

FRENCH CAPITAL WINS ITS SIT-DOWN STRIKE

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(Our special European correspondent)

Paris, March 15

Capital has won its sit-down strike here. No French government of high finance has ever issued a loan on such favorable terms nor for such frankly imperialistic class aims of the big bourgeoisie, as the present loan of the popular front government. In place of punishing the sit-downers, the hoarders and exporters of capital, the government has surrendered to them, even rewards them. Hence the capital strike is at an end; the funds have come out of their secret hiding places charmed by Pied Piper Blum and his sweet song to the tune of "Patriotism Pays." The first section of the loan was more than three times oversubscribed at the very moment when American government bonds were falling on the New York Exchange.

Blum has pledged himself to use the whole proceeds of the loan for national defense and war preparation. "The aim of my government (which is also that of Thorez and Jouhaux) is twofold: On the one hand, civil peace, civic harmony, collaboration of all classes for order and in mutual understanding. On the other, national cohesion in the face of a foreign peril." National preparedness, class peace and class collaboration, —what government could give the Big Bourgeoisie more than Blum?

"In the questions which concern the military security of the country," he declared in Parliament, "do you not think that the solidarity which includes all proletarian parties, even the Communist, and

all proletarian organizations, even those of the former C.G.T.U., plays today an essential role?" That's plain speaking and in Marxist political language, but the C.P. keeps shameful silence, or tries to shortcircuit the rising indignation of the masses by directing it into the channels of petty grumbling about non-essentials.

Masses Resentful

It is heartbreaking to see this tragedy of lost opportunities at close hand. The masses are restless, puzzled, resentful. They are ready for struggle against Blum on the Spanish question, on the loan question, on the budget cuts, on the high cost of living, on the cessation of large public works, on the imperialist policies. But they are leaderless. Socialist Party and Communist Party together: that is virtually the whole leadership of the French working class. To it, add Jouhaux and official syndicalism, and the front to hold back, mislead, and bewilder the angry workers is complete. Only the anarchists speak up: lyrically and rhetorically as usual, but at least with a burning working class voice. Hence they are gaining ground, and anarchism, so long dead in France, has been dragged out of the antique shop of history, and is offered to the working class once more as up

U. S. AMBASSADOR LAUDS RED ARMY

Joseph Davies, U. S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union, praised the Red Army highly, at a private dinner given by him to such leading Soviet figures as Marshal's Voroshiloff, Tucharshesky, and Budyenny, Judge Ulrich and others.

Greeting the diners, Davies said: "The Red Army is an army of citizens, devoted to peace and the protection of their own territory without aggressive aims."

In reply, Voroshiloff, War Commissar, stressed this point, adding that the Red Army would gladly remove its uniforms if there were really no need of soldiers. However the enemies of the Soviet Union make it imperative that the Red Army be on guard.

to date equipment.

How easily things might be done! In moments of inadvertence, the "major statesmen" of the working class themselves admit it. Thus Frossard declared the other day:

"Out of 8,000,000 wage workers, 5,000,000 members of the C.G.T. make it the most powerful trade union center in the entire world... it is strong and united, and at a sign from its responsible leaders, it could paralyze the economic life of the country... Then let them understand: no majority, no government, could govern in France against the C.G.T."

Empty rhetoric? The power
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WILL HERBERG

FRIDAY, APRIL 2nd - 8:30 P. M.
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lies lifeless and idle. Where are the "responsible leaders"? Why do they not give the sign?

Big Capital Pushes Ahead

The Big Bourgeoisie is gloating, and becoming more and more arrogant in its demands. Its appetite for concessions is of the kind that grows by feeding. All it has gotten so far is nothing but sherry and hors d'oeuvres for the big meal it now is contemplating.

"So this capitalism," writes *Le Temps* "which the Peoples Front had to destroy the day before yesterday, and which, all the same, it made use of yesterday, is today again rendering it the service expected of it... (Referring to the subscription to the loan).

"All that was needed was that the authorized representatives of the Government should show new intentions, or rather should abstain from using the dogmatic formula of the parties of the revolution, and the savers—who, it must be remembered again, are the capitalists—brought to the state the aid which the government was soliciting...

