

Special Significance in May Day This Year for American Workers

By ISRAEL AMTER

May Day is international labor—and this year it has special significance for the American work-

Hoover is president of the United States, and although Calvin Coolidge was no angel, yet Hoover has special meaning for the world. Frank H. Simonds declares, in an article in the Review of Reviews, "For Europe, Hoover means WAR." According to a professor of the University of Colorado, there are 20,000 unemployed workers in this country. This is the statement not of a bolshevik, but of a staid professor, who faces the question in a professional manner and tries to find a solution to the momentous question of permanent unemployment—but course in vain, for he dare not touch the problem of capitalism as a whole, which produces this unemployment.

Rationalization Rages.

The workers of the United States meet with the rationalization schemes of the employers in all sections. It is not only in the South where the impoverished textile workers are waking up and fighting back, that horrible conditions for the workers are being found. In the coalfields, steel towns, textile centers of the north, on the railroads, there are millions of workers who are living like dogs.

It is true that the older worker may have received higher pay, but the older workers are now employed in these jobs, being completely supplanted by the young worker, who produces more, is unorganized and is not yet so open to organization as the worker who has gone through the grind.

Rationalization is having a fearful effect upon the workers—but it is as instituted by the capitalists for finite reasons; for extra profits, for destruction of organization, and for war purposes.

In the Ohio coalfields before the strike of 1927 there were 50,000 coal miners. Since the strike the number has been reduced to 18,000. With the introduction of mechanical loaders, which is going on, the number will be reduced to 8,000. Most of these miners will be young miners and the older ones will be driven to the other overfed industries. What is to become of these 42,000 miners, who are merely part of the tremendous army? Who asks—who cares, but the revolutionary workers?

Above them tower the giant corporations that are expanding, taking over foreign markets, investing their surplus in foreign lands. Above them are the monopolistic concerns which are coming into ever sharper conflict with foreign imperialists—conflicts which will result in war.

War Preparations.

Chamberlain is lining up France and Italy, inducing them to forget their animosities. A united front is formed against the United States, the aggressive foe—and against the Soviet Union. Great Britain wants Russian trade—the U. S. is making approaches to recognition of the Soviet Union. The battle between the imperialist giants goes on. And so sooner does Hoover declare for possible recognition of the Soviet Union, than the British government not only sends a delegation to the Soviet Union to investigate the market possibilities, but learns that recognition will be essential for that trade.

And no sooner does Hoover indicate that recognition may be possible, not because he has become a bolshevik, but because American industrialists need more markets, than Matthew Woll, the fiery demagogue and hater of the revolutionary movement, and pliant tool of the National Civic Federation, issues a statement in the name of the American Federation of Labor, condemning the coming recognition, and calling on the people of this country to prevent it. The American Federation of Labor—betraying the workers at home in all struggles and refusing to organize them—but also conducting the most vicious battle against the workers of all countries that are struggling against imperialism—and above all against the Soviet Government!

At Geneva, the function of Hugh Gibson, representing the U. S. government, and Lord Cushendon, representing the British government, will consist of "crushing the Russian proposals for disarmament," as one correspondent puts it. No disarmament—but further rapid and tremendous armament! Fifteen new cruisers following upon Kellogg "peace" pact!

4,600 airplanes were produced in this country in the last year, more than in Japan, Germany, France and Italy produced together. This year 10,000 will be built. "Commercial" airplanes, to be sure—planes that can be transformed into bombing planes in 24 hours! 710 airplanes were delivered to the government within the past few months—so much we know officially, how many are being built secretly? Mergers of airplane concerns, with a capital of \$140,000,000 are part of the daily process.

