

Linn Gale Needs Your Help, Comrade!

*Radical Editor and Champion of White and
Negro Workers in Military Prison for Offenses
Against Capitalism.*

By

GEORGE D. COLEMAN.

OBJECT of the bitterest venom of the interests that have so long sought war with Mexico, Linn A. E. Gale, editor and publisher of Gale's International Monthly of Revolutionary Communism, of Mexico City, lies in a cell of the military prison at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, awaiting trial.

For three years the petroleum magnates and the pro-interventionists have cursed and hated this daring young editor, but could not lay their hands on him. Now they think they have him in their clutches. Like beasts of prey, they lick their cruel chops in anticipation of the sweet revenge they have so long craved.

Whether Gale shall go free or suffer the

severest sentences the law can inflict, depends on the workers of the United States—maybe also on those of Mexico.

Back of the prosecution lurk all the sinister forces that these many years have tried to annex the southern republic and spend the blood and bodies of American soldier boys to do it.

The charges that Gale is a draft evader who went to Mexico because he would not fight for Wilson's brand of "democracy" that he violated the espionage law; that he received money from Soviet Russia, Germany, the Fiji Islands or anywhere else. That he did this thing or that thing—none of them are the real

reasons for the superhuman efforts made to "get" this young man of 29 years whose articles are known in almost every land. Capitalism "wants" Gale because he stood in the way of another hideous war.

The reason for the persecution of Gale may be summed up in one significant word—intervention.

Gale stood in the way of the interventionists and Gale must go. The men who fatten on human carcasses and human gore determined to remove him from their path. They have the money and they do not hesitate to pay the price.

There is no blacker page in international diplomacy than that containing the sordid story of how tools of the oil trust bribed vernal police officials of Mexico City to kidnap Gale and his brave comrade-wife, Magdalona, and deliver them to American military authorities without the orders, consent or even knowledge of President Obregon!

It will be a surprise to many that Obregon did not order Gale deported to the United States, but it is nevertheless true. Gale was first deported to Guatemala by command of Obregon, who was angered because of an article in the March issue of Gale's *International Monthly* in which Gale attacked the Mexican executive for trying to break the railroad men's strike. Guatemala, afraid to admit the Communist editor, returned him to the Mexican side of the Suchiate River an hour after he had been turned over to the Guatemalan immigration authorities. After a week's confinement in a bamboo jail on the Guatemalan border, Gale secured permission from Gen. Juan Torres, chief of military operations in the Mexican states of Chiapas, Tabasco and Campeche, to return to Mexico City, and immediately did so. Arriving there he and Mrs. Gale went to see Luis N. Morones, Director of the Government Munitions Factories, leader of the Mexican Labor Party and of Mexico's One Big Union, and personal friend of Gale. Morones, with ex-President Adolfo De la Huerta, now Secretary of the Treasury; Chief Ezequiel Salcedo of the Government Printing Office; Gen. Antonio I. Villareal, Minister of Agriculture; Governor Celestino Gasca, of the Federal District, and other radical officials, had been moving heaven and earth to get Obregon to reverse his decision and let Gale remain in the country, and on Gale's arrival they immediately went to see the President again, leaving Gale and wife in the ante-room of the office of Governor Gasca until the Governor should return. While they were waiting the chief of the Mexican City Detective Bureau rushed in claiming to have orders from Obregon to rearrest them. Gale and wife were taken to the police station and kept incommunicado all day, being denied permission even to telegraph President Obregon. That night they were motored to the railroad station and sent to Nueve Laredo in care of three Mexican secret men, who subsequently took them to the middle of the international bridge and turned them over to the officers of Fort McIntosh, Laredo, Texas.

At the very time when they were being taken from the office of Governor Gasca to the Mexico City police station, obeying an order that President Obregon had never issued, Gasca, Morones and others of the Left Wing of the Mexican Government were wrestling with the President and wringing from him a promise

not to expel Gale to the United States. As a compromise it was finally agreed that Gale should be sent to China. This would satisfy Obregon's determination to get him out of Mexico, but without turning him over to the mercies of the American authorities. It would even afford Gale an opportunity to get to Russia comparatively easily.

But, when Obregon, complying with his agreement, sent for Gale to have him put aboard a train for Manzanillo from whence he would embark for the Orient, he found to his consternation and amazement that Gale and wife had been taken to the United States on unauthorized orders from Chief Lazarini of the city detective force.

It now develops that Lazarini was paid a fat sum of money for his despicable deed. That the money came from the petroleum interests is certain.

To accomplish its vindictive purpose, American capitalism did not hesitate to disregard the authority of the head of a little nation, to corrupt its police and to literally kidnap a man and his wife.

As always, capitalism was no respecter of self-determination of small peoples. They have no rights that the international exploiters of human sweat and agony are bound to respect. When governments and laws are of capitalism they are to be respected and obeyed. When not agreeable to the powers that prey, they are arrogantly over-ridden. As usual, the capitalists are the real Anarchists.

So Linn A. E. Gale came back to the United States and went to prison, while the dauntless girl who has shared these three years of strife, struggle and revolutionary agitation with him, is working night and day with countless other comrades to free him. Workers in the United States, Mexico and many other countries are rallying to his defense, and the fight is on.

Keen-witted, cold-blooded men, skilled in the business of silencing those who struggle to end economic slavery, are busy plotting every conceivable charge against the young editor. Although he was never actually in military service he is held in a military prison for trial by a military tribunal. Samuel M. Castleton, of Atlanta, Ga., attorney for Eugene V. Debs and one of the ablest radical lawyers in the United States who is defending Gale, is fighting to have the case transferred to the Federal courts.

Gale is so far accused only of "draft desertion," but if he is kept in military jurisdiction, he will also be accused of breaking various army rules, applicable only to a soldier, such as "disrespect for superior officers," "inciting to mutiny," "criticizing the President," etc. If transferred to civil jurisdiction he will be indicted on charges of violating the selective service act and the espionage act, unless, as is possible, Congressional legislation ends prosecutions for these offenses.

There is nothing that Gale has not chanced, and there is almost nothing that he has not done for the sake of the destruction of capitalism.

The workers should hesitate at no expense nor effort to accomplish his release.

Help by giving what you can to the defense fund and aiding the brave comrade-wife who is working with countless others to raise enough money to have Linn Gale properly defended at the trial. Send to Lorenz Peterson, 301 Ruiz street, San Antonio, Texas.