







Editorial Column

"RECOVERY" ACT GETS INTO THE CANNERIES!

The largest peach canning companies of California met in San Francisco and basing themselves on the minimum wage law for women recently set by the Industrial Welfare Board, set the wage scale in their code for all workers at 27 1/2 cents per hour.

The bosses are fully aware that the workers will not be satisfied with such miserable pay. That is why for weeks they have been preparing to foist the "Recovery Act" upon the cannery workers with brute force.

On the very day that the cannery bosses were meeting in San Francisco, to put through the enslaving act for the cannery workers, the San Francisco Chronicle comes out with a screaming headline of an alleged red plot to burn down canneries.

This story is deliberately engineered by the cannery companies to develop sentiment against the Agricultural Union leaders now on trial, in preparation to smashing the organization of the workers, as the first step towards jamming the 27 1/2 cents per hour wage, down the throats of the workers.

The canning companies are aware of the big advances the C. & A. W. I. U. has been making recently, leading thousands in strikes. Nothing is more alarming to a cannery boss than a strike.

Why are the bosses through their "Recovery" Act administration setting varying scales for workers in different industries? In some cases the scales are twice as much as for the cannery workers.

Cannery workers! The low wage isn't all that is in store for you! A speed-up unequalled in the history of the industry will be enforced.

Now as never before you need the Cannery and Agricultural Union. Only the degree to which you build your union will determine what your wages and conditions will be.

The District Office is at 81 Post street, San Jose. Defend Pat Callihan and the 15 other leaders! Fight the Roosevelt enslaving act.

A. F. OF L. FAKERS WANT MORE DEPORTATIONS

Supporting the deportation drive against Mexican workers, now taking on greater proportions than ever, the San Francisco Central Labor Council, through an editorial in the "Labor Clarion" deprecates that the drive is not sufficiently intense.

The basis of their alarm is the sudden discovery, thru the figures of V. S. McClatchy, executive secretary of the California Immigration Committee, that the Mexican population in California has increased.

There is nothing new in this. The A. F. of L. policy for decades has been for discriminating against and for driving out these workers.

Because the Mexican workers have made up the bulk of the more than ten thousand who participated in California agricultural strikes during the past three months. They were the most militant, and in the forefront.

The key to solving the problems of the Mexican workers as well as those of the native born Japanese, Filipino and others is not in further division, but in unity.

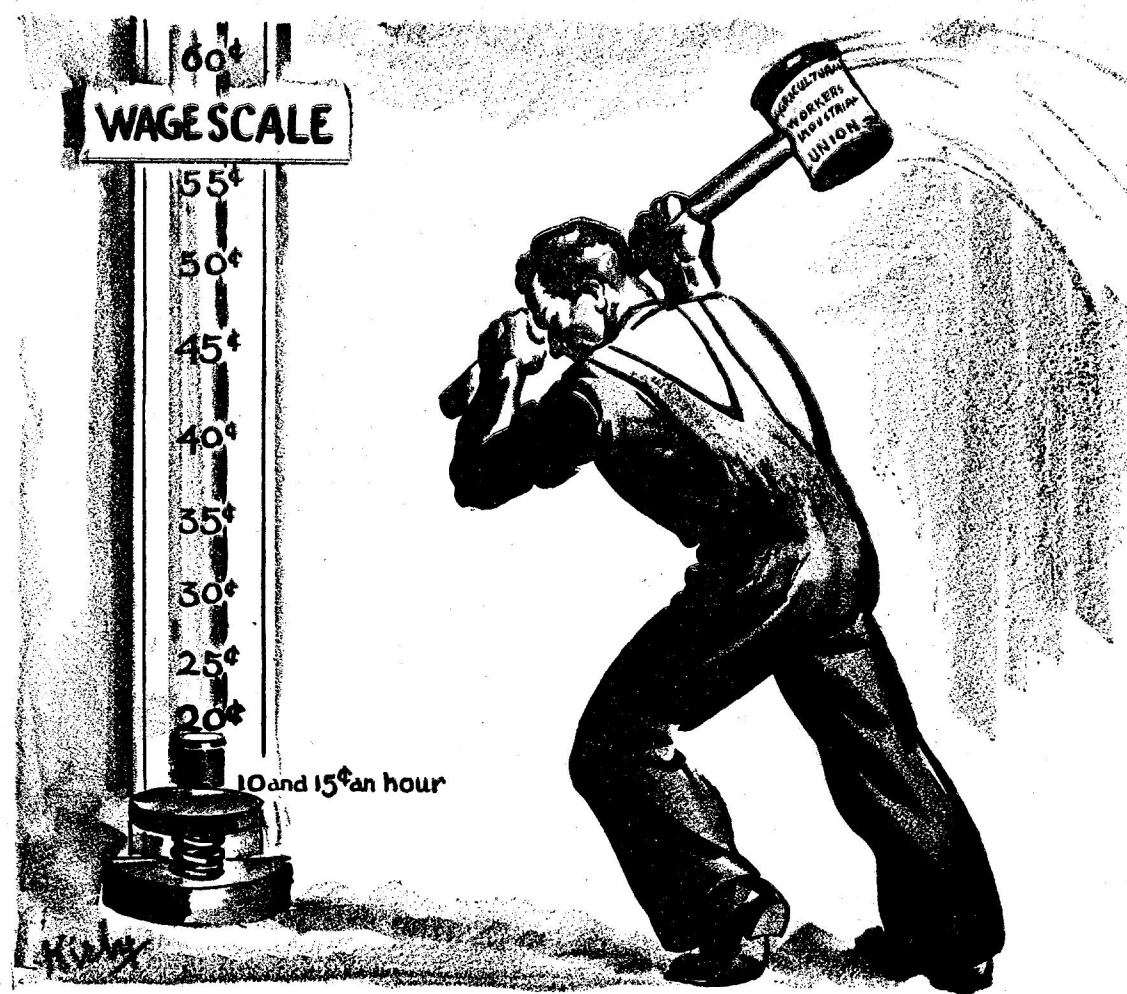
The Agricultural Workers Union is that organization which unites all the workers. Therefore, together with the fight for working conditions fit for human beings must go the fight against deportations.

