

Free Caroline Decker, Lorine Norman, Nora Conklin! Flood The Parole Board With Post-cards and Letters! Repeal The C. S. Act! See Page 3.

Western Worker

WESTERN ORGAN OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, U.S.A. (Section of the Communist International)

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EPICS AT THE CROSSROADS; UNITY WITH ANTI-FASCISTS FOR LABOR PARTY IS NEEDED

(Statement By District Committee, Communist Party.) - The delegates to the Epic State Convention in Los Angeles on May 10th will have to face the unpleasant facts of the defeat in the May 5th primaries and draw the necessary conclusions. The Roosevelt-McAdoo ticket won the Democratic primaries, not because the voters endorsed McAdoo as against the Epic slate, but because the policy of the Epic leaders did not make the issues clear to the voters, who did not see sufficient difference between the two slates to warrant their supporting Sinclair. Once more as in 1934, Roosevelt helped to defeat the Epic ticket.

The 7-point platform adopted by the Epics, though it provides an excellent basis for a labor and progressive platform, cannot rally the support of farmer and labor organizations as long as the Epic leaders persist in the illusion of trying to capture the Democratic Party of Roosevelt, Farley, and McAdoo. In this respect, the rank-and-file of the Epic movement is far in advance of its leadership and is more and more coming to the realization of the need for building the united front of all labor and progressive forces as a step toward independent political action on a local, state, and eventually a national scale. Only such a policy can successfully unite all the anti-fascist forces in California and defeat the forces of reaction.

The Epic delegates should learn a lesson from the numerous examples throughout the country of local or state labor parties or tickets which have won mass support and even succeeded in electing candidates to office in the first elections they entered. They should learn from the decision of the powerful Minnesota Farmer-Labor Party to urge the formation of a national Farmer-Labor Party and local state Farmer-Labor Parties. They should learn from the growing sentiment in the trade unions and the farmers' organizations for a Farmer-Labor Party. They should especially draw the lessons from the victory of the united People's Front in France.

If the Epics want to stave off another disastrous defeat and complete disintegration; if they want to defeat the Republican and Democratic machines which represent the employer-banker forces of Hearst reaction and vigilantism in California, they must boldly and fearlessly ally themselves with all progressive, anti-fascist forces in the labor movement, including the Communists and Socialists, and build a united front in the coming state and Congressional elections, which can lay the basis for the building of a Farmer-Labor Party in California. Only such a policy can win broad mass support in the trade unions, farmers' organizations, and among the middle classes. Continued faith in Roosevelt and the Democratic Party cannot defeat fascist reaction, cannot stop war preparations, cannot solve the problem of putting the jobless back to work, or protect the living standards and the democratic rights of the people.

The Epic movement is now at the crossroads—the May 10th convention can either seal its doom, or adopt such a course as will launch a broad, powerful people's movement that will oust the forces of reaction in California.

Rally Begins C. P. Election Campaign

SAN FRANCISCO, May 7. Launching the Communist Party election campaign here, a mass rally will be held next Thursday evening, May 14th, at 121 Haight Street.

Speakers will include William Schneiderman, C. P. District Organizer, and Lawrence Ross, San Francisco Section Organizer and Communist candidate for Congress in the Fifth District.

The relation of the Communist platform to the building of a Farmer-Labor Party will be discussed.

JOBLESS WOMEN STORM CAPITOL

Mothers In Demand For Relief

SACRAMENTO, May 7. — Twenty-five mothers without jobs today stormed the offices of Governor Frank F. Merriam demanding relief.

They had been taken off WPA as part of the federal and state drive to reduce WPA rolls and were without food for themselves or their children.

A mother of six children told how she had had nothing in the house to eat for three days but black coffee. All protestants declared that before they had been cut off WPA they had been sent to fish canneries to work.

Operators there, discovering they were totally inexperienced, refused to hire them.

FRESNO, Calif., May 7.—State WPA Administrator Frank Y. McLaughlin refused requests of a committee of five persons from Kern County and two from Fresno that WPA cease sending workers to cotton fields to sweat long hours at 20 cents per hour.

Indications are the WPA officials plan to lay off at least 10,000 men and women, forcing them to work in the fields and orchards at even less wages than they now receive on government jobs.

BILL HEARING

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 7. While big business continued to get results from its pressure on the government leading to abandonment of a substantial part of federal relief, hearings on the Marcantonio Relief Standards Act (H. R. 11186) opened here yesterday before a labor subcommittee.

First to speak in favor of the measure, now known as a "Charter of Rights for the Unemployed," was David Lasser, president of the Workers Alliance of America.

Organized jobless from all over the country began sending wires and letters demanding speedy approval of the measure. Hearings will continue the rest of this week.

Meanwhile, at Trenton, N. J., scene of recent occupation of the state assembly building by jobless representatives, the job of caring for the unemployed was dumped in the collective lap of the municipalities. At a conference of legislative leaders it was agreed that Governor Harold G. Hoffman should veto the Loizeaux Bill which would have provided at least a minimum of relief to many now facing actual starvation. (For further jobless details see Page 6.)

Farmer-Laborites in 2 St. Paul Offices

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Three Farmer-Labor candidates were swept into office as commissioners, two of them topping the entire poll. William Mahoney, Farmer-Labor Party candidate for Mayor, was defeated by 6000 out of 83,000 votes cast. Mahoney was chief opponent of Minnesota Farmer-Labor support for a national Farmer-Labor ticket at the recent state convention of the party.

Pacific Coast ILA Convention Opens in Pedro

REACTIONARY FORCES LOSE PRIMARIES

Hearst and Merriam Rejected; Epics Show Weak

With less than 600 of California's 11,708 precincts yet to report, President Roosevelt had polled more votes than all his opponents, Democrat and Republican, combined.

The Roosevelt-pledged slate reached 765,030 votes, to 100,864 for Sinclair, and 58,329 for the McGroarty-Townsendite slate.

The Hearst-Merriam slate in support of Alf Landon took a beating from the Republican voters, tallying 249,185 votes to 337,786 votes for the Warren "unintegrated" slate, believed pledged to support of Herbert Hoover.

It was reliably reported that the slate-picking and campaign-financing of the Warren slate was chiefly done by three "big shots" of California industry and finance: Harry Chandler, publisher of the reactionary Los Angeles Times; George Cameron, publisher of the reactionary San Francisco Chronicle; and Joseph Knowland, publisher of the likewise reactionary Oakland Tribune.

GREEN IS OUT FOR ROOSEVELT ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON.—Departing from the text of his speech before the convention of the Women's Trade Union League, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, strongly endorsed President Roosevelt and the Democratic administration, despite the growth of company unionism under Roosevelt and the use of national guards against strikers by Democratic governors in several states (Kentucky, Indiana, etc.), in recent months.

"We cannot afford to make any change in our present great, forward-looking, social movement," he said. "We have been inspired and thrilled by the leadership that destiny has given us and we want to continue it without change." Asked whether this meant endorsement of Roosevelt and the Democratic administration, Green said "I don't see how it can be interpreted as anything else."

The Green endorsement follows on the formation of the "Labor Non-Partisan League," recently by Berry of the Pressmen, Lewis of the Miners, and Hillman of the Clothing Workers.

BIG DOINGS AT VARSITY PARK

Annual May Day Picnic Scheduled Sunday

SAN FRANCISCO, May 8.—All roads lead to Varsity Park May 10—which is next Sunday.

Varsity Park means picnic. Picnic means, first of all EATS. There will be plenty of eats at the Annual Workers' May Day Picnic. The picnic will begin at 10 a. m. and will end with a bonfire and mass singing in the evening.

There will be accordion music and a play by the Workers' Theatre; there will be hiking, racing and baseball; dancing will begin at 2 p. m. and the orchestra will play until midnight.

If we had a Farmer-Labor Party we could guarantee sunny weather. But the weather man,

Communist Leaders Hail 8-Page Issue

Saluting the new eight-page Western Worker, the following telegram was received from William Z. Foster, chairman, and Earl Browder, secretary, of the Communist Party, U.S.A. "Revolutionary greetings to Western Worker, the militant voice of historic and heroic San Francisco General Strike. "Happy to hear of the eight-page Western Worker which will strengthen the fight of the anti-fascist, anti-vigilante forces on the Pacific Coast."

PICKET CELERY FIELDS DESPITE POLICE TERROR

VENICE, Calif., May 7.—Defying police terror which has been flagrantly used against them, the celery workers in the agricultural fields have recognized their picket lines and are again picketing the fields.

In Culver City, likewise, 150 men and women pickets held a three-mile line in the celery and lettuce fields.

A fleet of police radio cars was sent into the strike area yesterday, but the workers were not attacked. The Public Works and Unemployed Union has protested the policy of the Relief Administration in forcing unemployed workers into the fields to scab.

The striking field workers have appealed to all trade unionists, workers' organization and sympathizers to help win their fight against the Japanese Growers' Association by sending food and funds for relief to the Mexican Confederation of Unions, 128 1/2 N. Main Street, Los Angeles.

(Further information concerning this strike is on Page 2.)

RECOGNITION OF UNION BALKED

SAN FRANCISCO.—At a conference seeking settlement of the milkers' strike in Marin County, which may affect the Marin-Dell plants in San Francisco, the Consolidated Milk Producers' Association offered to place the dispute before "an impartial arbitrator," but announced their refusal to consider recognition of the Dairy and Creamery Workers Union.

Sam Kagel of the Dairy Workers, and John J. O'Connell of the Teamsters, represented the unions at the conference, which was held in Mayor Rossi's office. Next Tuesday another conference between employers and labor representatives will take place in the Mayor's office.

POLICE REFUSE TO TESTIFY IN GRAFT INQUIRY

Source of Wealth Not Yet Wrung From Hoertkorn

SAN FRANCISCO, May 7.—Captain Thomas (Silent) Hoertkorn, commander of the Southern Station of the S. F. Police Department, his wife, Mrs. Emma Hoertkorn and their son, Harold Hoertkorn, may face contempt of court charges for their refusal to testify before a grand jury investigating committee here regarding the extent and sources of the Hoertkorn fortune.

Hoertkorn is known to hundreds in the downtown section here for his brutal attacks on workers, many of whom he and his assistants clubbed unmercifully during street meetings.

Others who refused to testify, thereby admitting their guilt, include Sergeant Patrick (Lucky) Shannon, Patrolman Joseph Michael Brouders and Lieutenant Henry Ludolph. Shannon, it will be remembered, said he had cleaned up \$25,000 on the races through the advice of a mysterious tipster, "Monk," and had hidden the roll under a woodpile at his home.

Ludolph refused to answer grand jury questions on "constitutional grounds." The other three may face contempt charges for their sudden clam-like attitude.

"FISHING" Captain Hoertkorn earlier in the investigation declared he had put \$7,000 in an old trunk and had left it there for 15 years. He said his wife was his fiscal agent.

Away on a convenient "fishing trip" is Patrolman James H. Coleman who suddenly retired from the force last week after 29 years of "faithful" service. He has a fortune estimated at \$90,000. His whereabouts is unknown.

The investigation, already sufficiently far along to ascertain there is something extremely "fishy" about the finances of the police, is faced with a shortage of funds which will have to be made up through a special budget appropriation, it is understood. Mayor Rossi and the board of supervisors have the power to grant the necessary funds.

Salinas Lettuce Strike May Take In 6000 Workers

SALINAS.—A walkout of 200 men at the J. A. Simmons Packing House and the Ice Kist Pack Co.'s plant threatened on Thursday to spread to 6000 workers in the lettuce fields in the Salinas Valley. Harvesting of lettuce is now at its height.

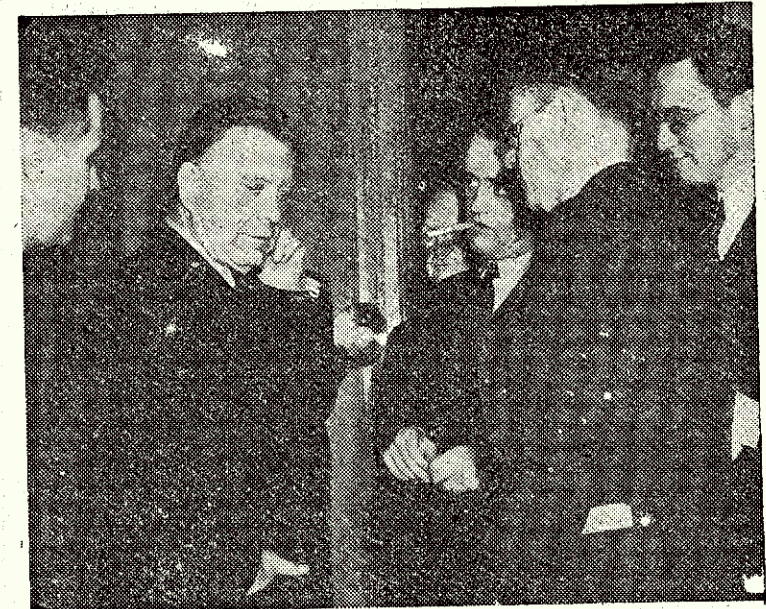
Union leaders charged that active unionists were discharged on the pretext of "inefficiency," and said that the strike was based on violations by the shippers of wage and hour agreements.

Lumberjacks Must Be Rehired By Wash. Co.

SEATTLE.—The Carlisle Lumber Co. of Onalaska, Wash., has been ordered by the Regional Labor Board to cease its refusal to bargain collectively with the Timber and Sawmill Workers Union, Local 2511. All workers who were on the payroll as of last August 5, whose jobs have been filled by other workers, are to be offered reinstatement and their successors dismissed, the order states.

REGISTER COMMUNIST AS BLOW AGAINST REACTION!

Senator Borah Searches For an Idea



One of the chief contenders for the Republican presidential nomination looks for an idea while newspapermen wait impatiently. Senator Borah, an old war horse from Idaho, has given Governor Landon a good run for the nomination. Neither one has a record that indicates labor could trust them to further the interests of the working class.

ITALIAN VICTORY IN AFRICA RAISES DANGER OF NEW WAR

IMPERIALISTIC POWERS SEEKING MORE PROFITS, NOT PEACE

Italian troops have occupied Addis Ababa. The Ethiopian army has been shattered and Haile Sellasie has fled the country. Italy staggers on the brink of bankruptcy, bled white by the exorbitant costs of her conquest. Friction between British and Italian imperialist interests has resulted and the Mediterranean is pregnant with the possibility of a new war.

The League of Nations has been turned into the laughing stock of the world. The governments of all capitalists nations have lost prestige in the eyes of their populations. All peace guarantees resulting from the World War have been destroyed and all capitalist authorities cynically regard a new world conflict as inevitable.

DRUNK WITH POWER

Mussolini proclaims to the world that he is satisfied. A moment later he turns round and informs the Italian populace that the Ethiopian war was only the beginning and that the Italian army will march to new and greater victories.

Developing the Italian war machine and financing the African campaign was accomplished by lowering the standards of living of the Italian people and straining the nation's resources to the annexation of a vast territory in a state of rebellion. The complete subjugation of the vanquished people and the development of the area call for new expenditures on an equal scale.

GERMANY FLOUNDERING

The economic crisis in Germany is now so severe that every authority, however reactionary, is forced to admit its gravity. To meet the situation, Hitler has taken the economic reins out of the hands of Dr. Schacht, and placed them in the hands of his right-hand man, Herman Goering, who is known to the world as a dope fiend, a homosexual and a pathological case. Goering is the author of the recently exposed fascist program of conquest which includes invasion of the Soviet Union and seizure of the Ukraine, a re-division of Europe dividing the territories of the small nations among the fascist powers, and war with France, the appropriation of her colonies, the armed suppression of the powerful Peoples' Front and the substitution of a fascist government.

Great Britain and the United States are faced with the alternatives of financing the fascist powers in a war against the Soviet Union.

Sam Jones Freed In L. A. Frame-Up

LOS ANGELES, May 4.—The attempted frame-up of Sam Jones, militant Negro leader of the Public Works and Unemployed Union, by the Los Angeles County Relief Administration, in co-operation with the Los Angeles "Red" Squad, failed when Municipal Judge Wm. McKay dismissed the case because of "lack of evidence."

Jones was tried on charges of "disturbing the peace" and "sattery," preferred by Frank Finnen, L.A.C.R.A. executive and asserted police officer, and though testified by workers clearly exposed the attempted frame-up, a jury failed to reach an agreement and was dismissed.

Jones was arrested as a grievance committee of 15 members of the P.W.U.U. left the L.A.C.R.A. office at 741 South Flower Street, after an unsuccessful attempt to keep an appointment with Roy W. Pilling, L. A. C. R. A. director.

Sinclair Comments On Primary Ballot

LOS ANGELES, May 6.—The people were not made to understand that EPIC was not against Roosevelt but only asking him to incorporate in his platform production for use for the unemployed, Upton Sinclair commented here today.

"We shall go ahead with our education program," said Sinclair, "and keep before the people."

Sinclair described Roosevelt's measures as "inadequate." "Profits have been doubled, but wages have not been increased nor unemployment decreased," Sinclair said. "And if this is not remedied, bankruptcy and inflation will be the result."

PEDRO LABOR IN WELCOME TO DOCKERS

Delegates Represent 168 Votes at the Convention

SAN PEDRO.—The 29th annual convention of the Pacific Coast District I. L. A. opened here on the morning of May 4, at the Carpenters Hall. The convention was called to order by President Lewis Bruce, president of Local 38-82, I. L. A., was the first speaker at the opening session and gave a brief picture of the set-up of the San Pedro labor movement. He told of the fine assistance the longshoremen had received from organized labor in the 1934 strike.

Buzzell, secretary of the Los Angeles Central Labor Council and Gruber, secretary of the San Pedro Central Labor Council then spoke. Gruber told how the waterfront employers had worked to destroy the longshoremen's union. Draper, president of the San Pedro Central Council spoke next and praised the longshoremen for the part they had played toward making San Pedro a 100 per cent union town.

