

SPARKS FROM THE NEWS

By JAY LOVESTONE

SLOWLY but surely our working class is developing traditions of which it can well be proud. Some day we will get the full story of the two brave American marines who turned their backs on the legions of Wall Street and joined General Sandino's army of Nicaraguan liberation. This reminds us of "the boys from Michigan" who went over to the Soviet forces on the Murmansk front when the American imperialist army invaded Soviet Russia. It's precisely this spirit of resistance to imperialist tyranny that is inspiring the courageous coal miners on the Pennsylvania, Ohio and Colorado fronts. The capitalists brand such splendid services to the working class as "treason," "desertion." More such "treason" and more such "desertion" and the United States will really become a free country—for the workers and ex-

ambitions. At the same time, the airplane manufacturers, the oil producers, and all the other interests who might profit by making America "air-conscious" kept a close eye to the box-office.

Lindbergh may have been a simple lad when he wrote this book, but he certainly did memorize his little piece about the wisdom of developing a gigantic aircraft program. Soon, no doubt, he will have another idyllic tale to tell about his visits to Mexico, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua, and of the staged receptions in these Latin American republics kept under the thumb of the American Empire.

"We" is a remarkably honest book; what is even more unique, it was undoubtedly written by Lindbergh himself and not by some persuasive newspaperman temporarily out of a job. Much of it is written tersely and directly, almost in the form of answers to questions which might have been put to him by a desk sergeant in a New York police court.

Most of the book is taken up with rather uninteresting personal incidents, not of an intimate nature, prior to his sensational non-stop flight across the Atlantic; barely 17 pages is devoted to the flight itself, and the description is flat and listless. I suppose Lindbergh is a modest chap; at any rate, the publishers hired the inevitable journalist to write about the tumultuous receptions to the former air pilot. And in the last pages may be found the ballyhoo story of how Lindbergh was dined, wine and feted, and how the Tammany cake-eater, Jimmie Walker, sat with him in an automobile while 3,000,000 hysterical New Yorkers looked on during hours of parade from the Battery to Central Park.

By far the most hilarious stuff in the book are the speeches of such major political celebrities as Walker and Cal Coolidge, and the photographs in which Ambassador Herrick invariably succeeded in exhibiting his obtrusive mug. This obscure individual displayed remarkable knowledge of news value for an American diplomat. The moment Lindbergh arrived at Le Bourget field Herrick refused to part from the young aviator; thereafter he horned in on practically every banquet and every flashlight photograph.

A number of vital things are somehow left out of the book. Young Lindbergh fails to tell how his father fought the professional patriots during the war; nor does he tell of the attacks on his father as a "yellow pacifist" by those who are now utilizing him to give veneer to their imperialistic conquests in Latin America.

—SENDER GARLIN.

ploited farmers, instead of for the bankers and manufacturers.

THERE are always plenty of dark horses in the capitalist political stables. But Hoover now seems to be the blackest of them all. He stands the best chance of receiving the Republican presidential nomination. Hoover has even received the blessing of the "liberal" New Republic. He is being touted as the symbol of American efficiency, mass production, and scientific management. Hoover is being hailed as the one who stopped the Mississippi flood. Rest assured that the New Republic will yet tell us that Hoover saved the Russian Revolution in the famine days.

This is the same Hoover who is the father of the Lever Act which served as the basis for the paralyzing injunction issued by the notorious Palmer against the striking coal miners in 1919. Governor Fuller, who murdered Sacco and Vanzetti has endorsed Hoover and is being boosted as Hoover's running mate. The multimillionaire, Senator Edge, of New Jersey, brother-in-law of Walter Teagle, President of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, is an energetic supporter of Hoover's candidacy.

Who makes America's presidents? Ask Standard Oil!

ONE of the most hopeful signs in the labor movement is the recent conference of 125 progressive militant miners in Pittsburgh. Our coal diggers are displaying the highest type of heroism and self-sacrifice that has been seen in the ranks of the American workers. Hounded by the special State strike-breaking forces of sheriffs, spies and injunction judges; evicted and starved by the private armies of un-uniformed capitalist gunmen; abused and misrepresented by the press, Church and University; and betrayed by their official labor leaders—yet, they, the coal miners of Pennsylvania and Ohio, have enough courage, fight and class vision in them to know what's to be done, to want to do it, and even to be able to see how it is to be done and done speedily.

