever blame attached to its stewardship of the fabulously rich holdings in the very heart of the world's richest city. But for certain powerful descendants of the Webber family, a number of whom are registered in the Royal Blue Book of Great Britain, and who stood in mortal dread lest disclosure of Anneke's marriage to a black man would bring disgrace upon their heads, Trinity's holdings, now known to have originated with funds obtained from Wolfert Webber's strange bequest, would have returned to the Holland government, the original trustee.

The world would not now know the true facts of this absorbing story but for one man, William Webber Easton, a direct descendant of Anneke Webber by a marriage subsequent to the black man incident, and who gave four years of painstaking study as his contribution to an amicable settlement of the case. One of the strange discoveries made by Easton in the course of his researches was that the Edwards-Jans group of litigants have no claim upon the Trinity property, Edwards having been merely a captain of a merchant ship that belonged to Webber and the Jans claim resting on no more secure foundation than that their sire was associated in a small way with Holland's merchant prince.

Only recently, after marshalling all the facts that resulted from his investigations and proving by his knowledge of the case that the best course for Trinity Corporation lay in the settlement of the old dispute, did Easton dare to confide any of the intimate details of his findings to outsiders.

"It was luck almost from the very beginning that led me on my course," Easton explains. "When one goes after his share of a six billion dollar fortune—that's what Trinity Corporation is worth today—one mustn't expect too much. In my case I had the rare good fortune to be in on the ground floor—my mother was a Webber—but even then four years passed before I had assembled all the facts of what had been a deep mystery.

"Why has the fact of Anneke's black marriage been suppressed so long—it all happened in the sixteenth century? Why has its suppression brought wealth and power to scores of undeserving persons? Well, for one thing, foolish pride. Many Webbers are members of the English and Dutch nobility and these kept the fact secret as an alternative to social bankruptcy—a sort of nigger in the wood pile.

"It was a romantic search and not without its dangers. If the full story of Trinity Corporation's defense of its fortune is ever made known it will contain many chapters of stark tragedy. Men engaged in the task of penetrating the cloud of mystery have disappeared as if swallowed by the sea and as I learned of these things I confess that I was uneasy on more than one occasion.

"When one tampers with facts that may result in social ruin for some old world aristocrat, it is best to look under the bed before retiring at night. My quest led me to some out of the way places where it would have been the easiest thing in the world to rid an obscure person like myself, not merely of his curiosity but his life as well, and I had to think twice before speaking with suspicious strangers.

"I want to say at the outset that the so-called Edwards-Jans faction seeking control of Trinity's holdings have not the remotest legal claims to the property. It is all Webber wealth founded with Wolfert Webber's money and left with the Dutch government as trustee as a legacy to the heirs in the seventh generation when the blood shall run clean. Old Webber, canny as a Scot, schemed in vain and his crafty plan to leave his wealth just beyond reach

of his daughter's hand went for naught. Anneke, who was easily a match for her father in wits, succeeded in getting a part of the estate.

"My interest in the Trinity litigation was roused by a chance incident. For many decades there existed a tradition in my family that some day its members would become wealthy. When my mother, Emily Webber, was 19, her grandfather, a native of Devonshire, England, told her that if she married the Webber name must always remain in the family.

"It did not occur to any of our relatives that the tradition of 'money in the family' involved the claim to an estate of six billion dollars in the heart of New York City and until 1922 after I had married and had reared a family I did not realize the full import of my ancestor's words.



"On the morning of August 29, 1922, I was in a restaurant in Winnipeg and while waiting for my portion of bacon and eggs glanced at the morning paper. My eye was caught by a statement about the Dutch government being asked to decide between claimants of a two million dollar estate left to the descendants in the seventh generation of Wolfert Webber. The name 'Webber' at once intrigued my notice and I telegraphed my mother in Toronto asking if we were of the same family.

"My mother's answer was: 'Wolfert Webber was our ancestor.' From that moment I was as if bound by a spell and I felt that I must learn more about the case than the meager tradition left by my mother's grandfather.

"I went almost at once to the Dutch consul and through him communicated with the Dutch government and asked if they had any further information. The news item had pointed out that the money in question had accrued from Webber's estate in the Dutch East Indies and that the wealth had been left in trust with the Dutch government.

"The Dutch government replied that a final settlement was issued in 1711. I was not satisfied with such a curt answer and after probing further got a letter in Dutch from the state department of Holland that the 'last definite statement was issued in 1711.' From 'definite' to 'final' was a great distance and I at once determined to conduct a thorough investigation.

"The Webbers, I learned, had left Holland and settled in England and I felt that if some of these could be communicated with I might learn if I had a legal claim to the estate of Wolfert Webber, held in trust by Holland. Accordingly I addressed myself to Somerset House, the registration bureau of records, deeds and land titles, enclosing fee to cover the cost of inquiry.

"My astonishment can well be imagined when my fee was returned together with the surprising statement that the government had no power to make the records public. The reply, however, pointedly intimated that upon personal application to England and upon submitting proof that I was the person I represented myself to be the records I sought might become available.

"A fortunate circumstance at this moment enabled me to make considerable progress in my investigation. My son, Arthur Webber Easton, then employed in Winnipeg, confided my expectations of wealth to a friend. The latter replied by declaring that his aunt, Mrs. W. H. Ward, was even then on her way to New York in search of some money left under conditions similar to the Webber provisions.

"Not wishing to let even a remote possibility of success slip by me, I met Mrs. Ward and found to my amazement that the New York estate and the Dutch legacy were identical. She said she had heard that 'distant' parties to the suit were Webbers and upon further investigating this clew I was convinced that the much-disputed Trinity Corporation property and the Edwards-Jans claims, together with several other issues, were really one and the same thing. Later, of course, I learned that the Webbers alone were the legal heirs to all the property under discussion.

"I called a meeting of all the Webber heirs and laid before them what facts I had. They chose me spokesman and sent me to New York to negotiate

with the Trinity Corporation representatives.

"In New York I got information that man named Alvin O. Edwards had been found dead on the streets a year before. Papers found on his person proved he had come to the city to conduct investigations similar to mine. The coroner said he had died from heart failure. Well, maybe it was heart failure. When a fortune of six billion dollars is at stake one life more or less matters little. Nevertheless, it was a lesson in caution and I took it in just that light. I determined not to die of heart failure.

"I went to a well known firm of lawyers for advice. They told me it was common knowledge that the Trinity Corporation had no title to the estate except a royal grant from Queen Anne. I got busy and got a chance to examine the grant. It was then in the hands of a firm of contractors, employed by the corporation for some work on the estate but who would not go on with the job unless they had the grant in their hands as security. I made a careful copy of the boundaries of the property and after a personal inspection of the land I was astonished to find that the grant embraced but a third of the land held by the corporation.

"Subsequently I discovered that it had been the custom of the corporation's counsel to wave the grant in the face of claimants to the property so that they went home bluffed. The grant, after my comparison of the holdings with the description in the document, meant nothing to me, so I stayed longer than my predecessors. I looked the ground over almost an inch at a time and made Trinity's attorneys uneasy. It is needless to say that every avenue of information was closed to me after this and after pursuing my inquiries as far as was possible I returned to Toronto, reporting my findings to a second meeting of the Webber heirs.