Fischer, president of the Maritime Federation, told how the Federation was now on a sound financial basis. Bruce next introduced Hunt, vice president of Local 38-82 and Edwardson, its business agent, who welcomed the delegates.

VOTES REPRESENTED

The credentials committee reported that 78 delegates were at the convention, with 168 votes. The committee felt that since some locals had been in financial difficulties owing to prolonged strikes and lockouts, it would not be fair to deprive them of representatives at the convention.

The rules committee recommended that the convention try to conclude all business by Saturday, May 9.

In his report Paddy Morris accused Bridges of calling off the British Columbia embargo. Dietrich of Local 38-79 challenged Morris saying that Bridges had acted strictly in accordance with instructions from his local and insisted that the matter be discussed in this light. By vote the entire matter was referred for a complete hearing before the committee on organization, the findings to be reported to the convention. Dietrich received applause, as did Bridges when he briefly outlined the facts of the case.

Progressive delegates have introduced resolutions on renewal of agreements, referendum vote on district organizer, referendum vote on constitutional amendment, 6-hour day, uniform working conditions and loads, national Maritime Federation, Honolulu and Vancouver charters, criminal syndicalism act, July 5th memorial, return of Gulf ILA charters, visiting members, Farmer-Labor Party, Mooney and Modesto prisoners, Sailors' charter, Committee for Industrial Organization, war, and amendments to agreements.

East Bay Walkout Closes Metal Plant

ALAMEDA.—One hundred workers, the entire crew, have walked out of the plant of the Boyle Mfg. Co. here. The firm makes metal buckets and barrels. The workers have been trying to organize for some time.

The Sheet Metal Workers International turned down their application for a charter, and the men applied for a federal charter. Meanwhile the boss tried to break up their union by firing some of the leaders, and the strike resulted. The men demand union recognition and reinstatement of those fired.



# YOUTH CONGRESS CALLS FOR MEMORIAL DAY ANTI-WAR ACTS

## L.A. LATHERS PATROL WILL GUARD SCALE

LOS ANGELES.—The Lathers' unit of the Allied Building Crafts has formed a rank and file patrol system to enforce provisions in the new wage scale. The scale will take effect May 15 and calls for \$4 per thousand for wood, \$1 an hour for all other lathing, and double pay for Saturday or Sunday work.

**RANK AND FILE PATROLS**  
The patrol, consisting of at least 25 cars with 50 men, will at first concentrate on the last-named point. It was felt at the Lathers' meeting on May 4 that once a closed shop and 40 hour week is established, chiseling on wages will be easily stopped.

Fred Hunter, business agent of the Lathers, reported that for the past week there had been many more calls for men than he could supply. He urged lathers to call at the union office rather than on individual bosses for work, so that contractors who are cooperating with the union might get the breaks.

Nearly all the contractors work alongside the journeymen with their tools, and stand ready to unite with the latter in a struggle against the higher-ups. The newly formed contractors' organization has pledged to pay the new scale, carry compensation insurance, run a closed shop, and pay off once a week.

**RAPID GROWTH**  
Plans of the Board of Directors to submit a new charter for the Allied Building Crafts were approved. The rapid growth of the organization in its nine months of existence has made the old charter out of date. A group from Glendale, which grew from seven to 40 in two days, applied for admission and was voted in by the local membership, but the old charter makes no provision for such a case.  
The Board also recommended that the Allied rent an office for plasterers and lathers both.

## Wide Support for Rights Amendment

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 6. Support to a resolution calling for a Farmers' and Workers' Rights Amendment to the Constitution, has been pledged by nine state federations of labor and a large number of city and county federations, trade union locals, and fraternal organizations, it was stated yesterday by the National Affairs Committee of the Socialist Party.

Introduced by Senator Benson, of the Minnesota Farmer-Labor Party, the proposed amendment would give Congress specific power to legislate in connection with child labor, minimum wages, collective bargaining, old age pensions, sick and unemployment relief, and natural resources.

Among the state federations endorsing the proposed amendment, according to the committee, are Idaho, Arizona, Connecticut, Indiana, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

## R. R. Labor Gyped On Dismissal Wage

WASHINGTON.—A committee representing railway management and the railway labor unions reached virtual agreement on Wednesday on a scale of dismissal wages for over 200,000 workers who will be out for good when the railroad consolidations go through soon.

Under the proposed agreement, a worker who had worked for the railroad one year, but less than two years, would receive 60% of full pay for 6 months, or a lump payment of 3 months' wages.

Older employees displaced would receive higher dismissal compensation, the maximum to be 60% of full pay for five years, or a lump payment of one year's wages to employees with 15 years or more service.

Such a settlement goes directly against a strong rank and file sentiment against dismissal wages, but for a six-hour day instead, so that there need be no displacements. Scores of resolutions by railway labor bodies have insisted that the railway union executives fight against dismissal wage plan.

## WOMEN OF THE NEW SOUTH



These two strikers before a hosiery plant in Rockwood, Tenn., were dragged off the picket line by deputy sheriffs because they voiced objections to seeing scabs take their jobs.

## FROM TWICE A MONTH TO TWICE A WEEK, 8 PAGES

Western Worker Grows in Four Years

On October 10th, 1931, a little mimeographed sheet appeared on the streets of San Francisco with announcements of the Communist candidates in the coming election. It was the first issue of the Western Worker.

"It isn't very much," said the workers. "But we can build it. And the truth scrawled on a piece of paper is better than thirty-six printed pages daily of Hearst's yellow propaganda."

Many meetings in halls, homes and on the street corners followed. Dimes, nickels and pennies were gathered in battered hats. Sometimes the police appeared and battered heads. Sometimes speakers were arrested and booked on fake charges, since no one could legally be arrested for speaking about a worker's newspaper.

### VOL. 1 NO. 1

On January 1st, 1932, a full-size, six-page Western Worker appeared and was sold on the streets in all Pacific Coast cities. It appeared regularly twice each month.

"Twice a month is not very often," said the workers. "But we can build it."

In every town and city workers discussed their paper and formed committees to spread its circulation and develop news sources. The Western Worker had no editorial or circulating apparatus of its own. These tasks were performed by the workers themselves, and still are to this date. They used the paper to voice their demands, build their organizations, fight their struggles.

### ONCE A WEEK

On October 24th, 1932, the Western Worker began appearing every week.

"Now we are getting somewhere," said the workers. "But we can't stop here. Our paper must grow with the developing class consciousness of American labor. And, at the same time, it must help that class consciousness to grow. We need a stronger paper."

Struggles of gigantic proportions shook the West during the months that followed and the Western Worker marched on every picket line and carried news of the struggles to other cities and states where workers rallied in solidarity support.

When the great maritime strike of 1934 started, the Western Worker published a miniature daily edition for waterfront circulation and the unions adopted it for their official use.

### TWICE WEEKLY

A twice weekly, full-sized Western Worker was scheduled for August 1st. Directly before this date came the great San Francisco General Strike and the reign of employer-inspired terrorism that followed. Thus of the waterfront employers' smashed every working class headquarters in the city. Police followed in their wake arresting everyone they could lay hands on and booking them for vagrancy.

Offices and printing plant of the Western Worker were smashed. The whole apparatus for publishing and distributing the paper was wrecked. Police were searching for editors and

editorial workers to jail them on fake charges. The Western Worker was out in the street without any address and with the new twice-weekly edition scheduled. All printers were intimidated and warned that their plants would be wrecked by vigilantes if they handled the Western Worker.

### ON SCHEDULE

Neither threats nor actual violence served to halt the work of the Western Worker staff. Against all handicaps, the Western Worker came out with its twice-weekly paper on schedule, only one issue was missed and to make up for it, a mimeographed edition was run off and distributed.

Editorial and mechanical workers sweated through long sleepless nights and turned the paper out on a linotype that squeaked in every joint and a press so antique it could be called primitive. It had no mechanical parts to either feed the pages or deliver the printed sheets and all of these processes had to be accomplished by hand. Workers stuck to their tasks sometimes for 24 hours at a stretch, despite the fact that any minute an attack by the armed gangsters of the employers could be expected. And workers took the printed sheets out on the streets and sold them despite every threat of police and gangsters.

### THE SIX PAGER

The Western Worker rode proudly through its greatest crisis and came out a bigger, stronger paper than before. Through months during which windows of the editorial offices were smashed continuously, newsboys waylaid by thugs and beaten, and threats were continually received in the mail, the Western Worker continued to grow. It increased from four pages twice a week to six pages twice a week.

### EIGHT PAGES

Today we celebrate another landmark with the twice-weekly eight-page Western Worker.

The workers have told themselves: "We don't like the capitalist press and its fascist lies. But we can have any kind of a paper we want. All we have to do is organize and build it and defend it against attacks."

And the workers have told themselves: "We don't like the capitalist system. But we can have any kind of government or society we want. All we have to do is organize and build it and defend its growth against the powers of reaction."

American artists have decided to boycott Mussolini's international show in Venice this summer.

## INDICTMENTS OF KING ARE THROWN OUT

### E. Coast ISU Official Admits Agreement Not So Hot

SAN FRANCISCO.—Felony indictments against Earl King, leader of the Marine Firemen's Union, and A. M. Murphy, his assistant, accusing the two officials of "criminal libel" in the reported Ivan Hunter murder plot, were dismissed on Thursday by Superior Judge I. L. Harris. The indictments concerned only a misdemeanor, and not a felony. Harris ruled in sustaining a demurrer filed by George Andersen, the militant labor officials' attorney.

The indictments were the result of an attempt by shipowners and their agents in political office to turn into a frame-up against King and Murphy charges that Hunter, reactionary-treasurer of the International Seamen's Union, had paid a fireman named Neill to "rub them out." Neill refused to go through with the deal, he reported.

Deputy District Attorney Fournier announced after Judge Harris' dismissal of the indictments that he will return the matter to the Grand Jury for further action.

### GRANGE ADMITS RAW DEAL

NEW YORK CITY.—Cross examined during his injunction suit to restrain the East Coast I. S. U. rank and file strike committee from continuing its activities, David E. Grange, vice-president of the I. S. U., admitted that he had signed a wage agreement with shipowners without consulting the union membership. He admitted the terms of the agreement were not in accordance with what the members wanted, by claiming that he had been assured the terms would later be revised "in favor of the seamen."

After the court session on Wednesday, Joseph Curran, rank and file strike leader, said that about 4,400 seamen had already joined the strike in protest against the agreement, which does not allow extra pay for overtime, nor hiring halls.

The entire crews of the freighters City of Mobile and Luckenback are out, he said.

## ITALY VICTORY OPENS WAY TO FURTHER WARS

(Continued from Page 1)

lets or going to war with them to prevent them from dominating the imperialist scene. In the past, they have financed and developed the fascist nations, partly out of the desire to sell them war machinery and principally to prevent revolutions in those nations. Today, these fascist nations have turned into Frankenstein's and threaten to run amuck unless their imperialist appetites are satisfied.

### VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Meanwhile, in France and Spain, the people have expressed their mass disgust with the bloody insanity of capitalism by uniting in strong United People's Fronts and virtually seizing the reins of government. Capitalist powers are greeting these People's Fronts with campaigns of sabotage and violence to the extent that they cannot stand still. They must either go forward to the establishment of Socialism or backward into the bloody slough of capitalism. No disposition toward retreat is evident in either France or Spain.

(Further foreign news on page five. In the next issue: The Facts Behind the Palestine Riots, a special report from the European correspondent Pierre Van Passen. Also: Fortifications in the Pacific, an analysis of the conflicting interests of Japan, Britain and the U. S. A.)

## \$2,035,000 Dole For 'Is Majesty

LONDON, May 8.—The House of Commons has appropriated \$2,035,000 annually to defray the incidental expenses of the British Royal Family.

Communist and left-wing laborites opposed the motion vigorously, but were voted down by the snob majority in the House.

## WORTH HER WEIGHT IN GOLD



Mrs. Gloria Vanderbilt (right) evidently feels that her 11-year-old daughter, heiress to a \$4,000,000 New York Central Railroad fortune, is worth her weight in gold, for every weekend she spends \$191 to entertain little Gloria. That means cutting expenses to the bone, the mother testified in a New York court.

## Maritime Labor Groups Endorse Move For California Farmer-Labor Party

### RESOLUTION URGES OUSTING OF BOSSES' AGENTS FROM GOV'T

The movement for a Farmer-Labor Party in California has been given new drive by the resolution passed by the Marine Firemen, Oilers, Watertenders and Wipers' Association. The resolution was endorsed also by District Council No. 2 of the Maritime Federation of the Pacific. Because of its importance we reprint extracts from the resolution:

WHEREAS: The waterfront employers, the bankers, industrial associations, and chambers of commerce and their agents in the government of the state and nation, are continually striving to cut wages and destroy unionism and take away the constitutional and civil rights of the workers; and

WHEREAS: These forces are doing their utmost to weaken and destroy the growing solidarity of labor as exemplified by the Maritime workers through united effort; and

WHEREAS: The great productive mass of small farmers are all in severe economic distress; and WHEREAS: In nearly all the struggles of union labor and of the exploited small farmers, they find themselves opposed by armed forces, the police and National Guard called out by the officers of the city and state who represent the Republican and Democratic machines, and as has been amply demonstrated, the Republican and Democratic Parties are controlled by Wall Street and the banking and business interests of the country; and

WHEREAS: We can out the agents of the employers from the government set-up only through the instrument of independent political action based on organized labor and supported by the exploited farmers and people generally; and

WHEREAS: The strong support for a United Labor Party at the recent A. F. of L. Convention, including six International Unions has been followed by a tremendous development of this movement in nearly all states and hundreds of cities with many state federations of labor and Central Labor Councils having endorsed the formation of a United Labor Party; and

WHEREAS: The Minnesota Farmer-Labor Party, primarily based on the trade unions, at its convention in March called for the formation of a National Farmer-Labor Party, and Labor Parties in various states; Therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this organization, the Pacific Coast Marine Firemen, Oilers, Watertenders and Wipers' Association go on record endorsing the formation of a National Farmer-Labor Party and State and local Labor Parties based on the above conditions and principles, and pledges to work for the formation of such a party; and be it further

RESOLVED: That we urge the Maritime Federation to recommend to all maritime local unions in the different ports to initiate

steps for the formation of local labor parties or united labor platforms and tickets in the coming state and congressional elections.

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California Labor Notes

BANK OF AMERICA IS BEHIND VENICE STRIKE TERROR

BAKERSFIELD.—Representatives from oil workers unions' throughout the state met here and perfected the permanent organization of the California State Council of Oil Workers.

TRONA.—A new Borax Workers' Union, with a membership of 100 men, is affiliated with the A. F. of L. The plant at Trona employs 900 and the new union is combating a company union.

VALLEJO.—At the meeting of the Solano County Central Labor Council a motion was passed to go on record for the repeal of the Criminal Syndicalism Act.

VALLEJO.—John A. Edwards, acting secretary of the Central Labor Council, announced a new wage scale, effective June 14 for carpenters.

OAKLAND.—The delegates from the Building Trades Council reported to the Central Labor Council that his organization plans a mass meeting in an effort to organize the thousand or more workers employed by the East Bay Municipal Utility District.

SAN RAFAEL.—Milkers on 60 Marin County ranches are still striking for \$65 a month for handling 30 cows, and for two days off a month and recognition of the Dairy and Creamery employees Union.

Police Approve New Bomb Throwing Gun

PONTIAC, Mich.—New types of machine guns that throw gas bombs a distance of 100 yards are being displayed by the Manville Mfg. Co. of this city.

The company recently invited police officials of Pontiac, Flint, Detroit and other large cities to attend a demonstration of the new weapon, and bombs loaded with tear and vomit gas were fired over the municipal golf course.

The fact that new men have been hired in the department making the gun shows that quite a few orders are coming in from police departments.

UNITED TICKET WINS

NOME, Alaska.—A united front of the Public Ownership League and the Industrial Workers of Alaska has swept into office a mayor, a member of the school board, and two out of three councilmen in the municipal elections here.

Crane Undergoes Appendix Removal

SAN QUENTIN PRISON, May 6.—Jack Crane, victim of the Criminal Syndicalism Act, was reported in good condition and on the road to recovery at the prison hospital here today, following an operation performed by Dr. Stanley yesterday afternoon.

Although the original diagnosis was stomach ulcers, it was discovered that the real trouble was a badly inflamed and enlarged appendix, with bad adhesions to the stomach. Apparently the appendix had been ruptured some time previously.

The appendix was removed, Crane's recovery is expected to be much more rapid than if the operation had been for stomach ulcers.

Butte Miners Rally In May Day Meet

BUTTE, Mont.—Approximately 250 workers of this mining city rallied at the Miners Union Hall here in celebration of May Day. Plans for an open-air meeting and parade had to be abandoned at the last moment because of showers and threatening skies.

Sponsored by a United Front May Day Committee, the meeting had been endorsed by the Silver Bow Trades and Labor Council and several A. F. of L. locals, including the powerful Butte Miners Union.

"A super-patriot is a munitions maker."—Major General Smedley D. Butler.

FIGHT URGED TO FREE C. S. GIRL VICTIMS

Flood Parole Board With Postcards, Urges Nugent

SAN FRANCISCO, May 7.—Caroline Decker, Nora Conklin and Lorine Norman, Sacramento victims of the Criminal Syndicalism Act, will face the State Board of Prison Terms and Paroles within the next week or two, it was learned here today.

"Whether the prison terms of these heroic girls, now in Tehachapi Women's Prison are set at the minimum time served, depends upon the heightening of the immediate release," declared Herbert Nugent, state secretary of the Conference for Repeal of the C. S. Act.

"The postcard campaign must reach new heights if the girls are not to receive the same stiff and inhuman sentences that were handed out to Pat Chambers, Martin Wilson, Al Hougardy, Jack Crane, and Norman Mini."

