

For a workers' world — peace and plenty, justice and freedom.

LABOR ACTION

Down with exploiters, "rugged individualists" and tyrants.

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U. S. Camps For Labor Are Fascist

Nation-Wide Storm of Protest Roused by Plan to Exploit Labor by Government Decree

COOLIE PAY SCORED

Jobless Victims of Capitalism Would Be Herded Into Camps Under Army Men

WASHINGTON, D. C. (Special)—A storm of protest has been aroused throughout the country by President Roosevelt's labor camp scheme of relieving unemployment. It has been denounced by William Green, head of the American Federation of Labor, as tending to "Fascism." By others it is pointed out that it is little else than a plan for wholesale scabbing by government decree.

Appearing as a witness for organized labor at a joint meeting of the Senate and House Committees, Green pointed out that the effect of the suggestion that the government could select and put under military discipline an army of 250,000 men chosen from among the helpless unemployed, and pay them the wages of a common soldier, was destructive to the freedom of the individual worker and to decent wage standards in this country.

"Bad as the situation is," said Green, "we cannot believe that the time has come when the United States should supply relief through the creation of compulsory military service and substitution of the military code and military control for civil procedure and practical methods."

The administration's assertion that 250,000 men can be enlisted and put to work without affecting the general unemployment program was weakened by testimony of Budget Director Douglas, asserts Laurence Todd, Washington correspondent for "Federated Press."

"Douglas said that the Administration had 'temporarily' stopped all new construction of public works, in order that it might divert funds to the amount of \$40,000,000 to this camp scheme for the period ending June 30. To carry the scheme for a year, Douglas declared, would cost \$250,000,000."

Anti-Labor

"Congress voted \$1,200,000,000 last summer for the employment of men on public works, but the Hoover administration refused to use the credit. Now Roosevelt is going to continue the blockade on employment of skilled tradesmen on construction jobs, while diverting funds to his labor-camp project with its low wage rule, its military organization and its implied ban on unions."

Militant workers are glad to see William Green taking a stand against Roosevelt's fascist projects. They would feel much more confident about the genuineness of Green's attack, however, did Green and his A. F. of L. offer more encouragement and help to the militant workers of the country, skilled and unskilled, organized and unorganized, who know that the misery and degradation of unemployment cannot be done away with so long as there are exploiters.

Come on in and help us fight the system, Mr. Green. Then we will take you seriously.

WASHINGTON, D. C. (Special)—Attacking President Roosevelt's program on work relief as "weak and wholly inadequate," A. F. Whitney, president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, in a letter sent out to rail executives, declares that "it would be just as consistent to undertake to stop the torrents of the Niagara with a whisk broom, as to attempt to bring about permanent unemployment relief through the program advocated in the President's message."

That part of the program dealing (Continued on Page 2)

MONEY FOR THE BANKERS



Looking like a miser who has his hands on a lot of money for the first time, Sec. of the Treasury William H. Woodin (center) is shown gloating over a part of the billions of new currency he has had printed since he took office. This currency will bring inflation, boost prices, observers say.

The New Deal Burns Money For New Wars

Millions Burned Up on California Coast While Jobless Workers Starve

LOS ANGELES, March 26 (Special)—Huge sums of money were burned up on the California coast today as 124 ships of the American capitalist war machine darkened the sky and rocked the coast in battle practice.

Acting under orders from the government's war department the array of battleships, the largest ever assembled on the Pacific, simulated war to the death with another government. The multitude of guns roared make-believe death to imagined sailors while overhead squadrons of airplanes laid down smoke screens to make the destruction more certain.

Today's "big battle" ended what the capitalist press termed "a most spectacular week" of war maneuvers of the greatest and deadliest capitalist war unit afloat in Pacific waters. No statement has been made saying how much money was burned up in the process.

WAR LORDS BUY HUGE QUANTITIES SCRAP IRON

NEW YORK.—American scrap iron dealers are doing a rushing business with Japanese capitalists who operate the capitalist army of that country against China. According to Benjamin Schwarz, of the Institute of Scrap Iron & Steel, war-making Japan is America's best scrap iron customer. Scrap material is converted into war material.

SOUTHERN CPLA WORKERS MEET AND PLAN ACTIVITIES

HIGH POINT, N. C.—Things are humming here. "The unemployed must be made to realize that they are victims of capitalism," CPLA workers at a conference here declared. The conference mapped plans for strenuous work among the unemployed and the farmers. Immediate aims include more relief, no evictions or foreclosures. The ultimate goal is close unity between workers in town and country and a farmer-labor party for a workers' republic.

A program of workers' education was mapped including classes, dramatics and debates. Clyde Peck and Hazel Dawson, two of the 19 students to leave Brookwood Labor College with A. J. Muste, CPLA chairman, following the recent rift there over workers' education policies, were assigned work by the conference among the farmers and the unemployed.

"More field workers is the crying need," Larry Hozan, chairman of the conference, stated.

Bank Crisis Not Past Yet Study Shows

Despite Roosevelt Smile and "Miracle Working" Powers, Business Continues Downward

NO REAL CHANGE

New Deal Has Started But Same Old People Are Still Shuffling the Cards

NEW YORK, N. Y.—With more than 20 per cent of the Federal Reserve member banks still closed, according to a survey made by the New York Times on March 24, the banking situation of the country remains far from comforting, and the "greatest president the nation has ever had," despite his "miracle working" powers, has thus far failed to check the downward trend of business.

True, Roosevelt walked into a terrifying situation. The big bankers, industrialists and their politicians had proven their right to leadership by practically wrecking the productive capacity of the country. More than 15,000,000 workers were unemployed, hundreds of thousands of them starving and freezing, and the banks of the country were about to collapse.

But aside from his ability to smile, has Roosevelt done differently from his predecessor, Mr. Hoover? Does he show an inclination to do differently? Confronted with the criminality of the bankers, has his chief concern been with the restoration of the millions in life-savings that these bandits have stolen from the small depositors or has it been with helping the "good" bankers out of their troubles? Have his plans for dealing with the unemployed millions been essentially different from those of Mr. Hoover?

"As individuals the bankers are failing rapidly," says an editorial in the Nation, referring to the Mitchells, Harrimans, etc. "They have been thoroughly and justifiably discredited. But as a class they remain as powerful and influential as ever."

"In his inaugural speech," continues the Nation editorial, "President Roosevelt demanded that the money changers be driven out of (Continued on Page 2)

P. M. A. To Vote 2-Year Extension of Wage Agreement

HILLSBORO, Ill. (FP)—The scale committee of the Progressive Miners of America and representatives of the Illinois Coal Producers Assn., after two weeks' negotiations, have tentatively agreed upon extension of the prevailing wage scale for a period of two years. The recommendations of the scale committee are subject to referendum vote of the P.M.A. membership.

Concessions in working conditions favorable to the miners marked results of the scale committee negotiations.

Miners will be permitted to employ a miner to act as check inspector over docking cars containing impurities. In the past much discrimination has resulted from unfair docking of wages because of alleged impurities in pit cars. All fines collected from illegal strikes will be reverted to the death benefit fund, the conference agreed. Heretofore all such fines were evenly divided between the state organization and the coal operator whose mine was affected. All fines collected for dirty coal are to be turned over to the P.M.A.

Pres. Percy of the P.M.A., commenting on the new wage pact, said an extension of two years would enable the new union to root itself more firmly in the industry. "We know that the fundamental evils which cause untold misery and distress to our people have not been overcome. However, I feel that this agreement gives our organization a breathing spell for further entrenchment."

National Jobless Meet July 4, Columbus, Ohio

Ohio Workers To Impeach Governor George White

(This resolution, drawn up by delegates representing 82 thousand organized unemployed workers and farmers, is a model for the jobless masses to use in every state. Does it fit the governor in your state?)

WHEREAS, Public officials are elected to serve the interests of the State and we have been instructed for many years that the government should be of the people, by the people and for the people; and

WHEREAS, The Governor of this state is elected to serve the people, and by implication when he fails to act in the capacity of a servant of the people, he is no longer deserving of holding the power and office of Governor; and

WHEREAS, The following indictments stand against the present Governor, George White:

That he has failed to secure the funds from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, available to the extent of \$45,000,000, in the face of starvation and great suffering in the State.

That he has failed to serve the interests of the farmers in their fight against mortgage foreclosures by Wall Street institutions.

That he has failed to give farmers a voice in their own affairs but has appointed a commission only to pacify the farmers rather than seek definite solutions.

That he has failed to draw upon the wealthy who received payments of \$827,000,000 in interest and dividends in 1932 in this state, and has promoted a sales tax which is a burden to the masses of the people.

That he has encouraged the closing of public schools by his failure to make the wealthy pay and by his efforts to increase taxes upon the small farmers and the small home owners.

That he has allowed himself to be a servant of the wealthy in seeking their counsel and association, while farmers and unemployed are deprived of their livelihood.

That he has acted as a pawn of the Chamber of Commerce and against the welfare of the people of the state in his position on unemployment insurance legislation.

That he has permitted the relief agencies of the state to deprive the unemployed of the use of their automobiles by confiscating their licenses, in violation of the constitution of Ohio and of the United States that no man shall be deprived of property without due process of law, and has therefore violated his oath of office.

