LABOR DEFENSE IN PICTURES

A propaganda truck of the German Red Aid.

A demonstration of French workers before the Wall of the Communards in Paris. Marcel Cachin, Communist M. P., is fifth from the right (coat on arm, hat in hand).

An amateur dramatic performance by the Vienna comrades of the Austrian Red Aid (I. L. D.)

A labor defense group in far-off Bokhara.

Above: A conference of French jurists and lawyers working out plans for legal labor defense for the French Red Aid (I. L. D.)

George Lansbury, British labor leader, receiving medal of British I. C. W. P. A. for his work on behalf of the imprisoned Communist leaders, at a rally in London.

Above: The arrest of one of the participants in the recent uprising of natives against Dutch imperialism in Indonesia.
The Last Days of the Commune

By Max Shachtman

"We are honest gentlemen; it is by ordinary laws that justice will be done. We will have recourse to nothing but the law."—Thiers to the National Assembly, May 22, 1871.

With its last breath, facing extinction, the Communards fought like the most courageous of heroes. Delescluze, abdicating his authority as commander, called for revolutionary war by the people, war with naked arms, war on the barricades. There was no longer even a pretense at a strategic retreat, an organized defensive. It was every man for himself and only the natural tendencies of crowds united little groups of men to struggle in their various sections. Debouching everywhere the Versaillaise gained ground, foot by foot, every hour. On the 22, La Muette was taken, then the Trocadero; a bloc of Federal artillery was taken in the capture of the Military School.

The Communards now made a desperate attempt to rally against the enemy. At the first sign of the end the cowards, with Felix Pyat at their head, removed their red sashes and fled. Dombrowski, Delescluze, Varlin, Rigault, Ferre and a few others made an attempt to organize the defense but it was hopeless. For a few days the tigerish heroism of the defenders, outnumbered as they were, even checked the enemy. Scenes of unknown self-sacrifice and noble courage were hourly occurrences. The Communards died with the Marseillaise on their lips and the shout "Pour la solidarite humaine!" Dombrowski, realizing the end and saddened by the suspicions cast upon him, exposed himself to the fire of the enemy and was riddled by balls in the rue Myrrha.

One after another: Montmartre, the historic battleground of the revolution was taken by 30,000 men because the Commune had failed to send reinforcements and munitions; the cemetery of Montparnasse was occupied and the Federals were being flanked on every side, driven to a corner. Raoul Rigault was found lifeless in a street. Ferre, the Blanquist chief of police, saw to the shooting of the spy Veysett, and gave the order for the killing of the hostages—after the Communards, maddened by the savage slaughters of Thiers, demanded reprisals.

The Commune now suffered its death pangs. The lionine struggles on the barricades were of little avail. The Versailles pressed forward. On Sunday, May 28, the last barricade was taken. At noon, the last cannon of the Communards was fired. The next day a small squadron seized the outlying fort of Vincennes, shot the Communist officers against the wall, pulled the red flag from the mast and ran up the tricolor of the republic of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity....

But the monstrous seconndre Thiers had not finished. It was necessary to thoroughly purge Paris of subversive no-
tions, to drown its revolutionary spirit in a bath of its own blood; a massacre was an essential prerequisite for the achievement of year-long tranquillity. So there followed the bloody week of May, the most frightful slaughter, the most cold-blooded murder of men since the days of the Byzantine Empire. To the scoundrelly patriots of Thiers' mold, the Communards were far more detestable than the Prussians; indeed, it was only with the aid of the Prussians that they managed to conquer Paris. The party of 'order' was in power.

"Pitiless murder!" With this order were the Communards exterminated. Those found with black marks on their fingers, indications of having used gun powder, or those who still wore a bit of National Guard uniform were shot in their tracks. Three hundred Federal refugees were shot in the Madeleine. At the square of the Pantheon hundreds of Federals were massacred. Huge heaps of corpses were piled against every wall in the city. The wounded and the medical corps equally were killed by the bloodthirsty troops, despite the concord of the International Convention at Geneva.

Members of the Commune were avidly hunted like dogs, and even Free Masons were murdered on sight. Varlin, one of the most capable figures in the Commune was cruelly assassinated. The Versailles press would announce the execution of Cluseret, Valles, Ferrer, Longuet, Gamon, Lefrancais; and all of them were living! Unfortunates who could not prove their identity were killed in their places.

Moderates, republicans, men who had never participated in the Commune but whose staunch republican ideas made them suspect were done to death. Milliere, the deputy to the National Assembly, was forced to his knees in the Pantheon and shot; the doctor Tony Mollin suffered the same

fate. The presence of foreigners in official posts in the Commune gave rise to a hunt against all strangers: Poles, Hungarians, Italians, Hollanders and Germans were shot almost on sight. Neither women nor children were spared: "They are probably Communards anyway."

Anonymous denunciations were sufficient in most cases for the seizure and death of a Parisian, and thousands died in this manner. The fable of the petroleuses, women oil throwers who were alleged to have set fire to buildings, brought about the death of scores. Thousands were tried before drumhead court martials which devoted only a second to each individual. Those who were sent to Versailles for retrial had to pass thru a gate guarded by the Marquis de Gallifet. This horrible butcher stood there and selected haphazardly hundreds of men and women out of the purest whim, and murdered them against the wall.

"To find a parallel for the conduct of Thiers and his bloodhounds we must go back to the times of Sulla and the two triumvirates of Rome," wrote Marx. Where rifles failed to slaughter the hundreds of victims who were driven to death like droves of cattle, the mitrailleuses were substituted. Huge graves, yards wide and deep, were dug for the murdered Parisians and they were flung in like so much dirt. The hastiness with which they were buried brought horrible nightmares to those who passed by or lived near these mass graves. At night a still living arm would be thrust out of the ground, or a leg which still wore the uniform of the National Guard. In the butchery many of the wounded had been buried alive! Unearthly groans and heavings issuing from the ground, made Parisian life a ghastly night-

In the catacombs: Skulls and bones of Communards killed by the black Reaction
mare. Bodies rotted in the bleak rooms of the proletariat, awaiting a hasty interment.

