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WORKERS AGE

Workers
of all
Countries,
Unite!

For
Communist Unity
in the
Revolutionary
Class Struggle!

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKERS AND FARMERS

VOL. I. No. 5.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1932.

PRICE 5 CENTS

Workers Age Builders

THE WORKERS AGE SUB DRIVE
The subscription drive for the WORKERS AGE starts this week. We must have 500 new subscribers by the end of May and in this every reader of the AGE must help. Don't keep a good thing to yourself—share it with your friends. If you need the WORKERS AGE, if you like to read it, then the fellow working alongside of you needs it and would like to read it. Give him a copy of the AGE. Get him to subscribe!

With every year's subscription we are giving away a valuable premium. You can have your choice of: (1) "Short Stories Out Of Soviet Russia," (2) "Social Implications Of Art," by Diego Rivera (in preparation), or (3) "Lenin," by D. S. Mirsky.
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1. "Short Stories Out Of Soviet Russia."
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In connection with the drive we invite readers to write us about their experiences in getting subscriptions. What do you think of the WORKERS AGE? What are your criticisms of the paper? What are your suggestions for improving it?

THE WORKERS AGE PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION HOLDS ITS FIRST MEETING

A preliminary conference of shareholders of the Workers Age Publishing Association was held on Thursday evening, February 11, at 228 Second Avenue.

ACQUAINT YOUR FELLOW WORKERS WITH THE WORKERS AGE

and Avenue. Here plans for the first regular meeting of the Association were discussed.

Benjamin Gillow reported on the state of the Association and on the growing sale of shares.

The first regular meeting of the Association will be held very soon. At this meeting Jay Lovestone, editor of the Workers Age, will speak on "The Workers Age, Its Policies and Organization." Officers will be elected and the organization will begin functioning regularly.

MURDER!

Harry Simms, 20 years old, organizer of the National Miners Union and member of the National Executive Committee of the Young Communist League of America, was murdered by thugs in the employ of the Kentucky coal operators. Following this murder, virtual martial law has been declared in the whole field and criminal syndicalist warrants issued against all known Communists and Communist sympathizers.

Every militant worker should express his sorrow at the death of Comrade Simms by participating in the memorial mass meetings being arranged in the various parts of the country.

Japan's Imperialist Aims Against Soviet Union And China Bared in Honjo's Plans

"We Must Aim To Cripple China And Russia Once And For All," Declares Japanese General In Report To General Staff; War Danger Grows Steadily

A brazenly frank statement of the imperialist aims of Japan in the present international political situation is to be found in the official military plan submitted by General Honjo, commander-in-chief of all Japanese forces in Manchuria, to the Japanese general staff. For these excerpts we are indebted to the Living Age, outstanding American journal on foreign affairs.

"The renaissance of China, the continuous existence of 'Red' Russia, and the advance by the United States across the Pacific Ocean are all anathemas against the national policy of our Empire. But, in order to be able to prevent the advance of American influence in the Orient, we must first consolidate our national defenses on the land and attain a position of independence as far as material supplies are concerned. Therefore, before declaring war on America, we must

strive to gain a superior position for our military strength both in China and in Russia. We must aim to cripple China and Russia once for all; or, in case we should be unable to destroy their power entirely, we must at least reduce them to temporary impotency so that they would not be able for some time to attack us or to regain their feet. Our Empire would thus be enabled to seize hold of vast quantities of rich natural resources in our newly occupied lands. When profitably applied they could be the means of strengthening our sea defenses, and driving American influence east of Hawaii. Then, there could be no question at all but that the Philippine Islands would fall into our control. We could then be the sole master on the Pacific and nobody would be in a position to compete with us or to make a protest."

(Continued on page 2)

Help Comrade Roy!

The following letter was received from J. K. Kapoor, one of the counsel for M. N. Roy. The letter speaks for itself.

It is the duty of every worker and farmer, of every liberty-loving person in this country, not only to join the fight for Comrade Roy's release but also to do everything possible to ease the intolerable

conditions under which the heroic leader of the Indian proletariat has to carry on his existence in the British dungeons. We are therefore appealing to all readers of the Workers Age to contribute money and books in the cause—money to help fight Comrade Roy's case, books for him to read in prison. Give all you can!

Iqbal Krishna Kapoor, B.A., L.L.B. Advocate High Court
Cawnpore, 14th January 1932. Gandhi Road.

Dear Sir,
I am sorry to inform you that Mr. M. N. Roy has been sentenced to 12 years deportation under Sec. 121 A I.P.C. (Indian Penal Code) and was transferred to Central Jail Bareilly from here on the 9th of January, the day he was convicted. Henceforth he will not be entitled to write more than one letter and receive more than one every month. Only one interview for a period of about 20 minutes is allowed in a month. Any number of books can be deposited at the Jail Office but he will not be allowed to have with him more than three at a time. A limited amount of writing materials will be allowed to him by the Superintendent. Except a weekly he will not be allowed any newspapers, but he will have magazines. He would like to have some English magazines sent to him from time to time. Those in any other language he may not be allowed.

An appeal will be filed in the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad. Preparations are being made in this connection. The case will be argued there for the first time, because in the Court of Sessions Cawnpore he decided not to participate in the proceedings of the Court after a certain stage.

As regards personal necessities of the prisoner he will no longer be allowed to have his food supplemented from outside nor will be allowed to use his own clothes and bedding.

The condition of the prisoner may be changed and he may be placed on the higher class he has been until now. Attempts to that effect will be made.

I shall be in a position to send you any information you require of me regarding the personal comforts etc. of Mr. M. N. Roy from time to time. I have only to inform you that I had appeared as Mr. Roy's Counsel in the Lower Courts and am doing my best for him so far as his case in the High Court at Allahabad is concerned.

If you like you may write to me by the address noted above.

With greetings,
Yours faithfully,
J. K. KAPOOR.

Send All Money And Books To Workers Age,
228 Second Avenue, N. Y. C.

U. S. S. R. PROPOSES ABOLITION OF ALL ARMS, ARMIES AT GENEVA

Litvinoff Proposals Expose Imperialistic Trickery Of "Disarmament" Conference; Diplomats On Defensive

GENEVA.—Total and universal disarmament, the complete abolition of all arms and armies as the only valid security, against war, was the challenging proposal introduced at the World Disarmament Conference here by Maxim Litvinoff in the name of the Soviet Union delegation. Supplementing his proposal for complete disarmament, Litvinoff said: "The Soviet delegation will recommend the progressive proportional method. . . . It will warmly support any proposals approaching or outstripping its own. It will support equal rights for all participants in the conference and equal security for all states."

While the Soviet plan was not unexpected to the participants in the conference, it again threw these diplo-

matic agents of imperialism into consternation for it completely exposed their thoroughly hypocritical proposals which aimed not at disarmament but at blinding the masses and getting some advantage over an imperialist rival.

The Soviet proposals stand in sharp contrast to the brazen scheme of the French delegation, headed by Tardieu, to arm the French-controlled League of Nations as a way to "peace and disarmament!" It also shows up the real meaning of the United States, French and Japanese proposals, which are animated simply with the objective of strengthening their own military and naval power and weakening the enemy.

Dressmakers General Strike Called in New York; 35,000 Workers Are Affected; Only Real Militancy Can Win Struggle!

A.F.L. FOR FEDERAL JOBLESS AID

Mass Unrest Forces Move; But No Insurance For Jobless Or Strikes

WASHINGTON.—A formal appeal for "direct Federal aid" to the unemployed, including the enactment of the Costigan-LaFollette bill appropriating \$375,000,000 for relief purposes, was presented to President Hoover on the afternoon of February 9 by more than 100 leaders of the American Federation of Labor. The appeal declares that there exists today "a real national emergency," that the number of unemployed is now "over 8,500,000 and constantly growing," that all "local relief agencies had found their task too great," and that Federal aid was necessary. In addition to Federal appropriations for unemployment aid, the A. F. of L. proposals include the enactment of the Norris anti-injunction bill, the establishment of the 5-day week, the "cessation" of wage-cutting, the modification of the Volstead Act, income tax increases in the higher brackets, higher inheritance taxes, etc.

It is understood that President Hoover and the administration are utterly opposed to these proposals while the Democrats, with a view to the labor vote in 1932, are adopting a somewhat favorable if indefinite attitude.