That he has promoted starvation and suffering by allowing inefficiency and extravagant overhead expenses, to rob the unemployed of funds made available.

That he has set an example of extravagance himself by the purchase of a \$5700 automobile from state funds, and the equipment of the State Office Building.

That he has taken no steps to open up the factories and give the unemployed their jobs.

That his actions are un-American in that they result in the destruction of the American standard of living.

He has permitted local authorities to propose that the children of the unemployed be forced into orphan's homes and that unemployed persons themselves be forced into county infirmaries.

He has allowed public utilities to shut off light and heat in the homes of the unemployed workers, and has permitted the continuance of exorbitant rates for gas and electricity.

He has allowed the shutting off of water to the unemployed thus endangering public health by unsanitary living conditions and violating the health laws of the state.

He has permitted wholesale foreclosure and evictions of farmers and unemployed workers, thus bringing about the destruction of private family life and home.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That this state convention of the representatives of organized unemployed and farmers, assembled from all sections of Ohio, demand the resignation of George White as Governor forthwith; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the executive committee of the Ohio Unemployed League be empowered to institute proceedings for his impeachment from office.

Pittsburgh League Sends Demands To Relief Authorities

PITTSBURGH, Pa. (Special)—"Not only must the unemployed worker have adequate food and proper shelter but he must also have clothing," demanded a recent statement by the Unemployed Citizens' League of Allegheny County to the County Emergency Relief Board.

"It is a crying shame that right now there are in Pittsburgh 6,500 children out of school because they have no shoes to wear," continues the statement. Representatives of our organization sat in the office of a welfare agency and within one hour three school principals called on the telephone to report the appalling fact that scores of children were remaining home from school because they were barefooted.

Charging "gross inadequacy of present relief grants," the league asserts "it will readily be admitted that 90 cents a week for food for a (Continued on Page 2)

Muste and Budenz Make Trip Thru Penna. Sections

ALLENTOWN, PA.—(Special)—Organized unemployed activity is advancing rapidly in Pennsylvania. Such was the report brought to the officers of the local Unemployed Citizens League by A. J. Muste, chairman of the Conference for Progressive Labor Action, Louis F. Budenz, secretary of that body, and Cal Bellaver, organizer for the Ohio Unemployed League, after a trip to various parts of the state.

At Mt. Carmel, for example, a vigorous unemployed organization was found to be functioning. Mike Demchak, Joseph Demski, John Coveleskie, and others are active in this work. They plan to extend organization of the jobless to other sections of the anthracite region. The need for a state organization was felt there, as in the other places visited. The idea of the national convention of the unemployed (Continued on Page 2)

Workers and Farmers Will Frame "New Declaration of Independence" on Historic Date

LABOR WILL FIGHT

Leagues Call for Voluntary Field Workers to Help Movement Sweeps the Country

COLUMBUS, OHIO—The eyes of the nation's organized jobless are upon Columbus and the gigantic national convention that will meet here on July 1 to 4.

Two thousand delegates from all parts of the country will meet on those dates, to formulate a new "Declaration of Independence" for the workers and farmers of the United States.

They will thus map out their challenge to the present economic set-up, which is keeping them workless and in want.

The national campaign, which is reaching the grass roots of the various states, is the outcome of the decision of the Ohio Unemployed League convention to hold a combined state and national gathering here in July. The state convention will take place on July 1 and 2, all national delegates being urged to attend also for observation and cooperation. The national meeting will take place on the 3 and 4 of July, with the passage of the new "Declaration of Independence" as the final great act on the last day.

Workers Aroused

Reports coming to the Ohio league office, which is acting as the national headquarters for the campaign, show that Pennsylvania, Illinois, West Virginia, North Carolina and New England are already aroused to the importance of the convention.

Leagues from all over Ohio are signing the call as hosts to the convention. Other jobless organizations from over the country are joining in the call. The plan of campaign has made a great appeal, as it will involve a drive to create new leagues as well as to strengthen those already functioning.

Volunteer organizers, serving the jobless movement without salaries, and finding their maintenance as they go, are to carry on the drive. Their "hotels" will be the homes of friendly fellow-workers and farmers. Their instructions are to build unemployed leagues by personal contact, and not to rely on letter writing or other negative methods of approach.

Crusade

"This unemployed organization movement is a great American crusade for workers' and farmers' freedom," state the officers of the Ohio Unemployed League. "It must be carried on in that way. Our organizers in this state are doing their job on that basis, and it is in that spirit that this movement will be built everywhere."

The aim is to create as many state organizations as possible and to hold state conventions before the Columbus meeting. From the Ohio experience, the officers there state, it is absolutely necessary that the unemployed movement be not confined to a few scattered cities but that it be state-wide in scope in each instance. "We wish further to emphasize," they say, "that this movement cannot and must not be under the domination of any particular political party. It must be composed of all the unemployed in a given community, regardless of race, color, creed or national origin."

Call for Organizers

In order to aid in the mechanics (Continued on Page 2)

TOO HUNGRY TO SCAB

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—In a recent strike here of garbage collectors the bosses hired unemployed workers to scab. But it didn't work. The scabs were so hungry that they stopped the wagons to dig through the garbage for food.

FROM THE FIRING LINE

Killing Yellow Dogs In Judge Thayer's State

The Yellow Dog. He gets a can tied to his tail. In fact the Labor Actionists out in the big Massachusetts town, Chelsea, tied a couple of cans to the mangy cur. The good news comes to Labor Action from Sam Sandberg.

A group of shoe-cutters throw down their tools and walk out and what happens? The real thing.

"There are 16 shoe factories in Chelsea, a city with 42,000 population. At a mass meeting it was voted by shoe workers to call a general strike and Monday morning 300 were on the picket line. On Wednesday 1200 paraded following the banner of the National Shoe Workers Association, demanding union recognition, sanitary shop conditions, a 20 per cent increase in wages.

"Yellow Dog contracts are forced upon the workers in most of the factories," Sandberg writes, "And they are vicious. That of the Harold Shoe Company, for instance. The worker has to agree not to strike. He agrees that shop conditions are perfect, and that he won't change them. And the company reserves the final and only say-so in all things including hours."

Yes, how fair! You work for a tyrant, you work because you have to eat and your family has to eat. And the company, operating under capitalist law, forces you to sign your liberties and rights away!

This Yellow Dog is one of the watch dogs of capitalism. And what does it watch over?

"Packing room girls earn as little as \$2.49 per week. Cutters work for \$14 per week. Stitches try to maintain their families on \$10 to \$11 per week. Sanitary conditions? In some instances, horrible. And

neither the state nor the local health boards will come in to clean up. One company, the Suffolk, makes a practice of hiring girls from 11 to 14 at starvation wages."

And this is what the Yellow Dog watches over. Slave conditions. Preserve this and the capitalists can go right on coining yellow gold from the misery of the workers. They can go on running the government. But wait.

In this shoe city the workers are turning to labor action.

"Eight days after the strike call, Chelsea's two largest shops, the Harold and the Avon companies, signed the Union Agreement. The workers got a 10 per cent wage increase. And to date successful strikes have recently occurred in Lynn, Haverhill, Salem, East Boston, Norway, Maine, here, and in other shoe centers. In Boston the shoe workers voted to strike. Immediately three factories signed the Union Agreement. The workers got 20 per cent wage increases."

And more action is coming. "The workers seem to sense the revolutionary spirit of the times. They refuse to sign up with the Boot and Shoe Workers an A. F. of L. union. They look upon the officials of that union as conservative, not the material for leadership in real fights."

The next thing is a sweeping march of labor action on all fronts that will clear out the dogs of capitalism and wage slavery and establish a government of the workers. Doubtless the parasites, capitalists, militarists, will be given a kick in the pants and sent howling over the hills after their scurvy Yellow Dogs. Labor Actionists, hasten the day!

Springing Them Into The Air

"Passing through Harrisburg, Pa., we met the spectacle of some 200 police and state troopers, with guns on their hips, gazing wistfully (or vacantly) at the outside of the capitol, inside of which were several hundred unemployed delegates telling the governor and other state officials what to do. I remarked in hearing of several that one cop was enough for this job. But, of course, you remember what Marx says in the Communist Manifesto happens among the 'upper strata' of society when the proletarian moves. Even a small movement like this 'springs them into the air.'"

"In Warren, Ohio, next day I witnessed another demonstration in front of the courthouse, with an imposing array of 'harness bulls' to keep the grass from being trodden. In Cleveland yesterday a good sized demonstration was being escorted away from the public square as we passed through."

The hitch-hiker from whose firing-line report this is taken, and his companion, have joined the hundreds of thousands of wandering, tramping, homeless people, men as well as youths, women as well as men, for the purpose of reaching the unemployed, making contacts, urging organization and labor action, and helping lay the ground work for the National "Legislature" of the Unemployed which will be held in Columbus, Ohio, July 4, when jobless workers will meet to make a new Declaration of Independence.

What about your section? Do you want organization? Do you want to be represented at this "Legislature"? A letter from you to "Labor Action" setting forth the peculiar conditions and problems in your section will be forwarded to a comrade in the field, who in turn will see what can be done.

