

The Herndon Stay

THE execution of the sentence which condemns Angelo Herndon to spend 18 to 20 years on the barbarous Georgia chain-gang—for the “crime” of leading white and Negro workers to the authorities to demand bread—has again been stayed, for a short time.

The International Labor Defense is now preparing to fire the opening-gun in one of the most intensive campaigns it has ever undertaken—the gathering of two million signatures on a petition to be presented to the Governor of Georgia. This petition will demand Herndon's freedom. It will demand also that the law under which Herndon was indicted—a law of pre-Civil War days, designed to crush slave uprisings—be wiped off the Georgia statute books. Under this law, 18 other people, white and Negro, are now under indictment and awaiting trial.

The time in which two million signatures must be gathered is very short. Not a moment can be lost. Two million signatures will cause the Governor of Georgia to think very seriously before condemning Angelo Herndon to slow death on the chain gang.