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BUILDING THE I. L. D.

The I. L. D. aims to draw to its banner in united action the large mass of workers who recognize the need of developing a weapon against capitalist persecution, and who are willing to work together for this goal regardless of their political or industrial opinions and affiliations.

To accomplish this is a big task which must be attacked from several different angles at the same time. No one way is sufficient.

Mass meetings in protest of some fighting issue in behalf of the working class is one of the best means of reaching the large mass of workers and exploited farmers. But our own membership must put life into these meetings. They must consider it their duty to attend.

The lethargic mass of people who are not pitched to the high tension of class activity which our own membership is, can be easily enthused. They respond very readily to spirited conviction. We must show our conviction—not merely have it. We must show to the mass of workers that we are earnest about our conviction to make the I. L. D. a powerful weapon in behalf of class-war prisoners and their dependents.

ATTEND YOUR MASS PROTEST MEETINGS!

Don't be afraid to talk to your neighbors in the factory, explaining the aims of the I. L. D. Give them some of our literature. Get them to join.

Get your neighbor to join.

Present resolutions in your union and fraternal organization calling for support of the I. L. D. Get your organization to affiliate with the I. L. D. Sell the Labor Defender.

After you have gotten members, concentrate on making your Branch meeting interesting. Make it a point to have someone talk on one of the I. L. D. issues at each meeting. Plan activities for the Branch which will give work to many of the new members, and at the same time help to bring in more members.

Attack the problem of broadening out the I. L. D. from all angles. Local and Branch Secretaries should concentrate especially on the work in the unions and fraternal organizations. Don't ever miss an opportunity to have one of our members speak about the special trials which I. L. D. is defending at his or her union meeting. Also send speakers out.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Walter Trumbull, released from Alcatraz Prison February 5th, where he leaves Paul Crouch for another two years if we do not put up a strong enough protest and a demand for his release, will tour the country for the I. L. D. All Branches and Locals have been informed about this and requests for dates are coming in fast.

Paul Crouch was offered his freedom provided he would agree to renounce the principles for which he was imprisoned. Crouch and Trumbull were both arrested because of their efforts to organize a Young Communist League in Hawaii, while in military barracks.

Trumbull will have a special message from Crouch. Don't fail to hear it.

Ella Reeves Bloor is out on an organizing tour for the I. L. D. spending several days in cities were special help is needed. She will be in Chicago February 27th and spend some time down in southern Illinois among the miners. Comrade Bloor is an "honorary" member of Local 992 U. M. W. A. in Zeigler, Ill.

Bishop Brown, whom everybody is anxious to hear, has promised to speak for the I. L. D. during the months of March and April. Definite dates are being booked for him.

The demands are so great for Bishop Brown dates, that there are not enough days in the two months to fill all the requests.

Stanley J. Clark in the labor movement for twenty years, and a well-known orator, is touring the state of California at present for the I. L. D.

Henry Corblishley, one of the best known defendants in the Zeigler trial, is I. L. D. organizer in Franklin County, and reports good progress.

Robert Zelms is organizer of the New England Section of I. L. D. He expects many new Branches within a short time.

A SUGGESTION FOR BRANCHES.

One of the Branches in Chicago calls itself the Eugene Barnett Branch of I. L. D. They have pledged to raise the $5 monthly remittance for prisoner Barnett, and on his birthday they are sending him a special check with which to buy himself little extras.

This Branch is giving a social where a talk will be given on the Centralia case in which Barnett was involved, and the profits made at this affair will go into the Pledge Fund with which to send the $5 monthly remittance to the national office through their Local Secretary.

Much could be said about the specially good work done by some of our Branch and Local secretaries, but room does not permit.

The plan of the magazine is to devote one entire page, beginning next month, to extracts from letters from secretaries, showing the kind of work which is being done in the field. Also photographs of the most active members.

Toward this end, the secretaries are requested to send in short reports of their special activities, as well as their own photographs and the photographs of some of the more active members, or groups of members.

L. Mitseff of Portland; F. Kraslick of Denver; A. Young of O'Fallon; Esther Markison, Wilmington; B. Gushen, Madison; J. Tokacs, South Bend; Veronica Kovacs, Perth Amboy; Carl Hacker, Cleveland; Rose Baron, New York; George Maurer, Chicago; Manya Reiss, Los Angeles; Margaret Yeager, Pittsburgh; Marie Suskalo, Shady Side; W. E. Elbe, Mt. Vernon, Wash.

As we go to press we are wired that eight out of the 13 Zeigler defendants have been found guilty. The story came too late for publication in this issue.

The next number of the LABOR DEFENDER will contain a complete account of the trial.
The Paris Commune

By MAX SHACHTMAN.

