

THE COMMUNIST

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Strike Strangulation

THE strikes are being choked to death. The steel workers are only supported as beggars are supported, by charities, by the alms of sympathetic workers. Technically speaking they are part of an organization of three million workers—an organization which could easily rally to itself other millions of workers. Actually it is a contest of the infant steel union against the powerful Steel Trust. With grim cynicism, Czar Gary measures past and prospective profits against time and the gnawing of hunger. There is passionate sympathy with the steel workers on the part of millions of workers. It finds no outlet in action. The A. F. of L. is a barrier against action.

The coal strike is likewise in the hands of the coal operators. The government gave them the upper hand by its court interference. The strike leaders came to their knees, and now the operators are using the process of stalling a settlement, deliberately calculating the break in the morale of an army without a guiding staff. All the settlement will ever amount to is a saving of the face of the Administration. The fundamentals of the strike will be shelved—until the miners find new modes of expressing their mass power, new leadership and a new determination.

It is not out of the question but that part of the miners, at least, will take matters into their own hands at once, developing independent organization out of the strike itself.

Few of the newspapers had the reserve to soft-pedal the howl of glee with which they greeted the surrender of the United Mine Worker officials. There will be a howl of another character when they see coming out of this a unionism equal to this kind of combat.

It will come. Even the African slave had his John Brown and Harper's ferry. And then his Lincoln.

The American miners are spending a few days above the ground. They will see the sunrise in the far East. They will watch its triumphant course. They will ask: If in Russia, why not here?

Strikes can be strangled, but not the mass life—not for too long a time.

Deportation

WITTY writers and cartoonists cannot get over their own wittiness about aliens who oppose American Capitalism not wanting to go back to their own country—not by way of deportation at any rate.

Some of the Socialist editors are quite insistent that these aliens will go back voluntarily, if only passports are giving. That does not meet the issue.

The Communist Party is fighting deportation in the courts, regardless of whether the particular member wants to return to Europe or not. Nor is the Communist Party concerned about the legal precedents, about the "principles of American political

liberties." We understand well enough that these "principles" are definitely cut off by the class line; that there cannot be free speech, free assembly and unmolested residence for those who challenge the system of Capitalism with the revolutionary challenge of Communism.

But we yield nothing to the courts and the government. We make no agreements, no compromises. We fight every inch of the way, challenging the bourgeois forces in every use of their formal and informal powers, their institutionalized and their non-governmental powers. We raise no illusions about proletarian "rights" as against the power which it challenges unto death. But we make no servile obsequies. We fight, in the courts and outside, by every trick of the game, and by every strategy which we can invent.

Of course it is not worth our while to make an undue expenditure in meeting every petty attack, such as this attack by deportations. That is a matter of expediency. If we do not defend, the alternative is not to make bargains with the official representatives of the capitalist power. There are two other possibilities. One is to accept the penalties without challenging the process.

As to the penalties involved in the deportation cases, there is to consider what is summarized in *The Literary Digest* (November 22):

"The Government, according to the *New York Globe* is watching the Mexican and Canadian borders to prevent the escape of revolutionary leaders from the net that is closing about them. But many of these alien firebrands are Russians, and as the United States at present has no official relation with Russia the question of deportation presents difficulties. Says the *Globe*: 'There are two things the government can do, however. It may send the Reds to the Riga front and turn them loose, letting them find their way to the Bolsheviks as best they can. The other way is to take them to Siberia, by way of Vladivostok, and turn them over to Kolchak's forces to dispose of as they see fit.'"

Add to these "two things" the fact that the Department of Labor has recently jumped deportation bail from \$1,000 to \$10,000, and there is the uncanny sensation of deportation as another name for official murder. It is not only Russians who face this jeopardy, but in fact all the deportees to nations where there is actual or potential civil war—in the present stage of the class conflict, deportees to any country.

The Communist Party is warranted in making a considerable expenditure of money and effort against deportation.

If the technical defense fails, if there is no escape in law or fact, the second course becomes imperative—not to get caught. That does not mean a cessation of party activity, nor the least change of propaganda. It means to keep down the toll of victims by change of party methods of propaganda.

The point of principle is that we stand defiant so far as the charge is concerned. The strategy depends upon events.

Every activity of the government which exhibits its class character is an important item of our propaganda. There is nothing more glaring than deportation, which unmasks most effectually all the hypocrisies about American liberties, which sets up (with actual transfer of some of the spies) the Russian czaristic regime in the United States.

We must use deportation without letting it hurt our members more than is absolutely unavoidable.

Aliens

IN connection with the foregoing it is illuminating to consider the recent study by the National Geographic Society on immigration to the United States. This country has absorbed 33,000,000 aliens since we became a nation. The present makeup of the population is as follows:

Foreign born	14,500,000
Children of foreign born parents	14,000,000
One parent foreign born.....	6,500,000
Negroes	11,000,000
Native white	54,000,000
	100,000,000

Little over half the population is of native white ancestry. Even the President counts but one ancestor born in America.

The preponderant immigration since 1890 has been from Austria-Hungary, Italy, Russia and the Balkans. It is these immigrants who have been most backward about becoming citizens, because the opportunity and inducement has been least in their case. The earlier homesteading and English-speaking immigration quite naturally accepted naturalization as an advantage. The newer immigration was definitely destined for the heavy labor in the big factories, in the mills, mines and forests. Today this immigration constitutes the bulk of the labor in the basic industries.

The alien laborers of today only know the government as the class weapon of their exploiters, that is, the aliens who have not become hopelessly stupefied by their endless, hopeless labors. Citizenship means nothing to them. So far as they reckon its advantages, the odds are in favor of the old countries. Because their real allegiance is a class allegiance, and their real advantage is with the proletarian revolution.

Curiously enough—and not so curiously, either, when the underlying philosophy is considered,—this is the time chosen by the Socialist Party for a referendum compelling American citizenship as a condition of membership, that is, the acquisition of citizenship within the time of the naturalization law. This at a time when courts all over the country are denying citizenship to all suspected of Bolshevism, or anything akin to it,—when citizenship is denied miners in Pennsylvania for being on strike! One Kansas judge set aside a judgment for damages in favor of a plaintiff when it was learned that he was a member of the I. W. W., on the ground that a member of the I. W. W. had no standing before a court of law (shades of the Dred Scott decision again come to life!).

The Socialist Party means to fight the class struggle strictly within the capitalist rules of the game. The Communist Party does not. It means to develop the most effective methods of struggle possible for working class victory.

The Communist Party will urge citizenship upon aliens, when it has working class governmental advantages to offer, when it has working class freedom and democracy to offer—and it will not urge citizenship sooner.

And the Communist Party will welcome the help of aliens in its work of propaganda and organization, realizing the supreme importance of the foreign language agitation and education, without imposing any conditions upon party membership other than faithfulness to the Communist cause.

That the Socialist Party means by this step still further to purify its pure political action is obvious. It is preparing itself for its dastardly role of betrayal.