The Struggle in the Needle Trades

By W. Z. Foster

The sharpest point in the class struggle at the present time in the United States is in the trade trades. Wherever the fight is intense, it is marked by unprecedented mass demonstrations by the Left Wing leadership against the bosses and the treacherous right wing Social-Is-

ing in hundreds of important plants. The companies. The movement of the employers to company-unify the trade unions extends to the needle trades as well as to the general labor movement. The needle trades employers are proceeding along the three general lines characteristic of company unionism and company unionism proper, speeding up the workers, smoothing class consciousness and undercutting the trade unions within company unions. In the latter course they are assisted by the surrender policy adopted by the reactionary trade union bureaucracy especially since the heavy defeats suffered in the last few years by the trade unions.

The bureaucrats, with their own group interests in mind, are perfectly willing to sacrifice the interests of the masses in order to continue collecting dues from them. They know that the employers will permit them to have at least some form of organization to collect dues from the workers. In return, they will do fascist service for the employers and try to force the workers to accept the most intense exploitation.

Immediately after the war, the employers delivered a series of heavy attacks against the trade unions, particularly in the iron industry itself, where the National Action Committee set up in the United States to join hands with the union leaders and workers. Where they previously per-

With this program, the employers present to the workers in full harmony with the leadership of the American Federation of Labor, have since become in principle the official policy of the industry. The Right Wing is leading the struggle of the masses against this dangerous and destructive combination of employers and Socialists.

This is the heart of the great fight now going on all over the country in the very heart of the needle trades, and which has manifested itself in many dramatic incidents, such as the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company unionization plan. The Action Committee struggle in the L. L. G. W. U. Etc., is a fight against the company unionization of the needle trades unions. In order truly to understand what is involved in this fight, however, it is necessary to trace briefly the growth of company unionism and the company union tendencies both within and without the trade unions.

The Growth of Company Unions.

Fifteen years ago, the policy of American employers, especially in basic and trustive industries, was one of complete and undisguised class collaboration. They knew that they had to make an agreement with the United States to make the company union plan work. They set up a special board to make the plans through the union leaders. They had no taste for the class struggle. The bureaucrats in the trade unions have the active assistance of the Socialist bureaucracy as such. The employers in the trade unions have the active assistance of the Socialist bureaucracy as such. The employers in the trade unions have the active assistance of the Socialist bureaucracy as such.

Company unionism puts forward class collaboration as a substitute for class struggle. The bureaucracy in the needle industry is service in harmony with this. They have accomplished this collaboration in many different ways. The employers undertake to give the workers what they want in order to make the company union plan work. They have the active assistance of the Socialist bureaucracy as such. The employers in the trade unions have the active assistance of the Socialist bureaucracy as such.

Company unionism purports to be an attempt to give the workers what they want in order to make the company union plan work. They have the active assistance of the Socialist bureaucracy as such. The employers in the trade unions have the active assistance of the Socialist bureaucracy as such.

Company unionism, by its very nature, is a form of company unionism. The Right Wing is leading the struggle of the masses against this dangerous and destructive combination of employers and Socialists.

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right wing officialdom, led by Sigman, immediately ac-
cepted this report, although the workers knew that the
problem had been excessively simplified. Sigman and his
right wing general executive board are developing fresh
attacks to destroy it. They have outlawed the New York
joint-board, and the Jewish Daily Forward and the
union strikebreaker, Berry, may well look with envy
the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, even went so far in his
 organization plan, Sigman, backed by the Jewish Daily
Forward and the right wing bureaucracy in all the other
union locals, is trying to make the report of his com-
mittee the first big issue before the pres-
cient session of congress. It may speak the decisive
word in the presidential election in November, 1928.
As the farmer plunders toward peasantry, his problem
challenges the common attention of all, more and more,
and especially of the city-worker who should be the
natural ally of the farmer on the land.

The Changing Order.
The whole continent, for three centuries, has stretch-
ed westward toward the setting sun. The world's most intricate
network of railroads has been laid down and placed at
the disposal for the transpor-
tation of his products. Half
of S5,231,850,623. In 1920, there were 6,448,343 farms
covering 905,883,715 acres.

The farmers' problem, especially in the corn
and cotton belts, is the biggest issue before the pres-
teurs against these demands, and the American Association,
closely advised by and depending upon the support of
Sigman and his group, attempted to lock out 15,000
workers. The right wing, however, was not deter-
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break the strike by open and secret treachery and to force the workers to accept
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