

Not less than ten work-  
ers should read this paper.  
Keep your Advocate in con-  
tinuous circulation.

# READING LABOR ADVOCATE

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF ALL THE WORKERS

Advocate Advertisers de-  
serve the support of our  
readers. Co-operation works  
two ways.

Vol. 35. No. 30.

READING, PA., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1933

Entered as second-class matter at the  
Post Office, Reading, Pa.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

## Reading Socialists Challenge Militarists

### REFLECTIONS

By the Editor

THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION of President-elect Roosevelt has evoked some queer reactions. But there is none which fills me with such extreme impatience as the person who assumes a superior tone and announces that "such tactics won't do any good."

I CHEERFULLY AGREE that the snuffing out of Mr. Roosevelt would not advance the interests of anybody. His death will leave the problem of making a living just as remote from solution as it has been during the past four years. But the fact is that such acts of violence are not committed by people who hope to do good, either to themselves or to humanity in general. On the contrary, only one who feels that he has nothing more to lose is likely to risk his life in an attempt to assassinate another who appears to be a beneficiary and a defender of the present social order. Such a one resorts to violence, I suspect, because he is so thoroughly convinced of the impossibility of doing good and, therefore, sets out to do some ill.

Political assassinations are the reactions of hopelessness.

THERE ARE SO many examples of activities which do no good that I become intolerant when ignorant and hopeless killers are singled out for contempt.

Consider, for example, the masters of industry and finance. They devote all the days of their lives to building personal fortunes which far exceed their needs. To add cipher after cipher to their bank accounts they sacrifice not only the happiness of their fellow men but their own as well. In the end they pass on to the grave and some of them never realize that they have missed all the finer things which are available to those who really live.

It doesn't do them any good when they sacrifice family, art, education, love, leisure in order to make a million dollars grow into a billion. But they do it. It doesn't do them any good when they maintain a system which makes them hated by their fellows and brings insecurity to mankind and wars to the world. But they do it.

If I wished to express contempt for anybody, I wouldn't waste time on the poor devil who takes a shot at a president. Far more despicable is the fellow who helps to maintain a system which breeds hopelessness in the minds of men and brings poverty to millions.

They sacrifice so much for their pomp and power and—it doesn't do them any good.

I HOLD THAT there is absolute truth in the words of the poet who wrote: "The only things we ever keep are those we give away."

It seems to me that the only lives that are really lived are those which are lived in the service of humanity. Gene Debs used to boast of his freedom while he was in the Atlanta penitentiary. That old Socialist warrior knew what real living meant because he was living for a cause. He knew freedom because he never permitted his mind to be enslaved.

It DID do Debs a world of good to go to jail rather than desert his principles, his comrades, and the great human cause which he espoused. Debs lived!

IF OUR "GREAT" men could only (Continued on Page Five)

**SOCIALIST**  
**Radio Program**  
**EVERY SUNDAY**  
**at 12:15 P. M. over**  
**361.4M WEEU 830K**  
Feb. 26—J. Henry Stump.  
Mar. 5—Lilith M. Wilson.  
Mar. 12—Mark Starr.  
**TELL YOUR FRIENDS**

### HOOPE'S WAGES BITTER FIGHT IN HOUSE AGAINST WAR MONGERS' RESOLUTION

Socialist, In Stirring Address, Administers Stinging Rebuke to Lawmakers Who Urge Increase of National Armament—Old Party Representatives Fail to Halt Workers' Spokesman by Discourteous Uproar

HARRISBURG, Pa. (Special).—After one of the bitterest floor fights in recent history, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, by a vote of 170-20, approved the resolution sponsored by Senator William B. Pethic, Wayne county, to the U. S. Congress demanding maintenance of the present military machine at maximum strength. Rep. Darlington Hoopes, Socialist spokesman with his colleague, Rep. Lilith Wilson, waged a lone fight against the entirely vicious measure which the old party leaders even refused to have printed and placed before the members for the usual consideration.