Fifty-five years ago, on March 18, 1871, the workingmen and women of Paris arose in rebellion and established the great Commune of Paris. The government of the national defense which they had helped to form had betrayed them. Instead of fighting the enemy invader, Germany, this government was uniting with the enemy secretly in order to kill off the Parisian workers whose revolutionary spirit put fear into the hearts of the reactionary rulers of France.

The workers of Paris were hungry. They were unemployed, and their landlords were throwing them out upon the streets. And when the reactionaries tried to seize the cannons which the workers had paid for to defend themselves, the masses rose and established their own government.

For more than two months these brave Parisian workers of the Commune held out, and proceeded to establish the rule of the workers. During the short life of the Paris Commune they had already taken many steps towards the improvement of the life of the working class, and the defense of its interests. In that time they wrote a brilliant page in the history of the workers, a history which is honored by the workers of the world to this very day.

But the reactionary French government, with the help of the reactionary German government, finally beat down their resistance. When they finally overthrew the great Paris Commune they hammered into the workers the brutal lesson of what the ruling class replies to the masses when they try to establish their own government. In contrast with the glorious and noble history of the Commune, the reactionaries wrote in the blood of the working class the most horrible, shameless and revolting page in their history.

The Bloody Week of May will be remembered by the workers of the world forever. When the reactionaries entered Paris they proceeded to slaughter almost every worker they could lay hands upon. In every street the corpses of workers were strewn. The walls of buildings were spattered with blood until it seemed as if they had been painted red. Every house was entered and the slightest word or suspicion was enough excuse for the soldiers to murder its inhabitants: men, women and children. Hundreds upon hundreds were given two-minute trials and sentenced to death—to be killed in masses by machine guns. The massacre was such that for weeks afterward, the river Seine had a streak of dark red—the blood of Communards—running down its center. Hundreds of the murdered workers were dumped into mass graves, and in many cases they were buried alive, so that the people of the neighborhood seemed to hear the earth tremble at night and a still-living arm or leg thrust out of the newly-dug graves was not a rare thing. The workers' quarters of Belleville was
completely exterminated, so that for months afterwards its dark silence pointed it out as a town of the dead.

In a few short days, the revenge of the reactionaries had butchered between thirty and forty thousand of the best section of the French working class, old and young, grandfathers and infants. The crime of the Paris Commune had been its great sacrifice, its noble struggle for the workers. The fact that they had not been sufficiently strong in their fight to exterminate the bestial reactionaries, made them pay dearly for their "crime." With the blood of workers is written this great lesson.

Every year the workers of the four corners of the earth honor the sacred memory of the Paris Commune. Every memorial pledges the workers today to carry on the great work of the Commune to defend the interests of the working class, to defend the workers from their enemies in every struggle.

Today the workers of America must defend their comrades who have been captured in the fight for the masses. The victims of capitalist injustice must be rescued from the hideous talons of the bosses, who keep the best working class fighters in prisons or lead them to the gallows. The American workers must honor the memory of the heroic Commune by aiding in the fight to defend the workers who have fallen into the hands of their enemy, the capitalist class.

In California, Tom Mooney and Warren Billings are still in the penitentiary because of their fight for the workers, imprisoned by one of the most shameless frame-ups known in this country. In the penitentiaries of San Quentin and Folsom and in jails throughout the rest of the country, members of the I. W. W. are still held only because they fought to improve the conditions of their fellow workers. In Massachusetts, on another frame-up, Sacco and Vanzetti, two innocent Italian workers, stand in danger of a death sentence because they refused to stop organizing labor. The cases of a number of Communists are still pending in Michigan, all of them threatened with long jail terms because of their devotion to the cause of labor. In Zeigler twenty miners face sentences ranging from life imprisonment to hanging because they would not be corrupted and fought militantly against the coal operators, the Ku Klux Klan and the reactionary bureaucrats. In Pittsburgh, nine members of the Workers Party are on trial for belonging to a political party of the workers. In Alcatraz, Paul Crouch, the heroic young soldier, has two more years to serve for trying to organize the young soldiers in Hawaii in the interest of young workers.

These men, and dozens of others, are faced with jail, or in it, because they stand for the workers! That is their only crime. They have fought to organize the workers to fight against their bosses for their conditions and healthier lives, for working class rule and for freedom. The workers of this country, remembering the glorious history of the Paris Commune, must rally to the defense of their foremost fighters!

On the anniversary of the Commune, the International Labor Defense, a working class organization for the defense of working class prisoners, calls upon the American workers to come to the aid of those victims of capitalism. These men depend upon those for whom they fought to defend them—and upon no one else.

Build the International Labor Defense! Organize branches in every town and village! Affiliates your labor or fraternal organization to the I. L. D.! Help to create a powerful defense organization to fight the attempts of the bosses to imprison and kill our best fighters!

Remember the Paris Commune, and the brave working class fighters of today! Make the capitalists release all the imprisoned working class battlers!