CAPITALIST PSYCHOLOGISTS MAKE GREAT NEW DISCOVERY

NEW YORK.—A boxlike affair about two feet square, equipped with a phonograph motor operated by a crank, has been developed by the Western Electric Company for the purpose of a quick check on large batches of prospective employees in order to determine whether they are normal workers. The job seekers' task is to take an electrically wired pencil and to touch the perforations on a rotating disk.

A score of more than 240, according to the capitalist psychologists, indicates an obsessional type, while a score of less than 120 stamps the worker as a neurotic. The device was rigged up by the Western Electric after 25,000 men had been laid off by the company in one month of the depression and if it works will further add to unemployment by eliminating the necessity of personal interviews with job seekers and by culling out the unfortunate victims of the capitalist depression system for the scrap heap.

The affair was constructed to be used on workers. The press notice failed to state whether a special machine will be made to determine what obsesses the capitalist psychologists and the owners of big electric companies.

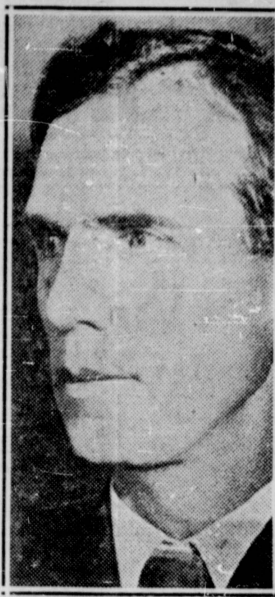
PIONEER YOUTH TO REVIVE "ROAD TO LIFE" FOR TWO PERFORMANCES APRIL 9

Discussion of the problem of how to deal with the hundreds of thousands of homeless boys roaming the United States brings with it a timely revival of the "Road to Life" This is the film dealing with Soviet Russia's handling of its own problem of wandering boys which Dr. John Dewey has termed "an educational lesson of the power of freedom, sympathy, work and play to redeem the juvenile delinquent." The revival — an afternoon and an evening performance, April 9, at the New School, 66 West 12th Street—is being arranged by Pioneer Youth of America.

The proceeds of the performances will go to help maintain the activities of Pioneer Youth which include summer camps for workers' children in West Virginia and North Carolina.

obviously there will have to be a change, the machine will have to become the property of the workers. Hence the significance of the report: "In all my experience I have never felt the tension among the workers as now."

SCOTTSBORO JUDGE



James E. Horton, ruling class judge who is presiding at the trial of the 8 framed-up Negro boys in Decatur, Ala. The boys were railroaded to the chair in the first trial. The verdict was set aside when working masses protested.

NATION'S JOBLESS MEET JULY 4, COLUMBUS, O.

(Continued from Page 1) of the national drive, Cara Cook, of the Conference for Progressive Labor Action, has offered her services as office manager in the Columbus office. She will be aided by May Gippa and others. This will allow the officers of the Ohio league to press organization into Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois and other states.

The success of the Ohio unemployed league in securing volunteer organizers has encouraged them to call for such organizers in other states. William Neitzel, for example, is busy in southeastern Ohio. Jim White is forming more leagues in Athens and Perry counties. C. Williams is at work in Cleveland. And so the reports go from county to county.

The same spirit, evident from other states, is expected to sweep the country.

PITTSBURG JOBLESS LEAGUE ATTACKS RELIEF AUTHORITIES

(Continued from Page 1) full grown human being or even for a child is a disgraceful maximum. We demand that the board provide a wage of \$20.40 per week for a family of five, and that one person be budgeted on a basis of \$9.60 a week, enough to cover items of food, shelter, clothing, household and personal necessities, fuel, light, medical and dental care.

The league demands "majority representation" on all bodies distributing and administering relief to the unemployed. It wants relief administered by special groups instead of agencies that handle them as "cases."

They are also attacking corporation relief, charging that some corporations "require their unemployed to sign a note agreeing to pay back the amount of the relief given when the employe returns to work."

To meet these needs they suggest that funds be raised "by steeply increasing the taxes on all incomes above \$10,000, inheritances above \$50,000, and by taking all corporation surpluses."

Elmer F. Cope is chairman of the league, E. R. McKinney is executive secretary. Headquarters are at 119 Water Street.

U. S. CAMPS FOR LABOR ARE FASCIST

(Continued from Page 1) with the militarization of the unemployed, President Whitney scores as a "vicious attack upon decent standards of living. In other words, it would place the government's endorsement upon poverty at a bare subsistence level. Further it would reach about one unemployed man out of sixty."

It is also a scheme designed to mislead the public, as "it will naturally assume that the government has taken an advanced step to relieve unemployment when as a matter of fact the government is merely placing its approval upon a plan that will place these workmen on a level with the Chinese coolie."

We are face to face with the cold facts that the annual earnings of American workers are approximately 29 billion dollars below what they were in 1929, continues Mr. Whitney, "and in my opinion it is a crime to approach this unemployment situation with a program that will only temporarily furnish a few thousand men with employment."

North Carolina Farmers Now Preparing for Action

By LARRY HOGAN

MARION, N. C. — The days of grumbling in crossroad stores and filling stations in North Carolina are passing as the farmers turn to action. Farmers are beginning to show up the work of political rings that for years have gotten away with murder.

An organization campaign started a year ago in rural sections by the writer under the auspices of the Conference for Progressive Labor Action has begun to change things.

In the western part of the state county commissioners imposed tax laws which put heavy burdens on dirt farmers. The farmers have quit grumbling and struck out on a campaign of action.

A \$306,000 school bond indenture was lifted in September from the Marion township, which has seven high schools, and placed by the County Board of Education on the rural township where there is no high school and where in many cases the farmers' children have to walk five miles to a bus which meets them about 7 o'clock in the morning and carries them 10 miles to school. The tax burden was shifted on to the farmers for a very good reason—the Chairman of the Board of Education, W. L. Morrison, is president of a manufacturing company, and the shift was calculated to save his company some \$40,000 in taxes a year. But it failed to work as they planned it.

Progressive Farmers League

The Progressive Farmers League immediately staged mass meetings over the county. Committees were hastened to every board and body and the buck-passing began. But the farmers were in no mood for having the buck passed, and a call went out for a mass protest meeting at the county court house.

Farmers poured in from every direction, riding broken down cars, trucks, wagons, buggies; some walked 20 miles. Committees from each township were elected to demand from the boards a reversal of their action. The farmer-committees went rough shod to the boards. Their demands were refused. The farmers were plenty angry. Names they called the boards cannot be printed here. Taking cold feet, the chairman of the commission tried to escape town. The farmers caught him, brought him back, and made him admit that he was a crook and a liar. Morrison was held in a corner by a 200 pound farmer until rescued.

Failing in this, they immediately enjoined the county board from collecting taxes. Feeling ran so high when the hearing came up that the judge was afraid to risk a ruling, and the case was transferred to the Supreme Court where it comes up in the spring.

MUSTE AND BUDENZ MAKE TRIP THROUGH PENNA.

(Continued from Page 1) played for the week-end of July 4 was enthusiastically received. Towards the State Convention

In Philadelphia renewed organizational activity, with militant action, has been worked out by a special committee appointed by the Unemployed Cooperative League. Edmund Ryan, Jr. is chairman of this committee. Meetings in various sections of the Quaker City have been arranged to push the message of the July 4 gathering and the state convention.

Although no definite date for a state meeting has yet been set, the consensus of opinion is that it should be the latter part of May or the first week in June.

Louis F. Budenz and Cal Bellaver will cover the state, it was announced, for the national committee cooperating with the Ohio Unemployed League and other organizations in calling the national convention. New Leagues will be formed in every section of the state, and leagues already in existence will be extended in scope.

In Montgomery County an unemployed league, which has accomplished a number of good jobs, has expressed itself in favor of the "New Declaration of Independence." The movement for a mass, non-partisan movement of the unemployed is accordingly making great headway in this commonwealth.

The trip revealed that CPLA branches everywhere are participating actively in the unemployed work. Jean Bloom, secretary of the Philadelphia branch, specifically reports that full cooperation will be given in the big campaign for jobless organization.

Butcher Adkins Out of Luck

Meantime, Adkins, the sheriff, cannot collect taxes for his salary. This is the same Adkins who helped murder six striking textile workers in Marion in 1929, and since then has held his office regardless by voting the names of dead people through the absentee law. The county is bankrupt and cannot borrow a penny or vote any more bonds.

Farmers are saying that the old cow that has furnished so much cream for the politicians is about to go dry.

But they are not stopping here. They plan bigger things. They are deliberately planning to be ready for the time when politicians and office holders attempt to raise last year's taxes by selling farms. And this time the farmers are setting to work in time to get their own candidates on the ballot at the next election under the emblem of a farmer-labor party.

UNITED YOUTH CONFERENCE AGAINST FASCIST BRUTALITY

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Growing out of a call issued by the Rand School Students' Association, the United Youth Conference Against German Fascism has grown to include Socialist, Communist (including both the Lovestone and Trotsky oppositions), CPLA, Anarchist, and Pacifist youth groups. At a conference held at New York University plans were laid for a mass demonstration at the German consulate, on Saturday, April 1.