The resolution was first slipped through four weeks ago. When the Socialists found they had been tricked, they protested vigorously and unsuccessfully attempted to secure reconsideration. The day following this protest the resolution was vetoed by the governor and re-

### BREAD OR BULLETS?

A High Light in Representative Hoopes' Address in the House, Feb. 20, 1933

"Mr. Speaker, I have frequently advocated upon this floor the expenditure of money for unemployment relief. If we are going on spending the money on our Army and Navy at the rate we have been it will be impossible for us to adequately relieve the unemployment situation. Can it be possible, members of the House, that some of the advocates of this resolution are not concerned with unemployment relief, but that they would rather build up the Army and the Navy, and then use that Army as it was used just last summer, to drive the Bonus Marchers out of Washington? Can it be that they want to build up this powerful army in order to suppress any possible uprising of unemployed? I suggest if that is the purpose that it would be far wiser to spend money for unemployment relief, to feed these people, to prevent them from starving, and then there will not be any uprising and you will not need your army for that purpose."

turned to the Senate. A new resolution was drafted to avoid the governor's veto and passed the Senate 39-11 and came over to the House where the Socialists awaited, fore-

### WILSON BILL HELD IN SENATE

Foes of Old Age Pension Likely to Permit Socialist's Measure to Die Without Action

HARRISBURG.—The fight to bring the issue of Old Age Pensions into the open in the Pennsylvania Legislature this week reached a crisis when the Senate Committee holding the Harris amendment which is the one of the several House and Senate measures most likely of adoption, tied on a vote to report the measure.

Rep. Lilith Wilson, Berks Socialist, herself author of a House Old Age Pensions amendment, in the process of helping the fight to halt committee strangling of the issue, found that while there are only three members of the Senate openly and avowedly opposed to pensions, all three of these members were carefully placed on the Pensions Committee by the Republican organization controlling the House and the Senate.

### 1,000 TO MARCH ON HARRISBURG

Unemployed Councils Inform Lawmakers of Intention to Make Demands on March 1

HARRISBURG.—Communications from the Unemployed Councils in the name of its Pennsylvania secretary have been read in both houses of the Pennsylvania Legislature, advising them of the hunger march of 1000 unemployed delegates to the state capital, to arrive March 1st. The identical letters to House and Senate declared the intention of the marchers to demand immediate action on unemployment relief which so far has been kept completely off the Senate floor and only discussed in the House due to the forceful insistence of the two Socialist members who have raised the issue through resolutions and in discussion of other types of legislation.

Ask Maintenance for Delegates. The letter from the Councils placed a demand for a hearing before the full House and Senate and for the feeding and lodging of the (Continued on Page Four)

### LILITH WILSON AGAIN ACTS TO EASE METHOD TO CHANGE CONSTITUTION

HARRISBURG.—Rep. Lilith Wilson, Berks Socialist, this week introduced for the third time, her constitutional amendment to strike off some of the present shackles that make difficult the amendment of the state constitution.

Some years ago, an attorney representing the vested interests of the state fighting to prevent the legalization of various social legislation, persuaded the Supreme Court of the state to interpret a prohibition against the submission of a defeated amendment until the lapse of five years, to mean that amendments could be submitted only at intervals of every five years.

Present Law Prevents Changes. The effect of this interpretation is not only to hold up needed amendments that have the required approval of the legislature but to confuse the mind of the voter by forcing him to consider at one election, an immense list of proposed amendments. The general result, due to the well justified suspicion of the voter, is to make a large number of voters to vote indiscriminately against all amendments.

Rep. Wilson introduced her amendment first in the regular session of 1931 where it was reported and roundly defeated on the floor as a rebuff of the old party legislature to the working class spokesmen. In the first special session held the same year, the amendment was passed by the House and sent to the Senate and killed where there were no Socialist members.

### UNIONISTS WILL HOLD MEMORIAL MEETING MAR. 5

Ermentrout's Hostility Fails to Halt Gathering When Yocom Consents to Wendell Phillips Memorial

Local Labor Exploiters Fear Public Gatherings Sponsored by Organized Workers. Phillips Opposed Slavery

Despite the opposition from Mayor Ermentrout, the Labor groups of Reading will hold a meeting in the City Hall auditorium on Sunday afternoon, March 5th. Permission was granted by Councilman George M. Yocom last Friday when a committee of unionists requested the use of the hall for a Wendell Phillips memorial meeting.

The Labor conference held at the Labor Lyceum several weeks ago, laid plans for a meeting on March 5th to discuss wage cuts, share work, the attitude of the civic clubs toward Labor, and to discuss plans of organization.

A committee was selected at the conference to arrange for the meeting, and to get the use of the City Hall auditorium, if possible. After the committee secured dates for two meetings at City Hall, February 19 and March 5th, City Council passed a resolution making new rules for the use of the city auditorium.

