

JAILED MINERS IN APPEAL TO SAVE THE UNION

Officials Aided the Prosecution

By GEORGE PAPCUN.
(Special to The Daily Worker)

PITTSBURGH, Nov. 2.—

From behind prison walls comes the voice of imprisoned left wing coal miners advising and counseling their brothers what must be done in order to save the union that they went to prison to save.

Of all the crimes and betrayals attributed to the crooked and reactionary officialdom of District 5, there is none more hideous and damnable than the desertion and betrayal of the men arrested and convicted on account of the now famous Cliftonville mine riot, which occurred early in the strike days of 1922.

When scabs attempted to work the mine the miners of the Pan Handle region marched to the mine in an effort to convince the strike breakers to join their ranks. They were met by a fullsade of shots from the thugs and guards employed by the coal company and in the riot the sheriff of the county was killed along with many union and non-union men. Today there are 38 men in Moundsville prison, 38 union men, serving indefinite sentences for their alleged part in the affair.

Last Moment Ruse

When their trials came up, the officials as usual betrayed them. During the closing minutes of the last international convention of the U. M. W. A., with over a thousand delegates on the floor, and the convention in an uproar over the steamrolling of the Howat issue the following resolution was supposed to have been adopted, but the delegates did not know anything about it until they received the final day's proceedings after they returned home:

"Whereas, there are forty-two men incarcerated in the Moundsville, W. Va. penitentiary charged with complicity in the march of the miners in Brooke county, West Virginia; and

"Whereas, these men have now been in prison for many months leaving their families and dependents in want and destitution; therefore, be it resolved that we petition the Honorable E. F. Morgan, governor of West. Va., to pardon these men so that they may take care of the families, and again mingle with their fellow men, as we believe they have been sufficiently punished, as they were victims of Communistic and anarchistic propaganda. Hence, we appeal to you to temper justice with mercy, and liberate these brothers now in the penitentiary at Mounsville, in your state."

Aiding The Enemy

The resolution is signed by Fagan, Patton, Hargest and Wolcott, president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer and organizer of District 5.

These men who are supposed to lead the miners have the gall to write that "we appeal to you to temper justice with mercy, as we believe they have been sufficiently punished" which is an open and frank confession that in their opinion the men in Moundsville are guilty, are responsible that these brothers are in prison at the present time. The bitterness of those imprisoned can be described only by the men themselves. The Progressive Miners' Committee is in receipt of the following letter from one of the imprisoned men. Until a later date the name and number of the writer will not be made public. The writer is a foreigner.

Pat H. Toohey, Secretary, Progressive Miners Committee, 805 James St. N. S. Pittsburgh, Pa.

"Dear Brother: We see by the papers that you have a ticket in the field against Fagan. We hope you defeat him. If the membership under-

SMALL AUDIENCE IS TOUGH; REPORTER ON HIS WATCH

"The wiser they are the harder they hold good in Chicago. Yesterday at a spectacle of cries with megaphones at the Harris Theatre" and "Hear your governor" blocks around the Harris Theatre where

Our inquiring reporter directed to (who must have cost the governor a price of paid "pluggers" applauding "the friend of the workingmen" whom the Chicago and the State Federation of Labor are supporting. Our reporter did not stay long. It was a tough looking crowd and you can't sit comfortably with one hand on your small change and another on your Ingersoll watch for any length of time.

A block away in front of the Cort Theatre was a giant float in behalf of the labor hating State Attorney Crowe cashing in on the Franks case, representing "justice" blind-folded (and heavily rouged) at whose feet sat a few chorus girls out of a job representing something or other, very likely a lavish expenditure of the taxpayer's funds for which the workers will get the bill when Crowe "gets in."

Adjoining was another float with radio apparatus broadcasting "the benefits" to be acquired by the working man when "our candidate is elected."

Chicago is a big city "a wise town." Verily, "The wiser they are the harder they fall."

stood the full import of what he has done and it doing with us thirty odd men behind the prison walls for the Cliftonville trouble, they would put him out now in a hurry. He procured the release of five of the boys for the purpose of making propaganda for himself. The district officers insisted that we plead guilty, promising to get us pardoned within a short time, and knowing too that if we had not pleaded guilty we might have been released as the third term of court was approaching and only a few could have been tried at that time. The machine desires and conspires to keep us in prison for very much the same reasons that they keep McLachlan and Myerscough out of the union.

"Fagan is doing in District 5 the same that Farrington is doing in Illinois, bankrupting the district. Do not loan them any money, for if you do the time will come when you will have to meet the operators with a depleted treasury.

To Stand Firm

"We must grasp this situation and rise to meet it. Our action in this respect during the coming year will determine to a great extent the life and character of our union. We must build our treasury so we can stand firm. The non-union fields proved that they will stand with us, but there is no one trying to organize them, we must organize them and have our expelled brothers reinstated and go forward. But if we keep Fagan and his gang they will glean all they can get and provide themselves with political jobs and the poor miner will be pelled to accept adverse terms of employment. They were directly the cause of us being in prison and largely responsible for us having to remain here.

"Fraternally,
"(Signed)

Will the miners of District 5 have to contend with this any longer? Men behind prison walls are hoping that the Fagan gang are ousted, for as long as this crew of worthies are in control of the organization then that long will the United Mine Workers continue to be a meal ticket for a bunch of rascals, and that long will the miners be constantly betrayed. The progressive miners will make this one of the campaign issues, and ask the support of all honest and sincere miners of this district in their effort to make the organization what it should be, a powerful, fearless and militant weapon of the working class.

Vote on Workmen's Compensation.

ST. LOUIS.—War to the finish has been declared by the associated industries of Missouri, the open shop group, upon the proposed workmen's compensation law, which goes to the voters Nov. 4, by initiative petition.