The proposals of the A. F. of L. leaders show to what extent discontent and unrest have grown in the ranks of the conservative unions and to what extent the leaders have been forced to make concessions to this leftward movement in order to maintain their contact with and hold over the masses. Nevertheless, it should be noted that the A. F. of L. leaders still refuse to come out for government unemployment insurance, the only plan that can give even the slightest relief to the unemployed. And while Green and his friends talk about the "cessation of wage-cutting," they say nothing about the only way to stop wage-cutting—that is, by striking. On the contrary, they do their best to discourage strikes and even to hinder them when they are called.

QUIZ FOR STATE IS VOTED

Senate Passes Resolution For Inquiry Of Regime Of Gov. Roosevelt

ALBANY.—Late on the night of February 10, the Senate of the Legislature of New York State passed, by a strict party vote of 27 (Republicans) to 21 (Democrats), a concurrent resolution for a sweeping investigation of Governor Roosevelt's administration, similar in character to Hofstadter-Seabury investigation of the New York City administration.

The action of the Senate is very obviously a partisan factional pre-emption move of the Republicans who hope, with good reason, to be able to discredit the Roosevelt administration as much as the Tammany administration has been in New York City.

WASHINGTON.—The Norris anti-injunction bill has been reported favorably to the Senate after receiving an 11-to-15 vote in the Judiciary Committee. The bill according to Mr. Norris, would provide for trial by jury in that type of contempt cases involving anti-labor injunctions. The bill would also "outlaw" the yellow-dog contract.

At the same time Representative Crosser (D., Ohio) introduced a bill in the House calling for "an investigation by the Interstate Commerce Commission of the feasibility of a six hour day for railroad labor."

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AZANA SENDS 108 TO EXILE

Spanish Regime Condemns Revolutionists To Hell Hole In Guinea

MADRID.—The real character of "Free Spain," a republic of workers of all classes, was shown when, on the morning of February 10, the steamship Buenos Aires sailed from Barcelona for Spanish Guinea bearing 108 Communist and revolutionary syndicalist leaders to exile and to death.

The unspeakable repressive actions of the Azana regime, in many cases more vicious than the monarchy, (Continued on page 2)

Rank And File Pressure Forces Struggle Against Sweat-Shop Conditions; Demand 40-Hour, 5-Day Week, Wage Guaranty; N.T.W.I.U. "Strike" Fiasco

New York City
As we go to press the International Ladies Garment Workers Union has just issued its call for a general strike of dressmakers, taking effect Tuesday, February 16, 10 A. M.

Eighteen halls have already been announced as meeting places for striking dressmakers. The strike will involve from 35,000 to 40,000 workers in the industry.

Among the demands put forward by the strikers are: the 40-hour 5-day week, guaranteed minimum wage-scale, definite scale for price settlements and no discharge. The central issue around which the entire strike struggle is revolving is the sweat shop system which the workers are determined to break. The notorious sweat-shop has returned to grip the industry as in the worst days of old. The workers are bent upon not only resisting its extension but on wiping out its hold entirely.

Extensive preparations have been made for the strike. This will be the first big strike, involving so many workers, of labor against wage reductions since the launching of the last drive by the bosses the country-over to cut wages and lower standards.

The strike comes as a result of pressure from the rank and file of the workers who forced the hands of the administration of the I. L. G. W. U. and of the Dress Joint Board.

Local 22 of the I. L. G. W. U. has been the driving force in all the preparations to make the strike a militant struggle against the bosses, a victorious strike for the workers. In Local 22 there was organized a special strike committee of 25 and steps have been taken to secure active participation of the dressmakers themselves in the strike management, in the strike affairs, thru the organization of a broad rank and file committee.

In the ranks of the workers there is a growing feeling and conviction that the outcome of the strike depends solely on the militancy of the dressmakers themselves. Only the militancy of the dressmakers on strike can insure that satisfactory settlements will be secured. More and more, the dressmakers realize that it is only closed ranks and determined struggle on their part that will bring to them victory in the shops instead of mere paper settlements.

It is especially significant to point out that growing numbers of workers are aware of the fact that they must resist to the limit all those in their union who place any faith at all in the Malones or Walkers for the slightest help to the strikers. To place the workers interests in the hands of the Malones, Walkers or Roosevelts could only paralyze all chances of a dressmakers victory in the strike and would thus play right into the hands of the bosses.

As the thousands of dressmakers are responding to the call of the I. L. G. W. U., the so-called strike ordered a week ago by the self-styled "Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union" is in its stage of liquidation—a complete fiasco. The little confidence did the N. T. W. I. U. have in its own strike that even its leaders in the United Front Committee who urged all workers to strike in response to its call, themselves did not go down on strike and waited for the call of the I. L. G. W. U!

This duplicity towards the workers of the I. L. G. W. U., who have been called out on strike by the N. T. W. I. U. and a sundry cover-organizations, was exposed by the Dressmakers Progressive League and the Dressmakers Trade Union Circle of Local (Continued on page 4)

CAPITALIST "CURE" FOR OVERPRODUCTION



TWO BOSS PARTIES GIVE BIG HELP TO BANKS WHILE MASSES STARVE

Republicans And Democrats Agree On Reconstruction Corporation And On Glass-Steagall Measure To Aid Big Capital In Crisis

In a desperate move to slow down, if not to halt, the accelerated downward course in finance and industry, the Republican and Democratic machines have united on a common program of wholesale relief to the banks and big industry. Launching a campaign of sweeping inflation, the Hoover administration, together with the Democratic party leadership, has arranged for billions of dollars being given to the hard-pressed financial institutions thru the Reconstruction Corporation and the Glass-Steagall measure amending the Federal Reserve System. At the same time Hoover and the Democratic chiefs are resisting even the slightest relief for the unemployed workers.

Under the provisions of the Reconstruction Corporation law this company is to have at its disposal a capital of two billion dollars—or the equivalent of the total assets of the banks which failed since September 1929, plus the decline in bank deposits since September 1931. The latter is approximately equal to the hoarded money of over a billion dollars. The

Reconstruction Corporation is to lend money on security to banks, trust companies, loan associations and agricultural credit corporations which are in bad shape. This literally means huge government handouts to the captains of finance in order to "unfreeze" some of the assets of banks which got stuck lending on collateral (stocks, bonds) now worth only a fraction of the price of three years ago. Hoover hopes to get the banks out of the financial nutcracker into which they have been driven by the crisis.

The Glass-Steagall Bill proposes three basic changes in the Federal Reserve Law designed to aid industrial and bank capital in distress. These changes which make for expansive inflation and can only sharpen the crisis despite the big bonuses to the bankers are:

(1) Any member of the Federal Reserve bank, upon the indorsement of at least four member banks, can borrow from the Federal Reserve System. Such borrowing need not be secured in any way and the Federal (Continued on page 2)

U. S. FORCED LOAN ON HAITI

Leger Bares Wall Street Scheme To Keep Hold Of Island

WASHINGTON.—That the State Department forced the Republic of Haiti to float a loan of \$16,000,000 totally unnecessary from the point of view of the finances of the country, simply for the purpose of perpetuating United States control over the island was charged before the Senate Finance Committee by Georges Leger, brother of the Foreign Minister of Haiti.

The loan was floated in the United States by the National City Bank and runs for thirty years. Mr. Leger declared that the U. S. financial advisers had been the absolute dictators of Haiti and that since 1915 Haiti has been "under the complete domination of the United States."

RUTHENBERG MEMORIAL - MARCH 4 - Stuyvesant Casino

DIEGO RIVERA AND JOHN REED CLUB

Politics And Money Do Not Mix!

The mad campaign of abuse of Diego Rivera, the great Mexican revolutionary artist, unleashed in the official Communist press of this country, may take on a new light in connection with the following letters:

1. From the John Reed Club to Rivera.
December 12, 1931.

Dear Friend:
We are now preparing a series of folios of lithographs and we are greatly in need of a lithograph press. This in itself is quite an expense. We are appealing to a few friends who we think will respond. Will you help us?

Sincerely yours,
WM. GROPPER
For the Committee.

2. From the John Reed Club to Rivera.
December 23, 1931.

Dear Friend:
This is to acknowledge your letter containing a check for \$100 to be applied to the purchase of a lithographic press.

We sincerely thank you for your generous contribution. . . .
With comradely greetings,
Sincerely yours,

JOSEPH KAPLAN
Chairman of Committee.

3. From Gropper to Rivera.
December 23, 1931.

Dear Friend:
In the name of the John Reed Club, I wish to thank you for your cooperation and generous contribution toward the Lithograph Press.

I personally wish to thank you and, with hopes of seeing you in the near future,

Sincerely yours,
WM. GROPPER.

