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THE PRODUCERS NEWS

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNITED FARMERS LEAGUE IN THE NORTHWEST

PLENTYWOOD, MONTANA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1932

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Join the
United Farmers
League

Price 10 Cents

Demand Relief For Tilling Masses Feb. 4th

86 FARMERS ATTEND FIRST UFL MEETING IN SKANEE, MICHIGAN

Farmers Draw Up Set of Demands to Be Presented to County Supervisors.

Skanee, Mich., Jan. 13, 1932.—A very successful farmers meeting was held at the Skanee Town Hall in Skanee, Mich., on Jan. 13th. 86 farmers attended and as this was the first meeting ever arranged in Skanee of its kind, it was considered very good. The problems that confront the farmers today and the desperate crisis were thoroughly discussed and a number of resolutions were passed. The resolutions are to be sent to the county supervisors for action. The program of the United Farmers League was explained and discussion proved that the U. F. L. is an organization that fights for the welfare of the exploited farmers and workers.

Thousands of farmers are so hard pressed even here in Upper Michigan that their farms are being sold in sheriff's sales every week due to mortgages and delinquent taxes. The land banks have no mercy on the toiling farmers, and the county officials refuse to do anything.

Only through organization can we fight against the sheriff's sales, graft and high taxes. Let's all attend the future meetings and discuss the problems that face us. We must act now, as something must be done immediately.

Resolution Puts Demands of Farmers

The resolution passed at this meeting reads in part as follows: "The small farmers in Baraga county, as well as throughout the United States are facing an economic crisis of the worst kind in the history of the country. This condition threatens the future of the small farmers. Many farms are being sold by the sheriff every week in upper Michigan. . . . Even the this condition exists our county and state governments do nothing toward relieving the condition of the small farmer and the unemployed worker. . . . Farm products are far below the cost of production while taxes are gradually going up year after year.

During this crisis the farmers are unable to pay their tax and mortgage payments which sooner or later will force them into the already huge army of unemployed workers. The only way out of this farm crisis is for the farmers to organize and demand of the county and state as follows:

1. The postponement of all sheriff's sales until the crisis is over.
2. The postponement of all back taxes, mortgage and interest payments and the postponement of tax, mortgage and interest payments coming due for the period of the crisis.
3. A 20% reduction of all county officials salaries with no reduction in the wages of workers employed by the county.
4. Removing at once of all useless county officials such as county agent if he can not sell farmers' produce at a profit, deputy sheriffs and such clerks that are not needed.
5. To place the tax burden on big property owners such as land corporations, lumber and mining companies and other industries located in the county.
6. Free medical aid for the unemployed workers and poor farmers at the expense of the county, and the county doctor is to come at once to any needy case when notified.
7. Free dental and medical attention to all unemployed workers and poor farmers' children attending school as prescribed by the county nurse, paid by the county.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That, This resolution be sent to the county supervisors for favorable action and that the same be sent to the local press for publication.

A. Paine, Temporary Chairman.
A. Takala, Temporary Secy.
The farmers of Baraga County are not going to rest with passing this resolution containing their demands. They are going to rally the masses of toiling farmers in their county behind these demands so that they can force favorable action out of the county supervisors on these demands.

Teachers Job Given To Lowest Bidder In South Dakota

CHICAGO, Ill. — One school board in South Dakota had the bright idea of advertising for bids for the job. A girl willing to work for \$60 a month got it, said an official of the teachers' union.

MINNEAPOLIS SNOW SHOVELING RACKET ROBS UNEMPLOYED

TWENTY CENTS FOR EIGHT HOURS SNOW SHOVELING ON HOOVER SYSTEM

(By an Unemployed Worker)

Minneapolis. — The newspapers were writing a great deal about the "snow as a help to the unemployed." Well we got a lot of snow last week and here is the help it was:

One morning right after the snow had fallen an employment shark on the skid road stuck his head out thru the door and hollered: "Fifteen snowshovelers for St. Paul, 30 cents an hour." The ramshackled office was filled in a second and a crowd gathered outside. They were informed that the fee was \$1.00 but could be collected from the pay check. Board could be had on credit as long as the work lasted; car tokens were advanced.

After 8 hours work they were informed that the Hoover stagger plan was in effect and another crew had to take the next shift. They were paid off with earnings of \$2.40, minus \$1.00 for the employment shark fee, minus \$1.00 for the day's board, minus 20 cents for car fare (although two tokens cost only 15 cents). The balance was 20 cents. No credit for eats when not working and no guarantee to be put on again. So they could either walk to Minneapolis or pay the rest of the 20 cents to the street car company.

Here is what the snow helped: The employment shark got \$15.00; the Milwaukee Commissary Company got \$15.00 more; and the street car company got the balance of the 8-hour work put in by 15 workers.

Down with the employment shark. Demonstrate on February 4th, 4:00 P. M. at Bridge Square and demand unemployed insurance.

Farmers Union Local Will Fight Eviction of the Tilling Farmers

The Raymond, Montana, local of the Farmers Union at its regular monthly meeting held at Raymond on Thursday, January 21, has resolved to enter militantly into the fight for the improvement of the farmers conditions. The program of action of this local of the Farmers Union is contained in the following resolution which was passed at the meeting.

"FARMERS E. & C. UNION
Local No. 364
Raymond, Mont.

Whereas, we already have enough roads to serve us and cannot possibly pay taxes for building more roads

"Be It Resolved, That we demand that the County Commissioners cut their road program to such an extent that we just maintain what roads we have."

"Whereas, the County Agent is absolutely useless to the taxpayers."

"Be It Resolved, that we demand the immediate resignation of the County Agent. Also be it resolved that we demand that the County Commissioners do not hire another County Agent."

"Whereas, the county officials get far larger wages than the average taxpayer."

"Be It Resolved, that we demand that the county officials' wages be cut."

Whereas, the sheriff gets an unreasonable amount of mileage.

"Be It Resolved, that we demand that the sheriff's mileage be cut."

Whereas, there is a great deal of red tape in regard to the transferring of public funds.

"Be It Resolved, that we demand that the County Commissioners use more horse sense and less red tape when a transfer of funds is advisable. Furthermore, be it resolved that we demand that the County Commissioners realize that they are or should be public servants and not dictators. That we demand that the State Legislature that the license fees on cars and trucks not



MATTHEW WOLL

On the Hoover-Gifford Emergency Unemployment Relief Committee. Woll is Vice-President of the American Federation of Labor; President of the Labor Life Insurance Co.; Acting President of the National Civic Federation; member of the War Labor Board in the World War. Was assistant to Gompers as Chairman of Committee on Labor, of Council of National Defense. Woll is the leading opponent of government unemployment insurance; author of letter to all Senators and Congressmen calling for suppression of the National Hunger March and new suppressive laws against militant labor unions and the Communist Party; leader of the blockade and war drive against the Soviet Union.

Use of Milk Drops Because of Poverty of Workers, Says N. J.

The New Jersey department of agriculture has announced that despite the recent cut in the prices of bottled milk, the consumption of milk is very low. The department blames this on the fact that "family budgets have been adjusted to the depression." The statement adds that "social workers are keenly apprehensive as to the results of such adjustment." The statement expounds the very healthful qualities of milk and urges all families to supply their children with at least a quart a day for each child and at least a pint for adults—but it doesn't tell the workers where the money for this milk is to come from.

JAPANESE WAR SHIPS READY TO SHELL CITY OF SHANGHAI

Capitalist Press Admits Soviet Union Sincere In Demanding Peace.

ORGANIZE TO SAVE N. D. FARMS FROM ST. PAUL BANK

FEDERAL LAND BANK WILL EVICT FARMERS UNLESS WELL ORGANIZED.

The vicious attacks which are being made by the Federal Land Bank of St. Paul against the farmers of North Dakota has taught many of the farmers that they must organize against the St. Paul Bank if they want to protect their land and homes. In Williams County, North Dakota, an organization of farmers has been formed.

The Federal Land Bank is going ahead with its foreclosures when the poverty stricken farmers cannot pay their interest or their mortgage installments. In a letter which was sent out by the temporary secretary of this farmers' organization, these attacks of the Land Bank are pictured.

"The means used by this bank in forcing collections and foreclosures would not do credit to a pawn shop. Most pawnbrokers would not ask for the money that is used for food for families and for the little stock that remains on the farms. Individual cases can be cited where this bank has insisted on getting just such money, with threats of foreclosure for the full amount of the loan in default, including taxes."

"No consideration is given a man if in the past he has been prompt in his payments."

"We feel that when choice lies between interest on bonds and taking the home away from drouth sufferers, there should be only one answer—save the home for the drouth sufferers."

