Workers of the World Unite!

You Have Nothing to Lose But Your Chains!

WORKERS CHALLENGE

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BIG COAL STRIKE LOOMS

HARDING DECLINES GENOA INVITATION LENIN WILL GO; DEFIES IMPERIALISM

Secretary Hughes, Speaking for Harding, Declines Invitation. Fears Conference Will Not Be Exclusively Economic, But May Involve Political Obligations.

LENIN CALLS IT "COMEDY OF GENOA"

Russia Will Go No Further In Its Concessions to Capitalism. Says It Is Waste of Ink and Radio to Inform World That Russia Is to Be Put on Probation.

The Genoa conference called for April 10 is not to have the advantage of the counsel of the experts of the diplomatic corps of the United States government, according to the announcement made on March 8, by Secretary of State Hughes. It is curious to note the varied comments appearing in the editorials of the capitalist press of the nation and the world regarding this refusal of the United States government to participate in the conference. The *New York Times*, democratic paper of wide influence, observes that the Harding administration is tactful, at least, and states that it would probably join in a European financial conference—of the right kind. "And in order to help make it the right kind" our government is to exert tactful pressure upon the governments of Europe. The paper facetiously remarks that the Harding administration is nothing, if not tactful. When it comes to discussing the Harding administration, the *Times*, usually a mild-spoken lady of the journalistic underworld, waxes ironical and plainly says that it believes Harding is endeavoring, in a round about way, to revert to the methods of Genghis Khan.

The *Times* says that the tactfulness of the Harding administration is due to the fear of the Republican politicians that it may become involved in European political affairs. The supporters of Harding, the manufacturing capitalists, having already been hard hit by resumption of manufacturing in Germany for the world market, view with chagrin the move toward the opening of the enormous supplies of raw materials in Russia. Some of them, especially the liberals in their ranks, were strongly in favor of recognition of Russia by the United States government a couple of years ago, when such recognition would have enabled the manufacturers of American commodities to supply the enormous Russian demand and thus keep their factories running. Now the question assumes a different aspect. Instead of the government opening negotiations with Russia all imperialist governments will be represented at Genoa the purpose of which is a program that will divide all of them, to have a share in the exploitation of that most prized of all capitalist possessions, the Russian market.

Imperialist capital in the United States, dominated by the House of Morgan, is not at all concerned about moral issues, such as whether Soviet Russia is a proper government to do business with. It is concerned with one thing only at this time in Europe and that is the problem of devising means to collect some of the enormous debt incurred as a result of the war. It is now recognized that economic reconstruction in Europe is impossible if Russia remains isolated, so the European imperialists have been more than anxious to take advantage of what they interpret as the apparent willingness of the Soviet government to offer concessions to capitalists, although the heads of the Soviet government have different ideas regarding Russia's relationship to capitalism. However, Mr. Hughes, in his note to the Italian ambassador, Signor Vittorio Rolli, does not neglect to mention the interests of American imperialism:

"It is also the view of this government—and it trusts that view is shared by the Governments who have called the conference—that while awaiting the establishment of essential bases of productivity in Russia, to which reference was made in the public declaration of the Government of March 25, 1921, and without which this Government believes all consideration of economic revival is futile, nothing should be done looking to the obtaining of economic advantages in Russia which would disturb the just opportunities of others, but that the resources of the Russian people should be free from such exploitation and that fair and equal economic opportunities in the interest, as well as in the interest of all the Powers, should be preserved."

Wants American Interests Protected

While the government will not participate in the Genoa conference Mr. Hughes insists, in veiled language that the interests of American exploiters be protected. His statement that "nothing should be done looking to the obtaining of economic advantages in Russia which would impair the just opportunities of others" may only have one meaning. It is a gentle threat couched in diplomatic terminology, to the effect that any agreements reached at Genoa that fail to take into consideration the imperialistic interests of the American capitalists will not be recognized by this government. This attitude is endorsed by the supporters of the Harding administration and the press that supports the administration is busily explaining that the government could possibly become involved in European political affairs. The supporters of Harding, the manufacturing capitalists, having already been hard hit by resumption of manufacturing in Germany for the world market, view with chagrin the move toward the opening of the enormous supplies of raw materials in Russia. Some of them, especially the liberals in their ranks, were strongly in favor of recognition of Russia by the United States government a couple of years ago, when such recognition would have enabled the manufacturers of American commodities to supply the enormous Russian demand and thus keep their factories running. Now the question assumes a different aspect. Instead of the government opening negotiations with Russia all imperialist governments will be represented at Genoa the purpose of which is a program that will divide all of them, to have a share in the exploitation of that most prized of all capitalist possessions, the Russian market.

Objects to Red Army

Although it is not specially stated in the note the American government also objects to the fact that there are approximately two million men under arms in Russia, and that the Soviet government is not displaying any inclination to cut its force. That part of the press that speaks for the industrial nation at Washington particularly emphasizes this point and praises as the highest statesmanship the note of Secretary Hughes. No doubt all the countries involved would like to see a reduction of the forces of the Red Army—in fact they would prefer its abolition altogether. But the Red Army is not going to disarm and for a very good reason. That reason is, that its disarmament would leave Russia helpless against the imperialistic greed of the Allied nations. It is because of the existence of the Red Army, that the conference at Genoa is being held. Without that army the exploitation of Russia would proceed without any interference. The Red Army enables Russia to go to the conference that finds the combined imperialists of the world as an equal. There the representatives of the Soviet government will present their demands for an international loan to Russia of not less than $ 20,000,000,000 in exchange for which Russia will supply raw materials to the industrial nations of Europe. This means the use of Germany's industrial machinery both for the needs of Russia and for the balance of Europe. The Soviet government will also promise to pay the debts of the old Czaristic regime, provided the Allies will agree to pay for the damage caused by Russia by the counter-revolutionary armies of Krolchak, Denikin, Wrangel and other military adventurers who were in the service of the Allies.

At the conference at Genoa Russia wants a plan for the reconstruction of Europe there is one already worked out that will be presented to them by Colonel Lorenz, representative of Russia, who has accepted the invitation to Genoa.

Lenin Ridicules Allied Pretenses

On his first public appearance after a return from a vacation where he had gone to recuperate after a siege of illness, Lenin, in a speech before a Congress of Metal Workers in Moscow declared that "Soviet Russia economic revival has called and would go no further in its concessions to capitalism."

"If these capitalistic gentlemen think they can obtain more by coming to Genoa to see us, we will say, 'Enough. You shall get nothing.'"

Lenin told his audience that he hoped to talk with Lloyd George in person at the Genoa meeting.

"I shall tell him," he said, "that he can't scare us with trivialities after Cannes have failed to frighten us. It is no good to threaten us with little things, because in so doing the threatener might lose their prestige. Attempts to put us in the position of a conquered country are nonsense. We, as merchants, know what we owe, we know what you owe us, and also what should be your lawful profit."

"We have seen clearly the situation existing in Russia," the premier continued. "We can firmly hold ourselves that the retreat which we began can now cease. We do not deny that our policy was to retreat, which was carried out with a firmness with the hope of peace. The surrender to capitalism has now finished, and I hope and believe this decision will be ratified by the coming Communist Congress. Our work will now be changed."

Indorses Trotzky

He declared Minister of War Trotzky struck the right keynote by asking the Red Army to be prepared, as the interventionist idea was not dead.

"The comedy of Genoa will not catch us," he continued. "We are going to see the allied governments, but the limits of our yielding are already fixed."

He concluded by saying the Communist Congress should eliminate inexperienced dreamers and pamphleteers from the responsible industrial posts and substitute experienced executives.

