

'Wisdom, Justice, and Moderation,' Motto of the State of Georgia

WISDOM, JUSTICE, MODERATION—The Case of Angelo Herndon, 16 pages. Published by: Joint Committee to Aid Herndon Defense, constituted by General Defense Committee (IWW), International Labor Defense, League for Industrial Democracy, League of Struggle for Negro Rights, National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, Non-Partisan Labor Defense. Price: 2 cents.

Reviewed by

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FEW people know that "Wisdom, Justice, Moderation," the title of this pamphlet on Angelo Herndon, is the motto of the State of Georgia. After readers of the Daily Worker, already well acquainted with the facts of the Herndon case, have read this pamphlet, the irony of its title will become even more apparent to them.

For there are two outstanding accomplishments of this pamphlet.

First, it recounts all cases which have come up under Georgia's insurrection law since 1869 and gives us an idea of the varied groups which have rallied to combat it. Secondly, it demonstrates, once and for all, that on an issue like the Herndon case, a united front of organizations of different outlooks, such as those issuing the pamphlet, can be brought about, and gives us hope that ever wider groups will work together increasingly as time goes on.

We learn that "in 1869 a Negro preacher was charged with inciting his congregation to release a man from prison." He was convicted but the Georgia Supreme Court reversed.

Slave Law Revived

From that time until 1930, sixty years, this ancient slave law was not invoked. Then, suddenly, came the "Atlanta Six," all of whom are still under indictment. The next year, 1931, saw the arrest of Edwin Hill, Socialist and a weaver in the Atlanta Woolen Mills. Charges against him were later dropped.

1932—Angelo Herndon—Convicted in January, 1933. This is the only one of the cases to have been brought to trial.

There were no arrests in 1933, but in 1934 fourteen were seized by the police. Five of these have been freed. The cases against Annio Mao Leathers and Loah Young, arising during the 1934 textile strike, are pending as are those charging participants in a meeting of the In-



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ternational Workers Order with "insurrection."

This year the offices of the Urban League and the Negro Y. M. C. A. were raided in a search for "Communist organizers," and the League for Industrial Democracy was denied the use of a church for meetings because it refused to segregate Negroes. Only after repeated threats had been withstood were the American Friends Service (Quakers) and the Fellowship of Reconciliation, able to organize an institute of international relations last June.

Southern Liberals Protest

That Atlanta liberals and organized labor of that city realize the dangers of the "insurrection" law is brought home to us when we read that 61 Atlanta ministers, educators and lawyers signed a statement urging repeal of this law; that the Atlanta Federation of Trades (A. F. of L.) passed a resolution against

it; that a Macon (Georgia) newspaper could state (even though in vain, as it turned out) that "The Telegraph hopes that the Supreme Court of this State will substitute common sense for the Bourbonism of the jury that tried Herndon."

Then, turning north, we read a statement by Norman Thomas, editorials from the *New York Post*, the *Nation*, the *New Republic*.

With indications of such support (recently augmented by the issuance on the part of the Federal Council of Churches of a special Information Bulletin on the Herndon case), new ammunition is at hand to free Herndon. So, the pamphlet urges all to sign Herndon petitions, contribute towards the defense.

Its aim is to bring the case soberly before the millions who still do not perceive its significance. By presenting factual material, important background data, it does its job, and does it well.