

Spread "The Liberator" in the South

By TOM JOHNSON

Not a week passes without Southern papers reporting armed conflicts between individual Negro share croppers and their landlords. These individual combats, as well as the bloody mass struggle waged at Camp Hill, indicate the gathering storm of revolt which the present conditions of mass starvation are generating on the Southern countryside.

Last year, the Southern croppers sang a little song whose refrain went:

"11c cotton and 20c meat

How is the poor man going to eat."

This year cotton on the farms is selling for under 5c—less than one-third of what it cost the cropper to produce it. The result is clear—impoverishment and starvation on a mass scale, a whole generation of children permanently stunted through the lack of proper food, the standard of living of the Negro people forced down below Chinese levels.

The whole policy of the Southern landowning

presented to an astonished public as "secret documents", new "Zinoviev" letters. The press hirelings of English, Japanese and French imperialism, headed by Woodhead, are conducting an atrocious campaign of incitement against the arrested trade union secretary. Woodhead, who is out for blood, is demanding the death penalty. This same Woodhead wrote a book on China, which appeared in 1926, in which he called upon the imperialist powers to exterminate two million Chinese in order to crush the national movement, as later it would cost the lives of fifteen million Chinese. This bloodthirsty agent of the British Secret Service, who has been active for 30 years in China on behalf of his paymasters, is now calling for the death penalty.

The life of an honest, brave revolutionary fighter is in danger! This trade union secretary, who has done much towards developing the revolutionary trade union movement in the Far East, is in danger of death. It is the duty of the international proletariat to wrest this fighter from the clutches of international class justice, from the fangs of bloodthirsty imperialism, and to raise aloft the banner of international proletarian solidarity

class for a solution of the agrarian crisis is based not on the alleviation of these conditions, but even more brutal measures toward the Negro and white croppers. The policy of the Southern landowners is to force the croppers to bear the burden of the crisis. The carryover allowance has been cut as low as \$4 and \$5 a month, paid not in cash, but in supplies. Every sort of trickery is resorted to cheat the cropper out of his share of the crop. A revolt against such conditions is met with the guns of the landlords backed up by the armed forces of the state, as at Camp Hill, or by lynch mobs.

This last year has driven the Negro croppers to the limit of human endurance. They are ready to fight, as the almost daily report of armed conflict throughout the South indicate. The growing spirit of revolt indicated by these individual conflicts must be organized, and must be transformed into organized struggle on a mass scale. In the organization and leadership of these coming struggles, the Liberator has a tremendous role to play.

The Liberator must explain the futility of these individual conflicts inspired by desperation and the necessity of mass action. Exactly how such mass action must be organized and carried through. It must become the collective organizer of the Southern Negroes in their mass fight against starvation and oppression; for a revolutionary solution of the agrarian crisis which will throw the landlords off the backs of the croppers, will give land to the landless, and will put an end to the barbarous practices of semi-slavery in force today.

Our revolutionary movement is as yet comparatively weak in the South. It faces there tremendous tasks. It fights there the most brutal and ruthless section of the American ruling class. The coming class battles in the South must have the support of every class-conscious worker. That support must be expressed concretely by the utmost aid to the Liberator in its present drive for 10,000 new circulation. The Liberator firmly established on the basis of mass circulation will be a mighty weapon in the hands of the oppressed Negro masses. Spread and build the Liberator, the collective organizer of the Negro masses!