4. From the Workers Center to Rivera.
December 31, 1931.

Dear Comrade Rivera:
This is to acknowledge receipt of your donation thru Comrade Adolf Wolf, the amount of \$25.00 for the completion of the New York Workers Center.

The Campaign Committee of the Workers Center thanks you for the same.

Fraternally yours,
8-day Drive Committee.
N. Y. WORKERS CENTER.

It is only necessary to add two things:

1. When the John Reed Club and the Workers Center suddenly discovered that Rivera was a "renegade," an "agent of the Fascist Mexican government," etc., etc., they announced publicly that Rivera's donations would be returned as "tainted money." Apparently, however, they seem to like the "taint" for the money is still far from returned!

2. Towards the beginning of 1930, when the *Revolutionary Age* received some donations from Mexican sympathizers, the *Daily Worker* grandly announced that his money had been received from "Diego Rivera . . . from the treasury of the Mexican government which in turn received it from Ambassador Morrow, representative of Washington and Wall Street . . ."

BOSS PARTIES IN BIG HELP TO BANKS

(Continued from Page 1)

Reserve thus has very small protection against default. (2) A Federal Reserve Bank is empowered to lend to an individual bank on any kind of collateral it considers acceptable, except on foreign obligations. Thus, even those banks which cannot get the endorsement of any other institution will be taken care of by the Federal Reserve. Obviously, this is an outright gift to bankers. (3) The Federal Reserve banks are hereafter to be permitted to issue Federal Reserve notes against U. S. government obligations which they buy in the open market. This coming of government bonds into paper money is a cross form of inflation of currency. It is simply a straight government donation to the banks.

The way in which Wall Street has thrived to the Hoover-Glass program can be seen from the feverish rise on the New York Stock Exchange during the week.

JAP IMPERIAL AIMS ARE EXPOSED

(Continued from Page 1)

This declaration reminds one of the propaganda and proposals of the Prussian militarist Von Bernhardi in preparation for the last World War. General Honjo's admission should be brought to every worker. It certainly will help arouse the toiling masses of the United States and the other capitalist countries to the seriousness of the imperialist war danger and to the acute menace to the Soviet Union at the hands of the Japanese and other imperialist powers.

REVOLUTIONISTS SENT TO EXILE

(Continued from Page 1)

evoked an uproar in the Cortes where the handful of Communist and revolutionary deputies of all shadings rose in protest. The Cortes voted 157 to 14 to sustain the action, all Socialist deputies voting for or else abstaining!

It is becoming increasingly clear to all workers and peasants of Spain that the Azana regime is not a government of the democratic revolution but is already a government of the anti-democratic counter-revolution.

How, we ask, did the super-loyal official Communists feel it possible, two years after the time that Rivera, according to them, was already functioning as the go-between for Wall Street, to appeal to Rivera for money?

SOVIET TO BE BIG RUBBER MAKER

New Discovery Will Place U. S. S. R. At Head Of World Producers

MOSCOW.—As a result of the discovery of a Soviet technician by the name of Zarietsky, the Soviet Union may become one of the greatest rubber producers in the world. Two and a half years ago this technician began the study of a mountain plant called towsagis which the Khirghiz highlanders used for chewing. In the Moscow laboratories it was discovered that this plant contained over 40% pure latex. This gave 95% pure rubber, extractable by simpler and easier process than that used for the latex taken from the Brazilian and Malayan rubber trees.

The discoverer received the Order of Lenin and the State laboratories got to work immediately. It was discovered that the plant could grow in many parts of the U.S.S.R. Today, according to the *Industrial Gazette*, 250,000 acres will be planted with towsagis by the Fall of next year. The plant will be completed within the year, will produce a daily output of sixty tons of pure rubber.

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ABOUT THE WORKMEN'S CIRCLE CONFERENCE

From a delegate to the Workmen's Circle Conference reported in last week's *Workers Age*, we have received the following note of correction of our report.

The resolution presented to the conference by chairman of the Resolutions Committee, was introduced in the Res. Com. by delegate Gladstein of Branch 77 of the W. C. This main resolution on the question of scabbing was adopted by the entire conference with only a few abstentions. There was also a second resolution presented to the conference by the Res. Com. which sharply criticized the Nat. Ex. Com. for refusing to give addresses to the Initiative Committee of the seven branches which called this conference, while at the same time the addresses were given by the Nat. Ex. Com. for the purpose of an anti-Soviet circularization. On this second resolution some of the delegates proposed that the two questions should be separated. The resolution was granted by the chairman. The first section of the resolution protesting against the refusal of the Nat. Ex. Com. to give the Initiative Committee the addresses was adopted unanimously. For the other part of resolution 45 voted for and 22 against. A number of the delegates voting against the second part of the resolution withdrew from the conference.

SOCIALIST LAND PLAN COLLAPSES IN SPAIN

MADRID.—The complete bankruptcy of all the high-sounding plans of the Socialists for agrarian reform is now admitted here on all sides. The Spanish government, supported by the Socialist party, has announced that the plan of the Socialist minister Fernando de los Rios "cannot be carried into execution" because it "would arouse the intense feeling of the conservatives and middle classes and would lead to class war!" And since the class war is altogether "out of question" for Socialist-supported government (that is, the class war of the peasants against the landlords but not of the landlords against the peasants), the agrarian reform plan must go by the board. Meanwhile, as the conservative papers admit, an intense radicalization process is under way among the peasants and farm laborers who are beginning to see the real meaning of the fine phrases of the Socialist supporters of the reactionary bourgeois government.

BRING THE WORKERS AGE TO THE MASSES OF WORKERS

Eugene K. Jones, executive secretary of the National Urban League, declared at the annual meeting of that organization on February 10 that the Negro unemployed had been subject to "almost criminal discrimination" in the present crisis.

BOMBAY.—About 650 Nationalists in various parts of the country were arrested for celebrating the third anniversary of India's "declaration of independence", that is, the official announcement on the part of the National Congress that "immediate independence" was its goal.

"The shake of the hand," says H. C. Bailey, "has suffered such debility that a hearty one makes you wonder what the fellow wants." Such is "comradship" among business men.

In the Comintern

ON THE EXPULSIONS IN THE C.P.G.-O.

Statement Of The Reichsleitung

We publish below the declaration of the National Council of the Communist Party of Germany (Opposition) on the expulsion of the leaders of the former minority from the organization.

On January 12, 1932, Comrades Walcher, Froelich, Enderle, Frank Thomas, Josef Lang, Max Koehler and Karl Baier were invited to a meeting of the National Council, to which the members of the Enlarged Council were also invited.

The National Council invited these comrades because it had received information that before and after the National Conference these comrades had held secret conferences with the S. W. P. (Socialist Workers Party). Furthermore the National Council was informed from the districts that these comrades were spreading centrally prepared factional material.

In connection with the declarations of the leading comrades of the former minority at the National Conference and in the Berlin membership meeting, it was clear that there existed a situation in the group that could no longer be tolerated.

The National Council asked these comrades if they were ready to put an end to their factional work in the group and to the secret negotiations with the S. W. P. and to make possible some understanding on the basis of the decisions of the National Conference. Upon this Comrade Walcher, in the name of the comrades, read a prepared statement demanding of the National Council that, on the questions of the S. W. P., on the question of the estimation of the C.P., and on the question of discipline, it should give up its position, confirmed by the National Conference, in favor of the position of the minority.

After this declaration there took place a discussion in which almost all members of the National Council and Comrades Walcher, Enderle and Koehler of the minority participated.

Neither in the declaration nor in the discussion was it denied that the comrades would carry on their factional work and would continue their conferences with the S. W. P. comrades without the knowledge of the proper bodies of the C. P. G.-O.

In the discussion the intention of these comrades to go over to the S. W. P. was not denied. The request that they should subordinate themselves to the decisions of the National Conference and to wait to see their practical effects was rejected by Comrade Walcher who claimed that "there was no longer any time for this."

The former minority also rejected the proposal to arrange thru common agreement a method of work, on the basis of the recognition of the decisions of the National Conference, which shall permit the minority to take up active work again without any personal degradation in the group. The Enlarged National Council therefore decided unanimously that the comrades named above have placed themselves, thru their declarations, outside of the ranks of the C. P. G.-O.

G. Schreckler, Leader Of Alsatian Party, Dead!

The international Communist movement has suffered a tremendous loss. Georges Schreckler, the secretary of the Communist Party of Alsace, adherent of the International Communist Opposition, died suddenly on January 29, 1932.