The socialist party, which has abandoned the revolutionary struggle, and now wishes to drop even its name—the second international

(Continued from Previous Page)
which has become the lackey of imperialism, ask that the Geneva disarmament conference really advocate peace. So sweet and naive—almost in the seraphic posture of a Norman Thomas, Ramsey MacDon-

ald, the murderers of the Iraq workers! Albert Thomas, who collaborated with the Chinese chambers of commerce against the revolutionary workers; who praised Mussolini who is trying to crush the Italian working class! Paul Boncour who would raise every last French soldier in support of French imperialism! Herman Mueller who proposes the German cruiser in installing German imperialism once more!

Ten years ago, on May 1, 50,000 workers of Cleveland led by Comrade Ruthenberg, marched down the streets of Cleveland, challenging the capitalists and mobilizing the workers. On the Public Square they met the police, who beat them down.

Ten years later, the workers of Cleveland and of the rest of the country are not yet prepared. But today we face the rising issue of unemployment and rationalization. We face the issue of war—imperialist war—with consequences that the last world war did not entail, for the instruments of war were not so developed. Today the workers of the United States face the issue, not of defending their national home, but their own existence. Today they face the issue of murdering one another at the order of their imperialist masters—or of linking up their murderous weapons against the workers and peasants of the Soviet Union, or...

Can we stop the war? Can we stop the further unemployment and destruction of working class lives? Can we organize the workers for this struggle?

On June 1, in Cleveland, the militant and revolutionary workers will have their representatives at the

convention of the Trade Union Educational League. They will build up their own revolutionary unions. The campaign to organize 25,000,000 unorganized workers in this country will begin in good earnest. All sincere workers of the American Federation of Labor will be represented there. The fight against American imperialism, aided by the A. F. of L. officialdom, the socialist party and all other yellow and dark reactionaries, will be launched.

Side by side with the revolutionary white workers will be the militant and revolutionary colored workers, too long despised and spat upon by the imperialist world. They will show their prowess this time in behalf of the working class—not shock troops for imperialism, but battalions for the struggle of the working class.

May Day is the growing challenge to the power of imperialism. The 25,000,000 unorganized American workers will be organized! Provision by the state for the growing millions of unemployed, for old age, by shorter hours and social legislation is demanded on all sides. The workers are demanding more of life. War is coming, and the growing power of the revolutionary workers will meet the challenge as did the Russian workers: No more imperialism! Our enemies are at home! Against them we will turn all the implements of war and sweep them away, for the rule of the workers and farmers—for Communism!

This is the challenge of the revolutionary workers led by the Communist Party and the Communist International!

A Strike Chief's Story

Bill Haywood's Book

BILL HAYWOOD'S BOOK. An Autobiography by William D. Haywood. Price, cloth, \$3.50. Price, boards, \$2.00. Obtainable for a limited time by subscribing to The Daily Worker for one year.

* * *

Reviewed by VERN SMITH.

For a quarter of a century a big, powerful man with one eye, a voice that swayed open air audiences of 25,000 or so, and a knack for knowing what to do next when a strike situation, a defense campaign or an organization drive was in its hottest fight, strode through the pages of American labor history, and made them glow as they never did before. That man was "Big Bill" Haywood.

Half of his ashes lie under the Kremlin Wall at Moscow, the capital of the first workers' republic, and such a commonwealth of labor as Bill Haywood fought for decades to accomplish. Half of his ashes he willed should lie in Waldheim Cemetery in Chicago, where are buried the Haymarket victims, the men whose hanging Haywood read about in the newspapers, when he was about 17 years old, working as a metal miner in Nevada. Pondering over the Haymarket affair, Haywood says in his autobiography, did much to make him a revolutionist.

But Haywood did not write just a treatise on revolution. He lived the revolution. His life was a burst of activity from day to day, and even when he was in prison, waiting trial for murder—the usual frame-up on a rather grander scale than usual—he made a garden, and wrote propaganda articles.

The earlier pages of his book give a vivid picture of the Rocky Mountain region during his youth: Mormons, (He was born in Salt Lake City), the Mountain Meadow Massacre (He lived with its perpetrators), the massacre of the Piute Indians by the whites (He heard about it from both the lone survivor and the white murderers), many stories of hardship and struggle among cowboys and miners (Some of them as romantic as fiction), and Haywood's own participation in this early life.

