CONTENTS

FRAMING THE ZEIGLER COAL-DIGGERS—By Max Shachtman
A COMMUNIST TRIAL IN PITTSBURGH—By A. Jakira
FORD AND SUHR—By Austin Lewis
THE BRITISH COMMunist TRIAL—By T. J. O'Flaherty
RESCUING A PRISONER OF IMPERIALISM—By Manuel Gomez
BUILDING THE I. L. D.—By Rose Karsner
CONTENTS

FRAMING THE ZEIGLER COAL-DIGGERS—By Max Shachtman
A COMMUNIST TRIAL IN PITTSBURGH—By A. Jakira
FORD AND SUHR—By Austin Lewis
THE BRITISH COMMUNIST TRIAL—By T. J. O'Flaherty
RESCUING A PRISONER OF IMPERIALISM—By Manuel Gomez
BUILDING THE I. L. D.—By Rose Karsner
BUILDING THE I.L.D.

By ROSE KARSNER.

From New York City.

We divided our local into sections. In each section we are calling a meeting of the I. L. D. members of the branches. To make these meetings interesting and instructive, I will address each one of them, giving a report of the cases in the U. S. what the I. L. D. is doing to help the class war prisoners, and the latest news about the White Terror in other countries.

Mass meetings will be called in each section and the local office will supply leaflets and speakers.

A drive for new members has been started. Each branch has elected a committee of five to visit unions and other workers’ organizations in their section, to explain the aims of the I. L. D. and to appeal for individual dues-paying members, as well as for affiliation by the organization.

Thus far we have secured the affiliation of four local unions; four Workmen’s Circles and five fraternal organizations.

A large bazaar is planned for February 10-13, and the members and sympathizers of the I. L. D. branches are being mobilized for work. We have set $10,000 as our goal. With the help of the members of the I. L. D. and the sympathizing organizations there is no reason why we should not be able to achieve this.

We have held several extremely successful mass meetings and demonstrations which brought the I. L. D. to the attention of the mass of workers of New York City, though our organizational work has not proceeded as fast as it should have. We feel confident however, that after our mass meetings, street demonstrations and picketings of the Hungarian consulate and the American Sugar Company in connection with the Rakosi and Mella campaigns, the drive for new members will bring good results.

Rose Baron, New York City.

Help open the gates for our class war prisoners by subscribing to the Labor Defender.

Join the International Labor Defense. It defends class war prisoners regardless of affiliation.

EDITORIAL

“Brick by brick” the structure of International Labor Defense is going up. It is a slow job. A hard, and at times even a tedious job. But the work of building goes forward just the same, because the driving force behind it is the unshakable conviction in the cause for which the class-war prisoners have given their freedom—the right of the working class to organize and speak in its own interests.

A massive building is the result of the combined labor of hundreds of people, each worker an important contributor toward the accomplished whole. Thousands upon thousands of bricks, shooting upward toward the New York sky in any one of New York’s skyscrapers are held together by the multiplied labor power which was put into them by hundreds of individuals. Concrete proof of what can be done by systematized and organized effort.

Just so the I. L. D. shall be built. “Brick by brick” by hundreds of workers all over the country, each an important factor toward the accomplished whole. Forward, onward and upward we shall build until we have an organization firm, solid and inspiring. A real non-partisan mass organization with 500,000 individual dues-paying members and as many in collective membership! A living organization which breathes the spirit of labor’s fighters and martyrs all over the world. An organization which will be ever-ready and ever-willing to fight in the interest of those who are persecuted because of their activity in behalf of the working class. “Brick by brick” let us build. Devotedly, untringly, unceasingly, until we have reached our goal.

Forward to five hundred thousand individual dues-paying members!

Chicago Reports Progress.

Approximately 55 new members were reported for the month of November, and four new affiliations. This brings our individual membership up to well over 1550 and our collective membership to 3,300.

We held a successful bazaar December 10-13 and enclose $1,500.

Put us down for 2000 copies of the first issue of The Labor Defender. We will try to increase our order for next month.

Our shop branches are meeting with success. We have several cases where the branch was started with 4 or 5 and increased to 30 and 40 in a very short time. Some of our older branches, however, are progressing very slowly because the comrades are not energetic enough. Speakers are being sent to each one of them and we hope for better results in the very near future.

Our city committee meets regularly, and an itemized financial-report together with a bulletin giving the activities of the month and suggestions for conducting branch work is given to each delegate.

George Maurer, Chicago.

Peabody, Mass.

We were working hard before we got this money to pay your bill. Now here is enclosed your $250. This money was gotten for sale of pamphlets and dues stamps. And we promise not to stop working, but will go on along the line. We know the I. L. D. needs lots of money and power. So we are going to start mass meetings to spread the message and collect funds.

J. Humenuk, Peabody.

Cleveland Sends Money.

Enclosed find $250, the result of the Bishop Brown meeting. I hope that we will soon be able to send you some more for pamphlets and dues stamps. The branches are beginning to function, and we will be able to send you a better report soon.

Carl Hacker, Cleveland.

There are thousands of class conscious workers in capitalist jails throughout the world. Who said there is no capitalist dictatorship?
Framing the Zeigler Coal-Diggers

By MAX SHACTMAN.