A few nights ago members of several of the participating organizations voiced their protest at the attempt to popularize Fascism in U. S. by showing "Mussolini Speaks" at a Broadway Theatre. Four were arrested, including three CPLAers. Two of the latter served a day in jail.

On March 27, thousands of leaflets were distributed at a meeting in Madison Sq. Garden to an audience of Jews who were gathered to protest Anti-Semitism. The leaflet expressed the solidarity of the Youth Conference, but called upon those assembled to broaden their protest to include opposition to the savage attacks upon the German proletariat in general, and to participate in the demonstration before the German consulate.

UNITED LABOR ACTION AGAINST FASCISM URGENT

Declare Muste and Hardman at CPLA Meeting on the "United Front"

NEW YORK.—"What is the significance of the world-wide calls of the Communist International and the Social Democratic parties for a united front against fascism? Do they mean it? What sort of united front do they have in mind? And what are the factors involved?"

These questions were analyzed by J. B. S. Hardman and A. J. Muste at a meeting in CPLA headquarters to discuss the United Front.

The failure of Social Democracy to impede the progress of fascism or build workers governments, the triumph of fascism in Germany, the tendency in capitalist nations to establish a dictatorship of big business amidst flag waving and middle-class applause in brutal attempts to suppress workers and workers' organizations as a way out of the crisis, all of which constitutes further threats to the life of the workers' government in the Soviet Union, make genuine united action in the labor movement a pressing need, the speakers pointed out.

"The CPLA must make a very serious attempt to build a united front against fascism. Bad unity is as bad as no unity."

Pull Thousand From N. C. Mills

BURLINGTON, N. C.—A group of strikers and strike sympathizers today forced more than 1,000 workers from their posts in three textile mills here. No arrests have been made.

The invading band numbered approximately 150 and its orders to "clear out" were obeyed by all workers. They arrived in autos and moved from mill to mill apparently well organized. State and city officials, unable to cope with the situation, stood by and explained that they were "just observing."

More than 700 were ejected from the Standard Mill. The Standard workers walked out Friday when mill officials discharged J. B. Helm, Guy Alexandra and Floyd Amick, spokesmen in the strike several weeks ago following a wage cut.

IN NEW YORK

FREE DISCUSSION MEETINGS AT 128 EAST 16TH STREET

Know your American labor movement, the world labor movement, facts about the A.F. of L., the Socialist and Communist parties, and the CPLA.

On April 7, 8 P. M., at 128 E. 16th St., CPLA hall, A. J. Muste will speak on "The A.F. of L., Past, Present and Future." This will be the third discussion meeting in a series including the following subjects, all of them open and free to the public.

"Parties and Theoretical Groups in the United States Today," J. B. S. Hardman, in two discussion meetings, April 21 and May 5.

"The International Labor Movement," Ludwig Lore, May 19.

"Functioning In and Through Mass Organizations," A. J. Muste, June 2.

"Future of the CPLA—It's Task in the American Labor Movement," A. J. Muste, June 16.

Each meeting will begin at 8 P. M. on the dates set, admission free.

FIGHT FASCISM

"Fascism in Germany" and "How Shall We Combat Fascism?" will be discussed by Ludwig Lore and G. Valenti, editor of "La Stampa Libera," respectively, at a mass meeting Thursday, April 13, at Irving Plaza, 15th Street and Irving Place. The meeting will be held by the CPLA and will begin promptly at 8:30 P. M. There will be a 15 cents admission charge to pay for the meeting hall.

HARDMAN TO SPEAK

"Dictatorship of the Proletariat—Theory and Practice in the Light of Russian Experience," will be the subject of a talk by J. B. S. Hardman at 128 E. 16th Street, Sunday, April 9, 3:30 P. M., according to an announcement made by the Educational Committee of the New York Branch of the CPLA. There will be a ten cents admission charge. Questions and Discussion.

CLASS in PUBLIC SPEAKING

Conducted by Walter Edwin Peck

Begins APRIL 11 AT 8:30 P. M. At CPLA Hall 128 East 16th Street

\$1.50 for 6 Classes Unemployed Free

Are You Fed Up

on cheap reading matter — the bunk, hokey, bologna and lying propaganda of the agents of the profit system that throws 16 million workers out of work, into breadlines and charity? Are you sick of being insulted? The following inexpensive books and pamphlets will tell you the truth. Read them and be a more effective Labor Actionist.

- Wage-Labor & Capital, by Karl Marx 10c
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- Communist Manifesto 5
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- A.F. of L. in 1931, by A. J. Muste 5
- Important Union Methods 15
- How a Trade Union is Run 20
- Company Unions, by R. D. Dunn 25
- The Paris Commune, Lenin 20
- Our Labor Movement Today 35
- Teachings of Karl Marx, Lenin 10
- Paris Commune in Pictures 10
- Ending the Depression 15
- Our America, theoretical paper 5
- Death of Marx, Engels 10

Order from Labor Action Bookshop, 128 East 16th Street, New York City. Include reasonable amount for postage.

Don't Let Roosevelt Fool You Says Ohioan; Jobless 4 Years

"Just a little history of what I have had to contend with for the past four years, and I have just reached the half century mark," says a letter from Dayton, Ohio, written by one of the 17 million jobless workers. By chance a copy of LABOR ACTION fell into E. G. Alsopugh's hands, and he wants to know if we have "quite a number of subscribers in Dayton," as he is tremendously interested. He writes a fine, intelligent but tragic letter.

"Before the crisis I got an average of \$5,000 a year as supervisor and commercial engineer over a block of territory for Frigidaire. For nearly four years I have not worked. My surplus and my home have been used up in living and sickness expenses. I have to depend on the city for my groceries and coal and we cannot make money to pay rent, and face an eviction April 1. The future looks dark."

"I am anxious to do anything I can to get the unemployed to see the realities and get together and work together to save themselves from lives of shame and woe."

"Now seems to be the one big chance of our lives to claim our rights."

"But in talking to some of the fellows since Roosevelt has been elevated to the Great White Throne, there seems to be a more restful feeling, and an attitude of let George do it, or let's wait and see what happens. Have you noticed this? To me it seems that this attitude is bad, it shows into the future what we should do today. What do you think?"

You are right. As the "mild" dictator ascended the Great White Throne a nation-wide barrage of capitalist propaganda was poured through the air, from the press, the pulpit, and spread on the screen, and thus into the ears and eyes of the nation. A rheumatic, creaking, money-bonded capitalism called upon everybody, jobless workers and millionaires, to trust the country's new leader. Yes, yes. A great good man. Frankly, a Savior!

And many workers and farmers were undoubtedly taken in by this clap-trap. Damn it! That's what comes of the non-class-conscious, non-partisan, capitalistic-minded A. F. of L. philosophy and leadership! Again and again the workers are betrayed. But this time it is different. The new liberal front for capitalism will have to deliver the

goods and deliver them soon or somebody's going to wake up and begin kicking.

Well, it so happens that he can't deliver the goods. Everything he does will be another blow at the workers. Every move he makes will show him up. Capitalism is in such a jam now that palliatives and makeshift remedies are not only useless, they make conditions worse.

Mill Worker Sees Rebellion Brewing

"Yours for Labor Action."

So ends a letter, a front-line report, from a textile worker in New England.

"Strikes are breaking out in the mill towns as conditions become unbearable. In all my experience I have never felt the tension among the workers as now."

"The workers are no longer afraid of a sound radical proposition. Just now they are afraid of losing their jobs, if they happen to have such, but I think we will be surprised at the speed organization will make once it gets a footing."

"Consider. A family man I know got \$5 a week for 55 hours night work. The town supplied him with fuel and the Red Cross with flour and clothing. The Consumers League reports a case of a worker earning \$2.37 for nine weeks work."

"In Broad Brook, Conn., striking weavers claim their wages have been cut 60 per cent in a year and they get less than \$1.50 for an 8-hour day."

"In 1929 a loom weaver could make \$40 per 54-hour week. A four loom (automatic) weaver could make \$50."

"Mill owners say: 'We have been filling orders below cost in order to provide work for the employes. The wages are only commensurate with present prices of cloth and any mill not so organized cannot continue to function. It is not a question of mills being able to increase wages; it is a question of activity or dead silence for months or years.'"

"I will be glad to have you send me LABOR ACTION. I enclose \$1."

"Yours for Labor Action." And here we have a graphic picture of broken-down capitalism, an industrial system under private-profit-ownership that fails to work and starves the workers. And quite

The Negro, Hard Times, Radicalism

By ERNEST RICE MCKINNEY

I HAVE put in a great deal of time during the past twelve or fifteen months discussing the depression with all types of Negroes. I have debated and argued with reactionaries, alleged liberals and confused radicals among the Negro group. I have attempted to follow and interpret the meaning of our group activities all the way from the visit of the hat-in-hand Sambos to Mr. Hoover just before the election, to the militant outbreak of the sharecroppers in Alabama. I am also mightily concerned with the role that Tuskegee Institute is alleged to be playing as ally to the ruling class against the Negro worker and farm slave in Alabama.

