

Mr. Woll at His Worst

By JAY LOVESTONE.

A deadly blow is being planned against the American working class by Mr. Woll, corporation lawyer, who has worked himself into the position of being a member of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor.

We are referring to the announcement of the American Bar Association which consists of the highest-priced lawyers defending the biggest financial and industrial interests of the country. This organization is one of the most notorious labor-hating organizations in the country. The American Bar Association has for some time been working on a plan to mobilize more efficiently and extensively the government apparatus on the side of the employers in the class struggle. These solons of finance and industry have worked out a plan to suit their class interests and purposes.

Workers Will Fight.

We are well on the road to a condition in which the workers will be compelled to fight for their basic, their most elementary demands. These servants of the ruling class of this country very well foresaw the deep-going economic recession now with us and becoming more acute. They decided to prepare for the fight already beginning. Of course, they enlisted in their ranks the labor lieutenants of American imperialism now drawing from ten to twenty-five thousand dollars and over a year as so-called leaders of labor. Naturally, Mr. Woll, who is the blackest agent of the exploiting class in the ranks of labor, was put on the committee known as the Committee on Commerce of the American Bar Association. This subcommittee was charged with the task of working out a plan to prevent strikes.

Certainly, this is an appropriate name for dealing with labor problems, particularly for a committee of which Mr. Woll is a member. Mr. Woll has experience as a commercial agent in the commodity known as labor power. He has been selling out the workers for a long time. This committee has now worked out a plan which is supposed to be fool proof in the way of preventing strikes.

"Voluntary" Compulsion.

Mr. Woll knows that not even the most conservative American workers are ready to endorse compulsory arbitration. His friend, Lewis, knew as well when he was compelled to

camouflage his betrayal of the anthracite miners who were not ready to accept voluntary or any other arbitration. While denouncing arbitration Mr. Lewis and his clique, wrecking the United Mine Workers, sold out the hard-coal diggers and put over an arbitration agreement on them.

The American Bar Association, of which such notorious capitalist agents as Chas. E. Hugnes and Silas H. Strawn, the Chicago banker, are the leaders, have therefore worked out a plan whereby its provisions are based on "voluntary" arbitration. The objective is to settle all differences by negotiation and arbitration and that the findings of such negotiations and arbitration should then have legal standing and be enforceable by the government. This is an extension of the Watson-Parker law on the railways to the rest of the industries. Mr. Woll is for the plan. He is one of the fathers of the plan. Mr. Green is coming down to speak for it.

"Fact Finders" to Fool Workers.

The workers will not be fooled by this voluntary "arbitration" move. Provisions have been made for a fact-finding council to be known as the National Industrial Council. This will consist presumably of experts who have been trained and reared on the payroll of the biggest employers. Probably some "reliable" labor leaders will be placed on the Fact-Finding Council also. Thus the employers will be represented twice. But this is not enough. We may presume that representatives of the "public" will be placed on such council and arbitration committee. Thus the employers will be represented three times. The workers will be left out in the cold.

The workers should not be misled by the plan. The purpose is "to promote good will between those investing capital, those participating in management, and those who render service in industry and to facilitate the moving of commerce without wasteful interruption of industry."

Great stress is laid on the fact that this is not compulsory arbitration.

Let us see!

In order that a strike should be really successful it must deal heavy blows to capitalist profits. In order to be successful, therefore, the strike must have real support and must be sudden. The longer the delays in negotiations, thru manouvring as to arbitrations and "public fact-finding tribunals", the less the effectiveness of the strike and the more the employers are given a chance to prepare either by a temporary increase in production or in storing up goods in some way or other. Thus this plan robs the strike as a weapon of the workers of one of its most basic and important features—suddenness and timeliness.

Destroys Right to Strike.

This plan, as supported by Woll and Green, is an out-and-out surrender of the right to strike. It is a mortal blow to trade unionism and must be denounced and opposed by every workingman who has the slightest concern for the interest of himself as a worker and for the interest of his class as a whole.

We are not surprised to hear Mr. Strawn, whom even Coolidge could not choose finally to have participate in the Teapot Dome Oil investigation,

because of his being soaked in it, say that:

"I appreciate very much the helpful spirit manifested by the American Federation of Labor and I sincerely hope and trust that the proposed meeting will result in revealing to the joint committee information which will enable the committee to effectuate the plan."

