

CHALLENGE

Vol. 1—No. 1

Chicago, Ill., April, 1933

Price 5 Cents

U. S. ARMY PLAN EXPOSED

Proclamation and Call to Action

Comrades! April 6 marks the 16th year since the United States entered the World war and led thousands of young workers to slaughter in order to protect the pocketbooks of the rich.

Sixteen years since this country entered the "war to end all war." And yet today, there are more causes for war than there were in 1914.

The capitalists are openly preparing for the next war. The armies of the world have increased five times since 1914 and military expenditures 10 times. Various plans have been proposed to militarize the young people and the jobless workers.

With the increasing war danger in the Far East and the increasing tension in the European situation it is essential that all labor's forces be united in the attempt to prevent another catastrophe.

The various disarmament conferences and the league of nations have proven themselves impotent in the face of this situation.

Complacent pacifism is not only useless but detrimental to the cause of peace and Socialism. Militant opposition to militarism and imperialism is the order of the day.

The Young People's Socialist League of America sends out a call to action to all its branches and to the young workers and students of this country to make April 6 a SOCIALIST ANTI-WAR DAY and to follow up with year 'round activity.

Agitate militantly against militarism and imperialism. Rally the young workers and students of your community at a mass meeting or rally! Demonstrate your opposition to war! The young Socialists must take the lead in this movement to stop war for all time! Bring the message to the young people that peace without Socialism is impossible!

FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM!

DEMONSTRATE AGAINST IMPERIALIST WAR!

BUILD A STRONG YOUNG SOCIALIST MOVEMENT!

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

George A. Smerkin, National Secretary.



CLARENCE SENIOR.

Workers Rally for Continental Congress

One of the most significant moves against unemployment is the recently announced Continental Congress for Economic Reconstruction which meets in Washington, D. C., May 6 and 7. Delegates from labor, farmer, unemployed, veteran, fraternal and youth organizations will meet in the capital to discuss joint action against unemployment. Clarence Senior, provisional secretary of the congress, announced that hundreds of well known labor, farmer and unemployed leaders had signed the congress call, and that three to five thousand delegates were expected to attend.

Youth Committee Set Up.

To assure adequate representation from youth organizations, a Youth committee of the Continental Congress was set up, consisting of representatives of the Young Circle League, the Poale Zion Youth Alliance, the Young People's Socialist League, the Co-operative Youth League, Pioneer Youth and the Red Falcons. This committee is inviting all working class and sympathetic youth organizations to send delegates to the congress.

"The seriousness of the unemployed situation," J. L. Afros, national director of the Young Circle League and a member of the Youth committee, said, "makes it absolutely necessary for all worker and farmer groups to pool their forces for effective action against the worst scourge of the working class. I am quite sure that radical youth organizations will make every effort to send delegates to Washington."

The office of the Youth committee is at 549 Randolph St., Chicago, Ill.

YIPSELS LEAD UNEMPLOYED CITIZENS' LEAGUES.

St. Louis. Leading figures in the Unemployed Citizens' League are Yipsels. A district Industrial Committee has been organized and Bob Stone is local Industrial Organizer.

Pittsburgh. Milt Weisberg, NEC member, and Dave Chris were among the pioneers in the organization of the Unemployed Citizens' League, now well past 20,000 members.

Chicago. Yipsels in the Windy City were the life of the party at the March 4 unemployment demonstration of the Workers' Committee on Unemployment and are now urging the formation of a Youth section of the National Federation of Unemployed Workers' Leagues, fostered by the Chicago Workers' Committee.

War Department Ready to Move Against Unemployed When Relief Breaks Down

Tells Progressive Miners' Advance

CHICAGO. (FP)—The collapse of the Illinois district of the United Mine Workers of America as an autonomous unit definitely marks the ascendancy of the Progressive Miners of America in the state, declared Editor Gerry Allard of the Progressive Miner as he discussed the coal situation in the Chicago office of Federated Press. He gave figures to support his claim.

The Progressives are now digging two-thirds of all the coal mined in Illinois, he said. The new union, which is independent of the American Federation of Labor union, has 35,000 members, enough to dig the entire state output if they were all at work. But about 7,000 are on strike at 12 Peabody mines and 6,000 are otherwise out of work, leaving 22,000 dues-paying members.

Strong Women's Auxiliary.

The 35,000 Progressive miners enrolled in 114 locals in every mining section of the state except Danville on the Indiana border. They are conducting 45 relief stations where their unemployed members and their families get food and clothing. The women are organized into almost 60 branches of the Women's Auxiliary.

