

World Socialism

THE FASCIST TERROR CONTINUES

By HERBERT ZAM

THE brutal sentences, the constant mass trials, the known and unknown murders, which are part of the established "stability" of the fascist regimes in Germany and Austria, are the best possible proofs that the revolutionary workers' movement in these countries is alive and active. The first wave of brutal mass terror has now been replaced by systematic persecution of all workers daring to express their dissatisfaction with the regime or the intolerable conditions. But this very persecution can serve as an indicator of the rise of the new labor movement in these countries.

Three trials are now going on in Hamburg. Two of these are mass trials of 270 and 570 workers and the third is that of Andre, former communist leader. Andre has been in prison since March, 1933, and is charged with participation in the disorder in Alton (near Hamburg) in July, 1932, before the Nazi dictatorship was established. He has faced the Nazis with great courage and defiance, even according to the Hitler press, which declares that "he adopted a tone that did not correspond with his position as a prisoner."

Hamburg's Terror

The members of the mass groups are mostly workers who were arrested in special raids of the police, brownshirts and blackshirts, in November and December at Elmshorn, near Hamburg. They are being tried in batches totaling 23 groups. Some have already been sentenced to penal servitude ranging up to eight years. They are all charged with membership in the illegal Socialist and communist parties. The great strength of the labor movement in Hamburg and vicinity has called forth the greatest fascist terror in that section of the country.

In order to appear "clean" in the eyes of the diplomatic world, the Nazis are now denying that there are any significant number of prisoners left. Dr. Frank, Chairman of the "Academy of German Law and member of the cabinet, recently declared that there are only two concentration camps remaining in Germany with a total of 4,000 prisoners. The Commission of Inquiry of the Socialist and Labor International points out, however, that at Papenburg alone there are four camps, and camps still exist at Dachau, Lichtenburg, Fuhlsbuettel, Aussenkommando Glasmoor, Brandenburg. The camp at Kislau has just been liquidated because it is in the area which is undergoing fortification. At Fuhlsbuettel alone there are 5,000 prisoners. In the Hamburg region there are 14,500, of whom 10,000 are political prisoners. Thus, the total varies from 20,000 to 50,000, and the correct figure is very likely nearer the latter estimate.

Unionists Jailed

In Austria also the fascist judges are being kept busy. On June 5th, the Supreme Court in Vienna dealt with the appeal of the trade union leaders, Holwatyj and Steindl, against the sentences of five and ten years hard labor which had been imposed on them for "illegal" trade union activity. In spite of the fact that the literature offered in evidence was very old, and that the prosecution had brought in new literature which had not even been presented originally (and which the Supreme Court had to throw out) the sentences were affirmed, but Holwatyj's was reduced to six years. In thus sentencing Holwatyj and Steindl the Austrian govern-

ment and its courts are striking at the great majority of the Austrian workers, who have remained true to the principles of the trade union movement and who are demanding the restoration of the right to organize and those other rights of which they were deprived in February, 1934.

Joseph Soldatics, an active worker in the Revolutionary Socialist Party, was arrested last year when caught transporting the *Arbeiter-Zeitung* into Vienna. He was first sentenced to a year under police arrest, and later a year at hard labor was added. Now he has also been charged with participation in the fighting in February, 1934. The police claim that he distributed arms to a detachment of the *Schutzbund* in Siegendorf and to have directed the fighting against the advancing army. For this, he was sentenced to another year at hard labor, bringing his total to three years. It is believed that the police will discover new crimes against this comrade, so as to keep him in prison perpetually. At the trial Soldatics behaved very courageously; he declared openly that he was a revolutionary Socialist and would continue to struggle against the fascist usurpers.

Illegal Leaflets

In Linz, before the Provincial Court, four workers were charged with having produced and distributed hand-bills attacking the government. Strassmeyer, a locksmith, was sentenced to 14 months; two workers, Kraupac and Maringer, and an apprentice, Wipplinger, were sentenced to 12 months hard labor. This was in addition to six-to-eight months police sentences which they had already served.

Some time ago, Comrades Kohout, Lawitzka and Kauler were arrested for distributing "illegal" printed matter, but were acquitted for lack of evidence. Upon the appeal of the Public Prosecutor a new trial was ordered, and at this trial all of the accused were sentenced to two months each. But this was not enough for the Supreme Court. Another trial was ordered, and this time the defendants were sentenced to twelve months each.

So far this year, the Austrian courts have sentenced 181 men and women to more than 408 years in prison. These figures do not include police sentences, which are probably as high. But the persecutions will not succeed in destroying the Austrian labor movement, and the fight against fascism will continue until its overthrow.

Falcons

Spurred on by the holding of a successful Falcon Guides' Convention in Cleveland the "Friends of Workers' Children" have announced a campaign to organize local FWC clubs in every locality where a Falcon Flight exists.

Each local and branch of the Socialist Party and sympathetic organizations is requested to elect a committee of three to organize a Friends of Workers' Children Club. The names of those elected to these committees should be sent immediately to Harry Fleischman, Director of the Friends of Workers' Children of America, 721 Moxley Building, Chicago, Illinois, who will send further information and material on building FWC clubs.