Rally, workers, and build a mighty International Labor Defense!
News of the Month

The Zeigler Trial—In Black Pennsylvania—Rangel and Cline—The Centralia Cases—Buksa Jailed—Simon Indicted in Indiana—Bimba in Worcester, Mass.—Papcun in Republic, Pa.—Labor Defender Barred from San Quentin—Trumbull Released

THE ZEIGLER FRAME-UP.

The trial of thirteen Zeigler miners opened on February 2, in Benton, Illinois. Readers of the Labor Defender are already familiar with the case. Twenty union miners, members of local 992, one of the most progressive in the state, were charged with assault with intent to murder on D. B. Cobb, vice-president of the Franklin County sub-district of the Illinois Miners Union. As a matter of fact one of the progressive miners was killed and eye-witnesses testify that the fatal shot was fired by a member of the Ku Klux Klan who was held for murder by a coroner’s jury. The grand jury turned around and held Frank Corbishley for the murder, tho Corbishley was a friend of the murdered miner, Mike Sarevich, and was not in the hall when the shot was fired.

The case is going on as this issue of the Labor Defender goes to press. The story of the trial will be told in the next issue by Tom Bell, who is on the spot covering the case for the International Labor Defense and scores of other labor papers that receive our news service. It promises to be a big story no matter what the result of the trial may be.

THE HORACEK APPEAL.

Edward Horacek, member of the International Association of Machinists and of the Workers Party, was convicted recently in Pittsburgh on a charge of violating the anti-sedition law of the state of Pennsylvania. What his conviction amounted to is that membership in the Workers Party is illegal in the state of Pennsylvania, if the decision of the jury is upheld by the higher courts. E. E. Fergusson, acting for the International Labor Defense, argued Horacek’s appeal before Judge Prather of Meadville. The judge’s decision has not yet been rendered. The I. L. D. will strenuously fight for the rights of the workers of Pennsylvania to belong to any workingclass political organization they see fit to join.

RANGEL AND CLINE.

News that Rangel and Cline and four other prisoners who have been imprisoned in Hunsville, Texas, for over twelve years, will be released at the end of the year, reached the I. L. D. recently. The news is undoubtedly authentic and it will be greeted with joy by every class conscious worker in the United States and throughout the world. It is interesting and significant that the Farmers Union of Texas was very active in urging the release of Rangel, Cline, George Papcun, Arrested at a Meeting in Republic, Pennsylvania

and their comrades. This proves that pressure of economic conditions is forcing the exploited farmers more and more to cast in their lot with the workers. The governor of Texas was forced to pay attention to the mighty chorus of protest which was raised for the release of those stalwart revolutionists. A complete story of the Rangel and Cline conviction and the movement out of which it arose will be told in a subsequent issue of the Labor Defender.

PAPCUN ARRESTED IN REPUBLIC, PENNA.

George Papcun, member of the Young Workers League who was arrested in Republic, Penna., while speaking at a Lenin Memorial meeting, had a preliminary hearing on January 28, before Squire Charles McComb of New Salem. Papcun is charged with violating the anti-sedition law of Pennsylvania, by speaking, distributing literature and belonging “to a seditious organization.” The state policeman who made the arrest had a written copy of the speech Papcun was alleged to have made. He admitted that he made the copy from memory after the arrest. He admitted that Papcun did not advocate the use of force and violence, but was trying to cause discontent by organizing the workers into unions. One of the big crimes alleged against Papcun was that he urged the Negro workers to join with their white brothers into unions and fight shoulder to shoulder against the employing class. Papcun was released on $2,000 ball. The I. L. D. is looking after his legal interests.

BIMBA ARRESTED IN WORCESTER.

Police stopped a Lithuanian mass meeting in Inostello, Mass., which was called to protest the white terror in Lithuania and arrested A. Bimba for a lecture. Bimba is charged with having “denied the existence of god” and “inciting to overthrow the United States government.” Bimba was released on $1,500 bail which was raised by local Lithuanian workers.

THOMAS McNAMARA ARRESTED IN CLEVELAND.

Thomas McNamara of Cleveland, member of the Building Laborers’ Union, was recently served with a copy of the petition for an injunction which the main officials are demanding from the courts seeking to restrain him from union activities, when he had secured a job after having been idle since Christmas. McNamara had just received employment as a foreman on a construction job, but the business agent of the union had a talk with the chief foreman after which McNamara was discharged. McNamara was arrested on the evening of January 3, by detectives on the charge of “falsely misrepresenting a union organization.” He was released when representatives of
GEORGE PAPCUN
Arrested at a Meeting in Republic, Pennsylvania
Recruiting Officer: "At last, the perfect soldier!"

