

Church Reports Marion Hell

But All that Preachers Offer Are Empty Promises and Pious Prayers

NEW YORK-(FP)—The department of research and education of the Federal Council of Churches starts the New Year with an extensive report on the strikes at Marion, N. C. which in the main upholds union contentions. For background a survey of the economic status of the industry is added.

Statements of Pres. R. W. Baldwin of the Marion mill and Pres. Mabry Hart of the Clinchfield mill regarding hours and wages the Federal Council investigator found to be at odds with the story told by strikers themselves. Against the mill owners' claim that the state 60-hour law was observed, it was found that many worked up to 67 hours a week. Against the \$14 average wage said to exist in Marion, the investigator discovered four workers getting more and at least 15 less. Torn from the Federal Council's report are these specimens:

Worked More Than 64 Hours a Week

Woman, spooling room, worked 12 hours a day, 64 1-2 hours a week, earning \$7.50 a week.

Woman, spooling, worked 12 hours and 20 minutes a day, earned \$8-\$9 a week.

Man, spinning room, worked 15 years for Marion mill, earned \$18 a week, 11 hours a day.

Woman, weaver worked 7 years for company, averaged \$17.15 a week, worked 11 hours and 10 minutes a day.

Girl, 15, has worked one and a half years, spinning room, averaged \$5 a week—made \$6.50 one week, the highest she ever made—worked 11 hours and 15 minutes a day, said about 40 girls in her department, on same hours, most of them 14 or 15 years old. Her sister, working through the noon hour, a 12 hour day, sometimes made \$11.50

a week at the very highest.

Man, oiler, \$11 a week. Man, sweeper, \$11 a week.

These workers told the churchman of the "almost deafening noise of the looms, the high temperature, the humidity, the dust and lint in the air" as creating extreme fatigue. In the Marion mill there was no ventilating system, the workers were not allowed to open the windows, no spittoons were provided, toilets sometimes overflowed and drinking water fountains were installed in the toilets.

The Federal Council report deals fully with the causes of the two strikes, the events preceding the massacre of Oct. 2 and union activity. Passing to the relief need, now being met by church bodies and administered by the Quakers, the report tells of this case:

Workers Shun Church

Mrs. Her oldest son, 18 years old, one of the strikers killed by the sheriff's forces. Her husband died last year. Has five children still living—boy, 16, girls 14, 9, 7, 3. Mrs. herself has worked in the East Marion mill for two years in the spool room, averaging about \$7 a week. Hours 6 a. m. to 6 p. m. Question: Have you any milk for the children? Answer: No, we have to just give them anything we get—sometimes some oatmeal, occasionally a little sugar—mostly just flour, pork and lard. Asked county for school books for two children as she could not buy them County refused. So girls go to school without books. 'Teacher keeps threatening to whip them, if they don't bring books, and that keeps the children all tore up, but I just can't do anything about it.' Mrs. said. "They say they're going to put us out

of our houses and it's sort of worrisome and I would like to get plans made for the children." Mrs. attended the Methodist mill village church, but the pastor "talked against the union since before the strike. Said it was the wrong thing and people ought not to join. Got so he wouldn't speak to us union people. So nobody goes to that church except a few non-union people.

Pontiac Has «Novel» Way to Cut Wages

PONTIAC, Mich.-(FP)—Workers in Pontiac plants of the Fisher Body Co., General Motors subsidiary, are getting a free college course in political economy, right on the job. They are learning how GMC keeps its promise not to cut wages, made to the nation through Pres. Hoover.

"Here's the way they work it", an experienced Fisher worker told Federated Press. He has been employed by Fisher Body for several years.

"Last year at this time I was doing the same work I do now—stamping out body panels on a punch press. Saturdays we worked five hours. I put a new die in my machine, got it adjusted and running right—that took about 3 hours. In the remaining 2 hours I would run out about 500 panels at 40 cents a hundred—that's \$2. I received that amount, plus 3 hours' day work at 60 cents an hour for the time spent in make ready—that's \$3.60. For the morning's work I got \$5.60.

No Pay for Make Ready

"This year I go to work Saturdays on the same job for the same five hours. I spend 3 hours on make ready—work far more difficult than the actual running. I spend 2 hours running panels at 40 cents an hour. But I am paid nothing for for the three hours' make ready, and for my morning work I just get the piece rate for the panels—that's \$2. So I average 40 cents an hour, or 20 cents an hour less than my day rate.