"It won't be long until the Progressives control practically all the Illinois tonnage and then we'll negotiate on a state-wide basis with the employers' organization," Allard predicts. "After that our union will gain footholds in other mining states and then the coal diggers of this country will regain their prewar position as the most solidly organized industry in the American labor movement."

New Trial Granted to Tom Mooney

SAN FRANCISCO—Tom Mooney has secured a new trial. After 16 years of prison the martyred labor leader will be able to confront the ruling class in California and demand that they try to convict him on a forgotten charge of murder without the perjuring witnesses of the 1916 trial, who have in some cases slunk to dishonored graves. The prosecuting attorney of San Francisco and his assistant placed the burden upon the attorney general of Gov. Rolph when the trial was granted by resigning from the case with the statement that Mooney's "former conviction was unjustified and there is not at this time evidence available that would support a conviction."

If, as is practically inevitable, the jury brings in a verdict of not guilty, Gov. Rolph will not have the slightest appearance of justification to hide behind when Mooney again applies for a pardon. The granting of the trial has awakened labor organizations to even greater effort in behalf of Mooney.

A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMELESS IN THE U. S.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — There are a million and a quarter (1,250,000) persons roaming the country and a high proportion have high school educations and are skilled workmen. Until recently there were very few girls and women who could be classed with these transients, but now their numbers are increasing.

Become a CHALLENGER!

Young Socialists First to Expose Details of "Black" Plan.

CHICAGO, Ill. — The United States War department, in confident anticipation of the failure of state and national legislatures to meet the need of 15,000,000 unemployed, has prepared a systematic plan for war upon the American people should any large number of jobless object to starvation.

Under what is known in official army circles as the "Black" plan, a board composed of two army, two navy and one marine officer have completed a major shift of the armed forces of the United States in preparation for internal disorder resulting from failure to adequately meet the present economic crisis, as it affects the mass of workers.

Training Grounds Deserted.

Texas, once the principal training ground of the United States army in peace time, has been practically denuded of cavalry and infantry units; only the air force remaining. The "Black" plan calls for distribution of forces as follows:

One division to Pacific Northwest with an eye to such aggressive working class strongholds as Seattle.

One division to Chicago. One division among the industrial cities of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and western Pennsylvania.

First Cavalry division to coal fields of southern Indiana, Illinois, Ohio and Kentucky.

Re-enforcement of garrison troops at Fort Myer and Fort Washington, the military keys to the national capital at Washington, D. C.

Re-enforcement of garrisons of forts near New York City.

One-half of a division to Camp Dix at Wrightstown, N. J., a midway point between New York and Philadelphia.

Allocation of Air Service between fields in Michigan (for Chicago and Detroit), Ohio (for Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Pennsylvania), California (for Pacific northwest) with remainder in Texas as reserve.

One troop division spread through mill district of the south.

Two divisions in the midwest farm belt.

YPSL Collects Material.

All these movements have been carried out with the exception of the Air Force, the troops being at strategic concentration points or actually spread thru the districts assigned. The last of the main troop movements, the transfer and motorization of a cavalry unit ordered from Texas to a fort in Kentucky came near to making the "Black" plan a matter of public record when a Texas congressman protested in the name of the small business people at the old army posts whose business was being destroyed by the shifting of the thousands of their customers, the soldiers, out of the state. He was quickly hushed up and the matter went no further until the Industrial Department of the Young People's Socialist League of America began to accumulate material in the latter part of January of this year.

Radicals Weeded Out.

Other details of the "Black" plan, appropriately named, include: Request on reserve officers to join National Guard regiments in order to learn of men. Here a snag was hit, many of the reserve officers approached indignantly refusing to be "stool pigeons," who a weeding process has been going on either on instructions or on local Turn to Page Four, Column Two.

Prejudice Rules Scottsboro Case

DECATUR, Ala. — This city is seething with racial prejudice and belligerent talk as the famous Scottsboro case—in which seven Negro youths are charged with raping two white girls—is reopened after the boys had been granted a new trial and a change of venue by the United States supreme court.

Separate retrials for these seven who were once sentenced to death have been decided on. Haywood Patterson, 19, Chattanooga, was selected as the first to be tried.

Chief Witness Disappears.