Comrade Schreckler was only 30 years old when he died. From his childhood he was active in the Communist movement and was an outstanding leader of the Communist youth movement. He led the struggle of the Communist Party of Alsace against the Social Minister Fernando de los Rios "cannot be carried into execution" because it "would arouse the intense feeling of the conservatives and middle classes and would lead to class war!" And since the class war is altogether "out of question" for Socialist-supported government (that is, the class war of the peasants against the landlords but not of the landlords against the peasants), the agrarian reform plan must go by the board. Meanwhile, as the conservative papers admit, an intense radicalization process is under way among the peasants and farm laborers who are beginning to see the real meaning of the fine phrases of the Socialist supporters of the reactionary bourgeois government.

Lozovsky At Work In The English Party

At the Eighth Session of the Central Council of the R. I. L. U. Lozovsky took to task the British delegation headed by Pollitt. The latter, in seeking to explain away the grow-

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HURLEY REJECTS P. I. FREEDOM

Secretary Of War Declares Filipino Hold Will Be Maintained

WASHINGTON.—In the name of the Hoover administration, Secretary of War Hurley came out flatly rejecting any form of Philippine independence, in his speech before the House Insular Affairs Committee on February 10. The "Chaos" in the Far East was given as one "reason," while conditions in the Philippines were described by Hurley as "chaotic."

"The time was not ripe to grant independence," he declared. Independence would be followed, he asserted, by "economic chaos, social anarchy and political revolution."

Secretary Hurley's pronouncement, which has all the weight of an official declaration, only reiterates the old policy of American imperialism. In spite of all "promises" and "declarations for the future," Washington always intended keeping hold of these islands because of their tremendous economic value. The rise of the revolutionary peasant movement and of militant nationalism in the Philippines recently, giving the promise that once the American iron heel is raised, the masses would arise in what Hurley calls "economic chaos, social anarchy and political revolution."

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The Stage and Screen

"THE ROAD TO LIFE," a Soviet Sound movie, picturing the "wild boys" of the Soviet Union, in their bandit days and in their transformation. Shown at the Cameo Theatre.

They were tough and no mistake, these "wild children" of Soviet Russia. Tough as the wars, civil wars, wreck and ruin that had created them in the dying days of Czarist despotism, orphaned by war or starvation, left to shift for themselves while the battle between the working class and capitalist reaction raged, they became thieves, pickpockets and murderers. Asked by a social worker: "What do you really want?" a tow-headed lad of about fourteen answers: "Vodka and girls!"

Operating in gangs under the leadership of older men, they were a problem for the new and struggling Soviet government. How that problem was met and successfully solved is the story of "The Road to Life." The telling of that story in a drama of tears and laughter, courage and understanding, is what makes "The Road to Life" the best sound picture ever seen and heard in New York.

Self-governing communes, without bars and without guards, with good food, exercise and the learning of trades and crafts brought to the "wild boys" the conviction that the country as well as the collective was theirs to mend or mar, to improve or ruin. Despite some heart-breaking setbacks, the climb was fairly steady from the degenerate banditry of their "wild days" to the final happy creative days of their own self-governing commune.

Mustapha, acted by I. Kyrila, himself a former "wild boy," wins all hearts. Mustapha, the leader of the "wild boys," cutting out and stealing the complete back from a woman's fur coat and dress while she walks proudly down the street; Mustapha before the Social Commission, threatened with jail by one member, doffing his tattered cap and bowing low: "Much obliged!"; Mustapha eating his soup like a dog because all spoons were stolen by some hogs of the collective; and Mustapha gloriously happy, singing loud as he drives his hand-car on his way to the celebration of the opening of the railway, which he had helped to build—and meeting death! You will live and laugh with him and his comrades and, I believe, wipe away a tear as did Sergeyev, of the O.G.P.U., leader of the Commune, at Mustapha's tragic end.

The cast is composed almost entirely of former "wild boys" who had actually lived thru scenes similar to those they portray. I. Kyrila as Mustapha surpasses Hollywood's best. The same is true of N. Batalov as Sergeyev, the O.G.P.U. official who handles the rehabilitation of the boys. N. Zharov, as Zhigan the villain of the picture, also ranks high.

Russian melodies are played and sung thruout. Inspiring melodies lustily sung by boys at work, build-

ing chairs, tables, and even a railroad. And melodies of old Russia, sung by Zhigan and his drunken comrades.

"The Road to Life" is also a road to the understanding of how a country ruled by workers differs from a capitalist country both in its treatment of juvenile crime and in the production of films.

Reg. borrow or steal the price of admission but don't miss "The Road to Life."

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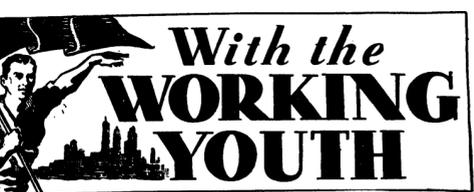
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THE Y. C. L. ANTI-WAR CONFERENCE

by A. E.

On Sunday afternoon, February 7, an Anti-War Youth Conference was held in Irving Plaza, New York City. This was the second meeting of this youth conference. The initial meeting had taken place on January 3. The call for the present conference was prompted by the war now going on in China. The conference was dominated completely by the official Y. C. L. The 80 delegates claimed for the conference represented Communist or Communist-controlled organizations. No mass organization of any kind were represented nor were there any representatives from pacifist or any other anti-militarist organizations present. The representatives of the Young Communist League (Majority Group) were seated and their donation was accepted and announced. But their written requests for the floor was not granted by the simple method of giving the floor to other speakers.

The report of the Executive Committee was given by Delegate Yan-keet, emphasizing the underlying danger in the Far Eastern situation—war against the Soviet Union. It chief failure was that its phrasology was utterly technical in the Communist sense. In our opinion the reporter to such a conference should strive to give a correct Communist analysis without however using the technical terms of Communist thesis. And then also, in their eagerness to impress the delegates with an anti-Soviet crusade the report failed altogether to consider the threatening factors making for an imperialist war between the United States and Japan. That this was not an omission but a conscious policy on the part of the Young Communist League members was brought out very clearly when the writer of this article proposed that a clause be inserted in the resolution pointing out this danger. In order to facilitate the inclusion of this clause it was worded in the mildest manner. All that was asked of the conference was to insert the phrase: "an imperialist war between Japan and the United States is not out of the question." After some discussion and strong opposition by the spokesman for the official Communist view, the amendment to the resolution was defeated by a vote of 22 to 14. This vote indicates that a good section of the delegates thought for themselves. The reporter for the executive committee also voted for the amendment. It is well to note that no attempt was made by the Y. C. L. delegates to launch an attack against those who proposed the amendment. One of the delegates from the Y. C. L. (Majority Group) spoke in favor of the amendment. She is known as a supporter of the Majority Group but strangely enough the speakers for the Y. C. L. did not engage in name-calling. This is a welcome attitude. We can only hope that they persist in it—alho we doubt it.

The rejection of the amendment means that the Y. C. L. leaders to the conference failed to understand what is going on in the Far East now. By calling on the war between the Chinese militarists and Japan as a war of the Chinese people against imperialism the conference really played into the hands of the American imperialists who are behind Chang Kai shek and the other Chinese militarists and their struggle with Japan.

It is one thing to hope for and expect the revolutionary war in China and it is quite another to call the present war a "people's revolution." The present situation may very easily

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Director: New Workers School

will speak on

ONLY SAPS WORK

A STUDY OF THE SOCIAL BASIS OF RACKETEERING

SUNDAY, FEB. 21, 1932

5 P. M.

LABOR INSTITUTE

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Auspices: COMMUNIST PARTY (Majority Group) Philadelphia

Read the 'WORKERS AGE'

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February 21—2:00 P. M. NATICOKE, PA.

February 21—6:30 P. M. Labor Temple OLYPHANT, PA.

February 24—7 P. M. Y M C A Auditorium North Main Street WILKES BARRE, PA.

February 28—2:00 P. M. Roseland Hall HAZLETON, PA.

Capitalist "Planning" and Socialist Planned Economy

Planned Economy in the USSR

by Jay Lovestone

(Concluded from last issue) Is It Worth While? The bourgeoisie, particularly the liberal section, have now and then recognized the achievements of their socialist planned economy...

ments, social in character, was 57%. Today, even before the completion of the Five-Year Plan, the social proportion of capital investments is already 80%. Naturally, to achieve such progress, there is a great strain on the capital resources.

2. The Soviet Union lacks today an adequate supply of skilled labor and technical directors. However, authoritative American engineering opinion is convinced that the U. S. S. R. will succeed in overcoming this serious obstacle.