The letter points out that the Land Bank will try to evict four hundred borrowers in the county if they cannot pay their interest charges or pay the principal due on their loans. The only way they can prevent the St. Paul Land Bank from carrying out this brutal eviction policy is to organize to prevent it. That means organizing all of the farmers in the county and with the cooperation of the United Farmers League of Williams County actually preventing a mass pressure, the eviction of any single farmer. This is the only way that the Land Bank can be argued with—preventing the sheriff from evicting any farm family at the orders of the St. Paul agents of Wall Street.

HARLAN, KY. SHERIFF IS FORMER THUG FOR BALDWIN-FELTS CO.

Workers, Farmers Must Rally Relief for Heroic Kentucky Miners.

HARLAN, Ky. — A killer, trained in the school of the bloodiest strike breaking agency in the history of the American class struggle, John Henry Blair was carefully chosen as sheriff of Harlan County by the coal operators, an investigation of his record by the Daily Worker in Harlan County shows.

Sheriff Blair, under whose instructions Joe Weber and Bill Duncan were beaten mercilessly for taking a leading part in the present strike was formerly a strikebreaker for the notorious Baldwin-Felts detective agency noted for its killing of miners in Ludlow, Colorado and in the West Virginia coal fields.

Blair himself at times has been a coal operator. With a partner named Jim Green, Blair at one time operated the High Point Mine, at Ages, Ky. Before prohibition, Blair was a strikebreaker and later a big liquor agent.

A brief review of the murderous deeds of the Baldwin-Felts agency for whom Blair did many bloody tasks, will show that the present attacks against the miners in Kentucky and Tennessee, are the outgrowth of the long series of attempts of the Rockefeller, the Morgans, the Fords and the insults to crush out the struggle of the miners against starvation.

John Henry Blair learned the lesson of murder from the highest strikebreaking school in the United States—the Baldwin-Felts agency—hired by Rockefeller to kill the Colorado miners in 1914. In the West Virginia coal strike

The imperialist struggle between the United States and Japan has brought to an end the temporary union between the Cantonese and the Nanking factions in the Chinese government. The foreign minister, Eugen Chen, and the premier, Sun Fo have resigned. The capitalist press reports that this break between the Nanking and the Canton factions occurred at the behest of Japan. The Nanking faction has been the puppet of Wall Street while the Cantonese members of the government represent the Japanese interests.

The sharpening of the rift between the United States and Japan is seen in the antagonism with which the United States views the preparations of the Japanese imperialists for an armed attack on Shanghai. The Wall Street imperialists are not opposed to an attack on the Chinese masses but they know that if the Japanese send in troops and marines from their battleships which lie in the harbor at Shanghai it will be for the purpose of establishing the rule of Japanese imperialism in Shanghai at the expense of the other imperialists. For that reason Washington thinks that the "situation" in Shanghai, that is the crushing of the mass movement, should be handled by the police of the International Settlement, which police are run jointly by all of the robber powers.

The Japanese imperialists have ten warships in the harbor at Shanghai and 1400 Japanese marines are patrolling the waterfront. These are the preparations for the attack on Shanghai and for the dismemberment of central China.

Admission that the Soviet Union is prepared to go to the limit to assure world peace "even to the point of total land and naval disarmament" was made last week in the imperialist press.

A dispatch from Eugene Lyons, Moscow correspondent of the United Press, admits that the Soviet Union is sincerely interested in supporting any move which will prevent war. He reports that foreign opinion in Moscow sees the Soviet delegates who are leaving for the Geneva "Disarmament Conference" as "amenable to any agreement which in their government's eyes seems 'real' disarmament and not merely a formula to 'mask further armaments.' He declares:

"The unmasking of any such equivocal formulas will as heretofore be the special task of Moscow."

The dispatch further admits that the proposal for complete disarmament which was advanced by Commissar of Foreign Affairs, (Continued on Page Two)

10 Horses of Farmers Die of Starvation

In the small territory north of Raymond, Montana, ten horses have died in the past few weeks — farmers' horses. We call this murder of the farmers' stock by the local feed loan committee and the county agent. YES, MURDER.

With ice and snow covering the ground these horses have been unable to get at the miserable grass that was left after the drought. And the county feed loan committee and the county agent are responsible for the farmers not having any feed for these months. They are responsible for the killing of these horses.

Wayne La Grange lost one horse, O'Grady one. Ole Mathieson got his feed loan after one of his horses died, due to the county feed loan committee. This is what the farmers told the feed loan committee. The horses that have died so far are good horses — young horses from three to five years old. Many cows are in bad condition.

One of the fakers from the Grand Forks office who tried to save the county agent's hide when he was here, together with the government feed loan man, Oscar Johnson, went to a farmer whose horses are starving now and asked him if he couldn't wait until the next seed loan comes thru! The farmer told them that he wouldn't need the seed loan if he didn't have any feed for his horses now, for he wouldn't be doing any plowing next spring if his horses died in the winter.

This is what feed loan discrimination means to the farmers. This is what the farmers told the feed loan committee last fall when the loans were being made.

The farmers of Sheridan County under the leadership of the United Farmers League demand the cleaning out of this vicious county agent. The farmers of Sheridan County demand that farmers should be appointed to the committees for the seed loans this spring—and only farmers.

We want every case of such murder of stock by the agents of Wall Street reported to the Producers News. We want every example of oppression of the farmers by these agents reported.

Only Bank in Harlem, Montana, Goes Bust

HARLEM, Jan. 20.—The First National bank of Harlem failed to open its doors Wednesday morning and an announcement was made that frozen assets caused the closing. The closing followed an examination of the bank's records by J. E. Gentry, deputy state bank examiner.

The First National was the only bank at Harlem. A few years ago it and the First State bank were merged.

IRON RIVER, MINN. FARMERS ELECT COMMITTEE OF ACTION

Committee Draws Up Resolution of Farmers' Demands and Will Work Out Plans of Activity.

Iron River, Minn., Jan. 15.—Over 200 farmers attended a mass meeting held at Iron River Township Hall January 10th. Victor Benson of Bates township presided as chairman. Gust Casagrande was elected as secretary at the meeting. The meeting was opened with a short talk by Victor Benson.

This was followed by a general discussion in which all farmers took part as to the situation of Iron county farmers. A report followed by a representative of the United Farmers League. The platform was explained and conditions of farmers in the other parts of the peninsula.

Then followed the proposals for a Committee of Action to carry further this work. Also to arrange for further meetings. The meeting made proposals as to the demands of the farmers there to be drawn up by Committee of Action, to be presented to the Supervisors meeting and to the local press.

The Committee of Action for Iron River township is composed of the following farmers: Arvid Maki, Gust Casagrande, Sanford Aho, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Matt Maki, John Andre, Napoleon LaVeaux.

This Committee of Action elected by the farmers of Iron River

MASS SOLIDARITY AGAINST BANKERS' HUNGER PROGRAM

MILLION MASSES WILL DEMONSTRATE DESPITE WALL STREET GUNMEN AND ARMS

The mass demonstration of the workers and farmers of the entire country on February 4 will show the Wall Street plunderers, their Hoover Hunger government and the local branches of the Wall Street Hunger state that in the two months since December 7, hundreds of thousands

more workers and farmers have rallied in the struggle against hunger and privation. On December 7, the Hoover Hunger government, barricaded behind the greatest slaughter machine ever assembled in Washington, told the toiling masses of the country, with all the stark brutality which is the life blood of capitalism, that the toiling masses would have to pay for the crisis thru starvation and death.

In order to hold up their hunger system that they run thru wholesale starvation of the toiling masses, to save the market price on their bonds, the Wall Street plunder crew ordered all relief by the cities and states cut off. These plunderers know that the masses will not submit to their hunger decree. They know that the National Hunger March has drawn hundreds of thousands of new forces into active struggle for immediate relief from this hunger state. They are prepared to drown the misery of the masses in blood. The instructions given to the command militia, which we publish on another page, are but a sample of the preparations made for the state militia of all of the states and for the national guard by the military agents of Wall Street.

The 1670 delegates to the National Hunger March faced Hoover's thugs and gunmen, unarmed, on December 7th. On February 4, millions of workers and farmers will demonstrate for immediate relief thru the land despite the police, the state militia, the thugs and the gangsters that the capitalist state has at its command armed to the teeth. Despite machine guns, tear gas bombs, sharpshooters, sub machine guns, and rifle and hand grenades, despite hunger and privation, despite worse misery than the toiling masses of this country have yet known, these toiling masses will on February 4 demand with proletarian resoluteness and determination that relief be given to unemployed workers and the destitute farmers.

