

Down with exploiters, "rugged individualists" and tyrants.

LABOR ACTION

For a workers' world — peace and plenty, justice and freedom.

Second Zero Issue

New York, N. Y., Saturday, February 25, 1933

Price 5 Cents

FARM REVOLT SPREADS; POLITICIANS IN PANIC

Successful in Halting Foreclosures They Now Demand Total Cancellation of Mortgages

CHICAGO, ILL.—(Special)—The farmers of the Middle West are on the march. Their militant organizations are increasing in numbers daily, and their demands grow with their numbers.

Successful in halting farm foreclosures by the great life insurance companies, they now begin to demand cancellation of the mortgages altogether. The dollar when they made the mortgages is not the same dollar, they contend, that they now must pay.

"Holiday" Farmers

On February 16 from 75,000 to 100,000 farmers will demonstrate before the State Legislature at Lincoln, Neb. They will come from Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and South Dakota. These "holiday" farmers have secured permission to use the State fair grounds for their meetings. State fair buildings, churches and public places will be used for sleeping quarters for the invading host.

On February 8 at Ithaca, Mich., there was repeated the story of what is happening all through the Western farm country. One thousand organized farmers, armed with axe handles, took charge of the mortgage foreclosure sale over the head of the sheriff, and bid a maximum of 2 cents for each article put up for sale. P. A. Holman, representative of the Ithaca National Bank, was reported to have been rolled in a snow bank, his glasses broken and face cut, and then locked in a room in the farm house while the sale was being held. Sheriff J. D. Helman went on with the "2 cent sale," all property then being turned back to the mortgaged farmer, Roy Marzoff.

In Wisconsin the milk farmers are preparing for a strike, which they hope will spread to the entire Middle West. Memories of the great milk producers strike of 1928, which resulted in a farmers' victory, are still fresh in the minds of Chicagoans.

The success of the farmers' movement in Iowa and Nebraska has encouraged its spread into Illinois, where pledge cards for defense of farmers in distress are being circulated.

Politicians in Dilemma

Confronted with the unexpected farm revolt, the State Legislatures are trying hard to find some way to satisfy the men from the country and at the same time not hurt the bankers and insurance companies. The Iowa State Legislature passed a law unanimously proposing a "moratorium" on mortgage foreclosures until March 1, 1935. Power to grant this "moratorium" is placed in the hands of the district judge, however, who then takes over supervision of the property. Whether this will satisfy the farmers is more than doubtful.

The movement for "postponement of mortgages" grows, and Governor Henry Horner of Illinois is the latest convert. Meanwhile, Milo Reno, president of the National Farm Holiday Association, advocates organized farm opposition to mortgage foreclosures which his organization is practicing throughout the Middle West. The farmers' Councils of Action are also busy.

"Sears Roebuck" Sales

Scores of "Sears-Roebuck" sales, in which the farmers bid in pennies instead of dollars, have alarmed the banking and insurance companies. Near Bowling Green, Ohio, scene of several such sales, the Federated Press reports, about 2,000 farmers gathered and bid in the live stock and equipment of Walter Crozier's farm for \$1.90 to satisfy an \$800 mortgage. A short distance away Common Pleas Judge William F. Duncan announced that he would not allow any sale which did not bring in the amount of the mortgage.

Organized action is preventing the farmer from being moved from his farm, and that is the important point. Statement on January 30 by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture that farm recovery is far off only tends to stiffen the farmers in their fight.

CLINT GOLDEN HEADS FARM ORGANIZATION

NEW HOPE, PA.—The Farmers' Economic Association of Solesbury Township, Bucks County, was formed here this month, to cooperate with the organized farmers in the County and State.

Clinton S. Golden, member of the National Executive Committee of the CPLA, was elected president of the association, and P. A. Waring, a well-known progressive farmer, was chosen secretary.

Working committees were appointed to study the matter of taxes and legislation, credit and mortgages, cooperative marketing, and to make a survey of agricultural conditions.

RACKETEERS HIT; CAMPAIGN GROWS

Change in Spirit and Structure of Labor Leadership Is Opposition Aim

Results are being obtained in the national campaign against labor racketeering entered upon by the Conference for Progressive Labor Action and by dissenting members in the unions.

The National Executive Committee of the CPLA warns, however, that racketeering and other union abuses are "not likely to be stamped out until there is a complete change in the spirit and structure of organized labor leadership and control."

Theodore M. Brandie, for many years czar of the New Jersey building trades, is now on the defensive and fighting for his existence as a labor leader. His local union, No. 45 of the ironworkers, in Jersey City, has been thrown into receivership. Brandie himself disappeared shortly thereafter.

When he re-appeared, on February 8, he faced unexpected opposition in his union. Cries of "liar" greeted his attempts to "explain" his position. The next day it was announced that 431 members of the local had signed a petition requesting his suspension as business (Continued on Page 2)

Fight Fifth Cut in Southern Mill Village

By LARRY HOGAN

ALAMANCE, N. C. — Striking against a 20 per cent wage reduction, the fifth wage cut handed them by the Standard Hosiery Company in the past two years, 150 mill workers walked out here and the situation is at a dead lock.

The company has issued a notice that the strikers are not to trespass on company property. The strikers are staunch in their demands for a living wage. The company owns the village and most of the land near by.

Conditions here are typical of Southern mill villages. Workers live in unsealed houses for which they pay 25 cents a week per room, not including lights. There is no running water in the houses.

Grocery bills, medical attention and clothes are real problems since wages paid by the Standard Company are a fifth lower than the low wages prevailing in adjoining villages. Public sentiment is with the strikers.

The walk-out was unorganized, but the strikers are sticking and mean to win.

French Workers Unite

The Party of Proletarian Unity, a group in France similar to CPLA, has just registered a 10 per cent gain in membership. Five hundred workers belonging to the Independent Socialist Party of Nievre, the equivalent of an American state, joined the P. U. P. in a body. The Independent Socialist Party was the strongest party in its locality and at the last election had sent its candidate to the Chamber of Deputies, the French Congress.

WOMEN MARCH ON STATEHOUSE



This is the beginning of the march of 7,000 women of the auxiliary to the Progressive Miners of America in their recent huge demonstration for unemployment insurance, peace in the coal-fields and equitable distribution of relief. They marched to the statehouse and were told by Gov. Horner that a sales tax would save the state.

Strikes Sweep Detroit as Bank System Wavers

Detroit, Mich. (Special)—Amid crashing finances a whirlwind of labor action unprecedented in the history of the industry sweeps through the big plants of the automobile city, involving thousands of auto workers in ten strikes, four of them already resulting in victory for the workers.

Four thousand striking workers won demands against the powerful Hudson Motor Company of wage increases of 10 to 25 per cent, the fourth victory for auto workers in the course of a week.

Beginning in the Briggs Waterloo plant January 11, the strike wave swept through the plants of the Motor Products Co., Hays Body Co., Briggs Highland plant, Briggs Mack Avenue plant, Murray Body Co., Briggs Waterloo (second strike), Briggs Meldrum Avenue plant, Ford Motor Co., and the Hudson Motor Co. (two strikes).

Angered by repeated wage cuts and with five strikes in process while other plants, including Dodge, are expected to strike, Detroit auto workers have swung into a program of labor action that bids fair to organize the industry and whip the big open-shop car magnates into line.

The crashing financial structure of the state, with 581 banks and financial institutions closed in Michigan by the Governor for 11½ days in an attempt to stave off complete collapse, has thrown terror through the State, and hundreds of

Miners Defy Gun-Rule; Join Progressive Union

GILLESPIE, ILL.—The barricaded, gun-ridden stronghold of John L. Lewis in Franklin County is bursting wide open as revolting U. M. A. of A. locals throw hot water on the Lewis regime and one after another apply for charters in the Progressive Miners of America.

"To old Ben 15, with 525 members, goes the honor of receiving the first P. M. A. charter," states *The Progressive Miner*, official paper of the new union.

"During the past week the following locals have thumbed their noses at the thoroughly discredited U. M. W. A.: Peabody 19, Old Ben 15, and Buckner.

"The new progressive sentiment seethes and surges through the local miners of Franklin County who remember the cherished principles of the old U. M. W. A. and which have been brought to life again in the fighting Progressive Miners of America."

The locals voted overwhelmingly to join the new union.

thousands are caught without even meagre funds.

A move to block the withdrawal of huge sums from banks in a gesture to protect small depositors failed when Henry Ford refused to "play the game" and the crisis was precipitated. Detroit auto magnates who pay low wages to auto workers, and against whom the strikes are directed, are controlling heads of the big banks.

SEES FASCIST DANGERS IN TREND TOWARD "MILD" F. D. DICTATORSHIP

WASHINGTON, D. C.—That the growing movement to invest Roosevelt with the power of a dictator, as a way out of the crisis, will result, if successful, in the destruction of what liberties the American workers still retain, is the warning of Edward F. McGrady, legislative representative of the American Federation of Labor, according to a Federated Press dispatch from Lawrence Todd in Washington.

"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 their children shall have schooling—these interests will aid in the formation of this sort of dictatorship.

"But later they will do all they can to discredit a mild form of dictatorship, and they will build up

a real dictatorship of the mailed fist, which will take away every bit of humane and defensive legislation that the workers have secured since the Revolutionary War," McGrady warned.

Anxiety grows among labor men over the tendency of Congress to abdicate its power in the economic crisis and to give Roosevelt dictatorial authority before his capacity to do anything has been tried out, and there is talk of possible A. F. of L. protest demonstrations, but President Green has not indicated that he has any action in mind, the F. P. report says.

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FIVE HUNDRED DELEGATES WILL ATTEND OHIO "LEGISLATURE" OF UNEMPLOYED

"BARTER" BARTERED AWAY

Jobless in Famed Plan 'Depend' on Community Chest

YELLOW SPRINGS, O.—The much-heralded "barter" plan of this town, which received national publicity in the daily press, does not exist.