Every family in Paris gave at least one sacrifice to the cause of the Commune. The insatiable sadism of the bourgeois hyenas spattered every wall of Paris with the stain of noble proletarian blood. The rivers of Paris ran red with blood, a constant broad stream staining its course for days during the Semaine Sanglante. A new amusement afforded the degenerates of Paris: La peche au federes, which consisted in betting on the amount of Federal's corpses that would float under a bridge in a given time.

Not all died the death of heroes. Some bought their worthless hides with their own shame. At the trials Urbain, who proposed the decree on hostages, groveled before the court and denounced the "crimes of the Commune." Jourde, the delegate for Finances, servilely apologized for the relations of the Commune with the Bank of France. Rasoul announced that his protest against the Commune's murders and crimes exceeded that of the Versaillse. Courbet, the painter of delicate pastorals, declared that he had voted for the demolition of the Vendome column only on aesthetic grounds (!) and repudiated the work of the Commune. The shameless drunkard Lullier, the first Commnard general, boasted that he was in the pay of Versailles. But the best of the Communards, as therewith deliberate thrusts at these fawning craven; shouted on the gallows "Vive la Commune!"

Estimates vary as to the number that were murdered by the Versainese after the fall of the Commune. Beyond a doubt, however, there were between twenty and thirty thousand slaughtered. Hundreds were exiled to bleak islands on the African coast. In all the Commune suffered at the hands of the reactionaries a loss of some 100,000 of the flower of the Parisian proletariat. The Commune paid with seas of blood for its historic and audacious attempt to establish the revolutionary rule of the proletariat.

Passaic's Frame-up Victims

Parades and meetings during the Passaic textile strike.

The Passaic textile barons have exacted their vengeance on their rebellious slaves. Judge Joseph A. Delaney, in Special Sessions Court, Paterson, handed out savage jail sentences to five strike victims of the police bomb frame-up of last September.

Joseph Bellene, Anthony Pochno, Alex. Costamacha, Paul Oznik and William Sikora, all textile strikers, were given the maximum sentence by Judge Delaney—three years in jail. Charles Current, a non-striker and the only person the police claimed to have caught "red-handed," was given one year, his sentence having been made lighter because, significantly, of the aid he gave the state's case.

As sentence was passed a deadly hush settled over the court room which was filled with the wives and children of the prisoners. Then the silence was broken when women began to sob and children cried for their daddies.

The sentenced men are six of eleven who were arrested last September, several weeks after the strikers had been admitted into the American Federation of Labor, charged with throwing bombs in which there was no loss of life and little property damage. At the time, both the bombings and the arrests which followed were looked upon as an effort on the part of the mill bosses and the police, notoriously under the domination of the mills, to discount the effect of the entry of the A. F. of L. into the big textile strike.

Four men still remain to be brought to trial, Thomas Regan, Joseph Toth, Paul Kovacs and Nicholas Schillaci.

Adolph Wisnesky, another of the defendants, in a later trial was pronounced guilty after a trial atmosphere which was thick with prejudice, flag waving and red baiting.

International Labor Defense, which has aided in the fight for the defense efforts in the past, will now intensify its efforts to secure the release of the imprisoned strikers whose struggle has made American labor history.
Passaic’s Frame-up Victims

Parades and meetings during the Passaic textile strike.
CHINA'S HISTORIC FIGHT FOR LIBERATION

The marching masses of the Chinese people are carrying on a remarkable struggle for liberation. Their heroic battle for freedom has aroused universal interest because it is of world-shaking importance. Enslaved for decades, exploited, murdered, derided, humiliated, the masses of the Orient are at last imbued with a new spirit which gives them a new integrity and courage and consumes their imperialist enemies with fear. The entire East is in the stage of convulsive revolution which is shaking to its death an old system and giving birth to a new one.

In this gigantic struggle the Chinese nationalist movement is the vanguard. From the new torch of light and freedom which it is holding high the oppressed peoples thought the East are lighting beacons to lead them in the fight against imperialism.

In the provinces under the control of the reactionary generals, Wu Pei Fu, Sun Chuan Fang, and Chang Tso Lin—particularly the latter—every progressive and revolutionary movement has been brutally suppressed. The trail of the marches of Chang Tso Lin is marked by the blood—not of enemy soldiers—but of civilian opponents. The people's party, the Kuo Min Tang, has been virtually outlawed by Chang, and the labor and peasant movement suppressed. The list of those who have been murdered by this Chinese Galliffet mounts higher every day. Meetings are suppressed or forbidden. Demonstrations are broken up as regularly as they are held. Those who are fortunate to escape the frightful assassinations of the reactionaries fill the dungeons.

It is not surprising that everywhere the advance of the Cantonese revolutionary army has been received by the people of the territory they entered as liberators, protectors, leaders and friends.

The battle for freedom from oppression has always been a costly one. As with all revolutions so with the Chinese. Inspired by the doctrines of Dr. Sun Yat Sen, and fortified with the sympathy and aid of the Russian workers and peasants and the workers in every other part of the world, the revolutionists have pressed forward until they now control more than half of the vast area of China. In the road of their progress has been put every obstacle known to reaction.

The massacre at Shanghai in June 1925, and the slaughter by the British of the Chinese at Wusihien, is now being followed by a concerted movement of the imperialist powers to concentrate forces at Shanghai, Hongkong and other ports as a brutal threat to the national forces. Every attempt is being made to provoke the Chinese revolutionists. And if it will not be possible to concoct a fake excuse for armed intervention on a large scale, intervention will take place without any excuse but the old fairy tale about protecting “lives and property.”