The speech of Lenin dispels any doubt the people may have had that they would be able to evaluate Russia economically at the conference. Any observer of Russian affairs could have anticipated the stand to be taken by the Soviet government last November when Leon Trotzky, Bolshevik minister of war, delivered his famous address to the soldiers during the celebration of the Fourth Anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution. After reviewing the splendid battalions of the invincible Red Army which were built up in less than four years from the shattered and undisciplined regiments of the workers of the early days of the revolution, Trotzky said:

"Within a year the army will be stronger and more united. We do not know what will come in the next few months, but events will not be unprepared. Looking well, east, north and south, we see the danger of a concentration of power in the capitalistic countries is still in the hands of our enemies, who hate us and have not abandoned the idea of crushing us."

"The revolution in Germany is still alive, and the time is not distant when the German Red army will unite with Russia—and after that the world revolution." He said the minister also added that if the coming conference should not result satisfactorily for Russia and any attempt were made on the part of the capitalist nations to forcibly take from Russia what they cannot get through diplomacy, "it might be necessary to tip the balance with blood perhaps this coming spring."

NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE WANTS KANSAS SLAVE LAW

A bill known as the Duell-Miller industrial court law has been before the state legislature of New York for several weeks and numerous attempts have been made to railroad it through.

A demonstration of labor forces at Albany on March 1, wherein threats were made for Samuel M. Gompers that if the act became a law labor would hold it in contempt and refuse to obey it, tended to prevent its passage in its original form.

A new attempt is being made to pass it with amendments eliminating what the sponsors are pleased to call the more drastic provisions, and applying it only to railroads and other public service utilities. Labor is preparing to renew the fight against it, and will again muster its forces at Albany if they deem it necessary.

Just why they need to go to Albany is more than we can understand. Why not stay at home and serve notice that its passage will mean an immediate strike, and use the money paid out to political lobbyists for the purpose of organizing and forcing the unemployed issue? The one argument understood by the bloodsucers of labor and their henchmen in the state legislatures of the country is an argument backed up by force. The workers have the power to smash any such law and should not hesitate to use that power.

U. S. PREPARES TO ACT AGAINST STRIKE OF COAL MINE SLAVES

After Weeks of Uncertainty Nation-Wide Tieup Now Seems Certain; Vote Nine to One in Favor of Strike.

WORKERS WILL PRESENT SOLID FRONT

Conferences of Enemies of Working Class Being Held in All States in Order to Try to Crush Workers Into Submission.

Hope of averting a nation-wide coal strike on April 1, was virtually abandoned on Monday by officers of the United Mine Workers of America. The operators have twice refused to enter into wage negotiations with the union and, as the wage scale now existing expires on March 31, the miners in the entire jurisdiction of the union will lay down their pick and walk out on strike on April 1. The miners are demanding a six-hour day, a five day week and a continuation of the present wage scale. The vote on the question of a strike April 1, unless scale negotiations are opened on the basis of the miners' demands, is nine to one in favor of the strike.

Throughout every district the rank and file of the miners are strongly in favor of a strike. They feel that they have been reduced to a condition of slavery by the United States courts and by the government acting against them through the Chief Executive, and also by the hesitancy and compromising attitude of their international officers. In 1919 they were enjoined from striking by an injunction issued by Judge Anderson, sitting on the federal bench at Indianapolis. Then President A. Wilson requested John L. Lewis, president of the union, to call the miners back to work, which was done. The miners were then ordered back and forth from one department of the government to another, endeavoring to find a law under which he can act against the miners and in the interests of the employers, whom he serves. Davis, himself, is an inferiority, a mere, office boy for his superiors and functions as an ornament in the cabinet, because he is the type of secretary of labor the steel trust and the mine barons of the Pittsburgh district want to represent their interests.

Davis suggests that, although the government cannot take action at this time against the coal miners, a continuation of the strike so that the public is likely to suffer will be met by the government asking for an injunction.

That is an easy way for the administration to escape responsibility for breaking the strike. The elections for congress and the senate are too near, and a brutal exhibition of the repressive powers of the government might result in some Republicans losing their seats, so the executive branch of the government will not take action. They don't want to take sides in order to fight the workers. There is that bulwark of oppression and injustice, the courts, that can always be appealed to. The mine owners themselves can apply for injunctions, and every one knows that there are federal judges in every district anxious to get into the limelight against labor. Perhaps they have ambitions to emulate Kenesaw Landis who is reaping the benefit of his assaults upon labor to the tune of fifty thousand a year for doing nothing.

Success of Strike Is Up to Miners

While the forces of capitalism are preparing to crush the strike, the miners in most districts are preparing to act and the leaders of the more militant elements of the miners are counselling the members to strike in spite of any injunctions or other methods of oppression used against them. No injunction against a strike will ever be worth the paper it is written on if the miners refuse to go to work. There is no power in the United States that can force thousands of men into the mines and slavery against their will. The attempt to do so on the part of the government, either through the executive or the judiciary would result in a veritable avalanche against the government from the ranks of organized labor.

The appeals from the columns of the prostitute press that the public will suffer in case of a prolonged strike is all bunk. The greater part of the product of the coal mines is used in industry and not in the homes of

CHICAGO UNIONS PLAN BASEBALL BOYCOTT AGAINST LANDIS

Will Not Patronize National Game While Tool of Capitalism Reigns As Arbiter of Organized Baseball.

There is a strong move on foot in some of the leading unions of Chicago, particularly in the building trades and printing trades for the purpose of inducing organized labor, throughout all those towns where any of the leagues operate under the rule of former Federal Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, to boycott the games. The response to this demand has been almost overwhelming and there is no doubt that labor, when it is fully aware of the vile tactics pursued by Landis in endeavoring to virtually enslave the members of the building trades unions in Chicago will do anything in its power to crush Landis. Not that Landis as an individual machine is very much, but because of the fact that Landis is the embodiment of a tool on the part of American capitalists to crush labor through enforcing what they are pleased to call "the sacred traditions of the game." Not long ago the notorious gambling exposure, wherein it was proved that the big leagues were throwing games regularly, according to the bids of the money men, and after a number of players were arrested and made the goats in order to conceal men higher up in baseball, the magnates became panic stricken. In their desperation they hit upon the unique idea of a "moral receivership," as they considered their morale bankrupt. The problem was then to find some sufficiently moral to serve as receiver. As Landis had been an excellent servant of the predatory interests the newspapers had endeavored to picture him to the public as a great and virtuous man. The flattery went to his head and he imagined he was really what other tools of his masters had pictured him, so he was not at all backward or nervous about accepting this post of "moral receiver." And of course the salary. After he was comfortably seated in that soft berth he became bored with the job and decided he would be looked around for an excuse to resign. He found it! His reason for resigning, according to the Chicago Tribune, which presumably speaks authoritatively for Harding, was:

"He could not make ends meet with the salary paid by the government, and, as a man advances past middle age he cannot feel himself justified in making no provision for old age. In these days to a large city there is no chance for a federal judge, with no source of revenue but his salary, to make any prudent provisions on $7,500 a year. This may be possible in a rural circuit, but it cannot be done in modern city conditions."

And that same Judge Landis who could not live on $7,500 a year, or $25 a day, ruled that a wage of less than $4 a day was sufficient for a certain class of building workers here in Chicago who are employed only about three-fourths of the year or less.

He also ruled that there should be no discrimination regarding the employment of union men or scabs, and that the same low rate of pay should prevail for all in a given line of work. There was also a clause to the effect that no one could strike or even quit without permission to do so. Immediately after the award the attorneys "Citizens Committee" was organized composed of proprietors of rat shops, notorious scab herders, and all the ragtag and bob-tail of Chicago scabbery for the purpose of enforcing the award.

Organized labor throughout the nation has the power to drive Landis from his position in shame if they but act in their own interests and against one of the vilest servants the ruling class has ever had in this country.

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THE SHOPMEN VOTE TO STRIKE

Decision was reached late last Thursday by employes of the Erie Railroad Company's shops at Dunmore, Pa., to quit work March 15 unless the railroad agrees to cancel its contract with the Mendville Machinery Company by that date. The Meadville concern recently leased the Dunmore shops, and, according to the union, the management is already cutting wages and otherwise violating the Transportation Act.

