

# The Sacco-Vanzetti Case

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THE United States is the land of the labor frame-up. Here the capitalists are notorious for resorting to the most unscrupulous methods when they want to get rid of inconvenient leaders of the workingclass. Time and again when they have had in their clutches fighters of the workers they have cast aside cold-bloodedly even the most elementary forms of legalism, in order to railroad their victims to the penitentiary or the gallows. The Sacco-Vanzetti case, which has shocked the world for the calloused disregard even of capitalist pretenses of justice, is only one of a long line of such outrages.

Until the advent of the Sacco-Vanzetti case the worst of this kind of attack upon the workers was the case of Tom Mooney and Warren Billings. These two fighters have been in jail for 11 years, wasting the best years of their lives. Time and again it has been demonstrated that they are innocent. Many witnesses have testified that they themselves were guilty of perjury. Many jurors have signed petitions for their release. But all to no avail. Year after year passes and they remain in jail. Enormous protest movements, culminating even in a national strike, did not save them from capitalist revenge. Their incarceration is one of the blackest phases in American history.

But, if possible, the Sacco-Vanzetti case is still more infamous. Here are two workers, manifestly being punished solely of their radical opinions, because they dared to speak out bravely to the workers. They are being made an example of in order to terrify the workers. As for the crime they are charged with, this was manifestly not their doing, no more than was the bomb-throwing in the San Francisco preparedness parade the act of Mooney and Billings. Nevertheless the capitalists, through their agents, a cynically biased judge, the usual raft of perjurers, etc., go straight ahead with their plan of punishing these fighters.

In both these cases the labor leaders of the Gompers stripe have played a sorry role. They have acted as real lieutenants of the capitalists. In the Mooney-Billings case they cooperated directly with the prosecutors to put our comrades in jail and to keep them there. In the Sacco-Vanzetti case, although their methods have been somewhat more indirect, they have no less certainly worked out to help the employers. They have done practically nothing to release these two workers. At best their support of the defense has been mere lip service. In a situation demanding the widespread mobilization of the workingclass in mass demonstration, they have done nothing more than to barely let it be known that they are not in favor of executing Sacco and Vanzetti. Now, when the capitalists find it exceedingly difficult, in the face of the unparalleled world protest, to actually electrocute the two prisoners and when they may easily change their tactics by sending them to fail for life sentences, the trade union bureaucrats are letting it be known that they are not demanding absolute freedom for Sacco and Vanzetti but will be satisfied if their sentences are commuted to life imprisonment.

The fight for Sacco and Vanzetti **must** be re-

doubled. Only action by the broad masses of workers in strikes and demonstrations of all kinds can save them. The battle is to save them not only from execution but also from possible life imprisonment in the event capitalists are unable to go through with the execution. Let not the tragedy of the Mooney-Billings case be repeated. Sacco and Vanzetti must not only be saved from execution but actually freed from prison altogether. The great demonstrations all over the world in the few days preceding the recent date set for the execution undoubtedly saved Sacco and Vanzetti, for the time at least, from the electric chair. Still greater demonstrations will force open the prison doors for them. Let August 22nd be a day of gigantic strikes and mass demonstrations. This is the argument that will have effect with the capitalists. Sacco and Vanzetti must be freed.

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## Before the Attack

By HENRY GEORGE WEISS.

There were no banners waving in the breeze

On that day,

No glittering squadrons that the gray sky sees,  
Nor laughing columns proudly at their ease,

But grimed with clay

The trembling soldiers line the crumbling walls . . .

No trumpet sounds advance; no bugle calls

With pealing note to stir their martial pride . . .

They crouch in filth and stench with death outside  
And thing of many things. . . how long ago. . .

And years and years, it seems, since they were so;

And wonder if the rats will gnaw their bones!

There was that chap who died last night—his groans

Were awful sounds to hear; his flesh so torn

By shrapnel shell . . . and they attack that morn!

Perhaps they, too, in torture on the sod

Will writhe in agony and call on God

As he did call. They threw him in a hold

With just a muttered prayer for his poor soul;

And then a great shell tore him out again

To lie in stinking rot upon the plain.

Perhaps with twisted limbs and blinded eyes

They never will again behold sunrise,

Or else shorn of the visage of a man,

A thing of horror for the crowd to scan,

They may be doomed to walk adown the years

And find Gethesmane in useless tears.

Perhaps—ah cheerfuller thot—perhaps thru hell

They may come safe, the victors of Chapelle,

And add a lustre to their arms and name,

Each soldier's glory and his country's fame.

But hark! . . . there is a pause . . . there comes a lull . . .

The barrage is lifted . . . and clear and full

The whistle sounds. Scattered are thots . . . and gone

They rise to its appea. . . . It is the dawn!