

# French Aim Blow at U. S.

## Raise Tariff on American Autos

A stiff blow at American automobile competition in France is being contemplated by the French government in a project to be submitted to the parliament for the increase on tariff duties on foreign automobile and parts. While the raising of the tariff is formally directed against all foreign auto imports, it is the real aim of the project to strike at the United States, which does practically all of the importing in this field.

The extent to which the foreign market in France would be cut down for American automobile and parts manufacturers is indicated by the fact that the estimates made of American cars and trucks sold in France in 1919 runs to about \$32,000,000—with about two-thirds of the cars being Fords.

### Plan High Auto Tariff

The French project covers two laws, which American capitalists expect to drive them clear out of the market. The first would raise the duty on parts for assembly and replacement to three times the previous rates, or 125 percent of the sales value of the product. The second measure would raise the duty on complete cars from the present 45 per cent ad valorem to about 90 percent. It is said that the Ford plant, for instance, which is the only one assembling cars, would have its parts subjected to such a high duty as to make further operation at a profit virtually impossible.

American sales in France do not form a very large part of the total automobile sales, but what alarms the French is the fact that the share of the U. S. is steadily on the increase. The market equilibrium of any of the capitalist countries is so delicately "adjusted" nowadays that any larger increase of America's share in the French trade would undoubtedly have a serious effect upon the domestic industry, where the French bourgeoisie is priding itself upon the relative lack of unemployment. It is both the fear of losing a larger portion of its own market in France, and the radical consequences of increased unemployment in the country, that impels the French to attempt this severe blow to the American master.

That the American automobile interests will not stand by silently while this attack is consummated is quite apparent. Already the State Department and the Department of Commerce of the U. S. have received urgent appeals from the automobile manufacturers to "do something" about the French project. A difficulty, from the American capitalist view, arises at this point because the French have drawn the drafts of the laws so cleverly that formally there is no direct discrimination planned against the U. S., since the laws are to cover "all" foreign imports, although it is quite obvious that Italian and British auto trade being insignificant in France, the bills are in reality intended against the U. S.

### U. S. Will Fight Back

Nevertheless there is every certainty that the American government, true to its role of faithful servitor to capitalist interests, will exert the heaviest pressure to prevent the project from becoming French law. Its passage would be an especially hard blow at the American producers because of the severe depression in which the industry is now found in the U. S. Thousands of workers are laid off every month; plants are either being shut down entirely or working part time; the prospects for the coming year are very poor and greater decline is freely predicted by practically everyone. The main hope of the American auto manufacturer does not lie in the maintenance of the domestic market, and certainly not in its increase in the coming period. That is universally acknowledged. Their eyes for the maintenance of production even at a moderate pace are pinned mainly on exports, not only to the Orient and in America, but also to Europe.

The growing resistance of European manufacturers, the persistent talk among them of a cartel or alliance to ward off the massive movements of the Americans, the steps being taken against U. S. competition all along the line and now mani-

festated in the planned acts of France—all these indicate that the export hopes of the Detroit industrial kings are not in such a cheerful position as they pretend. It also indicates that their promises to the auto workers that increased exports will mean a renewed wave of employment, are not founded on very substantial grounds.

These factors indicate that the most anxious resistance to the French project will be made by the American interests. If the French are under the impression that they will put through their plan without meeting the hardest opposition from the

U. S., they will very quickly be disillusioned. The U. S. imperialists have more powerful and ruthless means of pressure at their command than mere diplomatic notes.

And the olive branches of peace that the god-fearing statesmen of the world have been handing to each other with so much publicity, what about them? They disappear, as always do all pacifist fantasies, in the living realities of the mad, cut-throat rush for profits, territory, spheres of influence, colonies, markets which is the foundation of modern imperialism.

# Another Haymarket Cop Dead

By T. P. LEWIS

CHICAGO—Twice in 43 years Pat Nash made the first page. The first time was in 1886. He was one of the Haymarket cops. The papers marked him for special attention in those days of heroic policemen because bits of the Haymarket bomb wounded him.

The second time was Monday. Someone noticed the lights in Pat's squalid attic room on West Monroe St. burning in the afternoon. This time the papers intoned a half column paean of glory to the hero and grew sad at the thought that a noble defender of Chicago's good name should have died of want and inattention.

### Boss Press Upholds Tradition

For the press of Chicago never misses a chance to call back to mind the march of 180 cops against what it invariably describes as a mob of 2,000 anarchists on May 4, 1886. There is never mention of the fact that this "mob" was a mass meeting of union men protesting against the murder of four strikers by police the previous day at the McCormick Reaper works.

### SUPPRESS MOONEY REPORT

## Young Hid Evidence Hound Trotsky's Kin

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Cal.—(FP)—Murphy McHenry, San Luis Obispo editor, in an open letter to Governor Young, quotes Charles Whitmore, once Young's secretary and now state building and loan commissioner, as saying: "I don't understand why Gov. Young doesn't act in the Mooney case. Mooney deserves to be pardoned and I told him (Young) so." McHenry says in his letter that Young turned the case over to that he would make his decision from Whitmore's findings. Whitmore reported that Mooney and Billings were innocent, but the governor took no action. Young denies that this is so.

