

farmers and colonial peoples.

Within the last two years, hundreds of workers have been clubbed, arrested then hauled before the corrupt capitalist courts and sentenced to varying terms of imprisonment ranging from five days to six months. The policy is to harass and terrorize the workers of this city who attempt to organize.



*Photo Cleveland I.L.D.
Lil Andrews and Tom Johnson, two of the Ohio
workers sentenced to ten years.*

ON THE OHIO FRONT

By I. AMTER

THE authorities of Martins Ferry, Ohio, had already decided that Communists have no right to free speech and free assemblage, and on August 1, 1929, they again tried to enforce their decision.

The Communist Party had also decided that on International Red Day, August 1, the workers should be told the meaning of the coming war and the necessity of mobilizing against it.

Tom Johnson, Lil Andrews and Charles Guynn went to Martins Ferry where they found that all the halls were barred against them. Not only the Communist Party, but also the International Labor Defense could get no hall for a meeting, nor was it possible even to obtain a room for a membership meeting.

The Communists decided to hold the meeting in the open.

The three comrades went to that section of the city not far from the plant of the Wheeling Steel Corporation, the concern that controls the city. Lil Andrews mounted the steps of the Hungarian Workers' Home, where during the presidential elections campaign last year police used tear gas to disperse a meeting. She had hardly spoken two words when she was pulled

off the steps, dragged to the police car and thrown into it. Chief of police Muhleman gave three canes of tear gas and some blackjacks to three detectives, who forced their way into the crowd.

No sooner had Andrews been arrested, when Johnson took her place, to suffer the same fate. Following him was Guynn, but he fared no better. The police had not recovered from their terror, but on the contrary became more brutal.

Before that, two other comrades—Betty Gannett and Zorka Yoki—distributing shop bulletins of the Young Communist League at the mill, were found with a few copies in their possession, and for this they are also charged with criminal syndicalism.

The State of Ohio is carrying on a campaign against the workers. If the workers are convicted a reign of terror will begin throughout the state. Ohio industry is war industry: steel, coal, rubber, auto, chemicals. These are produced in tremendous quantities in Ohio. The workers in coal, mills, auto and rubber shops are filled with discontent and the movement for organization is proceeding.