The "perfect soldier" is one that has no head to think of the interests of the working class while he is in the army. The crime of Crouch and Trumbull was that they continued to think and fight for the workers even tho they wore a uniform

the I. L. D. furnished a bond in the sum of $300.00. After his release McNamara attended a meeting of members of his union. The reactionary union officials demanded that the police arrest him but the police refused on the ground that the meeting was peaceful and the courts had not yet issued an injunction prohibiting the holding of such a meeting.

TRUMBULL IS RELEASED.

WALTER Trumbull, who was convicted by a military court martial in Hawaii with Paul Crouch for professing Communist views and applying for membership in a Communist organization, was released from Alcatraz prison in California after serving his sentence of one year. The original sentence was 25 years but it was reduced to one, after a storm of protest from all over the country burst over the war department in Washington. Crouch has still two of his three year term to serve, unless the workers succeed in forcing the war department to release him. Trumbull is touring the country for the I. L. D.

SIMONS INDICTED.

WILLIAM Simons, lecturer for the Workers Party, was arrested in East Chicago while delivering an address at a Lenin Memorial meeting. The speaker was finishing his speech when a burly officer in plain clothes swaggered up the aisle and demanded to see a permit for holding the meeting. When informed that permits were not necessary, the officer took Simons to the station where he was subjected to abuse because of his racial antecedents by an ignorant police captain, who in all probability thumps his crew every time he hears the name of Jesus outside of a bawdy house.

Simons was released on bail and the case will come up in the near future.

I. L. D. AIDS GARMENT WORKERS.

THE assistance of the I. L. D. was cordially accepted by local 100 of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers in Chicago in its fight against the anti-picketing injunction which was the means of sentencing 80 of its members to jail for activity during a garment strike. 86 members of the I. L. G. W. U. are involved in the case.

WITNESS AGAINST WOBBLY MURDERED WOMAN.

A WAITING summons to the death chamber in Folsom prison, California, for the murder of a Japanese woman during a hold-up is a fellow by the name of Arnold, the perjurer who was used by the prosecution of Sacramento county to frame up on Tom Connors, a member of the I. W. W. on a charge of jury tampering. The perverts who were used by the prosecution to testify against radical workers are now thrown out of work and are returning to their old calling.

The Labor Defender
Published Monthly by the International Labor Defense
23 South Lincoln Street, Chicago, Ill.

T. J. O'FLAHERTY, Editor.
GEORGE MAURER, Bul. Man.

Subscription—$1.00 a Year.
Entry as second class matter applied for at the postoffice at Chicago, Illinois, under the act of March 3, 1879.

NATIONAL OFFICERS.
Andrew T. McNamara, Chairman; Edw. C. Wentworth, Vice-Chairman; James P. Cannon, Executive Secretary.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE.
Recruiting Officer: "At last, the perfect soldier!"

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The Boston Checker Frame-up

By JAMES LACEY.

IN Boston the drivers for the Checker Taxi Co. worked ten hours a day, seven days a week, for $21.00. Worked five to eight hours a day overtime, without pay. From their meager pay they had to buy from the company a uniform, a summer hat, a winter hat, and finally an overcoat. This last cost them $22.00. On learning that the Checker Taxi Company was in the clothing business and that this overcoat costs the company but $11, they felt they had enuf—so they struck. This spontaneous walkout was 100 per cent strong. The men joined local 126. No “labor organizer” formed this union. Mr. Sawyer, president of the Checker Taxi Company, was the organizer.

Reactionary labor leaders arrived on the scene later. With tears in their eyes they exhorted the strikers to remember their wives and children at home, without bread, etc., and return to work. Mr. Kearney, head of the cooks’ and waiters’ union, ordered back to work members of his own union, employed in the Copley-Plaza hotel, who struck because of the presence of scab chauffeurs at the hotel. Kearney finally persuaded the men to go back. Immediately president Sawyer of the Checker Taxi Company began discharging them right and left. They struck again—100 per cent strong.

The legal advisor of the Checker Taxi Company was Charles Innes, republican boss of Boston, the man who made Nichols mayor. Police commissioner Good is a stockholder. The company had no difficulty in getting an injunction restraining strikers from doing any effective work for their cause.

On the morning of December 2nd, six of the strikers, Thomas Doyle, William Tulley, James Tallabagh, James Sullivan, Edgar Hannaford and Dominick Langone were charged with “robbery while armed with intent to main or kill” and were liable if convicted to a life sentence as a maximum. Their only offense was trying to induce a scab to stop work. The day before the men were brought to trial, pressure was brought to bear on their lawyer, former assistant district attorney, Dan Gallagher, and he quit the case. At this last moment the I. L. D. stepped in. The defendants were found not guilty and discharged.