The unemployed here have to "depend" on the Community Chest. The barter plan remains the dream of its author.

Professors and students at Antioch College smile when the great plan is inquired about, and state that it is like "the luxurious attire of the Emperor of China, in the fairy tale, which was pure imagination."

If all the "barter" plans, about which there has been so much hub-bub in the newspapers, are like this one, they are the thoroughly false alarms that militant workers consider them.

BROOKLYN CALLS LIGHT STRIKE

Huge Profits and Lay-Offs in Edison Co. Rouse Citizens to "Dine by Candle-Light"

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Thousands of consumers of electricity in Brooklyn, New York are pledging to "Dine by Candle-Light" during the month of March as a protest against the "anti-social policies of Brooklyn Edison Company against its employees" and the excessive profits of the company.

The National Committee on Utilities and Labor has distributed literature to Brooklyn Consumers, and many thousands of people have already pledged themselves to join the strike and "Dine by Candle-Light" during March.

The consumers' strike will back the fight being carried on by the Brotherhood of Edison Employees for the past two years, protesting against arbitrary discharge of 5,000 employees, while the company had \$25,000,000 for dividend payments and \$50,000,000 accumulated surplus and reserves. The Brotherhood, through William Beedie, its Secretary, charges the company with maintaining a degrading spy-system against employees and suppressing freedom of opinion in an effort to prevent the unionization of the workers.

The struggle is being waged on every front. The National Committee on Utilities and Labor, through its Counsel, Jerome Count, sponsored the filing of a complaint against the company calling upon the Public Service Commission to curb these vicious labor policies. Preliminary hearings were held on February 8th at which the Commission reconsidered whether it has jurisdiction over labor questions and reserved its decision on this point.

In briefs submitted by Counsel for the National Committee on Utilities and Labor, it is charged that:

"A thorough investigation of the labor policies of the respondent will reveal discontent and unrest, admitted by the respondent's president in statement which will be produced upon the hearings, and which threaten the electric service (Continued on Page 2)

For Soviet Recognition

NEW YORK, N. Y.—J. B. Matthews, executive secretary of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, announces that 439 clergymen of New York State have signed a petition favoring recognition of Soviet Russia. This petition has been forwarded to President-elect Roosevelt.

Two weeks ago the Fellowship sent an identical request to the President-elect which was signed by more than 800 college presidents and professors.

The petition reads as follows: "In the interests of World Peace and as a measure of mutual economic advantage, we urge the immediate recognition of the Soviet Government by the United States."

STATE JOBLESS TO MARCH ON CAPITOL

Giant Hunger March in West for Cash Relief Set for March 1

SEATTLE, Wash.—"On to the Capitol!" is the cry of unemployed workers, destitute farmers, fishermen and Indians in Washington.

The warning to state officials that the largest demonstration of workers ever organized on the Pacific Coast will march upon the Washington state capitol demanding immediate cash relief for the unemployed is becoming a flesh and blood reality as unemployed thousands, angered by the pauper plan proposed by the R. F. C., prepare to start the trek on the capitol on March 1.

The recent state hunger marches, their demands waved aside at the capitol, left promising to return with 10,000 demonstrators.

Demands include no evictions, no light or water cut-offs and cash relief for food and clothing, a lump sum of \$25 to unemployed workers, \$5 to dependents, and that the legislature pass at once an unemployment insurance act to replace the "pauper plan" and charity, providing \$10 a week and \$2 for dependents at the expense of the state and the employers.

Meat Barons Use Courts in Butchers' Strike

PATERSON, N. J.—Labor spies, the frame-up, private detectives, corruption of the Grand Jury and the infamous Yellow Dog contract are the tools being used by the Swift controlled D. Fullerton Beef Co. here against its locked-out workers.

Matthew Connell, private dick for the Fullerton Co., is also a member of the Grand Jury that is considering indictments against the workers. Connell spent a morning recently intimidating storekeepers into signing affidavits against the strikers and the afternoon in sitting as a member of the Grand Jury in judgment on the strikers.

The affidavits are being prepared for presentation to the court of Chancery, presided over by Vice-Chancellor Lewis, card playing and luncheon companion of the treasurer of the Fullerton Co.

As a front for their illegal operations the company has employed a former Democratic Prosecutor of Passaic County.

Boss Violence
Locked out after their refusal to sign the Yellow Dog contract, 32 workers of the company have had to face a campaign of violence fostered by the private army employed by the meat barons. Although the Board of Health of the city of Paterson, the head of which was once involved in a milk racket, gave the Fullerton Co. a whitewashing letter, the guardians of Paterson's health do nothing about the quartering of scabs on the premises where food is being prepared.

Strikebreakers, imported from out of town, are sneaked into the city under cover of darkness and smuggled out again at the end of the week. During the week they work behind barred and painted windows, flopping among the meat at the end of the day's work. One person who described the condition of the scab's sleeping quarters could find nothing to liken the smell to but a gymnasium dressing room. No bathing facilities are provided, and, apparently, no lack is felt.

Calls Nation-Wide Demonstrations Mar. 4

The Federation of Unemployed Workers' Leagues of America, recently formed at Chicago by delegates from Unemployed Leagues throughout the middle west, has asked all affiliated and sympathetic groups to hold Mass Meetings on March 4 to ask the incoming president to call a special session of Congress to enact legislation for the unemployed.

Jobless Workers and Farmers from 31 Counties Will Gather at State Capitol Feb. 27-28

COLUMBUS, OHIO — Five hundred delegates are now assured for the sessions here on February 27 and 28 of the first "legislature" of the unemployed workers and farmers, as the convention of the Ohio Unemployed League is being called.

The organization has grown from the sixteen original jobless groups from three counties who attended the first conference four months ago to numerous local leagues and branches representing the unemployed workers and farmers of 31 counties of the state.

When the convention opens, according to a statement by William R. Truax, president of the state league, every county in Ohio will have been visited, and it is anticipated that the unemployed of every county will be represented.

Early in January a state office was opened in this city, in the Clinton Building, by Arnold Johnson, representative of the CPLA and Truax, acting for the officers of the state body. Miss Sue Shepherd, formerly connected with the Ohio State Unemployment Commission, agreed to take charge of the office, while Johnson and Truax continued their tour of the State.

Covering Ohio

Getting such lodgings en route as they could, Truax and Johnson have now covered three-fourths of Ohio, from the southwestern to the northeastern section. This work has been supplemented by meetings attended by George Perkins of Youngstown, vice-president; V. C. Bauhof of Sebring, treasurer, and other active league members.

New local leagues continue to spring up everywhere, one of the latest being that of Franklin County, in which Columbus is located. Two ward organizations have begun to function in the capitol city, and another in Mifflin Township just out of the city.

Among other new leagues are those reported by Jim White from the Hocking Valley mining region, together with those in Park Township in Stark County, and in Clinton and Jefferson townships.

The convention call, sent out on February 6, says in part:

"The Niles Convention set down certain basic demands which will be the basis for the Columbus convention. These demands include a program of adequate relief based on bare necessities. A family of man, wife and three children must have at least \$18.35 per week in order to live. We are asking for this in work relief, but not as a basic wage. If work is not provided then direct relief must be given, or the factories must be opened. The people have a right to live and a right to work. Child health and education must be protected. Free text-books must be provided, schools kept open, and teachers paid. Unpaid rent of the unemployed should be accredited to the delinquent taxes of certain type homes. Unemployment insurance is demanded. Evictions of unemployed and farmers must be stopped. Farmers must not be sold out for delinquent taxes or mortgages."

Unite for Pressure

It adds that farmers, jobless and employed workers "must unite for permanent solutions," and that "pressure against public officials is the main tactic of the Ohio Unemployed League."

Each unemployed organization, which is a branch of the state league, is entitled to five delegates to the convention. Provision has been made, so that delegates will receive meals and lodgings while in the capitol city for the two day meeting. Accommodations for women delegates will be made in homes.

The convention will present its program to the legislature and to Governor White. If necessary, it is also planned to send a special committee to Washington, D. C., to take up the demands of the Ohio jobless with the national Congress.

The officers of the league have been successful in getting the co-

(Continued on Page 2)

FROM THE FIRING LINE

Andrew J. Mellon "Great American"

Not so long ago I was in Niagara Falls. While there I heard from two different sources the same story about Andrew Mellon's Aluminum Company. Quite a story it is too. All about the pot room. You may have heard it.

I know nothing of smelting or the equipment used but I will give the facts as I heard them.

In the pot room the men each have five pots to tend. Molten metal was in the pots, and they had to stir or poke the metal at intervals. It was a hot, gaseous job. Then the men were told that they would have to tend nine pots each instead of five. Then men struck. But times were bad, and some felt that they couldn't stay out. The strike was broken, and the men went back to work, only to find that they didn't have nine pots to tend, but twelve!

And before the plant closed down this year these men were tending seventeen pots apiece!

Some slight changes had been made in equipment meanwhile, but not enough to lighten the work to this extent—in fact, the men felt the changes were used as an excuse to impose intolerable labor on them.

Niagara seems to be a sore spot for industrial poisoning in the U. S. Light and Heat Plant, which has a reputation for rotten conditions and hard boiled methods of beating the compensation law by firing victims of lead poisoning.

R. B.

Jobless Workers Like Own Paper

As you will see the clippings from the "Springfield Union," a daily paper here, our Unemployed League is getting some publicity. On another page of the same paper a report was given of a meeting of city workers who have an association to protect their rights as workers. At the end of the report it is stated that these workers refuse to have anything to do with the Unemployed League on the ground that it has "a Communist complexion." This, of course, is just the usual way the bosses have of trying to divide the workers. But these city workers will soon learn that by opposing the League they are only harming themselves.