The Chinese people, in their struggle, deserve the sympathy and support of the workers throughout the world. They are fighting a common enemy. The same imperialist power that subsidizes reactionary generals who imprison and butcher the workers, destroy the labor movement of China, at the same time imprisons workers in this country and mobilizes to wipe out and corrupt the labor movement here.

The workers of the United States must come to the aid of their Chinese comrades. No intervention in China! Let every marine and battle ship be withdrawn! An end to the buying up of corrupt Chinese war lords who imprison and kill the progressive workers and students of the new China!


Left and Right: Executions of supporters of the national-revolutionary movements by the butchers of Chang Tso-Lin's army. Center: Public display of the decapitated heads to frighten away revolutionary support.
(Reading from left to right) Top Row: Troops of General Feng Yu-Hsiang, nationalist leader. Second Row: Armed imperialist patrols during a demonstration of Chinese. One of the marchers is arrested. Troops of one of the northern war-lords. Third Row: Three dead and wounded victims of the Shanghai massacre of 1925, which aroused the renewed spirit of revolt that led to the incessant victories, since then, of the Cantonese forces. Fourth Row: A Chinese nationalist students' demonstration. Dr. Yat Sen, the founder and leader of the Chinese nationalist movement. General Chang Tso-Lin, the northern war-lord, who acts as the agent of Japanese imperialism in China. A demonstration of Chinese workers before a foreign concession. Fifth Row: General Peng Yu-Hsiang, leader of the revolutionary forces of the northwest. Memorial for Sun Yat Sen at the Whampoa military academy, the "West Point of the Canton revolutionaries". General Chang Kai-Shek, the young Cantonese leader who has led the nationalist forces in a series of uninterrupted victories.
Our Tribute to the Memory of the Paris Commune

MORE than a half a century has passed since the work- ers of Paris fought their way to Paris and established themselves to rule France as the Paris Commune. The briefness of its rule—two or three months—does not indicate the immense importance of its existence in the labor movement of the world, nor the force and permanence of its lessons. It remains established in the hearts of the workers everywhere who are fighting the great battle for the liberation of all humanity.

The Paris Commune, like the great struggles of workers in all times, left a glorious tradition of the battle, of self-sacrifice and of unparalleled heroism. Those who exterminated Communards left a frightful record of assassination, butchers, pistol shots, police ror, the record of a desperate ruling class that suppressed with tigerish savagery and without the least scruple any part of the working class to free itself from the capitalist class.

The Bloody Week of May will never be forgotten by the French workers least of all. It was the last week of life for the Paris Commune. In the incredible horrors, the nightmare of terror were burned into the hearts of the workers. The bourgeoisie took its toll of death and misery for the daring attempt of the workers of Paris.

Night and day the rifles of the reactionary Versailles soldiers fired into the backs of the Frenchians, fired until the barrels of their guns were too hot to be held. Thousands were placed against the walls to be shot down in cold blood, without trial or hearing. Women and children were slaughtered with as little scruple, for the children might grow up into a new generation of revolutionaries to repeat on a larger scale the heroic struggles of their predecessors. Communards or not, whoever was so unfortunate as to fall into the hands of the invaders of the Versailles. Homes were burned and whole quarters of the city were demolished or left desolate. Throughout the city mass graves were dug for the victims of the guillotine. Spy prisoner and spy were thrown into the blood-soaked soil by the scores. The waters of Paris ran red with the blood of Paris' best workers. Immediate, unhesitating execution was the fate of all those who, for one reason or another, were suspected of being Communards. It was all too easy to be denounced as a miscreant as a Communard or a supporter of the Commune. Hundreds were exiled to the little island in the middle of the sea or the forever bleak lands of Africa. A red picture of the future terror against the working class was painted by the revenge-drunk reactionaries.

Everywhere the workers fought and died with unexampled courage and defiance, that splendid spirit of self-sacrifice and heroism which is created when thousands of individuals are fused into a mowing mass of fighters inspired by a common cause.

The struggle of the Paris Communards for the support and sympathy of the working masses outside of France. It was itself a symbol of the internationalism of the workers, for in its leading ranks could be found not only Frenchmen, but Poles, Germans, and Hungarians. The workers of Europe felt that the battle in France was their battle too. Even in the United States the labor movement was inspired by the Commune. When the Communards sent a delegation of their comrades to this country, huge mass meetings were held to greet them. In Chicago, tens of thousands of workers gathered to hear the story of the historic events of the Parisian workers. Labor papers gave lengthy and sympathetic reports of the work of the Communards.

As the Commune aroused the sympathetic solidarity of the working masses in other countries, so today do the struggles of the workers in Russia receive the support of workers everywhere. Hard fought struggles every day bring to labor the lesson of the internationalism of the battle for liberation. Events in one country react upon events in every other country, and the workers are learning the great necessity of international solidarity.

Nowhere is this more true than in the struggle against the Fascist terror. the Bloody Week of May of the Commune extended over months and years of unbridled brutality, suppression and extermination. The Paris Commune could not be better commemorated than by the determination of the workers to continue and intensify the struggle against Fascism and its victims. In Italy, in Littuania, in Poland, in the other black lands of Europe, the working class sacrifices to the Fascist butchers are already legion. The labor movement in Italy, where Fascism has come to its darkest "flower", has been crushed, trampled on, driven underground. Its sections have been dismembered. Its remarkable labor centers, the cooperatives, its press, have been destroyed. The remnants of a once potent movement have been driven underground, made illegal by Fascist rule. The working class political parties, which once exercised such dominent influence in the country, have had their members murdered, beaten, tortured and exiled, and have been forced into illegality. Whatever is held by the living spirit of labor has been outlawed.