Both the state supreme court and the advisory pardon board are working on the two cases, but there is no probability of a decision in the near future. Both bodies are preparing for a long set of hearings, and are going over the whole transcript of testimony, which Young has had in his hands for several years before he passed the buck to the board and the court. Meanwhile Mooney spent Christmas working as a waiter in the guards' mess hall at San Quentin, and Billings spent his, not in his former healthful job of gardener to the warden of Folsom, but at work in the prison laundry.

Φ

### FORD'S TREATMENT OF LABOR

Henry Ford, who says he likes older workers but whose Detroit plants throw them out without compunction, comes in for criticism from Sec. A. Epstein, of the American Assn for Old Age Security. Calling attention to Ford's recent utterances concerning the value of skill and steadiness of the older workers, Epstein points out that the U. S. labor department recently published a study showing Ford plants to be more ruthless in drawing the deadline against men over 40 than any other firm studied.

Φ

### SWEDISH WORKERS PROTEST BARBARTY IN CAROLINA

NEW YORK—(FP)—Informed of the course of "justice" in North Carolina which is sending labor men to the penitentiary and white-washing the slayers of strike leaders 500 workers meeting at Holmstad near Gothenburg, Sweden have sent resolutions of protest to Gov. O. Max Gardner of North Carolina. A collection netting 30 crowns, is being forwarded for strikers defense.

The press of Chicago has a tradition to uphold. It was largely by means of this press that the bosses of Chicago were able to whip up hysteria of sufficient magnitude to permit the legal lynching of Albert Parsons and his five comrades on November 11, 1887. So whenever a Haymarket cop dies, there is always a front page story.

But however often these stories appear, the labor movement of Chicago will continue to believe what it has believed since 1886: The bomb that killed Patrolman M.J. Degan was thrown by a police spy. That the object of throwing this bomb was to give excuse for destroying a mass movement for the 8-hour day and assassinating its leaders.

The workers of Chicago feel deep bitterness for a press that utilizes the passing of these cops to recall the Haymarket as an episode in which the forces of law and order triumphed over a murderous and irresponsible mob—and perhaps also, to remind the labor movement of the terrorism the master class is capable of unleashing if another occasion requires it.

### STALINIST REPRESSION

At the same time that he announces—once more—the final liquidation of Trotskyism, Stalin is redoubling the brutality towards the supporters of the Russian Opposition who do not capitulate.

News that we have just received from deportees inform us that the health of our comrade Rakovsky is seriously shaken. His heart especially is in a bad way and there is hardly any possibility of treating it at Barnaul, where he was recently exiled.

The repression is extended even to the children of Oppositionists. A month ago, the daughter of comrade Trotsky, who lives in Moscow, was suddenly imprisoned. She remained in prison a few days, then she was set at provisional liberty, under surveillance, so that she might take care of her three children. But then her husband was arrested... on the pretext of putting him through an examination: since then there has been no news. The agents of Stalin know full well that he is so seriously ill that any political activity on his part is impossible. They want to crush us Opposition at any cost for they are quite well aware that it is not liquidated. But their efforts will be in vain.

Φ

SAN FRANCISCO—(FP)—Wallace D. Fogan, 55, was "too old to work". His money was gone. He turned on the gas in his two-room apartment, and when his wife came home she found his dead body and a note which began: "Dear Lottie: Please forgive me. I am leaving you all my money—13 cents and 6 cents in stamps." With this fortune Mrs Fogan must now face the world.

Φ

### THE UNITED FRONT FROM BELOW

"As a token of friendship M. Karachan (Soviet ambassador to Turkey) presented to President Mustapha Kemal two valuable paintings."

—New York Times, 12-29-1929

# Open Forum of the New York Communist League

The coming semi-monthly Open Forum lectures announced by the New York branch of the Communist League of America (Opposition) include the following speakers and topics:

James P. Cannon, on "Gastonia and Marion", a comparison of the two historic labor struggles of the past year in the Southern textile fields and their significance to the Left wing. To be held Saturday, January 11.

Martin Abern, on "The Left Wing and the Labor Unions" a discussion of this much-disputed question from the point of view of the Communist Opposition. To be

held Saturday, January 25.

Max Shachtman, on "Can Capitalism Disarm?", in which the results of the London Naval Conference will be dealt with and the standpoints of Communism and pacifism in the question contrasted. To be held Saturday, February 8.

Speakers for subsequent meetings will include S. M. Rose, Joseph Friedman, James Russell, and others. The Open Forum meetings begin at 8 p. m., are held at the Militant Hall, 25 Third Avenue, Room 4, (near 8th Street), and admission is free. All workers are cordially invited. Questions and discussion follow all lectures.