We are planning a second attempt to approach the Mayor for a permanent hall but I am afraid we won't get anything as he is dead set against our organization. But if he refuses, that will not end the matter. We will give Mayor Winter plenty to worry about.

Enclosed you will find a money order for \$1.15, ninety cents of which I received from sales of *Labor Action* and 25 cents for a three months' subscription. Although the unemployed workers are anxious to have the paper it is hard for them to buy it as many of them do not have even a few cents.

Springfield, Mass. F. CALDER

Ostrich Stage Passed As Elderado Jobless Swing Into Action

Elderado, Arkansas! The Financial Gateway of Southern Arkansas and Northern Louisiana! So says the glaring sign of the Chamber of Commerce. The city can boast of a new modern courthouse, a champion football team, and 4,000 unemployed out of a 15,000 population.

Unemployment relief here has gone through three stages; the first was the ostrich stage, in which according to theory, the right way to deal with jobless is to ignore them. "Elderado Can Take Care of Her Own!" the city fathers said, and proceeded to raise taxes on home-owners. But foreclosures increased in number until it seemed there would be no more home-owners. 57 per cent of the voters were disfranchised through inability to pay the poll-tax, and text-books became a rarity among school-children, since the city does not supply these.

Increasing misery of workers, home owners, and farmers compelled city officials to apply for a loan from R. F. C., and they received \$30,000. The city bankers in a business-like manner, disposed of it as follows: Heads of families with three or more children could work on the high-way three days a week, ten hours a day, at 25 cents

an hour. Those with families including only two children were entitled to two days work, at the same rates. Other unemployed were left to shift for themselves somehow. Most of the work was done on roads leading from magnificent private estates to the main highway, and on roads leading from the city golf links and the Arkansas Light and Power Co.

In a huge mass meeting of unemployed held under direction of the Socialist Party local in Elderado, citizens of the town were given an opportunity to express their grievances. A resolution was unanimously adopted, embodying the following demands:

1. Participation by the unemployed in the distribution of relief.
2. Free rent, heat and shelter for unemployed families.
3. Free text books for children of unemployed.
4. Uncultivated county owned land to be allotted to unemployed citizens for the purpose of growing food stuffs for their own use.
5. Implements for cultivating land to be donated by city and county.
6. No relief work on private estates.

An unemployed organization was formed with a president, secretary, and executive committee of five, who were instructed to present these demands to the mayor of Elderado and the county judge.

As a result of this demonstration the county officials ceased work on private estates, placed more men to work on public highways and pledged to the committee of unemployed that they would try to find ways and means of alleviating distress. Meanwhile the unemployed are perfecting their organization and are preparing to make militant aggressive demonstrations in order to gain their demands.

S. SANDBERG.

Mena, Ark.

Alabama Schools Close While Politicians Wrangle

Schools in Alabama are in a deplorable condition. Teachers in elementary schools, high schools and colleges have received in the past year only a pittance on their salaries, the remainder being covered by warrants issued against a very uncertain future.

The state treasury is quite empty, and the governor and the legislature have been engaged in a long wrangle. The governor refused to call a special session to appropriate funds unless legislators would agree to put his income tax measure before the people. The income tax and a bond issue was finally submitted to the people and both measures were defeated. As a result a majority of the schools in the state were forced to close.

Many people claim that educational funds are being diverted into other channels, and investigation of state officials seems likely.

Feagin, the political boss of Alabama, is in control of state finances, seemingly, and is getting his revenge on the state superintendent of education, whom he dislikes, by paying off every other department before giving any money to the schools, by which time there is little money left.

J. M. R.

Evergreen, Alabama

"WOULD BE A GOOD THING IF AMERICAN WORKERS BUILD STRONG PRESS"

Britain is sinking deeper and deeper into the mire on all sides. I can only hope that there will be another election in 1933 and that the people will not be misled again.

New National Economics to begin on April 1 provide that "No child whose parents can earn more than \$15 to \$20 a week will be granted a free scholarship to a high school."

This means that there will be a big decline in education. We in the Workers Educational Association have been organizing demonstrations all over the country to protest against this outrageous economy.

I am making talks to workers organizations and writing for the press. It would be a grand thing if workers in America would build up a strong labor press and a workers' educational movement.

MABLE R. BEAUMONT.

England

"WE KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE ROTTEN SYSTEM— GIVE US ACTION!"

The big shots here are beginning to realize our strength and are doing everything possible to get their henchmen active in the League. Up to now we have succeeded in curtailing their activities by a clause in our By-Laws which disqualifies any one who has held any political job in the past, in holding any official position in the League.

More than ever the members are crying for more action and because of the deplorable conditions we are having a difficult time with study groups. Their cry is action and not paper talk, i. e., "We know what's the matter with the rotten system. Let's have some action." However, I am getting the more active spirits interested in a study group along organization lines and we have protested another eviction. Definite action on this case is pending and we expect to mobilize our forces when the action of evicting the family takes place.

Two wards are starting to organize the women and having a good response. Many of our men are refusing to work on the state roads and county work, demanding cash payment of 40 cents per hour. At present we are fighting for one and one-half ton coal per month instead of the one-half ton allotted to a family. Had a heated argument at the last Emergency Relief Meeting gaining front page publicity in our local papers.

J. S.

California

MID-WEST CAMPAIGNS KEEP CPLA-ERS BUSY

St. Louis Comrades Issue Shop Paper and "The Unemployed Citizen"—Help Ill. Miners

ST. LOUIS, MO.—An organization campaign in the large East St. Louis packing houses, work with the Unemployed Citizens League of St. Louis and efforts to establish a united front on setting up of relief machinery for the Progressive Miners of America are keeping the St. Louis branch of CPLA busy.

The "Sticker"

In the Packing houses, the employees of Swifts, Armour, Morris and Hunter Packing Co. have given a very favorable reception to the first issue of "The Sticker," organ of a group of men within the plant who have organized themselves into the Packing House League and who plan to carry on an intensive organization campaign to strengthen the League.

The packing house employees, many of them highly skilled, are becoming increasingly disgusted with the low pay, the long hours and the horrible conditions under which they have to work. In the killing beds, salt rooms, gut shanties, hide cellars, coolers, and in innumerable other departments, the work is difficult, unpleasant and underpaid. Women who work in the sausage department at Armours, for example, get 17c per hour.

Unemployed Citizens' League

The Unemployed Citizens League, after a long period of internal fighting, has cleaned out its ranks and is now ready to go ahead on a positive program. The first of a series of city wide conferences has been planned and the first issue of the official organ of the League, *The Unemployed Citizen* has been published. The League has also recently sent a letter to the Central Trades and Labor Union pointing out that it was to the advantage of the nation as a whole that the unemployed should not be used as a lever with which to force down wage scales, and suggesting combined action to combat any such steps that might be taken.

Miners Relief

Representatives from eight organizations met recently in answer to a call sent out by the local CPLA branch and set up a Progressive Miners Relief Conference to raise relief for the striking miners in Southern Illinois. Fraternal greetings were sent to the Progressive Miners of America, a letter of protest against denials of civil liberties in the coal fields was sent to Governor Horner, and a continuation committee was set up to contact organizations not represented, to set up actual relief machinery and to call another conference in a short time.

RACKETEERS HIT; CAMPAIGN GROWS

(Continued from Page 1)

agent. This happened in a local in which, some years ago, he had been elected to office for life.

Last month, Maxwell E. Bublitz, business agent of Local 164 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in Jersey City, resigned under fire of alleged racketeering activities. The local was thrown into receivership.

The steps being taken in Jersey City have developed from the publicity against Brandie and his henchmen by the *Newark Evening News* and the CPLA, and from the sudden rupture between Mayor Hague of Jersey City and Brandie.

Formerly Hague and Brandie worked very closely together. In 1924, it was the Jersey City labor czar who prevented the endorsement of the candidacy of Robert N. LaFollette for President in the Paterson convention of the State Federation of Labor, doing this in the interests of Hague who was backing the Democratic Wall Street attorney, John W. Davis.

Later on, in 1930, Brandie paid Hague's income tax and penalties with his personal check for \$60,000.

But now the two have split, and the attacks on Brandie are succeeding as his political power is lessening.

In New York City, Sam Kaplan has been denied his appeal for reinstatement into office, by the courts. The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Motion Picture Operators has backed Harry Sherman as Kaplan's successor in Local 306. Sherman is none other than the personnel man, at \$25,000 per year, for the Paramount-Publix Corporation.

The CPLA protested against Sherman's candidacy on the ground that it set "a vicious and harmful precedent," and called upon the international union to declare Sherman ineligible for office.

Local 379 of Perth Amboy, N. J., wrote through its secretary, J. J. Hallahan, that Sherman had used strikebreaking methods against their local union, and that he was unfit for office in any local union.

"Events in New York and New Jersey indicate that reactionary interests will take advantage of the racketeering fight to assert their own control in the unions," Louis F. Budenz, executive secretary of the Conference for Progressive Labor Action has declared. "There is only one way to remedy the evil, and that is to set up such strong opposition groups in the unions, knowing what they are about, that the entire policy of the organizations will be changed. Business unionism is defunct and decadent. While it exists at all, its by-products of racketeering and reactionary abuses will remain."

Economists, Publicists, CPLA-ers Join National Committee to Fight Union Evils

NEW YORK, N. Y.—The National Committee against Labor Racketeering and Allied Evils, announced in the last issue of *Labor Action*, has now definitely been formed.

Twenty-five pro-labor economists and publicists have joined the committee, which is designed to "check the evils menacing the labor unions of the country."

Among those who have become members of the committee are:

Robert Morse Lovett, University of Chicago.

Dr. Paul H. Douglas, University of Chicago.

Prof. Paul F. Brissenden, Columbia University.

Dr. George S. Counts, Columbia University.

George Soule, Associate Editor, *The New Republic*.Freda Kirchway, Associate Editor, *The Nation*.