While the capitalist press denies editorially the misery and starvation, its news stories report day after day cases of starvation, deaths from starvation and suicides of workers and farmers who have been driven to this by the misery the capitalist class has decreed for the working class. A few such items follow:

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Unemployed and starving William E. Brant, 25, took \$2 from a cash register to buy himself some food, was arrested and given a 10-year jail sentence by Judge Thomas J. Seehorn. When Brant stole the money he told the proprietor of the store who had \$11 in the register.

"I am only taking \$2 of this money, I haven't had anything to eat for several days and all I want is enough to buy a meal."

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Alexander Eickhammer, unemployed, died of starvation, here on Jan. 18 at the Municipal Lodging house, the St. Louis Globe-Democrat declared in its issue of Jan. 19. "Extreme malnutrition," was given as the cause of death at the city hospital.

Hunger Is Widespread OLYMPIA, Wash. — Acute destitution, families without food for days, children huddling together like puppies to keep warm was revealed when the "relief" committee made a report about conditions in Thurston County, Washington.

The committee reported that there are 600 families that are without food, some cases for weeks.

"Children huddled together to keep warm in homes where there was no furniture save a store and bunks. Children were strained exposed."

Adopted the following resolution WHEREAS the conditions of the farmers are such, that we are unable to continue paying our high taxes or mortgages, in this period of crisis, we are faced with losing our homes and no consideration is given by the County or Township officials to the needs of the farmers.

WHEREAS these conditions make it necessary for us to organize our forces to struggle for the following demands:

1. The immediate and drastic cut of taxes on all farmers in this county.
2. A cut of 10% on salaries up to \$100.00 per month, and 25% on salaries over \$100.00 per month of all the county, township and school officials.
3. A new and complete assessment of all properties in Iron River township.
4. We favor the \$15.00 per thousand valuation limit, on all properties.
5. Absolutely no foreclosures, or evictions for inability to pay taxes or mortgages due, until the times improve.

Signed, Gust Casagrande, Chairman, Williams, Sec. of the Committee of Action.

This Committee of Action elected by the farmers of Iron River

(Continued on Page Two)

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ERIK BERT, Editor
HANS RASMUSSEN, Business Manager

Friday, January 29, 1932.

ORGANIZE FOR A REAL TAX STRUGGLE

In one way or another, the capitalist class is pushing its taxpayers' associations in order to stem the rising tide of struggle of the toiling farm masses against outrageous taxes. In an article in the Dakota Farmer, B. W. Baer, South Dakota Director of Taxes unconsciously shows just how Wall Street thru such agents as himself is trying to force the farmers to continue to bear the great burden of taxes that now weighs upon them and on their families.

After pointing to the greatly increased expenditures of the state and how it presses on the farmers, Baer continues:

"This brought a realization that if the average taxpayers were to be rescued from excessive government costs they must develop in themselves the will to reduce costs. That they must be willing to deny themselves things they would like to have and should have but which they could not afford.

"The only way to reduce taxes is to reduce costs of government. One way to curb the cost is a realization that we may dispense with some of the activities of government that require the expenditure of tax money."

The argument of this agent of Wall Street is: you farmers want taxes reduced. Very well the best way to reduce them is to reduce the amount spent on your needs in the budget, things you "would like to have and should have." The expenditure that he wants to curb are not those for the state militia, which is used against the workers and farmers, nor the expenditures that are made directly for the capitalist class, but those expenditures which are of some benefit to the farmers.

In order to accomplish this reduction in taxes, Baer recommends the taxpayers associations.

"The taxpayers' associations were organized primarily to study the facts and determine the answer. Most of the results which have been accomplished in this way have come through organization, and that organization is necessary where large numbers are involved. The taxpayers must organize to make himself effective and give expression to his powers and ideas. This organization, however, must not be a class organization representing selfish or particular interests. The tax problem is a problem of a small home owner quite as much as it is the large property interests, and no tax organization program will be successful without working in the interests and supported by the great mass of taxpayers."

Baer points out to the farmers that they must organize in order to achieve what they should have in the way of tax reduction. But "THIS ORGANIZATION MUST NOT BE A CLASS ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING SELFISH OR PARTICULAR INTERESTS." The "small home owner" and the "large property interests" are equally interested in the tax problem. "No tax organization program will be successful without working in the interests and supported by the great mass of taxpayers."

This is the program of Wall Street. This is the program of the tax collectors. This program is designed to prevent the farmers from realizing that their interests are not the same as those of the large property interests but are diametrically opposed to them, not only in taxes but in every phase of economic and political activity. These "large property interests" are part of the exploiting class, the small and middle farmers are part of the exploited. Their interests are not the same. Baer wants the farmers to forget that they are a CLASS different from the large property interests. He is trying to prevent the farmers from struggling in the only way in which they will accomplish anything—as part of the exploited, as small and middle farmers, as toiling farmers—and against the rich, the exploiters, the robbers. He wants to make the farmers forget that they, as toiling farmers, have "particular interests," that are in opposition to the interests of the "large property interests."

HE IS TRYING TO PREVENT, TO STEM THE CLASS STRUGGLE OF THE TOILING FARM MASSES TOGETHER WITH THE TOILERS OF THE CITIES AGAINST THE EXPLOITERS.

We agree with Baer that "no tax organization program will be successful without working in the interests and supported by the great mass of taxpayers." But, working in the interests and supported by the great mass of taxpayers, against the small group of rich farmers, monopolies, etc., who live thru the misery and the poises, railroad owners, public utilities, market oppression of the toiling farm masses. Against this crew must our struggle for tax reductions be directed as well as the struggle along the whole line. Make the rich pay, this must be our fighting slogan in the tax struggle.

Thruout this whole article runs the demand for non-class conscious taxpayers' associations. Wall

Street realizes the growing determination among the farm masses to struggle against the outrageous taxes that they have had to bear. It is attempting to divert this, by the use of the representatives of the large property interests into a struggle to cut out of the budget the benefits that the toiling farm masses get. This is their program of tax reduction.

"A taxpayers' association, to command the confidence of the public and secure results, must be absolutely non-partisan and, as above indicated, such associations cannot accomplish the largest measure of success without a wide membership of all classes of taxpayers, large and small. Its initial support, however, must generally come from the larger taxpayers, who because of their intimacy with large business affairs are more likely to know the real deficiencies of government. This does not mean that the man whose taxes amount to thousands of dollars is more desirous than the small taxpayer of honest and efficient government. It merely means that he often has, as a result of his experience, a knowledge of the deficiencies, which a taxpayers' association alone can furnish to the great body of citizens. But, if the large taxpayer, or some parent organization such as the Farm Bureau, Farmers Union, Grange, or State Chamber of Commerce, must be a support to these bodies, it is equally certain that the interest of the small taxpayer must likewise be secured. His interest is needed more than his money."

The United Farmers League tells the farmers that we toiling farmers do not want to win the "confidence of the public." The "public" that the capitalist press always talks about includes the rich and their representatives. We want the confidence of all the small and middle farmers and workers. We want them to be confident that only the United Farmers League will lead them successfully, thru struggle, to a real reduction in taxes for them and for increases in taxes for the rich. We want the rich to be confident that we will organize and lead the toiling farm masses against them and their tax robbery. We want them to be confident that this struggle will be one of class against class, the exploited against the exploiters and their agents.

Mr. Baer wants the "initial support to come from the larger taxpayers, who because of their intimacy with large business affairs are more likely to know the real deficiencies of government." He brazenly suggests that the leaders in the taxpayers associations should be the larger taxpayers who are the exploiters, who are the very ones who have been able to pay large taxes out of the plunder they have taken from the toiling farm masses and thru the exploitation of the city workers. Their "intimacy with large business" means their intimacy with robbery and plunder. "The deficiencies of government" that they will find are that the toiling farm masses do not pay enough taxes and that they should pay more in order that the rich can be exempt to a great degree.

He points out that not only must the large taxpayers be a support to this taxpayers association, but also "some parent organization such as the Farm Bureau, Farmers Union, Grange, or State Chamber of Commerce." This agent of Wall Street expects to get the same support for this tax reduction deception from the Grange, the Farmers Union, and the Farm Bureau as from the large taxpayers and the Chamber of Commerce. He knows that these "farmers' organizations" will not organize, do not organize the farmers for struggle, will not lead the farmers in the struggle for tax reduction. He knows that they will cooperate with the large taxpayers practically, even tho they may make radical tax-the-rich speeches to the farmers.

He points out to these "farmers' organizations" just how they can cooperate.

"Thus, it would seem that associations fostered and encouraged to some extent by state-wide organizations, such as those above mentioned, would provide the greatest possibilities of accomplishment along this line. Each of the above organizations is active along this line, and if their efforts are properly directed they should accomplish much in the way of reducing public expenditures thru a reduction of budgets to the essentials which can be supported by the public without undue hardship."