Let there be readers of LABOR ACTION who do not know what's back of these references I will explain briefly. A short time before the election a group of lick-spittle Negro Republicans (there are lick-spittle Negro Democrats too) visited Mr. Hoover and very humbly begged him to say just one word that would make it easier for them to line up the Negro vote. You see Negro workers were about to do the same thing that white workers have done for so many years; change from a Republican Tweedledee to a Democratic Tweedledum. Like the white worker the black worker has not learned yet that it would be better to stay away from the polls than to go there and support the parties of capitalism.

The reference to Tuskegee concerns the report that the Institute authorities turned Cliff James—the leader of the sharecroppers in the recent Tallapoosa County struggle—over to the police. I don't know the details but it is interesting that the Memphis Commercial Appeal in an editorial about this latest phase of the class struggle, takes the position that it is the duty of Dr. Moton and his teachers to become a bulwark against the rise of communism and radicalism among Negroes.

Act of God?

These stories show the difficulties that beset any group that is race conscious and not class conscious. This comes out very clearly when you discuss the depression with Negroes. I have had any number of them tell me that these starvation times are an act of God to punish the United States for its sins. When you ask them why God is starving the poor and keeping the rich fat they can only reply that the rich are also suffering.

Negroes are still disposed to support and depend on the white ruling class for favors and sustenance. This is accounted for by the fact that such a large number of Negroes are domestics, personal servants in offices and caretakers of buildings. And too, it must be remembered that there is no fundamental difference between the Negro servant type and most of the Negro leaders. As a rule they both depend for their existence on the personal favor of some patron in the white ruling class. This group has not felt the depression as much as the Negro or white industrial worker. They have no idea of the extent of the misery and suffering that their fellow workers are experiencing.

Intellectuals and Workers

Now how about the Negro intellectuals? They were mostly liberals before the depression and like their white counterparts they remain so today. Most of them are school teachers, employees of social work and Negro rights movements supported by members of the white ruling class, and professional people who have a financial reason to wish for the return of capitalist prosperity. Such prosperity will return Negro workers to the mills, mines and factories and the professionals may wax fat again.

In conclusion a word about the common Negro worker; the bread-line fellow and those "on relief." My experiences in unemployed leagues have taught me this: It is more difficult to get the Negro into an unemployed organization than the white worker. The Negro has only had experience in lodge, church and Negro rights organizations for economic struggle. He has no background of labor conflict, as a whole has frowned on the Negro who allied himself with labor. However I have found that the common Negro worker is ready now to listen to militant talk and to engage in radical activities. The approach must be very elementary and non-partisan. It is

PMA Union In Illinois Hope of U.S. Miners

"Militancy is the natural law of the coalfields. Perhaps the most encouraging spot in the whole labor movement at the present time is Gillespie, Illinois."

By TOM TIPPETT

The Progressive Miners of America, organized less than six months ago by the rank and file coal diggers of Illinois, is still in the field and settling onto firm ground. That is in itself amazing news since every thing else in the world seems to be crashing to earth, and it proves again that workers who take to the highways in revolt do not always lose—even in these times. It is a good thing too that the Illinois coal miners did not first sit down carefully to analyze their situation before their revolt. Had they done so there would have been no struggle and the P. M. of A. never would have been born.

The new union is the result of a blind revolt, a revolt in which all odds were against success but which for one reason or another has won a signal victory. This is not to indicate that the contest is completely won, there still remains a long and difficult road ahead of the P. M. of A. but up to date they have been marching on.

15,000 Pay Dues

At a scale convention of the new union held in Gillespie, its headquarters, in the middle of February, Wm. Keck, secretary of P.M. of A., reported an unpaid dues paying membership of 15,000 men. In addition there were 5,869 exonerated members because of slack work and 5,330 other members on strike. These figures reflect the strength of the union up to January 1. Keck said that since that time more than 5,000 new recruits had been added to the union and while the convention was in session one local after another broke away from the old United Mine Workers and came into the P. M. of A. fold. Since the convention adjourned a similar advance is reported. Month by month the P. M. of A. spreads over Illinois.

The P. M. of A. says it is prevented from capturing all of Illinois because of a terror set up against the wishes of the rank and file miners by the forces of law, and by the U. M. W. of A. In an attempt to prove this contention the officers of the P. M. of A. suggested in February to Governor Horner, who was attempting to settle the mine trouble, a proposition to achieve final peace which involved the submission of the question of union affiliation to the rank and file of both unions through a referendum vote so supervised that theft and coercion would be eliminated. The P. M. of A. was willing to have the referendum include all the membership of both unions or to restrict the vote to the sections where a strike exists and where the U. M. W. of A. claims control. The old union refused this proposition and Governor Horner's efforts to settle the controversy came to an end.

U.M.W. Main Obstacle

Since the Governor's peace conferences broke up state troops have appeared at the Peabody mines in Springfield, the capital city, where a P. M. of A. strike is on. The new union has intensified its campaign to win over the entire state.

The main obstacle in the way of the new union, naturally, is the old U. M. W. of A. backed as it is by the American Federation of Labor. There is evidence now to substantiate the charge of Claude Pearce, president of the P. M. of A., who says the old union is bankrupt and unable much longer to withstand the advance of the progressive organization. Within the past month the once powerful District 12 organization of the U. M. W. of A. in Illinois has lost its autonomy. John H. Walker, who headed this district and led the fight

better to leave off all labels and talk to him simply about food, clothing and shelter. I have had any number of Negroes, ready to picket a neighbor's home against an eviction who would never have consented to picket the mill in which they worked against a wage cut.

I have great faith in this lower rank Negro worker. If we can liberate him from the clutches of 99 per cent of the Negro leaders of all sorts: political, educational, commercial and religious he will certainly become a class conscious, devoted, fighting and militant worker.



GERRY ALLARD Editor "Progressive Miner"

against the P. M. of A., is out of office. So are all other elected officials. John L. Lewis, international head of the old union, has complete charge of Illinois through a provisional organization with his own men appointed by himself in office. The "Illinois Miner," official organ of District 12, has suspended publication.

Into Every Coalfield

Because of a peculiar set of circumstances well known to all coal miners and because of the long standing antagonism between the Illinois miners and John L. Lewis, this provisional organization can only speed the spread of the P. M. of A. throughout Illinois. When that is accomplished and the P. M. of A. is on a firm base in that state the struggle of the union will have only begun. The cold economic conditions in the industry will compel the P. M. of A. to extend itself to all the coal fields in the country. It must retrace the steps of previous struggles and win back all the ground lost under the national leadership of Lewis. Even then it will not be secure. The union fields will never be safe and free so long as there are any non-union fields and railroads to undermine union wage scales.

The name of the Progressive Miners of America indicates that the Illinois miners realize this. The union is already organizing a machinery for national action. Its excellent and militant paper, "The Progressive Miner," under the editorship of Gerry Allard, a man in his early twenties, is carrying the spirit of militant action to miners everywhere. The response to the "Progressive Miner" from Canada and from all over America shows that the coal miners are ready to fight again on a national scale. The West Virginia Mine Workers' Union is cooperating with the P. M. of A. to speed the national set-up. And the desperate conditions of miners everywhere serve to accelerate the national movement.

Of course there is the danger that the P. M. of A., if it becomes successful, will want to settle down into another conservative union. The revolt of the rank and file which gave birth to the union was not a movement of radicals against conservatives. It was a revolt to overthrow corruption in a union and to place more power into the hands of the rank and file. But in order to accomplish the transition from one kind of union to another a militant radical policy was adopted as a matter of course.

Miners are Valiant

Miners in Illinois are not class conscious, in the generally accepted definition of that term, but they are by tradition and instinct unconsciously radicals who march willingly into the jaws of death to do battle for the ideal of trade unionism, and in their fight for a union the miners have had to fight all those other elements opposed to their union—so they participate in the class struggle and with much more courage and devotion than most workers who are saturated with a definite revolutionary ideology. And since the union must extend itself the chances are that it will remain a militant organization. These are not the times which breed conservatism. Coal miners never were organized by conservative methods and they never will be. Militancy is the natural law of the coal fields. Perhaps the most encouraging spot in the whole labor movement at the present time is Gillespie, Illinois.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

CPLAers and sympathizers are reminded that there is a constant demand in the office for volunteer clerical work whether skilled or unskilled. Even a few hours work will be greatly appreciated.

THE YELLOW DOG PAPER

By a Bryn Mawr Summer School Student

(This is a true story of how a girl working in a cigar factory learned about yellow dog contracts and had the courage to defy the foreman in refusing to sign one.)

WHEN I came back from Bryn Mawr Summer School, several of my girl friends surprised me with a little welcome-home party. I was so glad to see them. I had so much to tell them. We discussed Bryn Mawr Summer School. I passed my notebook and school magazine around for the girls to read. Out of my notebook, one of the girls read out loud, "Yellow dog contract," which she thought was very funny. She had never heard of "Yellow dog contract" before and thought it was a joke. Her name—in this story I shall call her Ann.

"I explained 'Yellow dog contract' as well as I could. We spent a very pleasant evening, but Ann was still laughing about 'Yellow dog contract.'"