Prof. William L. Nunn, Dana College, Newark, N. J.

Roger N. Baldwin, Director, American Civil Liberties Union.

Alfred M. Bingham, Editor, *Common Sense*.

Francis A. Henson, Secretary, National Religion and Labor Foundation.

William B. Spofford, Secretary, Church League for Industrial Democracy.

Morris L. Ernst, New York Lawyer and Author.

Rev. Edmund E. Chaffee, Labor Temple, New York.

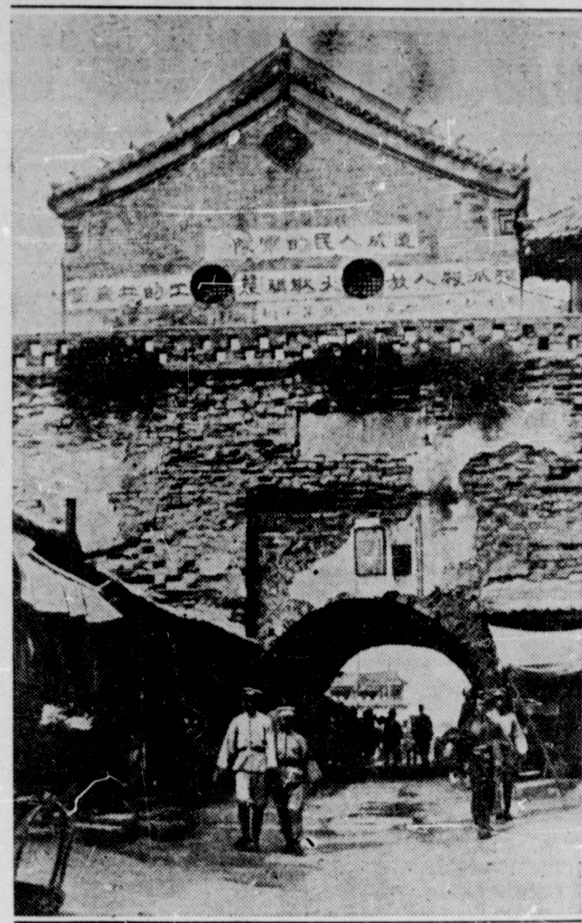
Devere Allen, Editor, *The World Tomorrow*.

Dr. Walter E. Peck, John Marshall Law School, Jersey City, N. J.

John W. Herring, Director, League for Independent Political Action.

A. J. Muste, chairman, Conference for Progressive Labor Action.

DESTROYED BY JAPS



This old tower has stood for centuries in the heart of Shanghai, the gateway city to Northern China from Manchuria, which was destroyed by Japanese Imperialist forces.

PREVENT WAR; YES— BUT HOW?

Gonzale, Calif.—"Let each man voting for war automatically enter for service."

And this is the end of another beautiful plan to take the prerogative of declaring war from the militarists and capitalists and place it in the hands of the men who will have to do the fighting. Henry C. Korntved, a grain farmer of Gonzales, California, has submitted the plan for the Nobel peace prize.

Korntved drove an ambulance in the "war to end wars," and he saw the blinded, and he is sure there shouldn't be another war.

To end wars, he explains, the World Court must first vote, and if there is disagreement the question must then be submitted by the dissenting nation to its citizens for a vote. Should the citizens reject the World Court's decision, that nation would be declared hostile, and a world economic blockade would be set up against it. And should two contending nations reject the Court's decision, then the question of war would be submitted to a referendum of the able-bodied men of military age in each nation, and those voting for war would automatically enlist for service.

Like a thousand other plans that have been proposed, it's beautiful but it won't work. All plans have a surprising way of turning into scraps of paper when the imperialists and big capitalists and international bankers call for war.

Workers are mobilized by force of government in the nations where the "hostile" imperialists reside, and thrown at each other in destroying armies. The imperialists do this for private gain, for profits, for markets, for property. And to expect them to restrain themselves by paper plans unbacked by force is a dangerous illusion.

The only realistic antidote for war is the power of the working class organized to resist war and to turn war into an occasion for overthrowing the war-system, the rule of a master-class which is founded on militarism and force.

They'll Take It Over!

CHICAGO, ILL.—(Special)—Compulsory unemployment insurance is bound to come, declared Sam A. Lewisohn, vice-president of Miami Copper Co. and one of the nation's business men, in talking to the meeting of the American Management Association here on Feb. 7th.

"If the medicine is not to be worse than the disease," said he, "we, the business men, must decide how it is to be administered."

Jobless workers here, thousands of whom have been compelled to eat out of garbage cans as a result of business men controlled "relief," did not express enthusiasm at the Lewisohn suggestion.

WHY THEY FIGHT BOSSES IN W. VA.

By Walter Seacrist

Jobless for more than two years, his wife and five children desperately in need of food, John Vincent, aged 44, left his home on December 25, in search of work. A few weeks later he returned, still jobless, and found his home deserted and locked. From a neighbor he learned that his wife had been buried two days before and that his children had been divided among other families in the camp equally desperate.

Five miles below the Wallace home is the magnificent State Capitol with its huge gold-covered dome. Just back of the Capitol is the Ladley field where President Hoover a few months ago told about what a wonderful state West Virginia is.

But the coal miners of West Virginia are learning. They are no longer fooled by the lying words of capitalist politicians. They now know that it is only through their own organized strength, united with other workers of the country, that they can ever hope for relief from their miserable conditions.

Revolt Brewing In Silk Centers

PATERSON, N. J.—(Special)—Revolt is bound to flare up again in the silk centers of the country during the coming year, a report made by Joseph Brooks, Geo. H. Anthony and Anna Fisher as a committee from the CPLA branch here indicates.

Workers in the industry are facing starvation wages and conditions continue to get worse.

In Stroudsburg, Pa., a demand made by the Heck Silk Co. for a cut in wages led to a strike, which has just been ended by a compromise. Weavers there had been getting 4 cents for 80 picks, and the firm wanted to cut them to 3 cents for 84 picks. The final compromise was for 3½ cents for 84 picks, which means that they will get about \$8 per week.

"Brother" Boss

These workers were organized until a year ago, when they left the union at the request of the employers and joined a company union with the firm appointing the committee. They are learning the lesson that their "brother," the manufacturer, is not their brother at all, as a Stroudsburg worker puts it.

The wage of \$8 per week is getting to be the average wage for weavers everywhere — when they work. Conditions inside the mills are equally bad, throughout the silk industry.

In Paterson last year the stoppage movement, initiated by the CPLA branch, brought about wage increases for 90 per cent of the silk workers here. But the union did not follow up the advantage, and things have slumped lately.

BROOKLYN CALLS MASS LIGHT STRIKE

(Continued from Page 1)

of 2,500,000 people. It will reveal discontent and unrest bred by arbitrary, wholesale discharge of thousands of employees, fear of further arbitrary release of labor, intense resentment against the failure of the State to protect employees while assuring continued returns to stockholders of the Company, and while the Company has been allowed to amass unprecedented surplus and reserves and pay vast sums in dividends. Investigation will disclose protest and unrest among employees, born of years of degrading and humiliating suppression of opinion, anti-union activities of the company, inadequate wages and cruel deception of employees by the "responsible" officers and directors of the respondent. Investigation will uncover the fact that the respondent's acts, practices and methods in relation to its employees are not only unjust and unreasonable, but brutally anti-social in essence while assuming the pretensions of a liberal and gracious public servant."

Brooklyn consumers who have joined the "Dine by Candle-light" strike are buying candles from unemployed Edison men. A large public dinner will be held by candle-light on March 1, to institute the strike. Speakers will include Rev. John Haynes Holmes, Heywood Brown, A. J. Muste, Jerome Count, William Beedie and Francis Henson with Rev. Elliot White as Chairman. Tickets are being distributed by the National Committee on Utilities and Labor, at 128 East 16th Street, New York City.

Many thousands of window posters are being distributed to consumers to be displayed during the strike and the movement is assuming large proportions.

The distributors of pledges, posters and candles report many are already using candles because their electricity is turned off by Brooklyn Edison for non-payment of bills. The problem, they report, is not getting the consumer to use candles but how they can be supplied with the food to "Dine by Candle-light."

Five Hundred Delegates to Attend Ohio Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

operation of a number of professors and students in research work into the questions affecting the jobless of Ohio. This work is considered to be of great value in preparing for the work of the state convention, and for the aggressive follow-up steps that must supplement the convention.

A uniform constitution and by-laws have been drawn up by the executive board of the state league, for the guidance of all local branches.

Reports from unemployed league branches show a variety of local activities—including strikes, marches, mass meetings, and self-help projects. Committees have presented the plight of the unemployed to township trustees, county commissioners, legislators and the governor. One branch has three coal mines, a shoe and tailor shop and a 670-acre farm. Others obtain and distribute milk, food and clothing. Shelter, fuel, light and water have been obtained for the members of various leagues. But the main tasks agreed to by all, are to bring pressure on public officials for adequate relief and "to organize the unemployed for a permanent solution."

MUSSOLINI A LIAR

Italian Fascism has not succeeded in establishing a new economic system, asserts Scott Nearing, economist, in a story to *Federated Press*. "On the contrary, the passing years of Fascist power show more and more clearly that Italian economy under Fascism is following the same line as any other capitalist economy at a similar stage of development."

An unemployed army has appeared among the wage workers, says Nearing, and Italian farmers are suffering like farmers everywhere from the abnormally low prices of agricultural products. "In terms of production, of trade, of finance, and of commercial failures, the decade of Fascism leaves Italy at approximately the same economic level it occupied in 1923. Since 1923 the direction of its economic curve has been steadily downward."

Certainly this is in striking contrast to the recent boasts of Mussolini in the capitalist press.

