of Illinois and perennial seeker after the republican presidential nomination. Lowden is the beneficiary through marriage of the banking millions. He has added to some of his riches to establish himself as a corn grower in Illinois and as a cotton-raiser in Arkansas. He was the hero of the mercantile and mercantile Farm Bureau Federation, just as he pushes himself forward at every other farm gathering in the Mississippi valley. He has a program that will lead them out of this valley of woe. It is essentially the McNary proposition, in fact, Lowden endorsed the McNary-Haugen bill in the last Congress. In the republican primary there is no opposition to Lowden against Coolidge, the "old guardian" republican exploiting the misery of the farmers to win political prominence against "Stilwell." But the secretary of agriculture, who is a friend of Lowden, the "good democrat," but just how this solid democrat south is going to give Lowden any support in a presidential campaign is a mystery. The southern delegates to the republican nominating convention would be of some help. Some of these same farmers look with favor even on Charles G. Dawes, the Chicago banker. Senator Arthur Capper, the standup Kansas editor, is also mentioned.

The south is also in rebellion against the democratic party leadership that is offered by Tammany Hall and its favorite son, "Al" Smith, governor of New York. The conservative southern democrats threaten alliance with the radical democratic west, the latter being led around by William G. McAdoo. But here other issues also develop. "Al," the Illinois senator and Catharine the south and west are dry and protestant, strongly tainted with Ku Klux Klanism. But the farm problem may well take priority over all other issues, especially for capital and political parties. In this connection former secretary of agriculture, Edwin T. Meredith, of Iowa, is mentioned as "the farmers' savior."

Shy at Class Political Action.

Little is said among the members of the farm organization in the literature of class political action. Mention of it is strictly taboo. Voice is found occasionally, however, for a thrust to organize a "third party." That is all.

In spite of these efforts to steer shy of farm-labor unity in the political struggle, it is highly significant that in the same week that the McNary bill was introduced in Congress, pleading for favors from the capitalistic state that would at best merely give some aid to the well-to-do farmers, and landlords, the bankers and grain speculators, the working farmers as badly off as ever, there gathered in Minneapolis, Minn., the first conference of the Progressive Farmers of America that declared:

Farmers in the Class Struggle.

"The producers of wealth and the great combinations of capital have no interests that are identical. The struggle between these two classes will intensify until the toiling masses become organized so that they will take over the machinery of production, distribution and exchange to the end that these agencies may be operated in the interests of the many instead of for the benefit of the few."

Thus the "Progressive Farmers" that began its fight in the state of Washington, on the Pacific coast, now possesses itself of its standards as a national organization at the headquarters of the Mississippi.

It represents the nucleus of class struggle in such farm areas as Washington, Montana, North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin where it has already been successful in securing an organizational foothold.

It is the breaking away of agriculture from the domination of the two capitalist parties is also seen in the development of the farmer-labor movement. In Minnesota, the Wisconsin, the North Dakota labor-farmer league has coalesced into the democratic party and faces the republican party as its only real contender. This was shown conclusively in the fall elections.

The same election campaign also shows that in North Dakota, where the non-partisan league still retains a foothold, there was sufficient virility in the drive for independent political action to place a farmer-labor ticket in the field opposed to the Frazier-Nye-Sortie treason that would betray the farmers to the republican party.

In Washington, Montana, South Dakota and Oklahoma the farmers are also rallying with the city workers in support of the farmer-labor movement. In Texas, the farmers' Unions, is the powerful effort of the state, that the organizations of the farmers are developing an ever clearer class outlook.

The March Toward Power.

The actual dirt farmers and farm workers gradually realize, in increasing numbers, that "relief" legislation is for them, that their only escape is through the abolition of the capitalist social order.

In Oklahoma alone, at this writing, 200,000 men, women and children are on the move, breaking off their past residence and farm relations and seeking new farms to cultivate as tenants. This annual movement of tenant farmers in Oklahoma alone includes more human beings than make up the entire population of Oklahoma City. It is like the breaking out of a reservoir. The economic basis of this new issue is the unexamined truth that economic conditions in America are extremely favorable for an advance of new working class economic demands.

The economic basis of this new issue is the unexamined increase in the rate of productivity in industry. In a study of this question (Social Economic Bulletin, No. 2, Profintern) I estimated that from 1920 to 1925 (the general average of productivity of all industries had increased by 50 per cent). An inquiry by the National Industrial Conference Board (an employers' organization), various manufacturers, and the New York Times establish that even in 1925 it was shown by the world in rate and volume, the enormous consequences of this expansion of forces may be dimly apprehended.

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FIVE DAY WEEK

BY EARL R. BROWDER

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One of the most important effects was to put an end to the expansion in the numbers of the working class. Historically, the growth of workers (from 7 per cent to 14 per cent annually) was accompanied regularly...
by an increase of the number of workers in industry (4 per cent to 5 per cent annually). But since 1939 while voluntary strikes have occurred, the number of work- ers has actually decreased. This has had a weakening effect upon the trade unions, because it has tended to bring about an increase of unskilled workers already trained in industry.

A further weakening of the trade unions resulted upon their defeat at the hands of the "open shop" employers (steel strikers 1919). The "company unions" came into being, and soon had taken a million members from the trade unions. Panic strik- ers has actually decreased. This has had a weakening by an increase of the number of workers in industry (3 workers already trained in industry. 1 per cent to 8 per cent annually). But since 1920 while standing firm in alliance with the employers against any supports and improvements. Even Judge Gary and the Steel Trust recognized this and, about the same time, had de- stroyed the unions in 1920, found it necessary in 1923 to grant the main demand of the strikers of 1920, name- "company unions" in so many respects that they are now ac-ceptable to many employers. This enormous weaken- ing of the trade unions and the strengthening of the emplo- yees prevented any gains from being made by the trade unions during the "period of prosperity of 1922-1925.

This is the first time in trade union history in Amer- ica that a period of economic expansion has not been accompanied by a growth in trade unionism. Events have proved, however, that the salt of the labor movement could not be made permanent. Soon, both employers and trade union officials found, to their dis- may, that in order to keep the masses from follow- ing the Communist leadership it was necessary to give them conces- sions and improvements. Even Judge Gary and the Steel Trust realized this and, about the same time, had de- destroyed the unions in 1920, found it necessary in 1923 to grant the main demand of the strikers of 1920, name- "company unions" in so many respects that they are now ac-ceptable to many employers. This enormous weaken- ing of the trade unions and the strengthening of the emplo- yees prevented any gains from being made by the trade unions during the "period of prosperity of 1922-1925."