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Illinois Miners on the March!

Accorsi Frame-Up Is Smashed

The crude frame-up against Salvatore Accorsi has been shattered. After being out for 18 hours, the jury in Pittsburgh returned with a "not guilty" verdict in the case. With this verdict ends an attempt by the coal and iron kings of Pennsylvania to add another name to the long list of working class militants who have been legally murdered by the American capitalist class.

Accorsi was arrested and tried for murder in connection with a mass meeting in Cheswick, Pa., on August 22, 1927, to protest against the impending execution of Sacco and Vanzetti. While the workers were gathered at the meeting, a troop of state cossacks rode mounted into the meeting and began beating men, women and children in a most bestial manner. Scores of the workers were severely injured and many of them disabled. Not a single one of these uniformed thugs was ever called to account for the attempted massacre of the workers. But Accorsi, who had been at the meeting and later on moved to Staten Island, New York, was apprehended and held for the alleged killing of one of the state troopers, Downey by name. The chaos created by the charge of the troopers had, of course, made it virtually impossible to identify any one who might have killed Downey. But the vengefulness of the Pennsylvania master class thirsted for a victim, and sought to sent Accorsi to the electric chair.

Evidence Is Too Shabby

The "evidence" against him was so obviously trumped-up, that it was found difficult to send him on the path of Sacco and Vanzetti. The release of Accorsi is no sign at all of a softening of capitalist class brutality or "justice" in Pennsylvania or any other part of the States. The fact of the deportation proceedings against John Topalchanyi, of Herminie, Pa., for the sole "crime" of belonging to the Communist Party, is sufficient to undo that notion.

Nevertheless, the victory gained in the Accorsi case should be followed up rapidly and with greater efforts in a country-wide campaign to release the rest of the class war prisoners. The imprisonment of Mooney, Billings, the Centralia I. W. W., the threat that hangs over the heads of the Gastonia militants, Malkin, and numerous others call for united action.