The Scottsboro boys were charged with attacking Virginia Price and Ruby Bates while riding a freight train on the way to Birmingham where they hoped to find jobs. The case has been complicated by the strange disappearance of Ruby Bates after a letter which she wrote denying her testimony was brought to light.

The streets around the court house here are jammed. The people are being prejudiced against the defendants by men selling a pamphlet called "The Inside Unpublished Story of the Infamous Scottsboro Trial."

The defense is charging the state with discrimination against Negroes on the jury. The case has become internationally known as a test case for legal lynchings and racial prejudice. Protest meetings have been held in the leading cities of the world.

Socialists Defy Nazi Blackmail

(Special to The Challenge)

PARIS — Denouncing as "blackmail" the plan of the Hitler government in Germany to suppress all Socialist papers until Socialist papers in other countries stop attacking the Hitler policies, the executive committee of the Labor and Socialist International, meeting here Thursday, voted to continue opposition to German Fascism.

"In declaration to foreign press representatives," the International's statement reads, "Capt. Hermann Wilhelm Goering, president of the reichstag and Prussian minister of the interior, declared that the German Socialist press will be suspended as long as Socialist papers in other countries continue their attacks.

"The bureau of the Labor and Socialist International, meeting in Paris in the absence of the German delegation, indignantly denounces this blackmail. It so informs the world that Germany's present masters are holding Socialists as hostages in the hope of silencing the expression of the international conscience. This maneuver will fail. The Labor and Socialist International refuses to subject its press to Hitler-Goering censorship."

DESTROY CAPITALISM!

Active Chicago Yipsel Serving Two-Month Jail Sentence

Diane Wolman, one of Chicago's most active Yipsels, has been arrested and sentenced to 53 days in jail or over \$100 fine for participation in an unemployed demonstration. The mass meeting, called in protest against non-recognition of the unemployed organizations by the relief stations was broken up brutally by police gunfire and clubs.

Comrade Wolman was arrested when she called upon the police, most of whom have been unpaid

for months, to cease slugging the workers and instead join the ranks of the demonstrators.

Lila Wolman, sister of Diane, placed on probation for 30 days for the same "offense."

At the same demonstration, Ed Weiner, city secretary of the Chicago YPSL, was shot in the leg by police bullets. The wound was immediately taken care of, and Comrade Weiner was not out of Socialist activity for more than a few hours.

The Challenge

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Editorials

GERMANY, A LESSON IN POLITICS. Our hearts and hands go out to our brave working class comrades in Germany, clamped under the heel of the reaction in the guise of a middle class enacting a weird revolution a hundred years after its historical usefulness has come and gone. Particularly great will be the responsibility of the Socialist youth in resisting the attempt to the backward-looking Fascist regime to intrench itself in the minds of working class youth through the methods which the fanatical Secretary of Propaganda Goebbels is deliberately borrowing from the tactics developed by the liberal democratic middle class dictatorship ruling in United States and England during the World war. It is, however, false sentimentality to decline to learn the lessons clearly set forth in the rise and fall of the German Social-Democratic party. In 1914, under great pressure, they accepted the middle class solution for capitalist class rivalries and antagonism in the patriotic voting of war appropriations; in 1918-19 again under great pressure they accepted the middle class solution for demobilization, charging the old Higher Command with the task and as a result rehabilitating and entrenching the military caste. In the Weimar convention and constitution they set out to be a model to all the world, not in Socialism but in democracy, an idea and an institution developed under middle class custodianship. In the years since,

past which are those of the dying capitalist order, to give the ironic legal death stroke to the very parliamentary democracy that has allowed it to function. An investigation in the city of Chicago showed that the vast majority of the group who stay away from elections of their own desire are of a low moronic intelligence and conservative as regards politics, yet their vote is as good as the most useful and strategic worker. Let us seek working class democracy in and through working class institutions and organizations, but let us above all seek POWER for the working class at all times. Hail to the New Continental Congress and to the Work People's Council which it will create!

THE PROGRESSIVE MINERS.

In spite of tremendous obstacles, the Progressive Miners of America march on toward complete control of the Illinois mine fields, and the acceptance of their principles by what is traditionally the vanguard of American organized labor, the Illinois miners. The Young People's Socialist League was practically the first working class organization of national affiliations to recognize and hail the revolt of the Illinois miners against cynical corruption within and unrestricted operator terror without the United Mine Workers' organization. The new aggressive type of rank and file trade unionism which the Progressives are building stamps them as the pioneers of today and the founders of the enduring trade unionism of tomorrow.