"It was the duty of the savers to bring the product of their savings to the State. It will be the duty of the masses to bring to the State the contribution of their good will. It will be the duty of the laborers who work for the national defense to make up the time lost by strikes... it will be the duty of all laborers to accomplish their tasks with zeal, and above all, to renounce this ceaseless pressure of conflicts which weigh down on the industrial and commercial activity of France, which paralyze or weaken all enterprises, and which, of course, are hurtful to the common good.

"We don't doubt but that the government of the popular front will obtain from the masses a confidence equal to that which the savers have just given it... We don't doubt but that the masses will do everything possible to facilitate the tasks of a government which, born of the Front populaire, today declares itself determined to become the government of the entire nation."

Could brazenness go further? Yet it is justified. Blum, Thorez, and Jouhaux, having pawned body and soul, can hardly demur at the addition of a few finger nail parings.

No Leadership From C.P.

The C.P. called a great mass meeting in the Vel D'hiv and a special Central Committee Plenum to consider the new situation. It was pitiful. A great mass outpouring: magnificent and spirited, filled with the expectation of a call to battle and the determination to fight. How stirring the International sounded coming from 30,000 determined throats—even if it was preceded, People's Front fashion, by the French Star-

Spangled Banner, "The Marseillaise."

But what did Thorez tell the waiting, anxious, straining throng?

"Those who failed to vote for the war loan are traitors: the enemies of the security of the country..."

Tomorrow the Communists will have to come to their sense, come back to a working class line on imperialist war. And then? Then they will have to vote against war credits, as Communists should. And today through the mouth of Thorez, they are preparing the lynch spirit, the weapons which imperialism and fascism will use against them tomorrow! What a task for the "leader" of French communism!

Knowing the mass discontent with the policy of the Front Populaire government, Thorez cynically elicited applause by making a few obvious criticisms. The audience became stirred. They thought they were going to hear a good, old-time, fighting speech: a return to revolutionary leadership once more. But Thorez had other aims with his criticism:

"We would have preferred that the safety of France be assured by means of a levy on the fortunes of the property owners... the latest measures depart noticeably from the spirit and letter of the program of the Popular Front... M. Rist is an agent of the 200 families."

More and more excitement. In every find the thought: so what?

And Thorez's conclusion:

"We communists, who want a better society, we will continue to preserve the Front Populaire, fruitful (!) alliance of the workers and middle classes... All for the People's Front! All through the People's Front!"

And the next day the Central Committee came out with a "program" for the emergency. Only two planks:

1) The only reservation it makes on the so-called "pause," or breathing-spell for capitalism and laying on ice of the entire Peoples Front Program, is a demand that the funds for the Home for the Aged Workers should not be cut.

Could petty, miserable, stinking reformism go further?

2) "All for the Front Populaire, is declared anew by the Communist Party of France."

Fascist Agitation Grows

The revolutionary leadership goes from lost opportunity to lost opportunity, from betrayal of the elementary interests and needs of the masses to fresh betrayal. That is supposed to be in the interest of stopping fascism. Meanwhile the fascists pick up, demagogically, the issues the C.P. abandons. The "prohibited" organizations meet openly, plot publicly, smuggle in arms, increase the circulation of their press, deal telling blows at the untenable, anti-working class position of the Socialist and Communist Parties. Big capital vaults arrogantly into the saddle, drives the old nag Blum hard with whip and spur, drives him to exhaustion. When that point is reached, when it can get no more out of the Front Populaire, then it will turn to the fresh new battle steed of De la Rocque and Doriot. Lost opportunities are the manure which fertilizes the ground for fascism. It is painful to watch—heartbreaking. And it drives deep the conviction that we must strengthen and speed up the work of the International Communist Opposition on every front and in every land. A fight for the return to communist principles, to a class line—it is the only hope. And at greater speed and with fuller energy—before it is too late.

this line which the POUM has so vigorously and consistently propagated.

In Catalonia alone, the CNT, according to recent estimates, has one million, two hundred thousand members. Should the CNT and the POUM march united in the direction of a proletarian revolution, they will be by far the strongest power in Catalonia and can count on gaining leadership in the rest of Spain as well.