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MARION KILLERS FREED

Naval Conclave Sure to Crash

The London Naval Conference which is to open next month in the British House of Lords has already encountered such huge obstacles that there is every assurance that the conference will collapse without any agreement being reached. The essence of the obstacles lies in the demands of each of the five powers involved—United States, Great Britain, Japan, France and Italy—for the strengthening of its own naval power at the expense of its most immediate rival.

The preliminary conversations held between the Japanese delegation and American representatives in Washington already gave promise of the hopelessness and hypocrisy of all the solemn "disarmament" pledges of the various imperialist robbers. Japan attempted to get the consent and support of the American imperialists for the maintenance of its submarine strength and an increase in the ratio for cruisers to 70 percent of the strength of any other power. Thus far, the U. S. has refused to agree to the Japanese proposals.

France Wants Submarines

Following right upon the heels of the Japanese demands, comes a wrench thrown into the conference spokes by the bitter rivalry of France and Italy. The French have announced that their demands are not and cannot be based upon any proportions with other countries. Their intention is to build irrespective of the strength of other powers and to base their land and naval armaments exclusively upon their own imperialist needs. Since they have a long coastline facing England on the one side, and Mediterranean interests competed for by Italy, their demand is based essentially upon the maintenance of a big submarine fleet, and parity with no one else in any other military or naval field.

In the meantime, to keep the pot of dissension boiling, the Italians have again come forward to press their demand for parity with France. Mussolini does not "deny" the right of France to build "according to her needs", only he insists upon Italy's right to build to the point of parity with France.

Thieves Cannot Agree

Despite the big fuss made about the "great hopes entertained for the cause of peace at the conference," it is being reluctantly acknowledged that the conference will find it impossible to do anything but disagree. The French, according to information given out by their Foreign Office, will not find it possible to arrive at a solution "which will suit both countries (i. e., France and Italy) and also be acceptable to the other participants in the London meeting" (New York Times, 12-22-1929). To corroborate this significant declaration, comes the statement from Washington, evidently inspired by the State Department, that "so delicate are the prospects that American officials do not care to discuss them publicly prior to the London conference."

The numerous forecasts of the conference made by the imperialists themselves, today at any rate, belie their previous proclamations of its success. The imperialist powers have no more intention of disarming than they have of turning power over to the working class. The London conference was called for the purpose of disarming "the other fellow," but it appears that all "the other fellows" refuse to disarm! The collapse of the conference will only add to the enlightenment of those workers who gave a penny of confidence to the diplomatic hi-jackers and their suave assurances.

Acquit Deputies Who Murdered Six Strikers

BULLETIN

After being out for 22 hours, the jury returned with the verdict of Not Guilty in the case of the eight deputy sheriffs who slew six textile strikers in Marion, N. C., on October 2nd. The decision of the court occasioned no particular surprise, particularly following upon the convictions in the Gastonia cases and of the workers in Marion. In the Gastonia and Marion workers' cases, the class character of the courts was adequately demonstrated. Despite the fact that in both trials there was no proof presented that the

BURNSVILLE, N. C., (F.P.)—The "hand of God" was called in to help the eight Marion deputy sheriffs tried for the murder of six striking mill workers early in the morning of Oct. 2, in closing appeals to the jury in this mountain village.

That was the only way defense attorneys could explain how the deputies, said to be battling in self defense, slaughtered six pickets while escaping themselves unscathed, save for a scratch on one deputy's nose.

The tiny courtroom was crowded to suffocation as union attorneys asked that the slayers, half of them mill-paid, pay the price for their reckless fusillades into the ranks of gassed, fleeing strikers. To Char-

les Hutchins, Burnsville attorney retained by the United Textile Workers, the Marion mill struggle was a class fight between the rich and the poor, "with the poor men shot in the back to protect the rich men's mill." Jim Owens, mill bossman, was deputized the morning of the massacre "because he was the arch enemy of the union in Marion", he said.

A star witness in rebuttal for the union was W. L. Hicklin, Asheville reporter, whose original testimony that he saw deputies shooting strikers in the back was a sensation of the trial. On the stand again, he testified that Sheriff Adkins shouted to his gunmen: "For God's sake, men, stop! Don't kill any more!"

THE MOONEY FRAME-UP

Governor Passes Buck Again

SAN FRANCISCO—Gov. C. C. Young, in referring action on the Mooney case to the state pardon board, has caused a "ghastly delay", Editor Fremont Older of the San Francisco Call-Bulletin told a Federated Press correspondent Dec. 18. Older has written Gov. Young charging him with deliberately delaying Mooney's freedom by his latest act. It will take the pardon board until April to study the case, when the two labor men will have passed their 14th year in prison.

"What is there to 'study'?", asked Older, "that would take more than 2 day's time? I cannot help feeling that delay was your motive in passing the case to the board. Then there could easily be more delays stretching on beyond the troublesome month of August, 1930."