Hostility To Labor. Only a few weeks before this action was taken by the Fusion officials at City Hall, the unionists were (Continued on Page Four)

### N. Y. SOCIALISTS FIGHT SALE TAX

Levy on Purchases and Small Incomes Condemned as Scheme to Ease Burdens of Rich

NEW YORK.—The recommendations for a sales tax and higher taxes on the smaller incomes, made by Governor Lehman of New York, were opposed in a statement by Louis Waldman, state chairman of the Socialist Party, released last Wednesday.

The proposed taxes, Waldman stated, are an attempt "to ease the burden of taxation on the rich where it belongs, to place it upon the poor who cannot bear it." A tax on the \$100,000 incomes would be increased only 23 per cent, he pointed out; whereas a tax on the \$4,000 incomes is increased 333 per cent—fifteen times as much.

"The proposed sales tax is suicidal to economic recovery," he added, "because it reduces the purchasing power of the great mass of the people. Most intelligent economists are persuaded that billions of dollars of new buying power must find its way into the pockets of the workers before the army of jobless can get back on a payroll again. To contract purchasing power at a time when its expansion is necessary, in order to ease the burden on the rich whose surplus incomes are today choking the banks with money which can find no safe investment, is a disastrous social and economic policy."

"The Socialist Party is determined to lead a vigorous fight of the poor against tax burdens which they should not now be called upon to bear."

### SOCIALISTS WAGE LAW FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

HARRISBURG.—Rep. Darlington Hoopes, Berks Socialist, this week introduced a model minimum wage law for women and children. An Industrial Welfare Board appointed by the governor for varying terms to prevent no governor securing exclusive control, would initiate investigations of conditions. If in doubt as to the decency of wages, hours or working conditions, a commission would be set up, equally representative employers and employees under a chairman selected by both, whose finding on the three questions would be mandatory and binding. State labor is backing a non-mandatory measure introduced last week.

### UNEMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY AT HIGHEST PEAK

William Green Sees 12,000,000 Jobless in Worst Tragedy Since Collapse of 1929

NEEDS MOUNTING DAILY. Labor President Urges 30-Hour Week and More Federal Aid As Most Pressing Demand

WASHINGTON (FP).—"Unemployment in January was at its all-time peak, with more than 12,000,000 wage earners out of work," President Green of the American Federation of Labor announced February 13. The Labor Research Association, in New York, announced on the same day that the November jobless in the United States were nearly 17,000,000 persons, or 42 per cent of all wage earners. The magazine Business Week estimated the total for November at 15,250,000, while the A. F. of L. estimate for that month was only 11,590,000. "Our estimate for December showed 11,900,000 unemployed," Green said, "and trade union reports showed an increase in employment from December to January which, when applied to the country at large, indicated at least 200,000 more laid off in industry alone by the first of the year. Trade union unemployment increased from 24.9 per cent of the membership in December to 25.5 per cent in January."

Urges Shorter Week. "This new peak of unemployment is the worst tragedy of the depression. It makes the need for shortening work hours more than ever urgent. In 1929 there were already 2,400,000 out of work, and the average (Continued on Page Five)

### One Knitter Does Work of 3,360 Men With New Machine

NEW YORK.—Knitting machines that enable one operator to do the work of over 3,000 persons knitting by hand will be shown for the first time at the Knitting Industry Exposition which opens here soon. The machines have as many as 24 yarn feeds, an increase of 16 over the number employed as recently as three years ago. This makes possible the production of 50 square yards of fabric an hour. One person can operate four such machines.

Ten years ago the best machine produced only one-sixth this fabric and before the invention of the knitting machine approximately 3,360 persons were required to knit as much cloth as a man with four machines can do now.

A device automatically stops the knitting machine if the yarn is broken or a hole torn in the fabric.

### SEE ROOSEVELT AS STEP TOWARD IRON DICTATOR

Labor Federation Spokesman Warns That Extra Powers to President Will Menace Liberties

LABOR PLANS PROTEST. Destruction of Unions and Lowered Living Standards Seen As Result of One-Man Rule

WASHINGTON (FP).—Blunt warning that a Roosevelt dictatorship, if once set up, would soon be swept aside for an iron dictatorship by armed force on behalf of the master capitalists, to re-enslave the workers in the United States, was given Feb. 10 by Edward F. McGrady, legislative representative of the American Federation of Labor.