"My next step was to get positive proof of my descent from Webber. I wrote to Holland and England for information about the Webbers from their very beginning and the replies was a steel engraving, an autographed photograph of Lady Adelaide Webber, mother of Samuel Webber, my mother's great grandfather, born in Oakhampton, England, in 1783. Until the receipt of this picture we had been unable to learn of Samuel Webber's antecedents and with this picture in my hands I had positive proof of my descent from the old Dutch nobility. Lady Webber was descended from William Webber, brother of Wolfert Webber.

"Luck was with me in my investigations from this point forward. By rare good fortune I met an individual—Mr. Blank, I will call him—who presented me with a copy of the Webber family tree and I was able to verify my findings concerning my descent from Lady Adelaide Webber. Having so much information in my possession was not enough, for I wished to have positive corroboration from other independent sources before presenting myself again to the heads of Trinity Corporation.

"I therefore advertised in English papers for relatives and this act brought me to the climax of my search. It was a climax such as I would never have permitted my thoughts to contemplate even in a moment of romantic fancy and resulted also in a whirlwind change of attitude on the part of Trinity's representatives.

"Among the replies to my advertisement was a letter from the widow of a cousin, also a Webber, and after a brief correspondence I learned from her the whole secret underlying the Webber mystery. This relative it was who told me of the marriage of Anneke Webber to a black man. I quote from one of her letters: 'Anneke married a black—this is the whole trouble and the reason the money was left in such fashion. Her father requested the money should not be inherited until the blood ran clean, which would be the seventh generation.'

"For proof of the story my cousin's widow has a tablet on which is engraved Wolfert's charge to the Dutch government relative to his fortune of twenty million pounds. Subsequently I learned the story in greater detail. Wolfert Webber, it seems, was anxious to consolidate his fortune in his East Indian possessions and hit on the scheme of marrying off his daughter to William Webber, a cousin and prominent shareholder in the company.

"Anneke, however, had ambitions of her own. Her uncle was William of Orange and she realized that by marrying outside of her rank would forfeit her claim to the English throne. Old Wolfert, her father, was obstinate and insisted that she become the wife of his cousin, the wealthy shareholder in the Dutch colonial ventures. So, to get her husband to divorce her, Anneke married a black servant of her father's while on a visit to the East Indies.

"Wolfert's rage upon receiving word of his daughter's act can well be imagined. Although fate intervened and removed both of Anneke's husbands

(Continued on page 3)

# The Story of Trinity Corporation

(Continued from page 2)

almost with one stroke, Wolfert was far from pacified and cut his daughter off, leaving the strange testament in which his fortune was bequeathed to the seventh generation of Webber heirs. It seems that he would not believe his willful daughter's words that the marriage was legal but that she did not live as the wife of her black spouse following the formal ceremony.

"Anneke, now locked out of house and home, came to New York, with her grandmother, Anna Cock. There are strong reasons for believing Anna Cock was none other than Anneke's mother and that in the domestic upheaval ensuing from the daughter's marriage to a husband of her father's choice, old Wolfert kicked the wife out, too, when she sided with the daughter. I have now in my possession certain facts pointing to verification of this version of the story and I hope to be able to confirm what are now merely well grounded suspicions.

"So Anneke came to New York where she posed as an unmarried maid. She made the acquaintance of Roeloff Jans (Jansen), a farmer, whom she married, their union resulting in the rearing of a small family. Jans died and Anneke became the wife of the Rev. Everardus Bogardus of Trinity church. The church was in financial difficulties and Pastor Bogardus, who knew of the legacy left by his wife's father, voyaged to Holland to interest the Dutch government in his case. He succeeded in persuading the government to transfer a part of the trust fund of the Webber legacy to New York. The church trustees were appointed by the government as sub-trustees of this legacy.

"Anneke died soon after this and Pastor Bogardus lost his life on a second voyage to Holland to obtain additional funds from the Webber estate. In 1709, after Anneke's death, some of the heirs learning that the trust fund had been transferred to New York, raised a loud clamor and were seriously considering legal action to restore the money to its proper custodianship. It looked bad for Trinity church and the trustees. The latter, no doubt loaths to part from such a comfortable financial cushion, petitioned Queen Anne for protection.

"They received a grant covering the church and graveyard adjoining. I say without the slightest fear of being called to account for my utterances, that Trinity Corporation's claims have been mere pretense. The grant of Queen Anne was a political makeshift devised as a way out of a difficult situation by the earlier trustees and gives no legal rights to the property which was bought with money left by Webber to his heirs.

"On one of my numerous trips of investigation I went to the trouble of having surveyed all of the 19 acres of land covered by the grant and found that the corporation owned 30 acres more than the area specified in the document. How then did the corporation acquire the 30 additional acres?

"After I had obtained positive proof of my descent from the house of Webber I made another visit to New York. Without disclosing the source of my information I told the trustees of Trinity church that the Webber heirs owned the estate. They pretended they had not heard of Webber and took it as a new joke in the long list of hoaxes that attended litigation over the vast estate throughout several centuries.

"But the trustees laughed too soon, for I found out that the Webber name was a powerful talisman if rubbed the right way and it served to open new corridors where my disclosures found more ready listeners. The result now is that settlement has been promised in the 'immediate future.'

"What this may mean no one can tell. Forty-nine acres of skyscrapers in the heart of New York can not be apportioned among hundreds of legal claimants in a few months. All the buildings are on leased ground and the total value is in excess of six billion dollars.

"There are reasons for believing that as little fuss as possible will be made in closing the accounts with the heirs. The chief reason is the wide ramification of the Webber tree in England and Holland where the name is found heavily sprinkled among the nobility. No less than six Webbers are registered in the Royal Blue Book of England. I learned this after having been told by English officials they had no information about the Webbers.

"This reticence can be explained in one way only—Anneke's marriage to her father's black servant. Although the much-married lady did not cohabit with her black spouse, having been married in the legal manner for the purpose of effecting a divorce from the husband of her father's choosing, the family has never been quite free from the suspicion that naturally attaches to such a tradition.

"I found the family crest of William Webber, Prince of Orange, in wide use among the English



Webbers. This crest is composed of a hawk and wolf's head balanced with a demi-lion and fleur de lis. A ducal coronet with an eagle surmounts the device, which was adopted by the Prince of Orange on moving to England. Further justification of secrecy concerning Anneke's family life is found in the fact that Wilhelmina of Holland is a Webber. And it is significant in discussing the influence wielded by the Webber fortune to reveal that the Vandervilts and the Astors never cut a wide swath until they became members of Trinity Corporation.

"I have learned from unquestionable sources that some of our best families have paid sizeable sums to become members of Trinity Corporation, in the certainty, no doubt, that later they would be handsomely compensated for such splendid interest in religion."

Easton's investigations were not without risks that frequently involved his life. His quest took him to out of the way corners of the North American continent and it was not unusual to find upon visiting his hotel room that someone had preceded him, searching all of his effects with the greatest care.

"I soon learned that I could not exercise too much care in my choice of speaking acquaintances during my travels," Easton said. "The more valuable of the documents never left my person during the four years of steady investigation and it would have been necessary for any one seeking possession of these to take me with them. Very often I would find that my luggage had undergone a thorough searching, even the hotel mattress and pillow not escaping the prying fingers of my unknown visitors.

