

# Birmingham Big Open Shop Center

## Unemployment Rife in South

By T. S. Rawlings

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(FP)—The city selected by the Charlotte A. F. of L. conference January 6 for campaign headquarters is the "Pittsburg of the South" and its main industrial center. Six million tons of iron ore were mined near Birmingham in 1929 and smelted in its great steel mills. Iron meets coal in this city to assure its industrial future. The textile industry, absolutely unimpeded by any laws restricting hours of labor for women and children thrives on the lowest wage scale in the country. One third of Birmingham's workers are Negroes, used extensively in the mines and steel mills.

Among the great industrial plants which line Jones Valley are Tennessee Coal and Iron, American Steel and Wire, Sloss-Sheffield, Republic Iron and Steel, Lehigh Portland Cement and Pullman.

### Acute Unemployment

Acute unemployment prevails throughout Jones Valley. Of 125,000 workers in the district, 20 to 60% are jobless, according to various estimates. The Chamber of Commerce estimates 20% out of work; the Associated Industries, 33%; the Building Trades Council, 50%; and the Central Trades and Labor Council, 60%. The president of the Birmingham Building Trades Council told Federated Press that 90% of the union builders were idle.

Unemployment is spreading throughout the south, bringing wage cuts in its wake. The Piedmont mill in Gastonia, N.C. has reduced wages 20%, cutting the payroll \$1,000 a week. The mill is owned by the Goldberg Bros., operators of several mills in Gaston county. Spinners suffered reductions from \$14.30 to \$10.78; card hands from \$14.40 to \$12. Spinners piece rates have been cut from 18 cents a hand to 16 cents. Creelers and spoolers who formerly got \$15 now receive \$12.

### Sixty-Hour Week

The 60-hour week, with five 12-hour night shifts, and five 11-hour day shifts plus five hours on Saturday, is the rule in the Goldberg mills. Women work the night shift, never leaving their machines, even for lunch.

Open shop Chambers of Commerce in Dallas, Tex. and Oklahoma City have announced that they mean to fight the new labor drive to the last ditch. They have reaffirmed, in language as emphatic as was used 10 years ago, that the chambers will actively support and work for non-union conditions. Their statement followed requests from central labor unions within cities that the open shop divisions within the chambers be abolished.

# Attempt New Frame-Up in Gastonia

CHARLOTTE, N. C.—North Carolina justice is out for another victim to appease its appetite for revenge in the killing of Police Chief Aderholt of Gastonia. C. D. Saylor, organizer for the Natl. Textile Workers Union, has been thrown into Mecklenburg county jail and is held for \$10,000 cash bail, charged with Aderholt's murder, while the state seeks its only witness against him.

This witness is Robert Allen, a striker, who recently signed an affidavit that he had been forced to make a "confession"

against Saylor, implicating him in the shooting on the night of June 7 when Aderholt and a crew of drunken police raided the strikers' tent colony in Gastonia. Saylor was nabbed when he appeared for trial on a perjury charge, brought against him because he swore that former Congressman Bulwinkle and County Prosecutor Carpenter were in the mob that kidnapped him and two other textile organizers in September.

Allen has disappeared. The flimsy murder frameup is expected to collapse.

# Bishop Demands Catholic Unions in Canada

By John Robur

OTTAWA—(FP)—Archbishop Forbes of Ottawa has issued a pastoral letter calling upon Catholics in the Ottawa diocese to form national Catholic unions. These unions already exist in the province of Quebec but have very little strength elsewhere. In the same pastoral the Archbishop directs Catholic farmers to form cooperative organizations along religious lines.

Canada, it is officially stated by the Department of Labor, is the only British country where there are trade unions de-

signed exclusively for adherents to the Roman Catholic Church. In England there are Catholic trade unions but they work within the larger non-sectarian trade unions.

The membership of the national Catholic unions in Canada is not now as great as it was some years ago. In 1919, the earliest date for which information is available, their membership was reported at 31,000. It reached its peak at 45,000 in 1921. In 1928 the membership reported by the Federation of Catholic Workers of Canada was 26,000.

