

The DAILY WORKER Fights:
For the Organization of the Unorganized
For the 40-Hour Week
For a Labor Party

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IN TWO SECTIONS
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MAKE IT A DAY OF WORKING CLASS MILITANCY

By JAY LOVESTONE.

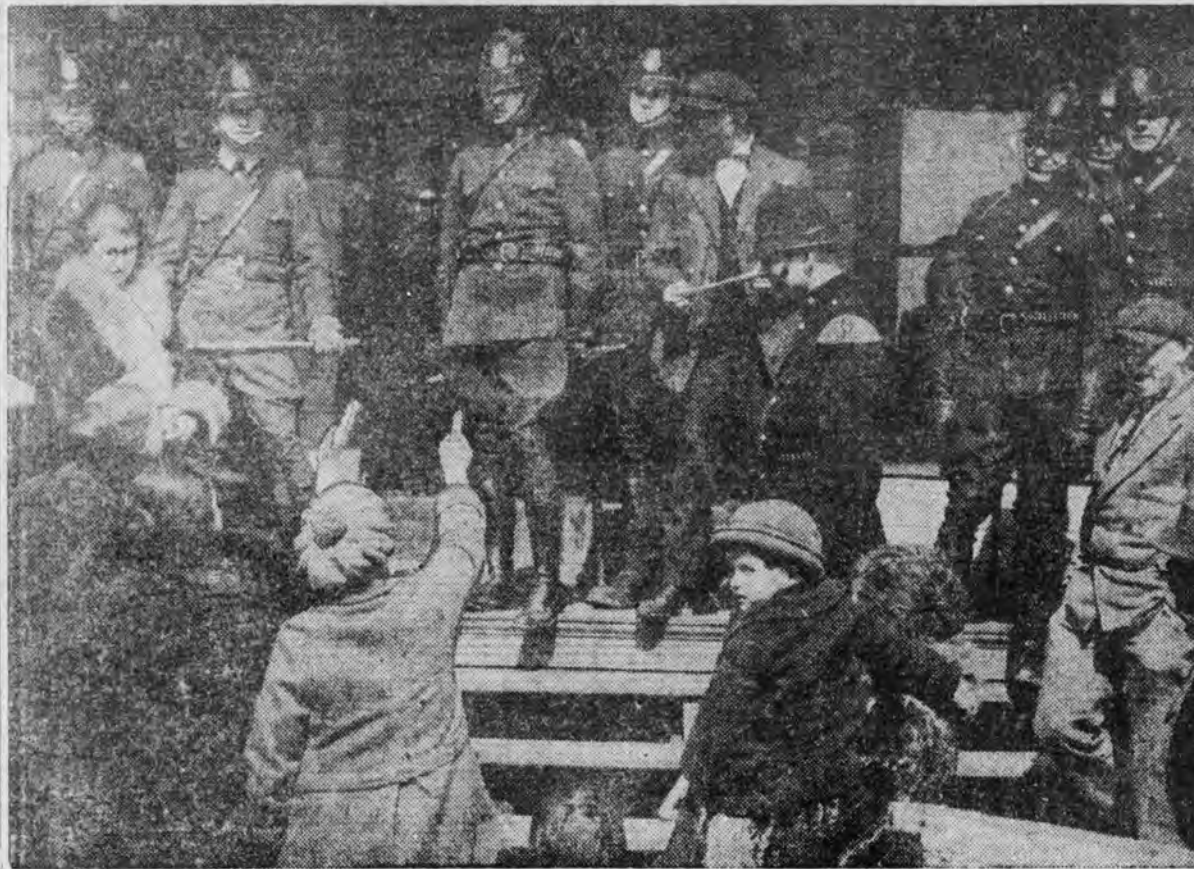
It is now nearly forty-five years that May Day was first celebrated as a proletarian holiday. Few realize that May Day was first proclaimed as a day of working class solidarity and demands in the United States. "Down Tools on May Day" is a slogan genuinely made in America.

These forty-odd years have seen fundamental changes in American economy, in class relations in the United States. There is no need of going over details in retrospect. In 1884 when a Baltimore local of the Knights of Labor selected May first as the day on which to launch a fight for the eight hour day, the United States was only laying the economic basis for its entry into world politics as a first class imperialist power. There was then no conscious revolutionary movement among the workers in the United States. All revolutionary consciousness was limited primarily to a handful of German immigrants.

In fact, even our very working class was then only in its first stages of national crystallization. Free land was beginning to disappear. The trusts were first showing their ugly heads. But already there were sufficiently sharp and gigantic class struggles in which the proletariat distinguished itself admirably. These early struggles, like the railway strike of 1877, clearly showed that there was developing in the United States a working class heroic and capable enough to fight successfully not only for the every day immediate interests but also for the complete proletarian victory, for the overthrow of capitalism for the establishment of the socialist order and Communism.

Today, we live in the land of the mightiest and most ruthless imperialist power—the home of Wall Street. Free land is gone. The finance and industrial monopoly capitalists wield undisputed power. We have the biggest working class in the world. Numerically the American proletariat is the greatest. Class lines are now definitely crystallized. The Negro is being driven into the industrial center. The

These Mine Women Are Examples of Militancy



State troopers under orders of Sheriff Robert H. Braun, broke up a meeting of the Save-the-Union Committee called in Library recently. After the men had been dispersed the women stood before the hall jeering the operator-controlled police. Hundreds of women are daily marching in the picket lines in Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia and in other districts in which the strike is waging.

farmer is being expropriated at an accelerating tempo. Proletarianization goes on apace. The working class already has a conscious national revolutionary party. This is the Workers (Communist) Party. Our party is not yet a mass party but it is growing steadily as the real vanguard of the proletariat through vigorous participation in the struggles of the working class.