The Dunmore workers, in addition to deciding to suspend work next week, also voted to have the case brought to the attention of the United States Railroad Board. The Meadville Company has made no reply to the union.

COMMUNIST DENOUNCES SOCIALIST TRAITORS IN PRUSSIAN DIET

The social-democratic president of the Prussian parliament, Herr Leinert, was the object of a bitter attack launched by the Communist group in that body last week. Herr Leinert recently sent out invitations to the leading parliamentarians and the Communists, requesting them to attend a "parliamentary beer evening" at his home.

One of the spokesmen for the Communists, named Schultz, of Berlin, approached the president's desk and with clenched fist asked how he dared send him an invitation to a beer party in view of the recent execution of Spanish Communists in France, from whence they were sent to Spain and shared with the murder of Premier Dato of Spain. "You ask us to drink with you, after you have helped send our comrades to death!" thundered the enraged deputy. The president of the parliament, nervously shrinking back in his chair mumbled that the beer party had nothing to do with the assassins of Premier Dato, whereupon the enraged Communist leader crumpled up the elegantly engraved invitation and hurled it into the face of the socialist traitor and exclaimed:

"I throw it in your face with expressions of my contempt."

private families. Furthermore little coal is needed now to keep warm. The "dear public" can wait for a month or so even if it should shiver a bit. A complete stop of the mills would mean that there would be no fuel for, and that is of no concern to the workers. We don't own the industries and can all afford a vacation if necessary to teach the dishonest of labor who are conducting an open shop drive to America, Canada, that we and not they have the power to stop their profiteering.

The miners have a splendid opportunity to teach the American working class a valuable lesson in initiancy if they will but take advantage of the opportunity. The workers on the railroads are dissatisfied and disgusted with their consent betrayal into the hands of the employers. They have suffered constant reductions and threats of ever more reductions. They are susceptible to strike agitation. When the miners go on strike the shop committees should immediately issue an appeal to the railroaders to refuse to transport coal until the strike is over. In other words the railroaders can aid the miners by refusing to aid Wall St. and their employers, the capitalist class. An appeal to the railroaders on behalf of the miners would meet with response from the rank and file, although the reactionary officialdom of the railroad unions will endeavor to prevent any effective action.

Alliance Must Originate With Rank And File

The demand for an part of the rank and file of both the railroad and mine organizations for effective action against the reductions in wages, the attack on union conditions and the anti-union campaign in general has forced the officers of both the railroad and miners' organizations to contend to take action toward an alliance of forces. Negotiations have been held between officers and the plan for the use of striking miners from the ranks has been agreed upon, but there have been no plans for calling out the railroad men. In fact John L. Lewis and officers informed the railroad heads that there were not even hinted to join in any such strike. That the idea of calling out the miners and its acceptance by the rail union officers is an act of treachery to the railroad men. LABOR'S ONLY EFFECTIVE WEAPON TODAY IS THE STRIKE. The Labor Herald, at $2.50 per year. Immediately after that information had been revealed to the meeting a motion was made to elect permanent officers. Objection to this was raised on the ground that the officers should not be elected until it was determined who was entitled to vote. This objection called forth a storm of protest from members of that promising reformatic, counter-revolutionary group of men who called themselves proudly known as the "Workers' Party of America. Street fighter tactics arose to repress the violation of controlling the actions of officers of a meeting. [illegible] the Jordan of the Workers' Party [illegible] should not [illegible] "We want, now the workers who [illegible] and we demand right [illegible] Individual, who is a member of the Workers Party, and who is not a member of any union unless he joined something for that particular occasion. There seemed to be a terrible rush about electing officers this very day and when a half hour's work might be determined who was what. The elections were rushed through and the chairman of the meeting, Mr. Carney, was made permanent chairman of the body. Carney has never been very popular with the rank and file of the movement. He was in the Chicago Federation of Labor in 1916 and [illegible] in various jobs [illegible] the workers and other [illegible] Carney [illegible] the Chicago Federation of Labor [illegible] the Chicago Labor Party. That party held [illegible] A was the one and only organization deserving support of the American workers, and Joe was one of their theoretical (?) [illegible] through the columns of his paper. Joe is one of the "labor leaders" who signed the Central Executive Committee of the Workers Party, which is an amalgamation of all the reformists, centrists, petty-bourgeois artists and adventurers that the all-powerful Social-Democracy has succeeded in its years of vegetation as a disease growth upon the body of the working class movement. The Workers Party is [illegible] and is [illegible] [illegible] Carney professes to be a businesser of is not quite clear, as he has not worked for years, but one thing is certain and that is that he has no standing whatsoever in the Chicago labor movement. His paper even united attacks upon the left elements in one of the largest unions in Chicago for demanding a raise in wages. In the case of the recent scale protest made by Typographical Union No. 16. He similarly endeavored to destroy the work of the militant elements in the printing trades because the leaders of that element do not play the same filthy game of the political shyster and support the some rotten aggregation of adventurers that he claims with. Only recently he published a statement to the effect that one of the leaders of the militant movement in the printing trades was "using the progressive movement for his own ends". Just how much influence his most has in the printing trades is evidenced by the fact that the progressive elements in selecting their candidates to the international convention returned the highest vote for the person thus attached by this blatherskite.

The irony of election of Carney as permanent chairman of a Trade Union Educational League, lies in the fact that he is undoubtedly the most ignorant person and chero on earth that professes to speak for labor. He never had an idea worth repeating in all his life. He never said anything approximately correct appears in his sheet it has been pilfered from some one else. If the workers of America are to depend upon such as he for their education they will never know anything.

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ENDEAVOR TO ORGANIZE "MINORITY GROUPS" IN CHICAGO

Branch of Trade Union Educational League Organized. Politicians Manipulate Themselves Into Control. Doubtful of Outcome Unless Membership Eliminates "Revolutionary Adventures."

(Special Correspondence)

The Chicago branch of the Trade Union Educational League, the organization which has been sponsored for a period of a year and a half by Wm. Z. Foster, was organized at a meeting held at 180 West Washington street, Monday evening, February 27. The purpose of the organization is to organize those of the rank and file of labor unions for the immediate propagation of the principles of industrial unionism. An elaborate plan for permeating all basic industries was presented to the delegates and with the organization in the proper hands it is quite likely that much can be done. High hopes for the success of the League have been held by its supporters, as there is grave need of such an organization in the trade union movement in the United States. It can be stated, and provided it is in the hands of the bona-fide trade unionists who have intelligence and some standing in the American labor movement [illegible] himself. Has had years of experience in the movement and can be his influence if he so desires to place the League on the right road and keep it there. Many unionists who have been active in the minority groups in their own unions were there expecting to see some such march while development and were badly disappointed.