"I put in a kick the other day, and the boss says: 'Go on home if you don't like it; there's thousands of men outside waiting for your job.' If I go home that means out of Pontiac, as this town is owned by General Motors.

Unemployment Raises Mortgage Shut-downs

By Joseph Hutter

PHILADELPHIA-(FP)—In this "city of homes", foreclosures on workers' house mortgages have mounted to such an alarming number that the real estate board is appealing for a moratorium. Three months after the mortgage payment has become overdue, the worker can expect the sheriff at the door.

In 1920, 402,000 Philadelphians were buying their homes, usually a section of rooms in monotonous rows of tenements. High rents were an incentive then to home-owning. Now unemployment is forcing home-buyers to lapse on mortgage payments. Fore-closures in the last two years were:

	1928	1929
February	627	1200
July	792	1150
October	989	1200
December	1041	1183

Lumber Camps Aren't Hit by Prosperity

By Harold R. Johnson

IRONWOOD, Mich.-(FP)—While Pres. Hoover is making "prosperity" appeals to the big employers the lumber barons of northern Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota are severely reducing the living standards of the woodsmen.

In the Hines camps of Wisconsin, loggers were cut from a previous wage of \$40-\$45 a month to \$35-\$40 with another \$5 cut promised after the first of the year. The big Backus and Brooks firm (Int'l. Lumber Co. of Minnesota) was paying only \$35 a month for general woodsmen on Nov. 1 and has since dropped them to \$30. Other Minnesota outfits are paying \$35-\$40. All wages include board and lodging, but not compulsory hospital fees.

Michigan wages have not yet been slashed generally from their \$45-\$50 level

A Bit of Olgin's Infamy

In the Jewish organ of the Communist Party, the Freiheit of Saturday, January 4, 1930, we read a story which we translate accurately word for word and reprint, headline and content:

TROTSKY STILL HOPES FOR A CZAR IN RUSSIA

"In yesterday's 'Sun' there is printed a special cable from Berlin about an interview that the renowned German writer Emil Ludwig, had with Leon Trotsky on the island near Constantinople where he is now located.

"According to the correspondent of the 'Sun', Trotsky declared that there is a possibility that a czar may again rule in Russia. Only—even the czar will not be able to wipe out the gains of the revolution.

"Trotsky repeated his old arguments that the Soviet Union is going downhill and—he still hopes..."

It is hardly necessary to say that a reference to the dispatch in the New York Sun (1-3-30), whatever may be the truth or falsehood in what it says as a whole, will show that it does not contain the slightest word that might lead anyone with half a good eye to write and publish the headline over the reprint in the Freiheit. It is a piece of knavishness, pure and simple, fished out of the venomous sewers from which come most of the stories against Trotsky published in the Stalinist press. Whoever may have been the pitiful scribbler that headlined the Freiheit story, the responsibility for it rests with the editor of the paper, Moissaye Olgin. Like Minor, his colleague in charge of the Daily Worker, Olgin is experienced in the struggle against Trotsky; he fought him and Lenin both before and after November 7, 1917. But at that time he did it as the feature writer of the Jewish Daily Forward. Then as now there was no infamy too nauseating for him, no falsehood too repulsive, and the pits of his dishonesty were bottomless. He learned 10 or 12 years ago, to grub in the garbage of the bourgeois press for some bit of filth to fling at Lenin, Trotsky and the Bolshevik revolution from the columns of the respectable "socialist" organ of Abraham Cahan. He even reprinted and commented favorably upon the calumnious Sisson "documents" that "proved" Lenin and Trotsky to be German spies in the pay of the Kaiser.

Later Olgin changed from a "socialist" to a "Communist" with the ease of the man-about-town who changes linen for a new social function, but his congenital hatred of true Bolsheviks did not change. It now has an opportunity for expression in the attacks on Trotsky, which fall into line with his pre-"Bolshevization" day attacks. So little has changed! Trotsky remains a Bolshevik; Olgin remains the poseur and dilettante, the dandy who is the darling of Greenwich Village salons and the East Side cafes, the dabbler in Communist politics who sniffs the journalistic gutters for filth to throw at Trotsky and the Bolshevik Opposition.

Is Olgin so vain as to believe that any worker with a spark of the rebel in him will do anything else but turn sick to the stomach upon reading that headline? No, every proletarian, even he who does not believe with the Opposition, will stop and reflect that the case for the Stalinists must be weak indeed when they must resort to such proclamations, (so entirely typical of all the "arguments" against Trotsky) as that Trotsky, the lion of the Russian revolution, is still (!) hoping (!!) for the return of a czar in Russia.