"In my quest for facts underlying the Trinity Corporation mystery I found many recorded deeds of perfidy in which claimants were duped by legal tricksters, losing their fight before going to court. An outstanding instance was the suit filed in the name of an association of Jans heirs—Jans was the name of Anneke's first husband in America. The action was brought in 1869 through David Groesbeck, an attorney. The court threw out the petition, to the astonishment of the claimants, when the defendants moved that the action was illegal because the rector of Trinity church and not the trustees had been named as legal defendants.

"Did Groesbeck, an able lawyer, make a mistake in suing the rector and not the trustees of the corporation? The answer may be found in the fact that forty-nine acres of realty in the heart of Man-

hattan, even in 1869 was worth an incalculable sum of money.

"In 1860 a man named Dwight Elmdorf, son of Poughkeepsie, whose wife was a Webber, engaged a lawyer to make a settlement of the case. The lawyer was about to take ship to Holland when he dropped out of sight. It is possible that he, too, died of heart failure but the body was never found and so no inquest was held.

"When final settlement is made some thousands of men and women bearing the name of Edwards will be sadly disappointed. These people base their claims on the fact that one Captain Jonathan Edwards, commander of one of the vessels in the vast fleet owned by Webber, settled in New York, marrying Elizabeth Brower, descendant of Wyntie Lybrant Brower, a member of the Webber corporation. Merely because of this association of the name Edwards with the Webber interests countless scores of persons bearing the name of Edwards have entered the lists in the hope of sharing in the final division of the trust fund.

"The search for the truth back of Trinity Corporation has been costly to me. I sold my home to finance the investigations. On that fateful morning when my eye caught sight of the news item which launched me on a veritable ocean of human cross currents I owned a business that brought me a comfortable living. This was swept away very early in my venture, which necessitated frequent calls on persons in distant part of the United States and Canada.

"No account of my connection with the search for the facts under Trinity Corporation's apparently calm surface would be complete without an expression of gratitude to certain influential friends whose assistance and advice on more than one occasion served to surmount what would have remained for me impassable barriers. To penetrate the granite exterior of affluent Trinity Corporation required more than a knowledge of facts which the trustees were anxious to hide. This additional strength came from quarters quite unexpected and from persons who I believe had no private interests or ulterior motives underlying their proffers of assistance.

"It is possible that others have come upon the facts as given in the foregoing account. I take no particular credit for my share in bringing the litigation to a close. Indeed, I believe that it was rare good fortune, the kindly glances of a warmly-disposed fate that prevented me from growing discouraged during the four years of steady, searching endeavor."

# Lessons of 1926 and the Tasks of 1927

By WILLIAM PAUL  
Editor of "Sunday Worker," London.



We have all very much to learn from the memorable year that has just ended. A period of struggle, it was in many ways one of the greatest in the history of the British working class movement.

The year 1926 began with the financial and industrial rulers using every ounce of their economic and political power to worsen the wages and hours of the workers. They concentrated their opening offensive upon the miners because if they could be beaten then it would be a simple thing to

smash the other unions where the leadership was cowardly and even reactionary.

In the interests of "industrial peace," Baldwin set up the Samuel commission. Its aim was two-fold.

1. To screen the preparations being made by the government and the mine-owners to enforce lower wages and longer hours upon the miners.

2. To be used as a means to disrupt and separate the workers from the miners.

Thus the Samuel commission enabled the employers to preach peace and prepare for war. While the commission was sitting the loud-mouthed Winston Churchill blurted out that a fight was coming

ment and the bosses were dividing the trade unions, the right wing leaders of Eccleston were splitting the labor party by expelling Communists and disaffiliating militant local labor parties.

In this appeal for preparedness and unity for the struggle A. J. Cook played an important part. He warned the labor movement that it was entering the greatest fight in its history. And when the miners were locked out; when the rank and file closed its ranks against the mine-owners and forced the general council to declare the general strike, it was found, as Bevin confessed, that the leaders had made no preparations for the struggle.

As the masses swarmed into the streets in support of the miners, the general council was using its full influence to browbeat the miners' leaders into accepting lower wages, etc. Indeed, it was the overwhelming success of the strike that made the leaders afraid. J. H. Thomas admitted that he feared that power might pass out of the hands of the general council! Baldwin was also afraid that the same thing would happen.

In the secret report drawn up by the general council to explain why the general strike was called off, one can see how cleverly Baldwin, working upon the cowardice of the leaders, used the general council to attack the miners and to defeat the great strike. This document will play an important part at the forthcoming conference of trade union executives, but so far it has not been issued to the rank and file, who thus have had no opportunity to formulate a policy for the conference when it takes place.

With unmatched heroism the miners fought on. With the aid of other trade unions to enforce an

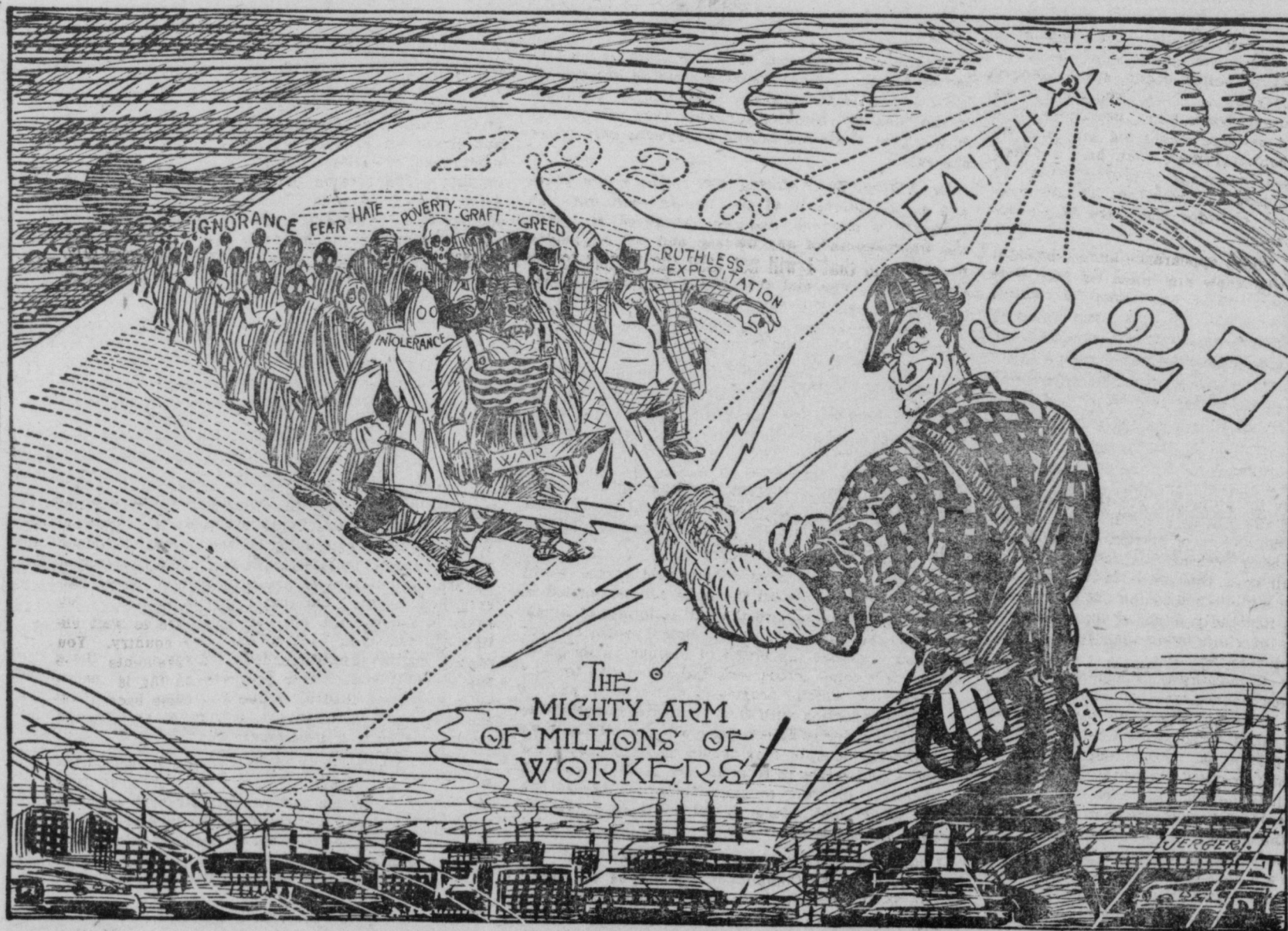
sponded to the call of their comrades in Britain. And they have seen how shabbily the general council has treated the Russian workers—by refusing to send a delegate to their trade union conference and by threatening the very basis of Anglo-Russian unity.

