

## THE COMMUNIST

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### The Cases of Ruthenberg and Ferguson.

ON Friday morning last, December 19th. Comrades Ruthenberg and Ferguson were called to the office of one of the attorneys employed by the Communist Party, in cases of arrests of members, and informed that the state officials of Illinois had granted extradition papers to the New York authorities and that they must appear for arraignment in New York City on charges of "criminal anarchy". The cases are based upon an indictment returned some three weeks ago, at which time both comrades were taken into custody in Chicago by detectives and held until bail of \$15,000 each was raised. They were then at liberty until the governor of Illinois had passed upon extradition.

On Saturday morning the "Chicago Tribune" carried a garbled account of their arrest in an Associated Press dispatch, which dealt with the deportation of Berkman and Goldman. After referring to the impending deportations of these anarchist leaders and a number of other alien who were to be deported under charges of anarchy, the cases of the Communist Party officials were mentioned in such a manner as to imply that they were also anarchists of the type of Berkman and Goldman. What the motive for this false allegation may be we shall not attempt to fathom. Any person with a degree of decency above that of the average pen prostitute which the Tribune maintains on its editorial staff knows perfectly well that officials of the Communist Party are not anarchists, as the two philosophies are diametrically opposed. Such misrepresentation is only a part of the general campaign of lying and villification, accompanying the vicious attack of the authorities upon the Communist Party. The Tribune would have its readers believe that Ruthenberg and Ferguson are also to be deported as anarchists, although they are neither anarchists nor aliens.

There have been no deportation charges brought against them for the reason that they are both citizens of the United States. Of course the Tribune, the Associated Press and other servants of imperialism are endeavoring to arouse public sentiment so the other hirelings of imperialism in the Congress of the United States can place laws upon the statute books enabling the authorities to deport all who disagree with the powers that be, including citizens as well as aliens. The Tribune's conception of an ideal society is one in which the slaves never question the authority of the masters.

The fact that some ignorant grand jury returns an indictment at the behest of some half-baked states attorney, based upon a law passed by legislative servants of capitalism, whose greatest thought doesn't amount to as much as a flea's dream, and that the law is called "criminal anarchy" for want of a better name does not signify that the accused are anarchists. Such a performance is only a comment upon the intelligens of

the servants of capitalism who obtain their information of social phenomena from such sources as the Associated Press and the Chicago Tribune.

These indictments are a challenge to the membership of the Communist Party and we must reply by exerting greater efforts in our organization work and also raise a defense fund that will enable us to put up an adequate fight against these absurd charges. This is a part of the organized attempt to destroy the Communist Party and we must reply to the attack in no uncertain terms.

Comrades! Exert every effort possible in order to raise an adequate defense fund and also carry on the work of maintaining a strong organization that can withstand any assault against it.

### The One Big Union.

A characteristic trick of anti-revolutionary Socialism is to use the revolutionary slogans and to distort them into nothingness. We have already commented on the enthusiasm for the Third International which still finds voice within the old Socialist Party, though no person could accept the principles of the Third International and remain in the Socialist Party one moment. All that the Socialist Party can possibly do in the United States from now on, taking no account of it as the political vehicle of a few "shyster" politicians like Berger, Hoan, Shiplacoff, Gerber and their like, is to be an opposition party to Communism. Labor reformism will be far better taken care of by the Labor Party and by the Forty-Eighters.

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It is the realization of this inevitable role of a Socialist Party—with its left wing clipped off—which brings the Socialist Party into an immediate respectable publicity in striking contrast with everything that went before the party split. Practically without membership (15,000 at the highest) the party is politically more important than ever—important to Capitalism against Communism. Let there be no miscalculation; the Socialist Party will get votes—and every one of these votes will be a dagger pointed at the proletarian revolution. When the choice is between social reformism and social revolution the decision is for or against the proletarian revolution.

The Socialist Party now avails itself of the slogan: "One Big Union." There are many who use this slogan without giving it any precise meaning, and this of itself is bad enough, but along comes the Socialist Party editor with this amendment: "What a One Big Union really means—ONE BIG UNION AT THE POLLS FOR THE ABOLITION OF WAGE SLAVERY."

While the party editor was figuring this out, the national secretary of the party was telling an interviewer that the program of the Labor Party was the same as that of the Socialist Party, with the difference that the Socialists like to talk more about the end of wage slavery and the coming of the Co-operative Commonwealth. He was disappointed because there were too many Socialists in the Labor Party Convention! Thought they would get more of the rank and file of the trade unions because of their greater respectability.

Echoes from the strike fields show that the rank and file of labor is thinking Communism, not Socialism; that the slogan of One Big Union is going to be taken as a slogan of strike action, and that there is less appeal than ever in the vapidities of

legislative reformism under capitalistic auspices.

To read the Socialist Party papers, with their apparent sympathy for all revolutionary progress the world over, at the same time that this party functions here in consistent opposition to the revolutionary proletarian movement, is to realize that the role of Socialist treason will yet be played in the United States with a viciousness equal to that of the Socialist traitors of any of the European countries. The consolation is that the working class of this country has already been put to guard against such treason by the experiences of other struggles, and that there is already a separation of the conscious revolutionary elements from the anti-revolutionary organization.

### American Soldiers in Siberia

By Mrs. Gertrude Tobinson

WHEN I read in the newspapers that the American soldiers do not object to being taken prisoners by Soviet Russian troops, I was not at all surprised. I spoke to many American soldiers while in Vladivostok in September 1918, and I know their attitude towards the Siberian Bolsheviks and towards the Siberian people in general. When the American soldiers came to far eastern Siberia, they were entirely innocent of the whole situation. They did not know that they were being used as tools by the bureaucrats ultimately to crush the revolution. The American soldiers were under the impression that the Bolsheviks were German spies whom it was their duty to fight and as such they were anxious to fight them. Soon, they discovered that this was not so, that there were no German soldiers among the Red Army and that the Red Army consisted of workers and peasants of Siberia.

The condition of the American soldiers in Siberia was pitiful. A great majority of them became affected with venereal diseases and filled the hospitals at Vladivostok, because with the fall of the Soviet Government, prostitution was re-established as an open trade. During the short period of Soviet rule in Siberia, hundreds of houses of prostitution were closed up and the unfortunate girls were given work in communal work shops which the Soviet Government organized in every city. By this change in economic conditions, prostitution was practically abolished. Then, when the reactionaries came back to Vladivostok, with them speculation, competition and houses of prostitution came back to life.

It was a sad picture indeed that our boys presented in the streets of Vladivostok. Not once did I see them, the flower of our youth, the hopes of our future race, but that they were drunk, looking for shelter. Small wonder, thought I, that such things happen. There they were—these poor boys, forced to lead a lonesome life, in the bitter cold, windy streets of Siberia, far from friends and dear ones, without knowing the language except for the two words, Krasivaya Dievchka (pretty girl)! Without knowing why they are there, and when they will return home—what wonder that these young men dissipate in drunkenness and prostitution?

Once in Siberia, the war takes on a different aspect for them. They begin to doubt the sincerity and truth of their government. Enthusiasm for victory and conquest is lost, and in its place remain only the horrors of war. They become sick of staying in icy Siberia only to protect foreign property and to fight someone else's battle.