FOREIGN NOTES
By J. B. MATTHEWS

War Clouds on the Horizon

The General Disarmament Conference has failed abysmally—as was to be expected. It has not only failed, therefore, to relieve the world of the burden of unproductive expenditures for arms, but by its failure has contributed to an already perilous situation an element of suspicion that leads toward war.

The League of Nations has not functioned with marked success in preventing its member states from resorting to armed conflict. But what could be expected of a conference of pirates? The world status quo, which it has been the special business of the League to protect, is one which was established in the Great Era of Imperialist Robbery. The Pact of Paris and other post-war treaties have shown the impossibility of a legalistic solution of the war problem. There must be a solid substance of peace in the world before it can be successfully written into formal documents. That substance does not lie within the limits of a capitalist-nationalist-imperialist system.

Japan Thumbs Its Nose at League

The crisis in the Far East deepens. The Japanese Government is on the way out of the League of Nations. That Government rejects the theory that the World War marked any important break in the imperialist program of the Western States (a rejection well justified by the behavior of these States), and therefore refuses to be curbed by them in its own program of imperialist expansion on the mainland of Asia.

The Stimson Doctrine, setting up a kind of Monroe Doctrine covering the world, is essentially a war doctrine. The conquest of Manchuria by Japan is an accomplished fact which is not made less real by the refusal of the Government of the United States to recognize it. There is no reason to believe that the Open Door will be kept open for American Business in Manchuria. Either the United States Government or that of Japan must back down, or a test of arms will be made.

Civil War in Germany

Civil War in Germany grows daily. An average six a day killed, with eleven on Sundays, is reported as a result of the fighting between the members of the "right" and the "left." Adolf Hitler has just announced his purpose anew to exterminate Marxism in the Reich. The lines of class war are more and more clearly drawn between right and left, with the middle groups vanishing.

The States bordering on the Soviet Union's western frontier are reported to be unusually active in arming. Poland and Rumania have increased their imports of heavy arms from France by eight-fold during the past year. The traffickers in armaments everywhere resist any restrictions upon their "rights" to enormous profits from the machines of blood and death.

In the United States there has been a resurgence of the nationalist sentiment of the ruling class revolving for the time around the question of war debts and the "Buy American" campaign. Already there is much talk of intervention in Cuba whenever it becomes clear that Machado is unable to suppress his opponents.

The collapse of capitalism itself points toward war. Inasmuch as the administration at Washington has resorted to one economic folly after another in its measures of "recovery"—meaning always the rescue of falling property values—there is the gravest possibility that the supreme folly of trying war as "the way out" may be considered.

In brief, the dangers of another general world war, in which the United States would inevitably become involved sooner or later, appear to be increasing. The rulers of America know this. They are now practicing "war" with the feet in the Pacific Ocean. They propose to "militarize" the unemployed, for which purpose an additional appropriation of twenty million dollars has just been added to the War Department expenses. Capitalism, which has not been able to find any room in the industrial system for a hundred thousand young men between the ages of fifteen and twenty-one, now proposes to save them for use as cannon fodder. What other use has Capitalism for its human surplus?

Let the "surplus" speak out before it is too late!

German Workers Pay
The Price of Disunity

By J. B. S. HARDMAN

THE present situation in Germany may be summed up in these few short paragraphs:

1. The fascists or the National Socialists, as the fascists call themselves in Germany, led by Adolf Hitler, are in actual control of the republican government of Germany; and with them, all, or nearly all, of the reactionary elements of the country, the monarchists, the big industrialists, and others whose hopes lie in a return to the past, are cooperating.

2. The two big parties of labor, the Socialists and Communists, remain disunited and the working class, including the trade unions, is powerless to undertake an effective fight against fascism.

This situation did not come about overnight. A long chain of circumstances and fatal errors on the part of those who should have known better, brought about the present critical situation. The foundations for the present reactionary control over Germany were laid in the period at the close of the revolution, which, in Germany, was ushered in by the disastrous war settlements.

The labor movement was divided the day following the successful culmination of the first steps of the revolution. The Social Democratic party, which had actually controlled the course of events, prepared to settle back comfortably after the monarchy had been abolished and several important measures of social legislation had been inaugurated. But there was a radical minority that wanted to drive the course of the revolution to the logical goal of establishing the power of the working class over the republic, arguing that otherwise the immediate gains would eventually be lost. The majority, however, was satisfied to stay put. The formation of the Communist party, the split in the Social Democratic party, and later on a split in the ranks of the Independent Socialists, followed out of this first disagreement as to the course of the revolution and the tactics to be used.

The tragic economic breakdown and political dislodgement of Germany under the conditions imposed by the victorious Allies only tended to aggravate the crisis in the labor movement.

As time went on the schism between the Communist and Socialist parties widened. Half-way parties and groupings, aiming to mend the broken unity of labor, failed to achieve anything. There was, however, sufficient strength in the two camps, the Socialist and the Communist, to interfere with the designs of the big industrialists, who, in the final count, and despite the republic, form the destinies of Germany. Their intention, to place up on the shoulder of the working class not only the "normal" burdens of capitalist exploitation, but also those of the payments of reparations to the Allies, they have prosecuted relentlessly, skillfully, and, alas! with success.

Both the Communists and Socialists, each in their own way, were hindrances to the carrying out of these plans. The industrial magnates decreed that they be disrupted. This was particularly necessary since the growth of the Communist party in Germany, at one time at least, warranted fear on the part of the capitalists that Germany might not be immune from a frontal attack on vested interests and money privileges. To further their disruptive purposes, fascism was brought into being.

Sources of Hitler's Strength

HITLER as the National Socialist party and guided by him towards fascism, are the product of two forces: (1) the despair of the lower sections of the middle class and of so-called white collar men, on the one hand, and (2) the fear which industrial and financial barons had of a revolutionary overturn in Germany. Hitler's "movement" is paid for by the owners of heavy industry, interested in the manufacture of munitions, and big finance capital concerned with manipulations none of which could be of any profit either to the workers or to lower middle class groups.

Hitler could not, however, muster his bands in Germany without paying lip service to the deeply rooted feeling of the average German working-man for the ideas of socialism and socialized protection of the masses of the people. Hence,

the Hitler propaganda is a compound of frenzied nationalism and of wild-eyed near socialism. He rattles the sword with the view to attracting the despairing and desperate unemployed youth of the country. He waves the near-red flag in order to confuse, befuddle, and misguide the masses who long since have lost confidence in that "rugged individualism" in which so many American workers still believe.

The fascist movement has grown by leaps and bounds. It has succeeded in attracting over 40 per cent of the voting strength of the country. In the course of its phenomenal growth, it has not succeeded in cutting away any substantial slice of the electorate which stood by either the Communist or Socialist party. It has only managed to absorb the various conservative middle class and farmers' parties groupings, but these consolidated forces have made it strong.

Warnings from various sides of the imminent danger to both the Socialists and the Communists if they did not unite to oppose fascism, proved of no avail. The Social-Democracy preferred to make common cause with the parties of the bourgeoisie, and in the last election supported the candidacy of Paul von Hindenburg in what was clearly an insane hope that the old militarist and monarchist, at heart, would stage off the accession of Hitler to power. The Social Democratic party voted for von Hindenburg in order to prevent the realization of Hitler's plans for political conquest, and today faces von Hindenburg as president of the republic and Hitler as prime minister. The Communists, having it all scheduled out that fascism was an inevitable step in social development, and that incidentally Social-Democracy would be destroyed when fascism rises to power—so that later the proletarian revolution might destroy Hitler and fascism—remained deaf and blind to calls for unity with the Social-Democrats.

Today Hitler is in power. Nominally he holds in his control only three places of the eleven in the Cabinet, but the other eight are doing his bidding, and if they differ from him it is only as to the details of how the working class might better and more effectively be subjugated to capitalist control. Hitler controls the armed forces of the republic, the police force of Prussia, the finances and the jobs of the machine of government.

First Task of Fascism Destruction of Workers' Organizations
WHATEVER the eventual theory of state and social organization of fascism may be, the first step to which it is committed, and

which it is now seeing through, is the destruction of the working class organizations. Fascism in Italy began by destroying the trade unions and outlawing the Socialist and Communist party organizations. Fascism in Germany, though only a couple of weeks in office and not fully in power, is already making its frontal attack on the political organizations of labor radicalism and has essayed to strike at the very foundation of trade unionism. Already Hitler has announced his plan for solving the problem of unemployment by putting the unemployed to compulsory labor, which is the first step in the direction of depriving the trade unions of the very basis of their life, the control of labor conditions.

Our Only Hope Is in Ourselves

By LOUIS F. BUDENZ

BARTER is a word heard often nowadays. It is running a neck-and-neck race with "technocracy" in the dailies. Cities are beginning to consider it as a way out of their relief dilemmas. The officials of Newark, N. J., announce publicly that they will see what can be done toward making it the basis for municipal relief action.

Dictatorship is another popular word in America, these days. Speaker Garner proposes that President-elect Roosevelt be made "financial dictator" by Congress. In several States bills are introduced, giving the governors such power. Indiana leads all the rest, in actually making Governor Paul McNutt financial overlord of that commonwealth.

The organized unemployed are coming up against these two ideas. They will have to deal with them increasingly, as times go on. What are they going to do about them?

The number of the jobless are growing, as we predicted would be the case. It was an easy prediction to make. Every economic force at work at present is making the depression worse.

It can be understood why "barter" and "constitutional dictatorship" are being played up now. These millions of jobless men and women must be handled in some way. "Barter" and "financial dictatorship" are the politicians' refuge.

BARTER means that men and women will work for nothing, except an interchange of goods. That looks fair upon its face. But a moment's thought will discover

that it will break down all wage standards. Such as are left! It will be another fine face to put upon the "forced labor" so popular in some communities, under which unemployed are compelled to work for \$2.00 a week in food.