Finally, and this is the most dramatic feature of the whole frame-up! James Sullivan, one of the accused, as a member of the State Constabulary, was on duty at Dedham County Jail when Sacco and Vanzetti were on trial for their lives and with other guards accompanied them when they were sent to the psychopathic hospital for examination. Sullivan, speaking of the days when he was a tool for the interests who were railroad these Italian workers, says: “I don’t know where my head was when I see how these boys were framed. My heart goes out to them.”
JAMES SULLIVAN.
Fort Leavenworth
Ford’s Acquittal Aroused Workers to New Fight Against Persecutions

Eugene V. Debs, himself a prisoner under the regime of the infamous mountebank Woodrow Wilson, sent a long telegram which is herewith reproduced:

The following telegrams were also received:

Charlotte Anita Whitney: "Ford acquittal in face of hostile judge and prejudice against defendant as a result of the Court of Appeals will hand the defense all the advantages and all the help they desire. Ford, having been given all the advantages of the law, is in a position to do all he can to prevent the acquittal. The court is in a position to prevent any such acquittal." (March 20, 1926)

H. J. Cannon, Executive Secretary Int. Labor Defense, Chicago, Illinois,

Dear Comrade:
The printed matter, pamphlets, leaflets etc. sent by you was received this morning and will be looked over as soon as time will allow.

Enclosed please find check for $5.00 for the Labor Defender fund.

I wired you yesterday in answer to your telegram concerning the case of Richard Ford. We may well congratulate ourselves upon the success of that trial and the acquittal and release of the long-suffering victim. We must now send our armor apace in the fight to rescue all the rest.

Yours fraternally,

and

The acquittal of Ford has given encouragement to the elements among the working class who are fighting for the release of all class war prisoners regardless of affiliation and for the repeal of all anti-syndicalist laws. When the news of Ford’s acquittal was made public, the International Labor Defense wired to prominent radicals, progressives and progressive intellectuals throughout the country asking for their views on the matter. In all the replies a strong note of optimism was sounded and most of the telegrams urged that the fight for the release of all class war prisoners should be renewed.

Andrew T. McMahan

Herman D. Suhr
Ford’s Closest Co-Worker.

W. L. Dana of Massachusetts.

Rev. David B. Williams of Chicago declares: "Ford acquittal is signal triumph for the cause of the oppressed and the politically persecuted everywhere. It is a herald of better things to come for labor and labor to the International Labor Defense."

The International Labor Defense in a public statement called on the workers throughout the country, particularly in California, to organize state defense committees. It was held that the acquittal of Richard (Blackie) Ford by a jury of the charge of murdering a deputy sheriff in the Wheatland, Calif., court is a signal for the workers of the state to organize in defense committees. The statement was made in the interest of rights of the workers of the state of California, and the decision will stand as a shining light for all the workers of the world.

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Robert Whitaker: “Under all cir-

ANDREW T. McNAMARA.
National Chairman, Int'l. Labor Defense.

HERMAN D. SUHR.
Ford's Closest Co-Worker.
A Letter from Warren K. Billings.

Represa, Calif., Jan. 27, 1926.
International Labor Defense,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Friends:

Your fourth and fifth monthly letters, with the enclosed checks, arrived safely; the former was delivered to me January third when I was released from "solitary," where I had been for nine days as a result of a misunderstanding with one of the guards.

It is quite needless for me to reiterate that I greatly appreciate the work of your committee as well as the funds you have sent me for I am sure that it is by now well known I do wholeheartedly approve of International Labor Defense and the good work it is doing in every part of the country. As I recently remarked in my reply to a question asked by The American Labor Publishing Associates—it is, in my opinion, one of the three most important achievements of the Labor Movement during the year 1925.

It is also quite superfluous for me to say that all of us who are imprisoned because of our opinions or our activities in behalf of Labor find great solace in this consistent and dependable support of fellow workers on the outside. When we receive your letters we know that you are "out for us" just as much as we are in here for you.

Then too, there is the consideration of the advantage a little money given to one undergoing imprisonment. There are always little luxuries that can be purchased—and little necessities that are not supplied by the state—and to be able to obtain these makes the lot of the prisoner at least a little more bearable.

Until quite recently we were not allowed the luxury of sheets or pillowcases for our beds, nor feather pillows but in the past few months new regulations have been put into effect which allow us to purchase not only these things but also some additional toilet articles such as after-shaving preparations (cold cream, massage cream and powder), and a more recent ruling allows us to purchase Hershey's milk chocolate (twelve 5c or six 10c bars each month). These may seem like very small concessions to you who have the liberty of buying anything you are able to pay for but believe me they are important events in the life of one who has spent more than eight consecutive years behind these walls.

