

When "Gradualism" Reddens

By JAY LOVESTONE.

"LONDON, May 2—(Universal News) Printers and other union workers employed by the London Daily Mail, went on strike shortly before midnight tonight following the refusal of the editors to change a strike editorial intended to appear in tomorrow's Mail. Publication of the paper was made impossible."

GREAT BRITAIN is renowned for its "gradualism." "Muddling thru" is supposed to be an inherent characteristic of the Anglo-Saxons, the chosen people of the Imperialist stage of capitalism. The Anglo-Saxons are supposed to be peaceful and resorting only to the so-called orderly method. This has been the illusion propagated for decades by the British bourgeoisie who have perpetrated the Armistice and Shanghai massacres.

Jolting the Democratic Illusions. THE present general strike will jolt still more the democratic illusions so diligently cultivated in the ranks of the workers by the capitalists of all stripes. The speed with which the military forces, the fascists, and all the numerous extra-constitutional agencies of the bosses have been mobilized against the workers, rips the last shred of the veil of constitutionalism off the ugly face of "The Mother of Parliaments." British capitalism.

This Daily Mail affair is by itself only an incident in the gigantic historical struggle. But viewed from the fundamental angle of class relationships, the Daily Mail stoppage is a symbol of all that is involved and possible in the great country. This stoppage is a symbol of the new shade, the new color, British gradualism is taking on. Gradualism is reddening. The undermining of the position of British commodities and capital in the world market is reflected particularly in this decision of the workers that the press shall not be used against the striking workmen.

In their press, the British exploiting class has had a powerful weapon. The newspapers of Great Britain have unceasingly served their Lombard and Downing Streets masters. One would not be exaggerating the case if he stated that the press has played the decisive role in many of the class conflicts in England.

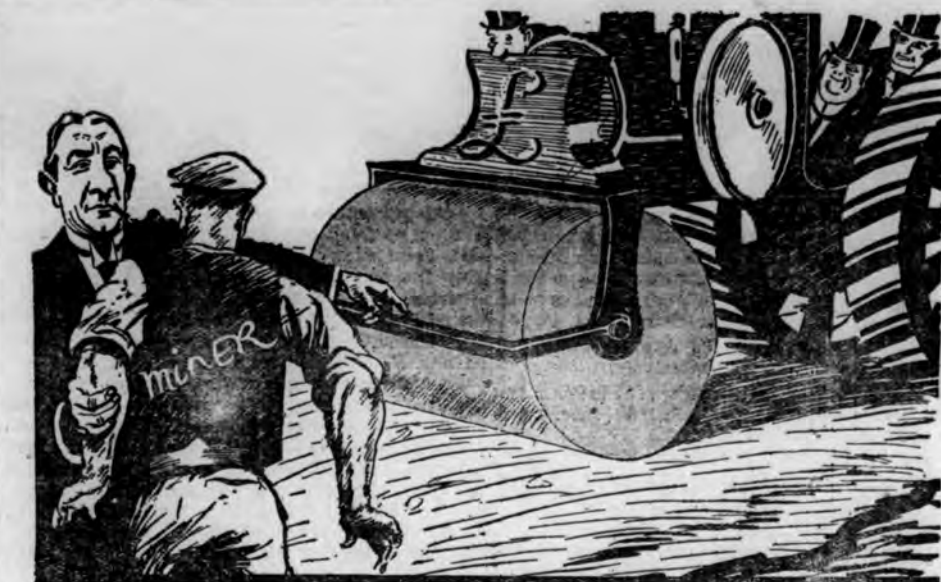
A Good Example Set.

BUT while Thomas is crying, and MacDonald is threatening to lose faith in "democracy," in "evolution," in "British fair play," and in all the other antiques of the British museum, the English proletariat is fast losing its illusions. The workers from the pits, the rails and the power houses, are not "muddling thru," but wading thru, breaking thru British constitutionalism fortified by such death-charged, barbed-wire entanglements as the fascist supply corps, the navy greyhounds, and the armed battalions. Surely, the English workers could not have chosen a more effective and fitting manner of blowing up the bubble of British gradualism than by throwing a monkey-wrench into that infernally dangerous machine—the capitalist press.

And our British brothers could not have chosen a better bourgeois newspaper to stop first than the London Daily Mail. This is the biggest capitalist daily in England. Its circulation is more than 1,600,000. Besides, the Daily Mail is a bosses' mass newspaper in every sense of the word. It has specialized in ways and means of misinforming, misleading, and winning a hold on the minds of the masses.

In The Press, a pamphlet published by the "Labor Research Department" in England, we find the following illuminating facts about the Daily Mail.