3. The U.S.S.R. is aware of the fact that it faces a great task in the need for developing the quality as well as the quantity of its production.

4. The price question. After all, the prices in the Soviet Union are not established in the same way and on the same basis as they are in the capitalist countries.

tailed in the establishment of correct prices for the various goods produced are being overcome particularly thru the introduction of the new system of strict accounting for the trusts. This system is known as the Choozastshot.

We mention these difficulties in order to present a dynamic comprehension of the crisis of capitalism has not only tremendous political, social and psychological effects of a beneficial character for the Soviet Union today but also certain, the less decisive, yet important, embarrassing features.

(To be continued)

For Communist Unity!

Waiting for further instructions from the E. C. C. I., the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the U. S. has not yet answered the letter regarding unity sent to it by the National Bureau of the Communist Party (Majority Group).

Both the communication of the National Bureau and the unity resolution adopted by the membership meeting of the New York District of the C. P. (Majority Group) has been forwarded to the E. C. C. I. by Weinstein, acting secretary of the Party.

From unimpeachable sources we have learned that the whole question of unity of Communist forces in the United States and on an international scale has recently come under consideration in the Political Secretariat of the E. C. C. I.

the agrarianism, equalitarianism and "violence" of the Radicals. Marx (15) has called attention to the fact that "Mr. Wade (a leading Radical, president of the Senate—W.H.) declared in public meetings that after the abolition of slavery, a radical change in the relations of capital and of property in land is next upon the order of the day."

"We Are The Truer Guardians . . ."

THE HERITAGE OF THE CIVIL WAR

by Will Herberg

(Continued from last issue) The Historical Significance of the Civil War

The inevitable march of events soon brought on the Civil War. "From resistance to the slave power," the North moved on to "death to slavery" (11). But the Civil War cannot be studied in isolation. The Civil War and the Reconstruction Period form an organic unity; they both constitute essentially a bourgeois revolution in two stages: first, the defeat of the counter-revolution of the slaveowner; the second, the attempt to draw all the historically necessary consequences, economic, political, and social, of this defeat of the counter-revolution (the Reconstruction Period).

Our "liberal" historians, whose vulgar philistinism is equalled only by the narrow-mindedness of those "Marxist" historians who echo them, stand puzzled, even aghast, before the great events of heroic period and are able only to mumble some platitudinous phrases about "corruption" and "greed"! Of course, there was corruption and greed—and on an almost incredible scale too! But after all it was a bourgeois revolution operating on the sacrosanct level of private property and private appropriation.

In fact, there are many serious bourgeois economic experts who maintain that the very exceeding of quota limits signifies the failure of planned economy, since things obviously haven't worked out under these conditions just according to the plan, strictly according to a blue-print. In line with this set of thoughts is the reasoning of the well-known German economic weekly Der Deutscher Volkswirt. Its theory propounded by its editor, Dr. Toni Stöpler, is the following: In order to balance or even merely secure the achievements of planned economy, the Soviet Union must call upon foreign resources. These foreign resources come from unplanned capitalist economy. Therefore, says Dr. Stöpler, capitalist chaos is necessary to help socialist planning and, therefore, unplanned capitalist economy is superior to planned socialist economy! Obviously, this is laughable.

1. Among the outstanding problems facing the Soviet Union are, first, those primarily financial in character. At the outset of the Five-Year Plan the proportion of capital invest-

Johnson) emerged triumphant. The Negro slave was indeed legally emancipated but he was not transformed into a free (in the bourgeois sense) proletarian or independent peasant-proprietor. No; the slave status gave way before a new semi-serf status, a caste status in which the American Negro has labored until today.

To what must the triumph of the Conservatives and the frustration and distortion of the democratic revolution be attributed? Not merely to the inner weakness of the Northern capitalist class itself, within which there emerged powerful reactionary elements. Several factors, closely intertwined, played a decisive part in bringing about this turn of events: the role of the West, the effect of the tremendous expansion of Northern capitalism and the retreat of the more conservative sections of the bourgeoisie before the ultimate implications of the democratic revolution carried thru to completion.

The unhampered and unrestrained exploitation of the West became the absorbing object of the decisive sections of the Northern bourgeoisie, especially the financiers and merchants—had not the struggle over the West played the leading role in precipitating the war? On the basis of the decisive victory of the industrial bourgeoisie thru the Civil War, an unprecedented expansion of industry, commerce and finance along strictly capitalist lines took place, in the course of which the Federal government was converted into a most energetic and avowed champion of the economic interests of the industrial bourgeoisie (tariff, resumption of specie payment, grants to railroads and other corporations, etc.). The tremendous upsurge of capitalism did not proceed along the lines of the industrialization "bourgeoisification" of the South (industrialization here had to wait until the 1890's for a real start), it was almost entirely absorbed in economic expansion in the North and in the West. And for the free exploitation of the West, for unhampered expansion in the North, "peace" in the rear was necessary. The "disturbed condition" of the South, the natural consequence of any serious attempt at a revolutionary transformation of the Southern order must be ended, of course thru a compromise with the ex-slaveowners at the expense of the Negro freedmen, the masses of the poor white Southern population and the interests of the country as a whole.

Furthermore the radicalism of the Radicals was beginning to go much too far to suit the money lords and merchant princes. Just as the conservative sections of the French bourgeoisie recoiled at the "excesses" of the Jacobin radicals, so did these gentlemen draw back in consternation at

OUR AIM: 500 NEW SUBSCRIBERS TO THE WORKERS AGE

FOR A UNITED FRONT OF LABOR!

THE MARINE DEFENSE AND THE I.L.D.

by Jack Soderberg

(Continued from the last issue)

I asked him to leave so the defendants could discuss the matter. I was warned during this discussion by both Bunker and Trajer that I refused was not sincere in this offer. I refused to believe it at the time. I could not conceive of an organization playing with the very lives of three workers. I could not imagine the extent of their irresponsibility and treachery. How correct Bunker and Trajer were, later events have proven.

That was the true guardians—let us claim our heritage!

That is all the I.L.D. knows about the case to date, yet an attorney that has spent three months working on the case does not know "how to defend it." It was evident that we could come to no arrangement after this.

This is a true picture of happenings since our arrest and up till January 25, 1932; on that date the official organ of the Party came out with a vicious attack upon the Marine Workers Defense Committee and accused the committee of betraying the defendants. As one of those defendants I state openly and knowing the full meaning of my statement that the betrayal is at the hands of the I.L.D. leadership. Not only have they betrayed the three defendants and most

The workers of the suitcase and bagmakers industry are suffering the worst forms of exploitation. Their wages are starvation wages, reaching down as low as \$12 to \$15 per week.

The workers, discontented with the previous administration for their lack of aggressiveness and for their class collaboration policy, decided to elect a new administration in the union. A membership meeting took place at which a committee of 15 was elected to constitute the administration of the union.

The Stecker and Spelrein Shop A manufacturer, Stecker and Spelrein, went bankrupt. This firm reorganized its business under a new name and reopened its plant, claiming that this was a new concern. When a committee of workers of the shop asked the boss when he would start work the answer was: (1) "I will take up whoever I want." (2) "The workers will work as many hours as I want."

When this question came up at the committee of 15 it was decided that a shop meeting be called and the following be proposed: (1) No worker should go up to work unless he gets permission of the union. (2) Should the boss become aggressive and take on non-union help, a strike should be immediately declared. The shop meeting was held and the workers approved these proposals by a large vote. But what was the result? Was this decision of the workers carried out by our "revolutionary organizer"?

When this treacherous agreement was brought before the workers of

the shop, the writer of this article and some other workers of the shop exposed the betrayal. The question was raised by some of the workers at the shop meeting: "Why didn't you bring this agreement to us before you signed? We are the ones to suffer under these miserable conditions." The answer of this T.U.U.L. organizer was: "Altho I was called a betrayer and a traitor to the workers, I still claim that my conscience is clear and that under the circumstances this is the best that we could get."

The Atlas Suitcase Company Scandal Another example of how the T.U.U.L. line works in our union is the following:

The Atlas Suitcase Company locked out its workers and took on non-union help. When this was taken up by the committee of 15 it was decided to call a shop meeting and that a committee of the workers be elected which, together with a union representative, should notify the boss that the non-union help be immediately discharged and that the workers of the shop who are union men be given their jobs back again. It was also proposed that, since the union had a signed agreement with this firm, the union officially inform them by a letter from the unions attorney that they had violated the agreement. A T.U.U.L. member, Reitman, bitterly attacked this proposal. But what happened then? The committee saw the boss and informed him of the union decision. The boss's answer was: "You can strike if you want to." Instead of calling a strike, Reitman and Blank, the union organizer, went to Buitenkamp, the lawyer of the I.L.D., for advice. Buitenkamp, the "revolutionary" lawyer, advised them not to call a strike as this involved the union in a lot of expense. "There is a cheaper way," said Buitenkamp. "Give me \$100 and I will institute legal proceedings and apply for an injunction."