The chairman for the evening was one Jack Carney, editor of that spokesman for Bolshevism in Chicago, called "The Voice of Labor." Committees were elected for the purpose of determining who was eligible to join the League, the requirements being two. First, that the applicant must be a member in good standing of a bona-fide union, and second, that he must have subscribed to the official organ of the Trade Union Educational League, the Labor Herald, at $2.50 per year. Immediately after that information had been revealed to the meeting a motion was made to elect permanent officers. Objection to this was raised on the ground that the officers should not be elected until it was determined who was entitled to vote. This objection called forth a storm of protest from members of that promising reformatic, counter-revolutionary group of men who called themselves proudly known as the "Workers' Party of America. Street fighter tactics arose to repress the violation of controlling the actions of officers of a meeting. [illegible] the Jordan of the Workers' Party [illegible] should not [illegible] "We want, now the workers who [illegible] and we demand right [illegible] Individual, who is a member of the Workers Party, and who is not a member of any union unless he joined something for that particular occasion. There seemed to be a terrible rush about electing officers this very day and when a half hour's work might be determined who was what. The elections were rushed through and the chairman of the meeting, Mr. Carney, was made permanent chairman of the body. Carney has never been very popular with the rank and file of the movement. He was in the Chicago Federation of Labor in 1916 and [illegible] in various jobs [illegible] the workers and other [illegible] Carney [illegible] the Chicago Federation of Labor [illegible] the Chicago Labor Party. That party held [illegible] A was the one and only organization deserving support of the American workers, and Joe was one of their theoretical (?) [illegible] through the columns of his paper. Joe is one of the "labor leaders" who signed the Central Executive Committee of the Workers Party, which is an amalgamation of all the reformists, centrists, petty-bourgeois artists and adventurers that the all-powerful Social-Democracy has succeeded in its years of vegetation as a disease growth upon the body of the working class movement. The Workers Party is [illegible] and is [illegible] [illegible] Carney professes to be a businesser of is not quite clear, as he has not worked for years, but one thing is certain and that is that he has no standing whatsoever in the Chicago labor movement. His paper even united attacks upon the left elements in one of the largest unions in Chicago for demanding a raise in wages. In the case of the recent scale protest made by Typographical Union No. 16. He similarly endeavored to destroy the work of the militant elements in the printing trades because the leaders of that element do not play the same filthy game of the political shyster and support the some rotten aggregation of adventurers that he claims with. Only recently he published a statement to the effect that one of the leaders of the militant movement in the printing trades was "using the progressive movement for his own ends". Just how much influence his most has in the printing trades is evidenced by the fact that the progressive elements in selecting their candidates to the international convention returned the highest vote for the person thus attached by this blatherskite.

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Anniversary of the Paris Commune

(March 18, 1871—March 18, 1922)

For the proper at long the class conscious workers of the world call to the memory of the Paris Commune. For fifty-one years the ruling class has been reviling the memory of the Communards. Never have the enemies of the proletariat so distorted the facts in order to find language with which to vilify the unprivileged heroism of the Parisian proletariat as it hurled itself forward on the stage of history as for two months challenged the world of capitalism. For us, living today in the fifth year of the domination of the proletariat over the vast territory that is Russia, it is not easy to understand the significance of the Commune of 71. And so we view the history of the events of that struggle we realize now that those who actually participated in the Commune did not understand it. They only felt as they were impelled by force of circumstances to fight, without rhyme or reason that it or somehow would come to which the proletariat of today is the heroes of the Commune are many, but the great [illegible] easily summed up in the valiant action for the revolutionary working class of the world [illegible] of the Commune of 71 was the first time that the capitalistic state with its entire apparatus is of no use to the working class in the revolutionary transition from capitalism to communism; the other lesson was that an entirely new ruling class must be established in the stead for the purpose [illegible] antagonism [illegible] ing their actions against capitalist private property. [illegible] the Jordan of the Workers' Party [illegible] should not [illegible] "We want, now the workers who [illegible] and we demand right [illegible] Individual, who is a member of the Workers Party, and who is not a member of any union unless he joined something for that particular occasion. There seemed to be a terrible rush about electing officers this very day and when a half hour's work might be determined who was what. The elections were rushed through and the chairman of the meeting, Mr. Carney, was made permanent chairman of the body. Carney has never been very popular with the rank and file of the movement. He was in the Chicago Federation of Labor in 1916 and [illegible] in various jobs [illegible] the workers and other [illegible] Carney [illegible] the Chicago Federation of Labor [illegible] the Chicago Labor Party. That party held [illegible] A was the one and only organization deserving support of the American workers, and Joe was one of their theoretical (?) [illegible] through the columns of his paper. Joe is one of the "labor leaders" who signed the Central Executive Committee of the Workers Party, which is an amalgamation of all the reformists, centrists, petty-bourgeois artists and adventurers that the all-powerful Social-Democracy has succeeded in its years of vegetation as a disease growth upon the body of the working class movement. The Workers Party is [illegible] and is [illegible] [illegible] Carney professes to be a businesser of is not quite clear, as he has not worked for years, but one thing is certain and that is that he has no standing whatsoever in the Chicago labor movement. His paper even united attacks upon the left elements in one of the largest unions in Chicago for demanding a raise in wages. In the case of the recent scale protest made by Typographical Union No. 16. He similarly endeavored to destroy the work of the militant elements in the printing trades because the leaders of that element do not play the same filthy game of the political shyster and support the some rotten aggregation of adventurers that he claims with. Only recently he published a statement to the effect that one of the leaders of the militant movement in the printing trades was "using the progressive movement for his own ends". Just how much influence his most has in the printing trades is evidenced by the fact that the progressive elements in selecting their candidates to the international convention returned the highest vote for the person thus attached by this blatherskite.

The irony of election of Carney as permanent chairman of a Trade Union Educational League, lies in the fact that he is undoubtedly the most ignorant person and chero on earth that professes to speak for labor. He never had an idea worth repeating in all his life. He never said anything approximately correct appears in his sheet it has been pilfered from some one else. If the workers of America are to depend upon such as he for their education they will never know anything.

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RAILROADS DEMAND CUT IN WAGES

Again taking advantage of the railroad workers inability so far to compel their leaders to act in the interest of the rank and file of labor, the arrogant railroad executives have demanded another cut averaging ten per cent for all classes of railroad workers except those in train service. This demand is supported by 101 railroads before the United States Railway Wage Board.

The cuts range from 4 per cent to 27 per cent an hour and $10 to $14 per month to those employees working on a monthly salary.

John W. Higgins, representing the railroads, presented a survey covering more than 200,000 employes of all classes, of whom 77 per cent were said to be getting lower wages than those paid by the railroads for similar service.

H. M. Jewell, president of the Shop Crafts, charged the roads had not shown good faith in reducing rates in proportion to wage reductions already granted.

Just so long as the workers in the railroad industry or any other industry permit their traitorous leaders to keep them divided and just so long as they enter into arbitration agreements with their employers just so long will they be betrayed and defeated. The moment the workers determine to secure control and reorganize their unions on the basis of one union in the railroad industry they will be on the road to victory.

No further reductions should be accepted by the workers and if the officers again betray them into acceptance they should go over the heads of their officers and strike. However, such a strike should not result in creation of new unions, but simply in discrediting and destroying the power of the reactionary officialdom.

JUDICIAL TOOL OF "OPEN SHOPPERS" DENOUNCES UNIONS

Every tool of reaction in the city of Chicago, including the prostitute judges on the bench, has been used against the workers in order to crush the unions and establish scab conditions throughout that city. The latest assault comes from the chief justice of the criminal court, a far-blind lawyer and machine politician who has been elevated to his present position because of his services to his masters—the capitalist class. This creature issued for publication a set of barefaced lies about the labor unions of Chicago.

Declaring that some Chicago labor unions are ruled and controlled by professional criminals, Chief Justice Harry Olson of the Criminal Court in a special grand jury charge to investigate what he termed gangdom and outrages of labor in different classes of labor leaders here.

"Unless we have peace in this city we will have trouble in Chicago and other cities and to determine once and for all," he said, "whether this band of gunmen is going to rule this community and destroy law and order in our state, or whether this city, calling itself the home, wonderful of all the world, is able to deal with these miscreants just as it mastered the anarchists."

Judge Scanlan declared that "a vast conspiracy" existed among the labor leaders to place themselves above the law.

"It remains to be seen whether they are able to conquer robbed Americans."