During the past year at every point where the rank and file got an opportunity to express themselves, free from the poisonous cancer of right wing bureaucracy, they acted with great courage and insight. During the general strike they fought like lions. And where allowed to express their opinion of the employers and the government they did so with emphatic contempt.

The most important lesson of 1926 is that the workers can fight but their leaders are timid—many of them openly treacherous. This problem of providing a new leadership in the trade unions and labor party is the most serious task confronting the British workers. And until it is faced and solved, the employers, who are united and courageous, will inflict further defeats upon the workers.

At first sight it would seem almost impossible to provide the movement with a new leadership, owing to the bureaucratic and dictatorial power wielded by the old leaders who control the machinery of their respective organizations.

Hitherto, the left wing attack upon the right wing leadership failed because it was unorganized. But with the increasing demand for more militant methods the rank and file realize the urgency for cohesion of purpose, and organization of their forces. Within the minority movement there exists all the



in the mining industry and he showed the need for "coping effectually with it when the time came" ("Hansard," 10-12-25).

Faced with the cunning of the government, the Sunday Worker openly denounced the Samuel commission. Our policy was supported by the miners' leaders. Exactly twelve months ago, Herbert Smith, writing in the Sunday Worker, declared that the coal industry was only a device for splitting the workers.

Baldwin having failed to disrupt the rank and file during the Samuel commission, used their report as the means to turn the general council against the miners, and thus to destroy the very unity which was essential for victory.

In issue after issue of the Sunday Worker we urged the trade unions and the labor party to close up the ranks of the movement in order to organize a united resistance against the splitting tactics of Baldwin and his cunning friends. While the govern-

embargo and to collect a levy, the miners, despite everything, could have defeated the mine-owners and the government. But right wing leadership made victory impossible. Towards the end of the struggle, after the Russian workers had sent over a million pounds to the miners, the T. U. C. made a belated move to collect a levy. But this could not make up for the attacks made upon the miners' leaders by J. H. Thomas, J. Bromley, Hamilton Fyfe (as editor of the Daily Herald) and Philip Snowden, etc. And after the mine-owners had won, the labor party thought it advisable to move a vote of censure upon the government. Even here, however, an attack was made upon the miners, for Mr. MacDonald seized the opportunity to openly insult A. J. Cook—much to the delight of Baldwin, Churchill and the other enemies of the workers.

The general strike and the miners' struggle have been great lessons for the masses. They have seen how readily the revolutionary workers of Russia re-

elements of the organized challenge to the old T. U. C. leaders. Within the left wing there is growing up the organized power that is combatting the liberalism now so prevalent in the labor party.

To increase the strength of the left wing is the immediate task for 1927. Already the employers and the Baldwin government have completed their plans to attack trade unionism. This is being done under the slogan of "industrial peace," and, as usual, the right wing leaders have paved the way for the employers' offensive by showing the need for co-operation between labor and capital.

Big fights are coming. And if the workers are determined to triumph they must be equally determined to put forward leaders who will fight, and prevent the right wing from weakening the movement by splits and expulsions.

When this is done labor's struggle for power will begin in real earnest.

# Vegetarianism Versus Vegetables

By T. J. O'FLAHERTY.

(Translated from the Greek)

Despite the high degree of perfection to which the modern Greeks have raised the art of cooking, a vegetarian epidemic has broken out among the Greek workers and unless stern measures are taken to halt the spread of the scourge Greek may soon be eating Greek into emaciation and insanity thru a straight diet of carrots, celery and cucumbers.

This is serious. In fact it has a political side to it. How can a man give serious attention to a political problem when his teeth are decorated with cabbage fibre while his stomach craves for roast young pig?

So pregnant with disaster is the situation among the Greek workers in Chicago that the editors of the *Empire* urged on me the duty of dealing a deadly blow to this dangerous cult. Considering the fact that the last chiropractor on our subscription list ostentatiously withdrew his custom from *The Daily Worker* recently owing to a wise crack of mine at the expense of spine tickling it is quite obvious that our Greek comrades are taking serious financial risks in their decision to expose the vegetarian sham and its near relatives, the various brands of osteopathy, from the milder form of disease, known as naprapathy, to the virulent brand known as chiropractic.

What is the relationship, if any, between vegetarianism and osteopathy? Are all vegetarians addicted to back kneading and toe twisting? Are all patrons of neck snapping addicted to a tomato, carrot and fig diet? No, any more than every member of Aimee McPherson's congregation could be seduced by King Benjamin of the House of David on the specious plea that he is the Seventh Messenger of the Lord, engaged in the painful duty of purifying souls for their advent into heaven, but neither are any two mackerel alike in color, that is, exactly alike. They are all of the mackerel family, however, and just fish.

The writer has no personal grievance against a head of cabbage in its proper place, which is in the vicinity of a chunk of boiled bacon, spare ribs or corned beef. But I know of a man who used to go around like a walking truck farm, usually with a good-sized head of cabbage under his arm and he committed more political errors than half a dozen right wingers. His judgment improved when he began to smoke a pipe and now that he has compromised with clam chowder there are hopes for his complete recovery.

Another radical, whose appearance almost brought tears from those who knew him when his face bore the earmarks of pork chops, was almost at death's door from malnutrition when his vegetarian doctor lost the faith and took to prescribing a straight meat diet for his patients. This particular patient was smoking five cent cigars inside of a month and getting away with it. In addition to the improvement in his health there was a noticeable improvement in the quality of his literary output.

