





Tendencies in American Socialism

The Socialist Party Convention

by Alex Bail

(Continued from Page 1) pending upon the peculiar conditions in each country...

The Socialist party of America is weak numerically and in influence. It is still weaker in proletarian composition...

PROGRAM OF THE GROUPS

The Hillquit group and the group around him (the "old guard"), known in the S. P. as the "Marxists" or "International Socialists"...

The Thomas group has never presented a program of its own and must be judged by the writings of its spokesman—Norman Thomas.

The Thomas group is not opposed to the liquidation of the S. P. but insists it must be into a big labor or third party.

The Thomas group has a liberal attitude towards Russia because "an interesting experiment in planned economy is proceeding"...

It is difficult today to say what the "Militants" stand for because of their constantly changing attitude on such vital matters as the Soviet Union and the trade-union question.

At the city convention of the S.P. of New York, in December 1930, the "Militants" first appeared as an organized faction.

group. They fought against the Hillquit group policy of integrating the Socialist party with the trade union bureaucracy...

Also on the Soviet Union, the "Militants" spoke up clearly. In a detailed resolution on Russia, they maintained, among other things...

It is clear from the above quotations that there existed considerable differences on these basic questions...

Under the bitter attacks of Hillquit, Onal and Lee on the one hand, threatening them with expulsion and warning that their road leads to Communism...

tions of Mr. Thomas, on the other, the "Militants" became horrified at their own boldness.

One or two examples will suffice to prove the case. At the city convention of the Socialist party in May of 1931...

Corruption and inefficiency are, however, not our sole or principal grievance against the administration.

To place the question as above is in reality an endorsement of the mildest municipal reformers, since all these crusaders insist they are fighting against this failure as an agency of social welfare.

At the June 1932 city convention of the S. P. the "Militants" retreated also on the Russian question.

Insistently urges upon the government that a greater measure of political democracy be granted to the Russian workers in line with the spirit of Socialist philosophy.

(Concluded in the next issue)

Consequences Of The World Crisis

THE CRISIS AND STATE-CAPITALISM

by Jay Lovestone

We publish below the fourth of a series of articles by Jay Lovestone on the "Social and Economic Consequences of the World Crisis"...

This crisis has brought to a head, has precipitated and hastened the maturing of the economic and political consequences of the World War.

This crisis will bring about a further disintegration of the middle classes thruout the world.

But not only the middle classes in the cities are suffering from the crisis. The great rural population, the great mass of farmers is, likewise, being expropriated.

Even the most technically skilled and educated sections of the middle class, like engineers, physicians, lawyers, architects are being declassed, are being shorn of their privileges by the rationalization process which continues unabated...

Socialist Party and Trade Unions

What the Socialist party trade union policy really means in practice is shown by the statement of David Dubinsky, new Socialist president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union...

"My work will be guided by the principle that everything we do to help our employers will help immeasurably in improving the workers standards. Our union no longer regards the manufacturers as our enemies."

Is this not the very crudest negation of the whole idea of the class struggle? Is this not the most shameless class-collaboration?

ATTENTION! Seamen, Harbor Workers!

We are glad to publish the following communication received from N. J. McKenna, agent of the Seamen's and Harbor Workers Club.

Altho a seaman has the right to "pay-off" anywhere in the "Home Trade," i. e., inter-state or coastwise.

When a seaman signs "articles-of-agreement" for a voyage, say, from New York to Gulf Ports, and a clause is inserted in the terms of agreement to the effect that the voyage shall terminate "North of Cape Hatteras," some seamen erroneously believe that they, if you so desire, cannot "pay-off" ship. Nothing could be more removed from the truth.

As said before, a seaman can "pay-off" anywhere in the "Home Trade," i. e., inter-state or coastwise. All he needs is to give reasonable "notice of time" which is generally conceded to be within 24 hours of entering or departing from port.

The reason the clause "voyage to terminate North of Cape Hatteras" is inserted is to enable the ship-owner to "lay the crew off" when she returns North, thereby saving the expense of keeping the crew until the "time period," generally from 3 to 6 months, expires.

No seaman can be fired from a ship South of Cape Hatteras if he engaged himself for a voyage which was to terminate "North of Cape Hatteras" unless he himself is willing to claim an extra "month's wage" and transportation expense to a destination desired by him "North of Cape Hatteras."

