

STUBBORN MILL BARON PROLONGS PASSAIC STRIKE

Forstmann Clings to the 'Company Union' Straw

By **CYRIL BRIGGS.**
Strike Publicity Director.

PASSAIC, N. J., Jan. 6.—Seasoning his statement with the usual cant current at this season about "peace and good will" and further expressing the fervent "hope and prayer" that strife and disorders will not mar the New Year, Julius Forstmann, hard boiled, labor-hating president of the Forstmann & Huffmann company, whose workers have been striking for the past eleven months for the most elementary rights of human beings, today declined the peace bid of Mayor Burke of Garfield.

Intolerant, Preaches "Tolerance"

"Above everything we must all learn industrial tolerance," piously exclaimed the stubborn old German industrialist in his letter to Mayor Burke, rejecting the latter's request that he meet with a committee of his striking workers in an effort to bring industrial peace to the community.

Maintaining that his system, which includes the company union (or representative assembly, as he prefers to have it called), espionage and black-listing, is as christian as any other system, Mr. Forstmann reiterates his christian determination to cram the company union down the throats of his workers.

At the same time he engages in the now familiar strategy (the strategy practiced by Botany up to the very week it capitulated to the union) of proclaiming that he now has enough workers, anyway. His letter follows:

FORSTMANN'S LETTER

Hon. W. A. Burke
Mayor of the City of Garfield
Garfield, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Mayor: — Yours of the 30th December has been carefully read by me and I join with you in wishing peace and good-will to all in Garfield and Passaic, and hope and pray that strike and disorders will not mar the New Year.

Above everything, we must learn industrial tolerance. Thruout the United States we find industrial relations of various types in factories where the workers are the best paid and the most contented—some deal with unions, some with employe representation, and some thru personal

(Continued on page 2)

PASSAIC



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(Continued from page 1)

contact with individual employees. None of these plans is more christian than the others; some work better under certain circumstances and some work better under others. If we are open-minded and tolerant, we must recognize that any of these systems of employment relations, if properly conducted under appropriate conditions, serve well the workers and their respective communities. No one of them does justice to the worker or the public if not properly conducted. The spirit is what counts.

The outcome of the Passaic strike has left the community with one or more of each of these approved types of industrial relations, and we hope that each is determined to do its utmost to further the best interests of all concerned.

The Forstmann and Huffmann company now employs practically all the workers it can use for the present, but as opportunities offer, we will endeavor to re-employ as many of our former workers as we possibly can, without discrimination. You can rest assured that we will do this with the utmost good-will.

The Forstmann and Huffman company pledges itself to maintain as good employment conditions and as high earnings for the workers as any other woolen or worsted mill, and in return merely asks for fair play while it demonstrates the beneficial results which will flow from its endeavors. If everybody will unite with us in this peaceful spirit, then "the good of the city," which is my slogan as well as yours, will be greatly promoted.

Yours very truly,
JULIUS FORSTMANN, Pres.

Strikers Laugh at Forstmann.

At 743 Main Ave., where the strikers' union, Local 1603, United Textile Workers, has its headquarters, the Forstmann letter was greeted with unrestrained amusement. The officials of the union and the strikers about the place all seemed to get a good laugh out of the odd mixture of christian cant and unchristian denial of the rights of the workers, and the prating about tolerance from the most intolerant and stubborn of the mill bosses of Passaic and vicinity.

Deak Scores "Brazen Hypocrisy."

Gustave Deak, president of Local 1603, U. T. W. with which the Forstmann and Huffmann strikers are affiliated, denounced the Forstmann letter as a piece of brazen hypocrisy:

"Mr. Forstmann's letter in reply to Mayor Burke's bid for industrial peace is a piece of brazen hypocrisy, so stupid as to be laughable. Who can keep a straight face while Mr. Forstmann preaches tolerance and christian principles? Mr. Forstmann who for eleven months has been engaged in the "christian" endeavor of trying to starve his workers and their families into acceptance of his rotten com-

pany union. Mr. Forstmann who has never hesitated to turn loose the clubs of the subservient police upon the heads of his workers or to terrorize the workers and drive them back to the mills. Mr. Forstmann who refuses to permit his workers the right to select their own type of organization but despotically insists that they must accept type of union, the impotent company union or representative assembly, as he euphoniously terms it—he selects for them. Mr. Forstmann, patron saint of the espionage system and the blacklist, as investigation after investigation has revealed him.