Likewise Mr. Chas. S. Whitman, formerly strike-breaking Governor of New York State, and at one time president of the same American Bar Association, has declared:

"Perhaps nothing on the horizon of Federal legislation offers greater promise than the conferences between the association representatives in discussions of a subcommittee of the Committee on Commerce of this association and a committee appointed by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor and headed by one of its vice-presidents."

Here we have it. We are properly told that nothing on the horizon of federal legislation has appeared as important as this. This proposal of the American Bar Association, endorsed by the trade union bureaucracy, is the most menacing move that has been made in a long while against the American working class. It is a black climax to a long series of sordid deeds and deals. It proposes the complete, national legalization of company unionism. It proposes an emphatic incorporation into the basic laws of the country, openly of course by this time, of the denial of the right to strike. It is the most gigantic and costly sell-out in the history of the American labor movement which is unfortunately already too rich in betrayals.

Every workingman must wake up to the danger. This proposed law is the most direct and brazen move yet made for the complete extinction for the total annihilation of the labor movement even in its present-day most conservative form. On the basis of this law, Mr. Green and Mr. Woll will become managers at best of semi-company unions; the right to strike will be banished; no picketing will be permitted.

Special committees of "fact-finders", loaded with representatives of the employing class, will make the decisions.

These decisions will be law.

These findings will be the final word and order and will be backed by capitalist machine guns even much more thoroly than they have been to date.

The findings will be blessed with the sanction of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor. Very likely such decisions when they are issued will be protected by a union label especially prepared and autographed by Woll and Green.

The Crisis Is Here and Now.

This move of the American Bar Association and the American Federation of Labor leadership is clear proof of the crisis in the trade unions. It is a danger signal of tremendous importance which must be heeded by every workingman and workingwoman of the country. It calls for militant, determined action.

This move must be paralyzed at the outset. Workers should vigorously denounce it and adopt resolutions in their unions and expose it as a dismal betrayal of the most elementary

Jobless; Gets Life

Gustin N. Furdyk, 38, a World War veteran, faces a life sentence in Sing Sing prison if he is convicted of having attempted to steal food and cigars from a restaurant at 288 Second St.

Furdyk, a laborer, has no home. He was cooking eggs over the restaurant kitchen stove when discovered by police.

He has already been convicted on three petty burglary charges. If he is convicted it will be his fourth offense.

His case is being pointed to as a further example of the severity of the unemployment crisis.

and fundamental interests and rights of the working masses.

We will not be victims of the buncombs of "voluntary arbitration." Arbitration between the workers and the employers is always a fraud. The workers must fight to win as much as they can. The workers must get as much as they can as part of their training for getting the whole thing, which is theirs. Every workingman and workingwoman who has one corpuscle of red blood in him or her must be aroused by this menace. Every member of a trade union and every still-unorganized worker must join hands to beat down this hydra of reaction, fathered and supported by Green, Woll and their clique serving Wall Street.

There was a time when some, charitably, said that Green, Woll and Company were the left wing of Wall Street.

Today even the most conservative would say this is absolutely wrong. Green, Woll and Company are today the right wing, the extreme right wing, of Wall Street. There are not many employers in the country dealing with unionized labor who would dare to put forward such a scheme. There are not many of these who would dare propose it unless they had the unlimited and unstinted support of such notorious labor fakirs as Green, Woll and their close allies in advance.

Accept the Challenge!

The workers must not turn back at this challenge. This challenge of reaction must be accepted. It must be met with an iron hand. The Greens and the Wolls must be driven out of the labor movement, must be driven to cover, and come out completely in the open as employees of the biggest bankers and manufacturers, as agents of the worst open-shoppers. The working masses must put a stop to their destructive, hellish activities in the labor movement. There is no place in the labor movement for such a scheme of union wreckage. There should be no place in the trade union movement for such infamous union wreckers.

Only a good house-cleaning of the labor lieutenants of Wall Street and its Bar Association can save the American labor movement. We are not heading for a crisis in the trade unions. The crisis is already here. We are in the throes of it. The Watson-Parker law is being proposed for all industries.

The militant workers must show their mettle. The Communists must show they are worthy of leadership. We must smash this vicious conspiracy to exterminate the trade unions.