



GEORGE PAPCUN

The Struggle in The Anthracite

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WHILE the miners of the bituminous fields are preparing for their September National Convention to organize a fighting union not in control of the bureaucracy, and have in a series of district meetings formally ousted their old corrupt officials

we find that in District No. 1 (anthracite, Eastern Pennsylvania) a convention has just been held which only took a step further in the betrayal of the miners.

Rinaldo Cappellini has ruled this district for Lewis and himself and immediate followers, through terror, a terror which has involved murder, discrimination and framing up of innocent miners.

New Set of Parasites

The opponents of Cappellini, the Brennen, McGarry, Harris forces who were in control of the special convention held in District No. 1, May 21 to June 1, fought the district officials only because they themselves were not in office, and tried to show Lewis that they could betray the rank and file more efficiently than Cappellini.

In spite of the fact that Lewis, while supporting Cappellini, has time and again kicked them in the face, they spent their time in the convention showering praises on Lewis for a wonderful leadership, which he is supposed to possess.

The rank and filers at the convention showed their contempt for Lewis by refusing to make any alliance with any part of the Lewis-Cappellini machine, defeating by an overwhelming vote a resolution which the Brennen-Harris, McGarry, Isaac combination tried to force on them, to unite with Boylan, Kmetz and Kosek. The rank and file elements there also forced the convention to adopt in part the program of the Save-the-Union committee.

But Only Promises

But no definite action was taken to insure its carrying out. All that was done was to make promises. The Save-the-Union provisions adopted are being sabotaged. No fight is put up against Lewis, the contractor system in the mines still goes on, the coal operators' policy of discrimination is continued. The

Pennsylvania Coal Co. has again locked out the miners of No. 6 colliery.

McGarry has again shown his weakness and how he intended not to fight the coal company by turning down a resolution calling for a general strike. When the rank and file lead by the left wing presented it to a meeting at the local he dared not put it to a vote, but through a motion to table he was able to confuse and defeat the resolution.

The left wing at this time has the tremendous task in the Anthracite of saving at least part of the miners' union for the miners and of overcoming the betrayal of the miners which Brennen, Harris and McGarry are at this time trying to now put over.

The miners of the Anthracite must not only struggle against the Lewis-Cappellini machine but must carry on a fight against Brennen, Harris, Isaac and McGarry, they must either force them to stop crawling on their knees before Lewis and to go along with the National Convention of the miners which will be held at Pittsburgh in September or get out of the union; the left wing must prevent the formation of a separate anthracite miners' union, which will be a company union if it is formed. The left wing must also prepare for the coming struggles in the Anthracite between the miners and the operators which all factors point to and which the operators want to turn into a final onslaught on the miners in the Anthracite.



Breaker Boys In The Anthracite Child Labor. The Miners First Job.