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The American Legion and the Bonus

THE shots fired in Washington on Bloody Thursday are echoing throughout the country. Mr. Hoover thought that by dispersing the veterans by naked force, the question of the bonus would be settled. The government of hunger and war was mistaken.

THE government is frantically seeking to explain away its actions. Each day brings new hypocritical defenses. The latest comes from F. Trubee Davison, Assistant Secretary of War, who told the American Legion on Saturday that Hoover's action was necessary because "the Communists were plotting the overthrow of the government."

THE bonus march was, indeed, objectively a revolutionary movement which was exposing the government as the agent of the capitalist class. It was stirring and organizing the masses, but had not yet reached the revolutionary heights of which these jingoes speak.

THE Communists in Washington were there to lead and organize the movement for the success in the fight for the immediate needs of these distressed masses of veterans seeking to bring to it greater consciousness, to weld the ranks of the veterans, to secure support throughout the country for their fight and for the fight of all the distressed.

THE movement for the bonus has not been suppressed. But new maneuvers are being made to destroy the struggle. The latest is to be seen in the actions of the American Legion in attempting to become the leader of the bonus fight.

THE bonus can be won only by the development of mass action, only by the organization of the rank and file under militant leadership, by asserting the utmost mass pressure against the capitalists and their government.

THE convention of the Workers' Ex-Servicemen's League is organizing to carry forward this fight. Not only militant veterans, but all rank and file veterans should give support to this convention to be held in Cleveland September 23.

INSIDE the American Legion those who stand boldly and determinedly for the bonus should organize their ranks in opposition to the leaders and join together with the Workers' Ex-Servicemen's League in one united movement to compel the Hoover government to grant the bonus.

BY uniting their forces stronger than ever before, the veterans can return and compel the government of hunger and terror to grant their demands.

Working Class Voters Must See They Do Not Lose Vote

Thousands of working class voters will be disfranchised this year due to the disastrous effects of the crisis on their living conditions. The crisis has not only broken up the home and deprived millions of workers of an opportunity to make a living, but it has made impossible for thousands to vote in the coming elections.

THE "MILK" OF CAPITALIST KINDNESS



Why Hitler Is Not in the German Cabinet

Workers Continue United Front Anti-Fascist Actions Thru Strikes, Demonstrations

AT THE same time the Government is ready with fresh measures against the anti-fascist movement. On 12th August police searches were carried out on a gigantic scale in Berlin, Essen, Konigsberg, Hannover, Frankfurt on the Maine, Breslau, and many other places in Prussia, in the premises of the Communist Party and the revolutionary mass organizations.

THE WHITE TERROR RAGES IN MEXICO

Soldiers Among Class War Prisoners; Appeal to U. S. Workers to Fight Repression

ASSAULTING and pillage of Trade Union headquarters by soldiers and policemen have been happening very often these days. (Monterrey, Madero City, San Bruno, Jalapa, and Mexico City). Before June 24, the method was to arrest the workers and peasants and to send them to the state capitals of Mexico City to keep them in jail indefinitely without any trial.

White Terror in Action Mexican Firing Squad Murdering a Revolutionary Worker

has made a statement declaring all strikes "unpatriotic at this time". A great number of strikes have been broken under the fascist Code of Labor. The workers are bound to lose their illusions about the new labor laws as on the bourgeois arbitration government courts.

OUT IN the country the poor peasantry is compelled to fight with arms federal soldiers and the landowners white guards (Morelos, Guajuato), because they resist to be thrown out from the land taken without any legal forms according to agrarian reform. The poor peasant guerrillas are being disbanded wherever they refuse to act as rural police for the govern-

"THE STRIKE"

STORY OF DREDGING FLEET STRUGGLE—1905

By PETER NIKIFOROV

The author, Nikiforov, a Bolshevik tells how he got a job on the fleet at Kerch Straits as assistant to Bespalov, an old sailor employed to repair the piping on the ship. Nikiforov decides the young workers are the best element for him to start on.