There are two wings of vegetarianism: vegetarians for the sake of vegetables and vegetarians because of sympathy for animals. For the vegetarian who has espoused the diet as a result of a personal experiment with the effects of certain kinds of food on his health, I have nothing but respect. In all probability he will be a thosophist in two years and a Holy Jumper in six but before the exclusive vegetable diet gets in its deadly work he has more sympathy for victims of child labor than for the pigs in the Chicago stockyards.

The vegetarian from ethical considerations will tell you that "God" never created animals to be slaughtered, tho it never occurs to him that an animal had to be slaughtered so that he could wear shoes. Such a person is usually opposed to the consumption of milk, particularly cow's milk, for the good reason that it is the most popular. "Cow's milk is only good for calves" he will tell you with an air of finality. On the matter of eating meat he may compromise to the extent of allowing you that luxury provided you are able to pounce on your animal suddenly in the tiger fashion, sink your teeth into its jugular vein and drink its blood while it is hot. Perhaps he favors sudden death. Or perhaps he thinks that lions and tigers lead a healthier life because they don't eat cooked food. We have heard of sick lions and sick tigers despite the fact that they don't patronize a gas range or put vinegar on their steak.

One combination chiropractor and vegetarian that a friend of mine patronized boasted that he had not lighted a fire in his kitchen for two years. Sometimes he was compelled to do violence to the faith that was in him when invited out to dine with people who were addicted to the vice of cooking. But he made up for such lapses from the straight and narrow path by toting a bag of tomatoes under his arm and eating them while making his rounds. He was as emancipated as a czarist pretender to the throne of the Romanoffs who has to depend on his labor for a living. So were the other members of his establishment. The lady at his information desk would make a nice advertisement for the official undertaker to a poor house and the chief operator coughed painfully whenever he gave a patient's leg a vigorous twist.

This is no defense of the medical doctors or of the meat packers, the fanatical adherents of both

cults will accuse me of having a charge account at my neighborhood drug store or being the recipient of a Christmas ham from the hog trust. Both charges are hereby indignantly denied. A straight meat diet is as bad, if not worse, than a straight vegetable diet. But I have yet to meet the meat eater who did not like to order a combination salad, a dish of boiled greens or some Brussels sprouts with his tenderloin steak. I am now speaking of those who can afford the luxury of combination salads. From my own experience with vegetarian restaurants they are not for the man with a small salary.

About the first step your anti-meat or anti-medical "inventor" of a new health fad will take is to figure how many suckers there are on the market and set the price to suit their gullibility. Radicals are easy prey for a wise faddist, who parrots phrases about the truts and hails turnips as the Messiah who will lead the sick out of the Egypt of druggists and dead animals into the promised land of neither. Where the average medical doctor will load you down with



colored water the anti-medic will fill your head with illusions and your stomach with gas.

The official magazines of the quacks are just as strong for the present social system as are the official organs of the medical associations. Both are in the "healing" business for what they can get out of it. That these are honest exceptions only prove the rule.

Dr. Abrams of California was hailed a few years ago as the deliverer of the human race when he perfected a machine that was supposed to locate the whereabouts of any disease and tell its nature by a system that I will not take the trouble to describe here. The fact that Upton Sinclair espoused it made me instantly suspicious of it. Sinclair fell even for Woodrow Wilson. The quacks stocked their factories with the machines and at ten dollars a crack any customer could have his blood tested, and win his favorite disease.

Before the "Abrams method" was finally proven to be a fake the quacks had separated the suckers from hundreds of thousands of dollars. These health shops hummed like dynamos in a central power station as the electric current was chasing tuberculosis, syphilis or diabetes all over the patient's body. Now the Abrams machines are going to the junk pile or being converted into graphophones.

The U. S. is the most fertile field in the world for quackery and not all the gulls are segregated in Los Angeles. Neither are they all followers of Krishnamurti, the Hindoo "Jesus." Some people fall for anything that has the brand of science on its brow. Others will come across with the sponduliks for any new religion which promises democracy and a straight connection with God. Political radicals who think that under socialism fleas will not bite, as long as there are fleas, or that grapes will suddenly grow virtuous and refuse to ferment, are liable to get sick deliberately in order to show their hostility to the "drug trust" and refuse to eat meat in a crusade against the packers.

I heard a chiropractor-vegetarian say that the main duty of the Communists should be to preach health to the masses; that is, to patronize his own stalls. A healthy proletariat would be in a position to overthrow the system in short order. If not, did it matter since no social system could do no more for the human race than contribute to their well being? This same health "radical" claimed that the workers eat too much food. The capitalists think they do and are always ready to hammer down the workers' standard of living so that they (the capitalists) can have more to eat, drink and wear. The Chinese coolie who can live on a bowl of rice a day is preferable to the employer to the worker who is accustomed to living on not less than the equivalent of twelve bowls a day. Too much food is not the cause of the workers' misery. It is rather too little food and everything else that goes to make up a standard of living.

Eat all the cabbage, celery, figs, onion and turnips you want. Eat them exclusively if you feel that way about it. Your individual regimen does not necessarily concern the public. Shun the contents of the medicine bottle and stretch yourself on the osteopath's rack as often as your backbone and your pocketbook can afford it. But when you begin to confuse health quackery with political radicalism, you are simply confusing the main issue that is of

# Communism Captures the Youth of the Intelligentsia

By ROSE KATZ.

When I returned to Russia after an absence of twenty-two years, I visited many of my old school mates. They had been professionals under the old regime, and had lost many of the privileges they had then enjoyed. Now the betterment of their condition is bound up with that of all the workers. With the building up and improvement of workers' economy, the doctors, engineers and other professionals, would, as useful workers, also enjoy better conditions. However, many were dissatisfied at the loss of their privileged position. They grumbled, but I noticed that they were careful not to do so before their children.

The children have been captured by the vision of a better day. They, as much as the children of the workers, regard Communism as their heritage and their care. They resent any criticism of the ideas for which the best blood of the workers of all countries has been spilled.

The following is a letter from such a youth to his family in America.

Leningrad, Nov. 7, 1926.

Dear Folks:

Today we celebrate the ninth anniversary of the establishment of the Soviet government. For nine years the Soviet lives, works, and conquers. For nine years the workers and peasants have been building a socialist republic.

All Russia celebrates. Hundreds of thousands of worker inhabitants pack the streets of Red Leningrad, with their banners, flags and placards. Their faces are lit with pride at the accomplishment of the revolution and show their determination to defend it against all the world. The streets and squares are so crowded that an apple could not reach the ground.

The weather is damp and foggy and chilly, as usual in Leningrad at this time of the year. Still it could not dampen our feelings on this day, for today we unveil a monument to our leader and teacher, Ilyitch. The crowd is so immense that those of us who want to see the unveiling have to hang on to cornices, and railings high up above the heads of the multitude. Thousands of us hold our breath and strain our eyes to see the statue of that wonderful man, of earnest and honest ideas; that genius of that. The strains of the International and a salvo of guns from the fortress of Peter and Paul announce the unveiling. The wild enthusiasm of the crowd strengthen my faith in the Workers' and Peasants' government. Today we celebrate our 14th. Sooner or later other countries will be celebrating theirs.

I am getting along splendidly. My work is interesting and so are my studies. I enjoy the lectures of the professors and the new method of teaching, and the many new books published. Every day we absorb more knowledge and are inspired more and more with the greatness of our work. Today I feel invigorated by a wave of new, rich, red blood and am more certain than ever of the future.