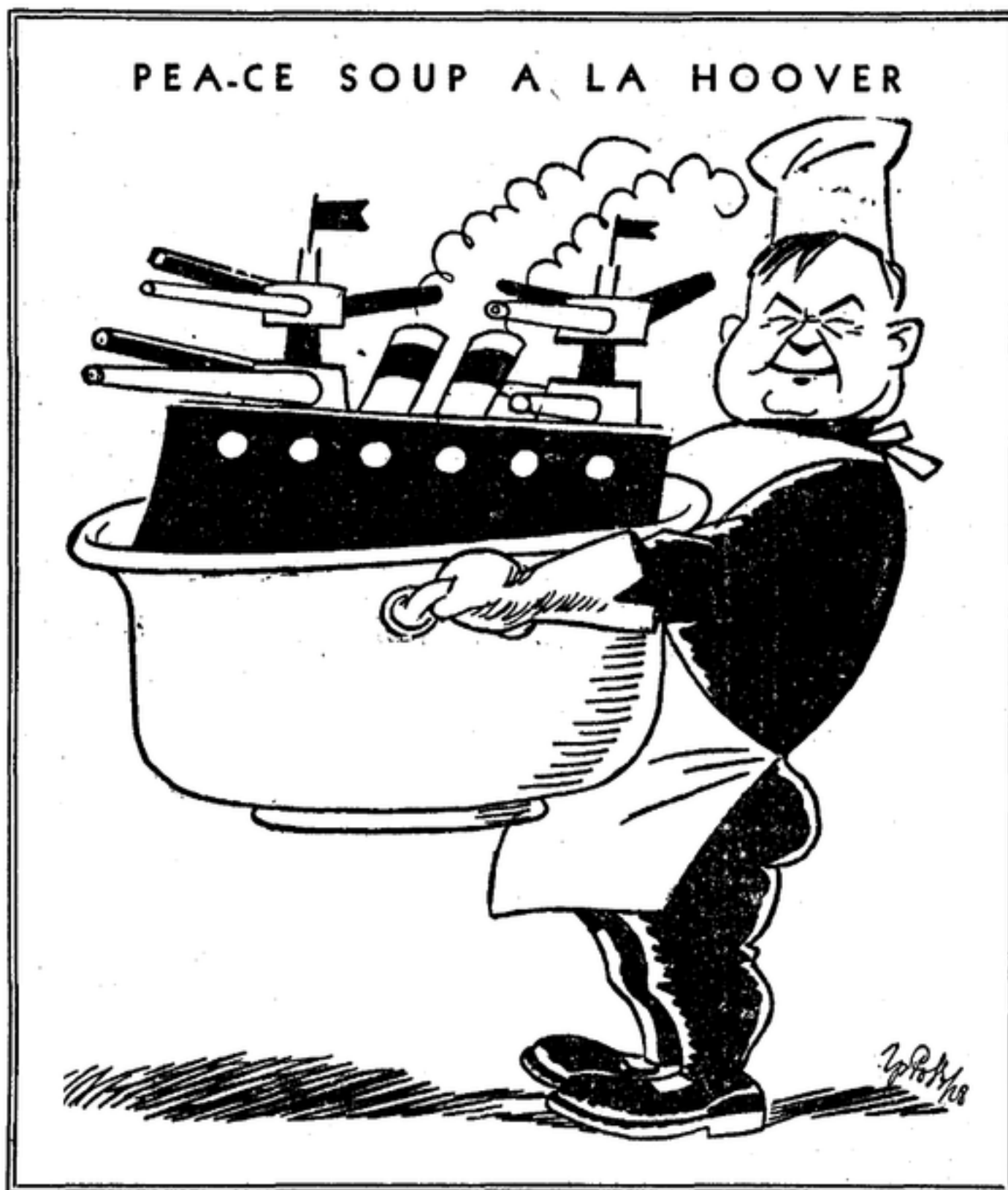
Prosperity As Usual

A decline of 13 percent in women's wages in American cotton manufacturing is shown to have taken place in the period from 1924 to 1928 by the annual report of the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor at Washington.

In 1928, the average full-time earnings per week of 33,000 women in 158 cotton mills in the eleven states included in the survey by the bureau ran to the magnificent sum of \$15.66. This figure does not even pretend to take into account the fact that thousands of these workers are never employed an average of a full week during the year, thus cutting their miserable wage down further.

"Not one of the 12 occupations for which women's earnings were reported in 1928 escaped a decline from the 1924 figure," a summary of the report says. "The more than 10,000 spinners showed a decrease of 14 percent in earnings, and the 8,100 weavers a 13 percent reduction."

The chivalrous state of Alabama is at the bottom of the list with an average wage of \$11.88, while the noble and cultured state of Massachusetts heads the list of those that declined in percentage, showing a drop of 18 percent in four years. Prosperity as usual!



Labor Fakers Sold Out Mooney!

Simultaneous with the news that the California state prison board is taking the case of Tom Mooney under consideration, following its reference there by Governor Young, comes an extremely important statement on the role of the A. F. of L. fakers in the historic frame-up case made by Fremont Older, editor of the San Francisco Call, and interested for years in the release of both Mooney and Billings.

Older, who cannot be charged with any Communist "taint", recounts how one governor after another washed his hands of the case, refused to have it reconsidered in spite of the mountain of evidence that the two labor organizers were framed. He then remarks:

Mooney the "Trouble-Maker"

"I think the chief reason for the timidity of the previous governors was the fact that labor, or at least the labor leaders, were against the pardon of Mooney and Billings. They looked upon Mooney as a trouble maker and a disturber, and they feared if he were pardoned he would go about the state and possibly the nation denouncing the powerful people in the labor movement.

"If at any time during these years labor could have been solidified behind the appeal I feel confident that they would have been released. Even now I do not think the labor leaders personally have much use for Mooney, but their organizations are going on record strongly demanding pardon.

"When Gov. Young took office and the Mooney case was presented to him he soon learned that labor was indifferent to what happened to Mooney and Billings, and the powerful capitalistic class was very well satisfied to have them both rot

in prison. Under these conditions, it could hardly be expected that he would be in any great haste to reach a decision.