Communist Units Adopting Plans For Building Party

SAN FRANCISCO, July 15.—During the week of July 17th Communist Party units in District No. 13 (California, Nevada, Arizona) are sending into the district office their plan for building the Party and involving it in greater activity.

The District Committee has not set quotas for obtaining new members, to each unit. The slogan issued is: "2000 good standing members by November 7."

The Harder You STRIKE, the Higher She'll Go!



The Agricultural Workers in the Western States

The article below was prepared by the western labor research group affiliated with the Labor Research Association, which has its head office at 80 East 11 street, New York City.

In each of the eleven western states agriculture is the leading single industry. The value of agricultural products is greater than that of any other industry in these states. The number of workers engaged in wage labor on the farms is greater than in any other industry in most of these states.

During April, 1930, again, according to the census, there were 36,203 unemployed agricultural workers in the western states, 17,163 in California, 5,898 in Colorado, 2,157 in Washington and 2,278 in Oregon.

At present there is almost no workers' organization in the industry. The I. W. W., at one time a powerful organization of the lumber workers, has completely died out.

How much has unemployment among farm workers been swelled during the three years since 1930? No direct enumeration, nor even a reliable estimate is available. But

a glance at the following table, taken from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, will give some indication.

Table showing indexes expressed as % of normal for Farm Supply and Labor Supply in various states from 1930 to 1933.

are far above normal and far above the number in 1930. The demand for farm labor, the number of jobs open, is however far below normal and far below the 1930 level.

WAGES DOWN 50% What has happened to the meagre wages of farm workers during these three years? In answer to the Hoover promise that wages will be kept up, farm wages began to drop as early as 1930.

SPEED LUMBER CODE; HOPE TO STOP WORKERS ORGANIZATION

Old Company Unions Completely Discredited; Militant Union Being Formed

Lumber is the basic industry of the Northwest. Hundreds of thousands of workers have been employed in it. It is a war industry of great importance.

Recently, there has been a small increase in the activity within the industry. This is due to the shipment of lumber to the Orient for use as war supplies.

HOOPER FAKE FIGURES During April, 1930, again, according to the census, there were 36,203 unemployed agricultural workers in the western states.

Recently, the largest mill in Tacoma has abandoned the stagger system and has laid off part of the crew to hire the rest full time.

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At the conference a plan of action will be formulated by the workers which will be a guide for the organization of the whole industry.

and growing strike struggles, the 4L is at present engaged in a strenuous campaign to completely organize the industry into the boss controlled company union. But the workers understand the nature of the 4L and recently a 4L organizer was bodily thrown out of a mill where he was attempting to organize.

The workers have shown their readiness for struggle. Unorganized strikers are breaking out all over the Northwest. Workers have struck at Tacoma, Olympia, Port Angeles, Coos Bay, etc.

The A. F. of L. has sized up the situation and fearing the organization of the workers into the revolutionary unions, are making frantic efforts to organize the International Union of Timberworkers.

The National Lumber Workers Union has issued a call for a conference in Seattle, on July 16, of all workers in sawmills, single mills, plywood and veneer plants, paper and pulp mills, pulpwood and logging camps.

At the conference a plan of action will be formulated by the workers which will be a guide for the organization of the whole industry.

International Events and Western Workers

Social Insurance Benefits Doubled in Soviet Union

By V. KOTOV (Head of the Social Insurance Bureau of the USSR)

The remarkable economic progress made by the USSR and the fulfillment of the Five-Year Plan in four years resulted in the extensive development of Soviet social insurance, the best social insurance system in the world.

The number of insured workers during the First Five-Year Plan increased from 10,540,000 in 1928-29, to 22.6 million in 1932.