Zeigler, and the section of the country it is in, is divided into two camps. A man is either with the miners who are fighting for their rights, or else he is a Klansman, a company tool, or a cog in the reactionary union machine. And the indictment of twenty union miners in Zeigler is the result of the latest skirmish between the two camps: The forces of reaction are for the moment at the top.

The men in Zeigler know what it is to fight. They have faced machine guns and the private armies of the company which are recruited from the drags of society; they were the one bright spot in the midst of a Ku Klux Klan controlled county; they are to this day a brave force fighting corruption and treason in the union which they built. The Leiter mines in Zeigler were the last to be organized into the United Mine Workers of Illinois. They were organized in the face of the most ruthless opposition on the part of Joe Leiter and his gangsters. The men still remember the spots where machine guns were mounted to mow them down, and where the searchlights shone to point them out to the gunmen and thugs who vainly held the mine against the union.

Now these men are in another fight. This time they face a united front of everything despicable and backward and reactionary in the life of the coal digger. The company which has robbed them of their wages, the Klan which tried to break up their union, the union machine which has betrayed them, which has power but no confidence, and the courts which are the tool of their enemies.

Everyone in Franklin County knows Henry Corbishly, the main defendant. They know of his participation in the famous campaigns which finally resulted in the unionization of the bitterly exploited Oklahomans miners. And they know that he is ready to fight for the miners at a moment's notice. That is why Henry Corbishly, and the men who have fought by his side, have been framed up in Zeigler.

Local No. 992, of which Corbishly was the president until he was ousted by the kept sub-district officials, reflected its progressive spirit in a progressive leadership. These officials demanded that their checkweighman be permitted to have the assistant, who is called for in the by-kiddies, a little more comfort in the miserable company shacks they inhabit. And that is why they struck the mine in spontaneous mass when the checkweighman announced that he was unable to weigh coal any more under the system the company was enforcing and after they had refused to let his assistant enter the mine.

The rest of the story is a flash of labor history. Corbishly successfully urged them to return to work, while the sub-district officials adjusted their grievances with the company. The sub-district officials, across the usual conference table where it is more convenient to be a good fellow with the company men than it is to fight for the miners, settled the dispute—by agreeing to all of the company's demands. A special union meeting is called. The enraged miners refused to accede to the officials' ukases. They politely decline to oust their local officers in whom they have confidence and the meeting is adjourned in the face of Messrs. Lon Fox and Del Cobb et al. What happens then is thus told by an eyewitness:

A Klansman strikes the aged miner, Farthing, to the floor. His son comes to his aid and a general scrap begins. Mr. Cobb pulls a blackjack and attempts to convince those around him with this very "strong" argument. The miners end the dangerous argument with the same type of reasoning and Mr. Cobb, the vice-president of the sub-district, is soon the occupant of a hospital cot. Then, from the doorway, a discredited Klansman, Alec Hargis, fires the shot which killed Mike Sarovich and wounds one of the reactionaries.

Is Hargis under trial for murder? Is Cobb held for assault with intent to murder? Not for a minute. The coroner's jury hands down a certificate of death in which Hargis is
Alex Hargis seated in the center. Dom Radison standing at the extreme right who declares he saw Hargis fire the shot that killed Mike Sarovich. Radison so testified at the coroner’s inquest, also before the grand jury.
charged with the murder. But for what reason has our admirable American juridical system a grand jury if not to listen to honest evidence against a foe of labor with the aloofness and deafness of a Buddhist idol?

Instead of Hargis, Frank Corbishly, a brother of the local president, who was far away from the fight when it was on, is indicted for the murder. Instead of Cobb being held, he swears out warrants against a score of men charging them with conspiracy and assault with the intent to murder.

Corbishly and three of the progressive leaders are suspended from the union for six months, with the proviso that they cannot hold union office for two years. Cobb and Fox, who were in truth beaten in the last union election by Corbishly and his friends, now rest easy with the knowledge that their sincerest and strongest opponents are out of the way. To make sure of it, the fat treasury which they hold under their thumbs, is put at the disposal of the state prosecution, which is very obligingly supplemented by lawyers who are paid by the United Mine Workers of America. The defendants thus have the consolation of knowing that it is not with the money of an outsider that they are being prosecuted, but with the money which they themselves sent into the coffers of the union.

There is not a man in that section of Illinois who will not tell you that this is a frame up; and those who are not men are just as likely as not to admit it when they are drunk. It is not a very clever frame up; it lacks the fine touches which usually accompany cases of this kind; it was worked out by men who are crude and unscrupulous.

But crude things go in Zeigler. The other camp is powerful in that section of the country, and its means are almost unlimited. So it is not squeamish about fine points and delicate maneuvers. Crude or not they have every intention of railroad these twenty men to prison, and Frank Corbishly to the gallows. They are animated by their own desperation and such things as honor, truth, justice, and union solidarity are merely unimportant details which they have never known.

There is not a labor case known to history where there have not been found men whose spine is a streak of greed, and who are ready to swear to the high heavens that white is black. Zeigler is no exception. There will be many such individuals at the disposal of the prosecution. The scores of witnesses for the defense they intend to counteract with spreadeagle speeches about the stainless honor of the stars and stripes, the inviolability of the constitution and the fair name of Franklin County with special reference to the dirty foreigners and abominable Bolsheviks who are on trial for their liberty.

