

# STATE POLICE ALWAYS USED TO BREAK STRIKES AND ARE NEVER ON RURAL PATROL AS CLAIMED

(Article II.)

By MANUEL GOMEZ.

Some woman is writing a series of romantic fairy tales for the Chicago Daily News glorifying the "American cossacks."

It is part of the propaganda referred to in these columns yesterday. Big Business admits openly that the state police force which it is trying to set up in Illinois thru the medium of the Dunlap bill is patterned after the mounted constabulary of Pennsylvania (known to all workers as "American cossacks"), and it therefore becomes necessary for the prostitute publicity agents of capitalism to spread the word that the Pennsylvania troopers are

the epitome of honor, integrity, kindness, courage and gallantry. But the workers do not call them "cossacks" for nothing.

**Constabulary Don't Protect Farms.**

The DAILY WORKER has proof—accumulated by labor organizations over a long period—that the Pennsylvania state constabulary is a machine for strike breaking and terrorization of labor. As a rural police "protecting farms and firesides" it does not function at all. Because the wealthy Illinois "law and order gang" declare that they have gone to Pennsylvania for their model in drawing up the Dunlap state police bill, and because Pennsylvania is in fact the classic example in the United States of the workings of a state constabulary, it is worth while for workers to look a little into the record of the "American cossacks." Here it is:

The Pennsylvania state police is an outgrowth of the notorious "coal and iron police," an industrial, private police organization maintained by the corporations to suppress and intimidate the workers in the steel mills and the coal mines. The activities of this force against the workers brought it into such evil repute that the industrial barons began advocating the establishment of a regular state constabulary which would have a brighter gloss of respectability and decency, while being maintained and used in the selfsame manner as the old "coal and iron police."

**A Private Army Legalized.**

Thus, shortly after the great miners' strike in the anthracite coal fields, in 1905, the bill creating the Pennsylvania state constabulary was enacted. John C. Groome, a wholesale liquor dealer who was appointed first superintendent of the state police, testified several years later that he got his plan of organization from the royal Irish constabulary—going to Ireland and spending three weeks in barracks to study methods, organization and rules and regulations.

The royal Irish constabulary was, as everyone knows, a force used by England to keep the Irish in subjec-

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## AS WE SEE IT

By T. J. O'FLAHERTY

THE British working class have no reason to be proud of the accomplishments of the labor party while it functioned as His Majesty's government. But it is an ill wind that does not blow some good, and one of the blessings that the elevation of MacDonald and company to the government brought to the workers, was the elimination of Frank Hodges from the official leadership of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain.

OUTSIDE of the Metal Workers' Union of Germany, the M. F. of G. B. is the strongest industrial union in the world, at least numerically. At the height of its power it numbered over one million members. But Frank Hodges, its secretary, until he became civil lord of the admiralty, almost wrecked the mighty union, when he betrayed it on "Black Friday" in conjunction with J. H. Thomas, his co-traitor.

WHEN Hodges decided to become the nominal head of His Majesty's navy, the miners requested him to relinquish his post as secretary of the union. Tho he must have known that his tenure of office in Downing street would be short, he preferred even a brief fling at the new position to wasting his brilliancy on the coal miners. But he has lived to regret his decision. A militant is now in Hodges's place and it looks as if the ex-civil lord of the king's navy is destined to remain for a long time to come on the outside looking in.

THE London Daily Herald carries very interesting news on the struggle between the old reactionary officialdom and the left wingers. A. J. Cook, is now in Hodges's place as secretary of the miners. He is a fighter and a staunch supporter of the British minority movement, which is or-

# Use State Police to Break Strikes

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tion; it was a frankly brutal weapon for use against a colonial people.

What has been the history, from that day to this, of the mounted state police of Pennsylvania?—those "220 hard-riding, hard-headed and straight-shooting officers, all proud of their jobs and of their organization," to quote Major Adams' fervent speech to the guests of the Illinois chamber of commerce.

Signed affidavits of police brutalities and interference with workers' rights cover Pottsville, Allentown, West Chester, Hazleton, Erie, Wilkes Barre, McKees Rocks, Philadelphia, Mt. Carmel, Reading, as well as the coal strikes in Westmoreland county and in the Ligonier and Allegheny valleys. They were set forth in a 141-page book issued ten years ago by the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor, entitled "The American Cossack." Evidence has been accumulating rapidly since then.

Examining a map of the state of Pennsylvania, one finds at the western end, the city of Pittsburgh and numerous steel centers, and also coal mines. In the east there are Wilkes Barre and Scranton, the center of the great anthracite coal fields and also several important steel centers. The great agricultural sections are located to the north and down thru the center of the state.

## No Cossacks in Farming Districts

Where do we find the police barracks and the sub-stations from which the Pennsylvania troopers travel? In the great steel and coal mining sections of the west and east. Along the northern border of the state there is no sub-station in a space of about 200 miles. Most of the farmers of Pennsylvania have never seen a state policeman in their lives, but every industrial worker—every steel worker and coal miner—has had plenty and bitter experience of them.

It is obvious that the 220 troopers whom Major Adams speaks of as making up the constabulary in Pennsylvania at the present time are not sufficient for any rural highway patrolling. The farmers early discovered that the state police was not intended for their protection in any sense of the term.

Reading the following paragraphs

and bearing in mind the large territorial extent of the state of Pennsylvania, as well as the small number of men in the force, the reader will see that the cossacks had little or no time for rural policing.

## A Few Among Money.

Practically the entire state police force was on strike duty for three months, from March 15 to June 9, 1916, in the anthracite and bituminous coal regions during the miners' strike of that time.

During the street carmen's strike at Chester, 143 members of the constabulary were on strike duty for six weeks, from April 16 to May 25, 1908.

During the strike at the Standard Steel Car Works, McKees Rocks, 41 of the constabulary troops were on strike duty for two months, from July 15 to Sept. 14, 1909, and 44 additional troopers were on strike duty from Aug. 23 to Sept. 13, 1908.

During the strike at the plant of the Bethlehem Steel Co. of Bethlehem, Pa., 91 troopers were on strike duty from Feb. 27 to April 18, 1910—eight weeks.

## Always On Strike "Duty."

During the strike of the miners in the Westmoreland district, which lasted sixteen months, 101 troopers were on duty for a period of three months, 84 were on duty for four months and 57 for 16 months—from March 9, 1910, to July 1, 1911.

During the anthracite coal strike of 1912, 205 troopers were constantly on strike duty from May 7 to May 21.

During the strike of the molders at Erie, Pa., 40 troopers were on strike duty from Aug. 22, 1913, to March 9, 1914, and 22 were on duty from Aug. 22 to Nov. 15.

During the strike of the Wilkes Barre Street Railway employees in 1916, 228 troopers were on strike duty for a considerable length of time.

The above are just a few instances which will serve to show the purpose for which the state police is used in Pennsylvania. They suggest a totally different kind of troopers from the constabulary of the fairy tales in the Daily News.

Tomorrow I will write of the crimes against the workers perpetrated by the Pennsylvania cossacks in the great steel strike and the miners' strikes.

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