In the dungeons of Fascism there are thousands of political prisoners whose heroic crime has been opposition to the bloodthirsty rule of Mussolini. Like the Commune of 1871, they dared to challenge the power of the ruling class, and, for the weakness of their leaders, were within an inch of victory. Now the once splendid movement of labor lies prostrate but for the heroic band of rebels who continue the struggle, underground, in momentary danger of capture and imprisonment or death.

Underground, in momentary danger of capture and imprisonment or death.

By James P. Cannon

We must pledge ourselves with renewed determination to free these fighters of today who continue the struggle of the working classes in 1921. Every week brings new reprisals for their opposition to Fascism, a new desire to strangle the fighting forces of the labor movement that continue to defy the ruthless Fascist bandits.

Fascism extends its tentacles all over the world. Those whom it has exiled, or forced to flee, it seeks to bring back to order to assassinate or imprison. The revaluation against Fascism that is felt by all honest fighters for freedom sticks in the craw of Mussolini, for he knows that is those whom he has exiled that have done the best work in mobilizing the workers of other countries against Fascism. Such is the case withideas Sornmenti, whose work in the United States among the Italian population, has caused the demand of Mussolini to the government of the United States that he be deported to Italy in the noose of the hangman or the cell of a Fascist prison.

The struggle against Fascism, and the mobilization of the entire working class for the imprisoned victims and prospective victims of capitalism, is our tribute to the Paris Commune. March 18, the anniversay of the Paris Commune, is the day of the movement for labor defense all over the world. The memory of the Commune, the horrors of its aftermath still spurn on the workers to new enthusiasm and sacrifice for the struggle. The spirit of the Commune, with its mass executions of the working class, with its thousands in prison, with its thousands of exiles, demands that we continue the struggle today for the release of the scores that are still in prison in this country. It demands that we place ourselves as an iron wall between those who are threatened with imprisonment or death and those who wish to imprison or assassinate them legally. It demands that we fulfill our duties of solidarity with the victims of capitalist class "justice" in other countries.

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Halt the Lithuanian Haugmen!

An Appeal of the International Red Aid

FORMER czarist officers, priests and Polish landowners, who have seized power in Lithuania, have already begun their work of revenge against the workers.

The blood of the first Lithuanian workers has already been shed! Pojella, Greifenberger, Tchorny, and Kasis Gedris have been executed. The last was a member of the central committee of the Lithuanian Red Aid (Labor Defense).

At the head of the fascist movement in Lithuania are nationalists and clericals, Christian Democrats, while the instigators of the overthrow, its immediate leaders, were Major Plechanovitch and Captain Glavatzki, who are well known to the working masses of Lithuania as hangmen. These officers are at the same time landowners. In 1919 they shot and massacred in Smudien and other districts hundreds of peasants. Now they have begun their bloody work again, in close agreement with the Catholic church and the Clerical party, with whom they prepared the overthrow.

The comedy of the overthrow took place according to a definite fascist plan. In Lithuania exactly as in Poland—seizure of power by the fascist in order to prevent the equally threatening danger of a communist conspiracy, and then the face of a “legalization” of the overthrow by a castrated parliament under the pressure of bayonets.

After a short breathing space the much-tortured Lithuanian people has again come into the power of czarist reactionaries, of a demoralized military and of the Polish landowners, led by the Catholic clique, whose former rule in Lithuania is characterized by murders, shootings, acts of violence and the most complicated methods of torture. These hangmen of the Lithuanian Shwaigiba (secret police) even introduced torture on the electric chair from which not even children are safe.

Hundreds of workers are at present in Lithuanian prisons, martial law has been proclaimed, trade unions are disbanded, field court martial and military censorship are established.

The Minister of the Interior promises to free the land from all “decomposing” elements and to devote his special attention to the riflemen’s association, the Association of the Volunteers, the reserve officers, the boy scouts and the patriotic organizations. The dictators openly announce that they plan new fascist decrees and that they organize for the purpose all fascist forces. The dictatorship in Lithuania is a signal for the beginning of blackest reaction in all neighboring countries. The significance of this overthrow thus goes beyond the frontiers of Lithuania and becomes a spur for fascist expansion in the East, from the Black to the Baltic Sea.

An artificial wall of black reaction is being formed between the land of the victorious proletarian dictatorship and the oppressed toiling masses of the capitalist states, a separating wall and energetic ally. It urges them to unite their forces in order to warn the whole world of the threatening danger.

Down with fascist reaction!

Long live the solidarity of the workers of the world!
E looked out and saw a bunch of dogwood bushes shaking on the hill above the shop, so he pulled the gun and fired into the bushes. At the crack of the gun the colored fellow jumped out with his shotgun and started to run. Dad fired three more shots and the Negro fell once, but got up and ran a little farther, then turned around and shot at a fellow at the head house, thinking he was Dad, but the man he shot at was out of range of the shot gun. The Negro then ran into the woods.

Dad then went home and got his shot gun and started out to look for the Negro. The sheriff deputized some miners and started out to find the colored fellow and a mob of miners were looking for him on their own hook, thinking they would have some fun hanging him, for a West Virginian has almost as much pleasure hanging a colored man as a Centralia business man has hanging a "wobbly." But the sheriff's deputies beat the mob to it. They got him just at dark as he was climbing on to a freight train. They put him in an old ice house and Dad helped the sheriff keep the men from taking him out and hanging him, for Dad doesn't believe in mob law. But he has the southerners' hatred for the black man.

The next day the justice of the peace bound the colored fellow over to court and he was taken to the county jail. That night he was in the ice house, while Dad was away, Mother and we kids sat at home in the dark, afraid to make a light and Negroes on the hill across from our house stood in the timber and shot at the house we lived in with shot guns. But it was so far the shot would only rattle off the house.