Haywood, like most proletarian leaders, was as different from the regular bourgeois fictionist's idea of a radical, dreaming of utopias and without interest in "practical" things as you could well imagine. His book reveals him as intensely interested in every day life, watching keenly the growth of giant industry, watching the weird chances that govern prospector's discoveries (He came within an inch of owning one of the biggest mines in the Rockies by right of discovery), observing the prehistoric reptile's tracks that mark a trail across the yard of a Western penitentiary and disappear under a million years of rock, interested even in the technique of obstetrics, for he tells how he acted as midwife when his child was born, on a lonely homestead that failed as most other homesteads did at that time.

Haywood tells of working as messenger boy, laborer, farmer, cowboy, assayer (all his life he remembered the details and formula used in that trade) but mostly as miner, until he left his last job as a machine driller, on the 4,000 foot level of the Blaine mine in Silver City to go as a board member to the Western Federation of Miners' convention in Denver, and to take the secretary-treasurership of the W. F. M. a short time later.

In this book he tells at first hand, with color and fire, but in a narrative of break-neck speed the labor history he made from that Denver convention, in 1899 almost to the

day of his death, in Moscow, 1923. He led the W. F. M. through the period of their greatest growth and activity through the struggles at Telluride, Cripple Creek, Colorado City, Denver, Leadville, Victor, and at Lawrence, Paterson, Akron, Mesaba Range, and many other places he led strikes for the I. W. W.

In this short space it is impossible to give any idea of the way Haywood tells of these events. His whole book is a running series of short, pointed, immensely vital stories of the biggest labor struggles, all done with an appearance of detail, in a light easy anecdote style, so that the whole reads like a novel, and not until you stop to think back over the pages you have turned do you see that here is compressed without any appearance of merely summarizing, a summary of the great events of a dramatic period.

Haywood met under strenuous circumstances most of those outstanding in political and economic and labor union life during his period. Gompers, Debs, DeLeon, Borah, Rockefeller, Mother Jones, Darrow, the various presidents and governors, Tom Mann, the French syndicalists, Larkin, Connolly, Hyndman, and other European socialists, and Lenin, he met, not as one interviews celebrities, but in the course of his daily work, and all of them he passes judgment on with frankness and brevity. The book is worth while for its character analysis if for nothing else.

He did not come off unscathed. First and last he spent considerable time in jail. Many attempts were made to kill him. Once he shot a deputy sheriff in Denver, and ran the union from the jail until released. All the world knows about the Moyer-Haywood and Pettibone trial, and the great Chicago trial of the I. W. W.—but in this book we have Haywood telling in his own words, with the same cascade of little, revealing incidents and observations, the story of those great scenes.

He kept his courage in prison, when 20 years of it stared him in the face, he kept his cheerfulness when patriotic mobs wanted to lynch him, he slept while the Boise jury debated whether they should hang him or acquit him. He was a social creature, and admits a certain amount of gambling and drinking, but he never let anything interfere with his duties to the working class. All this appears in his autobiography, which gives you a curious feeling that it is a book not about the writer but about events he has seen, until you realize that most of the history is history built around Haywood himself, and to a considerable extent his own product, the man was such a fit instrument of the social forces and economic trends of his time, so well represented the proletariat he led through thick and thin, that his life was expressed in all that happened.

Haywood led two organizations, the I. W. W., and the W. F. M., served on the national executive committee of the socialist party, and was finally driven from all three of them. Or it might better be said, he advanced beyond them all. His vision of a great industrial union organization for all industries, revolutionary in its aims, made the conservatives in the W. F. M. break with him. His insistence on militant action caused the S. P. to oust him. When the Communist International wrote a letter to the I. W. W., Haywood comments: "After I had finished reading it, I called Ralph Chaplin (editor of Industrial Solidarity then) and said to him: 'Here is what we have been dream-