The distribution of social insurance funds is given in the following table.

While U. S. Workers Have No Social Insurance; No Protection Against Increasing Unemployment, Sickness, Death and Old Age.

Principal Social Insurance Expenditures (in million rubles) 1928-29 1932 Temporary disability 297.7 773.5 Pensions 263.4 470.7 Unemployment benefits 136.0 0 Medical aid 255.6 821.1 Preventive measures 39.1 188.2 Housing for workers 123.3 750.0

General measures (children's institutions, dietetic restaurants, etc.) 168.5

Provision for workers and employees in case of temporary disability constitutes one of the most important social insurance services in the USSR.

Every toiler in the USSR is entitled to free medical aid. The health protection system is of enormous importance to the national economy of the Soviet Union.

Table showing Hospital System in the USSR in 1917 and 1932. Columns for 1917 and 1932. Rows include First aid stations, Capacity of city dispensaries, Tubercular dispensaries, etc.

The Soviet social insurance system provides for the payment of wages in case of temporary disability.

The extensive health protection measures enforced by the social insurance bodies, which we shall describe below, together with the systematic improvement in the material condition of the working class have resulted in an ever-increasing sick rate among the insured.

Every toiler in the USSR is entitled to free medical aid. The health protection system is of enormous importance to the national economy of the Soviet Union.

The total health protection appropriations during the years of the First Five-Year Plan grew from 700 million rubles in 1928-29 to two billion rubles in 1932.

By investing huge sums in health protection, the social insurance department secures the best medical service for the insured and their families, including dispensaries, hospitals and special forms of medical aid such as X-ray, water and electric treatment, artificial limbs and maternity homes.

The achievements of the Soviet health protection system may be judged from the following short table:

But where are these official wages of 1933? Two out of three farm workers are looking for jobs that are not open, but where have they heard of wages being offered equal to those listed by the government in its official statistics?

But increasing numbers of workers have been rallying to defend their right to live and a decent standard of living. The Colorado beet pickers, the San Jose cannery workers, the Salinas Valley lettuce pickers, the Vacaville fruit tree pruners, by their strikes in 1932, sent out the call heard by farm workers throughout the West.

Workers employed in the leading industries (metal, coal, chemical, mining, machine building, etc.) may under certain conditions receive pensions up to 90 per cent of their wages, if classed under the first category, up to 70 per cent if belonging to the second category, and up to 56 per cent if classed under the third category.

Miners Organization Meeting

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho, June 30.—Thirty-five lumber workers attended a meeting in Memorial Park Wednesday night, where J. Van Orman and C. P. Johnson, representing the T. U. U. L., told them of the necessity of organizing a Lumber Workers Union.

The Soviet social insurance system provides for pensions to invalids, regardless of whether invalidity is caused by general diseases or by accidents at work.

Under the Soviet social insurance legislation, labor invalids are: workers and employees who have partially lost their ability to work at their trade and are forced to engage in easier occupation (third category); those who have completely lost their ability to work but are not in need of outside care (second category); and those who have completely lost their ability to work and are in need of being taken care of by another person (first category).

Workers employed in other industries receive up to 80 per cent of their wages in the first category of invalidity, up to 60 per cent in the second category, and up to 46 per cent in third category.

As regards workers and employees disabled through accidents or occupational diseases, their pensions, regardless of their previous record of employment, amount to 100 per cent of their wages in the first category, 75 per cent in the second and 50 per cent in the third.

Pensions to families who lost their breadwinner depend upon the size of the family, the employment record of the breadwinner and the industry in which he was employed.

Old-age pensions are paid to all workers, regardless of whether or not they have lost their ability to work. The amount of the pensions depends upon the age, employment record and industry in which the worker was employed.

pension equal to 55 per cent of his wages. Workers of the same age and with the same record of employment in other industries are entitled to 50 per cent of their wages. In the case of women, the age qualification is reduced by five years.

CREATING EMPLOYMENT FOR INVALIDS

The Soviet social insurance system does not limit itself to paying pensions to those entitled to them but invests huge sums into creating facilities for employment of those invalids who are still capable of doing some kind of work, and is taking measures to teach new trades to those labor invalids who are able to do light work.

The enormous funds spent previously in maintaining the unemployed (138,000,000 rubles in 1929) are now being used by the social insurance organizations for an extension of the prophylactic measures and improvement of the general conditions of the insured.

Soviet social insurance organizations do much to provide the insured with rest homes and health resort treatment. The October Revolution has made it possible to convert the palaces and villas of the aristocracy and bourgeoisie into rest homes and sanatoriums for the workers.

The scope of the work of the social insurance department in providing rest homes and health resorts to workers and the growth of this work during the First Five-Year Plan is indicated in the following table:

Table showing Number of Persons Treated in Rest Homes, Sanatoriums and Health Resorts for 1928-29, 1931, and 1932.