Postcards, bearing the girls' picture, may be obtained in mass quantities from 68 Haight Street, San Francisco, and from the Southern California Councils for Constitutional Rights, 129 West Second Street, Room 326, Los Angeles.

FREE LOUISE TODD! Louise Todd, who was convicted and sentenced to 1 to 14 years a technical and discriminatory in Tehachapi Women's Prison or, section of the perjury law, has applied to the State Board of Prison Terms and Paroles for a hearing at the regular session of the board about the middle of May. The State Conference urges that protests be sent to the board demanding the minimum sentence be set.

Demands that the minimum term of 10 months, which would expire September 15th next, be set should be sent to Frank Sykes, Kohl Building, San Francisco. Louise Todd's mother and George Andersen, International Labor Defense attorney, will appear before Sykes with this demand.

Meanwhile, the fourth central labor body affiliated with the State Conference for Repeal of the C. S. Act, and joined in the California-wide campaign to repeal this anti-labor statute. The Solano County Central Labor Council thus joins the central bodies of Alameda County, Contra Costa County and Marin County.

Delegates to the Building Trades Council of Alameda County took out referendum petitions for 21 trade unions affiliated on last Monday night.

NEW HEADQUARTERS Regional headquarters for the campaign have been set up at 532 Sixteenth Street, Room 410-F, Oakland, with all three East Bay Central Labor bodies participating.

In San Francisco, committees of organizations and individuals will be set up in all nine assembly districts of the city, following a meeting of all local delegates to the recent Sacramento Congress to be held on Monday night at 7:30 at the campaign headquarters at 68 Haight Street.

New affiliates to the State Conference are being obtained almost daily from trade unions, unemployed organizations, churches, fraternal organizations, etc.

At the present time 235 organizations are affiliated to the conference throughout California.

Oakland Council For Frazier Bill

OAKLAND.—One month ago the Teachers' Union presented a resolution asking the Central Labor Council to endorse the Frazier-Lundeen Social Insurance Bill. At that time it was voted to lay the matter over for one month so as to give the delegates time to study the bill.

LAUNDRY WORKERS The secretary of the Council reported that last Tuesday the Laundry workers and the Laundry Wagon Drivers' Union placed pickets around the plant of the Oakland, Calif. Towel Co.

Although there were no organized workers in the plant at the time not a single worker went through

Messenger Boys Win Higher Pay In Brief Strike

SAN FRANCISCO, May 7 Last week the three messenger boys of the Drumm and California street office of the Postal Telegraph Co. won wage increases by a brief strike. Denied their first demands, they walked out on strike and visited all the customers they had been serving, explaining that all they were fighting for was enough to buy shoes and food.

They had been getting 2 cents a message. They wanted 2½ cents. Their methods were so effective that they were called back to work within a few days and their demands were granted.

PAT CHAMBERS



EMPLOYERS TO PAY SURCHARGE FOR SILICOSIS

SAN FRANCISCO, May 5.—"Silicosis surcharges" were ordered added to present premiums paid by California employers for workmen's compensation insurance, here today by Samuel Carpenter Jr., state insurance commissioner.

Sixty-six industries, including mining, foundries, glass manufacture and cement manufacture, where silical dust menaces workers' health, will be affected by the surcharges when the new rates become effective June 1, 1936.

The rates approved by Carpenter were far below those proposed by the insurance companies, through the Inspection Rating Bureau last year, and are a concession to the violent attacks made on these higher rates by big industrialists.

Approved surcharges range from 34 cents to \$5.61 per \$100 of payroll, compared to the bureau's proposal of 84 cents to \$28.07 per \$100 of payroll.

Employers taking "special safety measures" will receive as much as 50 per cent reduction in the approved surcharges, and industries maintaining especially dangerous working conditions are to be penalized.

Carpenter stated in a written opinion that present insurance rates do not adequately cover silicosis risks, which have increased in recent years.

the picket lines and 75 laundry workers signed applications out on the sidewalk.

In about one and one half hours the boss sent out for the union representatives and after a little conference agreed to grant a three-dollar per week raise at once and discuss other demands at a later conference after the workers went back to work.

Since this victory about 100 workers there have signed up in the unions. It is thought that another strike may be necessary to force the signing of the demands.

It was reported that a conference had been arranged with the manager of Gallenkamp's Shoe-stores to sign the union agreement. Just prior to this meeting a petition to the secretary of the Council was brought in to the office signed by 18 employees stating that they are satisfied with the present working conditions. This virtually amounted to turning down a \$5 raise. It is strongly suspected that considerable coercion was used.

The Council adopted a resolution presented by the Professional Workers' Union protesting against the abandonment of "white collar" WPA projects.

DRIVE STARTED ON COMMUNIST REGISTRATION

Anita Whitney, Ross To Run for Congress

SAN FRANCISCO, May 6.—Throughout California the Communist Party launched a campaign for mass registration of Communist voters today when the registration rolls were re-opened following the presidential primaries.

In 15 out of 20 Congressional Districts and in 35 Assembly Districts, Communist Party candidates will be run for office.

WHITNEY RUNS

Anita Whitney, beloved Communist leader, will oppose the Republican incumbent, Florence P. Kahn, in the fourth Congressional District, San Francisco, and in the fifth district, Lawrence Ross, San Francisco section organizer of the Communist Party will oppose Richard J. Welch, Republican-Democrat incumbent.

In Los Angeles, Communist candidates will oppose Charles H. Kramer, incumbent, who introduced the vicious Kramer Sedition Act into Congress, in the Thirteenth Congressional District; and Thomas F. Ford, Democrat, in the Fourteenth District, as well as four other districts.

Efforts will be made to gain Communist registrations from among the workers in the trade unions and in the shops, and from among the workers in the trade unions and in the shops, and from among the 100,000 voters who cast ballots for Anita Whitney in the November, 1934, elections.

The "Register Communist" drive in no way means that the Party is abandoning the fight for a Farmer-Labor Party, but on the contrary will utilize all election campaigns to raise educationally and organizationally the necessity for building such a broad united front in the political field.

FOR LABOR PARTY

Communist candidates will be leaders in the fight for working class unity, for a broad united front in the form of a Farmer-Labor Party.

Not only will the Communist election campaigns be carried on in the industrial areas of the state, but the agricultural and rural areas will also find Communist Party candidates running, from Eureka to San Diego. In the Third Congressional District, a Communist candidate will oppose incumbent Frank H. Buck, reactionary Democrat and wealthy ranch owner. This district includes Sacramento, Napa, San Joaquin, Solano and Yolo counties.

A mass Communist registration will mean mass struggles against reaction, against union-smashing and vigilante terror, and for better conditions for the broad masses of California in the form of increased relief and social insurance.

MOONEY WITNESS WAVERINGLY URGES FREEDOM FOR VICTIMS OF 1916 DYNAMITING FRAMEUP

SAN FRANCISCO, May 4.—A reluctant and wavering witness was James F. Brennan last week in the hearing before a Supreme Court referee on the Tom Mooney case.

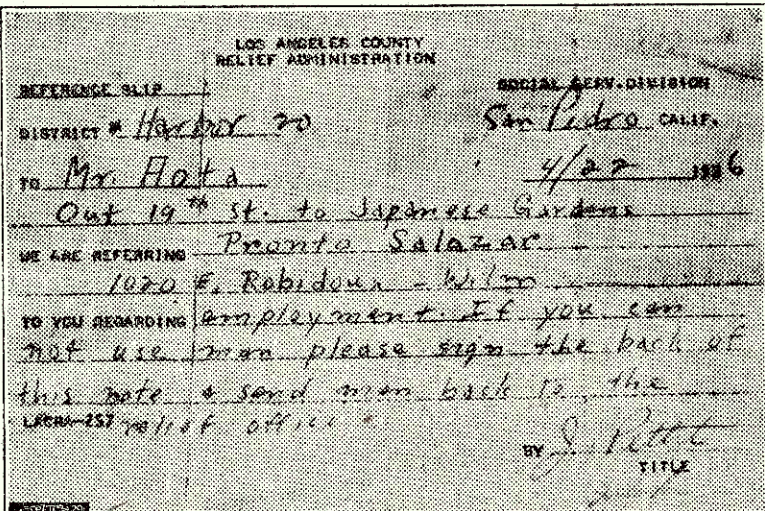
A member of District Attorney Charles M. Fickert's staff in 1916, Brennan's stand was that he thought "and still thinks" Mooney and Warren Billings guilty, but that he has made numerous moves for their release. In 1920 he wrote to Governor Richardson asking for a pardon and he introduced the State Assembly resolution asking for commutation of Mooney's sentence to time served.

Such moves were simply because Brennan was "sorry for them," and because, in view of the recantations of the chief witnesses against them and his doubt of those witnesses from the beginning, he thinks no one ought to stay in jail on such testimony.

CONSERVATIVES

Then wavering to the other side, Brennan brought in again all the old accusations which are being permitted to State witnesses to show their "frame of mind." He told of a labor delegation, consisting of Andrew Gallagher, Michael Casey, and Arthur Brouillet

LACRA HERDS SCABS!



SCAB-HERDING again became an official policy of the Los Angeles County Relief Administration during the strike of celery workers in the Venice area. The above reproduces an order directing an unemployed Mexican worker to report to a Japanese grower, but the worker refused to scab and instead reported to the strike headquarters.

Women's Trade Union League Faces Vital New Problems at Convention

WASHINGTON.—Meeting for the first time in seven years, 60 delegates to the 12th convention of the Women's Trade Union League, representing over half a million organized women workers in industry, heard a plan for "new organization techniques which will capture the minds and hearts of the young men and women," an account of the strikes in which the League aided since 1929, and had presented to them a prospect of war and fascism.

After preliminary greetings from local trade union officials, the women plunged into business, hearing the report of their president, Rose Schneiderman of the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers Union. She ended her report by declaring, "Should we not examine our wares, so to

NO BLUE LAWS, CRY STUDENTS

PULLMAN, Wash., May 6.—The entire student body of 3500 of Washington State College paraded in a militant demonstration against "blue law" administration on the campus, despite a sweeping wind and rain.

Banners carried slogans of "More Education—Less Regimentation," "We're Not Reds, But We're Not Children," "We Want an Administration Without Evil Minds," "Germany Has Hitler, Italy Has Mussolini, But We Have Holland."

"Holland" is Dr. E. O. Holland, president of the college. "We do not want a change in faculty personnel," stated Grant Schumacher of Everett, Wash., one of the student speakers.

The demonstration was sponsored by the Students' Liberty Association on the campus.

NO REAL PROPOSAL

Miss Schneiderman painted the present picture in the dark colors. "The deadly spirit of fascism is rife everywhere. Democratic ideals are being clouted and decried, bringing persecution and untold misery." She proposed no method of action against war and fascism.

Miss Schneiderman also described the conditions of unemployed women coming to the League's headquarters in search of employment. "The suffering of women during this depression is something to be remembered. It is especially hard and devastating to the younger group. In the search for jobs stark disappointment awaits them. Skill and workmanship no longer count. The one who is willing to take the lowest wages is the one who gets clothing becomes shabby. They are without resources of any kind, without shelter other than lodging offered by the municipal lodging house, a most degrading situation for those in the past who have been self-supporting."

She recommended a return of the N.R.A. as a remedy for "the havoc of future depressions such as we have lived through." She also praised President Roosevelt for his promises in 1933 that no one shall starve. She said the promise had been kept. Progressives are expected to oppose this with the proposal for support to the Farmer-Labor Party.

Others addressing the six-day convention are: William Greer, president of the American Federation of Labor, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, Josephine Roche, assistant secretary of the Treasury, and Senator Robert F. Wagner (D., N. Y.)

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BANK-DOMINATED GROWERS DENY STRIKERS' DEMANDS

VENICE, Calif.—Behind the police terror against the 400 semi-starved agricultural workers, behind the refusal of the Japanese growers to settle the union demands, is seen unmistakably the reactionary hand of the Bank of America.

Because of the domination of this bank, celery strikers here have been denied their reasonable demands of an increase from the present scale of 22½ to 25 cents per hour up to a minimum of 25 cents per hour, and recognition of the union.

Foes of Labor Get Support From AFL Body at Portland

PORTLAND, Ore.—The reactionaries in the Portland Central Labor Council, adhering to the "reward your friends, punish your enemies" policy in elections, rewarded no friends of labor, but did reward some well-known anti-labor men.

O. R. Bean, shipowners' tool during the longshoremen's strike, was endorsed against S. C. Williams, ardent supporter of civil rights, who has come forth with an out and out labor program. The latter is running on the ticket of the Municipal Progressive Club.

The Council refused to support one of its own members, Ben Anderson, delegate from the Operating Engineers, also on the progressive ticket, but instead backed J. E. Bennett, whose program contains not a word concerning the rights of labor.

For state senate the Council reactionaries endorsed Homer D. Angel, old guard Republican and Alex G. Barry, red-baiter and open labor hater, whose main plank is for retention of the state criminal syndicalism law.

Soft Coal Strike Again Postponed

NEW YORK.—A strike of more than 100,000 miners in the anthracite fields of eastern Pennsylvania was cancelled when United Mine Workers Union officials and coal company executives agreed to a second truce, temporarily extending the expired agreement.

The decision came so late that 7000 miners in isolated towns had already walked out before receiving telegrams informing them of the truce.

Coal operators are demanding a wage cut for the men, but would be willing to continue the present agreement.

The union demands a 20 per cent increase, shorter hours and equal distribution of work.

The Communist Party leads the struggle of the revolutionary working class along the road to final freedom. Organization does the trick. You can help quicken the end of the system that is holding us down. Act today. Fill in this blank and mail it to 121 Haight Street, San Francisco, or to Room 410, 224 So. Spring St., Los Angeles.

Please send me information on how: To join the C. P. ( ) To study Communism ( )

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The Bank of America is said to hold title to, or possess mortgages on, approximately 70 PERCENT of the valuable agricultural land in Southern California. These fertile acres are leased in blocks, and in many instances to Japanese growers at high rentals approaching the exorbitant. Due to the California law which provides that no foreign-born Japanese can own land in this state, the Bank of America has taken full advantage of the situation to wring profits from the workers.

This bank's control has expressed itself in this strike in extreme terroristic attacks against the workers, led by the infamous "Red Squad" of the Los Angeles Police Department.

TERROR TOLL

One worker was shot in the heel and is now in danger of tetanus infection; another worker sustained a crushed chest from a blow from the butt-end of a shot gun; a woman picket is suffering from a broken arm; many pickets are nursing split scalps; babies were tear-gassed in their own homes.

This is the toll exacted by the growers and the Bank of America in the celery fields strike.

The following protest telegram was sent to President Roosevelt by the Public Works and Unemployed Union, Local 3, 51 Market Street, Venice:

PWUU PROTESTS

"Local agricultural workers on strike against coolie wages and for right to bargain collectively Los Angeles 'Red Squad' police provoking and intimidating strikers and sympathizers.

"Red Squad officer, on Sunday, April 26, loaded shot gun, pointed it at pickets, and said 'If you fellows go through that gate, we will kill you. That is what we came here for—to kill you.'

"Before murdering them Hitler at least gives his victims some semblance of a trial. We demand that you stop forthwith this hideous savagery of the Los Angeles police directed against the working class."

An answer to this protest, signed "Kerwin," stated:

"Your telegram April 30 referred Dept. of Labor, Commissioner of Conciliation E. H. Fitzgerald has previously been assigned to agricultural situation Venice and vicinity. His headquarters 629 Federal Building, Los Angeles."

Throughout the strike, the picket lines have been swelled by members of the Public Works and Unemployed Union, International Labor Defense, Women's Committee of the American League Against War and Fascism, Bay Cities Open Forum, Bay Youth Club, etc.

Support the peace policy of the Soviet Union! Defend the Soviet Union—the land of Socialism!

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# EDITORIALS

## Fifty Million Frenchmen Can't Be Wrong

The decisive election victory of the People's Front in France over the reactionary-fascist bloc is a powerful lesson to the American people on what the united front can accomplish. The united front policy consistently advocated by the French Communist Party to combat the danger of war and fascism won the masses of the Socialist Party and the Radical Socialist Party to such an extent that the opposition of the Socialist and Radical Socialist leaders to the united front was broken down, and both these parties joined with the Communists in the People's Front which won not only the working class to its banner, but also the middle class elements, peasants, intellectuals, and small shopkeepers.

*This sample is the best answer to those people who say, "We are not against the united front, but not with the Communists; the Communists will drive the middle class away." On the contrary, the united front in France not only served to unify the working class and strengthen it, but attracted to itself all the petty-bourgeois elements that hated and feared fascism, opposed war, and were seeking a way out of the crisis they found themselves in. The failure to build the united front would have driven the middle class elements into the arms of Fascism, as it did in Germany, where the fascists made special appeals with their demagogy to win them over.*

Some people also have the excuse, "The Communists advocate the united front only as a maneuver, a trick." But the victories of the united People's Front in France and Spain have proven that the united front is not a maneuver, that it is just what the Communists insist it is, the most powerful weapon to unify the masses of people against the advancing danger of fascist reaction and war, and to defend the living standards and civil liberties of the people.

*The Communists have demonstrated their sincerity in advocating the united front, and the recognition of this is seen in the sweeping victories of Communist candidates in France; it is a vote of confidence by the French people who recognize the leading role played by the Communist Party in bringing about the united People's Front.*

The American people can learn from this example. Socialists, trade unionists, Epics, Townsendites, should see from this example, how the building of a united people's front, through the building of a Farmer-Labor Party, can defeat the forces of reaction, the war-mongers, and take effective measures to preserve our democratic rights and defend the economic and political interests of the masses.

*We congratulate the French people on their victory. Let us go forward to the building of the American People's Front. Forward to a Farmer-Labor Party*

## Join the Crowd at the May Day Picnic Sunday

Too many of us are tied to the job, nose to the grindstone, for too many days, weeks, months—and yes, years. Those of us who haven't jobs are tied to an even deadlier regime from which there is no "out."