But we cannot believe that it was written either by a worker or for workers to read. It was undoubtedly meant for the edification of Olgin's circle of decadent friends and admirers who fawn before the distinguished litterateur and cry: Bravo, Moissaye! A hit! Yes, bravo, Moissaye! On to further infamies!

In the northern lumber district. Michigan loggers average, from camp to return, 9 1-2 hours a day. Food is barely edible and many camps have no bath-houses and poor sanitary facilities. Body lice, bawdy houses, bed-bugs, bad bosses and booze are among the handicaps to a decent life. About a third of the loggers are unemployed. Job hunters sleep on the floors in the camps and likewise in town booze joints, often in the way of the thirsty

The Austrian Crisis and Communism

ganizational form for the class content.

It is by no means out of the question that, if not in the present then in the subsequent stages of the struggle, the Austrian social democracy will see itself forced to proclaim the general strike (as the British General Council of Trade Unions did in 1926) and even to sanction the creation of Soviets so that the leadership may remain all the more securely in its hands. Naturally, this will be bound up with a greater and lesser crisis in the party. Friedrich Adler will have to be dragged out of reserve, and others besides, Max Adler, or some one even more to the "Left" will again show that Soviets plus democracy give the combined state and liberate us from the necessity of seizing power and the dictatorship. Not only the social democratic workers, but also the worker-Communists, who are accustomed to hear day in and day out that the social democracy and fascism are one and the same thing, will be taken by surprise by such a stage in the development of the struggle between the social democracy and fascism. And yet this stage would be more complicated, a more integrated system of betrayal of the interests of the proletariat by the social democracy. For under the leadership of the Austro-Marxists, the Soviets would not only not be the organs of struggle of the proletariat for power but the instrument for holding the proletariat back from an attempt at taking power.

In Germany, such an attempt, at least on a broad scale, would be impossible because the Communist Party there presents too great a force. But things are different in Austria. In the case of a rapid unfolding of events, the culminating point can be reached long before the Communist Party has awakened from its isolation and weakness. The Soviets in the hands of the Austro-Marxists can prove to be a mechanism that gives them the possibility of robbing the workers of the revolutionary situation for the second time, and thereby for the second time saving bourgeois society, and in this case, by the inevitable establishment of open fascism. It is needless to say that in such a case, the very ribs of the social democracy would be broken under the boots of fascism. Politics knows no gratitude.

The slogans of Soviets and the dictatorship of the proletariat have a purely propagandistic significance in Austria today. Not because Austria is so far removed from a revolutionary situation but because the bourgeois regime is equipped

means—the social democracy. Contrary to the babblers and phrase-mongers, the task of the Communist Party in Austria does not now consist in "arming"—with what?—"the masses"—which?—"and leading them to the final decisive struggle", but rather in "patiently enlightening" (Lenin in April 1917!) the masses. The success of this propagandistic work can be all the quicker and more powerful the better the Communist Party understands what is happening before its eyes.

Above all the stupid, empty, more than audacious equalization of the social democracy with fascism must be thrown into the discard.

The experiences of 1918-19 and the role of the social democracy in the Soviet system must be recalled to the Austrian Communists.

"Domestic disarmament" must be opposed by the slogan of arming the workers. This slogan is now much more immediate and important than the slogan of Soviets and the dictatorship of the proletariat. Put Bauer up as a fascist and the worker does not understand it. But when he is told that Bauer wants to disarm the worker in the end, and thereby deliver him to the fascists—the worker will understand, for this corresponds to his political experience.

One must not believe that one can replace one's lack of strength by roaring, howling and radical words. One must stop fitting the real course of events into the cheap schema of Stalin and Molotov. It must be made clear that neither of them understands anything. The first step toward a rebirth must be the reestablishment of the Left Opposition in the party. But in Austria, as in other countries, a few supplementary lessons of history are still needed before the Communists find the right road. It is the task of the Opposition to prepare this transition. No matter how weak in numbers the Left Opposition may be in Austria, even in comparison with the Communist Party, its functions are nevertheless the same: Propaganda, patient enlightenment. There remains only the wish that the Austrian Communist Opposition will succeed, in the next period, in issuing a regularly published organ, if possible—a weekly paper, which will carry on the propagandist work keeping pace with events.

The publication of such an organ requires great efforts. But it is a task that cannot be postponed. That is why it must be solved.