DEMONSTRATE APRIL 6! Against Imperialist War!

Youth Waking Up BY LOREN NORMAN.

Young people now are showing signs of waking up. They want to know why there is no chance for them to work. They want to know why people are starving because there are too many good things to eat, freezing because there are too many clothes to wear, tramping the highways and sleeping in jungles because there are too many houses. They are beginning to question the wisdom of their elders who mismanaged this nation so completely. They are beginning to wonder what can be done about it. And they are taking steps to do it according to their lights.

They are saying, "This system which punishes people for their poverty and starves the man who produces the thing to eat is a bum system."

Dancing and basketball has not quite the old appeal, for empty stomachs don't fit in well with these diversions. The kids of tomorrow will be interested in belly timber first and games afterward.

But there are still quite a number who don't realize the dark and trackless path that lies before them. They are still confused. And those who are alert and alive to the tremendous forces working against them should enlighten these others, should interest them in a world where each shall give according to his ability and receive according to his need! Let everyone have to!

Free Scottsboro Boys!
Release Tom Mooney!

WAR—WHAT FOR? For posing that question in his book and on the platform during the Great Insanity of 1914-18, Comrade George Kirkpatrick was mobbed and chased from pillar to post in many an American city. But now is the time to ask that question and answer it in tones that can be heard. War to enslave the workers, gut the wealth of nations which they (the workers) have produced and are now denied, and sacrifice the life and limb and health of working class youth on the ambitions of a gouty, crooked and incompetent capitalist ruling class and their military pouter pigeons. The war makers are at it hammer and tongs. The first announcement of the Secretary of Navy of the new "economy" Roosevelt administration was a billion dollar naval construction program. The Pathe movie news reeler, in presenting the maneuvers of the navy in the Pacific in raucous tones recently, lamented the fact that Great Britain and Japan were forging past us and adjured the audience to write Congress to support President Roosevelt's patriotic desire for a big navy. This in spite of the fact that according to Senator Nye, naval armaments now range from France 628,000 tons, Japan 850,000 tons, Great Britain 1,250,000 tons to United States 1,251,000 tons. "Baby killer" Gen. MacArthur returns from Europe to demand a standing army of 300,000 but the story of the "Black" plan in this issue of *The Challenge* shows what he wants this big increase for. Leaders of British youth are showing the way to meet the war mongers by boldly announcing that wars will be left to presidents, kings, premiers and chiefs of staff, for youth will have no part in them. American youth must not only speak as boldly but strike out for the abolition of the entire capitalist system, wars and all.

HAIL TO THE NEW CONTINENTAL CONGRESS. The action of farmer, trade union, unemployed, co-operative and working class political party leaders in summoning a new Continental Congress on Economic Reconstruction for Washington May 6 and 7, is a stroke of working class statesmanship of the first order. Plans call not only for the submission of a program to existing legislative bodies but the setting up of a permanent "People's Council," a new political institution, definitely working class in character. Nineteen hundred thirty-three may yet eclipse 1776 in American history, and school boys forget that the original Correspondence Committees were a creation of the eighteenth century.

THE LIARS.

Carl Sandburg, in the Anthology of Revolutionary Poetry.
* * * And now
Out of the butcher's job
And the boneyard junk the mag-gots have cleaned,
Where the jaws of the skulls tell the jokes of war ghosts,
Out of this they are calling now;
Let us go back where we were.
Where the doors are locked the liars say: Wait, and we'll cash in again.

So I hear the people talk.
So I hear them tell each other:
Let the strong men be ready.
Let the strong men watch.
Let your wrists be cool and your head clear.
Let the liars get their finish,
The liars and their waiting game,
waiting a day again
To open the doors and tell us:
War! get out to your war again.

So I hear the people tell each other:
Look at today and tomorrow
Fix this clock that nicks off millions
When the Liars say it's time
Take things in your own hands
To hell with them all, The Liars
who lie to nations, The Liars
who lie to the people.

Bum: One who refuses to do his share of productive labor and lives off of the product of the labor of others. The loafer at the top or bottom of society.

Greetings

In the few hours I have in New York between trips, I can't find time to do more than send you a word of hearty greeting on the first issue of *The Challenge*. I am proud to be an associate editor if that doesn't require too much responsibility. May I take occasion to say that one of the most satisfactory things in the Socialist party is the growth in intelligent activity and organization of the YPSL. We need it.