The organized unemployed must oppose barter schemes and suggestions. They must oppose them in favor of adequate relief in U. S. A. dollars. Barter proposals will take the unemployed far from the things they must fight for, if they are to get anywhere. Every such plan, investigated to date, has been found to be wanting. Dayton, Ohio's "exchange community," has been highly advertised, for example. Investigation shows that it is only covering 5 per cent of Dayton's unemployed.

"Constitutional dictatorship," as a way to handle the unemployed, are also to be fought from the start. At present the proposals are merely to insure governmental economy. But in time they can be stretched to work out "economies" for the relief of the unemployed. What is really needed is less "economy" and more money in the pockets of the jobless.

The organized unemployed must campaign up and down their States, for a decent standard of existence in this country. Let them raise the question: "What about the so-called American standard of living, so highly touted a few years ago? Where has it gone? We demand its return. The place to begin to bring it back is in relief standards for the jobless." The "lowest level of existence

budget" is the basis for real campaigning. If the existence standards of the unemployed are worked out in detail, no one can deny their reasonableness. The prevalent tendency in relief circles to establish a compulsory labor system for food relief must be knocked into a cocked hat.

COMPULSORY labor on a wide scale is a real danger. With more and more added to the army of the unemployed, the temptation will be there to force through some such measure.

"Financial dictatorship" and the need for "economy" can be the means and the watchword for such a step.

The organized unemployed must anticipate such a development. (We do not want coolie labor in this country.) But they cannot anticipate it if they are already cooperating actively in barter schemes. They can only do so if they are hammering away, in growing volume, at real public relief.

"Well," it will be said, "relief is no permanent solution." Of course, it is not. The organized jobless must come to realize that, quite definitely. But relief is Item No. 1 in their campaign and it is the means, by which they should come to realize that they must go much further than mere relief demands.

The question of "Whether the Jobless?" can only be answered out of the relief battle.

The politicians themselves will aid in supplying an answer, if the jobless are alert to see it. Legislatures and Governors, confronted with a "lowest existence budget"

For a United Mass Party of
Workers and Dirt Farmers

By A. J. MURSTE

In a couple of weeks the Republican party, whose symbol is the elephant, goes out of office in Washington and the Democratic party, whose symbol is the donkey, comes into power.

Millions of workers and farmers voted for Franklin D. Roosevelt last November. Some did so because they really thought F. D.'s promise of a "new deal" meant something. Many just wanted to make sure Hoover got kicked out. F. D.'s "new deal" will turn out to be only a new shuffle. The workers will get just as much from him as they got from that other Roosevelt, T. R. The jackass will not get us any farther than the elephant.

Roosevelt may do a few things that will temporarily deaden the pain from which the masses suffer, especially if, as a result of forces over which he has no control, there should be a brief spurt in business, which does not now seem likely. But Wall Street put its stamp of approval on Roosevelt. That ought to be enough for the workers and farmers.

We must get rid of the disease that is slaying the masses, bringing starvation in the midst of plenty. That means that the masses must have their own political party.

Don't Unite With Your Enemy

When farmers organize a union or holiday association to stop foreclosures, they do not take in the bankers, the insurance company officials and politicians who have brought misery upon them. They know that if a union or association is to be effective, it must be a union of, for and by the farmers. It cannot have in its membership the very people it is out to fight.

When the automobile workers organize a union, they don't take Henry Ford into membership. When the oil workers organize a union, they don't make John D. Rockefeller, Jr., its president. They know that a union must be of, for and by the workers and cannot include their enemies.

How then can the workers and farmers possibly get anything from a political party in which the bosses and the bankers are not only members but, because of their money, have the controlling power? The old parties, Democratic and Republican both, have bosses and bankers and mortgage sharks in them. They only pull the wool over the workers' eyes. They are parties of, for and by the profiteers. We must build a party of, for and by the workers.

Some people say that now is not a good time to start building such a party. We ask, when is a good

time to start putting out the fire? The house is certainly on fire so far as American farmers and workers are concerned. Misery stalks everywhere through the land. The man who says this is not the time to begin is silly or tired or a traitorous defeatist. We must begin now.

Present Workers Parties Must Unite

There are parties in the field now—the Socialist Party, Communist Party, Socialist Labor Party, Independent Labor Parties, Farmer-Labor Parties, etc. The trouble is that not one of them has real national power. There is no definite indication that in the near future anyone of them can grow into real power. In several instances they are fighting each other. The result is that the worker who does wake up and decide that the Democratic and Republican parties are no good is confused. Party A asks for his vote and says Party B is an agent of the capitalists, no better than the Democratic and Republican. Party B turns around and says the same thing of Party A. The worker probably ends up by deciding that both are either crazy or dangerous.

If all these groups would unite on some common program which would rally the masses of the producers for united political action today, we are certain that this would stir the imagination of the masses and that millions would respond.

There are those who think this is a crazy dream. If it is, so much the worse for us. A divided labor movement is an easy prey to Fascism. But then crazy dreams have sometimes come true.

Forces Are Gathering

There are many forces which could help to build such a party. The rank and file in many unions are ready. In some cases present leaders would have to be kicked out since they are only Tammany or Vare or Big Bill Thompson politicians. But some union czars and racketeers have been kicked out recently. A lot more are not sleeping any too soundly these nights. There are many farmers' organizations which will soon see, if they do not now, that the old parties are no good. The Unemployed Leagues will find that in order to achieve their ends they must engage in united political activity.

In a mass labor party there must be a strong, clear-headed left-wing which knows that the real aim of any working-class movement must be the complete overthrow of the oppressors, the overthrow of the profiteering system and the establishment of a workers' republic; who know that there will have to be some more Boston tea parties in the U. S. and a new Declaration of Independence—Independence from the profiteers. Such a vanguard within the labor party the CPUSA will be. A bunch of radicals without the masses is helpless. But it is not guaranteed either that big masses organized in a labor party without a sense of direction, will not land in the ditch.

Raise the slogan of a mass party of the workers and dirt farmers everywhere—in the unions, in the unemployed leagues, in farm organizations, in cooperatives, in political parties and groups which claim to serve the masses! Smash the parties of the bosses and bankers! Build the party of Labor!

What Is Technocracy Anyway?

By JUSTUS EBERT

The eviction of Howard Scott from Columbia University creates the impression that Technocracy is revolutionary. Nicholas Murray Butler certainly does not want to harbor an arrogant, insolent prophet who laughs at the learned pretensions of Columbia's wealthy supporters; that means to overturn the idols of capitalism. No system can survive, once its idols are laughed to scorn as stupid and ridiculous.

Thus arises the question, What is Technocracy, anyway? Briefly, it is an attempt to bring the Frankenstein of modern times, the Machine, under technological control. It would begin a survey, or sort of stock-taking of the energy of the North American continent, and chart technological development accordingly.

In addition, the technocrats have other ideas. They hold that technology is the real determinant of modern life; that as machine development goes, so goes civilization, politics, government and all. They talk of Technocracy, meaning the rule of technologists. Thus Technocracy claims to be a social philosophy that deals with the problems of production and distribution according to engineering science. Society, if the Technocrats should have their way, would be organized under the rule of engineers, acting in cooperation with the trained workers in transportation.

demand, will reply: "How can we raise all the money that this calls for?"

"Through the R. F. C. and income and inheritance taxes in the higher brackets," come back the well-informed jobless.

"But we can't get enough," exclaim the politicians.

"Then give us control of relief and establish a democratic, non-profit making system in industry."

At this the politicians throw up their hands, talk about the "Constitution" not allowing them to injure property rights, or shout "red." Then it is time for the jobless to come out for a mass labor party, and for a workers' republic.

If the unemployed realize that they must always rely on themselves, they will take such steps. If they have no such reliance, they will become enmeshed in the clamor for "constitutional dictators" and other such dangerous clap-trap.

In the relief campaign and in every other effort of the organized unemployed, the cry must be: "Workers employed and unemployed, join hands and fight side by side. Our only hope is in ourselves!"

tion, communication and other basic industries.

Technocracy makes startling claims. It says the machine destroys all previous ways of determining value. It rules out labor, gold, utility, supply and demand, as such, and establishes ergs, units of mechanical energy, in their places. It also claims that its methods are such as to enable us to foretell the next phase of social development with accuracy.

But what gets under Capitalism's skin is Technocracy's talk about "Technology smashing the price system." This the machine does in a variety of ways, all equally damaging. Installed under the necessities created by competition, it is continually changing costs and revolutionizing prices, thus unsettling conditions generally. It is also causing great increases in output, together with a great decrease in purchasing power, caused by labor displacement. The machine unbalances production and distribution, contributes to depressions, and thus helps to smash capitalism thanks to the capitalist need for profits and dividends. The technocrats would abolish capitalist rule before capitalism wrecks civilization and brings on unprecedented chaos and ruin—that is, the radical Veblen left wing suggests that this be done.

What interests workers in Technocracy is Howard Scott's claim that for the first time in history mankind has at its command the power to actually do away with most of the unpleasant labor of the world. Controlled in the interests of all society, and not for the benefits of a few, the machine can free mankind from drudgery.

But under capitalism, the machine only adds to the misery of the workers. Present day automatic machine and straight line processes employ almost no labor at all. Consequently, new industries give few employment opportunities, while almost completely destroying those in the old. Electric discoveries make even mechanical supervision and control possible.

It is this destruction of jobs that, in the vernacular, hits the worker where he lives. Technocracy dramatizes the machine in a way that he can understand.

Now we agree with Technocracy that the machine to a great extent determines our lives. The energy it creates and capitalism wastes stupendously, should be surveyed and used for all society and not for only a greedy few. But both the Rautonstranch and Scott technocrats shy away from the Veblen suggestion as to how such control can be established.

LABOR ACTION

A Weekly Newspaper
Serving the Interests of Workers and Dirt Farmers
Published by the
CONFERENCE FOR PROGRESSIVE LABOR ACTION
128 East 16th Street, New York, N. Y.