"The Daily Mail was to become the necessity of the people at large; to turn their attention from politics, the money markets, and the police courts—from any serious record, in short, of the social conditions in which they lived, and of the forces which controlled these conditions—and to occupy it instead with sensational news and exciting



"Just put yourself under the government's mediation and we'll do what we can for you."

gossip... its concern was the systematic diversion of the minds of the workers from their growing realization of economic and industrial conditions. Every device of journalism, from the dazzling contemplation of 'the power, the supremacy and the greatness of the British empire' to the encouragement of popular interest in the best bunch of sweet peas (for which a prize of £1,000 was offered) contributed to this end.

"The workers on the Harmsworth papers themselves were kept quiet and contented with good conditions and high wages. 'Today,' declared McKenzie in 1921, 'the staff of the Daily Mail, working on a five days a week basis, be it said is, without exception, the most highly paid in the world.' At his death, Lord Northcliffe was widely commemorated as the workers' friend."

This is the same Daily Mail which recently financed a so-called Labor Delegation to America in order to have the English workers learn the blessings of Yankee imperialism. "The Open Shop Review" for March, the organ of the National Metal Trades Association, one of the most bitter open shop organizations in this country, has hailed this venture of the Daily Mail as a monumental achievement and has declared that "the idea originated with Prime Minister Baldwin."

Not even the "spirit of Lord Northcliffe" could induce the workers to print an appeal to the masses "to hold themselves at the service of king and country." Here we have the elementary lesson of working class democracy being taught to the exploiters. Under the guise of the abstract, the hollow slogan of freedom of the press, the exploiting class of England and the other capitalist countries has, thru the control of the means of production and exchange, obtained ownership and domination of the printing and editorial machinery.

American Reactions.

OF course, the sympathy of the American workers is with their British brothers. This sympathy is far more genuine and deep-going than the faint-hearted statement of President Green of the American Federation of Labor would indicate.

But our bourgeoisie are deeply stirred and much disturbed by the events in England. Magistrate Douglas, sentencing striking fur-workers in New York, said, the other day: "These people must realize that the United States is not like England." This is somewhat of a revelation. Only yesterday, the strong refrain of our capitalist apologists was: that the United States is not like Soviet Russia. The United States is an Anglo-Saxon country. The United States is like England. Yes. This statement is more than a revelation. It is a re-

solution—in the minds of our ruling class—thru a growing consciousness that what they have been thinking as impossible is quite probable.

George W. Hinman, one of the economic experts for the Hearst Syndicate, sums up the fears of his class in this fashion.

"Is there any European event which would signify more to American business than the breakdown of the whole modern business machine of Great Britain? Is there any European event which would cause America to look more anxiously to her business bulwarks? ... That is one serious shot. Another serious shot is that unfortunately, British example seems usually to take a strong hold in the United States."

And some even betray their nervousness by suggesting a "practical American solution" of the British crisis. For instance, the Minneapolis Journal has editorially made the following suggestion:

"We Americans just now have a splendid opportunity to exemplify our world citizenship by extending, at little or no cost to ourselves, the helping hand that may pull our friendly neighbor, Great Britain,

out of chaos and thereby protect our own country from the grave consequences that would be most certainly reflected here were the British empire to go on the rocks... Why cannot Washington offer Great Britain a moratorium for the next three years, covering whatever portions of the annual payment may be necessary to keep the coal subsidy alive until the emergency has passed?"

"If Great Britain might thereby be helped out of her plight, the prop to world economy stability would repay us for our pains many times over."

THE American Trade Union movement owes much to the British Trade Union movement. Numerous English workers were among the leaders of the pioneers, in laying the foundation of our present Trade Union organizations. We have learned much in the past from the British working class. We can learn much more now. Today the British working class is in the front ranks of the workers of the world and can teach many a lesson in class solidarity to the workers of the United States. We have very much to learn and gain from the heroic British example.

Workers' Role in History - By D. Treshak

FOR years bourgeois dictatorship ruled the world; Its bloody tyrannies the workers need not be told.

All bourgeois institutions and the political state, At the command of the masters never hesitate To defend the robber system in the name of fake democracy—

But the workers are learning, seeing through hypocrisy.

Yet the yellows praise democracy and "peaceful evolution,"

They run in circles to avoid the proletarian revolution,

They turned Marx, as Lenin said, "Into a hackneyed liberal,"

And in the name of Marx these traitors carry on betrayal.

Proletarian dictatorship is frightful to these fellows,

For they fear they some day may swing upon the gallows.

The proletariat, taught by experience of bourgeois history, When the time comes will abolish the bloody tyranny,

And having conquered the political state, As long as the enemy's resistance lasts, shall not hesitate

To defend the great cause now in victory; And that'll be the last dictatorship known to history.