

# THE MILITANT

Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America [Opposition]

VOL. III. No. 1.

Telephone: DRYdock 1656.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1939. NEW YORK, N. Y.

PRICE 5 CENTS

## Industrial Depression Growing

### Austrian Crisis and Communism *Hundreds Killed by Marines in Haiti* *Anti-Labor Drive Now Under Way*

By L. D. Trotsky

The Austrian crisis is a partial manifestation of the crisis of democracy, the fundamental form of bourgeois rule. The too high tension of the international, as well as the class, struggle leads to the short circuit of dictatorship in which the safeguards of democracy are burned up one after the other. The process began at the European periphery, in the most backward countries, at the weakest links in the capitalist chain. But the process goes even further. What is called the crisis of parliamentarism is the political expression for the crisis of the entire system of bourgeois society. Democracy stands and falls with capitalism. The social democracy defends democracy which is being ruined and thereby drives social development into the blind alley of fascism.

#### The Strength of the Social Democracy

The great weakness of the Austrian bourgeoisie after the war and the revolution, combined with the economic and political dependence of Austria, became the most important sources for the strength of the Austrian social democracy. While the Austrian social democracy fulfilled its office of savior and consolidator of the bourgeois regime, it had the opportunity, in its agitation, to repel either the national or the foreign bourgeoisie (English and American). In the first period of the stabilization of the bourgeois regime after the revolution, the social democracy was the direct agent of foreign capital. This permitted it not only to throw the responsibility for all evil upon the national bourgeoisie, but it could also adopt—at least, in appearances—a more independent, a more critical position towards this bourgeoisie than was accessible to the social democracy in other countries, not even excluding Germany. The further the consolidation of the bourgeois regime progressed, the more frequently did the social democracy accuse the national bourgeoisie that it merely executed the commands of Anglo-Saxon capital. For the workers, however, it kept one argument ready, which excused the inviolability of private property: "Naturally, we would be able to finish off with our bourgeoisie, but it isn't a question of them, but of the bourgeoisie of England and America."

The bourgeois parties of Austria lost their distinctiveness all the more easily because they were compelled to hang on the lips of the Anglo-Saxon host. The social democracy, in essence, played the same role, but it is compelled to come forward as an Opposition to the bloc of the bourgeois parties, because it bases itself upon the workers. This "Opposition" alone permits it to save the bourgeoisie. We see similar processes and phenomena in Germany too. They have contributed in an extraordinary manner to the self-preservation of the German social democracy. But since the German bourgeoisie is much stronger and more independent, the German social democracy had to make agreements with it more plainly and openly, and assume the direct responsibility for it before the working masses. This circumstance created great possibilities of development for the German Communist Party.

Austria is a small body with a big head. The capital city is in the hands of the social democracy, which has, however, less than half the votes in the national parliament (43 percent). This unstable

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NEW YORK—Not five but hundreds of Haitians were killed in the uprising of Haitian peasants at Aux Cayes recently, states the Amsterdam News, Harlem Negro weekly on the authority of a letter smuggled out of Haiti to Capt. N. P. Marshall, head of the Save Haiti League. The writer of the letter said he did not dare sign his name for fear of reprisals from the marine-controlled Haitian government.

"Hundreds of Haitian peasants", reads the letter, "who were coming into Aux Cayes to protest, without arms, simply with their usual small canes, against the way alcohol, tobacco and coffee are taxed, have been slaughtered. Women and children were killed. Officially they acknowledge 12 dead and 40 wounded but there are hundreds.

### Illinois Miners Urgently Need Relief

After having encountered the gun-point terrorism of the operators' thugs and the state militia during the strike, the Illinois miners who responded to the call of the National Miners Union are being met with a vicious blacklisting campaign by the operators, calculated to drive the militants in the field either to starvation or out of the mining territory.

The men who went on strike include some of the most courageous fighters in the mining industry and to have them driven out of the field would involve a great setback for the progressive and Left wing movement and leave the workers exposed to the machinations of the Lewis and Fishwick machines and their employers the coal operators. The workers who fought so militantly and who ready to fight with even greater sacrifices deserve the support of the whole labor movement. The operators are not only trying to starve

### Lost Fliers and Hoover Refuse 6-Hour Day

WASHINGTON—Why the Hoover administration failed, during five weeks of bitter winter weather, that followed its knowledge that two American fliers were lost on the ice of Arctic Siberia, to ask the Soviet government for help in rescuing them, is the central mystery in this grim story which the explorer Stefansson has brought into the light of publicity.

When at last a telegram from Stefansson to Secretary of the Interior Wilbur drove Wilbur to ask the Moscow Foreign Office for help, the fliers had been down on the ice seven weeks, and their original food supply was enough for only eight weeks. Temperatures of 70 below zero Fahrenheit are recorded in that region in December.

Mrs. Mabel Walker Willebrandt, attorney for the Airways Transport Co., employers of the fliers, appealed to Hoover, Borah, Wilbur and to Boris E. Skvirsky, unofficial representative in Washington for the Soviet government. Wilbur's request that Soviet ice-breakers be sent to rescue the fliers was sent to Moscow through Skvirsky. Borah cabled Foreign Secretary Litvinov direct.