If Judge Scanlan really wants to find the gunmen of Chicago he should start investigating the so-called Citizen's Committee, which is an organization of employers, pimps, pickpockets, thugs and gunmen who profess to speak in the name of the citizens of Chicago. The head of this Committee, T. [illegible] (Ted) Donnelly, proprietor of a notorious scab printing concern in the city is one of the leading gunmen and rangers of Chicago. He always avoids being arrested and usually has a bodyguard. That is the type of cowardly yellow cur he is. We have heard no judicial denunciations of him from the filthy lips of the half-baked chief justice of the Chicago criminal court. For every union man that carries a gun there are a dozen thugs and gunmen let law and order there are a thousand members of the employing class committing every crime known to the calendar. However, we do not expect the ruling class to obey its own laws. Those laws were not made for, nor enacted by the upper strata of society, but for the purpose of holding the workers in a direction. Laws are made to be obeyed by the workers and violated by the capitalist class whenever it is inconvenient for them to obey them. The workers are guilty of getting to the point, where they have a healthy contempt for laws and judges.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR SENDS INVESTIGATOR OF TEXTILE STRIKE

With the departure of Charles Bernheim of the Department of Labor for the New England textile district, it was understood the government is trying to settle this trouble before the rest of organized labor mobilizes.

STEEL TRUST GUNMEN ON RAMPAGE IN KENTUCKY TOWN

The town of Newport, Ky., for the past several weeks has been a veritable inferno because of the activities of the hired assassins of the steel trust against workers. Evictions of their homes have been accompanied with all the tried and true American tactics of handling strike situations. This city has reached its highest point in anarchy. The [illegible] of the atrocities is the repetition of despicable "citizens committees" that has issued a proclamation that the workers so many pages of industrial history in this country. The Kentucky outlaws have made a raid on a strike of workers in the rolling mill of the steel trust and the attempt of the trust to force them back or drive them out of the district.

Labor should not forget. Some day it can evict the parasitic owners of the steel trust from their plants and compel them to do some useful work for the first time in their lives—or starve.

The Harpoon

Well, we are on the second year of normalcy and peace.

Examples of peace: India, Ireland, Egypt, South Africa, Kansas, New Bedford, Rhode Island.

To come nearer home: We hear that New York State, as well as many other states, is thinking of introducing laws to make it legal to deal with strikers as outlaws. May we suggest that this is a waste of time? The same thing is done, without any law whatever to that effect, in Pawtucket. And in the Kentucky suburb of Cincinnati known as Newport.

The Worker's Party boasts that its birthday was on Christmas! It thinks that it is a Christmas present to the American people.

If we were asked to select an appropriate birthday for the Workers Party, we would make the motion that it be shifted to April 1.

Well, the Workers' Party does not seem to be getting very far toward the masses. They are waiting for the masses to come to them. No, the miracle is not so easy performed. The mountain, unfortunately, will not come to the great prophet Mahomet. But the original Mahomet showed more sense than the W. P.'s. When the mountain would not come to him, he got up and performed the miracle by walking to the mountain.

Meanwhile, the Socialist Party, out to overthrow capitalism by the convenient road of replacing the regular politicians by their own, seems to be contemplating joining the "Vienna International." Of course, that is too radical for the W. P. They are 100% American, and would not give up their precious Americanism to join any International.

And so the S. P. is busily overthrowing capitalism, this time by shouting and beating up the strikers in their own building at the Rand School, and keeping out of the building people who ha a business at the offices there.

Great work! The police and detectives resorted to in order to protect the Socialists against an alleged plot from Moscow.

Also of the Rand School bouncers told the quickest: "Say here, you guys can't picket dis here Socialist school!"

From the lexicon of the Civic Federation: Wages: Unpaid profits.

"Workers Shot Down by Rifles of Militia" — Headline of some time ago. "Workers Shot Down by Bombs of Aeroplanes" — Headline of today. This must be what they refer to as The Progress That Labor Is Making.

A newspaper story tells us that Harding tells his young man. May we paraphrase: "He may be young, but he has old ideas."

If ignorance is bliss, a scholar will be happy. He thinks The Red Book is a magazine of revolution and at a cafe recently he refused to set a Charlotte Russe on the grounds that it would be encouraging the Bolsheviki!

The Liberator, the organ of a mutual admiration society in which Max Eastman boasts the books of Floyd Dell and Floyd Dell praises the works of Max Eastman.

The transit company in the subways is in a lock in the subway. "Well, one of the world units, you have a chance to lose but your change." Its the only time labor gets very close together.

With or less, the lamentations at the Miners Convention certainly raised hell. John Lewis is now trying to claim that Howard Aldrich.

Net results of all the agitation for the relief of the unemployed. Three hundred newspaper writers given jobs to write sob stuff about it, four hundred men given jobs as secretaries to organizations for investigating the situation, a plumber in Wisconsin actually was given a job.

Fantastic Fables. Once upon a Time in the Labor Movement was a Perfect Nuisance who Thought he was a Public Speaker. His Comrades conceived the brilliant idea of putting his speeches on phonograph records and selling them as a Cure for Insomnia. Even this failed, however, and despairing what to do to Rid themselves of the oratory of the Best, they got their Heads together and at length evolved a scheme whereby they no longer would have to listen to his Maddening Drivel. They made him an Editor in Chicago.

The New York Call is to print as its daily serial a very bourgeois novel "If Winter Comes." The Voice of Labor, it is reported, will run "Tarzan of the Apes" in each issue. Question: Would it be any funnier than the editorial comments of that alleged labor paper?

The scientist who is investigating spooks in Canada might when he is finished there devote himself to seeing what he can make of a Shadow Cabinet for the Socialist Party which so far has been its voice from the wilds of Hell in these harrowing mutterings.

Strike in Rhode Island Textile Mill District Rapidly Gaining Power

First Labor Disturbance in District Comes Spontaneously. Masses of Workers Being Organized in Spite of Forces of Thugs and Gunmen.

ARBITRATION HAS BEEN REJECTED

Militia, Deputy Sheriffs and Armed Guards Recruited From Underworld Dives Overrun Strike Zone, But Thousands Flock to Unions, Owners Cannot Secure Strike-Breakers Even With Protection of Armed Forces.

Twenty thousand workers are teaching the textile barons of Rhode Island that the end has come to the hundred years serfdom under which generation after generation has played in order that their masters may live in idleness. During all those years the slaves suffered in chains and silence. To-day they are demanding some of the privileges of human beings are entitled to in this stage of the world's development, and their masters, blind with fury are using all the methods known to capitalism to crush the workers into submission, are appalled before the spectacle of ever-increasing numbers flocking to the unions, instead of back to work. The strike, although spontaneous at first, is rapidly assuming organized form and out of the struggle will come a strong organization of workers in that industry.

Amalgamated Enlisting Thousands

The whole striking textile workers in the Pawtuxet Valley, where the cotton mills have been operated for nearly a century unhampered by the rise of labor movement, are today solidly organized by the Amalgamated Textile Workers of America and prepared for a long strike against wage cutting.

Wage reductions have been a bonanza for the employers. The reductions that sprung up there stunned workers has spread throughout the valley, tying up practically all the mills. The operatives have flocked into the union ranks and this district is today the stronghold of organized labor in the textile industry of Rhode Island.

At the central strike headquarters of the Amalgamated Textile Workers in this little mill village several hundred men, women and girl operatives are gathered, their faces lighted up by a fire to a finish fight. Living in company houses, defying eviction, and obtaining food and clothing from union relief committees, most of the strikers declared they had their minds were being better satisfied before the walkout when they worked from eight to sixty hours a week for wages ranging from $10 to $25 a week.

State troops, deputy sheriffs and hastily-armed mill guards were in evidence everywhere. Several of the surrounding mill villages in the valley are practically armed camps and to complete control of the military.

Thirty-every-protection is given to those who decline to return to work the strikers ranks remain unbroken after seven weeks of silence, except at Hopkinton and Arkwright, where about 50 operatives have entered the mills.

100 Per Cent. Organization

This has been a valley of serfs for many years, said William H. Dennis, organizer in charge of the strike for the Amalgamated. "The workers are now going to win their freedom through the 100 per cent organization. Fifty years ago, Pontiac, the first mill village, was a slave pen. Men and women were the chattels of the mill owners who have controlled their daily lives and compelled them to live in insanitary shacks and accept inadequate wages.