The trial which was postponed at the last session of court, opens on February 2, 1926. There have been cases heretofore in American labor history of workers on trial thru frame ups by the capitalist class and its legal institutions, frame ups against workers for exercising their right to personal and political opinions, free speech and assemblage. But this case is unique in that it involves the right of workers to hold opinions in their own labor organizations, their right to fight for honest policies for the union to follow in its bitter struggles with the employers and the nightgowned enemy, the K. K. K.

The Zeigler men have fought a lone fight for quite some time. They are ready to continue this fight so long as they are able. Noble courage and admirable persistence have characterized their efforts up till now. Their danger calls loudly to the rest of the American workers for swift and generous aid.
The Burial of Mike Sarovich.
The Bell and Zoller Mine.
A Communist Trial in Pittsburgh

By A. JAKIRA.

"Guilty on Counts Seven and Eight; Not guilty, on the first Six Counts." Such was the verdict of the jury in the case of Edward Horacek, a member of the Workers Party, after a "trial" which started in Pittsburgh, November 30th and ended December 4th.

To those familiar with the role of the Steel Trust in the class struggle the verdict was not a surprise. But the court room was crowded with hundreds of workers who still had faith in capitalist justice. These workers were eagerly watching the proceedings in the court and would not for a moment concede a verdict of "guilty" was at all possible—so plain was the case in favor of the defendant and against the over-eager preservers of "law and order." To these workers the verdict came as a shock.

To an experienced eye a glance at the jury box was sufficient to determine what the verdict would be even before the farce of a trial started. Pittsburgh is the heart of the American steel industry. Here, in Pittsburgh and the suburban towns, where the jury was "picked" from, hundreds of thousands of steel workers, coal diggers and other industrial workers live and toil. Yet, among the twelve men and women in the box, there was not a single one who could be classified as an industrial worker. There was the preacher, the real estate man, the two old "retired" gentlemen and the two old ladies; there was the foreman in a large factory and the wife of a manufacturer. But a brakeman, a coal miner, and a young salesgirl were rejected by the prosecution for no other reason than being members of the working class.

A number of department of justice agents testified how they broke into the defendant's apartment at two o'clock in the morning while he was asleep, apparently dreaming seditious dreams. Henry J. Lennon, the star witness for the prosecution and the "expert" on Communism, began his testimony by stating that he never met the defendant, but heard of him as a "dangerous agitator." But when the defense showed that Horacek never in his life addressed a public meeting, never wrote an article, the same little sneak, Lennon, forgetting his previous testimony, testified that he met Horacek at numerous meetings and lectures and knew Horacek for years and years. The contradiction was plainly established by the defense. But what matters a little discrepancy like this!

The other "star witness" for the prosecution told a lie after all. The judge, however, found an excuse for this—"She is trying to save her reputation," he said, when the cross-examination became rather hot.

Horacek was found guilty for being a member of the Workers Party and for distributing, in 1923, Workers Party literature. The judge, in his instruction to the jury, was compelled to make it clear that no overt act was committed by the defendant, but that it was merely a question of membership in the Workers Party. It was brought out that the Workers Party was a legally recognized political party in the State of Pennsylvania, that it was duly registered with the proper government authorities. It was established that defendant's name was on the ballot during the presidential elections in 1924. Yet, the verdict was "guilty."

The question of "literature" was the biggest joke in the court room from the very beginning to the very end. The main "crime" of the defendant consisted in receiving a
bundle of the party's program and "Liberators" in 1923, shortly before the arrests in Pittsburgh took place. The program was read in full to the jury by the attorney for the defense.

No copy of the Liberator, which, by the way, had second class mail privileges, was produced. None of the jury men ever saw a copy. No article of the Liberator was read to show that it was seditious. The only "evidence" produced was a bill for fifty copies sent to Horacek by the Liberator Publishing Company. "You see," raved the District Attorney waving the bill before the jury, "you see, gentlemen and ladies of the jury, 50 copies of this, so-called, Liberator, was sent to this defendant; fifty copies, mind you!" The old gentlemen and ladies of the jury nodded their heads, their minds were all made up. Yes, what other evidence was needed? The bill for 50 copies of the Liberator is right in the hands of the District Attorney, what else is needed? What matters if the Liberator was, in 1923, a semi-liberal, semi-artistic magazine with second class mail privileges and sold on newsstands and bookstores in practically every city of this country! Yet, this bill played the main part in finding Horacek "guilty." It was not even established that he really received the bundle or that he distributed any copies of this horrible "Liberator." The bill was sufficient for the jury to make up their old minds.

Who is this horrible "red" who was found "guilty"? A draftsman by trade, a member of the machinists union, naturalized citizen since 1908, a resident of Pittsburgh since 1912, well educated, employed in one of the largest establishments of this country. No overt act was committed by him, ruled the judge. Yet he was found "guilty." Guilty, for what? For being a member of the working class; one who has brains enough to think and courage enough to fight for the interests of his class. For this "crime" his home was raided, his personal belongings—designs, plans of a new invention—stolen in the name of "law and order" by representatives of the State; a farce of a trial was granted to him. He was found "guilty" and may be sentenced to spend the next twenty years of his life behind prison bars.

BIRTHDAYS OF CLASS WAR PRISONERS: DO NOT FORGET THEM!

February 5th—Frank Sherman, San Quentin, Calif.
February 6th—Leo Stack, Folsom, Represa, Calif.
February 11th—Wilso Rundquist, Thomaston, Me.
February 13th—P. J. Gordon, Folsom Prison, Folsom, Calif.
Feb. 15—Matthew Schmidt, San Quentin, Calif.
Feb. 21—Frank Nash, Walla Walla, Wash.
Feb. 26—Earl Firey, Folsom, Represa, Calif.