Being a shoe worker myself and at present assigned to work in the prison shoe shop, I was pleased to note in the Worker of Jan. 26th that the Shoe Workers' Protective Union of Brooklyn, N. Y. (my home city) is getting behind the I. L. D. and doing what they can, even in the slack season, to aid in carrying on this work. The Protective Union is one that has been organized since I have been in prison but brother shoe workers may rest assured that I am with them in their struggle in spirit although I am forcibly prevented from being with them "at the front." However, when the time comes I will be with them again and in the meantime I hope that the Protective Union will abide with me better than the Boot and Shoe did after I got arrested. I was president of Local 216 (San Francisco) of the Boot and Shoe Workers during 1915 but since I have been in prison I have heard little or nothing from that organization and I presume that I have been dropped from their books. Their reactionary officials (National Headquarters) didn't like me very well anyway.

With best regards to all members of I. L. D. and to the progressive brothers in the Shoe Workers' Protective Union, I am

Warren K. Billings.

San Quentin. January 10, 1926.

Dear Friends:

Your check for $5 came safely. Again I can only say thank you. I will have to be wary or they will make me make out an income tax sheet. Most of us are immune from that nonsense.

Please thank the Committee for me. We are very grateful to them for their kindness.

I would wish you a happy New Year, but I am told that if one appears at all happy the prohi's search his cellar.

With best wishes, I am

Yours Sincerely,

M. A. Schmidt.

U. S. Immigration Station,
Ellis Island, N. Y. H., N. Y.
January 8, 1926.

Dear Comrades:

Your monthly check for December received. I was released from prison the 20th of December and wish to thank the membership of the International Labor Defense for the help and encouragement from them while in prison.

My sincere hope is that the International Labor Defense will keep on growing until it will be impossible for such an infamous law as the criminal syndicalism law which they are now using as a weapon against us workers.

Wishing you a Happy New Year,

I am,

Yours for the blooming earth,

Wils Runquist.

P. S. I am now held for deportation here.

San Quentin Prison, Calif.

My dear Cannon:

Your letter and check for five dollars received. Many thanks. I wish you would take it up with the National Officers and the National Committee and see if they will forget us in prison and send such funds to the miners or such others that may be making the fight on the industrial field. I realize such fights are lost before they are begun on account of the respectable labor leaders vilifying and condemning labor's shock troops and winning and dining with the enemies' shock troops.

The labor organizations have gone into the church business, in fact they are into everything but organizing
the workers; when the leaders in Washington want a few thousand more members, they hijack them from some weaker organization that has paid the price in getting them.

Well, what will it profit the leaders in Washington, D. C., if they gain the whole world and lose the rank and file? They tried to hijack some members from the Railway Clerks and they told the hitchjackers nothing doing.

Please see T. J. O’Flaherty and tell him I received his letter. THE LABOR DEFENDER has not showed up here; if it has, we are not allowed to have it. (Labor Defender barred from San Quentin—Editor).

I get a kick out of Green and his antics about Russia. One would think he was in the pay of the American Defense Society and the Security League; on second thought, I believe he is. One hundred and fifty-eight thousand men in his own organization out on strike, and he sees yellow when he ought to see red.

There is something wrong. All we need is patience; time will point it out. Green must be right—why certainly he is right—he has two million followers. I must be wrong and just sore because I am in prison and my brother on his way back to prison in Indiana.

Well, I would rather he wrong and in prison than to be playing Green’s game. Of course you understand me for wanting to be wrong—I feel sorry for Green—a miner—turned minister. Over forty years of struggle slipping through his hands.

That’s what too many fraternal orders will do to a person. I think I am wasting too much time on him; I am going to bed.

Kind regards to all.

J. B. McNamara, 25314.

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M.O.P.R.

By Carl Brannin.

Leaving Soviet Russia a few days ago the last bit of Russia we saw as we crossed the Finnish border was a notice written by hand with a blue pencil and posted on the door of the customs house announcing a local meeting of the MOPR.

Wherever you go in Russia one is confronted in some form or another with this cryptic word. In the passport offices, at railway stations, in offices, co-operative stores, trade union headquarters and clubs, restaurants and even in prisons and police stations you see it. Sometimes it is part of a wall newspaper, again it is a poster with a worker’s figure forcing open prison bars, now simply a hand thrust through the bars waving a red handkerchief.

Finally unless you have already guessed the meaning you ask, “Just what does this word MOPR mean?”

“Molodezhny Orgанизatsia Pomoshch’ Revolyutsii.” condensed in true Russian fashion into MOPR is what English speaking radicals know as the International Red Aid. It is the defense and relief division of the international army of working class fighters. It is the morale section of the Red forces in the international class war.

Out of the sharpened conflict which has developed since the Russian Revolution between the exploited and the exploiting classes has grown this world-wide organization for the defense of political prisoners, for relief for their families, for amelioration of the hard conditions of prison life. The more or less national and local defense and relief bodies have given place to the international. The struggles and sufferings of the workers of any country are of vital concern to the workers of every other land.