ON THE eve of our campaign on all the boats, the broadsides and funnels were chalked with the words: "Tomorrow come to work at 7 o'clock." The administration took it all for some mischief, and the broadsides swore and made the men clean the chalked funnels and broadsides.

The next morning the shore was covered with people: there was nobody on board but the administration. The bells were ringing on all the ships, summoning the men to work; but nobody went. They all hung silently around the quay.

One young fellow came to me and began to relate excitedly: "They all came down to the shore at 6:30 a.m. and were afraid to go on board; the bells have been ringing all the time and we have been sitting here and not stirring. The captain of the 'Shumsky' came and asked: 'Why don't you start work? and we answered him from the crowd: 'We'll start at 4 o'clock.' The young workers were the first to leave work, and the older men followed them. The next day the same thing occurred."

Before finishing work, all the funnels of the ships were again chalked with the words: "Finish work at 4 o'clock." The young workers were the first to leave work, and the older men followed them. The next day the same thing occurred.

The administration lost its head and couldn't decide what to do. The next day the gendarmes visited the ships, but every one was working so they went away again.

So it turned out that there was no strike, and the working day was shortened. This unusual method was apparently so unexpected that the administration failed to take any steps and so the nine-hour day came to stay. Afterwards the mechanics and captains quite approved of our action, for their working-day was shortened too.

Thus we successfully carried thru our first attack.

ORGANIZATION OF THE ILLIGAL TRADE UNION

The "bloodless" victory of the 9-hour day not only gave wings to the dreams of the youth, but livened up the older men. They began to pay more attention to political arguments. My authority also rose considerably among all the workers on the dredging fleet.

The state of mind created by our victory urged me on to the idea of organizing an illegal trade union. The workers met this idea with approval. It was impossible at that time to organize a legal trade union, and I was not so keen on organizing it, reckoning that I would not be able to work long, that the gendarmes would interfere one way or another, and I was afraid that a legalized union might be left without the necessary leadership and fall into the hands of the reactionaries, who had melted away for the time being.

WE dedicated a few meetings to the question of the tasks of trade-unions; we called an illegal organization meeting of workers from among the more promising fellows. We elected a board of directors, whom we instructed to work out the rules, obtain a stamp and generally get hold of all that was necessary for an illegal trade union.

Despite all our precautions, fifty persons entered the trade union. Considerable means, about 100 rubles, were collected, which there was really no need to spend. Thus the trade-union began to function. But since every trade-union has to do something, naturally our new-born union began to think of how it could recommend itself to the workers. And the members of the union began to press me for an answer.

It should be mentioned that together with this system of drawing in of workers to work on the dredging fleet, together with all their relatives and offspring, there was a complicated gradation of wages. When I worked out the wages of a worker of the lower categories, I discovered that with all extras it did not exceed eighteen rubles a month. Moreover, the conditions of work were extremely hard and unhygienic; even the stokers, whose work was looked upon as hard labor, had no overalls or working gloves; there was no safety or medical assistance whatever. These were the questions for the young trade-union to tackle. At one of the meetings of the trade-union I made a detailed report on the economic position of the workers on the dredgers and pointed out that the position of the workers could be improved economically only by a determined and organized struggle.

AFTER a long confab they declared that should the strike be a failure, the committee would take no responsibility for it.

I left the committee somewhat depressed; even the workers in the committee had not supported me. I was alone. I shrugged my shoulders and decided to go ahead alone.

Not being used to factional struggles, I could not feel confident and long with the existing attitude of the Party committee towards me; I was afraid that perhaps I might take the wrong road; yet there was nothing to be done but to go on.

The trade-union board, having made its investigation, reported to the union and prepared a draft of demands to improve the economic condition of the workers; there were thirty-two points to the draft, which covered all the material and professional needs of the workers. The trade-union approved the draft and decided to present these demands to the administration on May 5, and to prepare the workers for a strike. They decided to call a May Day strike on May 1st in order to test the influence of the union and see whether the workers were prepared to fight. They also decided to make known their demands in advance to all the workers in the union.

Three days before May Day I called the young workers together and instructed them to begin their agitation work among all the workers for calling a strike on May Day.