Did non-recognition alone cause the Washington administration to stand inactive until the fliers had but one week's food supply left—with one chance in a hundred of their early rescue?

The obscure pages of the capitalist press are giving part of the picture of growing industrial decline in the United States which all the optimistic declarations by 'experts', printed on the front pages, cannot conceal. As the weeks go by since the colossal stock market collapse, it becomes all the clearer that the blow at the industrial and financial structure of American capitalism was neither accidental nor just an episode.

The far-reaching significance of the growing industrial decline in the country for the working class, which is the one most bitterly affected, may be gathered from the figures just made public by the spokesman for American big business, the New York Times (12-29-1929):

"Iron and steel operations are at a low ebb. The ratio is now the lowest of the year and for the industry as a whole will not top the fifty percent fig-

ure. . . . Merchandise shipments, as measured by car loadings figures, are slower, emphasizing the let-down which has occurred generally. . . . Business generally is quiet as the year ends, especially in manufacturing and wholesale and jobbing lines. New purchasing is characterized by cautiousness and the disposition to buy only for immediate requirements. . . . Of the ninety-four lines of business in New York City reporting to Bradstreet's last week, five were better than, fifty equal to, and thirty-four below a year ago. No lines report collections better than a year ago, forty-six were equal to a year ago and forty-eight were below a year ago."

From the New England area, Times reports that textile mill operations are "still subnormal", with shoe production pretty light. "Building operations continue the smallest of the year." The Chicago district reports the steel output down to 55 percent for the area, with new business "light". Philadelphia reports the market for building materials, including timber, to be slow, with dwelling house construction out of sight. In the Ohio territory, iron and steel operations are down to about 50 percent, with prices reduced to the lowest level in more than a year. St. Louis acknowledges that "practically all industrial plants have reduced production and cut forces, which has aggravated the employment situation." With little change the same downward movement exists throughout the country.

The sharp slow-down in American industry is already having a telling effect on the working class. That unemployment is on the increase, is obvious. The employers are attempting as usual, to get out from under their difficulties by laying off as many men as possible and speeding up those who are left to the highest possible peak. A period of the most severe intensifying of labor "efficiency" and "rationalization"—at the expense of the workers' health and lives—has set in on a nation-wide scale. Bitter struggles of the workers against wage cuts, speed-up and unemployment are scheduled for the coming year in defense against the hammerblows of the bosses. Unless the labor movement begins immediately an intense and widespread drive to organize the millions of unorganized workers in the basic industries of the country, unless a break is made conclusively with the suicidal policy of collaborating with the capitalist class and a policy of militant combat substituted for it, the workers of the United States will face the coming struggles with a minimum of preparedness as against the maximum of determined ruthlessness, consolidated organization and governmental assistance that the bosses have at their command.

#### Exports Increase

What is especially significant about the present industrial situation in the country, is the increase of foreign exports. The National Chamber of Commerce has just announced that the American exports for the first 9 months of this year were more than 8 percent larger than for the corresponding period in 1928. This indicates with doubled emphasis that the home market of the U.S. has narrowed considerably, because industrial production has declined in spite of the increase in exports. It indicates further that the United States will make every effort to escape the consequences of its crisis by exerting the harshest possible pressure on its competitors in the world market.

The crisis in the United States, irrespective of its duration or depth, is a reflection of and at the same time an impetus to the crisis in world capitalism

them out of the industry, but to imprison their leaders. Henry Corbishly, who served time in connection with the notorious Ziegler frame-up case while Alex Hargis, the Klanman, who killed a Communist miner went free, is now confronted with the danger of a return to prison for an alleged violation of the parole under which he was released.

The Workers International Relief has announced the opening of relief stations for the miners in Illinois. Despite differences we may have with the policy of the W. I. R., they are engaged in helping the miners now and require every worker's hearty support. Money and clothes should be forwarded to the W. I. R. or the union immediately so that the plans of the operators may be successfully checkmated.

The Left wing among the miners must be kept going and strengthened for the coming battles. Rally to their assistance!

NEW YORK—(FP)—The five-day week in the building trades is not keeping pace with growing unemployment. That is evidenced in the appeal of Plasterers Local 60 for the 6-hour day for the months of January and February, to ease the tension of unemployment. One of the arguments leading to the adoption of the 5-day week was lack of jobs.

The boss plasterers have curtly rejected the appeal stating that it would increase building costs. An agreement for the 5-day, 40-hour week has three years to run.

#### CONCEDE CLEVELAND UNEMPLOYMENT

CLEVELAND—(FP)—The open shop American Plan Assn., basing its report on employment in member firms, states that 54,000 were on the payroll in 231 Cleveland plants in November, compared with 51,000 in November, 1928. The report admits however that unemployment is greater this year than last, many workers having come to Cleveland from Detroit and other cities where unemployment is bad.

HOOPER PROSPERITY  
RALEIGH, N. C.—The Associated Charities has 142 "cases" on its hands this winter against 84 last winter. The greatest need is for fuel, for which the Charities has no money, because the Community Chest has had to cut its budget.