Strike Will Go On.

"Mr. Forstmann has offered us his company union before, and his striking workers have unanimously rejected it."

They reject it again, and are more than ever determined to continue their fight until Mr. Forstmann is forced to follow the example of the Botany Worsted, Passaic Worsted, Garfield Worsted and Dundee Textile plants in recognizing the right of the workers to organize in a real union and do collective bargaining with their employers.

Strikers Endorse Leaders.

At a mass meeting of striking Forstmann & Huffmann workers at Ukrainian hall the strike leadership was enthusiastically endorsed, the strikers voting unanimously not to go back to work until the right to organize was conceded them.

Ellon Dawson, who is financial secretary of Local 1603, U. T. W., and a Forstmann & Huffmann striker, presided at the meeting. Other speakers were Thomas De Fazio and Joseph Magliacano, Italian organizers; Hungarian Organizer Eil Gardes; Strike Delegate Peletzer, and James A. Starr, vice-president of the U. T. W.

All stressed the importance of keeping up strong picket lines in order to convince Mr. Forstmann that they meant to carry on the struggle until their right to organize and do collective bargaining was recognized.

Erie, Pa., Chamber of Commerce Blocks Showing of Passaic Strike Picture.

ERIE, Pa.—The plan to show the seven-reel motion picture of the Passaic textile strike in this city on the 9th has thrown a scare into the local chamber of commerce, which, fearful that the workers here should take inspiration from the heroic struggle of the Passaic strikers for the right to organize and do collective bargaining, has brought pressure upon the local newspapers to refuse to accept advertisements for the showing. Not content with blocking publicity in the press and still fearful that word would reach the workers that the sensational strike film was to be shown here, the chamber of commerce went to the owner of the Park Opera House, where the picture was to be shown, and succeeded in intimidating the proprietor into cancelling the date.

Local labor organizations are exerting every effort to have the proprietor reconsider his action, and there is still hope that the picture will be shown here on the 9th. In the meantime the action of the chamber of commerce is being roundly denounced, and the workers are being called upon to fight this attempt of big business to block the showing of a labor film.

GARFIELD MAYOR ASKS FORSTMANN MILL TO SETTLE

Stresses Damage Done to City by Strike

Mayor Urges Settlement.

Mayor William A. Burke, of Garfield has forwarded letters to the Forstmann and Huffmann company and the New Jersey Worsted mills, making a plea for an early settlement of the strike, as it affects the city of Garfield.

Both mills are situated in Garfield and are among the five mills that have not yet settled with their striking workers, the other three being the Passaic plant of the Forstmann and Huffmann company, the Garfield Worsted, in Passaic, and the United Piece Dye Works in Lodi. The continued strike in those mills affects 3,000 workers, for whom relief must be provided.

Stresses City's Danger.

In his letter, Mayor Burke stresses the immense damage sustained by the city of Garfield as a result of the big textile strike, and requests the officials of these mills consent to hold a meeting with the duly elected representatives of the striking workers. He points out the grave danger to industry of further prolonging the strike.

Everyone Affected.

"We are coming to the close of a year that has been the most trying time in the history of Garfield. Industrial disorder has been prevalent during the past eleven months. The labor trouble has left its mark on every phase of life in our community. Industries, merchants, home owners in fact, everybody has been caught in the throes of this struggle and suffered its effects," the letter said.

"In behalf of our people, I urge you to assist in bringing this labor controversy to an immediate conclusion. May I further ask if you will meet with a committee of your striking employes, or to what extent you will go to settle this long drawn out affair."

Join the American Worker Correspondent movement!

SERVANTS IN SOVIET ENJOY PRIVILEGES NOT RECEIVED ELSEWHERE

(Special to The Daily Worker)

MOSCOW—Russian servants, organized in the Servants' Trade Union, enjoy great privileges in the Soviets. Among these are regular hours, social insurance, one month's vacation with full pay, one day of each week, an allowance of clothing for both summer and winter, and no calls for overtime work.

If the servant is illiterate, the mistress must also allow time off to attend a workers' school, and no dismissal can be imposed except for substantial reasons, and then the employer must maintain the servant in food and clothing for a period of one month thereafter.