Bela Kun Speaks on Rakosi Trial.

Moscow.—Bela Kun, head of the short-lived Soviet government of Hungary, in an article published in Pravda, declared that the first stage in the fight to save Rakosi had been won, but that all danger was not averted by any means. Transference of the trial from the military to the civil court does not mean that Horvath has relented in his desire to execute one of the leaders of the Hungarian working class.

Kun attributes the transference of legal processes to an ordinary court to the following factors: the pressure exercised by the Hungarian workers and peasants upon the Hungarian government; the unexampled solidarity of the international working class and the split in the ranks of the Hungarian ruling class.
At Left: Thomas Myerscough, Defendant taken with Alex Howat, Kansas mine leader
Ford and Suhr

By AUSTIN LEWIS.

The rearrest of Richard Ford immediately after his release on parole from Folsom prison, California, where he served nearly twelve years, draws fresh attention to one of the most glaring frame-ups that the state of California—infamous for its anti-labor conspiracies—has ever been guilty of.

Here is the story, briefly told, of Richard Ford and Herman Suhr in connection with the events that sent them to a living death in one of the prison hells of California:

On August 3rd, 1913, 2,300 hop-pickers, men, women and children of every race and creed, protested against the low wages and unsanitary conditions maintained on the Durst ranch at Wheatland. Ralph Durst invited a committee of hop pickers to meet him. When they came to his office he discharged the leaders before they had spoken and then slapped Richard Ford, spokesman, in the face with his gloves.

This was Durst’s answer to a peace conference, which he had invited. After this insult to the committee, Durst jumped behind his armed guard and sent a call for a sheriff’s posse.

When they arrived Durst and the officers commanded the peaceful gathering to disperse and one of the officers fired his revolver. Several guns then began to spout and inside of fifteen minutes four men were dead and half a dozen wounded.

Richard Ford, Herman Suhr, Nels Nelson, Harry Bagan, Edward Malouf and J. Beck were charged with the murder of E. B. Manwell, then district attorney of Yuba county, and deputy sheriff Eugene Reardon. The other two slain men were unidentified hop pickers who fell before the fire of the district attorney’s gunmen. Of course they were only workers and California “justice” was not interested in bringing their murderers to trial.

After Ford and his comrades were arrested they were subjected to inhuman torture. William J. Burns sent his choicest “operatives” to practice their art on these helpless workers. Suhr was tortured in his cell until he attempted suicide in his delirium. While in Alameda County jail, where he was not permitted to see his friends or an attorney, he was forcibly kept awake for four days and nights.

The prosecutors even refused the prisoners the right of having counsel until threatened with legal action. The same kind of pressure was necessary to eject a Burns detective from the cell in which Suhr was detained.

The persecution of those workers was so raw that the California state Federation of Labor, anything but partial to the I. W. W. of which Ford and Suhr were members stated officially: “Every effort has been made to prejudice and force a verdict against poor, helpless migratory workers, gathered by police and detective authority, thrown into dungeons and exposed to the aggravating abuse of Burns detectives with the hope of forcing them to give lying evidence at the farcical trials soon to be staged.”

Ford and Suhr were charged with the murder of district attorney Edmund T. Manwell, and convicted. They were not accused of actually killing him. No attempt was made to show that either of them ever carried a gun. There was no claim on the part of the prosecution that either of them committed any act of violence. It was not even urged that they had advocated violence. Yet they were convicted and the convic-
Ford and Suhr

By AUSTIN LEWIS.

The rearrest of Richard Ford immediately after his release on parole from Folsom prison, California, where he served nearly twelve years, draws fresh attention to one of the most glaring frame-ups that the state of California—infamous for its anti-labor conspiracies—has ever been guilty of.

Here is the story, briefly told, of Richard Ford and Herman Suhr in connection with the events that sent them to a living death in one of the prison hells of California:

On August 3rd, 1913, 2,500 hop-pickers, men, women and children of every race and creed, protested against the low wages and unsanitary conditions maintained on the Durst ranch at Wheatland. Ralph Durst invited a committee of hop pickers to meet him. When they came to his office he discharged the leaders before they had spoken and then slapped Richard Ford, spokesman, in the face with his gloves.

This was Durst's answer to a peaceful conference, which he had invited. After this insult to the committee, Durst jumped behind his armed guard and sent a call for a sheriff's posse.

When they arrived Durst and the officers commanded the peaceful gathering to disperse and one of the officers fired his revolver. Several guns then began to spit and inside of fifteen minutes four men were dead and half a dozen wounded.

Richard Ford, Herman Suhr, Nels Nelson, Harry Bagan, Edward Malouf and J. Beck were charged with the murder of E. B. Manwell, then district attorney of Yuba county, and deputy sheriff Eugene Reardon. The other two slain men were unidentified hop pickers who fell before the fire of the district attorney's gunmen. Of course they were only workers and California "justice" was not interested in bringing their murderers to trial.

After Ford and his comrades were arrested they were subjected to inhuman torture. William J. Burns sent his choicest "operatives" to practice their art on these helpless workers. Suhr was tortured in his cell until he attempted suicide in his delirium. While in Alameda County jail, where he was not permitted to see his friends or an attorney, he was forcibly kept awake for four days and nights.