The sun shines but we hardly see it. The grass is green and the flowers bloom—but not for us. There are thousands like us—but we never meet them.

Once a year San Franciscans are given

an opportunity to get out into open air, to meet comrades, friends, strangers and to laugh and relax. Best place in the world to do this is at a picnic.

So put on your old clothes and join the crowd at the Annual Workers' May Day Picnic next Sunday. It's at Varsity Park, three miles west of Menlo Park, down the Peninsula where the weather is at its best. You'll meet all the best people and you can talk politics, the latest style of hair dress or what you will.

Remember—Varsity Park, Sunday, May 10. Buses will leave from 121 Haight st. all morning. The picnic officially opens at 10 o'clock in the morning.

Be there!

## What Is The Answer?

**QUESTION**—If the Communist Party is for overthrowing the capitalist system why do they participate in strikes for higher wages and better conditions. Won't improved conditions make the workers better satisfied with the present system?

**ANSWER**—The Communist Party, as a Party of the working class, champions and defends the every day needs and demands of the workers. The immediate interests of the working class include the desire for higher wages, better working conditions, a decent standard of living—and as such these are immediate issues which the Communist Party raises and fights for.

Far from making the workers satisfied with the present system the winning of improved wages and conditions proves to the working class the strength of organization, what it can obtain when it utilizes its organizational power, and spurs the working class on to still further struggles against the entire system of exploitation. No better example of this can be given than the struggles of the waterfront workers in San Francisco who have won the best conditions of any port in the country. Yet, these workers, as the recent events have shown, are ready to defend their conditions by organized mass action when any attempt is made to undermine them.

### School for Struggle

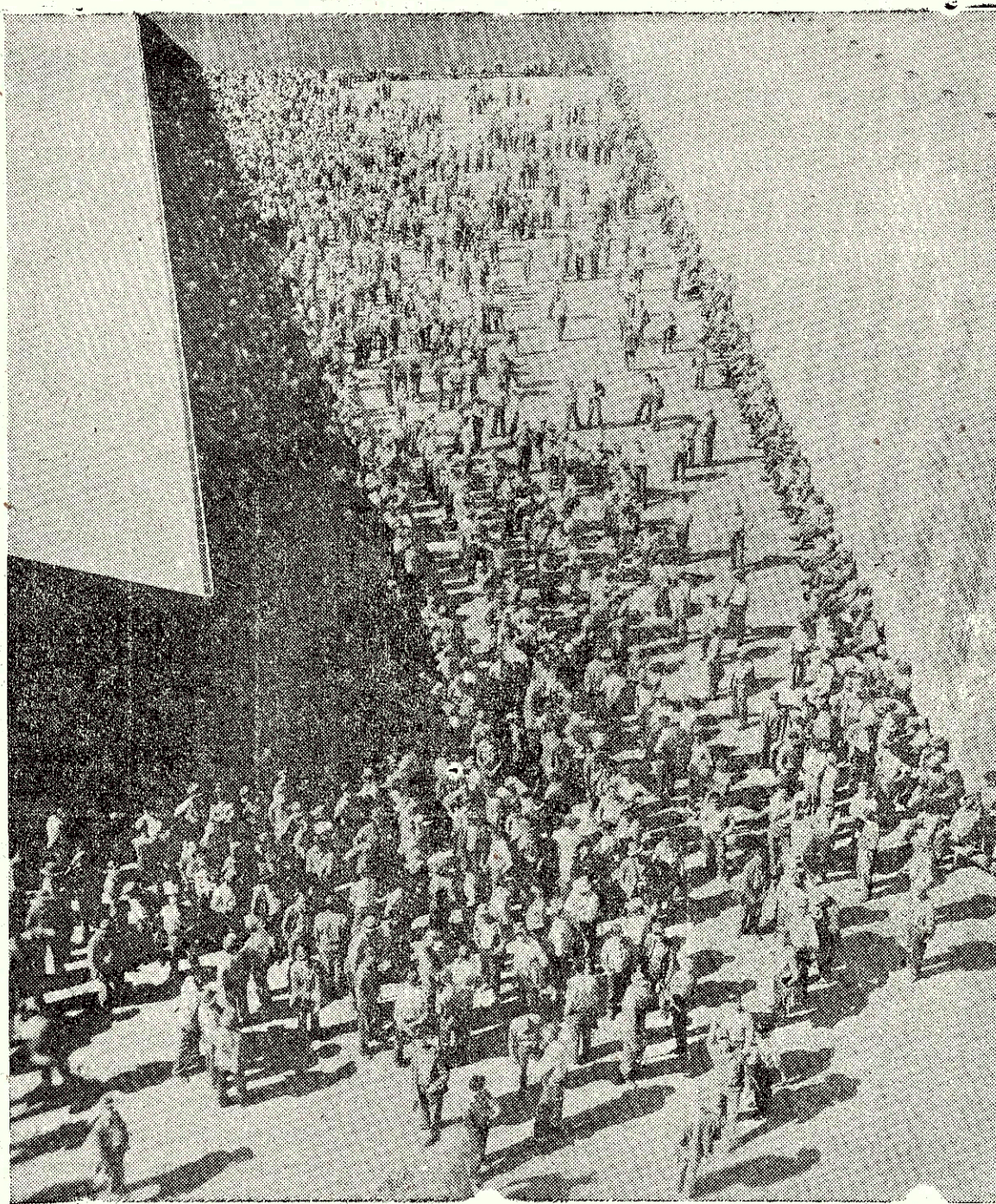
In the course of these struggles the working class learns to distinguish its enemies—the capitalist authorities—who place all weapons of repression at the service of the capitalists—police, troops, etc. The workers see every weapon of propaganda in the hands of the capitalists—the press, radio, movies, church, etc.—turned against them. These struggles are not only an effective weapon for improvement of conditions, but excellent schools for the working class in which it learns the role of the capitalist state and its agencies.

It is on the basis of the experiences in these day to day struggles in defense of the immediate and political issues that the working class comes to the realization that only the overthrow of capitalism will bring about a permanent improvement in their conditions, will eliminate the horrors of unemployment and insecurity. Good wishes or desire for socialism will not bring it about. The class struggle—training and organizing the fighting readiness of the working class—is the school of experience in which the working class learns the necessity of overthrowing capitalism and under the leadership of the Communist Party prepares itself for this final struggle.

Comrade Stalin in his "Foundations of Leninism" points this out as follows:

themselves ready to support the vanguard, realizing the impossibility of maintaining the old order of things and the need for ending them. It is a question of the masses understanding this necessity, and showing themselves ready to support the vanguard. But this state of knowledge can only come from their own experience . . .

## We Must Get Five C. S. Prisoners Out of Here!



A hot Sunday in San Quentin, one of the most overcrowded prisons in North America. Note how the men cluster in the shade of the large shed. This was before the new cell block was completed and overcrowding was even greater.

The State Parole Board will meet this month and will have before it the question of setting the sentences of three victims of the anti-labor Criminal Syndicalist Law, Caroline Decker, Nora Conklin, and Lorine Norman, and of Louise Todd. All but Lorine Norman, who is out on bail, are in the State Women's Prison at Tehachapi, Calif. The greatest mass pressure for their release must be developed in the next few weeks, by the hundreds of organizations participating in the state-wide campaign for the repeal of the C. S. Law.

**After the vicious sentences imposed on the five C. S. victims in San Quentin, it is necessary to redouble the efforts of all labor and progressive forces to arouse a mass protest before the next meeting of the Parole Board, when the Tehachapi cases will be considered.**

In addition to the cases of the three C. S. victims, the setting of the sentence of Louise Todd may be acted upon this month. Comrade Todd was convicted of a technical violation of the election law, which all other parties violate with impunity. Her conviction and vicious sentence of one to fourteen years, although she was guilty of no crime, is a clear case of political persecution because of her beliefs, and is directed against the Communist Party and its legal status on the California ballot. The same mass protest which has developed against the Criminal Syndicalist frame-up, must be aroused against the conviction and sentencing of Louise Todd, and for her release. Only mass pressure will defeat this threat against the civil liberties of the people of California.

## MINIMUM WAGE UNDER FIRE

WASHINGTON—The U. S. Supreme Court is hearing arguments in a test case which may result in the throwing out of all minimum wage laws, and the barring of any such laws in the future. Any one who has followed decisions of the Supreme Court on labor questions can see that this is quite possible. The present hearing is concerned directly with the validity of the New York Minimum Wage Law, which affects 1,500,000 women workers in that state. Laws in other states affect thousands more.

The case is that of Joseph Tipaldo, a laundry owner, accused of violating the New York law. Powerful forces in industry are seeking the smashing of minimum wage laws, as is shown by the fact that Tipaldo, a "cockroach" employer, is having former Governor Nathan L. Miller, a "big shot" corporation lawyer, come forth with objections to the law on "constitutional" grounds.

### UNCONSTITUTIONAL

The application of the Minimum Wage Law to women was declared unconstitutional recently by the New York Court of Appeals, which based its decision on the fact that the U. S. Supreme Court rejected 13 years ago a District of Columbia law applying minimum wages for women employees.

The attitude of the Supreme Court on such basic labor questions has not changed since then. Four of the present members of the court—Justices Sutherland, McReynolds, Vandevanter and Butler opposed the law in the District of Columbia 13 years ago.

If the employers meet with success in defeating the application of the law for women, it is certain that they will follow with an attack on application for men.

## UNION SPEAKER OFFERS AID TO FIELD WORKERS

CUPERTINO, Cal., May 4.—All possible aid, financial and moral, was offered the agricultural workers of Santa Clara County in their attempts to organize, here yesterday, by Victor Lazaro, speaking for the Santa Clara County Central Labor Council at the annual May picnic of the Jugo-slaw Workers Club here yesterday.

"The Santa Clara Central Labor Council and the Building Trades Council will do everything in their power to help you organize yourselves," said Lazaro, who is a member of the Retail Clerks Union.

The necessity of building a broad united front, a Farmer-Labor Party, was stressed by Elaine Black, of the International Labor Defense.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

### Hearst—Multi-Millionaire

Hearst, outstanding yellow-journalist, labor enemy and war monger, is a multi-millionaire. He not only owns 28 newspapers and 13 magazines, but eight radio stations, two moving picture companies; large mining interests, 2,000,000 acres of land, hotels, etc.

His mining interests include shares in the San Luis Mining Company at San Dimas, Mexico, the Ophir Carbonero Minerals Corporation of Nevada, Anaconda Copper Company and Homestake Mining Company in South Dakota. Homestake is the world's richest gold producer today. Hearst's mining interests are estimated at around \$15,000,000.

While in 1900 Hearst only owned two newspapers—in 1913 he owns 28. The newspapers controlled by Hearst have a total circulation of 5,500,000 readers on week-days and 7,000,000 on Sundays. They do over \$100,000,000 worth of business a year—and are estimated at a value of \$90,000,000.

Hearst owns 13 magazines which are estimated to be worth \$25,000,000. Good Housekeeping, the most valuable of the magazines, in 1934 alone had set a net paid circulation of 2,000,000 and earned about \$2,500,000.

Hearst also owns the International News Service and the Universal News Service. His King Feature Syndicate which sells comics, serials, sob-stories, columns, fiction and "featured" news, is valued at \$8,000,000.

Hearst is a movie producer controlling Hearst Metrotone Newsreel and Cosmopolitan Productions, Inc. It is rumored that he also has the controlling stock in Warner Brothers Picture Corporation.

Hearst hopes to operate a radio station in every city where he has a newspaper. Today he already operates eight stations, although he only began buying them in 1928—in New York, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Milwaukee, San Francisco and Burbank and Santa Monica, California.

Mr. Hearst is also a great owner of real estate. The very famous San Simeon estate in California, which runs for 50 miles along the coast of the Pacific Ocean, in which Hearst lived, covers over 400 square miles. Hearst has vast ranches. In Manhattan Island alone he owns large hotels and buildings which have an assessed value of \$41,000,000.

This is only part of the Hearst empire. It is estimated that he is worth—if one considers the newspapers, magazines, syndicates, mining and movie interests, real estate, etc., \$220,000,000. A nice little, tidy sum, we should say!

**REGISTER COMMUNIST TO BUILD UNITY OF THE WORKING CLASS!**

## Old Parties Demonstrate the Need of a Labor Party

By Nat Davis

It took barely two weeks for the so-called "Labor Non-Partisan League" to receive its first crushing answer from an important international union. That answer came in the shape of a Farmer-Labor Party resolution by the convention of the United Automobile Workers Union, which at the same time voted down by 2 to 1 a resolution to support President Roosevelt, introduced on the grounds that "a Farmer-Labor Party national ticket is unlikely."

It will be recalled that the "Labor Non-Partisan League" was set up a short while ago by John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, Sidney Hillman, head of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, Charles P. Howard of the Typographical Union, and a few other leaders of the Committee for Industrial Organization, which thereby weakened the fight or industrial unionism and organization of the unorganized. Support of Roosevelt weakens the fight for the professed aims of the C. I. O. because it has been under Roosevelt and his Labor Board that company unionism has grown so alarmingly, and because Democratic governors like those of Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois have been no whit behind their Republican brothers in sending the militia against strikers.

As delegate Bartee of South Bend reminded the auto workers' convention, the policy of Roosevelt created the auto Labor Board and the resulting company unions. Attempts to Shackle Labor

The endorsement of the Farmer-Labor Party by the auto workers was a severe blow at the attempt of the Lewis bloc to shackle labor to Roosevelt, and a blow just as severe to William Green, who followed the Lewis pro-Roosevelt

move with a letter to all labor bodies advising them to remain non-partisan, meaning to maintain the traditional reactionary policy of "rewarding your enemies and supporting your friends," backing Republicans here and Democrats there.

What that leads to was aptly shown by the Portland, Ore. Central Labor Council, which OK'd such "pals" of labor as Homer D. Angell, old guard Republican, and Alex. G. Barry, red baiter and labor hater, whose main campaign plank is based on retention of the criminal syndicalism law.

**ORGANIZED LABOR LEARNS** After meeting with the active opposition of the state legislature, the unemployed "Army of Un-occupation" in New Jersey, which occupied the State House to force relief, decided that there was nothing to be hoped for in the shape of real aid from the capitalist parties, and has decided to initiate a Farmer-Labor Party in that state.

The South Bend Indiana Labor Council, influenced by the recent dispatch of national guardsmen against strikers of the Fine Shirt plants in that state, announced a Farmer-Labor Party conference for May 15, and endorsed such a party itself.

### AFTER THE RUBBER STRIKE

About 14,000 rubber workers struck under A. F. of L. leadership recently in Akron, Ohio. Against them was mobilized a huge army of vigilantes, in whose ranks were to be found Republican and Democratic political leaders. A Republican sheriff tear-gassed the picket lines each day; a Democratic governor stood ready to send the militia. The Central Labor Union of Akron, as a re-

sult, went on record for a Farmer-Labor Party.

The auto parts workers of Toledo faced the national guard in a strike the city will never forget. Strike after strike has swept the city ever since that time, two years ago. Brutal police terror met each strike. The Toledo Central Labor Council is now on record for the Farmer-Labor Party. So is the Labor Council of Barberton, Ohio, scene of the recent tear-gassing of chemical workers on strike.

Rhode Island has been the scene of bitter struggle by the textile workers against the mill owners. The national guard sent out by Republican Governor Green against the woolen workers in the 1934 general textile strike killed several strikers. Last October the State Federation of Labor endorsed the Labor Party, and just a week ago the convention of the State Federation adopted a motion made by Francis Gorman, vice president of the United Textile Workers, that the executive committee investigate the possibility of independent Labor candidates in the fall election.

The A. F. of L. Committee for the Promotion of a Labor Party is the yeast in the ferment of labor party activity in Connecticut. 150 A. F. of L. locals were represented officially at the conference which launched the Committee. William Kuehnel, president of the Hartford Central Labor Council, is chairman of the Committee. The Central Labor bodies in Hartford, Danbury, Meriden, New Britain, Norwich, New Haven, New London, Willimantic, Putnam, Plainfield and Danielson, each of which have faced bitter police terror at the hands of both Democratic and Republican Par-

ties, have endorsed the Labor Party.

**IN THE DEEP SOUTH** The Federal Labor Unions in Orlando and vicinity, Florida, are on record for the Farmer-Labor Party. No wonder the same Democratic Party officials who support Roosevelt take an active part in the kidnappings, floggings, and murders of active trade unionists.

You'll invariably find that the Labor Party movement has made the most headway in localities where the trade unions have had the opportunity to see the city, county and state governments in action against all efforts of the workers to organize themselves into trade unions and to gain better wages and working conditions. The great struggles of the working class in the past few years have been a splendid school for the trade union members. The chief lesson learned has been that labor cannot look to the old parties for even a fraction of what it should and can gain. As a delegate said at the Auto Workers' convention in South Bend, in opposing support of Roosevelt, "Everything we won was by our own strength."

In the struggle for its rights, for better conditions and wages, against those fascist elements who would crush all trade unions, organized labor can rely only on united unions with a fighting policy backed up by labor's own men in governmental posts, who will protect labor in its struggles, instead of fighting those struggles by the use of police, national guard and injunctions.

**REPEAL THE CRIMINAL SYNDICALISM ACT! 240,000 SIGNATURES BY JUNE 10TH!**

## HEARST SCIENCE STORY BRANDED LIE BY EINSTEIN

NEW YORK.—(FP)—Dr. Albert Einstein, the world's most famous scientist, has branded as a "falsification" and "irresponsible news story" an article in the Hearst press quoting him as appealing for "aid for science against reds."

In a letter to Joseph Brainin, editor of the Seven Arts feature syndicate, the noted physicist says that a letter he signed to The London Times, asking for help for the Society for the Protection of Science and Learning, "did not mention Soviet Russia at all. This news story is all the more unjust because in recent years I have repeatedly had occasion to ascertain how zealously and successfully science is being cultivated in Soviet Russia."