Subscription Rates:
In the United States \$1.00 per year in advance.
Canada and foreign, \$1.50 per year.

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Under Direction of the National Executive Committee of CPLA

Second Zero Issue Saturday, February 25, 1933

GERMANY, HITLER AND US

SOME workers think that what happens in Germany does not mean much to the workers and farmers of the United States. That is a serious mistake. If the profiteers establish a dictatorship, crush the workers, wipe out the labor and farmer movement in one country, that is bound to have its effect in others. What Mussolini did in Italy gave bright ideas to Hitler in Germany. What Hitler is doing in Germany will instruct and encourage would-be capitalist dictators in the United States.

Hitlerism and Fascism which have just triumphed in Germany mean bringing down the standard of the workers to a near starvation level instead of using modern machinery to bring abundance for everybody. Already the workers of the United States have been forced down to pretty nearly such a level. \$15 a week has come to be a pretty good wage for factory work. Thousands are working for \$10 and even \$5 a week.

Two lessons must be learned now from the triumph of Hitlerism in Germany. First, we have to face the fact that the capitalists everywhere are determined, if they get a chance, to save themselves by establishing a dictatorship and crushing the workers. The only thing for the workers and farmers to do, therefore, is to organize and build up their own power in order that they may take control of government and industry away from the capitalists. Second, we have to try our utmost to unite all the workers and farmers, since in one country after another it has been proved that a divided labor movement cannot resist the dictatorship of the profiteers. Organize! Stand together!

TOM MOONEY AND LABOR UNITY

TOM MOONEY after fifteen years still languishes in jail in California. He was framed by traction interests in San Francisco because he dared to work militantly to organize the street-car workers.

Tom Mooney does not have to stay in jail if the workers and farmers of the United States will insist that the doors be opened. It is our own fault that the capitalists dare to insult us by keeping such a fighter behind the bars.

Now the Tom Mooney Molders Defense Committee is calling for a united effort for his pardon. One aim is the holding of a great Mooney Pardon Conference in Chicago, April 30 to May 2.

We call upon all labor and farmer organizations to join in this effort. We will work for its success. If all elements can unite to free Mooney, it may be found possible to unite for other things as well. And let it not be a fake unity where one party or group tries to put something over on the others but let there be unity in action for a specific object. A few victories of a united American working-class will do more to put fear into grafting politicians, profiteering bosses and the big bankers who refuse adequate relief than anything else could. Free Mooney! Let the toiling masses of America unite!

REVOLT OF THE FARMERS

NEARLY one-half of the farms in the United States are mortgaged. Foreclosures on these farms and on farm chattels are being stopped now by direct action. A farmer's chattels are up for sale. His neighbors gather. Little groups surround any suspicious-looking stranger who seems likely to try to bid. A rope with a noose may be hanging ominously on the outside of the barn. A cow is up for sale. Someone bids \$5 for a starter. A husky farmer standing next to him whispers hoarsely: "You mean 50c." The bidder calls out: "I mean 50c." Some neighbor of the farmer then bids 55c, and the cow is sold at that price. The next morning it is back in its owner's hands.

Unions, Leagues, Committees, Councils, Holiday Associations, to carry out such activities are being formed everywhere.

All this, as a writer in the conservative New York Times suggests, has "proved to the farmers the effectiveness of taking things into their own hands!" That is the only way workers and farmers ever get anything.

One big thing the farmers must learn—namely, who and what is the real enemy and who are his friends. Many of them talk about the East as being the enemy of the West. When all the farmers learn what some already know, that a profiteering banker in Iowa or Mississippi is the same as a profiteering banker in New York, that capitalists and the profiteering system are the enemy, North, South, East and West, and that workers and farmers North, South, East and West are comrades and must work together to seize power, then a new day will come to these United States.

Build the farmers' unions! Build the workers' unions! Organize a united labor party!

Support Labor Action

Let Us Make the Next Issue
Volume I, No. 1.

This is the second zero number of Labor Action. We are not yet able to appear every week because we have not received the support we need in the form of subs and donations. We know the workers and farmers want Labor Action. Dozens of them have written to say so. But to appear regularly, we must have subs, bundle orders and donations. We want our next issue, which will come in two weeks, to be Vol. I, No. 1, and we want to appear regularly thereafter. Will you help? How much? Send funds and subs to 128 East 16th Street, New York City.

CONFERENCE TO FORM NEW UNION CENTER DECIDES TO WORK IN EXISTING UNIONS

GILLESPIE, ILL. — The Gillespie "Internationale," a fighting conference of 300 delegates meeting here to launch a Progressive Federation of Labor, went on record to continue work as an agitational agency exerting its influence in moulding existing labor organizations toward progressive policies.

Pointing to the rising tide of rank and file discontent in the American Federation of Labor, the sentiment of the conference was, however, that the time is unripe for pulling the militants out of the conservative unions.

Workers must fight labor fakers and bosses, stand for independent working class political action and act on a program based on the class struggle, the 300 delegates unanimously decided.

Officers of the movement were elected and the date of the next conference set for April 2, 1933.

CAPITALISM?

THIS IS HOW IT WORKS

By H. A. H.

CAPITALISM, whose political expression in America is the Democratic-Republican party, is in the throes of death. As it approaches its doom, the pretty mask of democracy, freedom, civil rights, etc., is stripped from its face and it stands exposed as a horrible monster trampling into the mud every human right, every human decency. The few rich men, the powerful bankers and industrialists, whom this monster serves, are transformed into beasts who hire gunmen to shoot down starving workers, who call out the militia, (for they are the government) to answer with tear gas and machine gun bullets, the demands of workers and farmers striking for the rights which they have been taught to believe the constitution guaranteed to them. Women, children, babies are sacrificed to the indecent greed of this monster in the name of law and order.

The following stories are taken from the daily press. They are not exaggerations. They are not invented by "discontented radicals" who wish to overthrow the government. They are the true picture of capitalism. They are the true picture of this "land of the free, and the home of the brave."

In The Land of Plenty

BETWEEN 50,000 and 75,000 workers are destitute in Texas, reports Maury Maverick, tax collector of Bexar County, who has completed a survey of the state for the governor.

These helpless people, at least 25 per cent of whom are women, girls and boys, are living under bridges, in camps, "jungles," and any other place in which they might shelter, according to the report.

"They are miserable, filthy, hungry, wet, starving, cold and living in the absolute lowest depths that a human being can exist."

Education in Richest Nation in World

EDUCATION has been made to suffer worse setbacks in the United States than in the schools of 40 other nations, during the world-wide economic depression, reports Dr. James F. Abel, chief of the foreign school division of the United States Office of Education.

Over the past five years, answers to a questionnaire disclose, school expenditures by 15 Latin-American countries, 14 European, 3 Asiatic, 3 African countries, 9 Canadian provinces, New Zealand and the 6 states of Australia, were reduced less than were school budgets in this richest of all capitalist countries.

In Alabama 200,000 children are being deprived of schooling, reports Howard P. Jones, public relations secretary of the National Municipal League.

"This does not mean that there is not enough money in Alabama to keep schools open," asserts Mr. Jones. "The government areas are out of focus. Some have too much money, some not enough."

Law and Order

HENRY TELLES, of Oakland, California, an itinerant fruit picker, had seven children, no job, and no money. The children were crying from hunger as he walked the streets looking in vain for work. He saw a sack of potatoes. He lifted the sack to his back and started for home, a shack on the Oakland water front, when Policeman J. J. Murphy stopped him. In spite of his pleas, Telles was held for larceny. His children are still crying for food.

Millions for the Bosses

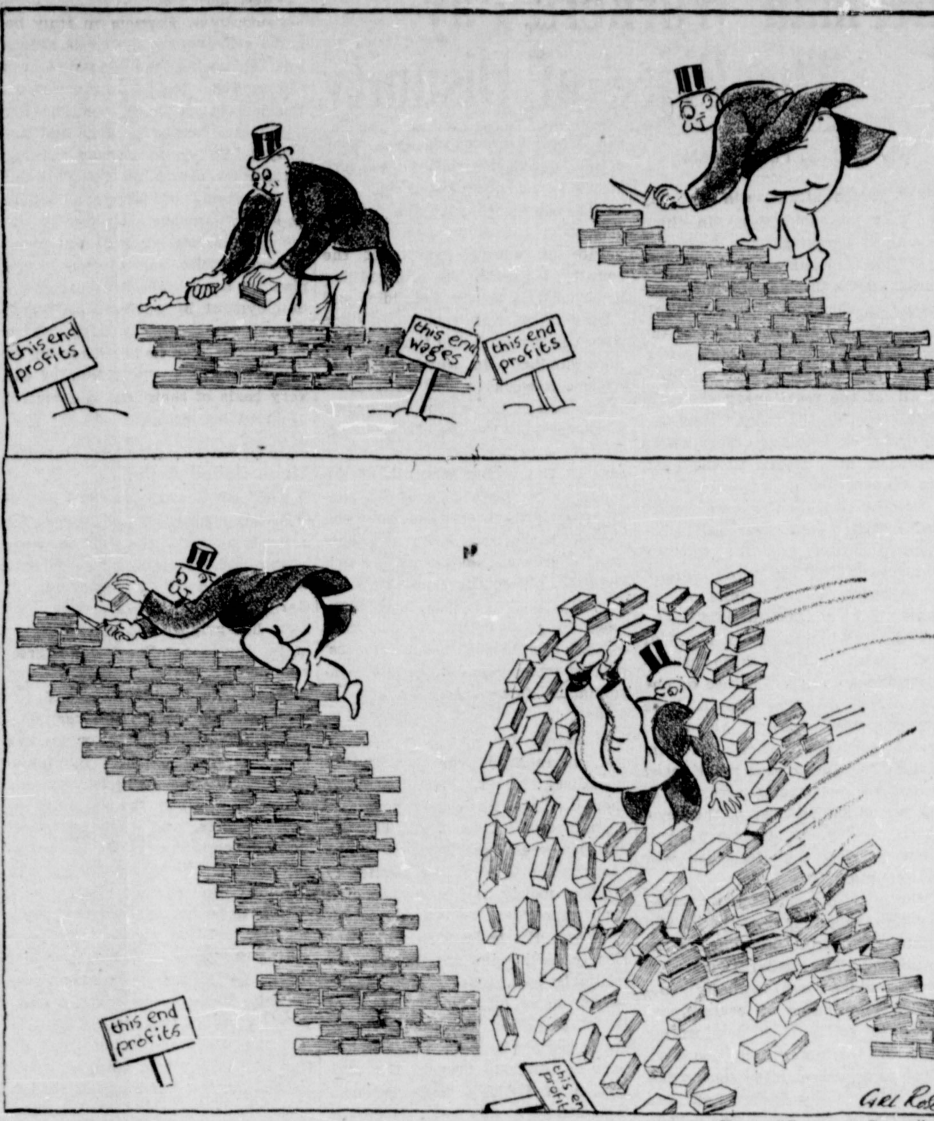
CONTINUING "Andy" Mellon's liberal policy to the wealthy, the United States government turned back to individual and corporation taxpayers the sum of \$80,583,504 in cash during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1932, according to a recent Treasury announcement.