These organizations are the Farm Bureau, the Grange, the Farmers Union and the State Chamber of Commerce. From the cooperation of these organizations with the large taxpayers he expects "the greatest possibilities of accomplishment along this line." "This line" is the misleading of the farmers thru the non-class taxpayers associations, the associations run by the rich in order to prevent greater tax levies being placed on them and forcing the farmers to pay more taxes or to have his living standards attacked thru cuts in the budget.

The fear of class-conscious farmers' organization runs thruout the article of Baer. He begins with the demand that all classes must cooperate in this tax reduction venture. He ends with the same thought.

"The work must be so conducted as to be free from any charge that it is carried on for any taxpayer or particular class of taxpayers. If these associations are to succeed they must benefit every class and every person in the community."

The United Farmers League exposes and will continue to expose to the toiling farm masses the deceit in such a program. The United Farmers League says that the struggle for tax reduction must be so conducted that it is free of any charge of being in the interests of the rich as well as of the toiling farmers. If the struggle for tax reduction is to succeed it must be in the interest of the exploited and against the rich and their state tax collectors.

"The results of any organization of this kind depends largely upon leadership and a sincere desire to be of service to the public rather than to any class of individuals or property owners. They must take the broad-minded view that the result of their work must be a permanent improvement affecting all classes rather than some temporary expedient seeking

1,000 New Subscribers Feb. 1 to March 16

Doings of the Advance Guard

Ready to Organize

There was never a better time for organizing the farmers than right now. They are practically all in the same boat. What they are producing is sold below cost of production and somebody else is fixing the price. They can not pay their taxes, nor the interest on their mortgages. They are facing sheriffs' sales, eviction and starvation.

They want to organize into something worth while and don't know how to go about it. Their local papers have always been fooling them. What they need more than anything else is their own paper—a paper that can tell them about the United Farmers League—the Producers News.

Farmers' Paper Needed.

Thru our paper we can get in contact with more farmers more quickly and more effectively than in any other way. Read what was done on the firing line last week. We are doing fine for a starter but we must do much better. We must get the Producers News into every community as quickly as possible. Action is what counts right now.

Happenings of Last Week

Ellen Lemponen of the Tyomies Society at Superior, Wis., sends in 9 new subs.

Arvo F. Husa, Belden, N. D., sends us \$3.25 for bundles to be delivered during the next five weeks.

Orval W. Laine, Green, Mich., 1 sub.

Merton Willis, Torrington, Wyo., writes: "I will subscribe for your paper myself but the system thru the Mountain States Honey Producers Assn., has robbed me so systematically that I am broke. However, you may be sure that I shall be the means of getting a number of subscribers for your paper."

M. M. London, Blaine, Wash.: "Please send me a copy of the Producers News along with all information as to sub rates and the U. F. L."

Quick Action Counts

W. W. Labbo, Henry, Neb.: "Just run across a copy of your paper Saturday and am sending you the following subs with check for \$4.00 to cover same. Please send me a few sub blanks." He sent 3 subs—he does not wait for George to do it.

Frank Brown, Kansas City, Mo.: "Please let us know your terms for distributing the Producers News. The issues you have sent us we have relayed to farmers close to Oklahoma City."

Art W. Kutsi, Angola, Minn., orders two subscription books.

Roger L. Murray, Butte, Mont., writes: "We are sending in an article for the paper. We are selling the Producers News now on the streets of Butte and we are having good success with it. Send us some subscription blanks and we will work among the farmers on our way to Anaconda."

Covering Large Territory

Emil Folk of Glencoe, Minn., comes in again: "Enclosed find 50c for which you are to send a sample copy of Producers News to the following names." Emil has paid for several hundred copies and had them distributed. That's what we call spreading the news.

L. V. Kutsi, Robert, Mont., is here again with one more sub.

Matt Aja, Ceyser, Mont.: "Here are four more 6 months subscriptions for your paper." Then he sends us four dollars.

Donald Bjork, Iron Bell, Wis.: "Instead of sending me five copies every week, send me 10 continually. You will receive cash for every copy you send."

C. E. Tucker sends in 3 subs from Flaxton, N. Dak.

George Wisky of Larson, N. D., sends in a \$2.00 renewal. Also one sub.

Emil Folk of Glencoe, Minn., is here again. That boy is a go-getter. He sends us \$3.25 and tells us to send sample copies to each of 82 enclosed names.

Getting a Good Start

Erick Sweet of Bonetrail, N. D., is also one of the live wires. He sends 7 subs, all paid for. You are doing fine Erick. Hop to it. We appreciate it.

Berg from Lagle, Idaho, writes for a sample copy.

H. M. Larson, Frederick, S. D., sent us one sub.

Felix Kunz of Malin, Ore., writes and tells us to be sure and write his address correct. He does not want to miss a paper.

Angora, Minn. U. F. L. held

to relieve one class at the expense of some other class."

Against this attempt to mislead the struggle of the toiling farmers, the United Farmers League says the leadership for the struggle, must come, not from the rich taxpayers who must be fought, but from among the farmers themselves. The farmers must be the leaders in the struggle. The purpose of the struggle is to win relief for the toiling farm masses, for this one particular "class of individuals or property owners" and not to be "of service to the public" which means the rich taxpayers.

The "broadminded view" that the toiling farmers must take is that their interests are one with those of the city workers against the exploiters, the rich, the large taxpayers. The improvements that we must gain are not for "all classes" but for the toiling farmers, and not for the rich farmers, the railroads, the market monopolies, the speculators and the bankers. This must be a relief for the small and middle farmers while an increased burden must be levied on the rich.

The United Farmers League points out the lim-

its meeting at the Sturgeon hall on Jan. 12th. Two members were nominated to spread the Producers News and get subscriptions for it.

Richard Koski, Ogema, Minn., sends us two subs.

La Going to Work Harder M. Vedrick, Wheelock, N. D., writes: "Enclosed find money order for \$2.75. \$2.50 for subscription and 25c from sale of bundle of Producers News. Have to work a little harder and get some more subscriptions."

John Korpela, Lebanon, N. D.: "Enclosed find \$1.00 for sample copies of Producers News and copies of U. F. L. program."

Women's Council Interested Bessie Myers, New York City, N. Y., representing the National Council of Jewish Women, is also interested: "We are interested in receiving a sample copy of your publication and any information you may be able to furnish regarding the U. F. L. will be greatly appreciated."

Orders By Wire Arne Jaskela, Newell, S. Dak., sends us the following telegram: "One bundle of 100 Producers News immediately to Emil Lehas, Bellefouche, So. Dak."

Senator Chas. E. Taylor orders 100 copies sent to him in Minnesota.

JOBBLESS DEMAND FAKERS

STATE RELIEF PROGRAM

Minneapolis.—The south side branch of the Unemployment Council has issued a challenge to the Farmer-Labor aldermen of the Sixth Ward, Peterson and Bastia. These aldermen, posing as friends of workers, are supporting the Farmer-Labor mayor, Anderson, in his stand against unemployment insurance and for the starvation charity. However, they claim to be more radical than the mayor, since the mayor is completely discredited among the workers.

The Unemployed Branch, situated in the Sixth Ward, is therefore calling upon these aldermen to come to the mass meeting to state their positions. Meanwhile workers are being asked from their homes in the Sixth Ward the same as a voter war.

Miner's Son Joins

Young Pioneers to

Fight Bosses War

NEW YORK—"I don't want Tom, my big brother, to go to any war and get killed for the boss," writes a young miner's boy to the national office of the Young Pioneers of America. "And me and some of the other fellows in our Boy Scout troop are going to the Children's Rally Against War on the 17th. We're joining the Young Pioneers," he adds.

DEMAND

(Continued from Front Page)

pressions, their faces sallow and drawn," the committee said.

Workers report that the committee is deliberately underestimating the appalling conditions of the unemployed workers and their families in this county, that there is twice six hundred in dire need. Evicted families are looking for shelter in old abandoned barns and sheds. But the landlords are driving the workers even from these miserable refuges. In one case a worker and his family was evicted from an old shed which had only three walls.

The relief being given by the Relief Committee hardly scratches the surface, distributing according to their own statement \$700 a week for 600 families they were forced to recognize as being in need. It was apparent that the needs of the destitute families in county were not being met, that there were homes where children were always hungry.

Unemployment is increasing, the lumber mills in the district practically closed down, the committee forecasts a stop to the entirely inadequate relief they are giving now in a statement that funds are diminishing.

ations of the tax struggle. The struggle for reduction of taxes is only part of the struggle of the farmers against misery and oppression. The toiling farm masses must organize to protect their homes against seizure for taxes or sale thru foreclosure. They must organize to win lower freight rates. They must organize for immediate relief from the counties. They must fight for free medical attention for their families. If the taxpayers' association goes into these struggles, it will no longer be just a taxpayers' association. If it does not, it will not be fighting all along the battle line in the interest of the farmers.