I just met a man who recently arrived from America. He told me that the Youth of America spend most of their leisure hours in sports and dancing. We too know how to enjoy ourselves, but our minds are not occupied entirely with play. We realize that we are the builders of a future system. Dear parents, how happy I am that I live in Russia. I am eager to see you all, but you will have to wait until I can take you back to our dear country. You cannot realize the tremendous improvements there will be very soon. Our progress so far is just a promise for the future. When you come back you'll see with your own eyes how rich in culture and industry Russia is becoming.

How wonderful it is to live at the present time. Russia is just awakening from a deep slumber. How inspiring it is to see and feel the strength and confidence of those now engaged in the task of building the New Russia. I hope that in the near future, Russia will be able to open the doors to those who want to return. Then you will see that my picture is not overdrawn.

Yours, as ever,

Hariton.



concern to the working-class: the task of abolishing the profit system, which is at the root of all quackery. Our job is to help the working class get more meat, more vegetables, more clothes and more leisure to recuperate from the fatigue of the job. If the workers had more time to rest than they have now without having to look for a boss while they "rest" the food quacks and health quacks would not be pulling down from fifty to a hundred dollars a day from ailing wage slaves.

# Organize the New York Taxi Drivers!

By SYLVAN A. POLLACK.

The New York taxi driver is not the "hard-boiled" individual he is generally supposed to be, this writer discovered after an investigation among that group of workers. Working as long as twelve to fourteen hours a day, suffering abuse and terrorism from the police, exploitation by the bosses and night club owners, and being ignored by A. F. of L. organizers, the lot of the New York cab driver has become so hard that at last, of his own initiative, he and his fellows are demanding unionization.

A recital of the hardships suffered by taximen will doubtless arouse little sympathy from the mass of workers, so familiar are the latter with similar conditions in their own trades and industries. But what makes things so unbearable for the New York "cabbie" is the fact that, having no union and having been prevented by police terrorism from organizing, he cannot even attempt to fight for better conditions. Like the vassals of feudal times, he must bow his head meekly and kiss the hand that tightens its grip on his throat.

## Get Poor Pay.

The day shift, working nine hours, from 7 a. m. till 4 p. m., earns an average wage of \$3.60 a day. The night shift, working from twelve to fourteen hours, 4 p. m. to 6 a. m., usually averages only two dollars more, \$5.12. These figures were secured from a statement made by the bosses, who give the drivers only 40 per cent of their gross receipts.

Forty-five thousand drivers are employed in New York City, yet there is no organization of cab drivers. There are, however, ten independent associations of owners, the employing class having always realized the benefits of organization.

After much pleading on the part of these workers, the A. F. of L. union, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers, attempted to hold an organization meeting for them at Beethoven Hall during the summer of 1925. The meeting had hardly been called to order when the police arrived and by wielding night clubs and blackjacks, broke it up.

Whether the police acted on their own initiative, or were influenced by the Yellow Taxi Corporation, has always been an unsettled question to local laborites. They recall that the former mayor, John F. Hylan, had made a special pet of the Yellow Cab

Co. because of the financial interest a near relative of his had in it.

## Double-Crossed by Walker.

When the present mayor, "Jimmy" Walker, was campaigning for the job, he published a paper called "The Square Deal" that was circulated among the cabmen. Among the many promises he made to them was one that he would play no favorites, and that stands would be distributed fairly. He also promised to better the working conditions of the cab driver, and by virtue of these promises secured many votes.

The disillusioned cab drivers have learned, now that "Jimmy" has been in office for a year, that his promises were typical "Tammany ballot-bait," the mayor having done his best, through the new traffic regulations, to make the lot of the cab driver a harder one.

Parking is no longer permitted on Fifth Ave. from 5 till 7 p. m. Heavy traffic on that thoroughfare begins at 3 o'clock, but the police have shifted the hour from 3 to 5 p. m. so as to accommodate the owners of the Cadillacs, Rolls-Royces, Hispano-Suizas, and Packards who cannot be hampered by laws. The Fifth Avenue Association, an organization of the merchants on that avenue, were influential in having the hour made just late enough so that they would lose no business. The cabman was left to shift for himself.

## Why Pay Dwindles.

But miserable pay, abuse from the police, and interference from the law-makers are not the only factors that make driving a taxi a poor job. The drivers must purchase their own uniforms. They must pay for stolen equipment like batteries, tires, jacks and lamps. When the taxi has a breakdown, they receive no compensation for time lost.

Many small companies furnish their cabs with patched-up tires, called in the parlance of the trade, "Moe Levy tires." These "bolonies" are constantly in need of repair, and the job of repairing them falls to the driver, naturally, but for this he receives no pay. Often, due to the poor condition of his tires, a driver is forced to drive slowly for fear a tire might burst, and thus he not only loses customers, but brings down upon his head the wrath of the traffic cop for blocking traffic.

Fifth Ave. buses are limited by police regulation

to two buses a block. Little is said, however, when ten or twelve line up in a single block. The taxi driver must wend his way as best he can thru the maze, taking his chances on a disastrous smash-up. Other hazards that make the job dangerous include the poor conditions of the brakes. The companies care so little about the safety of the driver that brakes are often neglected, resulting in collisions in which the driver is either killed or confined to a sick-bed for many months.

## Yellow Fears Union.

The Yellow Taxicab Corporation, which by virtue of its political influence with the previous administration had quite a monopoly on the service in this city, only paid its 2,000 men a commission of 33 1-3 per cent up to two months ago. Discontent among its employees became so pronounced that, afraid they might unionize, the company raised this commission to the standard 40 per cent. To save money, it stopped distributing the small monthly bonus it gave prior to the increase, and also the publication of "The Yellowgraph," the yellow company sheet that was issued to keep the slaves in chains.

Many of the cab drivers have become interested readers of The DAILY WORKER, hoping that this militant labor paper will take up their cause and agitate for their unionization. They point out, as an example of how they could be benefited by organization, to the Mogul Checker Cab strike of 1923. With only a slipshod strike association, these workers raised the commission percentage from 33 1-3 to 40 per cent.

Their plight becomes more bitter when they recall that drivers in other branches of the trade have organizations, such as the funeral auto drivers, the milk drivers, the truck drivers, the newspaper drivers, and others.

The New York taxi driver has long been a subject of jest and abuse from everyone. Like all other wage slaves, he has done his best to withstand the trials and vicissitudes of his craft uncomplainingly. But the breaking point has come. He can no longer bear up under his burden. He has broadcast his appeal. The question that now confronts organized labor is, what shall be done to aid him?

The American Federation of Labor is, by virtue of his undeniable plea, subpoenaed to answer.

# Review of the Women's Work in 1926

**ENGLAND**—A conference was held on May 25, with delegates from all over the kingdom and two delegates from the C. E. C. of the British Communist Party. In the year 1925 an organization was formed to centralize the work of organizing the working women. Today in all thickly populated districts, there are now branches of this women's organization functioning. At the time this women's conference was being held the British Communist Party was also in session, and the minutes of the Women's Conference were presented to this body along with the resolution of the Comintern on women's work and these were approved. At the British Communist Party's convention about 12 per cent of the total delegation were women.