Far from accepting the suggestion by Al Smith and the New York Times, which was started on its way toward realization by the Senate and House Democratic leaders, McGrady pointed out that any type of dictatorial powers granted at this time to Roosevelt would lead to the loss of what liberties the American workers still retain.

"This proposed grant of unusual power—something that no President ever had, even in war time—is a modified dictatorship," he said. "The vested interests of the nation, and especially the organized banking clique that now have their hands on the throats of the industries, and who are now actually determining for the people what they shall have to eat and wear and how they shall be housed, and whether (Continued on Page Three)

### GERMAN SOC'ISTS ON DUTCH RADIO

Suppression of Pre-Election Propaganda Results in Wire-  
less Messages Across National Border

BERLIN.—German Socialists, balked by Hitler in many of their ordinary pre-election activities, have taken advantage of an offer from the Socialists of Holland to use the time reserved for the Dutch party on radio stations across the German border. Among the anti-Socialist activities and consequences of the Hitler rule in Germany during the past few days have been the following:

Suspension for three days of the Berlin Vorwarts, the official organ of the party, for publishing a Socialist election manifesto. Three-day bans on Socialist dailies in Cologne, Hanover and Breslau for publishing the party's platform.

An emergency decree dissolving the Prussian Diet when it refused to vote itself out of existence.

Removal of Otto Braun, Socialist premier of Prussia, who was replaced by Vice-Chancellor Von Papen.

Assassination by a Nazi student of Herman Kasten, Socialist mayor of Strassburg.

Joined by Communists. Tuesday night, 80,000 Socialists held a demonstration in the Berlin Lustgarten against Fascist rule. The Communists, who had been denied the right to hold a similar meeting last Sunday, sent 30,000 delegates to join the Socialist demonstration. The (Continued on Page Four)

### What Reading Folks Are Talking About

BEER AND JOBS

Have you heard the story about the traveling salesman and—no, there's no farmer's daughter in this one; it's a waitress fresh from Ireland. Or was it a fresh waitress from Ireland? Anyway—

"Bring me a cup of coffee without cream," the traveling salesman ordered.

"Sorry, sir," replied the girl, "but we're all out of cream." And then she brightened. "But I can give it to you without milk if you like it that way," the girl said.

Some of Reading's workers who are enthused about the prospect of beer's return ought to understand that story. They have no jobs and no money so they can't buy food, clothing and shelter. But they think their sovereign American rights will be returned to them when they can't buy beer along with the rest of life's necessities.

Workers who voted for beer instead of jobs, Socialism and security, are certain to learn before long that the only thing they have won is the privilege of doing without one more of the good things which the employers are enjoying.

### PHILLIPS AND THE JOBLESS

There was a sermon in the address delivered at the municipal auditorium last Sunday by John Phillips, president of the State Federation of Labor.

"I don't believe the Legislature will take care of the people unless the people get rid of their apathy that has marked their stand up to this time. If the people of Pennsylvania would go to Harrisburg en masse; if they would flood the grounds of the capitol; if they would demand a joint session of the house and senate and have Gov. Pinchot presiding, results would be gotten overnight. The trouble is, we're too damn patient." Mr. Phillips' advice was good, but like most sermons, his is difficult to follow. People are held at home by mighty ties. There's a part-time job, sore feet, sleeping quarters and the measly food voucher to consider: We can't all go to Harrisburg.

But there is one thing we can do. We can send the right kind of people there to represent us. If every section of the state had sent Socialists to the state lawmaking bodies to back up Hoopes and Wilson there would now be laws in operation to prevent evictions, safeguard old age, provide adequate relief and put the unemployed to work producing for their own welfare.

Going en masse is difficult. Voting en masse is easy and just as effective—if workers forget about side issues and support the party which demands that industry shall be (Continued on Page Four)

### BE A BOOSTER!

Are you doing your bit in boosting your paper? Keep in mind that the progress of our movement depends upon the number of converts to our great cause.

To make converts, we must get our message to those who do not yet understand. You can help by getting your neighbor or friend to subscribe to the Advocate.

You can also help by boosting our advertisers. Give them first preference when making a purchase. They deserve your support and co-operation.

Whether you need a suit, a hat, shoes, a tinsmith, a butcher, or an undertaker, look over the list of the business people who advertise in the columns of your paper before you buy.