There was an average of about one man a month killed there, besides the ones accidentally killed in the mines. As usual the entire camp was owned by the company and many of the women in it were immoral and some of them were continuously walking the tracks, plying their trade. The cars in the mine there were big ones holding about two tons when full. The company paid $1.00 a car for this coal for the miner had from one to two feet of soft white slate rock to pick out and gob (pile to one side), and they also had six inches of roof coal to pick out for it was half honey. So the company used to let contracts to certain men and allow them to subcontract by hiring men to load six cars for them, for $2.50 and they would have 8 or 10 men working for them. Almost invariably these contracts depended on the willingness of the contractor's wife to submit to the attentions of some boss. Many men and women in the camp were living together and not even claiming to be married.

When I got big enough to carry couplings for the cars, I got a job brak ing in the mines. The drivers were hauling 3 and 4-car trips, and the cars had brakes on them. I got 75 cents a day for this. In the air course, in the Pappoose mine, they had track made with wooden 2x4's for rails, for the wood didn't cost as much as steel, and profits were what they were after. One day we were coming out over this wooden track and the trip wrecked. I came out of it with a broken foot and ankle, and a knee out of place. I was eleven years old then, and I am still crippled in this foot and knee. It left my foot crooked for the company doctor to whom we paid $1.00 a month was only a pill peddler.

We stayed in West Virginia five years. There were six kids home younger than I and as my father and mother were religious they detested the wickedness of the camp, and wanted to find a better place to raise their family. They moved to Jerome, Pa. This was another non-union camp. Dad and I dug coal there, but he got hurt, and I had to help carry him home. We only stayed there a few months and then went to New Jersey. In the five years we were in West Virginia, my parents had saved all the money they could and when we left there they had $200 and when we got to New Jersey they just had enough left to buy a farm lot in the outskirts of Egg Harbor City, a place of about 40,000. It was a German town, and had but few improvements, not a paved street in it, and the land gravelly and cheap. What they called farm lots were about 5-8ths of an acre. Dad built a three room box house on his lot, got me a job in a tailor shop pressing coats for $2.00 a week.
Then as wages were poor there he went back to Pennsylvania to work at the mines. I didn’t like the low wages either, so I quit the tailor shop and got a job at the Liberty Cut Glass factory, at $3.00 a week. From there I went to the Winterbottom Carter & Co. knife handle factory, where I got $3.50 a week. And the second week I was there, when I got my pay envelope it had $4.50 in it but as they had promised me only $3.50, and I had been taught honesty, I went back and told them about it. Mr. Carter was in the office and he said, “It was a mistake, son, but it will be in there every week after this and it won’t be a mistake after this.” So my honesty was rewarded by a one dollar a week raise in wages.

But still I was not satisfied. The last work I had done at the mines I had got $2.55 a day for, so one morning on my way to work I threw away my lunch and started up the railroad track toward Philadelphia. I walked to Elwood, N. J., eleven miles, and there I climbed on a freight train and rode it to Philadelphia. N. J. I crossed on a ferry to Philadelphia. I stayed there that night at a cheap rooming house, and next morning I started out to find a job. I hunted all day and all I found was a job in a whisk broom factory at $3.50 a week, and I didn’t want that for it wouldn’t pay my board. So I asked a man in working clothes where I could catch a train out of town toward Altoona. He directed me to a junction, or crossing on 63rd Street. I went there and caught a freight train and the next night I got to Reading, Penna., after riding all day in a drizzling rain in an open car loaded with pig iron.

I got off and went up town. I had only a few cents left, so I bought some cheese and crackers with it. Then I was broke and wet and cold. I couldn’t get into a pool hall or saloon, for I was too young and I wouldn’t have gone if I could for I had been taught that sin lurked there. At that time I had never been in one and I had never been permitted to go to a ball game or a dance, or anything of that kind.

I started back to the railroad tracks and met a fellow who said there was a place up town where I could sleep and dry my clothes. He offered to show me the way up there so I went with him. He took me up to a place where a sign read: Good Hope Bible Mission. He took me in and they said they could fix me up. They gave me a coarse white gown and showed me to a bath room. They took my clothes away to dry them.

After I had my bath I was shown to a large garret and a cot was pointed out to me. There were about thirty cots in the room, and most of them had a man in them. One of the fellows next to me asked me a lot of questions and then told me I would have to cut wood in the morning to pay for my bed. He said the mission sold the wood around town.

I had refused to tell where I had come from that night so next morning when I came down they had a big burly policeman waiting for me, and as the fellow who ran the place called out, “Bummers, get to work!” and pointed out a big wood shed on the rear of the building to the other fellows who had been in the garret. The policemen led me away.

When he took me to the police station, the sergeant asked, “What’s the charge?”

“Runaway,” said the policeman gruffly.

Then they took my name and locked me up in a cell.

(To be continued in next issue.)

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We Must Not Forget Sacco and Vanzetti!

As the case of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti grows old the same danger that menaced the Mooney-Billings case threatens that of the two Italian agitators in Massachusetts. It is the danger that the case will be forgotten by the American labor movement, that a feeling of hopelessness will develop, and that these two courageous labor fighters will be allowed to rot away in their cells or led to the electric chair.

Mooney and Billings, whom the entire world knows to be innocent of the charges placed against them, whom the entire world knows now to have been convicted solely because of their activities in the labor movement, are, however, still imprisoned for life. No energetic campaign is conducted for their release. Only a few organizations, among them the International Labor Defense, and a few trade unions, continue to keep the issue of Mooney and Billings alive, to press constantly for a mass movement that will obtain freedom for the two labor leaders. But the mass of the labor movement, unfortunately, has become apathetic to the case and contents itself with an occasional resolution.

There is the same danger in the case of Sacco and Vanzetti. No honest observer will today contend that they are guilty of the charges against them. A mass of evidence has been adduced to prove their innocence. They are known to be the victims of the vengeance of the Massachusetts bourbons who hated them for their work in the labor movement. From the numerous bits of evidence, from the confessions that have been obtained, it is now as clear as a glass that they had no more to do with the South Braintree murder and payroll robbery than Mooney and Billings had to do with the Preparedness Day parade bomb.