But much to my surprise the girls seemed more interested in the good times I had at Bryn Mawr Summer School than my studies. Especially Ann who, because she is the happy-go-lucky type, talkative and almost boisterous at times, we often called "Dizzy Ann."

Several weeks later I met Ann. She was so excited, I knew she had something on her mind.

"What was it you called that yellow dog paper?" she asked.

"At the moment I didn't know what she was talking about and I told her so.

"You know that paper," she said, "the paper the employer wants you to sign when he wants you to work for nothing?"

"You mean the Yellow dog contract, don't you?"

"That's it! I knew it was a dog something. My foreman wanted me to sign one the other day, and I refused."

I asked her to tell me about it, and this is how she related the story to me.

Ann's Story

"Last week Mr. — made a speech. He said that the Southern

cigar plant was closed, and now we could have steady work. That would be five days a week instead of four. But the Southern plant paid 70c a thousand for cigars and the what we would get but we would work five days a week. We are getting 90c for a thousand cigars right now. But he didn't say we would be compelled to sign any papers.

"It was the foreman who came over to my machine and asked the feeder and binder layer to sign a paper. They signed without reading the paper. He came over and asked me to sign, but I refused and didn't even look at the paper. He asked me to look up and I did and I saw the paper. It was yellow.

"Like a flash the word 'yellow dog' came to my mind.

"I sign no dog papers," I said.

"Dog paper?" he asked, surprised. "You don't know what you're talking about."

"He stopped the machine, thrust the paper in front of me and said: 'Read this paper and sign it or you'll be fired!'

"I didn't want to read the paper but it was in front of me so I read a word here and there. I pushed it away and told him I would sign no papers, least of all a yellow one. He became angry and told me I was crazy, that I didn't know what I was saying. He told me I couldn't afford to lose my job. He knew my husband was unemployed.

"I don't care," I said. "The only thing I want is a decent living. I'm no fool. I never knew of anyone asking for a decrease in wages but I have heard of workers asking for increases."

"He was madder and madder.

"Somebody has put you up to this!" he shouted. "You are too nice a girl to cause all this excitement."

"Now I was angry. I told him I could think for myself, that all of us girls were not saying much, but we were thinking lots. And I could count, I told him. We were working four days a week for 90c a thousand. If we worked five days a week for 70c a thousand we

wouldn't be making any more money. It would mean 15c extra car fare and another early morning from bed.

"If you think I'll sign that paper," I said to him, "you're crazy. I don't care if I get fired. I've worked other places. I'm the best wrapper layer in this place and I give the best average. I'm not satisfied with these working conditions. And I'll never sign a Yellow dog paper."

"He turned from me to my examiner and asked her to sign.

"I said: 'Don't you be a dope like the other two. If you sign that paper you'll hear from me.'"

"The examiner was so nervous she shook her head and said, 'No.'"

"I said to the foreman: 'Go over and see how many fools will sign that paper.'"

"As I looked back, I was stunned. I saw nothing but faces. All the machines were stopped. All the girls were listening.

"The foreman was so taken aback he just stood there. Then he went to the office.

"That afternoon Mr. — and the foreman had their heads together looking at me. I never let on that I saw them. I was so busy working. I expected to be fired, but I'm not, yet. Some of the girls agreed with me but most of them said I will be sorry. But I'm not."

When she finished I myself became worried because I didn't want Ann to lose her job. I tried to console her and told her that I didn't think she would be fired.

But I asked her if she would sign a Yellow dog contract.

"No, never," she said. "If my signature is important to him, it's more important to me."

The girls were not asked to sign the paper. The cut came several weeks later. But Ann is still working at the same place. The yellow dog paper made an awful impression on Ann. She never knew that she could have enough courage to speak up for herself.

The other girls when they speak of Ann say she is a brick and they wish they could talk like her.

The Unemployed Leagues And Mass Political Action

EXPERIENCE has proved that the only sound course for unemployed organizations is to stand on a non-partisan basis, taking in all workers, regardless of race, color, creed, nationality or political affiliations. As soon as any political party takes control of an unemployed organization, many workers fall out. If they do not happen to belong to the party in question, they feel that the League is no longer really theirs. This is true even if the party happens to be Socialist or Communist.

Besides, if the Socialist Party or the Communist Party can take control of an unemployed league, the way is also open for Republican or Democratic parties to insist that it is legitimate for them to do so. Politicians of the old parties will seek endorsement of their candidates. Such politicians and ward heelers immediately corrupt the unemployed league and hamper its activities. No unemployed organization which depends upon exchanging favors with the politicians can develop any real strength or effectiveness.

Even more serious is the fact that if reactionary politicians come to dominate the unemployed movement, this movement will ultimately become an agency for Fascism. Fascism, as is being demonstrated once again in Germany today under Hitler, means the destruction of all liberties and the wiping out of any independent movement of farmers and workers.

Need Mass Organization

We have enough parties and groups in the United States. What we need is a powerful mass organization of American workers and farmers. When an unemployed organization is for all the unemployed it is a mass organization and it develops power and militancy. It becomes a force which unites. When a league becomes an organization of the Republican unemployed or the Democratic unemployed or the Prohibition unemployed, or the Socialist unemployed, or the Communist unemployed, or the Jewish unemployed, or the Gentile unemployed, it is no longer a mass organization. It becomes another force to divide the workers who are

already weakened and confused by terrible divisions.

To insist that unemployed leagues shall be on a non-partisan mass basis is not to suggest that they should not engage in governmental or political activities. On the contrary, their chief function is constantly to bring pressure to bear upon both executive and legislative officials in ward, city, town, county, state and nation. The sending of delegations and committees, the staging of demonstrations before these various officials and legislative bodies, is political activity of the soundest kind and much more effective than mere ballot boxing. Experience has repeatedly proved that laws on statute books are worth nothing unless the workers have organized power to enforce them.

Nor does it make the unemployed organizations timid or conservative when they are kept on a non-partisan mass basis. In all parts of the country the leagues have shown genuine militancy. This is natural, because while the American workers may be cold to imported brands of radicalism, there is a strong native American revolutionary tradition. Organizations which have power, as the mass unemployed leagues do, and which face such conditions as we now face, will naturally and inevitably become militant.

Political Expression Will Grow Experiences of Masses

We can be certain also that as unemployed organizations grow and achieve more power, they will be led by their own experience and needs to build or help build a united political force to represent the interests of workers and farmers. Unemployment springs out of the basic conditions of our economic and political system. Unemployed leagues will insist upon dealing with these conditions in more and more fundamental and drastic fashion. Solution of the problems of the unemployed requires political activity, and the unemployed will unquestionably resort to such activity.

It is one thing, however, for the unemployed leagues to be brought by their own experience into political activity. It is a very different thing for the unemployed leagues to be made the battleground for contending political groups. If the unemployed organizations move unitedly on the political field, we have another force for cementing the working class together. If contending parties attempt to capture the leagues, we have division once again.

To be effective, the political activity of the unemployed must be national in scope, because the conditions which create unemployment are national and even international in character. It is probable, however, that the unemployed in one city or state will come to feel the need for a definite political activity sooner than those in other cities and states. Particularly it is possible that the unemployed will feel the need of participating in municipal elections, where there are especially corrupt conditions and outstanding grievances, or where the unemployed leagues have developed powers and seem able to make themselves felt in city politics.

Build Leagues for Unity

There is no cut and dried rule for handling such situations. Unemployed leagues must think their way through problems as they arise. There is no all-wise and all-powerful dictator to tell them what to do. We point out, however, that it is likely to be dangerous for unemployed organizations to enter prematurely upon the field of municipal politics. Often there are individuals who have personal political ambitions and who desire to advance them through the league. Defeat in an election may cause profound discouragement and lead

Bank Crisis

(Continued from Page 1)

the temple. But these very money changers, the big New York bankers, flocked from the temple to the White House to have a hand in framing the emergency banking act. And ever since, their agents have sat in the Treasury Department 'helping' the new administration to formulate its financial policies. The new deal has started, said a Republican Senator who supported Mr. Roosevelt during the campaign, "but the same old people are shuffling the cards."

to the disintegration of the league. It is very unwise to stake the whole existence of a league on a single election.

In any case, a political organization which remains confined to a single city will be able to deal only with the fringes of the problems of unemployment. It will probably be wise to wait at least until a fairly effective state organization has been built before entering the field of party politics. At this point also the saying holds, that in unity there is strength.

The fundamental principle which must guide in all of these situations is the need of keeping the unemployed leagues a force for unity and not for disunity. If taking specific political steps will increase unity, they are justified. If they will serve to divide and weaken, they are to be condemned.

Many problems will arise as the unemployed movement develops; new tactics will have to be devised as new conditions arise. For the present, the sure guiding star is: Build the unemployed leagues on a non-partisan mass basis. Make them the rallying center for all the unemployed, regardless of race, color, creed, nationality or political affiliation.

Mooney Trial Speeds Unity

(Continued from Page 1)

been established in the second trial, however, Mooney will be returned to prison on the original frame-up verdict unless mass pressure of workers secures his release.