The prosecutors even refused the prisoners the right of having counsel until threatened with legal action. The same kind of pressure was necessary to eject a Burns detective from the cell in which Suhr was detained.

The persecution of those workers was so raw that the California state Federation of Labor, anything but partial to the I. W. W. of which Ford and Suhr were members stated officially: "Every effort has been made to prejudice and force a verdict against poor, helpless migratory workers, gathered by police and detective authority, thrown into dungeons and exposed to the aggravating abuse of Burns detectives with the hope of forcing them to give lying evidence at the far-cical trials soon to be staged."

Ford and Suhr were charged with the murder of district attorney Edmund T. Manwell, and convicted. They were not accused of actually killing him. No attempt was made to show that either of them ever carried a gun. There was no claim on the part of the prosecution that either of them committed any act of violence. It was not even urged that they had advocated violence. Yet they were convicted and the convic-

A WIFE'S APPEAL.
Help us, mothers, sisters, daughters of the land to get Herman back to his once happy home. He and Dick Ford have been singled out for punishment because through their cases the conditions on the California ranches for laborers were exposed. That is their only crime. Help bring him back to usefulness.

Matilda Suhr.
not commit the actual killing of said Manwell, but said death was caused by a gunshot wound in the course of an affray between a sheriff’s posse and a crowd of strikers in the month of August, 1913.

2. That though the said Herman D. Suhr was engaged in the said strike it does not appear that he ever countenanced violence, and he was the victim of the unfortunate and unusual circumstances connected with the said strike and the conditions on the Durst ranch.

3. That public feeling was much inflamed at the time of the said trial.

4. That nearly eleven years have passed since the conviction and sentence of Herman D. Suhr and it appears that no detriment can be suffered by his pardon."

The names of twelve jurymen in the case are attached to this document. The name of Ford does not appear as the attempt to secure a pardon for Suhr was at that time being made independently.

Yet so firmly is the government of the state of California in the clutches of the labor-hating capitalists that Suhr is still languishing in prison and Ford is again in the toils.

Finally the prison board released Ford on parole. But no sooner did he step outside the doors of Folsom prison than he was again arrested on a warrant charging him with the death of Deputy Sheriff Eugene Reardon, a warrant secured by the son of E. T. Manwell, who says he has sworn to revenge his father’s death. He is now district attorney for Yuba County—the job his father held when he went to the Durst ranch in 1913 to intimidate the hop pickers.

Ford’s persecutors vow that he will swing this time. What will class-conscious workers of America say about it?

The story of the two-weeks’ campaign for the release of Julio Antonio Mella takes us from Cuba to the United States and from Mexico to Argentina. It is a story of international struggle in behalf of the victims of American imperialism with a U. S. ambassador placed directly in their service by the state department and a Latin-American president as their servile tool. The campaign was led jointly by the All-American Anti-Imperialist League and International Labor Defense. That it ended in victory is a tribute to the remarkable solidarity that is growing up among all the oppressed peoples of the American continent, together with the working class in the United States.

Mella was arrested at Havana, Cuba, on December 5, on a framed-up charge which every newspaper in Cuba declared to be ridiculous. Eleven prominent Havana labor leaders were arrested with him. The charge was setting off a number of small bombs in front of factories and public buildings. Despite the fact that the men were arrested under a Cuban law at the orders of a Cuban president, they must and have been considered as American class-war prisoners. They are victims of American imperialism. Their real prosecutors are (for the eleven labor leaders are still in jail and Mella’s case is by no means over) the American sugar trust, the National City Bank of New York and the imperialist government of Wall Street and Washington.
Cuba has been called "the sugar bowl of the world." The island produces three-fourths of all the cane sugar of the world. And the extremely lucrative sugar industry—and with it the entire structure of Cuban economic life—is owned from top to bottom by American capital. Nominally an independent republic, Cuba is in fact a protectorate of American imperialism. The so-called Platt amendment to Cuba's constitution, put there through a treaty forced upon the island by the United States, gives the U.S. government the "right" to interfere in Cuban affairs at will. 'Ambassador Crowder dictates every turn of governmental policy. President Machado, whose fraudulent election was secured with the help of the sugar interests, eagerly obeys. Several months ago a reign of terror was initiated on the island. Foreigners and even native Cubans who had given expression to "anti-American sentiments" were rounded up and deported. Labor unions were destroyed. The National University, considered altogether too liberal, was threatened with being closed down. The explanation of epidemics of this sort in Cuba is usually to be found in sugar, and the present one was no exception. An economic crisis was developing, caused by the low price of sugar, the burden of which the companies tried to shift upon the shoulders of the "colonos." The "colonos" accordingly refused to cut cane. A great strike broke out in which the military was called into play, many sugar workers being forced to labor at the point of the bayonet. Every attempt to organize the sugar workers more effectively was hindered by the venal Machado government. No less than 44 orders of arrest were issued by President Machado at the dictation of the sugar interests in Havana alone. Only 12 of the 44 were apprehended however, chief among them being Julio Antonio Mella.

Bail was refused, President Machado declaring that the prisoners would be kept in jail in the face of all opposition. Mella immediately began his 19-day hunger strike in protest against American imperialist methods in Cuba.