Where the taxpayers are run by the small businessmen and the bankers, they are against the interests, the class interests, of the toiling farmers. Where the farmers run them themselves they should get in touch with the local United Farmers League, to broaden the struggle into a fight for all the interests of the farmer, and to win support in other counties and townships in a widespread struggle for tax reduction for the toiling farm masses and organization for the struggle for all of their other interests.

GEORGE EASTMAN



The Kodak King, member of the Hoover-Gifford Emergency Relief Committee. He is the richest man in Rochester, N. Y. He has used spies to crush even conservative unions and is a bitter opponent of social insurance.

JAPANESE WAR

(Continued from Front Page)

Maxim Litvinoff, at a previous "disarmament conference" is "still the keystone of Soviet policy."

This is an open admission from imperialist sources that the Soviet Union is fighting for peace, against another world slaughter of the working class, and against the vicious provocations of the Japanese and other imperialists who have been attempting to involve the Soviet Union in war and whose murderous plans for armed intervention against the Soviet Union by this coming spring have been openly stated in the imperialist press within the past weeks.

Capitalists Want Disarmament Only for USSR.

The same dispatch reports that the Soviet press has accused the imperialists of being chiefly interested in preventing real disarmament and in feeding the world working-class pacifist phrases while at the same time speeding up their preparations for war. The dispatch admits that the Soviet Union has shown its readiness for a non-aggression pact with France, Poland and all its neighbors.

The Soviet Union yesterday signed a non-aggression pact with the government of Finland. Negotiations with the Rumanian government for a similar pact have been interrupted by the Rumanian ruling class.

The insincerity of the Finnish government in signing a non-aggression pact with the Soviet Union is clearly exposed by the statement by the Finnish government that ratification of the pact is conditional upon the signing of similar pacts by Rumania, Poland and other puppet states of French imperialism on the western frontiers of the Soviet Union. The Japanese imperialists have openly refused the proposal of the Soviet Union for a non-aggression pact.

Japanese Send Warships

The Japanese yesterday dispatched warships, bombing planes and troops to the Chinese city of Shanghai in a murderous threat against the rising wave of revolutionary struggles of the Chinese worker-peasant masses against the imperialist looters of China and their Kuomintang hangers-on.

Japanese marines were landed in Shanghai several days ago, following a riot incited by Japanese national chauvinists residing in Shanghai. Chinese workers were attacked and several Chinese factories burned.

Demanding that the boycott against Japanese goods be called off and that the workers cease from all anti-Japanese activities and demonstrations, the Japanese are threatening to bombard the workers quarters of Shanghai. A threat is also made to blockade the port of Tientsin in the effort to starve the Chinese workers of that city into submission to the imperialist plans for the looting and partition of China.

The present moves to dismember China are directed against the Chinese masses and their Chinese Soviet Republic and Chinese Red Army, and as a necessary preparation for a mad intervention against the Soviet Union.

FORCE YOUR DEMANDS FOR REDUCTION OR CANCELLATION OF TAXES BY REFUSAL TO PAY THEM.

OUR DRIVE IS ON! BETWEEN FEB. 1 AND MARCH 16 WE MUST GET ONE THOUSAND NEW SUBSCRIBERS!

NOT ONLY is this a financial necessity for our paper but it is our duty to our organization and to the farmers and workers.

NEVER BEFORE were the farmers facing bankruptcy as they are today. Never before were the farmers ready to organize as they are today. The farmer can not pay his taxes or the interest on his mortgage—he is facing sheriff's sales, foreclosure, eviction and starvation.

WE MUST tell him how we are organizing in the United Farmers League for the protection of one another and what wonderful results we are getting. Everywhere the farmers want to organize for their own protection but they do not know who to go about it because they have not had the proper newspaper to read.

THRU THE PRODUCERS NEWS we must get in contact with farmers in every community and right now is the time to do it—right now is the time for all of us to get together if we expect to solve the big problems before us and make this world a better place in which to live.

WE ARE NOW sending the paper into almost every state and new subs are coming in every day. We are not kicking but we can do better, much better. The Producers News must go into every community in every state. The sooner this is done the quicker we will have results.

EACH READER should start off by getting one more subscriber. Many can do much better than that—do all you can. It is very important. If you can not get the two dollars do the next best. Twenty-five cents will send the paper for seven weeks, in order to get them started. Dig down in your pocket and send us a quarter with the name of some far off farmer friend of yours. DO YOUR stuff and put 'er over big. We will print the results from time to time.

FOREIGN TRADE OF U. S. SINKS LOWER

COMMERCE DEPT. ADMITS WORSENING OF CRISIS.

The tremendous sharpening of the crisis during 1931 is revealed in the foreign trade figures for the United States that the Department of Commerce has just released. In 1931 imports into the country were the lowest since 1916 and exports the lowest since 1914. Exports dropped from \$3,843,181,000 in 1930 to \$2,242,188,000, a loss of \$1,600,993,000. Imports in 1931 were valued at \$2,090,107,000, a decrease of \$970,801,000 from the 1930 total of \$3,060,908,000.

One of the most important facts in the decline in exports from the United States was the loss in exports to Great Britain. This resulted from the depreciation of the British pound and the new tariff regulations that the British capitalist class has put into effect.

Exports of the United States in December were the lowest since September 1914, and imports the lowest since September, 1915.

The Department of Commerce, thru its Julius Klein is forced to admit that foreign trade during the coming year will probably sink to yet lower levels. After hypocritically stating that the United States "ought to be the first country to feel the effects of any favorable change in the crisis," Klein stated, however, "The domestic situation will, however, feel the effect of any unforeseen changes in Europe." The Department already admits that there will be "unforeseen" changes in the European situation—toward a deepening of the present crisis. The figures for 1931 and the continued slowing down of economic activity thruout the world show that the capitalist system is entering deeper levels of economic chaos than it has yet known even in the present crisis.

A New Correspondent Will Tell Us of the Conditions in Wyo.

(By a Farmer-Honey Producer) Torrington, Wyo., January 18.—Saturday I received a copy of your paper. Almost immediately I turned it over to the Literature Agent. He at once secured subscriptions for eighteen months.

I am a honey producer and am very much interested in your paper. It is much better than the old "United Farmer." I am enclosing a little article about certain producers' conditions here. Would be glad to send you a short article for each week. I have a lot of literature here to draw from. You are at liberty to cut and slash these articles to suit your heart's content or turn them down entirely. My only desire is that our work might progress as rapidly as possible. I believe that it will help if some one located here writes for your paper. If I find anyone interested who can do a better job than I, you may be sure he will be it.

Wish I could subscribe for your paper myself but the system thru the Mountain States Honey Producer's Association, has robbed me so systematically that I am broke. However, you may be sure that I shall be the means of getting a number of subscribers for your paper.

This farmer says he is willing to write an article for us every week. Fine and dandy. He says that he has plenty of material to draw from. And that holds true of everyone of our readers. Do as this farmer is going to do—write us about your conditions and about the United Farmers League or the Committee of Action in your neighborhood. And write now.

ering deeper levels of economic chaos than it has yet known even in the present crisis.

HERE'S A REAL START IN GETTING SUBSCRIPTIONS

Enumclaw, Wash., Jan. 2, 1932.—Dear Comrades: Enclosed please find two one-dollar bills for two, one-half-year subscriptions to the Producers News. I started the New Year right—you see I got these two new subs on New Year's day. This gives you four new readers for the Producers News that I have sent in this week, and I expect to get more yet. The other two being yearly subs, and I sent them in to you Thursday of this week. I do not wait to get a certain number of subs before I send them in, but I send them in as fast as I get them.

I am sure that if the readers stir up a little they can find a lot of people interested in the paper and willing to become subscribers, if they will only go out and get their subs. Most people don't like to send in their subs themselves because it seems to be too much of a bother, though they really think while reading the paper at a friend's home, that they ought to get the paper; but it just remains a wish.

Now you readers: CAN YOU BEAT MY MARK OF FOUR NEW SUBS A WEEK? I'll bet anything that you can, if you try; so let's get Busy!

—A FARMER.

Pioneer Corner --- Labor Sports

FROM THE NATIONAL HUNGER MARCH ON TO FEBRUARY 4TH

By SULO MAJALA

In the 12 million unemployed today we find about four million youths, which also were represented on the National Hunger March that was recently conducted to Washington, D. C., and was organized by different working class organizations such as the Unemployed Councils, National Miners Union, other industrial unions, the United Farmers League, etc.

I as a youth member of the United Farmers League and also a member of the Young Communist League was elected as a delegate to represent the farming youth of the drought stricken Northwest on the Hunger March—that undertook to present demands of the workers and farmers for immediate winter relief in cash of \$150 to \$300 for each dependent and for unemployed insurance.