The revolutionary leaders of the union immediately took his advice and, without the knowledge of the committee of 15 and without its approval, paid the lawyer \$50. When the matter came before the committee of 15 I made a proposal that these two leaders be condemned for their actions and a shop meeting be called to declare a strike against the boss. Siruhikoff, also a T.U.U.L. member, made the amendment that we go with the legal proceedings because "we haven't with whom to strike," and this despite the facts that the workers of the shop demanded a strike. This amendment was carried. Five I.U.U.L. members voted for it, against three others of the committee.

What must be done to stop the demoralization of the union and win back the confidence of the workers in our union? (1) A general membership meeting must be called where the situation of the union as well as the election of a new organizer shall take place. (2) The mobilization of all workers in the trade must take place to resist the offensive of the bosses and put a stop to wage-cutting and the lengthening of hours. (3) A sub-committee must be elected to make all the necessary arrangements to call a conference of the workers of all the three centers, New York, Newark and Philadelphia, to establish one Joint Council to carry out our work successfully.

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Of the 677,208 persons gainfully employed in Connecticut in 1930 25% or 169,790 were young workers under 25 years of age. According to the Census Bureau 291 of the total gainful workers were 10 to 13; 5,402, or 8%, were 14 or 15; 26,436, or 3.9%, were 18 or 19; 97,661, or 14.4%, were 20 to 24. The figures for child workers cannot be considered as exactly correct for the Census was taken April 1. It therefore fails to con-

ACQUAINT YOUR FELLOW WORKERS WITH THE WORKERS AGE

DANCE of FRED'K DOUGLASS INTERRACIAL CLUB SATURDAY 8:30 P. M. FEBRUARY 20 1932 AT HOWLAND STUDIO 1660 Fulton St. — Brooklyn, N. Y. Music by the Famous Kid Taylors Jazz Band

The Economic Week

A violent spurt on the stock market greeted the Hoover-Glass bankers bonus bills. The fruition of these measures will lead to dangerous inflation. All principal European currencies have already risen against the dollar for fear of rapid inflation here.

The stock rise is not indicative of any improvement. The price decline continues. Brokers loans

maintain their downward course. The auto output has disappointed all who had banked on a production rise following the automobile show. The steel situation, adjusted seasonally, has taken a turn for the worse. The industry has practically given up hope for a seasonal upturn in March. The heavy January decline in savings in New York shows the continuation of hoarding. Chain store

sales for January show a drop of over 10% and department store sales 22% from the corresponding month of last year. Cotton cloth production registered a further decline. Unemployment has risen ominously in England and Germany. The British price decline, in the face of the depreciated sterling currency, is taken as evidence of the unbroken downward price trend on a world scale.

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February 20, 1932.

ONCE MORE THE BROWN DERBY?

PREPARATIONS for the coming national conventions of the big capitalist parties have been in full swing for some time. But as mid-summer draws nearer what goes on in the Republican and Democratic stables not only becomes more audible but also becomes more visible. The color of the "dark horses" and their capacity to make the presidential run become more obvious.

Because of the momentous economic crisis this year's national election campaign has begun earlier than it usually does. Serious conflicts have been coming into the open not only between the Party of the Elephant and the Party of the Donkey but especially within the Republican and Democratic folds. Generally, these struggles come to a head over the choice of Presidential standard-bearer. This is particularly true in the ranks of the "outs," the big bourgeois party looking into instead of looking out of the White House.

Hence, the Republicans are doomed to renominate Hoover. To do anything else would be bad strategy and would be an open confession of bankruptcy on the part of the Republican party, especially in view of the terrific bang with which Hoover's prosperity collapsed. Not to nominate Hoover would mean a disavowal and repudiation of its leader and policies. This the Republican party could indulge in only at the expense of certain disaster in the coming elections. Of course, history can be made over a plate of oysters as well as over a cup of coffee. Hoover, like Harding, may also be fed bad oysters at the politically appropriate moment and beat a gracious and saving departure from the party leadership. Such predictions as to the dark and devious ways of "pure democracy" are risky affairs and we are not resorting to them.

For the Democratic party, the task of selecting its presidential nominee is far more complicated. As a party, the Democratic party is a conglomeration of interests, a bloc of conflicting capitalist groups. In a country like France or Germany, where class lines have hardened much before they did in the United States, an outfit like the Democratic party would appear as two or three distinct parties. This year, however, with the chance for victory over the Republican party growing brighter as the darkness of the crisis grows heavier, the conflicts within the Democratic party revolving around the presidential nomination are even more acute. Al Smith's throwing his brown derby into the ring can only add to the confusion in the party embled by the Jackass.

Democratic party strategy demands the nomination of a man with a big name, a name of action, tradition and vigor, a man with solid golden linings in his political vest. At the same time, this man must be able to sprout radical phrases, while resting on a rock-ribbed reactionary foundation. In view of the growing dissatisfaction, the rising discontent, the Democratic party must come forward with a man progressive who can keep one hand in the pockets of Wall Street and the other hand on the pulse of the masses so that he may prescribe just the right quack remedy at the suitable moment.

Where is there such a man in the Democratic party? Page Governor Roosevelt of New York. His record of "progressive" legislation has won the highest commendation from the "Socialist" Hillquit and the lustiest approval from finance capital. His militant pretensions of opposition to the all-too crude and clumsy frauds perpetrated by Tammany Hall have won him plenty of liberal admirers. "Radical" enough to suit Hillquit and reactionary enough to suit Wall Street! Could the national Democratic party find a darker horse in the paddock, a better shepherd for its hopeful and hungry flock?

We don't think so. That's why we believe that Garner's girations, Ritchie's ramblings, Al Smith's magic brown derby stunts and Baker's liberal blah are only advance noise. The interests behind them are seeking either to be paid for stepping aside in the case of Baker or Garner, or properly taken care of in the event of victory as in the case of Ritchie, or a key position from which to wield sufficient if not paramount influence in the would-be national administration as in the case of Smith. The component forces and combined interests now making up the Democratic party so flushed with hope of victory, express themselves most adequately to the politically backward masses and most appropriately to Wall Street in the person of Governor Roosevelt.

Never mind about his movie war with Tammany. Real peace has never been upset, it now and then slightly disturbed. The New York delegation is a good force to begin with at the Chicago convention. Al Smith will make a lot of noise, will peddle his threadbare liberalism on the sidewalks of New York, then act as the savior of the Democratic party unity and be its real leader. This is what is most likely going to happen—unless presently unforeseen circumstances intervene.

The workers and robbed farmers have nothing to gain from or look forward to in the whole sordid mess of capitalist politics. The "rugged individualist" Hoover has been chairman of the executive committee of the national capitalist class for four years and his policies have brought the American working class the longest bread lines in the world, the biggest and best unemployment crisis ever and ragged individualism in every city, town and hamlet in the land. In the wealthiest State in the world, the Empire State of New York, with Roosevelt as Governor, the poverty and suffering of the masses are no less appalling and persistent. And in Albany as in Washington the workers don't stand a chance of relief.

What the working class should do is to organize a mass political party of its own, a genuine Labor party, which will champion its own class interests in the coming presidential campaign and thereafter. Such a Labor party would deserve the election support of the Communist Party because, with all its lack of clarity, its confusion, shortcomings and total inadequacy from the proletarian revolutionary viewpoint, it would still mark a great forward step for the American working class, today very backward politically.

For various objective and subjective reasons, the prospects for the realization of such a national mass Labor party are rather slender today. Consequently, in the coming presidential elections, the working masses have but one and only thing to do. And that is to vote the ticket of the Communist Party straight, from top to bottom.

New Workers School Forum

228 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 8 P. M.

BEN GITLOW

Secretary, Communist Party (Majority Group)

"The Communists and the Crisis"

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 8 P. M.

H. L. LURIE

Director, Bureau of Jewish Social Research

"Emergency Unemployment Relief; Success or Failure"

Admission 25¢

Series of Eight \$1.00

Lenin and the Proletarian Struggle

On Question of Social Insurance

by V. I. Lenin

The following resolution on social legislation was written by Lenin for the Prague Conference of the Russian Social-democratic Labor party in 1912. It was adopted by the conference.