"The girls in cotton mills are paid $5 a week. Two thousand of people are on their way here from Canada, from Fall River, Lowell, Lawrence, Manchester, Lonsdale, Woonsocket, Providence, Pawtucket, Central Falls, Natick, Pontiac, Arctic and Centreville. They also are the Pawtuxet Valley Fire Grounds.

Miss Mary Lavell, a striker, said she had been working ten hours a day at the mill and received $20 to $21, out of which she paid $12.5 for rent. Another woman worker said she ran sixteen looms for ten hours a day and received $18 for her weekly pay.

Both women declared the mill workers which were compelled to go to work before the regular opening time by the foremen or be dismissed. Deducts, they said, were made from their wages for any defective work.

"Iron Battalion" of Labor

Infantrymen with bayonets were doing guard duty at Natick where the famous "Iron Battalion" of the Textile strikers was organized, and is still very much in evidence. It was the march of this organized band of workers, all ex-soldiers, that started the strike of unorganized workers which swept the whole valley.

The "Iron Battalion" was formed overnight and appeared one morning more than 300 strong. It paraded through the town calling upon the workers to strike against the wage cuts. It marched to the Valley Queen and the Royal Mills and brought out all the operatives, and before night fall had swept all the adjoining villages. When peaceful methods failed strong arm methods were used, and within a week the Pawtuxet Valley was being dominated by the Battalion which held sway until the military arrived.

Housing Conditions Horrible

Housing conditions in Natick were very bad. The water furnished by one of the mills was undrinkable. Cesspools, outhouses and wells were common in a few yards in the rear of the houses. For these places the strikers said they paid from 75 cents to $2.25 a week. Some of the new houses brought as high as $5 a week rent, it was said.

Cases were cited of the workers showed that the unskilled averaged from $11 to $17 a week. The girls and a few men, in the spool rooms made $8 to $10 a week. The more skilled received from $16 to $20, the male spinners making the best of the lot, at $25 to $29. All worked fifty-six hours a week. One man said he received $31 every three weeks for oiling weaving frames.

"They want to further reduce our wages," said Sam Marcotte, leader of the strikers and a resident of Natick for nineteen years. "We will never go back under the old conditions. We want the 48-hour week and the present wage. Our people now live in the deplorable conditions and have been exploited as far as they can."

Many families are moving away from the valley and seeking work elsewhere. Many of the strikers are getting work in other mill towns, and agents are reported to have been for the last three weeks seeking to persuade the most desirable families to remove to places in which their services are needed. Thirty Polish families left for their homes abroad in one day.

"Organizer Dennis of the Amalgamated said the workers were prepared to hold out all summer and the union was now a fixture in the Pawtuxet Valley.

"The strike was a great surprise to the people of this valley," he said. "The mill owners had never had a union here and thought they were safe. We were also taken by surprise, but lost no time in grabbing the opportunity. Our organization jumped in and the deplorable conditions and have been exploited as far as they can."

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Denounce Amalgamated as Communistic

The manufacturers declare that to meet the Chinese labor competition of the Southern cotton mills they must reduce wages. They point out to the public is demanding low prices and that this can be met only by reducing wages or per cent and increasing the hours of work from 48 to 54. Manufacturers have also made a reply that mill owners are trying to keep time running warm, credits at the expense of long eight hour week, for which there is strong call for many years. They declare that if the manufacturers will open their books and submit to an impartial investigation, they would stand confounded.

The mill wage scale in the Pawtuxet Valley is the lowest in the country, and the mill owners are trying to work it down.

The manufacturers have issued a statement to the State Board of Mediation and Conciliation, in which they declare that a great majority of the operatives are willing to work for the wages offered and that to enforce the demands of a minority would be allowing their mills to be taken into the control of the labor agitators now haranguing the strikers.

The Amalgamated Textile Workers, which has its headquarters in New York, is denounced as a communistic body.

Declare Labor Seeks to Control.

"Furthermore it must be realized," says the manufacturers' statement, "that there is here involved a determined purpose not merely to influence immediate wages, but ultimately to control the industry. The preamble of the constitution of the Amalgamated Textile Workers of America, which is being circulated among employees and is described as issued by all members, states:

"The industrial and international organization, built upon the solid foundation of the shop, with the organized working class in actual control of the system of production, and the work in hand will then be ready to take possession of it.

"We are further informed by our counsel, Mr. Frederick H. Gerry, that the fundamental legal fact is that we continue to operate our properties in a small, loose so-organized fashion, and the above set forth is the right from war."

The manufacturers are making the plea that they were compelled to cut wages because the "public" refused to pay the high prices. They protest that for six months they have been compelled to bear the burden of "the buyer's strike". Now that they are unable to carry the whole burden they believe it no more than right that the workers share some of the burden. There are signs to-day that the manufacturers being compelled to live in the tumble-down tenements the workers inhabit, or no deeper of them moving into their cattle sheds or other stables, which are far better than the workers houses.

Answered by Union Leaders.

Thomas F. McMahon, President of the United Textile Workers, who is directing the strike in the Pawtuxet and Blackstone Valley mill zones, and Russell Palmer, General Secretary of the Amalgamated Textile Workers, have stated the union position in replying to the manufacturers.

"At a public hearing the workers will show that not only is not 20 per cent not organized and unconscious, but, on the other hand, we will try to show that part, if not all, of the 12½ pay cent robbery of a year ago should be returned to the workers.

"The statement of the manufacturers that, owing to southern competition, they cannot open their mills is absurd. We are not a party to public opinion at a public hearing. Surely they have nothing to fear of revealing business secrets in this instance. Labor is ready to show and produce facts bearing upon this so-called competition.

"Not a word of was made prior to the general walkout of the unorganized.

Denying that the strike was the work of labor agitators, Mr. McMahon said:

"The manufacturers know as well as we do that our efforts were to keep the unorganized workers who rebelled against this outrageous reduction in their pay envelopes and the lengthening of hours of employment."

Urges an Investigation.

Pointing out that the manufacturers had declined to turn over essential facts to the State Board of Conciliation, Mr. McMahon said:

"Let the manufacturers submit their books to fair and impartial investigation; let them reach with their own organized employes a settlement of the wage and hour question, and the public and everybody else concerned will be in a position to judge as to whether the strike will end and production be resumed, or whether it will be continued until we have taken the mills away from their present owners."

Declaring that the Amalgamated stand by the preamble of its constitution, regardless of any attempt the manufacturers may make to read into publications into it by tearing portions of it from the whole, Secretary Palmer added:

"The ownership of the mills is not at issue in this strike. The issue is the labor union's basis of collective bargaining, decent wages and respectful treatment, and a shorter day and week, so that the American Standard of living we hear so much about, when the manufacturers are trying the plenty that we don't make to use it with legislation at Washington.

All the local unions in Rhode Island, together with the big textile organization, have authorized their international officers to position Congress for a Federal investigation of the textile industry in this state. The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in New England, New Jersey and New York has been asked to join in this appeal.

Waiting Only Signal to Murder.

Four weeks ago Saturday, 11 cotton mills closed as a result of the strike ordered when Governor Pinchot, at the request of the Cotton Goods Company of Pawtucket, let it be known that he would not use the entire forces and a police force and send bitter gun men to assault and murder the strikers if the mill owners would open their mills to the employes.

The strikers are ready to act in the Blackstone Valley, where strong protective laws are in force, if the mill owners show any signs of breaking the strike. Major Samuel A. Hall, son-in-law of the group in the Pawtuxet Valley is boasting of the fact that when the mill whistles blow there will be plenty of armed men on hand to see that every scab is protected.

The tactic of mass picketing has been used in the Rhode Island area. The strikers from a number of small villages had been assembling and marching in close formation to the vicinity of struck mills and there standing peacefully. With the coming of the troops this tactic was destroyed because people are not permitted to go from one town to another. In order to break the mass picketing the authorities have forbidden the assembled orders of one town to other employes of mills not allowed to picket.