From all over the U. S., the youth took part in the Hunger March with the adults. The youth held several conferences while on the march where they discussed the condition of the youth. We learned that the youth had no chance for getting work, and also that they are discriminated against in regards to relief—on the excuse that the families are to be taken care of first. Thus youth are turned down and are forced to tramp the streets begging for ways and means of existence.

However, the youth and the adults, Negro and white, all together on the Hunger March, sure let the Hoover Starvation government know that we as workers and farmers, young and old, will fight together against starvation. We belong to the producing class and therefore have a right to demand a living despite what Hoover and Wall Street say.

On our way to Washington, D. C., in the steel town of Gary, and Hammond, Indiana, an attempt was made by Wall Street or bosses agents to smash the Hunger March and prevent it from getting to its destination.

We had permission from the Mayor of Hammond to have a meeting there. Yet, when a young American speaker got up to speak and had only spoken for about three minutes, about 45 cops and steel company thugs came to smash the meeting by clubbing the marchers, giving tear gas and all to shooting.

But we reached Washington, D. C., despite Hoover cops, which were there to meet us also, with tear gas and sawed-off shotguns.

On Dec. 7th, we marched onto the Capitol where the senate was in session, escorted with more cops than Washington had at the time of the world war. We let Congress and Hoover hear our demands. 1,674 sang the International in front of the capitol, a band played, whose members wore the Red Front uniforms.

The Congress refused to receive our committee that was to present the demands, but they raised so much hell that they heard them anyway even if the delegated body did not get in.

Forward with the fight for Immediate Relief and Unemployed Insurance!

Forward to the Feb. 4th demonstrations of the National struggle against hunger. Forward in the fight for relief of the toiling masses!

Forward to further united action of workers and farmers, old and young, regardless of race, color or creed!

FORCE PROMISES OF FREE GYMNASIA

LSU MAKES DEMANDS ON CLEVELAND BOARD.

CLEVELAND—Recently a delegation representing thousands of worker sportsmen in Cleveland attended the opening session of the new Board of Education to present demands for free gymnasiums. As the delegation entered Mayor Burton was asking the Board to consider opening of three schools, which he named, as recreational centers. He suggested that this be an experiment. Further if it should prove successful more such gymnasiums should be opened. Mayor Burton did not mention the campaign that the Labor Sports Union had been carrying on but it was quite obvious to the delegation that these remarks of the Mayor came as a direct result of the pressure of the young workers of Cleveland led by the Labor Sports Union.

Despite the fact that the delegation was unable to get the floor they forced the newly elected Chairman, of the Unemployment Relief Committee, Mr. Anderson, to listen to their demands. Mr. Anderson made every attempt to fool the delegation but failed. At first he tried to pass the buck to some other Department. He was informed that plenty of Departments had been seen and that we want an answer now! Mr. Anderson answered by saying that he had been fighting for over 12 years for the gymnasiums and has always been unsuccessful.

One of the delegation reminded Mr. Anderson that in some cities where similar campaigns were carried on it took only a few days to open the gymnasiums. This forced Mr. Anderson to state that he would give full support to the Labor Sports Union in their campaign for free gymnasiums. He further remarked that if the demand for these gymnasiums could be proven great enough he would present the demands to the Board of Education and if on presenting them he would not be able to convince them of the necessity of these gymnasiums he would resign from the committee of which he is chairman.

Mr. Anderson was told that he would be held to his word (this was very disturbing to Mr. Anderson). However he promised the delegation that he would make every attempt to see that the L. S. U. was given first consideration in the three gymnasiums that Mayor Burton promised.

The Labor Sports Union will continue to carry on this campaign until all the available gymnasiums are opened free of charge to all workers' sportsmen. Sectional Conferences are being prepared in every district where the fight is being carried on. Plans will be made at another City-Wide Conference to prepare for a demonstration in front of the Board of Education in case the demands are refused.

The Labor Sports Union calls upon all worker sportsmen who are interested in this campaign to communicate with the Labor Sports Union at 1426 W 3rd, Room 311, Cleveland, Ohio.

DEATH SENTENCE FOR A 50¢ THEFT

Montgomery, Ala.—In the same town where the Scottsboro boys are languishing in the death house of Kilby prison, a jury decreed that two Negroes who are accused of stealing a silver half-dollar must die in the electric chair.

Robert Strickland and Percy Irvin, two unemployed workers, bummed a ride aboard a freight train. They are charged with staging a hold-up on the train—total result of which was the fifty cent piece. The judge called it highway robbery and the jury fixed the penalty at death. The case is now being appealed to the state supreme court. The International Labor Defense, in a telegram of protest to the governor, charges that this "inhuman verdict" is a part of a vast conspiracy on the part of the southern ruling class to terrorize Negroes into abject submission to unemployment and starvation.

One Year In the Penitentiary--Why?

When Vesper Romero was born, his mother was docked a week's pay and was bawled out by the foreman for staying away from work so long. When Vesper had the measles, his mother stayed out three days and almost lost her job. Otherwise she worked every day, every week, and every year, except when times were slow—in the same dark, dirty, unhealthy factory, Vesper, whose she brot to the factory with her, played on the floor at her side watching the frantic hurried workers.

When Vesper was three years old, he saw Marya Valenti drop dead at her work. When he was five, he saw the foreman beat old John Ferrari who had fainted from exhaustion at his work—beat him till he opened his eyes again. When he was six years old, he was sent to school where he was taught that "all men are born free and equal" and that this was the richest country in the world. It was difficult to understand these things. Vesper did not believe that Marya and John and Dominick and her mother were the richest people in the world. He could not understand in what way they were as free and equal as the wealthy boss who drove into town in his swell car every once in a while to inspect his factories.

Vesper could not grasp these things because the incidents of his childhood spent in and around the factory were very vivid in his mind. When he was taught anything about the goodness of our constitution and the righteousness of our life, these incidents always came up to confuse him. But one day when a strike was declared and the cigar workers of Tampa, under the leadership of the Tobacco Workers Industrial Union, marched out demanding better conditions, things began to clear in Vesper's bewildered head. And when Vesper's mother, who had been meek and submissive all her life, was put in jail for two months for her activities in the struggle of the workers against the bosses, Vesper suddenly knew where he belonged. He knew his place was among the workers. He joined and helped to organize the workers' kids into the Young Pioneers. He spread among these children the literature which had explained and clarified the conditions of the workers to him.

The militancy of his work and the earnestness of his purpose soon frightened the higher-ups in the town. Vesper began to receive the Boy Scout magazine and the Saturday Evening Post from the town judge to distract his attention, but in vain. What meaning could the Boy Scout babble about "honor, virtue, etc." have for him. What interest could the Saturday Evening Post stories about silken-gowned ladies and gentlemen in evening clothes have for him?

Finally Vesper and another worker's boy led a school strike in solidarity with the striking tobacco workers. They broke thru lines of teachers and marched out to join their striking parents, singing the "RED FLAG." For this, Vesper was given a 1-year sentence in a penitentiary—to remove him from "the dangerous environment where sinister influences are at work to make children incite insurrection" and to prevent him from "associating with Communists." Poverty and oppression are the "sinister influences" which are inciting these children to "insurrection," because the judge will not and cannot remove these "influences."

WORKERS' AND FARMERS' CHILDREN! YOU MUST UNITE with your parents in this struggle to wipe out these conditions of oppression from the earth. You can do this by joining the YOUNG PIONEERS—the only organization of workers' children which fights to better conditions for workers' and farmers' children.

WORKERS' AND FARMERS' CHILDREN—you must send letters to the governor of Florida at Tallahassee, protesting the sentencing of Vesper Romero to the penitentiary. Persecution and terrorization of militant workers' children will not keep them from joining the Young Pioneers.

"My mother is a cigar maker and does not get any more than \$12 a week although she gets up at six o'clock in the morning and finishes at five-thirty. My father is a shoemaker and does not get more than \$10 a week. There are seven in our family including me. I am a Pioneer and am trying to get more to join them." Vesper wrote us a short time before his arrest.

FARM PRICES HIT NEW LOW LEVELS

FARM PRODUCTS DEMAND IS LOWEST IN GENERATION.

The price index of the Department of Agriculture showed on January 15th that the prices of agricultural products were thirty-seven per cent below the prewar average. The farm masses now get three-eighths less for their products than they did before the world war. From December 15, 1931 to January 15, 1932, the prices of agricultural products fell by more than three percent of the prewar average.

The index of farm prices on Dec. 15th at 65 per cent of the pre-war average was 5 points lower

RED ARMY HELPS IN BUILDING OF SOCIALISM IN SOVIET UNION

Nijni Novgorod.