# Company Union Established in Elizabethton

ELIZABETHTON, Tenn.—(FP)—Company unionism is being fastened on the rayon workers of the Glantzstoff-Bemberg plants in this district through a "plant council plan". Details have been elaborated. Last summer workers, in two strikes defeated the Loyal Workers company union, and the big German firm promised to scrap the organization.

In the agreement ending the second strike however was a clause for the formation of workers' grievance committees in the various departments. These committees are the framework for the new company union scheme. The rayon plan has been widely used, the company said, by Bethlehem Steel, International Harvester, Standard Oil and other companies known for their anti-union stand.

The new substitute for unionism, the company candidly admits, was concocted in its own offices. It provides for a joint council in which employes and management have equal voice and vote in considering wages, hours and other matters. If deadlocked, they may by mutual consent submit the controversy to arbitration.

Cloaked with the appearance of fairness, such boards in other companies have effectively stemmed demands for better wages and shorter hours. The company usually manages to get foremen or lick-spittles elected as workers' representatives, while pressure, more or less subtle, is used to control the actions of the council.

Intl. Harvester uses its company union to put over wage cuts, break strikes and

introduce speedup. Standard Oil swamps the "employe representatives" under a mass of statistics to prove that wage increases cannot be granted. At Bethlehem the wage question is bandied about between committees and usually is smothered under the same weight of statistics as at Standard. Unionless, workers lack the punch that puts over higher wages.

# Chicago Opposition Active

CHICAGO—During the past two weeks, December 29 to January 12 comrades Swabeck and Glotzer addressed three meetings at largely attended forums.

On December 29, comrade Swabeck spoke at the I. W. W. Forum, 1618 W. Madison street on "Wall Street's Dominance over the American workers." Over two hundred workers present enthusiastically engaged in the discussion. Twenty-five copies of the Militant were sold.

Comrade Swabeck also addressed the Liberal Science Forum (formerly the Plebeian Forum) 1118 W. Madison St. on "The Platform of the Russian Opposition". This meeting was likewise well attended, over 150 present, participating in the discussion.

On Thursday, January 9th comrade Glotzer took part in a debate that involved the Socialist Club of the University of Chicago. The subject was "Can War be Abolished Under Capitalism". The affirmative, upheld by the Socialist Youth, presented the usual position of the Pacifists, as against the Leninist position of our comrade. The discussion by those present showed a decided opposition to the affirmative.

Other meetings are being scheduled for comrades Swabeck and Glotzer at these Forums, which should attract hundreds of class conscious workers.

# FEAR SOVIET INVASION IN ARIZONA

PHOENIX, Ariz.—(FP)—Capt. James M. Palmer, military training officer of the Phoenix Union High School has made a startling discovery—that the neighboring city of Los Angeles is in the throes of the "reds" and that Arizona and the rest of the union are in grave danger due to the spread of Communism—so he, together with Supt. Everett C. Driggs of the Los Angeles district of Pinkerton's national detective agency, threw a "red" scare into the recent state convention of the Arizona State Peace Officers Assn. which forthwith sends a resolution to Congress demanding that the Soviet invasion be stopped.

# Philadelphia:

## A CORRECTION

Max Shachtman, member of the National Committee of the Communist League, will speak before the Liberal League Forum at 9th and Girard, Philadelphia on Sunday, January 26, 1930, at 8 P.M. Due to a misunderstanding, it was previously announced that the meeting would take place on January 19th. All workers are urged to attend and bring their friends. The speaker will discuss *The Crisis in the Communist Movement*. Questions and discussion will follow.

# MEMORIAL MEETING

on

Saturday, January 25, 1930

at the

Militant Hall

25 Third Ave. (Near 8th St.)

WELL KNOWN SPEAKERS

Admission Free

Auspices: New York Branch, Communist League of America

# COME

and bring your friends to the

ENTERTAINMENT AND DANCE

at the

Militant Hall

25 Third Avenue (Near 8th St.)

on

Saturday, January 18, 1930

Admission Free

Auspices: Communist League of America, (Opposition) New York Branch

# LENIN LIEBKNECHT LUXEMBURG

# Subscribe! \$2.00 a Year