Meanwhile the state is preparing to localize the acts of the thugs, who are so heavily armed. Numerous conferences have taken place between Gov. San Souci and attorneys for the local corporations.

It is such exhibitions of solidarity that convince the world in the labor movement that, in spite of all the efforts of reactionary politicians of the union labor movement, there is still a way of fighting spirit in the ranks of the workers. And every conference serves to deepen the spirit and it becomes more so.

THE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED TOILERS OF AMERICA

On Feb. 3, the Workers' Defense Conference of New England issued a call to workers' organizations, reading as follows:

"The experience of the Workers' Defense Conference of New England has proven the necessity of uniting in a solid front against the forces of Capitalism, ALL THE CLASS CONSCIOUS WORKERS OF AMERICA.

"The burning questions of the day, such as the open shop campaign, the reduction of wages, the question of unemployment and the defense of class war prisoners, demand such an organization in order to resist the onslaughts of the Capitalist Class, organized locally, nationally and internationally.

"For the purpose of launching such a national organization the Workers' Defense Conference of New England takes the initiative and invites your organization to send one delegate to a conference to be held on Saturday February 18, 1922 at 1 P. M. at the Amalgamated Food Workers Hall, 218 West 51st Street, New York City.

"Yours for THE UNITED FRONT OF THE WORKING CLASS"

The following organizations responded to the call and sent their delegates, representing — The Workers' Defense Conference of New England embodying all the New England organizations The Alliance of Polish Workers of America, The Ukrainian Association, The Lettish Publishing Association, The Polish Publishing Association, The Lithuanian Workers' Association, The Women's Progressive Alliance, C. W. Ruby, member of the Nine Workers' Prosecution Union, J. A. Lipkahitz, member of the Amalgamated Metal Workers of America; J. McDonald, member of the Amalgamated Food Workers of America, and many other members of various unions.

The Chairman of the Workers' Defense Conference of New England was the first speaker and outlined the class struggle in America. He showed the necessity of one organization of the workers for the purpose of uniting the working class in the fight against the open shop, reduction of wages and unemployment. This organization is to take part in the daily struggle of the workers, conduct the defense of class war prisoners, publish leaflets, pamphlets, books, papers.

He stated that the emancipation of the working class can only be effected by the workers themselves, pointing out that the No. 1 enemy is the Capitalist Party, the Democratic Party and the Republican Party, and that these parties are the enemies of the workers.

Various committees were elected for keeping out plans of organization. The committee on the Purpose and Principles of Organization brought in the following report:

THE UNITED TOILERS OF AMERICA

1. Resolved, that we form an organization of the United Toilers of America.

The capitalist world are dragging down the workers more and more. The exploitation and oppression of the working class has been intensified by the world war, which has made the capitalists more conscious of the contradictions inherent within the capitalist system between the bourgeoisie and the working class.

World capitalism is proving more than ever that the only way of prolonging its very life is by cutting as much profit as possible from the workers, chase property and enslave the workers.

In all countries of the capitalist world, a fierce war is raging between the workers and capitalists.

Employers are using every means in their power to crush the workers of America. On every hand unemployment is the cause of the evil.

Organized capital through its press, propaganda, educational institutions, manufacturers' associations, chambers of commerce and its state machinery is used to crush the ranks of organized labor.

The "open shop" campaign, and its allies are steadily increasing in their scope.

The workers of America must present a solid front against the forces of Capitalism. They must organize on the basis of the class struggle and solidify their efforts against the capitalist class.

FOR THE PURPOSE of organizing and uniting the workers of America in their daily struggle against capitalism, the United Toilers of America is organized.

THE FUNCTIONS of the United Toilers of America are:

1. To participate in the daily struggles of the workers.
2. To unite the workers for carrying the fight against the open shop, the reduction of wages and unemployment.
3. To arrange and hold mass meetings on burning issues.
4. To conduct the defense of class war prisoners.
5. To conduct educational and propaganda classes, arrange lecture courses, establish open forums, etc.
6. To publish leaflets, pamphlets, books and papers.

THE STRUCTURE of the United Toilers of America is:

Branches, either language or otherwise, in each city or town.

A City Central Committee.

(Continued on page 4)

Civil War in South Africa

British Army Smashes Workers Ranks with Bombs, Aeroplanes, Tanks, Guild Fire, Poison Gas and Gatling Guns.

Resorting to every form of fiendish known to modern warfare the troops in South Africa have murdered thousands of workers and the slaughter is proceeding unabated after the violence and the strikers have been crushed into submission. It is no longer a war between strikers on the one hand and soldiery and police on the other but it has entered the last stage and is being concluded just as all struggles are concluded wherein the ruling class is victorious. On March 15 there comes the announcement that all section have been cleared of rebel forces, except the Central Johannesburg area. That means that the systematic murder of defenceless men has proceeded uninterruptedly until there is not one person left alive who is known to have taken part in the struggle. Whole towns are in ruins and entire populations have fled and are seeking food and shelter in wild, unsettled places like roaring hordes of beasts, in the mining center the government forces swept in from all sides, annihilating every living thing in their path of destruction.

The history of Britain who is defending this thing is an Canadian Simon, who betrayed the Boers to the British in the Boer war and who was rewarded with the Premiership of the Transvaal for his treachery. He is also author of the first draft of the League of Nations that was adopted at Versailles. He is giving the workers of the Rand district a taste of the Versailles treatment.

The history of the strike is not a story that can inspire respect for the white workers of the Johannesburg district. The movement began with a strike of coal miners on January 1, against a reduction in wages. On January 5 this was followed by a strike of the miners in the world's largest gold field. On Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 6 and 7, the trouble in the gold fields was the result of an attempt to replace the white labor that should be employed. The Bureau of Mines had proposed the employment of additional colored men in the mines and Smuts declared such a change would reduce their earnings and strike. The employment of the colored workers is about one-fourth that of the white workers and this divergence has frequently been the cause of wage disputes and strikes in the Rand mines. There are 19,000 white miners and the colored workers are 58,853 and the colored workers are 158,514. There have been constant fluctuations in the rate of pay and industry has been subject to a lower level of production, which affected the pay of both the white and colored workers.

Last week a call for a general strike was issued by the Executive Committee of the Industrial Federation at Johannesburg. The government immediately began to organize to combat the strikers. Explosions occurred in two places in Johannesburg on the night of March 7th, and numerous others in the East Rand, undoubtedly the work of government provocateurs. A number of skirmishes occurred between strikers and police.

Smuts, formerly the Union of South Africa, appeared before the legislative assembly on that same day and announced that the government is to use force with one of the greatest forces in its history that ever [illegible] would [illegible] against [illegible].

At the same time Smuts was at pains to inform the assembly that, at the outset, the government was [illegible] the strikers beyond its [illegible] Rails had been rendered [illegible] and telegraph wires had been cut. Troops had been sent to the places to drop bombs on the strikers unless they disperse. Meanwhile the recruiting at the barracks of the soldiers and the police broke out in numerous skirmishes, and many strikers were killed. Finally a group of strikers succeeded in capturing some of the deputies and constables who had been actively engaged in murderous assaults upon them. These things along with one of the machines of a large mining concern were blown out on the 11th. It and shot. At that time the Rand was in ruins.

The strikers were gaining courage with the thought that they might as well die fighting as to be systematically slaughtered without offering any resistance and so determined to defend themselves. The Rand said that Smuts's plan was to carry out an attack on the part of the police at Benoni to rid the hands of the strikers. Unarmed men, [illegible] the people and children, [illegible] met with a blast from the guns of the strikers within. After a hours of fighting in which there were many casualties, the police were beaten away and into the streets, followed by the miners, where the battle raged for two days. From this point the fighting swept the entire Rand district like a hurricane.

On March 10, aeroplanes flew over the union headquarters at Benoni, in an endeavor to bomb the building with its occupants. The strike is fired on the planes and succeeded in killing one aviator, Capt. Carey Thomas, by shooting him through the heart. An evening approached another aviator, flying low, bombed and blew up the strikers hall, which was packed with people, killing most of them.

