

Fake Unions Organized By Chinese War Lords

(Continued from Last Issue.)

By SOU CHAO-JEN.

In regard to the present condition of the trade unions, I have already reported to the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Secretariat about the history, development and achievements of our All-China Labor Federation, at the inaugural Conference in Hankow last May. You know of the beginnings of our movement, in 1919, and how, since the great strike movement of May 30, 1925, we have been the dominant force in the development of the Chinese Revolution. The four National Congresses of the All-China Labor Federation, 1922, 1925 and 1926 in Canton, and 1927 in Hankow, each marked a step forward in that development.

Fake Unions.

With the 1927 Congress, however, a new period has been entered. Our previous legal trade union houses have all been occupied by reactionary tools, so-called "Reorganization Committees" etc., appointed by, paid by, and responsible to the militarists, while we are driven underground.

The reactionary appointed leaders are mostly not workers, although they call themselves "executive committees" of the unions; some are military men, some are bourgeois intellectual mercenaries, and a few are renegade workers. They are directly under the orders of the Kuomintang. They tell the workers they are appointed by the government "to direct the trade unions in the interest of the national revolution." They collect dues forcibly, and use the military to arrest all who refuse to pay. The workers are invited to file their complaints against the employers with

these "executive committees" who say they will submit them to the Kuomintang for approval, but really they go to the employers, and use these demands to extort bribes from them. Then they tell the workers the Kuomintang has not approved their demands. Thus they get money three ways; salaries from the government dues from the workers, and bribes from the employers.

The War Lords.

Each militarist has his own set of "Reorganizing Committeemen" who fight each other as do their masters. Thus the "reorganization Committee" appointed in Canton by Li Chi-sen to take over the Seamen's Union, seized the union's funds, \$43,000 which were in the bank, and spent it. Li Chi-sen was driven out by Chang Fa-kwei, who set up a new "Reorganization Committee" which, without funds, had to find new schemes for squeeze; they collected by force \$6 from each of the Hongkong strikers who had just been given a bonus by the government in order to liquidate the strike. Now Li Chi-sen has come back to power, the second Reorganization Committee ran away with its new treasury, and a third set of "Reorganizers" is preparing new means of filling their pockets.

Act as Spies.

These "Reorganizing Committees" act everywhere as spies, turning over workers to the militarists to be executed, while they make paper records of so many thousands of workers in "their unions." But the workers are not in these "unions"; only a very few backward workers are sometimes fooled for a little while.