In a parting shot against the Hearst-spread fake, which appeared in The New York American, April 17, Einstein wrote: "I would be obliged to you if you would find some appropriate means to counteract this irresponsible news story as effectively as possible."

Einstein is a refugee from Nazi Germany, with which William Randolph Hearst has extensive business and personal connections. Instead of fighting "reds," the famous scientist has directed unceasing efforts toward safeguarding scientific knowledge from Hearst's book-burning pals.

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# FRENCH PARASITES EXPORTING WEALTH TO U. S. A. AND BRITAIN

PARIS, May 5.—Fearing curtailment of their exploitation privileges as a result of the victory of the People's Front in last Sunday's balloting, the wealthy people of France are pouring their funds out of the country at an alarming rate. Exchanging their "profit loot" into British pounds and American dollars and transferring deposits to foreign banks, they have created a veritable hemorrhage of gold pouring from France.

A similar "plunder stampede" occurred in Spain recently when the People's Front triumphed at the polls. Here it was quickly checked by the new government.

**AUTHORITY DELAYED**  
The new government of France is not scheduled to take the reins of power until June 1st. Meanwhile, Premier Albert Sarraut and his cabinet are showing very little disposition to halt the flood. To the contrary, active efforts are being made by reactionaries to rush through devaluation of the franc before the new Chamber of Deputies convenes. This action is being attempted despite the fact that the overwhelming majority of France opposed de-valuation at the polls and the fact that the left-wing majority newly elected to the Chamber has voiced firm anti-devaluation sentiments.

**MOVE TOWARD UNITY**  
Leon Blum, Socialist leader, has announced that his party is prepared to join in a People's Front Cabinet with Communists and Radical Socialists.

Latest reports show results of the election of deputies to the Chamber to be:  
Leftists 378  
Center 137  
Rightists 99

The most significant gain was that of the Communist Party which won between 71 and 82 seats (present reports vary) as compared with their previous ten.

Armed attacks of the French fascist movement, the Croix de Feu, are regarded as imminent. The reactionary forces are rallying to disrupt the new government and create as much chaos as possible to hamper and discredit the leftist deputies. Fascist newspapers, even before the elections were prophesying that a victory of the People's Front would mean civil war. These fascist bands are heavily armed and their revolvers and machine guns are frequently of German make.

## SOCIALIST



Leon Blum (above) Socialist leader, one of the left-ist deputies elected to the French Chamber by the People's Front.

mean civil war. These fascist bands are heavily armed and their revolvers and machine guns are frequently of German make.

**INTERVENTION THREAT**  
Leon Daudet, chief of the Fascist Ligue d'Action Francaise proclaimed that a people's election victory would bring intervention by Germany to aid their French accomplices.

The unity of labor can and will prevent the victory of fascism!

# I Worked Among The Soviets

## A FEW ANSWERS TO AMERICAN QUESTIONS

BY An American Worker  
I worked in the Soviet Union for close to two years. I hated like hell to come back. It's hard getting readjusted to life under a system where you have to worry about the next meal, or about how you can kid the landlady along, after you've lived and worked under a system which gave you a month's vacation each year with full pay, sent you down to the sunny Caucasus; in a country where you never met a single person who had to worry about finding a job.

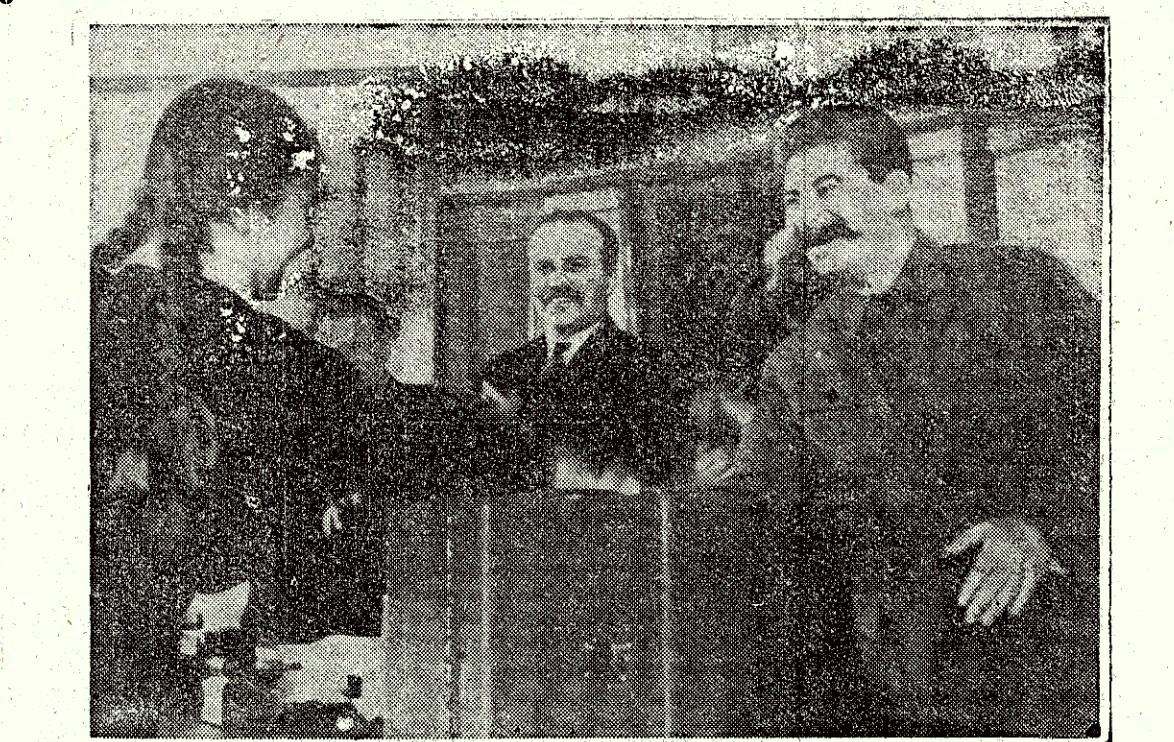
A big pleasure I did get when I hit the U. S. A. again was the great interest shown in the Soviet Union by dozens of workers I met. They'd been fed up with all sorts of lying hokey about the Soviet Union. Some of the questions they asked seemed naive, but I understood that they'd been fed slanderous bunk about the USSR in the movies and in the boss press.

**AS FOR SMILES**  
"Is it true they don't ever smile in Soviet Russia?" one worker asked me. When I looked pained he said, "Listen, I'm only trying to find out the real dope from a guy that's been there. I heard they don't ever smile, and by gosh, I've been told they don't even make love, but take it all as a sort of matter of fact... you know what I mean?"  
So I described to him the enjoyment I used to get sitting in

The greatest thorn in the side of the fascists is the rapid growth in the membership of the Communist Party of France. Over 102,000 membership cards have been issued from headquarters as compared with 61,700 in March 1935.

Facing grave difficulties in the way of reactionary sabotage, the People's Front forces are nevertheless reported as firm and unwavering. Although the united front agreements between Communists, Socialists and radicals are confined to only a few points, rapid strides toward complete unity have marked the past few weeks.

## Little Girl Gets a Big Hand From Stalin



Joseph Stalin is shown welcoming a school anniversary of the establishment of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic. In the center stands Premier Molotov.

"Lovers' Lane" in Moscow. There's a boulevard, one of many. It's miles long—a long stretch of park, going through the center of one of the main arteries of traffic. Every day tens of thousands of happy people, kids and young and old people, stroll by. You seat yourself on a park bench. Two, three, four workers walk by, arm in arm; a smile a yard wide on their faces. In the opposite direction come strolling two or three young girls, workers too. The group of boys and the group of girls meet. The boys josh the girls, kidding them in the real American workingclass style. The girls kid back. They keep walking on, still in the opposite direction. But that's not the end. The two groups walk a block along "Lovers' Lane," turn around, and meet again. More kidding. Maybe a little horse play—the boys run up behind the girls and scare them. The two groups walk on together this time. The next time they pass your bench, each girl is safely in the tow of one of the

fellows. They act as if they'd known each other all their lives. But they'd never met before twenty minutes ago. You hate to leave "Lovers' Lane" on the Boulevard in Moscow on a beautiful spring or summer's day when laughter fills the air.

**OWNERS OF CARS**  
"Say, can a man own an automobile in Russia?" a worker asked me. "Do you own one?" I asked him. "Nope," he said, "I had to hock mine."

I told him about my visit to the Kharkoff tractor plant. There were almost 1000 cars, the Soviet equivalent of the Ford, parked outside the plant. I asked a worker who they belonged to. "To the workers—what do you think?" he asked me, amazed at my ignorance. "One of them's mine. We got them as premiums, bonuses for good work. We get gas and oil free, too," he said with pride.

**CABBAGE SOUP**  
"I guess you must've got plenty tired of that grub there," another worker said. "Black bread and

cabbage, I couldn't stand it." So I told him about the dozens of new cafes, continental style, opened up in the past year in Moscow, so that the workers could get a chance to spend the extra amount of pay they were making on some of the luxuries they had never known, but which Socialism, was beginning to provide them. There's a red-hot jazz band on the platform of each cafe; the waitresses are as gorgeous a bunch of girls as you'll ever come across anywhere; you can order coffee five different ways—including glace—which is like coffee ice cream soda, only better. You can order ice cream dishes which make some of the gooey frappees here look like garbage. Then I told this worker about the typical Moscow bakery shop—where you can take your pick of about eighty different kinds of bread and rolls—and there are no such things as bread cards any more.

**ABOUT CHURCHES**  
A Roman Catholic Irish worker seemed worried about the churches

# PROFITS RISE STEADILY BUT PAYROLLS STILL LAG BEHIND

## FIRST QUARTERLY 1936 REPORT OF LABOR RESEARCH ASS'N

General business during the first quarter, in spite of the bad weather and floods, was estimated at from 12 per cent to 15 per cent above that of the first three months of last year. Residential construction was up 75 per cent. Department store sales (in dollar value) advanced about 9 per cent, rural retail sales about 7.5 per cent, but variety store sales were only 1 per cent above the comparable period last year.

Profit reports for the quarter are not yet available in sufficient numbers to indicate the exact increases recorded by American companies during the first three months of the year. But New York Herald Tribune declared (April 22, 1936) that one tabulation "reveals that the first 101 industrial corporations to report this month had 38 per cent higher profits in the first quarter than in the corresponding three months of last year."

**COUPON CLIPPERS**  
Dividend payments for the quarter, according to New York Times compilation, totaled \$780,912,222, compared with \$658,678,206 during the first quarter of last year—a gain of 18 per cent. Dividend payments for the first three

months of this year were the largest for the first quarter of any year since 1932 when boom-time accumulations were still being paid out to stockholders.

On the working class side of the ledger, the increases were not so favorable. Employment index of the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, covering the first three months of the year, showed a rise of only 3.3 per cent over the first quarter of 1935. (Keep in mind also the fact that about 16,000,000 persons in this country were still unemployed, while some 24,000,000 were included in the families of those on relief.)

### "THE GHOST WALKS"

Payroll index of the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics did a little better than employment in the first quarter, rising 8.1 per cent above the first quarter of last year. Real wages for the quarter as a whole cannot yet be computed, but the conservative National Industrial Conference Board estimated that real weekly earnings (wages of employed workers in relation to cost of living) were less than 1 per cent higher in February than in February, 1935. And real wages index of the Nation for January showed a rise of only 3 per cent over the low point of 1932.

CHICAGO.—(FP)—A copy-right story in the Chicago Tribune sports columns says that the American Olympic committee, which had expected to raise at least \$75,000 out of the Olympic basketball tournament in New York was in the red \$482 on the tournament. The baseball division had yielded exactly \$1 and the marathon \$3.

# SINGLE MEN ON THE RELIEF ROLLS--- A CALIFORNIA REVIEW

## A Former SERA Administrative Employee Gets a Load Off His Chest; What Goes On Behind the Scenes

By a Former Member of the Administrative Staff of the SERA.

Once upon a time (this is not a fairy tale, however) I was on the administrative staff of the SERA. I was first aid attendant in the single, unattached men's division and later was transferred to the WPA in the same capacity. So you who read this can judge that I know whereof I write.

The time was last Summer at Santa Rosa. The vigilantes were active; so active, in fact, that workers who, with their families, had picked fruit and hops for years in that locality, packed up and left, saying: "You pick your own hops. We won't work for the starvation wages you pay."

The growers appealed immediately to the relief officials to send men to pick their crops. They received wonderful cooperation. In all the unemployed camps the order was received, "send 50 men or more (depending on the number of men in each camp), to Santa Rosa." Wages were to be \$1.25 per hundred pounds.

### "TAKE IT OR SCRAM"

The camp superintendent transmitted the call to the unemployed men while they were at their supper. He said: "I have orders to send 50 men to Santa Rosa tomorrow. I want 50 volunteers. If I can't get them, I will have to draft them, and if any I pick out refuse to go, they will have to roll up and get out of camp and they will not be given employment on the WPA, nor can they receive any more relief."

"Now you all know that when we go on the WPA you men will get a real break; a job, wages—not definitely settled yet—but you may get \$30 a month or more."

"That is how it was done in the camp I was in and I subsequently learned the same method was applied everywhere."

Fifty men left from our camp. In all, the SERA and FEERA forced between 3000 and 4000 men off their rolls and into the hop fields. Large camps were established to accom-

## Fabulous Wealth and Grim Poverty an American Contrast



Above—Mrs. John Gibel of Isabelle, Pa., who faces possible death because of an eviction notice handed her husband by E. T. Weir, Pennsylvania steel baron. She's been in bed since the birth of her twelfth child. They are ordered out of the company-owned house because the father joined a union.



Left—Mrs. W. R. K. Taylor, Jr., wearing an even million dollars' worth of fancy jewels.

cial Service," with its corps of "trained" social workers, got active. They wanted each and every man's personal history. There was little of a man's personal life that these snoopers did not try to pry into.

The political bureaucracy, the heads of the SERA and FEERA, fearful of their jobs, afraid the "Social Service" might take over the management entirely and they would be separated from their fat salaries, began to throw all kinds of wrenches into the machinery. There was no cooperation between these two branches of the service, both fighting each other for control. Orders were countermanded and camp clerks and other minor functionaries, such as myself, threw up our hands in utter confusion.

But our suffering was nothing compared to that of the enrollees, the real victims of these parasitic ventures. Their rations were cut down and even a 20 per cent cut in pay (\$1 per month) was forced on them under a pretext that the

SERA was short of funds. The official explanation was: "This goes to take care of the sick for whom no other funds are available." Again the same old threat, "take it or leave."

Wages paid on WPA were not as high as men were led to expect. Although the apparent wage was somewhere near the promise, deductions for board and a lot of other listed items, reduced these wages to far below what they sounded like.

### CLASSIFICATIONS

"Unskilled" workers got \$35 a month, out of which the deductions were made. "Unskilled" meant the kind of a man work was assigned to do, not the kind he was capable of doing. Men of all kinds of skilled trades and professions, were put to work swinging a pick or sweating on the end of a shovel to "improve" property which was quite often owned by a large firm. They performed work by

### DEDUCTIONS

hand which machines could have accomplished much better in less time. About eight per cent of the total number of men were classified as an intermediate group and received \$40 a month. This group, with a few exceptions, was usually composed of "stoolies." And the few exceptions were generally cooks' helpers.

A third group that got \$45 and was called "skilled" was the bigger fry of the "stoolie" menage. Some decent fellows got this wage because they happened to be the only ones qualified in that line, but their tenure was usually short. This group comprised about five per cent of the total enrollees in a camp of 150 men.

|                                 |     |        |
|---------------------------------|-----|--------|
| 3 Rangers Sub-foremen           | 135 | 405    |
| 3 Cooks                         | 110 | 330    |
| 3 Project Clerks                | 120 | 360    |
| 2 First-aid Men                 | 65  | 110    |
| 2 Second Cooks                  | 65  | 130    |
| 1 Purchasing Agent              | 200 | 200    |
| 1 Area Director                 | 250 | 250    |
| 8 Miscellaneous                 | 125 | 1000   |
| 1 Area doctor                   | 175 | 175    |
| 33 people, total monthly wages: |     | \$4460 |

### THE UNEMPLOYED ENROLLEES

|                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| 4400 men, \$15 per month | \$66000 |
| 40 men, 20 per month     | 800     |
| 35 men, 25 per month     | 875     |

475 men, total monthly wages \$7675  
Unless a man is trusted 100 per cent or belongs to the higher groupings, the salaries of the parasites are kept secret from him. However, the above figures are a very fair comparison and the condition holds good for practically every area in the state, not only on projects similar to mine, but on all projects. The classifications of jobs may differ, but the proportions are practically the same. The above table would be even more unbalanced if salaries of state officials were to be divided proportionately for each area.

### WHO GAINS?

This naturally raises the question, who benefits by the WPA? Relief for whom? Not for those who need it, because the officials are not taken from the relief rolls. Most of them are political hangers-on and their friends.

As far as the needy are concerned, if they get \$2.00 in cash, it is a safe bet that the parasites get a dollar. I defy the officialdom, from Frank McLaughlin on down, to disprove the above figures.

Do not forget that rent, cost of tools, materials etc, is not even mentioned in the above tables, and in that end there has been tremendous waste of funds. An investigation into that side of the story is badly needed.

From my own observation and knowledge of cost and quality of goods purchased, I claim there was woeful mismanagement, if not downright dishonesty and col-

sion between buyer and seller to defraud the government.

### FORCED LABOR

At present there is a concerted drive in the WPA and the SERA to force the unemployed off the rolls and into the agricultural fields at wages which, in most cases, are less than they were getting on relief.

The San Francisco Chronicle of May 1, 1936, in an item entitled, "WPA Workers, to Be Cut in Harvest Fields," states:

"McLaughlin admitted WPA was in no position to determine whether prevailing wages could be interpreted as 'fair' or 'living' wages. "It is not our job to regulate wages," he said. "Prevailing wage is understood to be one that has been in effect in given communities for the past year or more."

