The Tariff--Against the Workers

HOW far the sharpening of the world situation serves to intensify the contradictions of class relations at home is clearly shown in the current American tariff controversy. It is a world-wide phenomenon. The Russian revolution has made the trade unions the official representative of every individual worker, and this is the case in every other capitalist country. In the present world situation these contradictions are specially sharp. Thus a French importer pointed out that:

"It would appear that the United States intends to become a closed country, prohibiting in every respect, surrounded by an absolute, irrevocable tariff barrier against all countries and places the world, particularly Europe, in a state of chronic inter-
colonal subjection."

This is a very simple statement. Britain's proposed United States of Europe is only a vast attempt full of unsolvable contradictions, to answer the growing aggression of American imperialism. And Stephane Laveine, another world-renowned French imperialist, has spoken even more plainly of the war which all this is leading:

"The result is that a defensive bloc is forming in Europe against America. And experience tells us that defensive blocs finally become offensive... Is there going to see an economic war between the two continents?"

Of course we will see a world war as the result. But the new tariff bill will also bring immediate great burdens to the great mass of workers. It will mean an additional sum of over six billion dollars filled from the toiling masses by sections of the exploiting class. It will strengthen the strength-hold which the striking workers give up already on the toiling masses. It will further the already great fusion between the rich and the government.

The purpose of the above is to add a clause against the importation of "seditions" literature, prohibiting the im-

Importation of books dealing with the theory, with the science of revolution, and with Marx. The above bill is to be backed by entry from the customs inspector. The bill thus strikes a decisive blow against the rising class consciousness of the American workers.

Temporarily, the flexible rates-fixing provision, empowering the President to fix and after the tariff schedules, has been defeated. Hoovers last appeal for action on the bill is really a last-minute plea to secure the enactment of the "flexible" clause. In the first instance the President has nothing to propose to be held in the hands of Congress, will very likely be given to the President. His executive power will thus be tremendously increased, and will be taken advantage of on the basis of certain sectional interests in the Senate will in the end secure the adoption of the flexible rate clause. It will be baffled into taking shape because the decisive sections of the Amer-

ican capitalist class are agreed upon at least this phase of the tariff bill.

The new bill is a menace to the American workers. It is a symbol of the Wall Street imperialist aggression and of the brutal capitalist offensive against the workers.

ATTENTION!

Beginning with the next issue of Revolutionary Age we shall publish complete lists of the hundreds of conmen who have been expelled from the Party in the last five months. The num-
bers are endless, and we shall add to the list every month and subject them to all the usual tests of the Party. It is the only way to keep careful watch on the moves of the conmen. Today, the proposed tariff bill aims to hasten, to manufacture

The Birth of the American Communist Movement

In the Series: Ten Years of Communism in America and the Future

By Jay Lovestone

OUR Party is now ten years young. Historically, ten years is a small unit of measurement in the long life of the world; but in the life of the American working class it has a special significance. Just as the revolution in every other country has been a synthesis of all the events of the period preceding it, so the American revolution is a synthesis of all the events of the last ten years.

With the entry of the U.S.A. into the World War the struggle of the Left Wing reached a new stage. The victory of the proletarian revolution in Russia, the Jacobins, the revolution in Germany, the Bolshevism in the United States, the capture of the Social Democratic Party by the right wing, all these movements had thrown the main stress of world politics on the International, and now a very prominent part in building a Communist Party, in developing a revolutionary proletariat ideology. But we must not engage in reminiscences for the sake of glorifying the past. We must examine the mis-
takes and achievements of yesterday with the aim of learning how to make less mistakes and how to win more achievements today and tomorrow. Our examination of the Party's ex-
periences and our analysis of its problems must be free from lingering illusions and prejudices and must be entirely objective in the best Leninist sense of the word.

The first serious manifestation of a left wing in the American socialist movement came as a result of two factors. The Russian Revolution of 1905 was a breath of fresh air, a revolutionary breeze that swept the International, already becoming de-
generate with parliamentary cretinism. Thus the socialist world could be felt a surging wave of "direct action," of anti-parliamentarism—healthy in its roots the false and its syn-
dicalist reaction. Secondly, in the United States, this period marked the beginning of an accelerated crystallization of a break-down of small scale production of the growth of large
corporate manufacturing. This structural change in industry naturally brought vigorous reaction on the part of the managers in the form of violent struggles against the longshoremen and the iron workers. It was these conditions that gave birth to the giant trusts, to the I.W.W., and to the Roosevelt trust-busting "progressivism."

It is probable speculation in the future to try to find a basis for the rise of the left-wing movement in the Socialist Party.

Marx will recall the expansion of Haywood, the mass ex.

ceptions of the left-wing workers, the struggle over Article II, Section 6; the fight over legislation, sabotage and crime constitu-
tional. The 1912 Convention which ended in a victory for the"yellows."

The Socialist Party now rushed precipitately into opportunism in the name of peace with the trusts and the new co-op era.

In Milwaukee, the Hilligip-Berger statistics began to figure out when they would "take" over the government on a local basis. The work of the I.W.W. was arrested. Workers' fight against the Gompers bureaucracy was at first sabotaged and then finally smothered.

The outbreak of the World War deepened the already funda-

definitions within the S.P. On the right stood the open champions of the new order, of the Wall Street, of the spec-

ers who were pro-Austria. In the miserable Center stood the somewhat confused but no less dangerously social-patriotic Ber-
gers, and on the left were the loyal Social Democrats and the
dermarians. The leader of the Left was Comrade Rodden.

Soon came Zimmerwald and Kienthal. The signs of a re-
volutionary mellowing were everywhere. Soon the I.W.W. war began multiplying. The main wing of this revolutionary revival was of course the I.W.W., but also the Imperialist war and keen disappointment as well as growing disillusionment with the war, the trials which the American socialist movement. We soon began the publication of the New International. This group really laid the foundation for the development of the Communist movement. It was the group who organized the Communist section in the United States.布尔

The Communist Labor Party of America was under the leadership of Comrades Gilman and Reed.