**FRANCE**—In France most of the women's groups are in Paris. In tradition Paris has more women and more influence than any country in the world. The women's groups there also have a special organizer. In the Profintern they are in one union, and this well disciplined group is called the "Red Unit." In the provinces where there are large industries they are also trying to organize women's sections of the Communist Party of France. In general in France there is only a small per cent of women members in the Communist Party, possibly two per cent.

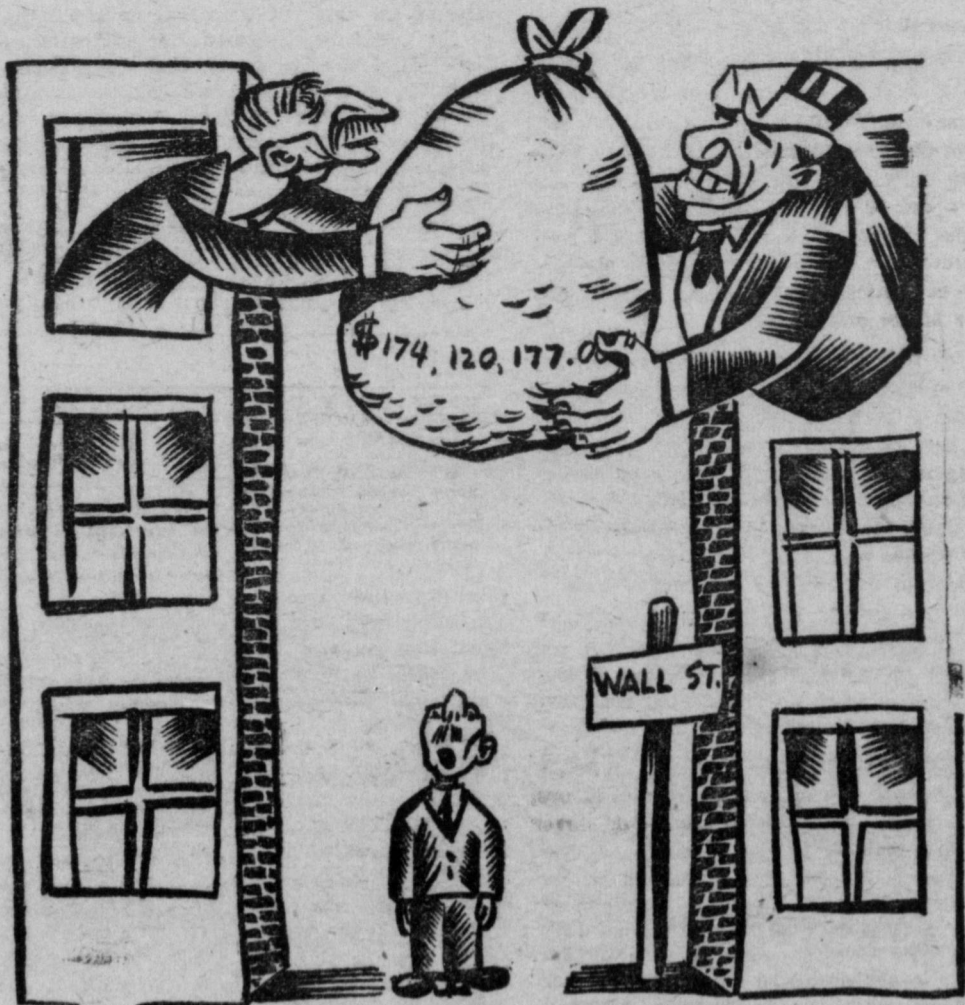
**ITALY**—In spite of the opposition of the Fascisti, in Italy the women are doing wonderful work. Their central body is composed of representatives of the largest bodies, and among whom are women from all industries. Especially from the industries of Lombardy, Turin and Milan. Thanks to the organization these women are a well disciplined body. Even in the smaller villages they are well organized and harmonious groups of workers, peasant and proletarian housewives, who are in sympathy with the Communist Party. These women have a journal, "Campaign," around which they center their work. This organ is not even legal in Italy and enjoys an ever larger list of women correspondents.

**CZECHO-SLOVAKIA**—In the fall of 1925 together with the women's conference in Czecho-Slovakia, the Party thru the women's secretariat of the Comintern, organized the women. Their central body is called the central women's committee of Czecho-Slovakia and they have their secretariat. The work of organizing the women of this country has spread to the mines and mills under the guidance of their Communist Party, maintaining close connections with their central committee; 20,000 women are members of the Communist Party, this making up 25 per cent of the total membership of the Slovakian Party.

**GERMANY**—Of all work done in the party, the women's work in Germany has gone down till in some places there is hardly enough to call it an organization. In their central committee they have had one secretariat and recently another was added along with an advisory committee of 10. These women are drawn from the largest industries of Berlin and each has her special work to carry out, and as a result of getting in new members they are beginning to see their aims develop. Industries have special nuclei for women, and the press and po-

litical committees are getting valuable help from them. From Berlin the work is directed in organizing the provinces, which for some time have been disconnected. Women members in the party number about 12 to 13 per cent of its members.

**SWITZERLAND, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and in the last few months in Austria, the United States and Canada some success has been achieved. Especially was International Women's Day in 1924 very successful under the leadership of the Comintern, 15 countries participated!**



Andy Mellon Reduces Taxes.

—By William Gropper.



# The National Congress in Berlin

By FRITZ RUCK (Berlin)

**T**HE Congress of Working People which took place in Berlin from December 3rd to 5th far exceeded in every respect the expectations which had been placed on it. It demonstrated the existence of a broad mass movement in Germany fed from the most various sources which, however, have a common origin: Intensified exploitation and oppression of the masses by large capital, growing pauperization of every widening circles who are beginning to combine for organized resistance. Following on the 14,500,000 votes in the referendum with regard to the expropriation of the princes, the congress was the second answer of the working masses of Germany to the attempt of German large capital to consolidate its economic and political positions of power by an intensified exploitation and oppression of all strata of workers, and to make a transition to a new era of an independent imperialist policy.

The composition and the radius of influence of the congress are characterized by the following facts. It was attended by 2,000 delegates, who, without exception, were financed by the factories, trade unions, committees of unemployed and other organizations, by which they were nominated. In view of the present economic crisis, this means a tremendous effort. It was a congress which was supported from below, by the working masses themselves, and for this reason, all the greater effects may be expected from it. The commission for examining the mandates reported that the 1956 delegates who passed through a double control and who were present at every session of the congress, were distributed as follows: S. P. of Germany 137 delegates, C. P. of Germany 858 delegates, Socialist League 15 delegates, Independent Socialist Party of Germany 16 delegates, Christian Socialist National party 9 delegates, Democrats 3 delegates, non-party members 690 delegates, representatives of the peasants 42 delegates. More than 200 delegates who had already been nominated and who are not included in the above figures could not appear at the congress, as for financial or other reasons they had to abandon their intention of coming to Berlin. Although the threats of the executives of some of the biggest trade unions to exclude delegates to the congress passed off in smoke in the majority of cases, a number of delegates were nevertheless deterred by them from visiting the congress.

On behalf of the preparatory committee, George Ledebour opened the congress. In short outlines he described the misery of the working population in Germany and pointed out that the workers and peasants of Soviet Russia had, by their example, shown the working people the way they should take.