The arrests caused an intensification of anti-imperialist feeling throughout Cuba. Protests were raised on all sides, particularly on the part of workers' and students' organizations. As soon as bail was denied the prisoners, the acting secretary of the Cuban section of the All-America Anti-Imperialist League cabled all details of the case to the central headquarters of the league. The league immediately cabled its protest to President Machado and to Ambassador Crowder, placing full blame upon the shoulders of American imperialism and demanding the release of the prisoners. Cables were also sent to labor and anti-imperialist organizations in all parts of Latin-America.

There was instant response. The struggle to free Mella aroused large sections of the population throughout Latin-America. The senate of Mexico adopted a resolution of protest. The city council of Buenos Aires did likewise. Meanwhile, in the home country of American imperialism itself, the U.S. section of the All-America Anti-Imperialist League pursued the campaign, securing the important aid of International Labor Defense. International Labor Defense sent out telegrams to various centers. On a few days' notice anti-imperialist protest meetings, under the joint auspices of the All-America Anti-Imperialist League and International Labor Defense were arranged for all important cities of the country. In Chicago, a protest meeting was held at Northwest Hall on Dec. 13. In New York, 150 workers picketed the offices of the American Sugar Refining Co., with banners reading: "Wall Street Is Stifling the Cuban Labor Movement," "If Mella Dies on Wall Street Lies the Guilt," "The Sugar Trust Is Keeping Cuban Workers Enslaved." By no means inconsiderable were the workers in this country who took up the issue, realizing that the anti-imperialist struggle is simply a phase of their own struggle against American capitalism.

The campaign to free Mella resulted in such pressure from all sides that President Machado, servant of Wall Street though he is, could no longer resist. An Associated Press dispatch declares that "requests for the release of Mella had been sent to President Machado from throughout Latin-America, the United States and Europe." Mella was released under $1,000 bail, on Dec. 23.

However, the real battle is just beginning. The eleven others who were arrested with Mella are still behind prison bars, and the cases against all twelve will soon be coming up in the court.
Members of I. L. D. picketing offices of American Sugar Refining Co. in New York.
The British Communist Trial

By T. J. O'Flaherty.

After one of the most sensational political trials in the history of Great Britain, twelve leaders of the British Communist movement were found guilty by a jury in the famous Old Bailey of London.

Five of the twelve having been previously convicted of political offenses, were sentenced to twelve months each. They are: Albert Inkpin, clerk, secretary of the Communist Party of Great Britain since its formation; William Gallacher, brass finisher; Harry Pollitt, boilermaker; Walter Hannington, engineer; William Charles Rust, secretary of the Young Communist League.

Those sentenced to six months each are: Arthur MacManus, engineer; Thomas Bell, ironmould er; John Thomas Murphy, engineer; John Ross Campbell; shop assistant; Robert Page Arnot, secretary and research worker; Thomas Henry Wintringham, law student; Ernest Walter Cant, commercial chemist.

The Communists were tried under the Incitement to Mutiny Act, passed in 1797. It has been used only twice since then.

In June, 1797, William Pitt introduced a bill in the house of commons for the better prevention and punishment of all attempts to incite sedition and mutiny in His Majesty's forces.

The government of that day was frightened by discontent in the navy which reached its climax in the mutiny at the Nore, when the seamen went into open rebellion against the government, as a result of the intolerable conditions they were forced to live under. Richard Parker, leader of the striking sailors, was hanged at the yardarm after the government quelled the revolt. Many of the sailors active in the agitation were banished to the hulks—the floating prisons of Britain.

This act was next used against the trade union movement in 1834. On March 1st of that year, six agricultural laborers were arrested and tried on a charge of having combined to secure wages at the rate of seven shillings per week, less than two dollars.

On that occasion the judge said: "If such societies were allowed to exist, it would ruin masters and destroy property, and if they (the jury) should not find the prisoners guilty, they would forfeit the good opinion of the grand jury."

Replying for the prisoners, George Loveless said: "We have injured no man's reputation, character, person, or property; we were uniting to preserve ourselves, our wives and children, from utter degradation and starvation."

When sentencing the laborers, the judge said: "That not for anything they had done or intended to do, but as an example to others, he considered it his duty to pass the sentence of seven years' transportation across His Majesty's high seas upon 'each and every one of the prisoners.'"

And the prosecuting attorney in the trial of the Communists 91 years later, declared "that it mattered nothing if the immediate methods were in themselves legal" the jury should convict them because their propaganda tended to bring about a situation which would end in civil war.

Moritz Loeb Convicted.

Moritz J. Loeb, business manager of The DAILY WORKER, was tried in Crown Point, Indiana, during the first week in January on a charge of having violated the criminal anarchy law of that state in the course of a May Day speech delivered by him in Gary, in 1923. The judge declared Loeb guilty and fined him $100.

The case against Peter Omelian, arrested with Loeb was dismissed.

Tell your fellow wage slave about the 106 workers who are in American jails because of their loyalty to their class. Then ask him to subscribe to the Labor Defender.
Blue Ridge Farm,  
Nebly, Texas.

Dear Comrade:

I am giving answer to your letter in which I received your letter and a five dollar check.

And I see where you tell me that the I. L. D. is growing more and more every day for which I am very glad, and hope that you might have more success on the I. L. D.

My dear comrade, you tell me in your letter that if I felt like the outside world hadn’t forgotten me. Of course not. I am just proud of having a helper from the outside world.