The "Free Mooney Congress" in Chicago, April 30 to May 2, will demand immediate release.

New York Conference

Leading up to the Mooney Congress a conference of 600 delegates, official and semi-official, met in New York, March 12, to cooperate on a united front basis. The 600 delegates represented chiefly the Communist Party and its affiliated organizations, the Socialist Party and most of the unions being absent. The Conference for Progressive Labor Action and a number of unions with the CPLA point of view took part in the conference.

A statement from the Socialist Party, issued later, charged that the Mooney Congress is being used by the Communists "as an opportunity for partisan exploitation," and that the Socialist Party "can find no responsible labor organizations backing the Free Mooney Congress." The party has officially declined to participate in the Congress.

United Action Urgent

"Without the Socialist Party and a substantial number of unions," A. J. Muste, chairman of the CPLA, stated, "you do not in fact have a real United Front Congress."

Muste pointed out that the CPLA is not interested in participating in a Communist steered and dominated Congress.

"We hold, however, that the Mooney defense cause is so important for the working class and the need of genuine united action is so urgent that for the present we will continue to confer with all elements, hoping for a genuine unity of labor forces," he said.

To Draw in S. P. and Unions

Acting on the report of Louis Budenz, CPLA delegate to the New York conference, the National Executive Committee of the CPLA decided to remain in the conference, but insisted (1) that serious steps be taken to draw in the Socialist Party and the unions; (2) that on the continuation committee the Socialist Party and the unions have at least as many representatives each as the Communist Party and its affiliates; (3) that all finances be handled by the continuation committee with proper safeguards to insure that the money be used strictly for Mooney defense purposes.

"These recommendations have been adopted by the continuation committee," Muste said, "and efforts are apparently being made to carry them out."

Frank Palmer, of Federated Press, was elected chairman of the committee, Richard Moore, secretary, and Louis Budenz, treasurer. Individuals and labor organizations interested in further information about efforts to effect a genuine united front to free Mooney and Billings may communicate with the Conference for Progressive Labor Action, 128 E. 16th St., New York City.

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Under Direction of the National Executive Committee of CPLA

Volume I No. 1. Saturday, April 1, 1933

ROOSEVELT WANTS DISCIPLINE

If we are to go forward, said President Roosevelt in his inaugural address, meaning if we are to get out of this depression, "we must move as a trained and loyal army, willing to sacrifice for the good of a common discipline, because without such discipline... no leadership becomes effective."

"We are, I know," continued Mr. Roosevelt, "ready and willing to submit our lives and property to such discipline because it makes possible a leadership which aims at a larger good. This I propose to offer, pledging that the larger purposes will bind upon us all a sacred obligation with a unity of duty hitherto evoked only in time of armed strife."

These are very high sounding words. They roll off the tongue easily and beautifully. But what do they mean?—Not what do they mean for bankers, industrialists and stock gamblers. They probably know and are well satisfied.—But what do they mean for the 17 million jobless workers and poor farmers of the country? They are desperate, Mr. President, they and their children are hungry. They want more than high sounding words.

When you speak of sacrifice for the good of a common discipline are you speaking of restoring the country for the bankers, industrialists and stock gamblers? Or do you mean a revolution that will take the country from these criminals and give it to the workers? If you mean the former, and we are sure that you do mean that, then we want to tell you, Mr. President, that we have sacrificed all that we intend to sacrifice. We are not interested in the "aims at a larger good" for the socially irresponsible profit takers who starve us in times of peace and slaughter us in times of war.

Our only duty and our only loyalty are to the workers, to our class, and we do not intend to follow any leadership that will make pawns of us for the bankers, stock gamblers, munitions makers and others of their kind.

WHAT DOES FASCISM DO?

FASCISM is a dictatorship of big business and finance. Its first action wherever it comes to power is to destroy the independent movements and institutions of the workers and farmers. Trade Unions, Farmers Unions, Cooperatives, Labor and Farmer political parties, educational and cultural institutions of the working class, the farmers' and workers' press, all are ruthlessly destroyed. Fascist hoodlums, masquerading as simon-pure patriots, commit burglary, arson, murder and all manner of atrocities in the process of wiping out the labor and farmer movements.

In the beginning Fascism pretends to be very revolutionary and deeply concerned about the well being of the masses of the working people. Wherever it has achieved power, however, the standard of living of the masses has been lowered and degraded, while the few continue to live in ease and luxury.

Fascism has made a mockery of freedom of speech, press and assemblage. It destroys every semblance of democracy. It wipes out free schools. It suppresses all dissenting opinion and ruthlessly persecutes any individual or group which dissents, however mildly, from the views officially laid down.

Fascism stands for nationalism and jingoism. It destroys the hope of peace for humanity. The Mussolinis and Hitlers inevitably bring about a war in which the lives of millions will be sacrificed and the very existence of civilization endangered.

When the bosses and bankers have no other way to keep the workers in subjection, they call on a Mussolini or a Hitler. They establish Fascism. We must relentlessly fight Fascism wherever it shows its head.

BOOKS FOR WORKERS

An Outline of Economic Geography, by J. F. Horrabin. An Outline of Economics. Plebs text-books for the National Council of Labor Colleges, England, 75c.

THESE outlines, first published in 1923, are part of the Plebs series which include Outlines of Imperialism, Psychology, European History, and Finance. Several printings, rewritings and revisions have put them among the very best workers books, for class or home study, in the English language. They are bound in cardboard and are handled in New York by the "Labor Action" Book Store, 128 E. 16th Street.

What's exciting about a small paper-bound book on economic geography?

Believe it or not, the weird and wild-west stories dished out in the wood-pulp magazines are banal and tame compared with the material in this book. It blasts away the blinds and the bunk and lets you have a clear view of the very dangerous world game of the captains of capitalism for the right to exploit the earth's resources through your labor.

The world is laid out on a table, so to speak—nations, colonies, markets, materials, trade routes. These are the stakes for which the imperialists fight. You see it as plainly as you can see, in a small room, a group of men seated at a poker table, playing for high stakes. The "governments," the international bankers, the militarists, the bosses. They are all armed, the guns are well loaded all round, and the "game" is crooked.

"The problem of world production and distribution which imperialism has made acute," says

the introduction to the book, "are the problems which it will be the task of the world's workers to solve. The working class has to face the job of organizing world resources for the use of the peoples of the world, instead of for the profit of a few."

Take from the imperialists and the bankers "governments" the power to buy and sell and exploit the labor-power of the workers in producing the big stakes, and the game ends, the depression ends, militarism's neck is broken, and you have a workers' world of plenty.

The workers must understand the world they live in and do this job as soon as possible.

"An Outline of Economics" tells how the workers are exploited "at the point of production." How, under capitalism, they receive pay for only a part of their labor, the other part being a free gift in the form of surplus-values to the capitalists.

"The worker-student's purpose," says the Outline, "is to examine the existing order, not in order to justify exploitation, but to discover just how exploitation takes place, and how it may be brought to an end. . . . We want an exact knowledge of the machinery of production, not only because in our experience that machinery is creaking badly, and, in fact, breaking down after much waste and suffering, but also because it is the historic mission of the working class to reconstruct the world on new and better principles. Only a knowledge of economics will help us do that."

The Outlines are short, concise, extremely well and interestingly written.

CAPITALISM

THIS IS HOW IT WORKS
By H. A. H.

"In these crises there breaks out an epidemic that, in all earlier epochs, would have seemed an absurdity—the epidemic of over-production. Society suddenly finds itself put back into a state of momentary barbarism; it appears as if a famine, a universal war of devastation, had cut off the supply of every means of subsistence; industry and commerce seem to be destroyed and why? Because there is too much civilization, too much means of subsistence, too much industry, too much commerce. . . ."

These words are taken from the Communist Manifesto, written by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels in 1848, and they describe how capitalism works. Do they apply to the United States today? Well, it is pretty generally admitted that this country does not suffer from lack of productive capacity. Yet the following news items are taken from the daily press.

Since 1930 the number of children so undernourished as to be in actual danger has increased from 7 per cent to 22 per cent in counties with the best record and from 38 per cent to 58 per cent in others. Gov. Pinchot revealed at the recent Pennsylvania state conference on malnutrition of children.

More than 420,000 of the million undernourished are suffering from "definite functional disorders due to malnutrition" the governor said.

Twin babies born to Mrs. Alice Stone, 27, of 1414 Bannard Avenue, Camden, N. J., died because their mother lacked sufficient food and medical care. It was charged by Coroner Arthur H. Holl, of Camden.

Mrs. Rena Cornacchi went to a Sacramento hospital to have a baby, was unable to pay the bill, and was held prisoner by the hospital until her jobless husband secured a habeas corpus writ for her release. Most hospitals in California during the depression, reports "Federated Press," are asking for payments when the patient arrives. "At least a week in advance must be paid before the sick person is put to bed."

David Strauss, 22 of Oakland, Cal., a former University of California student, collapsed on the street and was taken to a hospital, where he was found to be suffering from malnutrition. Strauss, out of a job for several months, said he had had nothing to eat for two days, and very little for several weeks previously.