The miners, being the backbone of the American trade union movement, are fighting the battle of all labor. More such clear vision and left wing militancy, added to their magnificent record to date, and the miners' union will yet be saved and a possible disastrous defeat certainly turned into a smashing victory.

THIS is the season for prosperity prophecies. Yet, in the prosperity which we are promised for to-morrow, we are beginning to learn that the country has been going thru a recession. Only yesterday, this was vehemently denied by all the market and economic experts of the owning class.

Surely, we can count on all sorts of artificial and strained efforts being made to keep things going at least over the election period. That is why the "silent" Coolidge now talks so much about optimism and prosperity. The Wall Street is long and strong on memory, still no one can recall a single instance where the president of the United States thought it necessary to issue outright, technical statements on financial matters of such general intricacy as brokers' loans in order to buoy up the market.

The executive power of the centralized government is growing by leaps and bounds. More and more the president works openly as the chairman of the executive committee of the capitalist class. For the profit-takers, the exploiters, this is an excellent arrangement. For the workers and the exploited farmers, Coolidge's power and optimism mean poor-houses, bankrupt farms, growing unemployment, smashed unions, injunctions, crushing mortgages, wage

able mobs fought to gain entrance to the court where a politician-judge gloried in the publicity. Passes to the court were sold at a premium.

The Reverend Dr. Straton said his piece, Peggy Joyce, an actress who has had as many husbands as a cat has lives, also wrote her bit for the papers; Will Durant, the go-getter philosopher, wrote a series of articles for the New York Telegram, pointing out (for \$1,000 an article) that the wages of sin are death.

cuts, lengthened hours, and hellish wars.

It's time the tables were turned in this country, and things were put head-up for the working masses.

THE International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union is an organization of highly skilled workers. Its leadership is extremely reactionary. Major Berry, its president, is in the right wing of the Republican Party and is one of the biggest boosters of the worst brand of class collaboration.

This year the biennial election for international officers that was to be held, will not be held. The Major boosts there is no opposition to him. He wouldn't allow any opposition to get started. Mr. Berry also brags that his union stands for capitalist ownership, conciliation, arbitration and the elimination of "the disastrous results that accrue from strikes." The fighting Major is all for peace with the bosses. It pays them. And why should any grateful man bite the hand that is feeding him?

Berry's union is exactly the kind of union the employers want. It is becoming more and more an employment agency, a personnel management bureau, serving to select docile, efficient, obedient, industrious wage-workers for the bosses. Leaders of such unions are more like employment bureau directors than labor leaders. Such policies inevitably lead to company unionism.

Between Berryism and trade unionism there can be no compromise. The Berrys, the Woils, the Greens and the Lewises must be driven out of the labor movement or the unions will be driven out of existence. Throw out the Berrys and save the unions.

ONE can almost lay down a general rule that whenever capitalists work overtime talking about future prosperity, we are in for a depression. Likewise whenever imperialists are arranging peace talks, conferences for "amicable relations," we are nearing war.

Take the Havana conference. This is not a peace conference. It is a war conference. While Coolidge and Kellogg in Havana talk of friendship for Latin-America, the marines of which Coolidge is commander-in-chief are shooting down workers and farmers in Nicaragua. Indeed Coolidge has chosen an appropriate home for himself when he picked a superdreadnought!

Coolidge, Kellogg, Hughes, Underwood, Fletcher make up the Yankee imperialist galaxy to this Pan-American gathering. The Americans mean business. If you don't believe it, ask Haiti, San Domingo, Panama and Nicaragua. No motion will be entertained by Kellogg against a Nicaraguan invasion of the United States. It is not necessary. Nor will any steps be taken to prevent American occupation of British Honduras. That is not necessary either. Great Britain is still a powerful imperialist force to contend with. This being a capitalist peace conference, the first and only order of business in Havana will be to find more careful, more skillful, effective means with which America will be enabled to continue its bluffing, bullying and dominating the Latin-American countries. Between the robbers and the robbed, the plunderers and the plundered, the imperialist bandits and the oppressed colonial peoples, there can be no genuine peace. No fake conferences like the one in Havana can change this