Ledebour, Fritz Heckert, Schreck (S. P. of Germany), Freiburger (Munich) and Fritz Ruck, as well as representatives of all the social strata and political groups represented at the congress, were elected into the presidium.

Before starting on the agenda, the congress unanimously passed a resolution in favor of the release of the political prisoners and another against the bill regarding impure literature. It was resolved to dispatch a telegram to Max Holz.

Comrade Fritz Heckert read a paper on "The Danger of War, the Crisis of Rationalization and the Workers' Fight for Existence." He depicted the present situation of the workers, the small peasants and the working middle class, and brought evidence to the effect that the permanent deterioration of the standard of living of the working class was a necessary condition for the rationalization of large capital; that the latter would involve a new danger of imperialist wars and that a fresh strengthening of German imperialism would mean nothing more nor less than the advance of reaction in all fields. He drew the conclusion that the distress and pauperization of the working people in town and country can only be removed by a determined fight with the object of overthrowing the capitalist order of society and of establishing a worker and peasant government. He called upon the workers to join the free-trade unions, which must be forged afresh into a weapon for the struggle of the proletariat. He issued the following slogans: Against the rationalization of capital! For socialism! Reduction of hours of work—a fight for the eight-hour day and the 42-hour week! For the increase of wages! For adequate support of the unemployed and annuitants! For the re-establishment of the securities of the small savers! For a satisfactory distribution of land to the small peasants!

The serious work done by the congress was specially intensified in the commissions, in which the workers displayed the most zealous activity. During the congress, commissions sat to discuss the questions of tenants, the peasantry, factory councils, the intellectual professions, small savings and the middle class, work among women war victims and

annuitants, communal policy, work among juveniles and other questions.

Representatives of all social strata and political views took part in the discussion on Heckert's paper. They agreed like one man with the chief speech and the expositions of the representatives of the factory councils and the unemployed. They described by drastic examples the social misery of the working masses, the distress of the unemployed, the embittered petty warfare in the factories, the laborious sufferings of the social and war pensioners and of those living on their small savings. The vow to create a united front of all workers ran like a red thread through the whole discussion. It echoed with specially demonstrative force from the words of the social democratic speakers in the discussion. Schreck (Detmold), a trade union functionary who has been organized for more than 40 years in the S. P. of Germany, was followed with great attention by the whole congress when he described how he had come more and more to recognize that the leaders of the S. P. of Germany and of the A. D. G. B. were pursuing a policy which was contrary to the interests of the working class. He protested vigorously against the threat of the trade union leaders to exclude delegates and called upon those present to join in a revolutionary fight. A representative of the S. P. of Germany from Saxony used similiary violent expressions against the leaders of his party. Under instructions from the christian workers a member of the Christian Socialist National party of Lutzenkirchen exhorted all workers to join in a united front against capital.

The political resolution was passed with three dissentient votes. Its final slogans were:

"For the dissolution of the reichstag! For the overthrow of the capitalist government! A fight for a worker and peasant government!"

A resolution in favor of trade union unity and against the secessionists was passed unanimously, as was also a proclamation of solidarity with the English miners.

The resolutions of the Conference of Unemployed were confirmed by the Congress of Working People in a special resolution briefly summarizing the demands of the unemployed. A resolution with regard to the fight of the factory councils was passed. In a special resolution the congress pointed out that the struggle of the German workers for the 8-hour day and for the 42-hour week was the centre-point of all the endeavors of the working masses to organize resistance to the offensive of capitalist rationalization. It is stated that should a referendum be taken in the question of hours of work, the congress would support this question. It further states:

"The congress would point out even today to all the organizations taking part in it, that not even a plebiscite would be able to solve the question of hours of work according to the wishes of the work-

ing class. This can only be done through a direct fight of workers in the factories and trade unions."

Comrade Neubauer, member of parliament, reported on the fight for the expropriation of the princes and explained in detail that this fight must be carried on with all energy in spite of treachery of the social democratic leaders. Dr. Preuss then drew a picture of the activities of class justice in Germany. Immediately after this speech a delegation was appointed from among those present at the congress which, in the name of the congress, was to present to the Prussian diet, the "reichstag" and the ministry of justice a demand for the release of all proletarian political prisoners.

Wilhelm Koenen, member of parliament, then reported on "The Distressed Condition of the Working Middle Class." He laid before the congress extensive and heart-rending material with regard to the pauperization of wide circles of the middle class and brought evidence to the effect that capitalist rationalization is detrimental not only to the proletariat but to small artisans, small tradesmen and small peasants. He was followed by Schneider, a small peasant from the Erzgebirge, who described the desperate condition of the small-peasant population, illustrating it with many individual examples. Up to the present only a small section of the small peasants had recognized the necessity of fighting in common with the workers, but the small peasants who were present at the congress had realized how important it is that the peasants should join the united front of the proletariat.

On the third day of the congress, a number of delegates joined in the discussion. The expositions and suggestions given by them were very valuable.

In the name of the social democratic delegates, Schreck (Detmold) then made a violent protest against the "Vorwärts." In his statement he said: "We oppose the fond assertions of the 'Vorwärts'; the congress is a dire necessity for the working class of Germany. Our leaders, who always put the interests of the working population in the background, are to blame for the fact that it had to take place."

Two papers of great importance were read on the third day of the congress. Comrade Hollein, member of parliament, reported on taxation policy and on questions of re-standardization and tenants. He expounded the wholesale taxation fraud of the bourgeoisie and the uncompensated expropriation of millions of persons with small savings, annuitants and tradesmen by the law passed by the German bourgeoisie for the re-establishment of currency. The chief part of his speech was concerned with the fight against exorbitant rents. He informed the audience that the tenants' organizations were preparing a plebiscite against exorbitant rents which the organizations affiliated to the congress would support by every means in their power.

Dr. Klauber reported on public health. The various forms of rationalization have caused the morbidity statistics to rise enormously, occupational accidents are increasing in a threatening manner, the sickness and social insurance societies are utterly inadequate. The distress among the war victims and victims of the capitalist system is indescribable. In the discussion, speeches were made with extension of time by a representative of the freethinkers who spoke against spiritual enslavement and clerical reaction, and a representative of working class sportsmen, who pointed out the importance of promoting sport among the workers.

Schoenbeck reported on the organizatory forms of welding together the united front movement. The proposed lines of organization demanding the establishment of a national committee of working people and the formation of local and district committees met with unanimous assent. Furthermore, a select national committee of working people was appointed.

The congress was closed with short final addresses by Comrades Heckert and Ruck. The delegates left the congress filled with the determination to work with might and main throughout the country towards uniting all strata of workers in the Red class front.

The congress was a flaring beacon acting as a signal to the German working class that it should, in alliance with the small peasants and the working middle classes, take up and carry through with renewed energy the fight against the danger of war, capitalist rationalization and pauperization. Even the representatives of the middle class and the small peasants acknowledged without reservations that the leadership in this fight is in the hands of the industrial proletariat. The congress created the preliminary conditions for a mighty fighting block of all the workers in Germany. It was a tremendous advance along the path of gathering together the masses in order to defeat capitalism and establish socialism.



ALEXIS RYKOFF,  
Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars  
in the Soviet Union.