Dear Comrades: This morning we read your letter. It was very pleasant to read that you sent us greetings for the anniversary of the October Revolution and that you look on the U.S.S.R. as your socialist fatherland. We saw from your letter how you live under hard conditions. Capitalism is turning and twisting in the grips of the imperialist crisis. Capitalism is trying to throw all the burdens from its own shoulders on to yours.

But things are different here. We are young fighters and have not been long in the army. We came from the factories, mills and collective farms. Socialist economy is growing and spreading here and new industrial giants are coming into operation, while collectivization is increasing in the country districts. Not long ago we finished building our Nijni automobile works. In the villages of our province 48 per cent of the farms are collectivized.

In the Red Army. At the present moment we are not engaged in factory work. We have joined the army to learn to tread of the world revolution. We

er than on Nov. 15 and 2 points below the index of 68 on Oct. 15, the previous low point in this depression. A year ago the index stood at 97 and two years ago at 135. This represents a decline of 51 per cent in two years.

Compared with prices that prevailed a year ago, poultry prices which were low last year show a small decline of about 5 per cent compared with about 20 per cent for dairy products, and with 25 to 40 per cent for such groups as grains, meat animals, vegetables, fruits and cotton.

The decline of three per cent between December 15th and January 15th is very important because of the fact that it is greater than the decline for any single month in the past two years of this crisis. It is also important in that, while the general wholesale price index fell only two per cent from June to November, agricultural products have declined three per cent in one month, means more misery for the farm masses, since the price of the articles which they buy fall even slower than the general wholesale prices.

The Department of Agriculture had to admit that "the year 1931 ended with the domestic demand for farm products at the lowest level so far in this depression and probably in this generation." The Department of Agriculture is forced to make this admission while the rest of the capitalist class continues to see bright spots on the horizon of the crisis. The lowest demand for agricultural products in this crisis and in the present generation corresponds with the worst misery of, and the greatest starvation among the toiling masses in this crisis, in this generation, in the history of capitalist exploitation, crisis, and misery.

defend our socialist state, the for know from books and from the stories of others how soldiers served in previous times and how we serve now. Our conditions are completely different.

Red Army men are not now mere cannon fodder, not uniformed animals which can be treated by the officers any way they like. We have no discipline based on fear of punishment. Our attitude to our duties is conscientious. We know that we have to learn to defend our cause. The comrade who remained in the factories can work in peace and quiet. We are vigilantly standing on guard. When we joined the army, we did not lose all connection with the great work which is being carried on in the country.

Not long ago we took part in a "subbotnik" at the construction of the auto work. Our Red Army comrades carried on a "Voroshilov subbotnik" to gather the harvest.

During our service in the Red Army we shall not only learn military matters. During the period of service all the illiterate and semi-literate comrades will learn to read and write. We shall all become politically educated, and when we are demobilized there will be a stream of people coming to the factories and collective farms who will start work on construction work with still greater enthusiasm.

In concluding our letter, we express the hope that the letter which we received from you will not be the last. We want to get from you a lot of letters and establish a real good contact with you as comrades.

Write to us at the following address: Nijni Novgorod, cad Editor of "Nijni Novgorod Kommuna."

HARLAN, KY.

(Continued from Front Page)

and beat them mercilessly, threatening them with death. The gun thugs will not crush the strike. The strike is spreading and will crush the terrorism and the system of hunger it seeks to perpetuate.

Anchor, Ky., Jan. 21.—The Kentucky strike is on. The miners came out against utter starvation; utter starvation is also the weapon of the operators against the strike. If these thousands of miners, and hungry women and children get immediate relief, food especially, the strike will be won.

The conditions existing in the mining camp of the Anchor Block Coal Company are an example of the destitution which at the same time caused the strike but which may defeat it.

Against a background of gorgeous scenery, a group of miserable shacks are huddled on the hillside.

When one enters the camp a stench of garbage and refuse which have been improperly disposed of is sharply noticeable. The shacks themselves consist of most of three rooms, without heat except from inadequate fireplaces which are not enough to offset the many cracks and holes in the walls. Many times one finds that there are not enough beds for the entire family—usually have to sleep in one room—and blankets are made up directly on the floor.

Before the strike, the miners worked for nine hours a day at rates running from one dollar to \$2.25. When the call to strike was issued, the miners struck solid. They picketed the mine and hundred per cent with their wives and children; they vow that they would rather eat bread and water than go back to work. But the danger that threatens them is that they won't even have bread and water. All of the miners' wives were questioned. Their answers all ran alike. They had enough flour, potatoes and coffee to last until Monday with one or two having enough to last until Wednesday. They had no other provisions—no meat, no eggs.

Practically every one in this camp has a cough suspiciously like T. B. and they constantly expectorate. Their faces in fact have the sunken, drawn pallor of consumptives.

When the men struck and presented their demands to the company they were all fired. In other words this mining camp is dependent on the solidarity of all the miners in Kentucky under the National Miners Union with the backing of all workers for their future livelihood.

No emphasis is sharp enough to impress upon all mass organizations, militant unions and upon all workers everywhere the critical nature of the present situation. Right here in this town 1200 men, women and children will starve within a few days unless they get food.

With the wages of all workers everywhere being cut, their hours lengthened, with the speed up and the layoffs, it is in the interest of the entire working class to win every battle they go into. With strikes won, the working class defensive advances—with strikes lost, the bosses' attacks all along the line are sharpened. Terror against Negroes is increased—mass deportations of the foreign born—increased numbers of layoffs and wage cuts. The National Miners Union and the Workers International Relief in the name of the Kentucky miners, call upon all Negro and White workers, native and foreign born workers, their wives and children to collect relief for the Kentucky strike immediately. Send all food and clothing to 145 Pine St., Cincinnati, Ky., to the Kentucky Striking Miners Relief Committee of the I. W. O. R.

Red Villages



The FIVE YEAR PLAN in SOVIET AGRICULTURE



by Y. A. Yakovlev

People's Commissar of Agriculture

Translated by Anna Louise Strong

(Continued from last week.)

Whatever difficulties may stand in the way of the accomplishment of this gigantic task, we know at least that their fulfillment will be obtained at a price very much lower than that which the farmers in the United States have to pay for the TRIUMPHAL MARCH OF TECHNICAL PROGRESS UNDER CAPITALISM. There, in the United States, the agricultural revolution is being dragged out for decades. This means that the process of ruining the overwhelming majority of the farmers and enriching a thin top-most layer is going to last for decades. It means that the process of advancing capitalist agriculture will force the farmers to pass through all the stages of impoverishment and ruin, long ago described by Marx in CAPITAL.

The expropriation of the immediate producers is being carried out with relentless vandalism, under the stimulus of the vilest, dirtiest, and most petty and spiteful passions. (Vol. I, pp. 885-6)

The path which we have taken, on the other hand, means raising the standard of living of the overwhelming majority of the peasantry, the abolition of slavery to the kulak, the abolition of an insignificant minority of the peasants as a class, the transformation of millions of peasants into free collaborators in a socialist society. In pursuing this path, we are realizing the theses of the General Committee:

On the basis of collectivization, the development of the machine and tractor stations and the organization of state farms, the Party will be able to begin to realize the slogan of "no equal and surplus" the capitalist countries of the world, and not only with regard to industry, where the advantages of large-scale production have long been strikingly illustrated, BUT ALSO IN THE SPHERE OF AGRICULTURE, the tempo of development of which has hitherto been determined by the overwhelming predominance of small, even dwarf farms of extremely low productivity. Its tempo will now be determined by the accelerated development of the state and collective farms, which represent an entirely new form of economy, known in the history of mankind, called into existence for the first time by the experience

of economic reconstruction in the Soviet Union.

Derisive laughter from every camp accompanies us on this path, both from our open enemies, and from our bureaucratic officials. They exclaim: What, with meat on ration tickets (and often not enough of it at that)! Soon they will not have any goods at all for which one must not have to stand lined up in a queue! And just look at what they are doing! Instead of working themselves out of the situation slowly and without extra effort they set themselves fantastic tasks such as the doubling of the consumption of meat and milk, an enormous increase in the consumption of wheat, etc.

We shall encounter many such scoffers on our path! We shall take no notice of them, but shall go forward on our way, guided by the general line laid down by the Party, basing ourselves now not only on our own experience and convictions, but also of the experience gained by hundreds of thousands of collective farmers, who will be the best agitators and organizers of large-scale farming. And we may state with full conviction that, on this basis, having overcome inevitable difficulties, we shall be able within the next few years not only to liquidate completely our food supply difficulties since these difficulties arise from the small productive powers of the small farms, but we shall also secure in the shortest historical period a degree of progress in the satisfaction of the requirements of the working masses in the Soviet Union such as has never been known in the history of the capitalist world.