By the middle of June, all single men are to be dropped or transferred from the WPA to other rolls, if any. Also, nearly all projects in rural areas are to be closed down. Any men who refuse to accept this agricultural employment, no matter how low the wages, will be blacklisted.

### WHAT TO DO

This is the situation confronting California's unemployed thousands. The only way they can meet this situation and maintain any kind of decent status is by building strong organizations of the unemployed and fighting their battle, not as separate, powerless individuals, but by mass action.

If one man on a project refuses to yield to the demands of the higher-ups, he will be blacklisted. If a majority of the workers on a project take united action on the matter, they will win their fight.

Mass demonstration before relief offices must greet every effort to drive California's unemployed into slavery.

Bonds of solidarity must be forged between the organized unemployed and the trade unions and progressive organizations.

Build the Public Works and Unemployed Union!



# Rank and File Seamen Blast Hearst Inspired Sabotage Charge

## Point Vincente Seamen Reveal How Lives of the Crew Are Endangered

The other day the hue and cry of "sabotage" was again raised by the shipowners, and eagerly grabbed up by the capitalist press, against the seamen, who lately on the East Coast have been displaying a great deal of militancy.

This time the cry was raised when the Panama Pacific liner California, scene of a recent strike, was forced to turn back to New York and cancel its voyage to the West Coast. But the fact was so obvious that the California had developed engine trouble although she was supposed to have been thoroughly overhauled for six weeks, that even the company officials the next day denied that there was any evidence of sabotage.

### SEAMENS' CLAIM

What the turning back of the California really proved was the contention of a recent delegation of East Coast seamen, who went to Secretary of Commerce Roper and charged that conditions for seamen on American boats are intolerable, and that American shipping concerns operate vessels with absolutely no regard for the safety of passengers at sea. In other words, it remained for the seamen, whom the shipowners like to accuse of "sabotage," to show the only concern that is shown for the safety of the passengers.

One hundred and ten affidavits were submitted to Roper, describing conditions aboard 45 boats of 30 lines. This was the result of a previous conference between Roper and a delegation representing 3500 striking East Coast seamen, at which Roper asked for the information. The seamen listed 90 specific charges against the lines, backed by 110 seamen picked at random in New York harbor. The seamen told of rotten lifeboats, untrained crews hired to replace blacklisted militant men, defective davits, insufficient inspections, inflammable conditions, dangerous conditions in the engine rooms of outstanding American vessels, oppressive and inhuman conditions in the steward's departments.

One seaman, D. Harker, told how the motor lifeboats of the supposed-to-be crack liner Manhattan were discovered frozen to the decks. Steven Smyk, a seaman aboard the Washington, sister ship of the Manhattan, told how a seaman ordered aloft in frozen weather, lost his grip and plunged to his death below. A seaman on the Munson liner Munson said that the men were afraid to chip the rust from the bulkheads of the ship for fear of poking a hole through the plates. These were but a few typical examples of what an American ship is like, told by those in the know—the men who work the ships.

A forthcoming article will show the huge profits of some of the big shipping companies, who under the plea of poverty insist on the right to keep wages down to a coolie level and are ready to sacrifice the lives of passengers and crew members at sea.

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Also books and pamphlets for students of Communism.  
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**GREETINGS TO THE EIGHT-PAGE Western Worker**

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**Italian Workers Club**

Circolo Galileo

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**Greek Workers Club**

"Spartakus"

\*\*\*  
**Jugo Slav Workers Club**

\*\*\*

**S. DAHE Round Mountain**

## Discrimination Is Gov't Tactic At Mare Island

By A Negro Worker  
BERKELEY, Cal.—I wish to cite the discrimination practiced at the Mare Island Navy Yard against colored people. No Negro can get a job as a first-class mechanic at Mare Island.

Skilled workers are hired as helpers, or if they are given skilled work to do they are never given first-class rating on the pay sheet. When a lay-off comes along, Negroes are the first to be fired and the last to be called back.

Colored people can have no use for a government that practices race discrimination. Our present government discriminates on every job it controls—WPA, PWA, civil service and all the rest.

## WITNESS TELLS GRUESOME TALE OF TAMPA PLOT

BARTOW, Fla.—(FP)—Complete identification of seven former Tampa cops indicted for the kidnaping of E. J. Poulnot last November and further evidence that the city's police department had used numerous devices to hush up the flogging of the three Modern Democrats came to light as State Atty. Rex Farnior paraded additional witnesses through Bartow's tense little courthouse.

From the lips of John Riegel, former Tampa city watchman, and W. D. Bush, chief of Tampa's detectives at the time of the crime, came accusations that ex-police Chief R. G. Tittsworth, now on trial as an accessory after the fact, had led the hush efforts. Tittsworth told Bush, the latter testified, not to "let it get out" and then refused to issue arrest warrants against the cops.

The police investigating committee also came in for scathing condemnation from both Bush and Riegel, who charged it with being a device to help clamp on a lid of silence and to learn the prosecution's case beforehand.

"I didn't tell the police committee what I knew because I was afraid them buggers would kill me," Riegel said. "I am scared and still am scared of that ring around town—a ring which he later identified as 'an underworld bunch.'" Riegel told the court he saw Poulnot abducted by the cops.

"APE MAN" HANGED  
SAN QUENTIN PRISON, May 1.—First victim of California's "Lindbergh Law," Thomas Edward Dugger, 30, was hanged here today following conviction of assaulting and kidnaping three Los Angeles women during March of last year. Dugger was called the "ape man."

TRUCKERS IN PROGRESS  
BAKERSFIELD, Calif.—Sam Smith, business agent of the Truck Drivers' Union here reports that drivers of several new firms have signed up with the union. Among them are King Lumber, Hayward Lumber, Cocoa Cola Bottling, and Orange Crush Bottling companies.

## RATS STARVE ON RATIONS FED TO RELIEF WORKERS

LONDON, England.—(FP)—Rats, fed on relief rations, live unhappily together, do not increase in weight and become stunted and badly proportioned with poor coats. Disease of the lungs is twice as common among them as among well-fed rats, and gastro-intestinal disease is very frequent.

Such is the result of an experiment in nutrition and national health, described by Maj.-Gen. Sir Robert McCarrison before the Royal Society of Arts at London. It is not unreasonable to expect, he said, that other things being equal similar results would arise in man from the use of these diets.

In the experiment, the rats were fed on a diet such as is commonly eaten by the poorer classes in England and those on relief—white bread, margarine, oversweetened tea with a little milk, boiled cabbage and potatoes, tinned meat and cheap jam.

After 16 days of relief rations the rats were not only biting the attendants but killing and eating their weaker fellows. But rats fed cereal grains, milk, milk products, vegetables and fruits, with egg or meat occasionally, lived happily together, increased in weight and flourished.

## THOUSANDS MAY STARVE IN 1936

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Labor Research Association in its monthly publication, "Labor Notes" points out that of the 5,300,000 families and single persons on relief rolls in April, 1936, not more than 3,300,000 are to be cared for by the federal government during the fiscal year 1936-37.

The rest, including the so-called "unemployables," are left to the entirely inadequate resources of states and localities, or will be allowed to starve without any kind of relief.

To what levels of destitution and misery the "unemployables" will be forced is indicated by an FERA report which reveals that state and local governments combined contributed but 25 per cent of the amount expended for relief during 1935.

Average monthly wage of 2,600,000 WPA workers in all parts of the country during the month of December, 1935, was \$41.15— or 17 per cent below the average wage rate of \$50.03 at which workers were assigned.

"On March 18, 1936," Labor Research points out, President Roosevelt asked Congress to appropriate \$1.5 billion for work relief during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1936. Even with the considerable balance withheld from the relief appropriations for the previous fiscal year, the total in federal funds now scheduled for relief for 1936-37 is at least 11 per cent less than in 1935-36."

Brooklyn Barbers Strike  
BROOKLYN, N. Y.—Thousands of union barbers have gone on strike demanding a 5-day week and a \$25 weekly guarantee, plus commission on business over \$40.

## NOT BABY SHOES



"Phooey on sissies," says Mrs. Martha Drew Smith, 24, New York City's only woman blacksmith. She's fitting old Dobbin with a new pair of shoes. Mrs. Smith says though, that prosperity in the smithy industry isn't what it used to be.

## STATE TRANSIENT BANS INDICATE BREAKUP IN CAPITALIST ECONOMY

Federated Press

Though the spectacular blockade set up in Colorado against an invasion of "indigent labor" from neighboring states appears to have collapsed under the weights of ridicule and protest, the incident is significant in view of growing attempts to set up petty Balkan frontiers within the nation.

## 'We Can't Speak' But They Do And Say Nothing

WASHINGTON.—(FP)—Unanimous in declaring that they knew nothing about the unemployment problem, that they were unqualified to speak about it, that they were extremely reluctant to discuss it, and that it was only after persuasion that they agreed to make an effort to discuss it, four business leaders discussed the problem of unemployment before the annual convention here of the United States Chamber of Commerce.

I. M. Tate, vice president and secretary of the Weyerhaeuser Sales Co., recommended faith and patience as a means of solving unemployment. He also asked improved selling methods and the perfection of distribution. "That formula has never been improved upon and it never will be," Tate opined, "and somewhere along the line we will find that 'unemployment' has solved itself."

Eugene C. Clark, president of the Chambersburg Engineering Co., recommended increased mechanization in order that the unemployed could be put to work making the new machines to throw men out of work who are on the old machines.

H. B. Bergen, director of industrial relations for Proctor & Gammel Co., asked for greater employment of directors of industrial relations and the improvement of management to "tap new sources for discovering new ways of making money."

Lewis H. Brown, president of Johns-Mansville Corp., after delving into the dictionary to discover the meaning of "business" and into the census to find out how many people in the United States there are, emerged with the discovery that everyone who works for a living is in business and that business men should cooperate in raising a Community Chest fund "for those in real need."

Secretary of Commerce Roper, addressing the convention, suggested that business and government should cooperate to solve the unemployment problem.

**L. A. Jobless Union Plans Unity Fete**  
LOS ANGELES, May 7.—To celebrate the unity achieved at the National Unemployed Convention in Washington, D. C., District 6 of the Public Works and Unemployed Union is holding a dance Saturday night, May 9.

The affair will be held at Angelus Hall, 1954 East First Street. Pat Calahan, county organizer of the P. W. U. U. and delegates to the convention will be a main speaker.

## WORKERS' OPEN FORUM

### DISLIKES IDEA

Los Angeles, Calif  
April 26, 1936

Editor Western Worker:

I regret to read that... the Western Worker is offering to Party members an "Honor Stamp" for getting subscriptions to our paper and for doing what each one knows to be his duty...

About a year ago if you remember, an honor stamp was offered to Party members for doing what was their duty as Communists— an honor stamp for trying to build their own party...

What are we supposed to be members of the Communist Party for? Just to the recipients of honor stamps? And non-Party members—how about their stamps?

And where would they put it? We know that our membership responded very well to the appeal for funds knowing that with the improvement of the paper the subscription support would be forthcoming with no more effort than that which we put into the drive for financial assistance...

Now with regard to my opinion of the paper, I certainly think the paper has improved considerably these last few months. Many of my customers used to remark that the paper was too much of a "strike sheet." More international news I think would be an improvement. More news of other groups besides Red ones, even churches... their affairs etc.

Now Comrades I hope this is not too much like a "tirade from a disconsolate radical." You have invited criticism and I hope this is constructive.

Yours Comradely  
A. S.

### WAR PROPAGANDA

Western Worker:

Oakland, Calif  
May 4, 1936

Large quantities of expensive militaristic propaganda are being distributed free of charge at the expense of the peace-loving taxpayers of America throughout the high schools of California.

The propaganda is that of the Citizens Military Training Camps. On the bulletin boards of schools there is usually set up a large colored poster advertising the camps. Underneath there is usually a typed announcement such as the following "For further information about Citizens Military Training Camps please inquire at the counseling office or see Mr. ..."

Next to the poster there is a small table with large quantities of leaflets and handbills for the students to pick up including postage letters addressed to the C. M. T. C. Enrollment Office. There is at least nine different kinds of propaganda distributed.

This propaganda gives the idea that life in the army is just one big picnic and that war is wonderful. In the camps this impression is furthered at great expense. The purpose of the camps is to lure young men into the army.

Protests from mothers and others interested in the welfare of America's youth are in order.

S. J.

Effective organization of unemployed will aid in maintaining union scales of pay. Demand that your union officials support such work.

Keep America out of war by keeping war out of the world!

## HEARST'S ENEMIES ARE WESTERN WORKER FRIENDS

There's rather hot controversy among quite a few of our readers regarding what sort of news should be featured in the Western Worker. Some want more workers' correspondence; some (a good many, in fact) want more news of foreign affairs; a few want more features.

Lots of people are reading the Western Worker these days—and they're not all Party Members by a long shot. In fact, Party Members are most lax in this respect. But that so many people—men and women—write in with their criticisms, and their bouquets as well, is a healthy sign.

Beginning this issue, as most readers probably know by this time, the Western Worker comes out as an eight-page paper, twice a week. This is no accident nor is it entirely because the \$7500 sustaining fund drive was successful.

**MOVING FAST**  
So many things are happening in the world today that it would be impossible to report them all in a six page paper; it's going to

## THOUSANDS NEED AND WILL READ THE WORKERS' PRESS—MAKE SUBSCRIBERS OF THEM

be hard enough in an eight-page paper. But that's a problem with which the staff and the business office are mainly concerned. The very fact that events are moving swiftly in so many parts of the world—and California is no exception—largely dictates the size of the Western Worker.

From now on the Western Worker is going to have something to say about every major happening in California and the world—whether it's a "juicy" murder scandal or a police graft investigation that refuses to investigate. These things are important to millions of people. Elections are important right now to millions of Americans and the Western Worker is going to carry election news and analysis. In doing this we are going to try and point out the immediate need for a Farmer-Labor Party, locally, state-wide and nationally.

And often there's a connection linking a murder with a political set-up or event. This the Western Worker will attempt to reveal.

### INTERPRETATION

Every event will be treated, not in isolation as the capitalist press does, but in its relation to the world as a whole. This is what makes a Communist or labor paper unique.

All this preliminary rambling leads up to the final, and main point. Which is: That there are thousands of people in California who not only need but want a newspaper of this type. They write us letters almost every day, telling us so. But there are thousands as well who have never heard of the Western Worker. It's the duty of you, Mr. and Mrs. Reader, to introduce the Western Worker to your friends.

### NEED READERS

Scores of methods, through experience in the field, have evolved for circulating the Western Worker. But they all lead to one single thing—and that is, giving the Western Worker to friends, contacts, and yes—even to strangers. Let them read it for a while. Then take them a subscription blank. Ten to one they'll subscribe. If they say "nothing doing"—well, that will not stop the Farmer-Labor Party or the Revolution. At the same time hundreds and thousands are saying "nothing doing" to Hearst subscription agents. Many of these will say "yes" to you.

The Western Worker, to survive and grow, needs an army of readers. With an army of readers there'll be an army of worker correspondents. There will be more money for better features and more space for national and international news. And the Communist Party on the Pacific Coast will be possessed of a powerful and popular and most effective mass organization.

A Real Proletarian Barber Shop  
**FOX THEATER BARBER SHOP**  
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Union Shop  
Workers' Trade Solicited  
:- Pay Us a Visit :-

**Zlodi Bros. Dairy Lunch and Cafeteria**  
67 Fourth St., Cor. Jessie, S. P.

**Annual Workers' Picnic**  
SUNDAY, MAY 10TH,  
8:30 a. m. til midnight  
Varsity Park  
(3 Miles West of Menlo Park)  
Sports - Games - Bonfire  
Barbecue  
Adm. 25c Round Trip 25c  
Auspices May Day Picnic Comm.  
(Trucks will leave 121 Haight St. 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon)

## WHERE TO GO

ORGANIZATIONS! Get big crowds to your affairs. Advertise them here. Low rates—7c a line, in advance!

### San Francisco

Reserve this date! Annual Workers May Day Picnic, May 10, 1936 at Varsity Park Picnic Playgrounds (3 miles west of Menlo Park). Enjoy this picnic, which will last till midnight. Barbecued dinner, Italian, Greek, Chinese, Armenian and Russian dishes. Baseball game, footraces, singing, dancing. Sing around the evening bonfire. Admission 25c, roundtrip transportation 25c. Trucks leave 121 Haight Street from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

**CIRCOLO GALLILEO** — VALLEJO ST. — ITALIAN WORKERS' CLUB — DANCING EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT.

**MISSION "NEW PLAN" AFFAIR.** Dance, Entertainment, Good Eats. Three prizes. All welcome. Bring your friends. 121 Haight Street, Saturday, May 16th, 8 p. m. Admission 25c (with this ad, 15c). Auspices C. P.

**RESERVE THIS DATE:** Saturday night, May 23rd, at 121 Haight Street Auditorium, the first showing of the pictures of the San Francisco 1936 May Day Parade and Demonstration will take place. The whole parade from the Waterfront to the Civic Center will be shown on the screen. Don't miss it! If you took part in the parade, come and see yourself. If you were absent, here is your chance to see it. The picture will last 30 minutes, after which there will be dancing until midnight. Admission 25c. Auspices House Committee, 121 Haight Street.

**PEOPLES BOOK SHOP.** COMPLETE LINE MAGAZINES, BOOKS, PERIODICALS. OPEN FROM 9 A. M. TO 5:30 P. M.

**SPANISH NIGHT,** 779 VALLEJO ST. Sunday, May 17, 8 p. m. Benefit North Beach Workers Library. Good entertainment and dancing. Admission 25c. Ladies free.

### Classified

**NOTICE—Moving, Hauling and Basement Cleaning done.** Reasonable rates, work guaranteed. Special rates to Party Members and Sympathizers. Enquire Western Worker office.