You ask me for a few words about the spirit of the workers as revealed in southern Illinois and in Detroit. Without hesitation I think I may say that the rank and file spirit that I found in the Progressive Miners of America is one of the bright spots in the whole labor field. Those men, and perhaps more particularly, those women, are showing what organization can mean, not merely for some small degree of material success but for the whole life of the workers. I may add that I found something of the same spirit in Wilder, Tenn., where a strike is one and where the men are organized in a local of the U. M. W. A. About Detroit I have written elsewhere at some length. There was a quality of hope and heroism in the Briggs strike and in some of the other strikes which followed it difficult to exaggerate. Socialist co-operation with labor must be with such manifestations of labor activity as these. I trust they will grow more and more in spite of the deadening effect of the great mass of unemployment upon all strike activities.

Don't forget, by the way, that at least half our present battle must concern itself with the effective organization of the unemployed themselves. In this, I am sure, the Yipsels can be of enormous assistance. All our activities need to be intelligently guided and directed. They should head up in the Labor committee of the party. Wisdom without energy and enthusiasm will not move us. Energy and enthusiasm without wisdom may move us in the wrong direction.

NORMAN THOMAS.

It is a source of real gratification to learn that our young Socialists are about to publish an official organ. While there is much good that can be accomplished if it is properly edited and managed, it may also be misused to promote discord and factionalism. The YPSL will be put to a real test in this new undertaking. Success in such an enterprise means not only financial stability but a sustained continuity of policy that will unite the YPSL in a stronger and more vigorous bond of friendship, to the end that you may not only be of real assistance in building and enlarging the Socialist party, but in hastening the coming of the co-operative commonwealth.

In this spirit I bid the new publication a hearty welcome.

DANIEL W. HOAN.

The Socialist secretary who can count on the assistance of a fine, well organized group of Yipsels is fortunate indeed. There is no task so small or so large that they cannot be of help, and their readiness to serve the cause of Socialism in whatever capacity is needed makes work with them a joy. If a messenger is needed to run an errand, if there is a sudden call for a speaker in a distant local, if there is a meeting to be covered with literature, I call on the Yipsels and count on their ready response.

And if we want to launch a big project calling for organized action—planning, co-operation, efficient management and hard work, the Yipsels are also ready.

The pep and enthusiasm with which they enter any assigned task, large or small, makes the Yipsels the pride and joy of any Socialist group.

LEO KRZYCKI,
County Secretary, Milwaukee
Socialist Party.

Umansky Calls for Action

BY JULIUS UMANSKY
National Chairman, YPSL.

When St. Patrick came to Ireland he found a land of pagans who were having such a good time on earth that they had no thoughts of Kingdom Come. The big job St. Pat had on his hands was to convert these unbelievers. With an unshakable determination and an overwhelming zeal, he set about, almost alone, to accomplish his seemingly impossible task—and Ireland still stands as a testimonial to his churchly success.

The problem today differs in certain particulars from the ancient one in the Emerald Isle. The United States is another land of pagans and these heathens are having such a miserable time on earth that they are quite close to Kingdom Come. And just because they continue to be unbelievers, their miserable lot grows worse and worse.

They believe neither in their own strength nor in their own destiny. Yet even this apparent hopelessness is not insurmountable. A belief in one's strength and destiny can only come from knowing what the strength is and what the destiny may be. It is to give the working class that knowledge which explains the existence of the Young People's Socialist League.

The League through its members, and through its new voice, *The Challenge*, is not offering, as St. Patrick did, a promise of blissful inaction in the future, but is urging a program of immediate action in the present.

In the uneasy days ahead, the necessity for working class youth becomes greater and grimmer to join the conscious workers in their struggle for the possession of their earth in this world. To you, young workers who are yet aloof the Young People's Socialist League says: JOIN, and join now! or forever be branded as a traitor to your own cause.

Because I think that *The Challenge* has great possibilities for training the younger and newer members in the job of building for "Socialism in Our Time," I am more than glad to see it appear. The necessity for active work along this line was never greater in this country. Never has it been more urgent that we learn from the mistakes of the working class abroad, and that we make a really intelligent attempt to base our activities in this country on American revolutionary traditions.

A paper such as the editors of *The Challenge* are planning will furnish a testing ground for ideas such as are found in such large measure in the "youth movement." It will enable untried members to prove abilities to themselves and their comrades. It should make the youth section of the Socialist movement increasingly aware of the tremendous contributions it can make to the movement as a whole, and make it able to offer even greater ones.