Here I enclose my letter, Land and Liberty.

F. S.—I received your monthly magazine, the Labor Defender.

San Quentin Prison.

My dear Cannon:

Your kind and welcome letter with check for five dollars received. I also signed up for a twenty-five dollar check. No doubt from the Defense, many thanks. You wind up your letter by stating, “as soon as our income permits it, we will increase the monthly contribution to you.” I don’t see why it should be increased. It is dangerous; you will have all the Christians breaking into prison if you are going to pay them for it; the money should be used in another direction.

By all means you should have a fund at hand at all times so that when you need it you will have it. I say cut down, not increase. When the poor old working stiff gets through paying for his living, he has nothing left; why should we have anything left?

I hope you understand me and I wish the International Labor Defense all the good in the land.

—One of Labor’s shock troops waiting for the Armistice.

J. P. Cannon,  
San Quentin, Calif.

Fellow worker:

The “Plebs” book arrived in good condition, but I could not acknowledge receipt of same sooner, because circumstances prohibited it.

Put us on the “route” for the Labor Defender, also the Monthly Reports, if any issued.

Yours for the Earth—

Huntsville, Texas.

Dear comrade and friend:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your favor under date of 22nd, enclosing check for $5.00.

I am indeed very grateful to my fellow comrades for this consideration and I feel and fully realize that the outside world has not forgotten my existence.

I am in hope that this will be my last year in prison.

Wishing you a happy and prosperous new year, I am sincerely yours—

Thomaston, Me.

Dear Comrade:

I wish to thank you for recent remittance of five dollars, for which please accept my thanks.

I sincerely hope and trust that the new year will bring success to you in all your undertakings.

With best wishes for a happy and prosperous new year.

I remain,

Yours fraternally—

Class Persecution in Other Countries

Czechoslovakia.

Even in the democratic haven of Czechoslovakia, presided over by the European edition of the late Woodrow Wilson, Mr. Masaryk, the workers are subjected to persecution. The Communist Zapotocky has been sentenced to a year and a half of hard labor. Filip, district secretary of the Communist Party in Goedding, was sentenced to one year hard labor. Comrade Seidler and his wife were both expelled from the republic. In order to hinder the communists from participating in the forthcoming election the government has instituted proceedings against practically every communist editor in Czechoslovakia. The workers are scratching their heads and wondering what they gained by being “free and independent.”

The Rade Prava, organ of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia reported that since December, 1920, forty-three workers were killed and over 150 seriously injured through political terror of the capitalists. In numerous trials over seven thousand years of hard labor were imposed on the accused.

Holland Piles the Lash.

In the Dutch colonies the white terror rages. It rages against the black and brown slaves of the Dutch exploiters. The small capitalist nation that is threatened with disaster by the tides and must perform as the handmaiden of the big powers if it is to live, squeezes profits out of the bodies of its colonial subjects while the bayonets of her soldiers urge the poor coolies on. Seven communists were arrested in the island of Sumatra. The people, who look upon the Communists as their defenders, tried to free the prisoners. A communist member in the Dutch parliament raised a question about the oppressive measures carried out in the colonies. Holland is prolific in pacifists and social-democrats who demand the abolition of the army and navy. It seems that Holland still keeps enough bayonets to carve the anatomy of its exploited slaves when they try to resist.

In Dauet's Germany.

In the prison of Grafentonna, Thuringia, two women of 62 and 65 years of age have been sentenced to long terms of imprisonment because they participated in a hunger demonstration in the inflation period and took away some food in order to satisfy their hunger.

La Belle France.

“France! Glorious France!” our war maniacs used to shout before President Wilson was finally induced by the Court of St. James and the House of Morgan to go forth on his mission to free the world from mil-
itarism. Those were the days when France had but to extend her itching palm and withdraw it with a burden of American dollars. Anybody who would even hint at French delinquency, financial or moral, in those days was liable to find himself picking feathers out his tar or scratching himself in a lousy jail cell. But those days are gone and France is now, instead of “defending civilization from the Beast of Berlin,” blasting hell out of defenseless people in Morocco and Syria, and wrestling with Andy Mellon over her debts.

In France those who have raised their voices against this barbarous conduct are in prison. Most of them are communists. Many of them served in the “war to make the world safe for democracy” and they say they’ll be damned if they see anything high or noble in dropping bombs on women and children and stealing their patrimony from the natives whose people have inhabited the land for a thousand years.

In the Antipodes.

There once was a time when Australia stood as high as Switzerland in the favor of a certain type of radical—happily now extinct or on some bourgeois payroll. It was the land of the free if not the home of the brave. The Antipodean capitalist was a tiger without claws, a skunk without odor. But alas, alas, the leopard did change his spots. The Australian exploiter turns out to be like the rest of them and we are afraid that our Australian brothers must confer the royal order of the hobnailed boot on the rascal. This is what we learn about recent events in Australia and we can only give you a bird’s eye view of only the struggle of the seamen:

Hundreds of seamen were arrested all over Australia for refusing to accept the five pounds a month decrease in their wages accepted in their name without consulting them, by the human barnacle, Haveck Wilson, president of the Seamen’s Union of Great Britain and Ireland. The writer never met a seaman who would not gladly see Wilson dangling from a yard arm but there he is as crooked as the spigot of a bathtub and as loyal to the employers as a poodle dog is to a Fifth Avenue concubine.