But those whose faith had been put exclusively in the courts as the place from which “justice” would be meted out to the two Italian workers, are becoming discouraged by the internal slowness of these legal processes. By a thousand tricks of the judiciary and with a thousand ribbons of red tape, there have been constant delays in the case. The kept courts of Massachusetts have hoped to allay the correct fears of the workers by maintaining the illusion that there was a possibility of “justice” for Sacco and Vanzetti in the courts. They have hoped by this that the movement of protest created throughout the world would disintegrate and disappear. And knowing that this movement is the only guarantee for freedom and life to Sacco and Vanzetti the Massachusetts reactionaries hope to dissolve it in order that they may carry out their blood-thirsty plans with impunity.

The labor movement of this country, as well as of the others which have given such splendid fraternal support to the movement, must keep constantly on guard. The torturing process of involved legal procedure, the deceptive “impartiality” of the rotten courts of the state, are becoming nightmares for the two victims of capitalism in Massachusetts. The great protest movement which has so far prevented the execution of the two workers must be maintained as a security against the carrying out of the diabolical plot of murder.

We must not forget Sacco and Vanzetti. We must keep the issue ever before the eyes of the labor movement, which must remain ever ready to stay the hands of the Massachusetts executioners. The million-throated protest and the powerful arms of the workers of the world will yet secure life and freedom for Sacco and Vanzetti.
The Trial of the Czechoslovak Deputies

On January 19, in Prague, began the trial against the four communist deputies Harus, Safranko, Kreibich, Jilek, and against the national socialist deputy Kareljík. The accusation is connected with the events in the Czechoslovakian parliament in June 1926, when the communist fraction obstructed the adoption of the customs bill and the bill for the insurrection of the salaries of the clergy. The deputies are accused of infringement of the Law for the Protection of the Republic and for causing serious bodily harm. In the indictment the prosecution attempted to transform this purely political trial into a trial against common criminals. The trial is directed mainly against the Communist Party as an organization.

The leading judge of the proceedings did his best to exclude all political arguments. Every time one of the accused attempted to explain the political motives of the actions in question, the leading judge interfered. When Safranko pointed out that he, as a representative of the workers, realized that the adoption of the customs bill meant deterioration of the standard of life of the broad working masses, the judge interrupted him and stated that there was no time for political speeches.

When Kreibich spoke, these interruptions became still more frequent. Comrade Kreibich said: “The accusation supposed that we wanted to prevent action by mechanical means and technical obstruction, which is an old right of all parliaments and which was permitted in the Austrian parliament, the Bohemian Diet and in the German Reichstag.”

Chairman: “I tolerate no political speeches. We would stay here a long time if I did.”

Comrade Kreibich: “For me it is a question of months and years and I can therefore not take care of half an hour or so of your time. By mechanical means one cannot prevent the adoption of a bill. We are not of the opinion that on important matters decision is passed only within the parliament. Marx has already called such an opinion parliamentary cretinism.”

Chairman: “I will not tolerate your quoting here of all kinds of authors.”

This is only an example of the method with which this trial was conducted. After the examination of the accused, many clerical deputies appeared as witnesses and most of them did not repeat under oath their former statements to the examining magistrate. Their statements were vague and general.

Our last report is that the trial will last for several days.

Voices from Prison

Paul Crouch

J. P. Cannon, Alcatraz, Calif.

Dear Comrade Cannon:

Please pardon my long delay in acknowledging and sending my thanks for the Christmas check. I wish to express my most sincere appreciation to all comrades who contributed to making the last Christmas more pleasant. I regret that it is physically impossible for me to give personal answers until after my release.

On Feb. 19th I will have been in prison two years. The effects of this time—especially from a psychological viewpoint—have been tremendous. The outside world now seems almost like a dream. But I have no regrets. If I had everything to do over again I would be just as defiant and uncompromising in my stand for my revolutionary working class principles. Intellectual freedom is far dearer to me than mere physical liberty. My mind can never be enslaved by the chains of capitalism. It is about four months until the end of my sentence. June 1st means freedom for me. No one who has never been in prison can realize the full significance of that word. Yet June 1st means far more to me than freedom alone. For I will be able, on that day, to join my comrades in our common fight for economic freedom.

Though I am physically imprisoned, my mind is with the revolutionary workers of all countries. In addition to study of the international language, Esperanto, and considerable reading of books on scientific, historical, economic and sociological subjects, I find time to follow closely the developments in China, Mexico, Nicaragua, the Dutch East Indies (Java and Sumatra), and other centers in the struggle against Imperialism. It is a great pleasure to see the rapid awakening of oppressed nations and colonies. "Self-determination" is beginning to be a reality in a sense not intended by Woodrow Wilson. The importance of Lenin’s correct description of Imperialism as the last stage of capitalim and the beginning of the proletarian revolution is more obvious than ever before. I am afraid too many of us are likely to
The Trial of the Czecho-Slovak Deputies

Kreibich
Harus
Jilek
Knezick
Safranko
The Labor Defender

become locally minded, exclusively home centered and indifferent to conditions in other countries, forgetting the close association or developments and the fact that no nation—and much less community—is an independent economic unit in itself. (Of course, I don’t mean that we should neglect the great importance of local problems.) Recently I read with interest that Comrade Eugene Barnett is a native of Caldwell County, North Carolina. That is only a few miles from Wilkes County, my own birthplace. I am glad to learn that my native state, so well known for its primitive fanatical religious superstitions, pre-judice against scientific knowledge, race prejudices, low wages and long working hours, is the birthplace of at least one fellow fighter against these evils of the capitalist system. (Will you please convey my hearty greetings to Barnett?) No doubt, there are many others. I would be glad to hear from any comrades who live in North Carolina or are natives of that state. May I suggest that it would be worth while for the Labor press to make greater efforts to obtain worker correspondents in Southern states who could tell the story of their living conditions.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the members of the I. L. D. for their efforts in behalf of political prisoners and their relatives. I cannot sufficiently express my appreciation and gratitude for your efforts. I am proud to call myself a member of the I. L. D. (Anita Whitney Branch, San Francisco.) With greetings, I remain, sincerely and fraternally yours,

Paul Crouch.