It has come to the notice of the Seamen's and Harbor Workers Club that there has been too many violations of this "constitutional right" of late years, and the Club intends to seek redress by every means within its power when and where violations occur.

The Club membership, in fact all seafarers, are requested to draw the attention of the Club Port Executive to any violation of the part of the Navigation Law.

Address all communications to the Club Secretary, Seamen's and Harbor Workers Club, 31 South Street, New York, N. Y.

At A Peasant's Funeral (From a Lettish Folk Piece) "Dearl' beloved in Christ Jesus, What's a man's life? Sour as a pickle Brief as a belch: This is the life of a man. Amen!"

"Nu, Holy Father, Is that all you have to say to the folks Before they shovel the dirt over my man In that black hole there? Such a short funeral sermon!"

"Let my pants-leg go, widow! What more do you expect for half a rouble?" —Adapted by Fred R. Miller. (Reprinted from Rebel Poet)

Since Hoover favors vacations without pay, it's up to us to give him one.

The Story of Fascism in Italy

Background of Italian Fascism

by Alfa

Fascism forms the most outstanding feature of contemporary world politics as well as the bitterest and most irreconcilable enemy of the international labor movement.

Pre-war Italy was economically quite backward. Only in the North was there any industry worth mentioning.

The labor movement in Italy was not strong. In 1914 the trade unions embraced about 320,000 members.

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Recent events in Spain confirm the oft-repeated fact that the revolution in this country has not been completed by the establishment of a (reactionary) bourgeois-democratic government.

Hitherto the Social-democrats have dominated the good section of the Spanish workers as well as the trade union federation under reformist leadership, the General Labor Union (Union General de Trabajo).

The revolutionary transformation, the overthrow of the monarchy and the consequent struggles of the awakening Spanish people, greatly stimulated the process of the clarification of the labor movement and of its political groupings.

The Iberian Communist Federation (general secretary: J. Maurin) has a membership of over 10,000. It has a weekly central organ, La Batalla, with a considerable circulation and several other local papers.

Around the Iberian Communist Federation has been developed a large mass organization, the Workers and Peasants Block (Bloque Obrero y Campesino), which has extensive influence among the masses.

The political opponents of the I.C.F. in the labor movement are the Social-democrats, the anarcho-syndicalists, some petty bourgeois demagogues, the official Comintern Party and several Trotskyist groups, but these opponents are steadily losing ground.

consequences of the chauvinist-Socialist policies of the West European Social-democracy. Almost unanimously the party adopted a pacifist position, which was maintained even after Italy's entrance into the war.

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In The World Communist Movement

THE LABOR MOVEMENT IN SPAIN

A Letter From Barcelona

In Spain anarcho-syndicalism has deep roots. Its trade union federation also numbers about 800,000, largely in Catalonia.

In the hard battles that are being fought daily in Spain, the Comintern Party is as good as absent. It has been unable to understand the character of our revolution.

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Supplementing the above general remarks there will appear in the next issue a thorough political analysis of the various tendencies in the Spanish Communist movement.—Editor.

The Law is like a fishing net, For both have meshes dark Which serve to catch the little fish But seldom hold the Shark. —Gaston Burrige in The Rebel Poet.

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In the war and in the period immediately following we see a broad field of activity for the realization of the revolutionary ideal; we do not therefore want to lose the chance of a common movement.

Italy was the country among the victorious powers in which revolution came first. The chaos in the post-war world economic system had the most serious consequences for it.

The petty bourgeoisie stood in strong opposition to the working class. It blanded the consequences of the war and of the post-war crisis on the "bolshhevism" of the labor movement; it attributed the disappointment of the "national aspirations" of Italy thru the Versailles Treaty to the opposition of labor to the war.

The Socialist party swung rapidly to the left. It recognized the Communist International; but its course was insufficiently revolutionary and it still maintained in positions of influence the old reformist leaders.

Weakness and Revolt In the meantime the bourgeoisie continued to pursue a weak and impotent policy. The Giolitti, Nitti, Facta and Bonomi cabinets tried to evade all difficulties and responsibilities.

Concessions were made on all sides, to (Continued on Page 4)