Fortunately for the Australian seamen the labor movement there has more backbone than wishbone and the shipping magnates are getting all that is coming to them. Space does not permit us to tell all the news about the persecutions in Australia, but the jails there as elsewhere seem to be built for the workers by the workers.

Poland.

The political prisoners in Lemberg prison have gone on a hunger strike in protest against the intolerable conditions which were forced upon them. They suffering agony the prison authorities decided to transport the hunger strikers to the bastille at Vronki which is notorious throughout Europe as a place of torture.

Yugoslavia.

Four hundred workers and peasants, members of the Communist Party, were recently arrested in Yugoslavia. Fifty persons will be tried for high treason and for the infringement of the law for the safety of the state. Twenty years of hard labor or death is the penalty for conviction on this charge.

In China.

The military authorities in Shanghai have issued an order making it obligatory for all trade unions with more than one hundred members to be dissolved within three days. Members of the trade unions were arrested and incarcerated in military prisons. They are liable to be shot. The Chinese authorities have offered a reward of 10,000 dollars for the arrest of the chairman of the trade union council, Li-Li-Sjan. It is said that the money is furnished by the British government.
Cell Block at Leavenworth.
Capitalist Justice in Bulgaria.
THE LABOR DEFENDER
23 South Lincoln Street, Chicago, Illinois.
Subscription $1.00 a year.

Enclosed $ for months subscription to:

Name

Address

City

State

TOTAL $13.570.21

Subscribe To the Labor Defender

Do you want the International Labor Defense to grow, to be the great "behind-the-lines" workers organization that it can, must and will be?

YOU do. Well then, are you a Labor Defense booster? Are you a subscriber to the "Labor Defender," are you getting copies of it into the hands of your fellow workers, and getting them to subscribe?

THE "Labor Defender" is the propaganda arm of I. L. D. It is an attractive, well illustrated, live monthly magazine which will interest any worker and which is low enough in price that all can afford it.

THE Labor Defender is just what the name implies—the shield of the workers who have become casualties in the class war. It is the voice of all victims of capitalism in jail, persecuted or under prosecution, for their loyalty to the workers.

Do your part to give volume to this voice. With your help it will rally the workers for the battle to open the prison gates and free their labor fighters.

It is up to YOU to make the Labor Defender a powerful weapon to help open the jail gates and free Mooney and Billings, Ford and Suhr, Sacco and Vanzetti, the Centralia Wobblies in Walla Walla and the many other I. W. W.'s. Communists and members of other working class organizations who are waging their lives in prison; to fight to save the Zeigler miners and others from prison in this country and to fight against the bloody terror under which scores of thousands of workers and peasants in capitalist Europe and Asia suffer dungeon and death because of their struggle for the working class.

Do your part! Subscribe! Distribute the Labor Defender widely. Get subscriptions!
ZIEGLER

On August 10th, the Zeigler miners working in the Bell and Zoller Mine No. 1 refused to go to work because the company would not permit the assistant to the check-weighman whom their union had put on, to continue with his duties, and because, at the demand of the company, the agents of Frank Farrington removed Henry Corbishley, president of Local 992, from office. This local, because of its progressive policies, has always been a thorn in the side of the coal operators.

On August 11th, a special meeting of Local 992 was called. A wagon load of members of the Ku Klux Klan were brought into the meeting. A fight occurred. During the fight, Mike Sarovich, a supporter of Henry Corbishley, was shot and killed. For this 26 members belonging to the progressive group of the union were charged with "conspiracy to murder."

Alex Hargis was held on the murder charge, but he was later released, and the charge is now pinned on to Frank Corbishley, a brother of Henry Corbishley. He is in grave danger of being railroaded to the gallows.

Prosecution against eleven of the 26 was dropped. Fifteen of them face long terms of imprisonment; also Ed. Wise, on a separate indictment framed up on him October 5th. He was elected the new president of Local 992 on October 3rd.

The case came to trial on November 30th and was postponed to February 2nd. Two local attorneys are in charge and the International Labor Defense, together with the Franklin County Defense Committee, is financing the expense.

We have already spent more than $1,500. Much more is necessary for February 2nd.

PITTSBURGH

On April 27, 1923, a squad of federal agents, state policemen and county detectives descended upon the headquarters of the Workers Party in Pittsburgh, ransacking the office, confiscating checks and creating general disturbance. As a result of this raid and another that took place the following night, 10 workers were arrested.

All were indicted on charges of violation of the state sedition law. The case came to trial on November 30, 1925.

Fred. Merrick (one of the ten) pleaded "no defense" and resigned from the Workers Party. He received a 10-year parole.

Edward J. Horacek was the first of the remaining nine in the case to be tried. He was found guilty on two counts—"distribution of literature and membership in an organization tending to teach sedition." He is out on renewed bail, and the case is being further appealed. Much, of course, depends on the final outcome of Horacek's trial.

International Labor Defense sent a Chicago lawyer down to make the fight for the right of workers to freely meet and discuss problems and their right to organize in their own interest. Together with the local lawyer, he will continue the fight when the case comes up again.

Funds are urgently needed.

Rally to the Defense of Zeigler and Pittsburgh!

Help defend free speech and assemblage and the rights of workers to organize in their own interest at Pittsburgh, and the rights of workers to maintain their progressive blocs at Zeigler.

INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE

23 South Lincoln Street, Chicago, Ill.