NOTE: International Labor Defense intends to arrange a national tour with Paul Crouch immediately after his release from prison. Local secretaries of I. L. D. are urged to communicate immediately with the National Office so as to arrange for appropriate dates.

Billings

J. P. Cannon, Reposa, Cal.

Dear Friend:

Your letter of Dec. 29,—a letter from Rose Karsner, dated Jan. 7th and yours of the 24th with check enclosed all reached me in due time but due to the press of other affairs this is the first opportunity I have had to reply.

Sorry I was not able to write another article for you before Christmas explaining that no presents of any kind are allowed to come in here except money and thus avoid the difficulty caused by packages being returned, etc. Two packages of tobacco were sent to me and the first one was returned to Mr. C. E. Alsworth, Denver, Colo. The second one I arranged to have relaunched to H. D. Suhr who was recently released and here on parole. As the rule here now stands no packages at all are delivered to prisoners and must be purchased through the regular commissary department and paid for with money on deposit with the warden. We are allowed to buy only 24 packages of Duke’s mixture or Bull Durham or 14 cans of pipe tobacco such as Prince Albert, Tuxedo, Velvet, etc., once each month. Only one kind of tobacco may be ordered at a time. The only candy we can purchase is either twelve five cent bars of sweet chocolate or twenty-five “Old Henry” bars. One kind only each month. We are not allowed to buy any kind of fruit nor any sugar, condensed milk nor nuts of any kind. These articles should be added to the list of purchasable articles they are really badly needed by most of the men here. “Old Henry” diet is too restricted as it is and entirely too starchy.

I have not yet heard from my mother in regard to the cashing of the check but presume that she has cashed and mostly spent by this time. Thank Miss Karsner for me for helping the matter along any way.

Enclosed find receipt for monthly check.

Sincerely,

Warren K. Billings.

A Centralia I. W. W.

James P. Cannon,
Chicago, III.

Dear Comrade Cannon: This acknowledgement is coming rather late but I know you will pardon the tardiness after considering that writing day just comes once each week in here.

My brother and I wish to acknowledge receipt of, and thank our many friends who made it possible for the I. L. D. to send the victims of an unjust system the fine Xmas present of twenty-five dollars. Such a fine spirit was displayed by those coming to the defense of those who are defenseless. Such a display of loyalty is commendable and we wish again to thank our many friends who made such a fine present possible. Great credit is due for this to that young and splendid amalgamation known as the International Labor Defense. More power to that organization and may the delegates swell its ranks with new recruits for the year of 1927 until the membership are counted by millions. I have missed the January issue of the Labor Defender, will you please send me that I receive it? I don’t wish to miss any of the Pasacc articles. With kind wishes for our many friends, I am yours for a square deal,

Bert Bland.

A Deportee’s Wife

Dear Friend:

I haven’t forgot to thank you for our Christmas present, but have been very busy since with my work.

We thank you so many times that I can’t explain in words how we thank you. We just feel that we are in good health and hopes of returning. My family is also enjoying fine health at present.

Trusting to remain hearing from my husband friends knowing he is still remembered by some one.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Tony Stafford and Family.

Thomas Hardy

Mr. J. P. Cannon,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Comrade:

Enclosed please find signed receipt for $5.00 for which I want to thank you for the check.

Well, comrade, I am alone here at present. All the rest of class war prisoners are now left from behind these walls.

I have 17 more months to serve unless I am granted Executive Clemency.

Today we are having a very cold spell, and looking for some snow storms. Trusting all comrades are enjoying good health,

I remain,

Thomas Hardy,
Box A, Thomason, Maine.

An Ex-Class War Prisoner

Mr. James P. Cannon,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Comrade Cannon:

Your several letters received, sent after me from Lebanon, I am now living in Hamburg, Berew County. The harshness and other conditions made me get out of Lebanon. I will send you some financial help as soon as I get on my feet. I know the I. L. D. is doing great work which was never here before. Had the I. L. D. been in existence during the 1919 steel strike I know I would not have had to go to the penitentiary from 12 to 17 years on a dynamiting frame-up, engineered by labor spies of the Pinkertons, and lost my home and all my savings of 12 years hard work in the iron and steel mills. But every day of the rest of my life I will fight capitalism to give out the truth.

I am fired and hired in quick notice, but I don’t care, and ordered out of town by the Chamber of Commerce.

I am, fraternally yours,

Jacob Dolia.

The Bishop Brown Tour

Preparations are now completed for a very successful tour by Bishop William Montgomery Brown thruout the important cities of the West. Bishop Brown, who is a member of the national committee of International Labor Defense, under the auspices of which the tour is being made, is known thruout the world as the “heretic Bishop”. His booklet, “Communism and Christianity”, a radical interpretation of religion and the labor movement, was the immediate cause for his expulsion from the church, and has been translated into a dozen languages and distributed in hundreds of thousands of copies. Wherever Bishop Brown has held a meeting, the halls have been packed with workers eager to hear him speak on the labor movement. His meetings now for the I. L. D., for which he has spoken many times in the East and Mid-west, have aroused great interest in the West and information already received indicates that the meetings will be held on a big scale. The dates follow:

Denver..................February 26, 27
Salt Lake City.............March 1
Los Angeles................March 5, 6, 7
San Francisco................March 11, 12, 13
Portland....................March 16
Tacoma........................March 17
Seattle.....................March 19, 20
Vancouver..................March 21
Spokane....................March 23
St. Paul....................March 26
Minneapolis................March 27
The New York Bazaar of I. L. D.