1. That part of the riches, created by a hired laborer which he receives in the form of wages, is so insignificant that it hardly suffices for the satisfaction of his most vital requirements. A proletarian is thus deprived of every possibility of setting aside part of his wages as savings against the possible loss of his capacity to work as a result of an accident, sickness, old age and also as a result of unemployment, which is inseparably connected with the capitalist system of production. Therefore, workers insurance against the contingencies listed above is a reform, dictated by the whole course of the capitalist development.

2. The best form of workers insurance is governmental insurance, built on the following foundations: (a) it insures workers against all forms of loss of their ability to work (accidents, sickness, old age); it must insure working women against loss of wages at time of pregnancy and childbirth; compensate widows and orphans after death of their wage earner; (b) insurance must cover all persons working for wages and their families; (c) all insured persons must be compensated on the principle of the return of full wages, while all costs of insurance must be borne by the employers and by the state; (d) the management of all forms of workers insurance must be in the hands of single insurance organizations, built on the territorial type and on the basis of complete self-administration of the insured.

3. The bill of the administration on workers insurance, recently accepted by the State Duma is contrary to all the basic demands of a rationally built insurance system; (a) it considers only insurance against accidents and against sickness; (b) it embraces only a small part of the Russian proletariat (one-sixth according to the most optimistic calculations), leaving without insurance facilities whole regions (Siberia, Caucasus) and whole categories of workers, who are particularly in need of insurance, (agricultural workers, construction, railroad, postal telegraph, clerical workers, etc.); (c) it sets pauperous amounts of compensation (the maximum compensation for accidents resulting in full disability is two-thirds of the earnings of the insured, calculated on a basis below the actual earnings) but at the same time it puts on the shoulders of the workers most of costs of insurance; it is planned to insure at the expense of the workers not only against sickness, but also against "minor" accidents, the most frequent kind in industry. This new order is a decided worsening, even in comparison with the present law, which puts the duty of compensation exclusively upon employers; (d) it deprives insurance organizations of every semblance of self-government, leaving them to the mercy of civil service employees, gendarmes, police (which, aside from a general supervision, has the right to basically direct their activities, exert influence on the personnel, etc.); employers (personnel recruited from the ranks of employers only); and the staff of organizations insuring against accidents, factory type of sick benefit societies, influence of employees on insurance organizations permitted by status, etc.)

4. Such a law, which is nothing more than the grossest mockery of the most vital interests of the working class, could be produced now at a moment of the most furious reaction, in the period of reign of counter-revolution, as a result of years of negotiations between the government and the representatives of capital. The condition necessary for the realization of an insurance reform, which would actually answer the requirements of the proletariat, is the final overthrow of Tsarism and the conquest of conditions necessary for a free class struggle of the proletariat.

On the basis of the above points, the conference decides, that: (1) The most important task before the underground Party organizations, as well as before the comrades working in legalized organizations such as trade unions, clubs, co-operatives, etc., is the development of the widest propaganda against the insurance bill of the Duma, which touches upon the interests of the Russian proletariat, but which acts against these interests in the grossest manner.

(2) The conference emphasizes that the whole social democratic agitation in reference to the insurance bill must be linked up with the situation of the proletariat in a modern capitalist society, with the critique of bourgeois illusions, spread by the social reformists, and generally with our basic Socialist tasks; on the other hand, the character of the Duma's "reform" must be linked up in our propaganda with the political moment thru which we are passing and with our revolutionary-democratic tasks and slogans.

(3) Fully approving the votes of the Social-democratic fraction of the Duma against the bill, the conference calls the attention of the comrades to the large and valuable material, which the debates in the Duma on this question have given to clear up the attitude of various classes on the matter of labor reforms; the conference particularly calls attention to the unqualified enmity of the Octobrist re-

presentatives of backward capital to the workers, and to the hypocritical speeches of the representatives of the Constitutional Democratic party (KD) covered up with social reformist phrases about "social peace." Actually the KD were against any independence of action on the part of the working class and fought bitterly against the basic corrections to the bill, which were introduced by the Social-democratic fraction of the Duma.

(4) The conference warns the workers most emphatically against all endeavors to limit or to altogether misunderstand the Social-democratic propaganda, fitting it to the frame of only the legally permitted during the reign of counter-revolution; on the contrary, the conference emphasizes that the basic moment of this agitation must be to bring to the broad masses of the proletariat the premise, that without a new revolu-

tionary upsurge, any betterment of their conditions of life is impossible. That he who strives for an actual working class reform, must first of all work and fight for a new victorious revolution.

(5) Should the bill of the Duma become a law despite the protests of the class conscious proletariat, the conference invites the comrades to utilize those new organizational forms, which it will bring to life workers sick benefit fund societies for the purpose of carrying on in these organizational nuclei of the most energetic propaganda of Social-democratic ideas and thus to turn also this law, which was conceived for the purpose of further enslavement and suppression of the proletariat, into a weapon for the development of his class consciousness, for the strengthening of his organizational forces and of his fight for full political freedom and for Socialism.

FOR CLOAKMAKERS GENERAL STRIKE

Progressive League Outlines Program

The following program of demands for the cloakmakers general strike of 1932 has been formulated by the United Progressive League of Local 1 for introduction into the executive of that local. The United Progressive League has also made proposals for the mobilization of the workers for the struggle, including a committee of 500, executive and membership meetings, shop chairmen and shop committee meetings, special organizations committee, building committees, open forums, leaflets, etc.

1. Week-work. 2. 40-hour week, 5-day week. 3. No overtime or Saturday work shall be permitted. 4. Limitation of contractors. 5. Time guarantee of 36 weeks work a year. 6. A labor bureau under the supervision of the union. 7. Unemployment insurance fund, paid by the bosses equal to 3% of the payroll, and controlled by the union. 8. Maintenance of the minimum scales according to the agreement. 9. Trial period of no more than one week. 10. Shops sending out work must employ a minimum of 14 operators. 11. Repeal of the reorganization clause of the agreement. 12. A minimum fine of \$250 in the first class to be levied on firms operating under piece-work system; in the second case, the firm shall lose all its rights and privileges under the agreement and the union shall have the right to deal with it as it sees fit. In case of piece-work the union shall have the right to change, partly or wholly, the set of workers. 13. Manufacturers sending out work while the inside workers have no work shall pay for the lost time of the workers. 14. For working overtime illegally or for working holidays or on Saturday and Sunday, the firm shall pay a fine equal to the amount that the workers earned in the time. 15. When a jobber employs cutters, sample-makers or rents out part of his loft to a contractor, he shall automatically cease being considered a jobber and be considered a manufacturer. 16. Cases before the impartial chairman must be taken up within 48 hours and, in discharge cases, the worker must be paid for the lost time. 17. If a firm refuses to carry out an understanding between the union and the association or a decision of the impartial chairman within 24 hours after the decision, then the union shall have the right to act independently and the firm shall lose all privileges of the agreement. Such a case shall not come up again before the impartial chairman. 18. Back-pay for overtime or wagecuts should be returned in full. 19. Representatives of the union shall at all times be permitted to go up to

a shop without a representative of the association. 20. In case the union is forced to agree to a reorganization in a shop, it shall be carried thru by the union by lot among all the workers in the shop. 21. The union shall have the right at all times to examine the books of the union. 22. Jobbers shall be responsible for the maintenance of full conditions and for the lost wages of the workers and their contractors. 23. The First of May shall be recognized as a legal holiday and the workers shall be paid as for the other legal holidays.

BIG DRESS STRIKE IN NEW YORK

(Continued from Page 1)

22 of the I. L. G. W. U. in a leaflet saying in part:

"During the last few months a group of dressmakers, members of the International, who called themselves 'left', were carrying on propaganda to join the so-called United Front Committee and to respond only to the United Front Strike.

"As members of the Union they did not participate in any strike preparation activities. They had nothing to say when the demands to the employers were discussed. They had no plans to propose how best to mobilize the workers for the coming strike.

"They sang only one song: join the United Front Committee. They held meetings and open forums where Grossman and others spoke, calling on the members of the I. L. G. W. U. to respond only to the call of the United Front Committee. But what happened when the so-called United Front Committee called its strike? These heroes who urged others to strike only under the United Front Committee leadership themselves remained at work. Grossman, who was the main speaker at the open forum for the United Front, remained at work. Rosenberg, Herbst, Silverblatt, Abramovitz and a number of others, who were very loud in urging others to strike with the United Front, all remained at work in their shops and did not go down on strike."

