

The Fake Co-Operative Conference

By GEORGE PAPCUN.

AFTER the hullabaloo which the reactionary mine workers' union officials, coal operators, and the so-called "public" represented by the Chamber of Commerce, raised about the cooperative conference, which they held at Mt. Carmel, Penna., on the anthracite industry, it will do well for the rank and file of the miners' union and the left wing officials to actually see what went on at this conference. The reactionary machine of the U. M. W. of A. in the anthracite has taken a step towards a complete sell-out of the miners' union and for a complete turn over of the miners' union into an efficiency and speed-up organization for the coal operators. This conference marks this step.

IT would be well to go about three months back when the conference was first suggested and see that all over the anthracite region in about seven or eight of the most strategic places, section conferences took place before the actual conference for the whole region took place. The main purpose of the conference as stated by the bunch that was running them was to "boost the anthracite coal industry."

At these conferences, district mine officials spoke, also presidents of coal companies and representatives of the state government. Their main talks were "no more strike in the anthracite," "wage reduction," "arbitration," and "more efficient methods of producing coal by the miners and more production." The seven conferences that were held were about all the same, only held in different strategic places. These culminated in the anthracite conference held at Mt. Carmel for the whole of the anthracite territory where about the same thing took place on a larger scale.

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THE papers all over the anthracite spread far and wide that at last a new procedure in industry is taking place at the Mt. Carmel parley. It would be well for us to actually go over the proceedings of the conference and see what took place. On the one hand we have them discussing the increasing of the production of coal, without increasing the cost. On the other hand, nothing is said about the terrible conditions the miners of the anthracite have to work under. Nothing was said about the number of miners that are hurt and killed thruout the anthracite because of the speed-up system and the carelessness of the coal operators in not complying with the rules, laws and regulations, as even now laid down by the state government. Nothing was said about the cuts which are taking place in the actual wages of the coal miners thruout the anthracite by the cutting of pay on dead work and increasing the amount of work to be done.

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IN this our officials of the U. M. W. of A. participate, without putting in even a squeak of protest about these conditions. They, in fact endorse such conditions and are taking steps towards furthering them. The papers hailed as a great step, the fact that the chairman of the Anthracite Coal Operators' Conference, Warriner, and John L. Lewis, the president of the Mine Workers' Union shook hands and talked things over at Mt. Carmel. After three days of repeating by John L. Lewis and the reactionary district officials, that the miners' union will help the coal operators in getting out more coal without an increase in wages, the conference closed with the following statement by John L. Lewis: "Labor expresses itself as gratified by the results of the meeting," and announces his intention of "maintaining a lasting peace in the anthracite," and proposes that the present agreement be extended for another five years.

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WARRINER, chairman of the Anthracite Operators' Conference, expressed a belief that a strike in the industry would be forgotten in the desire for general prosperity of the region, (which, of course, means prosperity for the coal operators). Then also the so-called rank radical, former socialist, Kennedy, who is now secretary of the U. M. W. of A. made the following statement, "The mine workers have always stood for square for cooperation. The principles of the United Mine Workers of America contain the very essence of cooperation. The cooperative efforts of the United Mine Workers is the source of its strength." And further he stated, "The question has been raised as to the effect of cooperation and its results on the consumers of anthracite coal. We know the reaction as a result of no cooperation. Too often have the mine workers been compelled to engage in a controversy and resist propaganda which sought to blame all the ills of the industry on the mine worker." It can be seen that the speeches of both the so-called leaders of the mine workers' union and the coal operators tally, and the mine officials are now taking a step to completely demoralize the mine workers' union and to rob it of its fighting character and to use it merely as a union corrupt thru the coal operators influence and used it for the benefit of the coal operator.

AFTER all the big boobs from all over the United States spoke, the conference elected a cooperative conference committee which is supposed to have represented on it mine workers, coal operators, and the so-called public. The coal operators are represented by Daniel T. Pierce, chairman of the Anthracite Coal Operators' Conference of New York and E. H. Suenders, general manager of the Madeira Coal Co. of Frackville, Pa. The coal miners are represented by Thomas Kennedy and Chris Golden of District 7. The so-called public is represented by Raymond E. Gibbs, secretary of the Scranton Chamber of Commerce; C. W. Laycock, president of the Miners' National Bank of Wilkes-Barre, Dr. R. W. Buckley, president of the Miners' Banking and Trust Co. of Carbondale, William Dyatt, president of the Hazleton Chamber of Commerce; O. L. Doutrich, president of the Doutrich Co., of Pottsville and others of the same type.

