

EDITORIAL

Facts for Speakers

(Clip for your notebook)

Today's column is in answer to a request from Comrade F. V. Los Angeles, for information on the Civilian Conservation Corps camps, especially in the west. Reports below are largely from C. C. C. workers themselves.

A number of letters have been received from other Comrades also. Requests for information on subjects of general interest will be answered in the column. Others will receive replies by mail. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with all requests and address your letters to "Facts for Speakers", 37 Grove St., San Francisco.

Comrade S. of Oakland, sent in a clipping on Japan's trade expansion. Thanks, Comrade, we are holding it for future use.

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS BUILDING RESERVE ARMY.

Taking advantage of the plight of the unemployed workers in the United States, Roosevelt's Administration has been and is organizing tremendous military reserves through the Civilian Conservation Corps camps. There have been two camp periods of the CCC since Spring 1933, and the third is scheduled to begin in April 1934. During the first two camp periods, about 500,000 young men, supposedly working on forest conditioning, were put through intensive military training under army and national guard officers. At one time, last year, "1000 officers rode herd on 20,000 men in California CCC camps". Many workers resisted the enforced military training and in one case, "28 workers in a camp near Eureka protested against army drill and won their demands". In other camps, although workers were discontented, they grumbled against the training, they were forced to continue drill because their protests were unorganized and ineffective.

THIRD SCHEDULE BEGINS.

For the third camp period, beginning in April, 300,000 unemployed is the quota sought for 1,468 CCC camps throughout the country. Thus a large group of young men between the ages of 18 and 25 are being trained for war under the pretext of giving them unemployment relief.

LOWERING STANDARD OF LIVING.

The CCC purpose is double edged. The first is that of swelling the reserve army forces, as pointed out above; and the second edge cuts into our standard of living by setting the example of "wages" at a Dollar-a-Day or \$30 a month to CCC workers. The worker receives \$5 and \$25 goes to his family, distributed through relief agencies. Even at that, some camps "chiseled" and gave the men only \$1 in cash and \$4 in credit at the commissary which overcharged 22c for cigarettes, sold a 5c package of envelopes for 25c; a book of 24-1c stamps for 30c.

LONG HOURS, HARD LABOR, ROTTEN FOOD.

Theoretically, a day's work consists of 6 hours, but scores of letters from CCC workers testified to working 7-10-11 hours a day at hard labor, with no additional compensation. "More than 500 quit work at Sierra Nevada Mountain camps in protest against long hours".

Food has been and is a serious lack at the camps, both in quantity and quality. Many walkouts occurred because the men were "fed beans and bread for 20 times straight; and rotten hash". "240 walked out at Bear River camp near Jackson, Cal." "Of 200 workers at Quincy, Cal., 60 threatened to leave because of rotten food. Their protest won them slightly better rations".

EVEN MURDER OF CCC WORKER.

Abe Yankowitz, 18-year-old New York boy at CCC camp, forty miles from West Yellowstone, Montana, was brutally beaten to death by a drunken camp sergeant, for "breaking the rules" by "washing his mess kit in a nearby stream".

MANY LEAVE CCC CAMPS.

Many workers, unable to bear the exploitation and bad treatment, left the camps. "About 50 deserted from Redding District CCC because of military rules, bad food, and little recreation". "Camp No. 818 (Grand Canyon, Ariz.) 175 workers ran away from this camp in a few weeks (August). More would have left but they were threatened with imprisonment and that their families would be cut off from relief". "At the Jim-Crow CCC camp at San Bernardino mountains, 278 colored workers struck against miserable food, discrimination and rotten conditions".

(NOTE: The quotations are from letters written by CCC camp workers.)

IF YOU ARE NOT CONVINCED.

Should further proof be needed of the double-edged CCC program, for military reserves and slashing workers' living standards, we quote Roosevelt's own confession as heard over the radio speaking to CCC workers:

"Through you the nation will graduate a fine group of strong young men, clean living, trained to self-discipline, and above all... WILLING AND PROUD TO WORK FOR THE JOY OF WORKING. That must be the new spirit of American future".

ORGANIZE IN PROTEST.

Many workers who go to the CCC camps have been in eviction struggles led by the Unemployed Councils, or in strikes led by the Trade Union Unity League. Remember the lessons you learned in revolutionary organized struggle and win over your co-workers to take part in the ranks of the Communist movement, not only in the fight for better camp conditions, but also when they go back to their homes.