The New Star Casino, Park Avenue and 107th Street, the scene of many labor meetings and celebrations in New York City, will be the hall in which the New York bazaar of the International Labor Defense will be held on March 10th to the 13th. The bazaar is being planned in the most careful manner to combine a few evenings of fun and jollity with aid to the work of labor defense. Dancing, music, singing, choruses of various nationalities, selections from special orchestras, booths throughout the hall where articles may be purchased for all needs and whisks will feature all the evenings of the bazaar.

The New York section of International Labor Defense has made an excellent record of work in the two years of its existence and the bazaar from the 10th to the 13th is its annual celebration.

In the Sacco-Vanzetti campaign, the I. L. D. gave signal aid in the mobilization of hundreds of thousands of New York workers into the Sacco-Vanzetti Conference, and in the huge Madison Square Garden protest meeting in which some 18,000 workers participated.

The same fraternal aid was given in the strikes of the fur workers and of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union. And in addition, numerous other cases and campaigns were conducted and supported by the New York section, such as the deportations of Emancal Vajtajer and Enea Sormenti, the demonstrations for Rakosi, Mella, Lantuszki, against the Queen of Roumania, and the like.

The workers who will fill the Star Casino during the bazaar will not only enjoy a few excellent evenings. They will help to forge an even stronger shield of the working class by aiding to build the New York section of International Labor Defense.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR JANUARY, 1927.

14746 Aaron Ihirt, Carpenters’ Local No. 87, St. Paul, Minn. 5.00
14747 Coral Meyer, Local Detroit, Mich. 27.00
14748 Cora Meyer, Local Milwaukee, Wis. 11.00
14749 No. 668, International B. C. Building, St. Louis, Mo. 14.00
14750 Paul Kusley, Gary, Indiana 6.00
14751 Edward B. Gall, Memphis, Tenn. 5.00
14752 L. Mitseff, Local Portland, Oregon 6.50
14753 M. Siennicki, Local Wheeling, W. Va. 5.40
14754 Chas. Kovacs, So. Bend, Indiana 10.50
14755 Samuel Van Loon, Elmwood Park, III. 7.05
14756 Irving Costin, Louisville, Ky. 2.50
14757 F. Wallin, Secy., No. 14, A. T., St. Paul, Minn. 20.47
14758 fiber Earnest, College Point, L. I., N. Y. 2.00
14759 Willis L. Wright, Local Great Falls, Montana 10.00
14760 Stanley Nowakowski, Polish Sec., Chicago, III. 97.77
14761 V. E. Brochovina, St. P., Minn. 5.00
14762 Mrs. C. A. Aram, Intl., Local No. 28, Los Angeles, Calif. 5.00
14763 Frank Szajkan, Concord, N. H. 7.50
14764 Gertrude Hiner, Gary, Indiana 1.75
14765 S. Tuck, Cleveland, Ohio 5.00
14766 S. Tuck, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 9.00
14767 A. M. Leaguer, Newark, N. J. 7.50
14768 Jennie Y. Kandace, Gary, Ind. 1.50
14769 John Sally, Kent, Ohio 1.00
14770 George Maurer, Local Chicago, III. 20.00
14771 George Maurer, Local Boston, Mass. 10.00
14772 George Maurer, Local Denver, Colo. 3.00
14773 Jens Jenson, Bridgeport, Conn. 5.00
14774 James R. Moore, Los Angeles, Calif. 5.00
14775 F. Jerger, Cleveland, Ohio 5.00
14776 Dr. M. Becker, Chicago, Ill. 5.00
14777 M. Kalousek, Czech-Slovak Sec., Chicago, Ill. 12.00
14778 M. Kalousek, Czech-Slovak Sec., Chicago, Ill. 20.00
14779 Mrs. P. Zalpis, Lithuanian Sec., Chicago, Ill. 128.00
14780 S. Pobovsky, Local Duluth, Minn. 4.00
14781 A. Rublin, Los Angeles, Calif. 4.00
Second Annual I. L. D. Bazaar

IN NEW YORK

March 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th

—AT—

STAR CASINO

107th Street and
Park Avenue.

Come to the bazaar. Enjoy yourself and at the same time help the defense work. Full proceeds will go to International Labor Defense.

There are still 46 class-war prisoners. The National Office sends $5 monthly to each and $20 monthly to the dependent families.

In addition to these there are many workers involved in cases scheduled for trial this year.

There are 8 coal miners at Zeigler who were convicted and whose case the I. L. D. is appealing. There are George Papcun, Horacek and the Woodlawn group in Pennsylvania. C. E. Rutenberg in the Michigan case, Sormenti and many other Italian political refugees facing deportation, 10 at Passaic and a number of others which we must help raise funds for in order to adequately defend them.

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Each Month

$5 to Class War Prisoners

$20 to Dependents

The Pledge Fund we are building is for the purpose of carrying out the obligation of helping class-war prisoners and their dependents and rendering assistance to those released.

We print a list in this magazine of those who contribute regularly to this Fund.

JOIN TODAY

SIGN THE PLEDGE!

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

Enclosed please find $.............. toward the Pledge Fund.
Also please consider me one of the Friends of Class-War Prisoners.
I agree to send regularly each month $.............. toward the Prisoners' Pledge Fund, beginning .................................................. to help the I. L. D. continue sending $5 monthly to class-war prisoners and $20 monthly to dependent families as well as to help released prisoners. Please send me a Pledge Card and assign to me one of the class-war prisoners with whom I can communicate.

NAME ..............................................................
ADDRESS ..........................................................
CITY .................................................. STATE ...............................
NOTE: Names of the Friends of Class-War Prisoners will be published in The Labor Defender each month.