THE left wing must take cognizance of these conferences and must take definite steps towards fighting the illusion which John L. Lewis and his reactionary gang are spreading thruout the mine workers membership. It must take definite steps to counter-act the propaganda for wage reductions, for arbitration, and for the speed-up and against the no-strike propaganda and against the extension of the present 5-year agreement which has lost to the miners the conditions which they have fought and won thru years of struggle. All this must be taken into consideration thru the fact that all last winter and summer the miners have been more or less out of work and are in a very bad financial condition. And with the struggle of the soft coal miners which is going down in defeat because of Lewis' reactionary policy, the coal operators are taking definite steps for an onslaught against the miners' union in its place where it has its last strong foothold.

Letters From Our Readers

Los Angeles Times On Russia.
Editor, Daily Worker:—

To The DAILY WORKER:—If there is any newspaper in the country that shows more bitter hatred towards the labor movement in general and the Communists in particular than the Los Angeles Times, that paper would be hard to find. So it is quite fitting that the Times should hail the tenth anniversary of the Russian Revolution as it does in an editorial, "A Decade in Russia." The hero of the theory that high-wage demands for the American workers would be an "economic absurdity" has the following to say of Soviet rule:

Weird Lies.

"It is now ten years since Lenin seized power in Russia at the head of a small but compact and highly organized group of factory workers and attempted to put into practice the doctrines of Marxian Communism. The record of tragic failure that followed is one of the most illuminating in the world's history, masked as it is by a fog. This fog is by no means dispelled, but it is beginning to lift a little, and the outlines that may be seen now indicate that in a few years more the bourgeoisie will be as firmly in control of Russia as they are of France, and that Communism will not even be accorded lip-service."

The Truth.

It is true that the fog is lifting, but the mountain-peak facts which stand out with clarity are not the ones that the Times would wish, but rather the opposite, so the editor makes it his duty to do everything possible that the workers of America should not see thru that fog which the capitalist press has thrown around the achievements of the Soviet Union. It is precisely because the bourgeoisie will never again get their grip on the Russian workers and peasants that the Times and the capitalist class it represents shows such bitter hostility to the Russian Revolution; were there the slightest possibility for such a counter-revolution as they hope for, they would sing a different tune. No one believes the fairy tale spun by the Times, least of all the author of it himself.

Still Hoping.

There are few papers that still cling to the hope that Soviet rule will be replaced again by the rule of the capitalists. Those hopes have been reluctantly given up as the dictatorship of the workers and peasants has step by step consolidated itself, until today its greatest enemies admit the stability of the Soviet government against all odds, and the vitality of Socialist economy. The die-hards like the Times will vent their rage on the anniversaries celebrated by the working class thruout the world, and attempt desperately to keep the facts from the masses.

Such powerful arguments for workers' rule as the establishment of the

seven-hour day in a comparatively short period of time, are unanswerable by the reptile press, and so we may again expect a campaign of ridiculous falsehoods about the Communists in place of recent attempts to present "logical" arguments why the Soviet Union was doomed to failure. It is easy for liars to juggle figures, but even such expert liars as newspaper writers will find it hard to explain away the tremendous progress of the Russian working class and the establishment of a work-day lower than in any of the so-called "prosperous" bourgeois nations.

Thus the reason is quite evident why the Times has abandoned its more subtle methods of propaganda, and returned to the post-war days when the orgy of ink-slinging to paint the Russian revolution in horrible colors to its timid readers was at its height. Fortunately, such methods are now received with skepticism by the American workers.—Wm. Schneiderman, Los Angeles.

The Klan In Colorado.

Editor, Daily Worker:—

Some issues back I read in the WORKER an article which stated that an I. W. W. caravan into Fremont county was to be met at the county line by a Fremont County Vigilance Committee. I also read the same article in the capitalist press. I will now make a correction. The mayor of Canon City did sign an ultimatum to the wobblies in conjunction with four more towns in the county, but as hundreds of Klansmen in Canon City and the county are either members of the I. W. W. or sympathizers, they (the I. W. W.) did come into the county and held large meetings and closed all mines. The Daily American, the official klan paper, spoke of them as a nice clean and well-dressed bunch of men and upheld their constitutional right of free speech and assemblage. Some years ago this feat could not have been accomplished. The story of the vigilance committee is pure capitalist propaganda. Of course I do not mean to infer that the heads of the Klan have any love for the Industrial Workers of the World or any organization that is fighting for economic freedom. W. C. BLOYED.
Canon City, Colorado.

He Reads Our Stuff.

Editor, Daily Worker:—

I have just read one of your very interesting articles in The DAILY WORKER. If you and your damn people do not like this country, get the hell out. Nobody wants such spreads of hatred and disloyalty to the states here. There are plenty of other places to go to if you don't like it here.—A LOYAL AMERICAN.

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