The advance orders which I understand are now in the hands of the manager are an indication that the League is not going into the venture blindly. Here's hoping that each subsequent issue will have even a larger circulation.

More power to *The Challenge*.

CLARENCE SENIOR,
National Secretary, Socialist
Party of America.

Of course I am delighted to hear that you are starting a national organ of the YPSL and certainly I wish you success. There has never been a time so needed in our history for an understanding of Socialism among the people.

UPTON SINCLAIR.

Both dad and myself look to the Yipsels to furnish the motive power for a fighting Socialist movement. Of course we want to help in every possible way.

SIEGFRIED AMERINGER.

YIPSEL CIRCLES! PARTY BRANCHES! YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS!

Order bundles of the SPECIAL MAY FIRST EDITION OF THE CHALLENGE. They'll sell fast at your mass meetings and demonstrations. Everybody will want to buy a copy.

SPECIAL RATES:

25 copies 55c	300 copies \$4.50
50 copies 95c	500 copies \$6.50
100 copies \$1.70	1,000 copies \$10.00

Organization
Secretary
Address
City State

Put circle around number of copies you want and remit with money.

Organization

During the halcyon days of 1932 the Yipsels organized a lone circle in January and February. Part of this calm was overcome and 25 circles were chartered by the National Office in the first two months of 1933.

It didn't need the last earthquake to wake up the California organization. They've had their state federation in operation for some months now, and are reaching out into all corners of the state.

If you want to see a rejuvenated gang of Yipsels hike to Milwaukee. There was a time when the Milwaukee group was known as the Young People's Social League, but no more.

Active groups in West Allis, Kenosha, Sheboygan, Racine and Greenfield are backing the state slogan of: WATCH WISCONSIN GROW!

The Fifth District circle in Bridgeport sent in a report to the National Office showing a surplus in the treasury. Upon the National Office delicately hinting that surpluses are unhealthy for Yipsel circles \$5 were sent in as a contribution.

National Organizer Ben Parker is in the Windy City, giving the city office a hand. The Yipsels are active with the Chicago Workers' Committee on Unemployment and are now conducting a campaign to raise clothing, food and toys for the miners and their children in southern Illinois.

The Montreal Yipsels are issuing a well-edited printed paper called The Socialist, which appears every month. A. Andrasznick, 4624 Clarke St., Montreal, is the business manager.

The YPSL takes on new elements of life in Michigan. With the party reaching out in all corners of the state, it certainly is not seemly for the Yipsels to be backward about coming forward.

Pennsylvania is spotty. Philadelphia is building a strong organization, though its still pretty raw. Pittsburgh has developed a county organization and is making valiant efforts to justify its added sphere of activity.

Raymond E. Brothers was the secretary of a circle which was almost non-existent in Richmond, Va., but stuck to his job until now he really has a circle to act as secretary for.

There are Yipsel circles in Clarksburg, Fairmont, Huntington, Martinsburg and Phillipi and others coming up in West Virginia. The last party branches to give attention to YPSL circles, and organizational results followed.

The National Office would like to hear from these secretaries as soon as possible:

- Alma Bau—Fairhope, Ala.
Barry De Rose—Globe, Ariz.
Lorain Taylor—Yuma, Ariz.
James G. Harris—Greeley, Colo.
Brooks Culpepper—East Gary, Ind.
Ruth Sorenson—Askov, Minn.
Wayne Lakkonen—102 15th St., Cloquet, Minn.
Gerald White—Hutchinson, Minn.
George Singer—Kansas City, Kan.
Harold Wittkopp—Greenville, Mich.
Aldene Matteson—Kansas City, Mo.
Yalo Rivers—Ludlow, Mont.

Bunk: Handed out in large chunks by capitalist politicians seeking election.

The Decline Of American Trade Unionism

BY ANDREW J. BIEMILLER.

The recent report of the president's commission on Social Trends contains a mass of data of interest to Socialists. Particularly interesting are the data presented on Trade Unions.

"The course of trade unionism in the remaining years of the decade (the 1920's) ran contrary to all precedent. In spite of the prevalence of good business and regular employment, the organized labor movement suffered after 1923 a continuous and substantial decline in membership, probably much greater than that revealed in the statistics.

Forces Aiding Decline.

These basic forces are:

1. Organized labor's insistence on sticking to a craft form of organization in the face of industrial developments that have put a virtual end to skill as a factor in industry.