WORLD WORKING-CLASS FRIENDSHIP VERSUS NATIONAL HATREDS.

Imperialist war and fascism are unnatural to the world. They can breed only when people's minds are artificially fertilized with the manure of national and racial prejudices, theories about superiority of one people over another, etc.

But it is because the capitalist class is preparing for war, that these days witness such widespread agitation about the "inferiority of the Negro people"; the crime of being "born a Jew", or the "menace of the yellow race to civilization". If the boss class can work up enough hatred and contempt of white against black, and against yellow, it is easier to cut wages, to refuse unemployment relief and prevent revolutionary organization. If they can work up enough hatred in us against some other nation, they can more easily send us to war for their own profit.

Here on the Pacific Coast the barrage of national hatred propaganda has been heavy indeed! Henst devotes tons of paper to it daily. The Silver Shirts have added their load. The A. F. of L. officials are not far behind. Socialist Party organizations in Sonoma County and Modesto have led attacks on Filipinos. All capitalist agencies are devoted to this work against world peace and fraternity.

We in the West also have a wonderful opportunity to defeat

the capitalist class through encouraging fraternization and comradeship among the toilers of all nations and races, and turning the struggle against the common enemy—the bosses and the imperialist governments.

Among us live the greatest part of many nationalities and races. Here are some outstanding examples, taken from the census of 1930:

	Japanese	Mexican	Chinese	Negro
United States	138,834	1,422,533	74,954	11,891,143
Washington	17,837	562	2,195	6,840
Oregon	4,958	1,568	2,075	2,234
California	97,456	368,013	37,361	81,048

Thus the majority of Chinese and Japanese people in the United States live in the three Pacific Coast states, and also a considerable part of the Mexican and Negro people. Although we are unable to get exact figures in the Filipino population it is fair to say that forty out of U. S. 50-thousand live in California alone.

This puts a great responsibility on us. Close comradeship and revolutionary relations with these peoples in this country will go a long way towards united international action with the toilers of the home countries. And with war on the Pacific looming so close, this is vital for revolutionary activity against capitalism.

Remember that—not only in speeches, but in struggle, in cultural work, even in the smallest social affairs!

Fundamentals of a Communist Political Education

Lecture 8

Origin of the State — Ideals and the Ruling Class — How Private Property Rights Were Established — The Role of the State — The Process of Birth of the State — Read Morgan and Engels.

In previous lessons we have discussed the structure of capitalist society, the inherent contradictions within it which are leading it to destruction, and the ultimate system of society toward which the Communist movement is striving in order to rid humanity of the evils under which we now live.

The Wars For Private Property Rights.

In the past century scientific students of history have established that in the history of the human race, private property rights, are of comparative recent origin, and were won only in bloodiest wars of one group to

conquer and establish their power to exploit others. We refer our students to two books—(1) The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State by Frederick Engels, and, (2) Ancient Society by Lewis H. Morgan.

These books are based on a study of early European and North American society. Recent knowledge concerning social history on the Asiatic and African continents have confirmed the findings of Morgan and Engels. They establish the following:

PRIVATE PROPERTY AND THE ORIGIN OF THE STATE.

1.—That in earlier history property was owned not by private individuals as today but in COMMUNITY with the entire social unit.

2.—That during that time there was NO STATE as we know it today; that is, a government supported by the armed force of police, army, navy, secret service, etc., but only an administration of justice which was presided over by the most respected member of the gens (or tribe) and had the democratic participation of all the members of the gens or tribe; that NO SPECIAL ECONOMIC CLASSES existed.

3.—That the right to hold property in private (except certain personal property) and other similar individualistic tendencies were regarded as an anti-social disease and held in contempt. That this right was subsequently established but only after several centuries of wars of oppression.

4.—That with the origin of the institution of private property there arose a CLASS SOCIETY. That since that moment all history has been a history of CLASS STRUGGLES; freeman against slave, baron against serf, guild-master against journeyman, in a word between oppressor and oppressed.

5.—That in order to continually hold the lower class in an oppressed condition the ruling class established the institution of THE STATE; that is, an armed force and all its branches of service, which have as their function in life to protect the exploitation rights of the ruling class against the interests of the masses, and if necessary against another ruling class group.