The purpose of the MOPR, in the words of Chamkin, General Secretary at Moscow, is to give defense and aid to the revolutionary opponents of capitalism in every land without regard to party or political belief. Communists, Social Democrats, Anarchists, non-partisans—all are included. The only question asked is, “Does he suffer persecution as a working class fighter in the class war?” All workers are invited on this basis to support the organization. All are eligible to join without regard to political views. Non-producers are excluded but not their contributions. MOPR is definitely non-political. It has no connection with the Communist Party, the Communist International or the Soviet Government.

Taking its present international form in 1923, the growth of the MOPR has been phenomenal. Russia, Germany, France, England, Italy, Poland, Ireland, Java and other countries now roll up a total of five million members. For the first year receipts were $86,769. In 1924 they were $473,632. And in the first four months of 1925 they were $340,000. At the present time 100,000 prisoners in 290 prisons and their families are being taken care of in Poland, Bulgaria, India, Egypt, Estonia, Bulgaria, Victims of the Terror.
Slain in the Shanghai Battles.

Bulgarian Victims of the Terror.

For the defense of political prisoners, for relief for their families, for amelioration of the hard conditions of prison life. The more or less national and local defense and relief bodies have given place to the international. The struggles and sufferings of the workers of any country are of vital concern to the workers of every other land.

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Rumania there are men and women and children who know they are not forgotten and that the cause of the workers marches on.

The workers and peasants of Soviet Russia as the vanguard of the world revolutionary movement are naturally the leaders in this work. In 1923 only two provinces had organizations. Today there are 92 with 32,792 branches comprising 4,500,000 members. The classification is as follows: Workers 46%; peasants 11%; administrative workers 18%; Red Army 10%; students 14%; miscellaneous 1%. Eighty per cent of the membership does not belong to the Communist Party.

On a recent trip through Soviet Russia the writer had an opportunity to see something of the work in the districts. In every large city there was a central MOPR office. A secretary assisted by field workers were the only salaried people. All dues were collected voluntarily in the factory units and small locals. Plans were being worked out for a larger educational work of speakers, printed matter and other forms of propaganda. Closer touch with locals was to be maintained to make collections and to systematize accounting.

Dues are on a sliding scale according to income. The following indicates something like the average.

Skilled workers 50 cents per year; semi-skilled, 40 cents; unskilled, 30 cents; peasants, 30 cents; Red Army soldiers, students, housewives 12 cents.

Income from individual memberships is supplemented and often exceeded by benefit entertainments, lotteries, raffles and donations. Near Taganrog on the Sea of Asoy there are six agricultural communes each of which has: aside two and a half acres of grain and the proceeds of which go to the MOPR. One of the state cigarette factories at Kharkov allows MOPR a royalty of half cent a package on a special MOPR brand which is sold in the Ukraine and the North Caucasus district.

All funds less a small percentage for local expenses are sent to the central office at Moscow. They are disbursed from there to each province or district knows its special responsibility for certain prisons. For example the province of Nizni-Novgorod with 80,000 members supports a children's home in Germany and provides for the widow and children of an Estonian doctor killed in the recent revolt there. The North Caucasus district, 272,000 members takes care of the politicalis in 14 European basitilles and one each in India, Egypt and Jerusalem. Of the 290 prisons where the International Red Aid is giving relief 148 are under the stewardship of the Russian MOPR. Leningrad province (700,000 members), Moscow province (430,000 members), Ekaterinoslav province (481,000), Samara province (32,000), Saratov province (110,000), Stalingrad province (11,000) all have certain prisons and relief homes and families to look after. Besides those held in foreign lands there are many revolutionists who succeed in evading the agents of reaction and find an asylum in Soviet Russia. They must be assisted with lodging and board until they can be placed in jobs and are able to take-care of themselves. Out of the moneys received at the international office at Moscow, 3.2% goes for administrative expense and 1.48% for agitation and propaganda.

Next to Russia Germany has the largest organization (400,000 members) of the Red Aid (Rote Hilfe). An interview with Lydia Wilhelms in the central office in Berlin furnished some data with regard to their work. Membership is both on the individual and group system. Trade unions, co-operatives, etc., pay $1.25 per month for each 500 members and 25 cents for the next 250. Individuals pay 10 cents per month. More than half the money spent for defense and relief in Germany comes from the national organization, the balance comes from the I. R. A. Each month $30,000 is disbursed. The wife of a class war victim receives $5 per month and $2.50 for each child. This seems pitifully small, and is, but there are thousands upon thousands of German workers who earn less than $24 per month. The attorneys supplied by the legal aid bureau give their services at about one-fourth of the usual charge.

Speaking with a responsible leader in the Russian organization, I asked him what had been the predominant note in the propaganda. I could understand its appeal to Communists, but what had drawn the great hosts of non-Communists (more than 80%)? Was it sympathy, humanitarianism or what?