2. Technological unemployment has created a permanent army of the unemployed that are a constant threat to any worker who still has a job.

3. Organized labor has failed to follow the shift in industries from high paid locations to low paid; for example, the shift in textiles from New England to the south.

4. Much new labor has become available, both male and female. Organized labor has failed to carry on a drive among young workers or women workers.

5. Organized labor's energies were diverted to employ co-operation in management schemes and labor banking.

6. A concerted drive on unionism by organized employers' groups, with very little resistance shown by the unions. Strikes were very few in the 1920's.

7. Some employers used more subtle methods and formed company unions, supposedly giving their workers a voice in management.

Future Possibilities.

These factors aided in bringing a decline in union membership from the peak of 5,110,000 in 1920 to 3,298,000 in 1931. "The peak of trade union membership coincided with ambitious aims in the direction of industrial democracy."

There are three possibilities for the future of the labor movement:

1. There may be a rebirth of craft and semi-industrial unions.

2. There may be a new unionism, developed on an industrial basis and with a more radical orientation than now exists in the labor movement.

3. There may be a new movement formed by the present company unions breaking away from employer domination and forming the nucleus for a federation of industrial unions.

"*** It is clear that the organization of labor has not gone forward as have other parts of the economic system. Organizations of employers and of employes have changed at unequal rates of speed. Unless labor organizations show a more vigorous growth in the future other resources of society must be drawn upon to meet these problems."

UNDERNOURISHED CHILDREN.

HARRISBURG, Pa. (FP)—Since 1930 the number of children so undernourished as to be in actual danger has increased from 7 per cent to 22 per cent in counties with the best record and from 38 per cent to 52 per cent in others.

More than 420,000 of the million undernourished are suffering from "definite functional disorders due to malnutrition," the governor said.

Release Tom Mooney!

Education

"Es sind Marxisten, auch Marxisten, und noch Marxisten," said Marx on one occasion. And in plain American it states that there are Marxists, and Marxists, and also Marxists. If it was true while Marx lived, it is a thousand times truer since his death.

Marxism Not Dogma.

Marxism does not consist of a set of answers to all social problems. Marxism is a method which if intelligently used will lead to the solution of social problems.

Some will ask with fairness: "Of what value is this man Marx who lived 50 years ago in Germany to us living now in the United States?" They will be especially justified in such a question by the actions of some "Marxist" who in despair for some logical argument will haul forth a tone and say: "See, Marx said it!"

The value of Marxism to those who study him lies not in the fact that he said this or said that, but in the fact that he developed a method of scientific investigation and uncovered some profound social laws with it.

Biographies of Marx.

The first thing to do in studying Marx is to read about his life. He was a man with many virtues—and also faults. Some such biographies are:

Max Beer—Life and Teachings of Marx.

D. Ryazanoff—Karl Marx, Man, Thinker, Revolutionist.

D. Ryazanoff—Karl Marx, His Life and Work.

Achille Loria—Karl Marx.

Otto Ruehle—Karl Marx.

A discussion of the life of Marx can be both interesting and profitable. His life falls nicely into three divisions: up to departure for England, life in England, work with First International. Some of the less active members may be drawn into activity by having them deliver a book report.

Before tackling the writings of Marx himself there is one booklet that should be read and discussed. That is Kautsky's, "The Class Struggle—Erfurt Program." It is a simple, clear, yet comprehensive exposition of the ideas of Marx.

Suggested Reading.

Then one should turn to the works of Marx and Engels themselves. I would suggest the following bibliography to be read in the order given:

Marx and Engels, Communist Manifesto.

Engels, Socialism—Utopian and Scientific.

Engels, The Revolutionary Act. The economic doctrines of Karl Marx, although closely interwoven with his other theories need a separate approach. The best way to approach the economic doctrines of Marx is to read as follows:

Mary Marcy's—Shop Talks in Economics.

Hyndman's—Economics of Socialism.

Kautsky's—Economic Doctrines of Karl Marx.

Marx—Value, Price and Profit.

Marx—Wage Labor and Capital.

Marx—Capital.

Paris Commune. The month of March is famous in Socialist history not alone for the death of Marx but also for the Paris Commune. In 1871 the im-

Inauguration

For the past few weeks, a spirit of optimism, we are told, has been flowing through the veins of the American people. The old administration was through. New hands were to be placed on the helm, and the ship of state was to take a new course through the murky fog.

March 4, 1933—the day of rebirth. The historian of the future was to swell with pride when his eye reviewed the events of this day and the glad tidings that it brought to America.