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Workers forum, 230 S Spring St., L. A. Every Sunday night—8 p.m. Admission ten cents.

**ANNUAL I.L.D. SPRING PICNIC,** May 17, at Verdugo Country Club. Keep date open!

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If you are already a subscriber to the Western Worker, you may take advantage of this special offer, by extending your subscription for another year.



# Seeing RED

By Michael Quin

## THE BANKER AND THE GUY

"Will you wait a little longer," said the banker to the guy, "And the streets of every city will be paved with apple pie."

"For the way to solve the crisis is to tighten up your belt, and the ice-berg of depression will get warm and quickly melt."

"Oh no," replied the working guy, "You told me that before, and instead of giving apple pie I marched me off to war."

"You speak unpatriotic and I fear you're going to try to upset my profit system," said the banker to the guy.

"If you must have Socialism, will you try my fascist brand? We've installed it now in Germany and think it's simply grand."

"Oh no," replied the working guy, "We'll have no fascist state, no hoodlum mobs to beat us down while parasites dictate."

"Come, come now," said the banker, "I feel just the same as you. I'm a liberal. I'm progressive, I want socialism too."

"Sit back and leave it all to me. Relax till it appears. It will come about quite gradually in a hundred million years."

"No thanks," replied the working guy, "We'd get there just as soon by hollering down a rain barrel or whistling at the moon."

"You're radical," the banker said, "Impractical, seditious. Your Communism leaves no room for men who are ambitious."

"Ambitious?" said the working guy, "You should say avaricious. You've schemed the food from off our plates and now you want the dishes."

"We're frugal men," the banker said, "And saving is our gift. We came by all our fortunes by our management and thrift."

"Your thrift?" replied the working guy, "You've saved up so much land, there's scarce a bit of pavement left on which a man can stand."

"You've saved the houses and the trees, the earth and all its stones; who knows but what tomorrow you'll be gathering in our bones?"

"All right then," said the banker, "I have done my best to reason. Your head is full of Red ideas, your words are full of treason."

"I will call upon the army and the navy and marines and your workers' revolution shall be blown to smithereens."

"I'm the guy who wears your uniforms," the worker calmly said. "I don't intend to shoot a gun that's pointed at my head."

"We don't want any trouble. But we've got to do our jobs, and we'll stand for no shenanigans from parasitic snobs."

"If your system will not step aside there's nothing else to do but give your world the bum's rush and usher in the new."

# THE PHANTOM GAS STATION

By Michael Quin

Mr. Bulge-belly Biddleby handled the wheel of his brand new super-speed luxury sedan with pride and confidence. The glaring headlights sped over the long ribbon of asphalt highway like a runaway streak of lightning, shooting their beams a good hundred yards ahead of the speeding car.

"Self-made" Biddleby, as he always requested his associates to call him, never flickered his lights. Drivers of on-coming small cars dimmed their headlights in a courtesy that was never returned. Biddleby let them suffer the full, blinding glare of his high-powered bulbs.

Speed-cops were of as little concern to Biddleby as any other road rules. Most of the highway patrolmen recognized the glistening elegance of the Biddleby chariot and let it roll by unchallenged. Whenever one did accidentally hail him, he always pulled over to the side with a certain enjoyment. He would grin sardonically, whip out his extra-size sealskin wallet, and hand the officer a crisp little card. "Mr. Bulge-belly Biddleby." He always enjoyed the apologetic confusion that followed.

Owner of 30,000 acres of prune trees and director of twelve San Joaquin Valley banks, Biddleby was of the opinion that Jesus Christ could come and go as he pleased in the promised land.

"Watch your profits," he would tell his associates. "If you can make even a penny profit, then sell. Never take a loss unless you have it well covered by other sales. Always give freely in the direction from which you expect to get. Give in the same spirit that you push seeds into fertile soil."

He regarded himself as somewhat of a philosopher and sometimes wrote little booklets on thrift and loyalty which he gave away free to all his bank employees.

His eyes, glancing for a second from the road, noted on the sterling silver dashboard indicator that his gas was down to the last gallon. He made a little smacking sound with his lips and watched intently for the lights of a service station in the darkness ahead. Around a slight bend, his eyes caught the word "GASOLINE" in brilliant neon lights.

He swung off the road with a flourish and came to a stop beside the automatic pumps on a covered driveway. An alert, white-uniformed young attendant appeared smiling at the sedan window.

"Gas, Fillerup," said Biddleby. "Yes Sir!" The youth touched his hat smartly and set to work. Biddleby leaned out the window.

"How far to Madera?"

"Just about three miles," said the youth. "How's your oil?"

"Better take a look at it," said Biddleby.

The young man probed under the engine hood with a measuring stick. "You could stand about two quarts."

"Give her the best you've got," said Biddleby.

Re-clamping the hood, the young man energetically polished the headlight lenses.

"Better give this windshield a couple of swipes," said Biddleby. "Yes Sir!" said the youth. He wetted it carefully and pulled it slick with a rubber wiper.

Biddleby whipped out his extra-size seal-skin wallet bulging with crisp bills. "How much do I owe you?"

"Oh, don't mention it," said the young man politely. "We're glad to be of help to you. Please come in again whenever you need anything."

A wave of inexplicable fear swept Biddleby. "I - the gas - the cost - say, what are you talking about? How much do I owe you?"

"I'm glad enough to have been able to serve you," said the youth. "I really couldn't take anything, Sir. In fact, it's strictly against our principles. It would sort of - well - it would spoil the whole thing - commercialize it, so to speak."

Biddleby was silent for a moment, and a pink, feverish color mounted slowly to his cheeks. His voice had a note of panic and pleading when he spoke. He held out a bank-note.

"Please take it. What do you mean? You can't do this. You can't do it! Profits. Business. Take it! For God's sake take it!"

The young man froze with offended dignity. "I'll thank you not to be offensive, Sir. I have been pleased to serve you. I will be pleased to serve you again. But kindly do not insult me by offering me money."

Biddleby poked the bill back in his wallet with trembling fingers. "What - whose station is this?"

"This is the 'New World' service station, 'service with a smile and without vulgarity,'" said the youth.

A loud splintering of wood brought Biddleby quickly to his senses and he slammed on his brakes in the nick of time. He was off the road and the radiator of his Super-speed sedan had crashed through a fence. He took out a handkerchief and mopped his brow.

"Whew!" he gasped. "Another minute and - God! I must be in a daze. That station. No cost. No charge. No profit. Oh God!"

He backed onto the road and continued ahead. He had difficulty keeping his mind on driving. He could scarcely remember leaving the station. He dimly recalled stepping on the starter and sniffling gears while that young man stood smiling that uncanny, profiiless smile. It seemed to mock him, ridicule him, belittle his business acumen, his great wealth, his mad ambition.

When he pulled into Madera, his hands were shaking with a kind of ague. He stopped at the first saloon.

"Whiskey. The best you've got," he stammered.

"Good Lord, man!" said the bartender. "You're shakin' like a flag in the breeze. You look like you've seen a ghost."

"That station," snapped Biddleby. "Who owns it? What's it all about? What's the idea?"

"Take it easy man. Here. Get that down you. What station might you be talking about?"

"The gas station," said Biddleby. "The one three miles back on the road coming South. Who owns it?"

"There's no station three miles back on the road," said the bartender. "There's no station for ten miles back."

"Don't try to make a fool of me," snapped Biddleby. "I asked you a civil question and I want a civil answer. Whose station is it?"

The bartender cocked one eye quizzically. "What's got you so excited about such a station?" he asked.

"No charge," said Biddleby. "No cost. No profit. Gas, oil and service and that terrible grin and he wouldn't take any money."

"I'll get somebody who can tell



"Good lord, man!" said the bartender, "You're shakin' like a flag in the breeze. You look like you've seen a ghost."

you about it," said the bartender, and he eased away.

Out in the street he motioned to a policeman.

"Daffy as a June-Bug," he explained. "Take it easy with him, officer. I don't want no trouble. Just humor him along. But get him out of there."

At the sight of the policeman, Biddleby whipped out his extra-size seal skin wallet and tendered a crisp card. The policeman melted with respect. The bartender was dubious but a little awed.

"Now, officer," said Biddleby, "you just come with me and I'll talk about it."

He turned a livid face on the bartender. "And you Sir. You can come along too and perhaps you'll learn a thing or two."

Doubtful but feeling helpless, the officer climbed into the car beside Biddleby. After all, what could he do in the case of such a big man? He was beginning to doubt his own senses rather than Biddleby.

The bartender climbed into the rear seat, partly because he was curious, and partly because he had long been wanting a ride in a Super-speed-luxury car.

Several miles up the road, Biddleby assured them. "Just another two minutes and we'll be there."

But two minutes, five minutes, and fifteen minutes passed and they were still traversing a dark road.

"You've got me all upset," said Biddleby. "We must have run by it. We'll turn around and go back."

When the lights of Madera again loomed up, he swerved the car madly, turned it around and started back again. For three hours he continued back and forth over the dark road.

"If you please, Mr. Biddleby," said the bartender, "It's two o'clock in the morning and my wife'll be out of her wits."

"Don't be a fool," said Biddleby, who was the color of a tomato

and dripping sweat, "Another minute and we'll be there."

At 3 a. m., the policeman and the bartender exchanged looks of agreement.

"I'm sorry, Sir," said the policeman, "But I'm afraid it isn't there."

"Are you trying to infer I am mad?" screamed Biddleby. "I'll have you thrown off the force. I'll blacklist you so you won't get a job in the whole state."

"I'm sorry Mr. Biddleby, but—"

In the struggle to wrest the determined Biddleby from the wheel, the car swerved from the road and nosed into a ditch. The sturdy bartender was obliged to sit on the writhing Biddleby before the officer could fix handcuffs on him.

Months later, Biddleby was allowed to leave the sanitarium, but he seldom if ever leaves his house any more, and when he does, the shades on his sedan are drawn tight and a chauffeur sits at the wheel. The sight of a gas station throws him into uncontrollable convulsions.

His associates shake their heads regretfully when they think of old Biddleby. A great money maker. A great brain. The same thing might happen to any executive.

And they never cease to shudder in horror and recall the story of the phantom gas station when they pass the spot three miles above Madera going South.

**TAKE THAT**

MADISON, Wis.—(FP)—"We didn't deem the letter worthy of reply," University of Wisconsin regents told John B. Chapple, Chicago Tribune's candidate for governor of Wisconsin. Chapple wanted the regents to bar student May Day celebrations from the campus. Chapple, a regade radical, specialized as a political ed-baiter.

## Elect Carpenter Delegates in June

NEW YORK. — After eight years without a convention, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners will finally hold one in Lakeland, Fla., in December. Elections for delegates will take place in June.

Controlled by the vicious reactionary Hutcheson-Duffy machine, the union has rapidly gone down hill, trade union democracy has been smashed, and union conditions almost disappeared. Union meetings are attended by a handful.

If this state of affairs is to be changed, progressives point out, members must begin attending meetings prior to the convention, and discuss the vital issues before the carpenters at the June elections. In this way delegates instructed to win changes in the union constitution that will bring trade union democracy, can be elected.

## Demand Removal of AFL Oriental Ban

HONOLULU.—The last session of the Longshoremen's Association of Honolulu adopted a resolution calling for the waiving of all consideration of citizenship in respect to admission of workers to the A. F. of L. The resolution proposes that an amendment to this effect be added to the A. F. of L. constitution.

The resolution was adopted because two-thirds of the workers on the Hawaiian Islands are orientals, and the majority of the waterfront workers are Island-born Japanese. The resolution points out that these Japanese workers have proven their loyalty to unionism in the last two minor strikes, despite threats of deportation if union books are found on them.

## Explains a Point



The cat jumped right out of the bag when Guy T. Helvering, commissioner of internal revenue, showed why big business opposes the surplus tax bill. If corporations, fearing the tax, distributed all their earnings, he showed, 212 more people would enter the million-a-year income class—and those 212 don't want to pay those income taxes.

REPEAL THE CRIMINAL SYNDICALISM ACT! 240,000 SIGNATURES BY JUNE 10TH!

## WHAT ARE YOU READING?

**FASCISM**

Mussolini has captured Ethiopia in the name of Fascist "civilization." Just what kind of a civilization this is can be determined by a reading of "In The Dungeons of Mussolini," by Carlo Rossi, price 5 cents. There are many kinds of hells but the Fascist Hell has no counterpart today.

## INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM

The issue of industrial unionism has become tremendously important these last few months. The Committee on Industrial Organization (C. I. O.) headed by John L. Lewis has issued some excellent material. Among those you should read and pass on to your brother unionists are: *Industrial Unions Mean Unity*, price 10 cents; *The Case for Industrial Organization*, price 10 cents; *Industrial Unionism*, price 10 cents. All these are published by the C. I. O. and can be had in bundles at reduced rates. Also *The Future of Organized Labor*, by Lewis, price 5 cents.

*Industrial Unionism*, by William Z. Foster, price 5 cents, is a pamphlet that should be on your required reading list by all means. William Foster has been in the forefront of the fight for industrial unionism and organization of the unemployed for a good many years.

Not only does he know his subject but he writes interestingly and popularly. He treats of the situation on the Pacific Coast as well as nationally.

## UNITED FRONT

*Unity Will Conquer*, price 5 cents, details some of the experiences and gains in the united front movement since Dimitroff made his stirring talk at the Seventh World Congress of the Communist International last year. No discussion of the united front is possible without treating of the forces opposing such a move. So war, fascism, reformism and unemployment are all discussed in this pamphlet.

## JOBLESS

What about WPA rules and regulations? Do you know how to go about getting a 10 per cent wage raise? Do you know how to organize on your project? If you don't, then read *A Handbook for Project Workers*, by Herbert Benjamin, price 5 cents.

Now that the unemployed are united in one mighty organization there are struggles of greater magnitude looming. It is well to be organized on the job to take part in these struggles and participate in the gains. Herbert Benjamin gives you the benefit of his experience as a leader of unemployed struggles for many years.

## THE U. S. S. R.

Non-Party workers are asking, "What is this Stakhanovism business?" You should be prepared to answer their questions. Otherwise Hearst will sell them his answers which are, as you know, not answers but lies. Here are two late pamphlets on the Stakhanovite movement that is sweeping the Soviet Union forward to greater achievements. *What Is Stakhanovism?* by V. M. Molotov, price 5 cents; *Miss U. S. S. R.*, the story of a girl Stakhanovite, price 5 cents. Both are good, the latter is perhaps less theoretical but lively.

The Netherlands are building an airdrome on an island near Java sufficiently large to hold 400 airplanes. It is reported that definite agreements have been entered into between the Netherlands and Great Britain for joint action for the protection of the South Sea Islands in case of war.

Since April, 1935, Italy's war on Ethiopia has cost her about a billion lire a month. Her total war appropriations now amount to 10,065,000,000 lire (including the most recent appropriation of 1,440,400,000 lire), according to the report published in Italy's Official Gazette, April 22, 1936.

Brig-Gen. Groves, former director of Flying Operations of the British Air Ministry states, "European states with few exceptions devote less than 5 per cent of their annual air votes to the development of commercial aviation."

Under the terms of a bill before the N. J. Legislature, school children would be compelled to salute the flag upon penalty of arrest.

**introducing:**

# THE JOHN SMITHS

THIS IS A STORY ABOUT THE JOHN SMITHS, AN AVERAGE AMERICAN FAMILY. JOHN SMITH IS A FACTORY WORKER AT THE EZ UPSTART MFG. CO. AND AS WE PICK UP THE THREAD OF OUR STORY WE DROP IN ON THE UPSTART BOARD OF DIRECTORS—

GENTLEMEN, WE HAVE MADE A SUBSTANTIAL PROFIT DURING THE PAST FISCAL YEAR. BUT OUR PROFITS ARE NOT ENOUGH! GOUGER, OUR PRINCIPAL COMPETITORS, NOT ONLY ARE UNDERCUTTING OUR SELLING COSTS, BUT THEY PAID 11% ON THEIR COMMON STOCK COMPARED TO OUR 9%!

FORTUNATELY, WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT LABOR TROUBLES. THE MONEY WE'VE SPENT ON OUR COMPANY UNION HAS BEEN A GOOD INVESTMENT.

MA SMITH

JERRY SMITH

TWEET SMITH

JOHN SMITH

WE CAN CUT WAGES 10% AND OUR COMPANY UNION REPRESENTATIVES WILL SEE THAT THE WORKERS TAKE IT! THERE MAY BE A FEW KICKS, BUT I AM CONFIDENT WE CAN HANDLE THE SITUATION!

THE UPSTART BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE THE CUT

THE NEWS IS POSTED IN THE SHOPS

WHAT EVENING JOHN SMITH ARRIVES HOME FROM WORK—

WHY, JOHN, WHAT'S THE TROUBLE— YOU LOOK UPSET!

I AM, MA— THEY'VE JUST HANDED US ANOTHER PAY CUT!

WHAT WILL THIS WAGE CUT MEAN TO THE JOHN SMITH FAMILY?

DON'T MISS NEXT WEEK'S INSTALLMENT.

IN ONE DAY'S PAPER (Capitalist)

Tuesday, May 5, 1936.

The Italian Army entered Addis Ababa.

William Philip Simms, Scripps-Howard foreign editor reports Germany in state of siege facing economic collapse and belligerently threatening Europe with the greatest war machine ever seen.

Muriel Vanderbilt Phelps sues for divorce.

Japanese Envoy Saito declares war in the rient "unlikely."

A man in Seattle is suing the street car company for 75 cents because he tore his pants on a seat.

San Francisco policemen refuse to answer questions in Grand Jury graft investigation.



### Vital Issues Face Quarterly Meet of A.F.L. Executives

WASHINGTON.—The quarterly meeting of the A. F. of L. Executive Council began on May 5th. Vital issues for organized labor face the meeting, which the Executive Council cannot duck this time.