Unable to find a job since he returned from Soviet Russia in 1931, Lyman E. Bishop, internationally-famed civil-hydraulic engineer, filled his apartment with gas and shot himself through the brain.

Oscar Winheld, a sixty-five year old painter of Brooklyn, borrowed what he thought was a nickel from an unemployed friend to go to the Bronx to see about a job. The nickel turned out to be a slug and Winheld was arrested and held in the Poplar Street police station. He pleaded with the arresting officer that he did not know that it was a slug, but to no avail.

An hour after he had been locked up he was found dead, hanging by his belt from the cell door.

Can these things be prevented? Can there be a society in which there will be no starving workers, no children dying from lack of food?

Yes, but in such a society there can be no exploiters, no profiteers, bankers, stock gamblers or any of their kind. They are building such a society in Soviet Russia. But before they could begin, the workers and farmers, had to kick out the profit grabbers. They had to take over the government and run it themselves.

Edison Workers Win Labor Case

A victory for employers in public utilities has been won in a decision handed down by the N. Y. Public Service Commission. The Commission held that it has jurisdiction over questions involving labor conditions in the utilities. Growing out of a case filed against the Brooklyn Edison Co. by Brotherhood of Edison Employers, charging wholesale lay offs while company dividends mounted, the decision opens the doors for an investigation into labor conditions in the Edison Company.

Fascism in Action



Fascism is today a monstrous fact in Germany. The Butcher, Hitler, has marched to power. The divided labor movement of the German workers has been ruthlessly crushed, labor leaders and thousands of class conscious workers have been tortured and jailed.

Patriotic sentiments—Germany for the Germans, "Buy German," away with laborers and labor leaders who strive for socialism, communism or a workers' government—race prejudice against Jews, especially poor Jews.—This was the crazy tune Hitler piped to rally his tremendous following of scab

workers, bewildered middle-classes, capitalists and super-patriots.

Workers of the United States! What has happened in Germany is a terrible, insane attempt by big business and patriots to "solve" the economic crisis by crushing labor organizations, by stirring the emotions of the people into a frenzy so that they may shut their eyes to the real problems—forget them. Let us profit by this lesson coming to us out of Germany. A divided labor movement falls before fascism. In the face of the advancing enemy, let us unite!

HUNGER KNOWS NO COLOR DECLARE SOUTHERN JOBLESS

By Hazel Dawson

HIGH POINT, N. C.—"Hungry black babies and hungry white babies cry just alike." This was the sentiment expressed by unemployed workers in the largest demonstration of its kind ever held in this Southern mill town.

A CPLA bulletin, "The Unemployed," issued on the heels of a threat from relief agencies to cut the wages of 972 workers from \$1 to 80 cents a day, rallied whites and Negroes. In a spirit of unity they formed the Highpoint Unemployed League.

Friday a strike vote will be taken at the second mass meeting.

The 972 workers get three days a week digging cellars for the mill owners and big bugs in Everywood, residential district of the silk-stockings.

There are two thousand unemployed workers.

"Conditions that we are now suffering were brought on us because we let the BOSS do all our thinking for us," the organizing bulletin states.

"A man was being shown through a lunatic asylum. 'Aren't you afraid,' he asked the keeper, 'that these hundreds of lunatics will organize and kill you few keepers?' The guide shook his head. 'No fear of that,' he answered, 'lunatics never organize.'"

The unemployed bulletin urges all workers to organize and fight for the six-hour day.

SECOND CONVENTION CALLED TO FORM NEW UNION CENTER

GILLESPIE, Ill.—A call to unions and workers organizations for delegates to convene here on April 2 to further extend the idea of a new trade union federation of labor has been sent out by Andrew S. McFarlane, secretary of the movement.

"The need of completing the program outlined in the previous conference, January 29, and the choosing of a name for our movement are urgent points for consideration," the call states.

Efforts will be made to further consolidate existing trade unions and labor groups in the task of establishing a rank and file labor center to organize the workers.

Here Is What You Can Do

"Oh, it's a fine paper. I like it. I think workers should read it. But what can I do?"

Did you ever say that? Then take it all back immediately. For there is much that you can do.

You can talk LABOR ACTION.

Show LABOR ACTION to your friends.

Ask them to subscribe.

You can order bundles and sell them.

You can pledge yourself to send a few nickles or dimes each week to make it possible to publish LABOR ACTION.

You can send us the name of a boy in your neighborhood, an unemployed workers' boy, and we will mail him a bundle of LABOR ACTIONS, one for each nickle you pledge weekly, and he can sell them and keep the money.

You can organize a Labor Action Club, you can thoroughly familiarize yourself with LABOR ACTION's program for a mass farm-labor party and unemployed leagues, you can send news letters from your section, you can send the names of workers who would be interested in LABOR ACTION.

You can organize small local affairs to raise money for LABOR ACTION.

You can get contributions.

Thus there is much that you can do. You can help put LABOR ACTION on a sound basis. You can help get LABOR ACTION to more and more workers.

"Oh, it's a fine paper, but what can I do?" is a poor alibi. Don't fool yourself. Let's be frank.

Of course if you were not a worker, if you were an exploiter, or if you hoped to rise from your own class into the exploiting class, you wouldn't turn a hand for a paper for the working class.

But as a worker, please remember this—LABOR ACTION is your paper, it is the paper of your class, and there is much that you can do. Frankly, one single subscription means some thing, and five or ten nickles a week from you, an individual, or from a group, gang or club, would mean much indeed.

Do something!

The capitalist crisis grows worse. Unemployment increases and the whole capitalist atmosphere smells of powder. The workers must get LABOR ACTION and it's criminal to be idle now.

Do something!

LABOR ACTION,
128 East 16th St.,
New York City.
I will do it. Put me down as a subscriber to LABOR ACTION. I enclose one dollar. LABOR ACTION looks good to me.
Name
Address
Labor Action \$1 a year. 3 mos. trial sub. 25c

The Devil You Say

By TESS HUFF

"Roosevelt Is a Good Man"

Dear Hackney:
Your razzle-dazzled pop-off in praise of the new President wins you the grand prize. You get the alarm clock. That statement that "Roosevelt has declared war on the bankers" was almost enough to win anything. But an unhappy voter-caster in the far West still retained a slight edge. He says "Roosevelt has the interests of the common people at heart." We were in the midst of wrapping up the grand prize for this fellow when on page 17 of your cloudburst the winning phrase was found. You say "Roosevelt is a good man," and you get the clock.

Other "Good Men"
But for this jewel you deserve not only a clock. You should be presented with a life story of the original Roosevelt, the good man who fought for the people and busted the trusts—didn't he?—or did he? Also you surely deserve to receive gratis the complete works of Woodrow Wilson, another good man who kept us out of war, or didn't he? And there is Ramsey McDonald of England, another good man who helped capitalism stay on its feet. I wish we could send you his picture.

Certainly your unscrupling, never dying, wonderful, beautifully blind faith in "Good Men" is something to ponder and ruminate and marvel at. There is something about this child-like simplicity with which vote-casters follow these Good Men who are not able to do anything for us that I don't understand. Frankly, I sometimes wonder about it.

You Might Lose Faith in Good Men

Take good care of the clock. It will come in handy on the mornings in the next few years when you wish to rise especially early to look for work.

But a word of caution. Don't expect to find it. Nothing in the world should shatter your faith. The Good Man in the White House will stop the Juggernaut of the bankers. He will lift the bankrupt farmers and industrial masses and put them on their feet. Yes, go on believing this. Otherwise you will never be able to put your heart into another X mark under the emblems of the old parties. Really you will lose faith in capitalism. Even in Good Men. And you might become class conscious and turn to the revolutionary movement of the workers for a real New Deal.

You may write letters as long as the Mississippi River rhapsodizing over Roosevelt's New Deal and this won't keep you from waking up some not-so-fine morning, along with several other impoverished gullibles, to find that the exploitation system has been scotched up and saved a while longer for the bankers and imperialists, and that poor workers and farmers are still poor workers and farmers, and still fodder for factories and cannons.

You Dear Old Ballot Waster

And in those days, Hackney, you dear old ballot-waster, just set the alarm clock to ring at 4 o'clock in the morning, and get up in time for the excitement.

"The millions who are in want," says Roosevelt, speaking to certain people—not you—"will not forever stand idly by while the things to satisfy their needs are within easy reach."

Won't?

Your good man says that to wake up the bankers who have just got through fleecing the country of nine billion dollars. He wants to be good to the bankers. He wants them to wake up before the people take a notion to "take the things to satisfy their needs." The people might forget to pay money for them. Which would be the worst sort of business for bankers.

The New Deal is an effort of a Good Man to get capitalism out of a jam. The bankers will shuffle the cards. And please, please don't lose any sleep worrying about who will win the money.

BROOKLYN ANTI-EDISON HEADQUARTERS OPENED

The National Committee on Power Utilities and Labor has opened its Brooklyn headquarters at 310 Washington Street. The Committee announces that interesting speakers have agreed to appear every day for the next few weeks. These meetings are free. At the same time, literature dealing with the power industry in general and Brooklyn Edison Co. in particular is on sale. The Committee reports a big demand for Anti-Edison Candles.