CHAPTER IV ORGANIZATIONAL MEASURES NECESSARY TO STRENGTHEN AND DEVELOP COLLECTIVE FARMS

It remains for me only to mention some of the absolutely essential organizational measures, measures which are most important from the point of view of strengthening the collective farms. Since the portion of the theses dealing with this phase is familiar to all of you, permit me to dwell very briefly upon this part of my report.

In solving organizational problems we must start from certain

basic proportions, which are as follows:

The fundamental proposition is the fact that, in spite of the enormous number of elements of the past which the artel (collective farm) has inherited, outlived, there has been created by the peasant masses a new type of farming, introduced not in one village or in a dozen, but over an enormous territory, with a sown area exceeding 75 million acres.

Of course, one should not idealize the artel. One should not assume that it represents the highest socialist form of economy. As the theses of the General Committee on my report points out: "The Artel does not perfect, but only

begins the creation of a new social discipline and the training of the peasants in socialist construction." But what is important, and historically valuable, what constitutes a step forward in the world-historical development of socialism—is the fact that in the artel there has been created a new type of socialized agriculture, in which private ownership of the means of production has been eliminated, the class exploitation of one collectivized farmer by another has been abolished, and this means the disappearance of that base which, in Lenin's words, "gives birth to capitalism and the bourgeoisie continuously, daily, hourly, elementally and on a mass

scale."

One should not idealize the members of the artel. They were, but yesterday petty proprietors, small property owners. Consider their psychology. It is understandable that at first their efforts will often be directed toward escaping from the strenuous toil of the small farm, toward securing somewhat more of life's blessings which they did not get on their small farms but which the artel can provide. They will often try to snatch at leisure, to be lazy, to shove work on to others. This tendency will doubtless be widespread and serious for a long time to come. It is evident that a certain amount of time is

and profits are divided. The income of the farm goes into various funds. A special fund for buying new machinery and improvement of the farm (every collectivized farm must increase its capital). A special fund for aged and infants, for wear and tear of material, for cultural activities. The proportion and size of these funds is determined by these delegation meetings. What is left, is distributed among the members according to the work they put in. They get their money at the end of the year when an accounting has been made; however, they can get an advance loan up to 70% of the amount of work they have done. At the end of the year they get the balance. A collectivized farm has a much lower rate of taxes, etc., and therefore it can accumulate a reserve fund.

A collectivized farm is a voluntary organization. The peasants are free not only to come in but to leave it as well. But they cannot damage the organization. If a peasant wishes to leave the collectivized farm he must give up his land and his share of the collective farm. He does not go back to his own piece of land, but a strip on the outskirts of the farm. The collectivized farm has a special reserve piece of land for this purpose. He is expected to work until the end of the harvest season and not to drop his work at such a time when it would hinder the growth of the farm. He gets his capital at the end of the year, either in money or in kind, but gets no share of

the new capital acquired by the collective.

Communes: In a commune everything is collectivized. Wages are paid according to work done, but they do not get money, but food, houses, clothing, etc. They have collective services of all kinds, more cultural institutions and lead a communal life in every respect. A commune is not isolated from the rest of the community. It is run on a business basis and has relations with the rest of the country.

There is a district Kolhoz or collectivized farm organization to which delegates from the local Kolhozes are sent and a national Kolhoz organization to which delegates from the district Kolhozes are sent.

Collective Farms

peasant or agricultural laborer. Everything brought into the collectivized farm is valued on the basis of money by the evaluation committee. The collectivized farm will accept money but it prefers goods, implements, tools. Houses remain the individual property of the peasants. Cows and pigs are taken instead of capital only in dairy collectives. If a peasant has more property than he needs for the amount of his share, then he gives it to the collective as a loan and gets interest on the value of the stock loaned.

Machines: All machines from a collective are brought to what is called tractor machine station. The bulk of the capital for this station is provided by the state, but part of the capital is provided by the collectives in the form of this machinery. They form what is called a mixed company, the collectivized pays for the use of the machinery but gets back profits in accordance with its shares.

Administration of collectives: The general membership meeting is the highest body of the collectivized farm, but since some collectives have between 15 and 25 thousand people and take in between 3 and 4 thousand households, a general membership meeting is impossible. They therefore elect a delegate to a delegate meeting which in turn elects a management committee of 7 to 19, depending on the size of the farm. An annual report is submitted by the delegate meeting to the annual general membership meeting.

Capital and profits: The capital

of the new capital acquired by the collective.

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The foregoing article is printed through the courtesy of the Friends of the Soviet Union and appears in the first issue of the monthly magazine, "Soviet Russia Today." The first issue, which has just come off of the press, contains, besides the foregoing article, articles by L. C. Wright on Internationalism and articles by Scott Nearing, A. A. Heller, Professor H. L. Dana, and is well illustrated with the latest photos from the Soviet Union. Subscriptions to "Soviet Russia Today" are \$3.00 per year, 60c for six months, 10c for a copy—special bundle orders to clubs. Address: Friends of the Soviet Union, 80 East 11 St., New York.

required for this type of collectivized farmer not only to see but actually to feel that simply to grasp at leisure and to seize things for himself is unpardonable, that it leads to the ruin of the artel.

The transition from small to large-scale farming, which is now taking place, is impossible without wavering and vacillations, without attempts by disruptive elements, by kulak elements (bound by a thousand ties to the small peasantry) to take action in one form or another.

On collective farms the peasants will definitely outgrow the psychology of petty property-owners and their greed for private accumulation, handed down by generations of small proprietors. This tendency will be overcome only after years of stubborn work in establishing the collective farms as a basis of large-scale mechanized production; years of effort in the formation of cadres from among the collective farm members; and by raising the cultural level of the entire collectivized peasantry. (Theses of the Central Committee on Yarkov's Report.—Ed.)

Only in the process of such work, only by setting against the anarchy of the petty producer and small property-owner of yesterday the principle of genuine organizational order and labor discipline, only by laying the foundation for a new socialist consciousness of the part of the members of the collective farms shall we be able to develop and strengthen the socialist character of the artel. In regard to this we hide nothing from the members of the artel. We state frankly that we are not driving any one into the artel by force. What is more, we declare that we regard those persons who attempt to force peasants to join articles as enemies of the Party and of the Soviet power, as accomplices of the kulaks. But at the same time, to those who have joined an artel, we also say frankly: an artel can be no joint undertaking without elementary discipline, without a conscious and conscientious regard for communal property. You joined the artel voluntarily, but that does not mean that you may pillage it whenever it strikes your fancy. Once you have joined, you have taken upon yourself the obligation of submitting to the statutes adopted by its members and to its discipline; otherwise, I repeat, there will be no increase in the productivity of labor, no improvement in the standard of living.

These preliminary facts must be kept in mind whenever we undertake to solve basic organizational and political problems. Of these we must first of all consider the following questions: the middle peasantry, the poor peasantry, relations with the individual peasants, withdrawals from the collectives, and the training of cadres.

I. The Middle Peasantry Let us take the question of the middle peasantry. What is the basic factor here? The answer is to be found in the theses:

The transition from individual to collectivized farming can be achieved only on the basis of an alliance of the working class and poor peasants with the middle peasants. This implies the obligation of systematic

ally drawing the middle peasants into the management of the collectivized farms.

The slogan "alliance of the proletariat and poor peasants with the middle peasants" determines the development of the village prior to the establishment of the collectivized farms. It also determines a number of practical problems with regard to the question of enlisting the services of the middle peasants in the management of the collectivized farms.

The degree of stability of the collectivized farm depends to a great extent on whether or not the middle peasants participate in its management. Dozens of instances show that when the middle peasants have taken part in the management of the collectivized farms there have been fewer withdrawals and fewer stupid mistakes.

There are not a few instances in which every attempt has been made to prevent the middle peasants from participating in the management of the collectivized farms. I could mention dozens of examples. In some middle peasants not being allowed to occupy the post of stable manager under the pretext of "struggle against the Right deviation"; of the removal of middle peasants from positions as foremen under the pretext that "we need only poor peasants"; of middle peasants not being allowed to participate in the management, with the result that they withdrew from the collectives. Often the middle peasants are granted positions of quasi-leadership; they are elected to the management but given no work. I have known middle peasants, who on paper were listed as belonging to the management of the collectivized farm, but whose job was that of watchman or store-house manager. The percentage is attained and there the matter ends. In such cases the middle peasant feels offended. He feels himself thrust to one side in the collectivized farm. Demands are made of him, but he is given no work, not invited to meetings.

Of course this does not in the least mean that the entire management should be turned over to the middle peasants. The management certainly must remain in the hands of the working class and the agricultural laborers and the poor peasantry. But without the participation of the middle peasants a stable collectivized farm cannot be established.

(To be continued next week)