One of them is the organization of a campaign to unionize the workers in the steel industry on an industrial union basis. The recent offer of \$500,000 by the Committee for Industrial Organization towards a steel organization drive forced William Green to a gesture, at least, toward organizing these workers, and Green sent out letters to all heads of national and international unions asking what they could contribute toward a drive in steel.

**LABOR AND POLITICS**

The question of labor in politics is a second important matter before the Council. The A. F. of L. top officials are faced with the plain fact that hundreds of labor bodies have come out for the Farmer-Labor Party, and many are in the actual leadership of the movement.

Recently John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, Sidney Hillman, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and George L. Berry, president of the Printing Pressmen, led in the formation of a so-called Labor Non-Partisan League, whose object is to line up the A. F. of L. unions behind Roosevelt. This was followed by a letter by Green to the union bodies advising them to remain non-partisan in politics, by which Green meant to support candidates of both parties—the old "reward your friends, punish your enemies" policy.

The Lewis bloc seriously weakened the fight for industrial unionism by coming out for Roosevelt, under whom company unions have flourished as never before. One main object of industrial unionism is to more effectively fight company unionism's growth.

The question of the Committee for Industrial Unionism will also most likely figure prominently at the Executive Council meeting. The Council has gone to the length of expelling a Central Council (in Allegheny County, Pa.) for taking part in the fight

for industrial unionism. Practically every one of the 17 members of the Council are hide-bound leaders of the fight for craft unionism.

### Progressives Set For Clothing Meet

NEW YORK.—The national convention of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America comprising 150,000 members, will open in Cleveland on May 11.

The Amalgamated Progressive Circle and the Amalgamated Rank and File Committee, representing the progressive trends in the union, have issued a joint declaration which contains a militant program for discussion at the convention.

The declaration praises President Sidney Hillman for his progressive stand on industrial unionism, but points out that promises made at the last union convention two years ago have not been fulfilled. Speedup in shops has increased and minimum wages have not been established.

The 36-hour week has not been enforced except in slack periods. The joint declaration points out proposals in the declaration include a guaranteed minimum wage of \$1 an hour as a basis; a classification system in all clothing centers; strict observance of the 36-hour week, and full inner union democracy.

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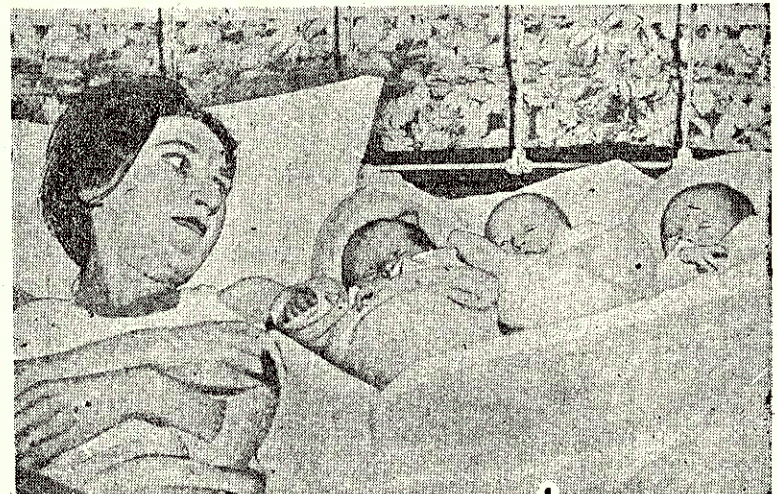
All letter concerning subscriptions, cash remittances, etc., should be addressed to Business Office.

News, manuscripts and all other editorial matter should be addressed to the editor.

# One Nation, Indivisible, With Liberty and Justice for All



**POVERTY—MULTIPLIED BY THREE Gives Birth to Triplets in an Old Schoolhouse**



Mrs. Aubrey O'Neil Kiser, 22, shown above with her triplet boys born in an abandoned schoolhouse in remote western Pennsylvania mountains, near Somerset. Jobless for two years, Walter, 23

### Lincoln Steffens Lauds Biography Of John Reed As Rare Achievement

**REVIEWS NEW BOOK ON LIFE OF MAN HE KNEW INTIMATELY**

(Reviewed by Lincoln Steffens)

**JOHN REED** The making of a Revolutionary By Granville Hicks with the assistance of John Stuart (Macmillan) \$3.50.

To make a hard, fighting, Bolshevik revolutionist out of a gay, laughing poet like Jack Reed is a miracle enough, but to take a hard, strictly orthodox literary critic like Granville Hicks and make him over into a warm creative biographer—that is a revolution! I said it couldn't be done and I notice that other reviewers, like Malcolm Cowley, confess to the same doubt.

Hicks was not the sort of man to "get" John Reed, but here is the book done. The life of John Reed is realized, and, paste this into your hat, all you red poets and scholars, Granville Hicks made his Bolshevik poet and hero real by his scholarship, by digging for and understanding and working in, all the illogical facts. It's a feat of scholarship, of creative reporting and goes to prove finally that a poet can be saved to Communism; that not only logic, song is a way into revolution. Every worker knows that, but not every poet did, till—of all people, a scholar discovered and proclaimed it.

#### A RED CLASSIC

It's a red classic, this realistic biography Hicks took the aristocratic boy in Portland, Oregon, who had no cause to be a revolutionist or even a reformer, though he had a muck-raking father and a maternal strain of odd individuality: followed him to good schools and Harvard and saw him appearing gay and reckless into New York. No sign of revolution yet. Except song and a taste for laughter, song and eyes. Hicks stresses Jack's eyes, his one clue to the future. The poet saw and his poetic vision made the boy real. He believed what he saw, added the strikes he reported to his picture of the world and, as the editors sent the poet to go out and see and report wars, revolutions and the class battles we call strikes, the brilliant Harvard poet believed. I was living with him in this fecund period and I know how he saw and felt.

#### THE CLASS WAR

He saw, and saw through, and he despised our great, world war. Not ours said Jack, and Hicks notes well that the poet saw that



LINCOLN STEFFENS

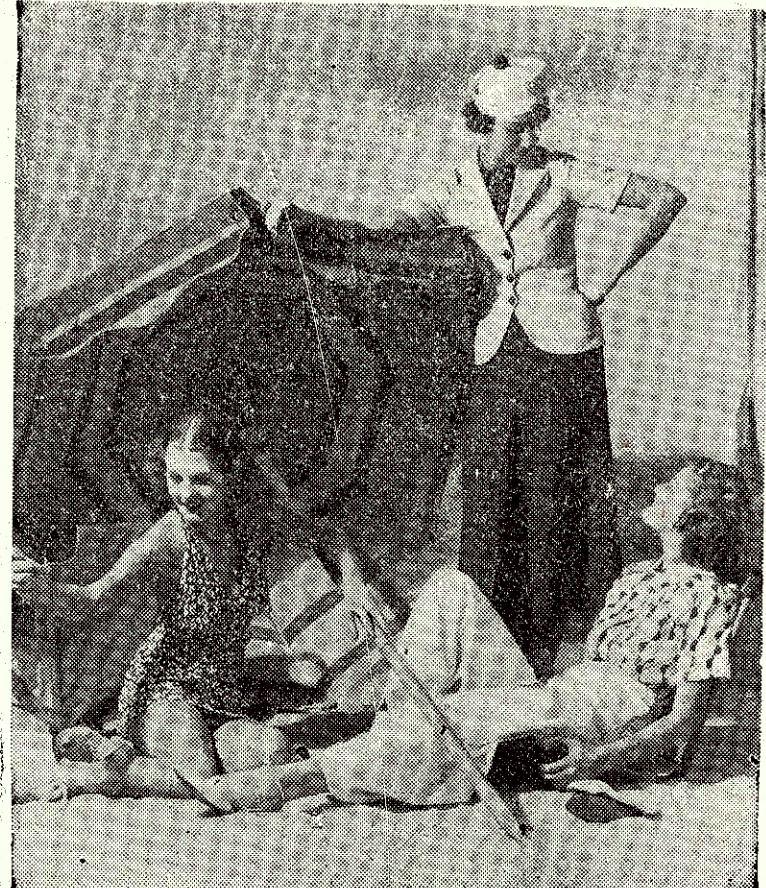
our war, the war that interested him, was the class war that he had reported and taken part in: the perennial war of the strikes. He put his heart in the Mexican Revolution which was a people's war, full of song as well as politics. But, as Hicks shows without effort, Jack Reed recognized the Russian Revolution at sight, as his and ours, and straightway the poet joined it, plotted in it, went to prison for it and took active part in it as a delegate to its conventions. The reckless poet found in that, our war, a place for his courage and his poetry. And Hicks shows, Jack wrote and planned poetry all through those left moving years. There was no conflict there. They were all one and the same thing. When you remember or see in this book, how matter-of-fact this combination was, you will see what a nice, fitting job Hicks, the scholar made of his masterful joining job and what skill he developed for other such waiting jobs. I would like to repeat what I have said elsewhere. Granville Hicks should be worked to death by the party of the poets.

#### SOVIET WITHOUT PARALLEL, SAYS BANKERS

LONDON, April 25.—"The economic revolution achieved in the Soviet Union is without parallel," declares the Monthly Review, bankers' magazine here. The article points out that the Soviet Union is the safest credit risk in Europe today.

Sacramento, Calif., May 5, 1936

Dear Comrade Editor: Greetings to the eight-page Worker. Let us all get together and make this the best workers' paper, not only on the Pacific Coast but in the U. S. A. . . . Comradely yours, P. G. D.



Above—A typical posed picture such as newsreels and slick-paper magazines use to portray the untroubled joy of young American womanhood.

Below: Young American womanhood gets out on the streets and tells a different story.

Upper Right—Living conditions in California agricultural fields. The mother pictured has scant time for sprawling under brightly colored umbrellas and running around in swanky slacks.

Upper Left—Atypical evicted family. Life is no pleasure beach for them.

The other picture speaks for itself.



### Women on the March CONDUCTED BY MARJORIE CRANE

If you were a French housewife, you would be excited about the Front Populaire victory in a pretty practical way. You would be counting up the length of time before next pay day, counting up francs and fractions of them and wondering "Can the Front Populaire do anything about the speculation in wheat so all our food money won't go just in bread?"

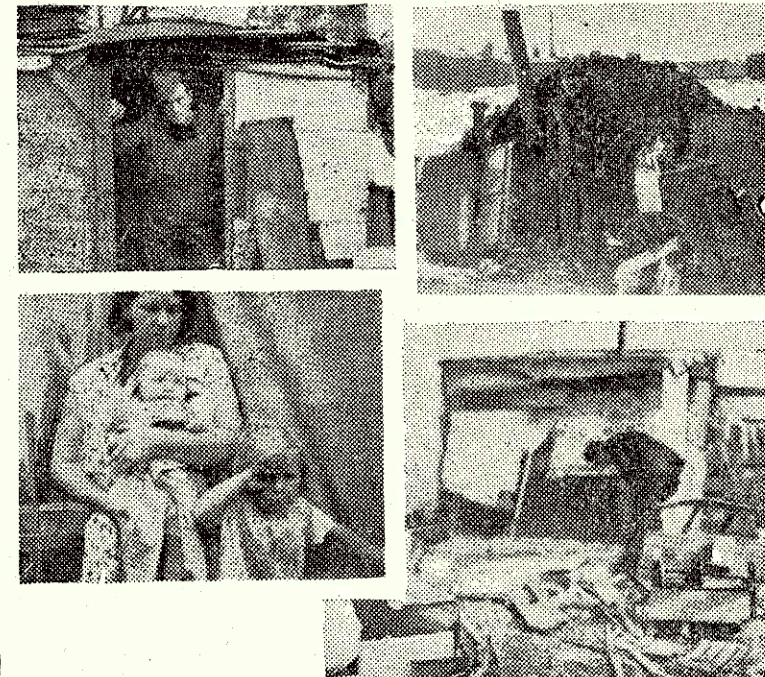
If you were French, you would feed your family a lot of bread—white bread, more or less, and good except for sometimes being under baked. However, you probably wouldn't mind when it was soggy, because that would be some change, and because your teeth, after years and years of bad diet, would find soggy bread easier.

You might have cheese with your bread. Butter, not likely. Oftener, you would have gravy. One reason French cooking includes such a lot of different kinds of sauces is that gravy makes the flavor of a very little meat go a long way.

You can see in detail this differs from the way you actually do live, but that the main outlines are homelike. A French household budget is a good deal like an American one.

A French worker's wife does have to worry about some things as a California one doesn't—fuel for the winter, for instance. She worries a lot about cooking fuel, too. Coal and oil cost so much money that French farm wives, and a good many city wives, have to cook on a charcoal brazier. This is about as inconvenient as a single gas ring, and a lot more messy.

A good many French wives find they can't get along without a fireless cooker. You start a stew, get it cooking briskly, then put it to bed in the fireless cooker—which is nothing more or less than a couple of thick pillows in



### The Diary of a Class Conscious SEAMAN INTRODUCTION

Beginning a new series by the seaman-writer whose name is well known to Western Worker readers from his recent column "Rip Tides."

Today is "signing on day." The way the U. S. Shipping Commission explains it, this represents an agreement entered into between the crew and the master of the ship. As a matter of fact the "agreement"—which is better known as "articles"—to seamen is a decidedly one-sided pact, in the master's favor.

When the seamen signs the articles he is automatically bound hand and foot to the wishes of the captain—to the captain's dictates. He is compelled to take the ship wherever the master may direct—war zones or dangerous waters are not mentioned. He is forbidden to go ashore—unless the master consents. Protection from hostile authorities in other ports is something unheard of. More than often the skipper actually gives the authorities a hand. A threat of fine against his ship, or some delay in sailing, and the average skipper will hand his crew over unhesitatingly.

One more reason for holding a joint meeting as soon as possible! As the stewards' department lined up to sign on, a short, paunchy individual wearing thick glasses and a walrus moustache kept barking, "Have your union books in your hand or you can't sign on."

CHAPTER I. **WHERE IS THE HIRING?** I asked five stewards in succession who the fellow was. Not one of them knew. I tried to find the steward's delegate . . . And I learned later he was the union patrolman. And shipping is through the hall!

Scouting around I found the ship's delegate for the stewards runs the gambling games and controls the entire department. Any one he doesn't like—or anyone who attempts to secure improved working conditions—is fired at the end of the trip. The deck crew is 100 per cent behind the move of a few rank and file stewards to elect a new delegate this trip.

We are divided into three equal watches of four hours "on" and eight hours "off." On my watch the eight-to-twelve, is Kanulau, a full-blooded Hawaiian boy. Morton, a tall, white-haired kid, is from the steel regions of Pennsylvania. His father worked on construction jobs and had "farmed him out" to the tender care of friends. His mother died when he was four years old. Morton got through grammar school and then took off on his own.

J. Haggerty, secretary of the Building Trades Council, "is a result of the International unions signing separate agreements with the employers."

Another delegate reported that "steps are being taken so that such a situation will not occur again."

Local 430, American Federation of Teachers, applied for affiliation to the Council, and the application was granted.

### To Start Big Drive To Organize Auto

DETROIT.—With the convention of the United Automobile Workers ended at South Bend, the newly elected progressive officers and executive board will meet here in a few days to start the ball rolling for the big organization drive which the convention decided on. \$250,000 will be spent in the organization campaign. The convention sent a hot telegram to Hearst's Chicago Herald Examiner branding as a lie the Hearst headline declaring that "40,000 Auto Workers Quit Federation."

CANONSBURG, Pa.—The 61st annual convention of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers elected a committee of five to confer with the Committee for Industrial Organization regarding the latter's offer of \$500,000 toward a drive to organize the steel industry on an industrial union basis.

Progressives report that even some of the old-timers have gone over to support of the C. I. O. offer.

The Milwaukee Guild, leading a strike against the Hearst Wisconsin News, has taken similar action, spurred on by the splendid support displayed by A. F. of L. unions toward the strike.

The national convention opens in New York on May 29.

Such measures would be used as a weapon to keep foreign-born workers out of trade unions.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—As a new attack on organized labor, as well as all progressive movements, Senator Robert McReynolds of N. C. proposed, in a speech to the labor-hating Daughters of the American Revolution, the fingerprinting and registration of every alien upon arriving, "to weed out the apostle to destruction."

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### Mass Picketing Policy Adopted By L. A. Council

LOS ANGELES, May 2.—Mass picketing of firms where workers are on strike, will be carried out by the Central Labor Council, following unanimous decision of the delegates at last night's council meeting here.

Each union affiliated to the council is to delegate from five to 25 workers every Saturday for picket duty, according to the resolution adopted, which had been drafted last Wednesday night at a meeting of many unions.

A committee of seven was elected at the council meeting to act as a steering committee.

**RED SQUAD AGAIN** Red Squad intimidation of strikers at the Dietrich Optical Company, was reported by Delegate Johnson of the Optical Technicians' Union.

Delegate Stoneman of the Culinary Workers reported they were picketing the LaSalle Club Restaurant on Broadway. She stated the Culinary Workers' Joint Executive Board requested that the Labor Temple Cafe, which is privately operated, be placed on the unfair list. The request was referred to the Council Executive Board.

Some unions were accused by Delegate Stoneman of hiring scab waitresses at their banquets. "We are serving notice on these unions that unless they get right, we will picket their next banquet," she declared.

**PROTEST TERROR** Unanimous approval was given a motion to protest to the Mayor and City Council the use of gas on peaceful pickets, and the vicious attack by police upon the picket line of the Venice agricultural workers.

The Tom Mooney mass meeting, arranged by the Council, will be held May 15th in the Labor Temple Auditorium.

Although the Council has placed the General Motors Company on the official unfair list and has sent letters to central labor bodies all over the country requesting similar action, it was brought out by a delegate that 60 per cent of the workers on the General Motors' plant construction job are union men.

"This situation," explained J. Haggerty, secretary of the Building Trades Council, "is a result of the International unions signing separate agreements with the employers."

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