Yet "Uncle Sam" continues to agitate for a tax on the workers in order to "balance the budget."

Some of those to whom "our" government is so generous are: The United Fruit Co. to which was returned \$2,960,297; the Botany Worsted Mills, given back \$1,466,027; the United States Cart-ridge Co., \$1,222,096. Mr. Mellon's Aluminum Co. got a cash refund of \$91,495.

The beneficiaries of these companies are the great patriots who are

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE PROFIT SYSTEM



From "Common Sense"

afraid Communists do not have the proper respect for the government.

Garbage for the Workers

MEN, women and children, in a bitter wind, poking about among stinking refuse tipped on a garbage dump; putting into little guany sacks scraps of bread, decayed fruit and vegetables, and biting pieces out of it as they did so.

"This was the sight that met my eyes one cold day last spring at a spot near Lake Calmet, where the refuse of Chicago was being dumped into the marsh," reports William H. Seed of the Chicago Workers' Committee on Unemployment.

Private Property for Whom?

YOU are horrified at our intending to do away with private property," said Karl Marx to the rising capitalists more than three quarters of a century ago. "But in your existing society private property is already done away with for nine-tenths of the population; its existence for the few is solely due to its non-existence in the hands of those nine-tenths. You reproach us, therefore, with intending to do away with a form of property, the necessary condition for whose existence is the non-existence of any property for the immense majority of society."

"In other words, you reproach us with intending to do away with your property. Precisely so: that is just what we intend."

Business By Poisoning

"100,000,000 Guinea Pigs," by Arthur Kallet and F. J. Schlink. Vanguard Press, N. Y. \$2.

That the government closes its eyes while powerful financial interests distribute poisonous foods, cosmetics and medicines to the American public under a barrage of high-pressure advertising which assures the purchaser that he is buying "the best," is conclusively shown in a startling book, "100,000,000 Guinea Pigs," written by Arthur Kallet and F. J. Schlink, of Consumers Research.

The beautiful wrappers, the swanky tubes and packages, adulterated and "treated" foods proclaimed loudly by billboards and magazine and newspaper advertisements as pure and good, in fact, the very best, are responsible for shortening from three to ten years the lives of the American people, the authors conclude.

Food laws have had their fangs pulled, through pressure on government, and there is no check to control the manufacturers who in their capitalistic ardor to make profits pour tons of poison down the throats of a defenseless people. The authors point out that under the present system of profit seeking genuine reforms will be difficult.

Who would have thought, for instance, that the loudly cried Pepsico toothpaste is poisonous? A tube, says the book, contains enough poison if eaten to kill three

men. And Bromo-Seltzer for that headache—more poison. Kellogg's All-Bran, while seemingly not harmful to some people, causes serious intestinal trouble for others. And the big juicy apple has arsenic on its skin, while the fat red hamburger steak may be treated to disguise putrefaction.

In the 303 pages of the book the authors make out a damning indictment of the system that not only tolerates but makes conditions convenient for quacks and racketeers in foods, cosmetics and medicines.

STRIKERS NEED RELIEF

The New York Branch of the CPLA has for a long time done its best to help the valiant coal diggers of West Virginia and Illinois. Affairs have been arranged, collections have been made among the membership, tag day collections in the subways have been tried over and over again. And it has brought results. It has helped the miners carry on their bitter fight; a fight in which all the odds have been against them. But we cannot stop. The need is greater than ever. And CPLAers cannot do the job alone.

The Relief Committee of the N. Y. Branch calls on all workers and sympathizers in the metropolitan area to give all they can in money or clothing; to take up collections in their unions and clubs; and to volunteer to help in the subway collections that must go on. Bring or send all funds or clothing to CPLA Headquarters, 128 East 16th Street, New York City.

A BILLION HORSE-POWER and Six Facts For Labor Action

FACT No. 1

The one billion installed horse-power in the United States places within reach of the 120 million population the shortest work-day and the highest standard of living the world has ever dreamed of.

FACT No. 2

When the billion horse-power is freed from the restrictions of the private-profit-system and put freely to work there will be a tremendous upsurge of life in song, dance, love, literature, art and happiness.

FACT No. 3

The only thing lacking to open the gate to this wonder-land is simply the power and the desire and the will on the part of the workers to dispossess the bosses, open the gate and go through.

FACT No. 4

Your contribution toward building the organized force that will free the machine and open wide the gates to a new world and a new life, are not lone contributions. Men and women in every state and city and town are helping you.

FACT No. 5

To aid you and these mounting thousands in reaching, waking and winning the masses who still hang back, and whose help must be won, you will find that LABOR ACTION is an indis-

pensible weapon with a true aim, and with a labor action character that hits the bulls-eye on the American scene.

FACT No. 6

Subscribe to LABOR ACTION. Yes. But don't let it rest at that. Get subscriptions. Get more subscriptions. Order bundles. Get it to workers. Your friends, your comrades.

And LABOR ACTION will help you and the thousands who are working with renewed ardor to liberate the masses from the boss controlled billion horse-power, and put it into the hands of the masses, by reaching an ever-increasing army of workers, and rallying and inspiring them to action.

Act now!

LABOR ACTION,
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New York City.
I will do it. Put me down as a subscriber to
LABOR ACTION. I enclose one dollar. LABOR
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Address
Labor Action \$1 a year. 3 mos. trial sub. 25c

The Devil You Say

By TESS HUFF

The True Story of What Happened at the Smith Home

Abe Smith was born of Republican parents in Illinois. He finished the eighth grade and ran away from the village on a wild goose chase. He wired his dad from Dallas, Texas, to send him money for train-fare home. He got married at 21 and had four Republican children and one who wasn't anything, being a girl. He worked at various trades. Finally he settled down to hanging laths and he got to be a swift man. At one time he had \$700 in the bank.

The Smith family moved from house to house and from town to town. They moved to the country and back twice. Altogether they moved thirty-two times.

First-hand Experience

They had first-hand experience with lawyers, doctors, real-estate men, salesmen and creditors. One time Mrs. Smith consulted a lawyer about bringing a suit for divorce but the lawyer was so anxious for her to get rid of her man that she decided to keep him. They bought a second-hand car which looked like new but let the insurance people repossess it. Three tonsils and two appendices belonging to the family were removed and a grocer sued them on an old bill which they had refused to pay because it was too much.

They went through four depressions and two wars, read wild west stories, true stories, and the political speeches of the country's leaders, providing they were not Democrats.

They voted for Harding, Coolidge, Hoover. They voted the straight Republican ticket. Then the depression struck them.

Depression Hits Smith Home

Abe Smith is jobless, his daughter's husband is jobless (they now live with the Smiths), two of the sons are jobless and the other two have part-time work in a coal mine.

The other day they found a four-room house to let very cheap. The landlord was threatening them, so they moved. Their next-door neighbors are a family of Democrats they had known 30 years ago. All about in the community are Republicans and Democrats. It really is a good community and a nice place to live and all of them eat the same Red Cross flour, but the houses are hard to keep warm in the Winter time.

Some of the men get two days' work a week on a road around a hill toward Judge Hall's home and they get paid \$1.50 a day in groceries from the relief agency. The girls are beginning to be slouchy and rough like the boys and they look pale. Most of them wear stockings that have long runs.

Still it was right here in Abe Smith's home the other night that one of the funniest things happened any one ever heard of.

B. B. Sampson, the neighbor who had reared a family of Democrats, was in the Smith home, and Leona Davis, the married daughter who had never been anything, was there. She was telling them about a letter she had just received from a Hilda Ray who was working in a textile mill in North Carolina.

She was telling them—

"We Are All Damned Fools!"

"Hilda says she gets \$4 a week and her two children are starving, and she says she read in the papers that 75 men in the United States got incomes last year of over a million dollars each and four of them got more than nine millions each. She says—shut up!—I'll read it. 'All I know,' she says, 'is our poor parents and workers are fools to go on all these years voting for Republican and Democrat candidates put out in the county by the wealthy, in the state by the wealthy, in the nation by the wealthy—damned fools!'"

"That's nice language for a woman," says Abe Smith, now an old man. "I can show you that the Democrats by their low tariff policies have—"

"Hold on Abe," says Mr. Sampson. "What about the Republican policies—"

And the two old men got into an argument that lasted an hour and who ever heard of anything funnier? After being hounded through life by poverty the old fellows are still arguing for capitalism.

OF COURSE

"I think that LABOR ACTION is the best labor paper in the whole U. S." This comes from a "wild and woolly sheep herder" in Dillon, Montana.