"We simply sound the note of international solidarity," was the reply. "All our thinking workers and peasants know what it means to struggle for bitter years against oppression. They do not have to be Communists to have a fellow feeling with the workers of Germany, France, Bulgaria, Italy, India, Poland. Whatever differences there may be as to tactics and strategy we all come together on the hard rock of the class war. If the proletariat is to be successful in the struggle it must take care of those who fall into the hands of the enemy. This is enough to draw all earnest revolutionists under our banner. When our comrades in prison cry out, 'Do not forget us,' we reply, be assured you are remembered. We will fight for you as you are fighting for the final victory of the proletariat."

EUGENE BARNETT HONORARY MEMBER.

EUGENE Barnett, I. W. W. member in prison in Walla Walla, Washington, was made honorary member of the North West English Branch of the I. L. D. in Chicago.
DEFENDED BY MOPR

Bulgarian Workers and Students Dragged to Prison in Heavy Chains
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Remember the Class War Prisoners!

The International Labor Defense sends greetings to the following class war prisoners on the anniversary of their birth days and we urge the workers on the outside not to forget them. Letters mean more to those victims of capitalism than those who have never had a prison experience can realize. Drop them a word of encouragement and determine that you will do everything possible to get them out of jail.

**BIRTH-DATES OF CLASS-WAR PRISONERS.**

5—C. A. Drew, San Quentin, California.
6—Edgar Combs, Moundsville, W. Va.
10—B. Childs, San Quentin, California.
17—Omar J. Eaton, San Quentin, Calif.

George Barrett
Peter Clausen
Richard Ford
Benjamin Gitlow
Pedro Paroles (Gone)
Joe Roth
Wils Rundquist
Walter Trumbull

**WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?**

Preparations for the Second Annual Conference of I. L. D. are under way. It will take place either in Chicago or in New York.

How many individual dues-paying members will your delegate represent?
THE LABOR DEFENDER SUBSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

Our Goal Is for 10,000 Subscribers by March Twenty-Fifth to Put Power Into International Labor Defense!

All locals, city and town organizations, of I. L. D. have been informed of the BIG DRIVE for subscribers to our magazine. It will last thru a period of intensive Labor Defense activity, ending with the last day of Paris Commune Week.

Each city is allotted a quota, and a handsome banner will be given the winner with the highest percentage. Chicago is assigned 1,000, New York, 1,500, etc.

ROCHESTER, MINN.—(Comrade Reed, secretary) IS IN THE LEAD WITH FIFTEEN SUBS; THIS IS FIFTY PERCENT OF ITS QUOTA! Allentown, Pa., is next with seven subs.

Comrades! Put your local on the map! Send in all subs as fast as you can get them!

Our slogan is, "EVERY MEMBER A SUBSCRIBER—AND EVERY MEMBER GET ANOTHER SUBSCRIBER!"

We have a great field practically untouched for getting subs. Ten thousand regular subscribers, reading THE LABOR Defender every month, means infinitely greater strength to I. L. D. And the money for these is that much more income to defend cases, help prisoners, and issue more printed matter.

Send in your contribution in the form of a subscription to the magazine—for yourself or another! Get others to do the same!

LET US RACE TO THE GOAL—10,000 SUBSCRIBERS BY MARCH 25TH

Help Free Class War Prisoners!

Break the Shackles!

Put Power Into International Labor Defense

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An I. L. D. Pamphlet!

**The Zeigler Frame-Up**

By Max Shachtman.

A Thoro History of the Origin of This Brazen Frame-Up Against Almost a Score of the Leaders of the Mine Workers of Zeigler Whose Trial Is Now Being Held in Ben-ton, Ill.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Single Copies</th>
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<td>10 Cents Each</td>
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**The International Labor Defense**

23 South Lincoln Street,
Chicago, Illinois.

Please send..............copies of the "Zeigler Frame-Up," for which I am enclosing $................

Name ___________________________

Address ___________________________

City ___________________________ State _____________
Eight Are Convicted in the Zeigler Frame-Up!

Henry Corbishly
Frank Corbishly
Stanley Paurez
Ignatz Simich
Martin Simich
Mike Karadich
Eddie Maliski
Steve Meanovich
are
Convicted!

These eight men are the leaders of the miners in Zeigler. Their crime was that they fought the boss for better wages. Their crime was that they fought against the Ku Klux Klan. Their crime was that they wanted a more militant leadership. Now, they are paying a penalty for standing by the workers.

THE LABOR MOVEMENT OF AMERICA IS ON TRIAL AT ZEIGLER!
Show Your Class Solidarity! Come to Their Defense!

THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS MUST BE RAISED IMMEDIATELY
Do Your Share! Help Them! Send Money!

GIVE WITH AN OPEN HAND!

INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE,
23 South Lincoln Street,
Chicago, Ill.

Enclosed you will find my contribution, amounting to $.............. to be used to keep the Zeigler miners out of prison.

Name
Address
City .................................................. State ..........................