

The Iron Heel in the Land of the Free

Strikers at Plant of Corn Products Company Murdered by Hired Thugs

The White Guard in America is doing the work that is expected of it, and doing it well. From all parts of the country come reports of strikes involving large numbers of workers, and quite frequently these reports are accompanied by lists of dead and wounded strikers, victims of the White Terror. There are those who while mouthing the phrases of democracy send to their graves men and women who would strive to put into practice principles of democracy.

The most recent scene of the White Guard activities is Argo, Illinois. Argo is a suburb of Chicago, and therein are located several large industrial plants including that of the Corn Products Refining Company, employing some 2,500 men and girls. The men employed in this plant were well organized, the minimum wage being 50c per hour, 44 hours constituting a week's work. But the Federal Brewery Workers Union, to which the men belonged, wanted to substitute collective bargaining for individual bargaining. The demands of the men were presented to the officials of the company who promised to meet with the officials of the union to further discuss the demands of the men.

But instead of keeping their promise and ignoring the arrangements made for a conference with the union officials, the Company immediately made preparations for meeting the demands of the men with bullets. The number of guards in and about the plants were greatly increased and all were armed with high-power rifles; the foreman and superintendents who were not allowed to hold membership in the union were also supplied with arms. Preparations were made as for a siege, large supplies of provisions and ammunition were laid in, and sleeping quarters were constructed for the guards and scabs.

In the meantime a strike was called to force the inauguration of collective bargaining. 2,000 of the 2,500 employees peacefully refrained from working and left the details of securing their demands in the hands of the union officials. Picketing about the plant was established. A crowd of curious spectators gathered, as if they expected something to happen—and they were not disappointed.

Out from the gates of the

plant came rushing the armed guards, the guardians of privileged and propertied interests, to protect the massive concrete plant from being set afire by the immense crowd outside—this was the statement made afterwards by one of the company officials.

To protect the Company's property human lives had to be spent. The guards rushed from the factory gates and without provocation or warning immediately fired a volley into the crowd of strikers and spectators. Two were killed, a third died of wounds received, a fourth is mortally wounded and expected to die, a score were seriously injured—including women, girls and babies held in their mothers arms.

One of those killed was a Russian named Mike Marchuk. He had been conscripted into the United States army and had fought the Germans on the Western Front. Marchuk was a socialist, and the final chapter of his life, in which he was murdered by hired assassins, merely proves what he and others have long contended: **THE ENEMY AT HOME IS MORE DANGEROUS AND BRUTAL THAN IS ANY FOREIGN ARMY!**

The plant has been converted into a virtual fortress. There are at least 200 armed guards on constant duty, and about 300 armed formen and superintendents, all of whom are well supplied with guns and ammunition.

An interesting incident of the strike was the action of the mayor. Himself a superintendent in the machine shop of the Corn Products Company and a scab. On the second day of the strike he visited all the grocery stores and meat markets and instructed the proprietors not to sell provisions to the strikers. He not only requested them to withhold credit, as reported by the Associated press, but ordered them **NOT TO SELL FOOD TO THE STRIKERS**. It was not long before this action of the mayor became known to the

women, and in a rage they set out on the trail of the honorable mayor. That dignitary took refuge in a drug store from which he was finally rescued by the police and escorted to safety in an automobile.

The strike was called on Tuesday, July 8th; the attack upon the strikers took place in the evening of the same day; then followed the attempt on the part of the mayor to starve the families of the strikers and his ignominious defeat at the hands of the women. For a few days quiet again reigned in Argo. At the end of the first week the strike was still in progress: the Company had hired some few scabs but had not succeeded in getting the plant in operation. The scabs were housed within the plant and kept virtual prisoners. The strikers appreciated the situation; they were without arms of any description while opposed to them was legalized violence.

Stores are current of workers being kidnapped and held within the plant; one report is that 43 girls, who have informed the Company and the union that they are with the strikers, are being forcibly detained.

On Saturday the scabs were allowed to leave the plant and were escorted to their homes by armed guards. Monday morning, July 13th, as they were again being taken to the plant in automobiles heavily guarded by armed thugs, they encountered a parade of strikers. The guards immediately opened fire, two women and one man were mortally wounded and are not expected to live. One of the women, who is not expected to live, is the mother of a family of four young children. Clubs were freely used and the strikers finally dispersed. The scabs were then rushed to the plant without further interference.

The strikers continue to picket the plant, and at one of their mass meetings urged that every effort be made to conduct the strike peacefully. While the situation is again quiet, there is every reason to believe that the blood-lust of the Corn Products Company will result in further attacks upon the unarmed workers.

ON THE PARTY HORIZON

(Continued from page 3)

of a new brand of pure American communism. And strange as it may seem, Comrade Louis Fraina made up the tail of this majority! Yes; Comrade Fraina turned his back upon revolutionary socialism to join hands with the luke-warm, watery, swampy majority. A warm crowd, indeed! But, Comrade Fraina do you feel entirely comfortable in this fetid swamp?

To more emphatically characterize the uncertain position of this accidental majority of the Left Wing Conference it is sufficient to point out the clear and definite negative relation, so emphatically expressed in one of the clauses in the Manifesto of the Third Communist International:

As regards the social patriots, who everywhere in the critical moment oppose the proletarian revolution with force of arms, a merciless fight is absolutely necessary. As regards the Center, our tactics must be to separate the revolutionary elements by pitilessly criticizing the leaders. Absolute separation from the organization of the Center is necessary at a certain phase of development.

This proved to be too sharp for the majority of the "me too" communists. To attract the centrists, there "me too" communists dulled the edge of that clause.

There is nothing accidental in the American Socialist Party, nor is there anything accidental in what took place at the Left Wing Conference. As everywhere in Europe, the American Socialist Party is divided into three distinct groups: the Right, the social traitors, headed by Berger and Hilquit, and permeated with the rottenness of the Second International; the Center, with whom Fraina cast his lot, who because of misunderstanding still continue to call themselves the "left wing," and demand the capture of the party of the Right for "revolutionary socialism;" and the extreme Left, the Communists, who headed by the Russian Communist Federations and the Socialist Party of Michigan, readily answered the call of the Third Communist International!

"Down with the Socialist Party! Down with the wavering Center! Long live the militant Communist Party of America!"

THIS CALL OF THE THIRD COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL WILL BE ANSWERED ONLY BY THOSE WHO CONSCIOUSLY RECOGNIZE THE TACTICS AND PRINCIPLES OF REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALISM. FOR OTHERS THERE IS NO ROOM IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY.

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