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THE REAL "RISKS IN INDUSTRY"

More Mine Deaths in W. Va.

CHARLESTON, W. Va.—More deaths from mine accidents occurred in the first 11 months of 1929 in West Virginia than in the same period the year before, according to the state department of mines. The killings to Dec. 1 were 447 against 436. Most of the deaths were due to falls of roof and coal and to haulage accidents. This means that the companies are economizing at the expense of the workers' lives and that they are greedily speeding up the hauling apparatus. Fatal gas explosions were fewer.

Just as in former years, the state department keeps on begging the mine owners to please put in adequate ventilation and to rock-dust the mines to prevent explosions; to inspect thoroughly and intelligently; to use only permissible (safe) blasting powder and to have foremen instruct the miners in safety methods.

Φ

NEW ORLEANS.—Cases against Victor Aronson and William J. Davids, organizers for the Marine Workers League, have been dismissed. They were arrested recently during an anti-red hysteria.

Miners of Illinois Fought Big Odds

By Arne Swaback

Despite the splendid fighting ability displayed, the Illinois miners strike is practically over, broken up by the brute force of fallings, soldiers and machine guns mobilized by the bosses' government on the command of the coal operators and their fellow capitalists. Acting in complete unison with them were their lickspittles who keep themselves in control of the United Mine Workers Union. The breakup was made so much easier because of the isolated basis of this strike, confined to a few localities, and by the utter lack of preparations.

Was Strike a Mistake?

To many workers the question will occur: "Was this strike a mistake?" To which we must say: No—a thousand times No. For the Illinois miners—which is also true for the working class in general—there is no other way out of the miserable conditions imposed upon them by the coal operators and the misleaders jointly, except through struggle. The miners struck for a chance to live. They fought courageously. Their leaders showed no fear in this fight. The experiences gained should mean one big step forward. They should be the basis to build on for the future. But it can become so only provided the many great lessons are taken advantage of.

First it showed clearer than ever before the readiness of the government with all its forces of coercion and suppression to come to the rescue of those who own and control the means of production and to be pitted against the workers when they fight for their vital needs. One more illuminating example of the fact that the government is owned and controlled by the capitalists and function in their interests only.

The miners, even those who did not participate in this strike, are not the least in doubt that their conditions must be improved in order to make living possible. They have now seen once more, in the most glaring manner, that those officials of the old union, who by fair means or foul, constantly have themselves reelected, act directly against any such possibility of improvements and do all in their power to defeat it.

The National Miners Union has proven itself as the only miners' organization which will fight for their needs regardless of obstacles in the way. There will now be increased attacks upon it from the reactionaries. The operators will long remember the serious scare they received, and hasten more completely to affirm and uphold the wage cut, speed-up contract they have concluded with their faithful servants who keep themselves in office in the U.M. W. A. Blacklisting will likely be put into effect against the most active strikers in order to drive additional miners from the field and get rid of the militants. The miners will be told, often in terms of the right to a job, to return to the old union and its "leadership". But it would be the greatest mistake to rely in the least upon them. They have proved themselves too definitely the tools of the operators and the defenders of the capitalist system to ever seriously contemplate any fights for the interests of the rank and file.

A Communist Scare Coming

There will be plenty of forces busy endeavoring to turn sentiment against the National Miners Union. But it should be remembered that it always takes a bitter struggle, and sometimes temporary defeats, to build a real working class organization

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Unemployment Grows with Business Decline

By HARVEY O'CONNOR

NEW YORK, (F.P.)—The spectre of unemployment is assuming material form in New York as the Christmas holiday buying season comes to an end with trade reported at low levels and workers more apprehensive than in years concerning job prospects after Jan. 1.

Heavy Business Decline

Business leaders, whistling on the front pages of the daily press to keep up their courage and instill the Christmas buying spirit into consumers, sing another tune in their own press. *Annalist*, financial weekly of the New York Times, announces that the decrease in November business activity was the greatest for any one month in the past 46 years. The decline for the one month was 8.1%. The index figure, in which 1925 is represented by 100, was 95.4 at the end of the November as compared with 108.8, the peak in May.

The *Annalist* figure by no means tells the whole story, as it represented business conditions three weeks ago. Since then New York department stores have been wringing their hands in anguish as shoppers flock through their aisles but fail to buy any but low-priced articles. Hundreds of saleswomen for the higher-priced products have been laid off during the Christmas season.

Dr. Leo Wolman of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers told Federated Press that production in the men's clothing industry, an important factor in New York industry, is 7.5% under 1928. The spring season, which gets under way in October in good years, is barely under way now.

In the women's garment industry unemployment is even worse. Many employers devoted more time to stock gambling than to business before the crash. Now they are being forced to the wall. The long skirt has also caused demoralization. Women are refusing to buy dresses in the new style in expected quantities and the entire trade is in confusion. All told, needle workers are experiencing a bad season.