Meanwhile the more militant of the strikers were issuing appeals to the native workmen, who had remained passive through the fighting, to rally to the support of the strikers. Unfortunately, such was the antagonism that had been set up that it was impossible to rally the workers to a united struggle against the government, otherwise there would have been a different story to tell. The government succeeded in widening every opportunity to break between the white and colored workers and the result was that the appeals for unity at the last hour fell on deaf ears.

The entire forces of the union of South Africa were hurled against the strikers. Scottish troops suffered heavy losses in the fighting near Johannesburg. The regulars of the British army in South Africa used poison gas against the strikers at Witbankvaal and in the East Rand liquid fire was used in destroying a group of strikers that had erected barricades and were resisting the approach of the soldiers. In every strategic point high-powered guns were placed so that they could be trained in any direction against strikers.

While this unprecedented slaughter of the workers in the Rand was proceeding the reptile pages of the world was busy repeating the words of General Smuts to the effect that the strike was perpetrated by Bolsheviks and that the struggle was really a Bolshevist plot to overthrow the government. It is deplorable that this was repeated in Canada. Had the strike been under Bolshevik leadership, the first step would have been to enlist the support of the colored workers with the whites, so that the greatest amount of power possible could be created for the workers' front. Let us hope light out of this bath of blood will come a lesson to the workers, white and colored alike, and that the next time the government attempts to break a strike it can be crushed by the workers under revolutionary leadership.

British imperialism, along with capitalist imperialism in general, is approaching its fall and its activities in this direction will become ever more aggressive until their tenacity is broken by the crushing force of the proletariat, organized and acting as a class.

The threat of aeroplane warfare that was made against the miners of West Virginia by Brigadier General William Mitchell was thought by many to be a bluff. Recent events in Africa have somewhat shaken people, accustomed to thinking in terms of right and wrong, and class divergence ideologies, they [illegible] would [illegible] any [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] of the [illegible] population, but South Africa is the eloquent reply to those meek and mild [illegible]. The class struggle is [illegible] and [illegible] bursting into an armed struggle. Be it war or peace, it is up to the proletariat, to interpret. The working class can choose its own weapons. Its weapons are forced upon it by the ruling class. Its weapons are determined by conditions existing during the period. Today general strikes, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Nova Scotia, Rand, are the only means at its disposal. Tomorrow it may be the rifle, the machine gun, the aeroplane, the poison gas and the liquid fire.

The civil war in South Africa is the first wave of [illegible] that will culminate in the [illegible] of the workers in this country. It may be a very bitter defeat, but there can be no uncertainty as to the final victory of a people with the spirit displayed by the miners in the Rand district in their struggle against one of the most brutal ruling classes in the world.

SIX-HOUR WEEK

[illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

WORKERS' CHALLENGE

A Weekly Labor Paper

Published by the
UNITED TOILERS' PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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What We Stand For

This paper published by the United Toilers' Publishing Association exists for the purpose of fighting the battles of the working-class at all times and in all fields. Its mission is to assist in to develop out of the every day struggle the militant forces necessary to reconstruct the labor movement upon a more efficient basis. We will support every struggle of the workers everywhere, whether the organization that leads the workers into the struggle is accepted into the folds of the A. F. of L. machine, or whether it stands in the ranks of the independent progressive unions of the country, along with the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, the Amalgamated Textile Workers, the International Workers in the Amalgamated Food Industries, etc.

We are no advocates of dual unionism. Instead we discourage dualistic tendencies in the labor movement. We are not dogmatic, however, and we will support the dominant organizations in every industry as a general policy. For instance in the clothing trades it would be absurd to support the reactionary A. F. of L. organization, the United Garment Workers, in preference to the Amalgamated. The same situation prevails, though not to such a marked degree, in the food industry. In this industry the various craft unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. have been unable to organize one city in the entire United States, while the Amalgamated organization dominates considerable of the industry in New York City and is the only organization with any power in Chicago. Ideologically brand such organizations as dualistic and to refuse to support them upon such absurd grounds displays a total lack of understanding of the correct tactics to be pursued in the labor movement in the United States.

In relation to the powerful A. F. of L. unions, that have actually succeeded in organizing large numbers in industry, we discourage any talk of dual or secession, and we believe that if we are expelled for radical activity we will endeavor to force them back into the old organizations by waging a struggle against the reacting for their rehabilitement. In time groups of organizations of the militant elements that are pushing the entire labor movement forward to better forms of organization. That superior form of organization that is the crying need of this country today is industrial unionism, or a complete amalgamation of all craft unions in a given industry into one powerful union embracing every worker in that industry.

We shall expose the plots of the oppressors of labor, both local, national and internationally. This is a militant organ and we will extend its influence to every section of the United States, and will correctly interpret every struggle of labor in every part of the country.

Those who want to keep informed regarding happenings in the labor movement throughout the world will find in this Weekly Challenge a reliable organ that will lay bare the underlying causes of every battle against capitalism, whether on the field of industrial warfare when it takes the form of strike, or where it develops in open civil war, as in South Africa today. We shall interpret international events, including those gigantic intrigues of the oppressors of labor, such as the Washington conference, from the point of view of the toiling masses. John Reed's history shall be a series of class struggles, and this particular stage of the development of society as a struggle between two classes—the workers on the one hand and the capitalists on the other. We shall tear the veil of secrecy from the faces of the diplomats, the international bandits of capitalism and show you their true features, so that you will learn to hold them and all several-they represent in supreme contempt. But all they are united against the working class, so we will urge a united front of all the workers against them.

There is no publication in America at this time that fulfills this need on behalf of the workers, and although a daily should exist for this purpose, as a modest beginning the **Workers Challenge** enters the field alone, at first as a weekly, with the expectation of developing the enthusiasm and support necessary to launch a daily in the near future.

To the extent that the workers respond to this challenge that we today hurl at the capitalist class, to that extent will the **Challenge** become more powerful as a champion of labor. The wide distribution of this paper will aid the entire "left" elements in the labor movement and will tend to coordinate their forces so that a real foundation can be laid for the final conquest of the present ruling class.

Gandhi

Gandhi had been arrested at last. The storm that has threatened the British Empire from India is one step nearer. Whether Gandhi's arrest will result in the long-overdue revolt of the suppressed masses of India cannot be accurately predicted at this time. Gandhi himself has put this end, and it is an end that all his kind inevitably meet. His non-cooperation now proves to be a hollow phrase. His one achievement was a start on the road toward the destruction of the accursed caste system of India and the breaking of the barriers that separated the Moslems and the Hindus.

His other accomplishments have been of a negative, rather than a positive nature. His great strength "civil disobedience" rallied masses of the workers to his standard, the national congress had appointed him as the one man to carry it out, and there he stood. Gandhi, the pacifist, the apostle of meekness, he advocated an open struggle, he preached victory by bloodshed, he was fanatical that the ones who shed the blood would be victorious. He knew the consequences of the struggle he had organized. He abandoned his program, after having alarmed the British government with the spectre of revolt.

Time after time Gandhi postponed action and the masses were losing faith in his policy. He had preached pacifism to them while the people of India permitted their two most popular and competent leaders to be sent to prison. This was an inexcusable act of cowardice and cowardice just as like prison to the masses of the beginning of civil disobedience on a certain day and he had promised that the masses would be there to the day approached exposed him as vacillating.

The immediate cause of his arrest was undoubtedly the note of the British government, in which it flatly rejected the Swaraj demands for the restoration of the Turkish Empire. This was a blow at the imperialist policy of Britain that could not go unchallenged. Gandhi, knowing that a warrant was out for his arrest, knowing that the masses of India were prepared to follow his leadership, knowing that the masses of India were prepared to follow his leadership, knowing that the masses of India were prepared to follow his leadership