March 4, 1933—Franklin D. Roosevelt puts on his best attire, his shiniest top-hat, his sunniest smile, and proceeds to the White House. Thunderous cheers, uproarious applause, and then the solemnity of the oath.

March 4, 1933—Every bank of almost every state in the Union has shut its doors. O tempora, O mortoria! The wave of confidence has been dissipated in bank runs, in a complete collapse of the credit system of America.

The historian of the future will indeed look back at March 4, 1933; will see the grided gates locked tight in the face of the people; will see the furrows of misery that were engraved on the countenance of the nation; the new suit that frayed so easily, the top-hat that was so soon battered, the sunny smile that chilled so quickly into a grimace.

And now, March 4, 1936—???

VIENNA, Austria—The Dollfuss dictatorship (Catholic Centrist) which is striving to defeat Hitlerism by suppressing Austrian Socialists before the Hitlerites get a chance, has been met by a splendid workers answer to suppression. Having confiscated the issue of the Socialist press six times, the government announced a permanent censorship of it.

poverished workers of Paris rose in revolt, seized the city for a while, only to be drowned in their blood by a vicious reaction. It was the first attempt of the working class to set up its own government.

First, one should read what Marx has to say on the subject in "Civil War in France" and the "Paris Commune." Then one should read Lenin's work on the Paris Commune. Read Kautsky's, "Labor Revolution," chapters 1-5, on the subject. Nor should one overlook a very interesting and sharply critical history written by E. S. Mason called the "Paris Commune."

Let us commemorate the spirit of Marx not by learning to think what he thought but by learning to think as he thought.

Solidarity

Greetings: To our Comrades and Fellow Workers, the Progressive Miners of Kincaid who go on trial at Taylorville, Ill., as the first issue of The Challenge goes to press. The long-winded legal papers charge many things from murder to unlawful assembly but we know that the crime they seek to punish you for is that of resisting the bloody, tyrannical of the Peabody Coal Co. and fighting the good fight for the freedom of your brother miners and your class.

The Steady Advance of the Progressive Miners in Illinois we hail with pleasure. The Industrial Department of the YPSL and the Progressive Miners of America are related in a way of which we at least are distinctly proud. The first official act of the Industrial Director was to commission Joe Zameres for work in southern Illinois, following the rebellion of Illinois miners against the treachery of their U. M. W. A. officials, the historic mass meeting at Beuld and the cold blooded assassination of brave Joe Colbert.

Sol Larks of Chicago and later the writer, attended the provisional conference at Gillespie which called into existence the Progressive Miners of America. On recommendation of the Industrial Department, the Yipsel National Executive at its Buffalo meeting endorsed the struggle of the Illinois miners as an example for workers throughout the United States and called for relief aid through the Midwest Fund at Springfield.

Milwaukee. A little better than a week's active campaign netted Milwaukee Yipsels three truckloads of food and clothing for relief of the Progressive Miners in their struggle in Illinois, which six Yipsels jolted across some hundreds of miles of roads to deliver at PMA headquarters at Gillespie, Ill. Now they are back and at it again. Also active in unemployed organization.

Detroit. When the internationally important Briggs automobile strike came along, Detroit Yipsels swung into action with strike relief, working through the Detroit Council of Labor Youth Groups.

New York. There has been a functioning Industrial Committee in New York since the convention. Miners Relief. First aid to the Toy and Doll Makers' strike, picketing for the I. L. G. W. U., a New York Yipsel even led the one and only strike of jig saw puzzle makers: in short, New Yorkers are on the job.

Los Angeles. Joe Zameres didn't return to rest on laurels acquired in Illinois, but went to work on an I. L. G. W. U. strike which had gone to sleep. Yipsel pickets received suspended sentences after being scooped up by the Red Squad, the industrial police from the Chamber of Commerce Bldg. Miners' relief was getting attention just before the quake. Everett O'Connor is Industrial Organizer.

Cleveland. The largest single contribution received by the Midwest Striking Miners' Relief Fund at Springfield, Ill., was the ton of clothes collected by Cleveland Yipsel, Hy Fish was on the propaganda staff of the I. L. G. W. U. until The Challenge drafted him.

Become a CHALLENGER! DESTROY CAPITALISM!

Young People's Socialist League, 549 Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois.

I am interested in the YPSL and would like to have more information about your organization.

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THE CHALLENGE, 549 Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois.

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