It is impossible here to even

Literature Book Reviews

"THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF GERMANY, LIVES AND FIGHTS", Price 5 cents. A pamphlet that will give every worker greater inspiration to carry on the struggle. It is a very valuable lesson in the illegal distribution of literature. Every worker should read how under the most adverse conditions our comrade, in Germany continue to issue papers and pamphlets and in some cases have increased the number of copies to more than before Hitler's attempted suppression. There are some fine examples of hidden propaganda, as per example a pamphlet advertising the film, "The Sign of the Cross", the first page was the usual kind of ballyhoo that we read about "Hollywood" pictures and then on the second page was an expose of the Reichstag fire and a condemnation of Goering and concluded with the following poem:

In spite of everything!
Forward to the German Red October!
The Red Conflagration cannot be stamped out.
Many a worker has fallen—
Since Hitler came to reign,
But, he cannot extinguish
The towering bright Red flame.
His murder and his arson tales
Let him each day repeat;
Yet we shall never surrender
Nor ever shall know defeat.
Communism lives!

"SIX SEAMEN" by Mike Pell. Price 15 cents. Six seamen under different systems. This is a character study of six workers of the water transport, three workers of the capitalist system and three of the Soviet system. The author, an American seaman on a visit to the Soviet Union, has not selected exceptional types for this study, nor has he attempted to idealize or make forced contrasts. It is interesting from the point of view of the varying influences which both systems exert on the workers. "Be firm. Have confidence in your own strength and in the strength of the working-class— together we will achieve victory over capitalism". Michael Sabin (Mishka), Soviet seaman to Mike Pell, American seaman.

"IN A RING OF FIRE" by Ivan Ovcharenko. Price 15 cents. A story of the Partisans, that group of brave workers who harried and hampered the White army at every step. The Red Partisans are a shining glory of the workers' revolution. They grievously afflicted the Whites, harried and hampered them, gave vital help to the Red Army. Many died. Many times they seemed doomed and went out to die. Fighting conscientiously for workers' triumph, they endured their agonies knowing that the revolution would not die... that the world must be set free.

All those who are studying Comrade Darcy's lessons in the Western Worker should read "STATE AND REVOLUTION" by Lenin, price 30 cents, before the next lesson.

—JEFF GOODMAN, Workers Book Shop, 37 Grove St., San Francisco.

summarize the tremendous work done by Morgan and the additions and explanations by Engels. One gets an idea of its greatness from the fact that it took Morgan 40 years, studying the American Indian alone, to get the main part of his material. One can never claim authority on the question of the role of the STATE without having read Morgan and Engels (not to speak, of course, of the subsequent work of Lenin).

THE PROCESS OF BIRTH OF THE STATE.

In one section of his book Engels brilliantly summarizes the entire subject. That was in the chapter where he traces the development of the Grecian State. He says, dealing with the Grecian constitution:

In the Grecian constitution of heroic times, then, we still find the old gentileism (communal life) still alive, but we also perceive the beginnings of the elements that undermine it; paternal law and inheritance of property by the fathers' children, favoring accumulation of wealth in the family and giving to the latter a power apart from the gens; influence of the difference of wealth on the constitution by the formation of the first rudiments of hereditary nobility and monarchy; slavery, first limited to prisoners of war, but already paving the way to the enslavement of tribal and gentile associates; degeneration of the old feuds between tribes into a regular mode of existing by systematic plundering on land and sea for the purpose of acquiring cattle, slaves and treas-

ure. In short, wealth is praised and respected as the highest treasure, and the old gentile institutions are abused in order to justify the forcible robbery and private accumulation of wealth.

Only one thing was missing: an institution that not only secured the newly acquired property of private individuals against the communistic traditions of the gens, that not only declared as "sacred" the formerly so despised private property and represented the protection of this sacred property as the highest purpose of human society, but that also stamped the gradually developing new forms of acquiring property, of constantly increasing wealth, with the universal sanction of society. An institution that lent the character of perpetuity not only to the rising new division into classes, but also the right of the owning classes to exploit the non-owning classes.

AND THIS INSTITUTION WAS FOUND. THE STATE AROSE.

Thus, the State, and in this epoch the present capitalist state, was established for the purpose of defending by force of arms and organization, the exploitation rights of the capitalist class. It is thus clear that despite the severely sick conditions of the capitalist system of society, before any change is made to a new and higher social order, the capitalist state must first be overthrown.

(End Lecture 8. If our students would read Lenin's State and revolution before the next lesson it would make the course much easier to understand.)