1928 is a pivotal year for the American working class. It is the year of the most profound crisis in

the American labor movement. The much vaunted prosperity bubble has been punctured. Today, less than one out of every ten "gainfully employed," inclusive of capitalists, technicians, and the most highly skilled, have an annual income of \$2000 or more. At least four million are unemployed. The very basis for the continued domination of the labor movement by the skilled crafts is being undermined. Our ruling class is driving headlong towards a new imperialist war. And

the Communists are not only serving as the revolutionary propagandists and agitators but are more and more beginning to serve as the actual organizers of the labor movement. The socialist party leadership has not only merged completely with the reactionary trade union bureaucracy, but at its recent convention the socialist party, as a party, severed itself from all ties with the revolutionary, with the conscious, militant forces in the working class.

As Communists we examine the past only with a view of drawing inspiration and determination for the present and for the future.

First and foremost we must rally to the miners. We must mobilize every section of the whole labor movement, draw in every mill and factory, bring over to our side every exploited farmer for the miners' fight. Every worker must consider himself or herself dutybound to serve as an organizer and fighter in the mine strike. This strike is the most important labor battle in the history of the country. Relief for miners, tents for coal diggers, fighting against injunctions, beating back the open shop drive, cleaning out the corrupt Lewis machine—thus saving the miners union—these tasks must be indelibly impressed on the minds of all the workers this May Day.

Let no one overlook the brave textile strikers of New Bedford. The textile workers have always been in the front ranks resisting wage cuts. Every frontal drive that has to date been launched against the wage standards of the working class as a whole has been opened with a wage cut for the textile workers. May First finds the textile industry face to face with a strike wave. The textile workers' fight is the fight of all of us.

In the needle trades, the left wing has led thousands of workers for many months in an inspiring fight to save the union from the reactionary socialist trade union bureaucracy which has been in league with the garment bosses to reestablish open sweat shops in the industry. A struggle of paramount significance for the entire labor movement is being fought in its last rounds in the needle trades. May First is a most fitting day to help the left wing deal knockout blows to Sigman, McGrady, Wolf, Schlessinger, Thomas, Hillquit and Co.

We must keep in mind the fact that this whole offensive against the labor movement is part of the general preparations of our bourgeoisie to crush the workers so as to make it easier for the Yankee im-

perialists to plunge the country into a new war for American democracy. The war danger is a real menace. It is no phantom danger. Look at Nicaragua. Notice the arrogant hostility of the Coolidge government to the Soviet Union. The greatest resistance by our workers is not too great to remove the war danger. May First must be a day of international working class solidarity and unity—American working class solidarity with our victorious brothers in the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, with the courageous proletarian fighters in Germany, France, England, China, Italy and Latin America.

We Must Carry the Fight.

It's up to the Communists to make May First not only a workers' holiday, not only a day for demonstrating working class solidarity, but especially in 1928, a day for proletarian fighting.

No formalities, illusions, fetishes, threadbare regulations, threats and violence of the enemies of the workers, within or outside the labor movement, will thwart us. While the corrupt trade union leaders talk about democracy, the Communists must lead the fight for democracy in the unions. While the reactionary trade union bureaucrats are attempting to hide their wanton destruction of the trade union movement by frantically yelling at us "splitters," we must work overtime to save the unions from these criminal misleaders of the workers and their open shop bosses.

Let us remind the bureaucracy, republican, democrat, socialist, non-partisan, and what not, that they are the worst enemies of unity in the ranks of the working class. It is these high-priced labor leaders that are basically responsible for the impotent, bankrupt condition of our labor movement. We can proudly tell the workers that the only country in the world where the working class is completely united, where the trade unions flourish, where there is genuine democracy for the working class and poor farmers, is the Soviet Union, where Communist policies

Much Jailed Militant



Pat Toohey, secretary of the national Save-the-Union Committee, which is leading the miners throughout the country in the great fight against the coal barons and the corrupt Lewis machine.

are being applied, where our party is at the helm.

Last but not least, let May Day be a day on which the workers begin energetic preparations for presidential elections. One vote the Communist Party ticket worth more than a thousand votes for the so-called socialist ticket even from the viewpoint of the protest against capitalist class rule. There can be no more wasteful way for a worker to vote than by casting his ballot for the republican

democrat or socialist ticket. Let those who want a genuine labor party rally to the Workers (Communist) Party in the coming elections, for we are the only party that is fighting for a labor party. The National Nomination Convention of the Workers (Communist) Party to be opened in New York on May 25th will clearly show to the working class of this country that our party is the only party worthy of working class support.

Join the Workers (Communist) Party.

The best way to make May Day, 1928, a day of working class militancy is to join the Workers (Communist) Party whose members are in the front line of every struggle of the miners, textile workers, needle trades workers, shoe workers and the working men and working women of every other craft and industry and the farm. The republican governors have sent troops to crush the striking miners. Democratic judges have hurled injunctions at the workers. Socialist party bureaucrats have sold out the workers and resorted to the worst forms of gangsterism and terrorism in order to smash the workers' ranks. At the same time the Workers (Communist) Party members are leading the mass struggles of the miners, textile workers, needle trades, and are fighting against the imperialist war on Nicaragua.

Every worker who wants to fight the capitalists and their labor agents in our ranks is eligible to join our Party. Every worker should read and support the Daily Worker—the one paper which courageously and consistently serves the working masses in their smallest, as well as their biggest, struggles.

Let this May Day usher in a period of clear thinking and revolutionary action.

Into the ranks of our Party—the American section of the Communist International for the immediate struggles and for the final overthrow of the whole capitalist system, the establishment of the proletarian dictatorship and of Communism.