"Why was labor opposed to Mooney? He had gone over the heads of the labor organizations in San Francisco and had himself officially empowered to organize the platform men on the street cars by the International president of the Carmen's Union. He made a number of efforts to form them into a union but never succeeded.

The Fakers' Private Opinion

"All he got out of it was the bitter hatred of the labor heads, who, while publicly urging his pardon, privately opposed it. The feeling among the leaders of the labor men was expressed to me by one of them many years ago—'They have got the right men with the wrong evidence.'" (New York World, 12-15-29.)

Coming from Fremont Older, the truths he voices in his statement are doubly impressive, particularly since he has been intimately connected with virtually every phase of the Mooney-Billings case for the very first. His remarks prove the contention expressed by the Communists for years that the professional sell-out artists of the A. F. of L. had, to all intents and purposes, just as much of a hand in keeping Mooney and Billings confined in California's dungeons as the Manufacturers Association that framed them up. The chief function of the labor "leaders", from Gompers to Green, was to crush every spark of fighting spirit that existed in the ranks of the workers. The continued imprisonment of the two victims is the sharpest condemnation of the miserable and treasonable role of the A. F. of L. reactionaries played in the case.

Cossacks Used, but the Miners Don't Scab

By Arne Swaback

On the very first day of active strike of the Illinois coal miners, called by the National Miners Union, military forces were at hand to attempt to crush it. At Taylorville the strikers, men and women, led by Freeman Thompson, fought a splendid battle against a combination of the Peabody coal company and their flunkies, the Fishwick-Farrington administration of the United Mine Workers, flanked by six hundred national guardsmen with fixed bayonets and machine guns mounted at the mine shaft. Before this battle was over the strikers received encouraging reinforcements from all the members of the U. M. W. of A., employed at four Peabody mines at Taylorville, Tovey, Kincaid and Langley, who refused to go to work while soldiers were on guard. The strike became 100 per cent effective in these mines.

Capitalist Solidarity

The soldiers were brought there from Decatur and Springfield, the latter section traveling in buses furnished by the Illinois Power Company manned by their regular drivers. In this manner the company could show its solidarity with the hard pressed operators.

At Pana, the two mines were closed down tight. The coal diggers had no patience with Frank Davis, whose efforts as the representative of the old union officialdom and the coal operators, went all in the direction of preventing a strike. He was kept out of the meeting where the strike vote was taken. At Auburn, at the Panther Creek mine, at Buckner and at one large mine in the Belleville sub district the miners responded and downed tools, with other points, at the time this is written, expected to follow.

At Auburn occurred the next example of the combination of forces against the strikers. Representatives of the Fishwick-Farrington administration called a meeting of the local U. M. W. of A., of which all the miners are still members. Only the members who were in opposition to the new union were admitted. The vote to return to work naturally carried. Immediately the state government came into action to play its part. Mobilization of two score highway patrolmen was ordered with instructions to clear the roads leading to the Panther Creek mine. The pickets were dispersed and those miners who did return to scab thus met no opposition.

Wholesale arrests is but another means used against the miners fighting a desperate battle against desperate conditions. It is not the leading elements alone who have landed in jail, charged with inciting to riot, disorderly conduct, unlawful assemblage, etc. to be let out only under exorbitant bail. No, those arrested have been carried off in truckloads, deportation proceedings to be instituted against all non-citizens.

Prior to the actual beginning of the strike the sheriff of Franklin county issued a proclamation of his intentions to use all the armed forces available against the strike. He recognized only the United Mine Workers Union and its contract with the operators. It chimed in well with the proclamations of the guardians of this notorious contract, signed by Harry Fishwick, assuring all and sundry that in any event the contract would be lived up to. The Illinois Coal Operators' Association has filed affidavits in the courts pledging its readiness and forces to uphold the contract. All of them agree to fight this contract. No wonder that the miners take the opposite view. This contract represents Continued