Ruthenberg Memorial

Friday Eve., March 4th, 8 P. M.

SPEAKERS:

BEN GITLOW

Secretary Communist Party U. S. A. (Majority Group)

JAY LOVESTONE

Editor "Workers Age"

MINNIE LURIE

Secretary Youth Section C.P.U.S.A. (Majority Group)

EDWARD WELSH

Negro Organizer-Chairman

Stuyvesant Casino

142 2nd Ave. N. Y. C.

Admission 25 cents

Chas. E. Ruthenberg was the outstanding leader and founder of the Communist movement in the United States. He was the first secretary of the Communist Party. He died in Chicago on March 2, 1927.



BOOKS
CALIBAN IN AFRICA, by Leonard Barnes. J. P. Lippincott and Company, New York, 1931.

In spite of its conclusions, this study of South Africa is worth reading. The solutions offered share the old liberal illusions—but the facts presented of the blessings imperialism has brought to the natives of South Africa are valuable.

Any one at all acquainted with the condition of the American Negro in the South (and North) will find himself on familiar ground. The analogy cannot be too sharply drawn, because of important specific differences, the spirit and much of the content of oppression is the same.

Since 1926, a color-bar law has been in existence of such viciousness that even Lord Olivier was forced to admit it a "virtual return to slavery." More than five million natives out of a total population of less than seven million have about 12% of the land, and the worst land at that. Native workers average about \$150 a year. The infant death-rate and the tubercular death-rate are among the highest in the world. The last statistics on the subject about 10 years ago, show that almost 9/10 of the native children were illiterate. About 25c per capita per year is spent for native education. Even South Carolina and Georgia can hold their heads up at that. These are a few typical facts picked at random illustrating the blessings of imperialism for the native South African.

The Dutch Reformed Church plays a characteristically vicious role. Its hypocrisy, intolerance and brutality are notorious. They had a heresy trial in Stellenbosch recently which made Dayton, Tennessee, look like an atheist celebration. The following anecdote of the author is worth quoting in full:

"I once had occasion to take a Dutch parson, who was also a member of Parliament, on a nocturnal tour of the Cape Town slums. The Cape Town slums are among the worst in the world, and we were witnesses that night of heartbreaking scenes of squalor, disease, and abject want. There were perhaps three European derelicts among the several hundred colored people into whose tenements we had wormed our way. My parson was visibly moved by what he saw. At the end, I asked him, what he thought of it all. His reply was: 'It is terrible. We cannot possibly allow white men to live in such conditions.' As one native summed it up shrewdly:

"When the white man first came to South Africa he had the Bible and we had the land. Now we've got the Bible and he's got all our land."

The picture is so stark and unrelieved all along the line that the wonder is that a six-year old could entertain the solutions offered, not to speak of the author, who has shown some intelligence in analysis.

That author really has as devastating a sarcastic style as I have seen in many a moon. To finish the job, he should have applied his sarcasm to his own childishly naive, liberal solutions.

Jim Cork.

The Communist Opposition in Switzerland

Schaffhausen, Switzerland. On December 18, 1931, the question of the budget came up at the national Council of the Swiss parliament. All the bourgeois parties, thru their representatives, announced their positive attitude towards it. The Social-democracy, thru Arthur Schmid, also adopted a bourgeois attitude towards the budget, accepting it as such that criticizing it in detail. The real opposition to the budget of the bourgeois regime was voiced by Bringolf, representative of the Communist Opposition.

Bringolf opened his statement with an exposure of the class character of the Swiss government, its open enmity to the workers and its open aid to the capitalists. He analyzed the military budget of the Swiss republic as linked up with the shifting of the burdens of the crisis upon the shoulders of the workers. The official expenses for the League of Nations were also challenged and the part the League has played in world affairs laid bare.

Bringolf's remarks evoked considerable sympathy among the workers of Switzerland.

The Mathematics of God's Responsibility

"Ninety-nine percent of the present circumstances around us have nothing to do with God," the Rev. Dr. Aldrich told the clergymen of the greater New York Federation of Churches. (How does he know about one percent?)

"We start so many of our prayers with petitions and we tell God of many things He already knows. (Ninety-nine percent of what we tell Him?) There is nothing that worries me more than for pious people to tell me to count my blessings. I thought of this last Thanksgiving, when we marched down the aisle thanking God for health, wealth and prosperity. That was perfect bunk."

Tut, tut, Reverend! Isn't that rather strong language? And your God who knows 99% of what you tell Him and is responsible for only 1% of what happens, what horodrom must be His! Oh Doctor, what have you done to our 100% God that knows everything and does nothing or knows nothing and does everything? We're going to miss Him terribly!



Lincoln and Hoover

Lincoln and Hoover were compared in Lincoln Day addresses. The comparison is an apt one. Lincoln was poor; Hoover, a millionaire. Lincoln steered the country out of a crisis; Hoover, into one. Lincoln exalted the right of labor above those of capital; Hoover offers two billion to the bankers and condolences to the workers. Lincoln proclaimed the freedom of the slaves; Hoover established lily-white Republicanism in the South. Lincoln was shot without deservng it; while Hoover... but we'd better stop right there!

And Full Of Worms

"Hoover Mellowed by Years in Office"—White House inspired propaganda news headline. Mellowed? "Overripe," we should say. "Rotten ripe and ready to fall!"

Hoover Is Loosening His Grip

Hoover has made a new all-time record. During the three years of his administration he has averaged twenty handshaking conferences a day and has had a total of 1,132,309 telephone calls. He is now so busy washing his hands that he gives notice that they will no longer be available for shaking with the thousands of daily callers. So the Lions, Oddfellows, Sacred Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, Daughters of Rebekkah and Sons of B—en—tangled Associations will have to shake his hand by marriage. Mrs. Hoover will do the greeting. If the president really means this, his usefulness is ended and we propose to abolish the White House and have important visitors go direct to 23 Wall Street without stopping first at Washington to shake hands with the unknown soldier.

Jimmy For VICE-President

If the plan goes thru for Jimmy Walker's becoming vice-president, for the next four years no one will know what the name of the president of the United States is...

The Rabbis Exterminate Bolshevism

The Central Council of Orthodox Rabbis of American appeals to Americans "exterminate Bolshevism stem and root." Thus the bearded shamans of orthodox Jewry remain true to their historic function—to serve as the high priests of that disappearing caste of money-changers,

OUR AIM: 500 NEW SUBSCRIBERS TO THE WORKERS AGE

pawn-brokers, merchants and peddlars orthodox Jewry. They are without grasses spitting at a prairie fire...

Peace Hath Its Victories

The League of Nations continues to make progress in the Chinese situation. It has again warned China not to declare war. It has appointed a second commission to investigate the first commission which was supposed to proceed to Manchuria but got lost and when last heard of was somewhere on Lake Geneva.

Nippon, on the other hand, is resentful at the League's insinuation that Japan may make war on China. The military has reported that they "are not considering a formal conflict." Everybody in Geneva, London, Washington and Paris rests easier again now that these assurances of Japan's peaceful intentions have been given.

Japan Asks Powers to Halt Chinese New York Times Headline

"Get his face out of my fist, he's hurting my knuckles," said the gangster to the cop. Then the cop arrested the guy with the offending face.

A Foot Note on Disarmament

Admiral Pratt testified to the Senate that Japan has a more efficient war machine than the United States because its army, navy and air force are united in one. "But," says the frank Admiral Pratt, "with war clouds rising over the horizon, this is not time to discard our old and time-worn system of national defense."

When Is A War?

Baron Sato has admitted that there is no war in China. "We're just shooting Chinese for fun," he says. "But if the Chinese continue to resist, that'll mean business."

The Cause Of Unemployment

"In the year, there are only 365 days; you work only eight hours a day; therefore, there are 16 hours a day in which you do not work. This amounts to 244 days a year, leaving 121 days. There are 52 Sundays, leaving 69 days, you work only half a day on Saturday, amounting to 26 days, leaving 43 days. One hour each day for lunch, making 16 days, leaving 27 days. You take two weeks vacation, amounting to 14 days, leaving 13 days. There are 12 legal holidays, leaving one day, and you are sick at least one day out of the year; therefore, you do not work at all!"

And then the workers have the nerve to demand insurance for the unemployed!

Financial News

John D. Rockefeller had a cold last Sunday and stayed away from church. God was awfully upset because now he's a dime short and will have to cut Gabriel's wages to make up the celestial deficit.

—B. D. W.