

# Throughout the World of Labor

## The New Udrzal Government in Czecho-Slovakia

After six weeks of laborious combinations, the new government has now been formed. The government chief, Udrzal, is an Agrarian, his party (the strongest) has four ministers in the new cabinet. The other ministries are divided among the following parties: Czech Social Democrats, 3; Czech National-Socialists, 3; 1 ministry each to the following parties: Czech National Democracy, German Agrarians, Czech Industrial, Czech Clericals, German Social Democrats. The ministry of finance is allotted to a "non-Partisan".

Thus, eight parties participated in the new government. They unite more than 5 million votes; the parties outside of the government (Czech and German Fascists, German Nationalists, Hlinka, German and Hungarian Christian Socialists, Communists) have about 2,300,000 votes.

The new international-bourgeois-socialist coalition therefore has a strong majority. It also calls itself the Concentration Cabinet. The former national-bourgeois-socialist coalition showed themselves to be too narrow. The birth of the new government was a hard one. The old basis of democracy no longer suffices and the social democracy, in the role of a liberal party has to save bourgeois democracy. This is a sign of weakness in the politics of the

in food products, and on the other by the intensified physical exploitation of the worker as a result of new industrial methods (rationalization). A workman is compelled to demand an increase in his nominal wages in order to defend his standard of living of yesterday. These strikes can have an "offensive" character only from the standpoint of capitalist bookkeeping. From the standpoint of trade union policies they have a purely defensive character. It is precisely this side of the question that every serious trade unionist should have clearly understood and brought to the forefront by every means. But Monmousseau and company believe they have a right to be good-for-nothing trade unionists because they are, if you please, "revolutionary leaders". Shouting till they are hoarse about the offensive, political and revolutionary character of purely defensive strikes, they do not of course, change the nature of these strikes and do not increase their significance by a single inch. But on the other hand, they do their best to arm the bosses and the government against the workers.

It does not improve matters when our "leaders" point out that the strikes become "political" on account of . . . the active role of the police. An astounding argument! The beating up of strikers by policemen is designated . . . a revolutionary advance of the workers. The history of France knows quite a few massacres of workers in purely economic strikes. In the United States, a bloody settlement with strikers is the rule. Does this mean that the workers in the United States are leading the most revolutionary struggle? The shooting of strikers has in itself, of course, a political significance. But only a loud-mouth could identify it with the revolutionary political advance of the working masses—thus unconsciously playing the hand of the bosses and their police.

When the British General Council of Trade Unions represented the revolutionary strike of 1926 as a peaceful demonstration, it knew what it was doing: that was a deliberately planned betrayal. But when Monmousseau and company represent scattered economic strikes as a revolutionary attack on the bourgeois state, nobody will think of accusing them of a deliberate betrayal: it is doubtful of these people can act with deliberation. But it is certainly no help to the workers.

In the next article we will see how these terribly revolutionary heroes render some other services to the bosses, ignoring the rise of commerce and industry, underestimating its significance, that is, underestimating the profits of the capitalists—and by the same token undermining the foundation of the economic struggles of the workers.

All this is done, of course, to the glory of the "third period".

Prague, December 18, 1929

bourgeoisie. It is compelled to confide to the social democracy the safeguarding of its profit interests. The social democracy assumes the task of appeasing the masses aroused by the crises. Without the reformists it would hardly be possible to form a parliamentary government. At the same time, however, it shows the strength of the bourgeoisie and the weakness of the proletarian party (the Communist) when the bourgeois parties could permit themselves to carry on coalition skirmishes for six weeks without the combinatory idyl being destroyed by the proletariat.

What is the background of the new government formation and where are its perspectives?

The Czecho-Slovak bourgeoisie has an industrial crisis to overcome. Politically, this was expressed among other things, by its loss of the confidence of substantial masses and that it now required the reformists in order to establish the political equilibrium. But it utilizes the reformists without qualms for it has nothing to fear from them. On the contrary, they will assist it in surmounting the industrial crisis.

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The economic situation is far from cheerful. The expansion of American capital in Europe, the concentration and rationalization measures in North America (for the overcoming of the crisis there) evokes crises in Europe. Germany and the other European states, supplanted by American capital, are sharpening the competition in Europe. Characteristic is the passive balance of trade of Czecho-Slovakia with Germany in September, the smallest total of foreign trade as a whole in comparison with the previous year. The largest figures of Czecho-Slovakia are shown by its foreign trade with Germany, Austria, Poland, England, Hungary, Rumania and Jugo-Slavia. In most of these countries the expansion of the Czech republic seems to be checked. In comparison with the previous year, the export of textiles fell 6 percent, leather goods, 4 percent, fruits and vegetables 27 percent. Other manifestations of a crisis are also plainly observable. There is a weakening of demand for money and a decline in industrial activity to record. The curve of industrial stocks is on the downgrade. The wholesale trade indices are included in the decline. Besides the sinking of the living standard index, a falling consuming power of the agricultural population is to be noted. In the metal industry, there are numerous discharges of workers; in building, there is a strong decline, although there was very favorable weather for it in the Autumn. There is a weakening of production in the chemical, wood, and leather industries. A falling off in orders in the glass industry from the U. S. A. is to be recorded.

The principal consequences are: increase in unemployment, insolvencies, revenue friction.

It is clear that there is no final solution for these problems of the Czech republic on a national scale. The manifestations of a crisis can temporarily be ameliorated at the expense of the working class and the petty bourgeois sections, but the development of the productive forces of the republic, just like in the other countries, is hopelessly checked by the many national boundaries of Europe. The figures for exports to Germany, England, Poland, Hungary, Rumania, Jugo-Slavia give a clear picture of that. The bourgeoisie makes convulsive efforts to insure its profits: Trustification of the textile industry, rationalization, tax pressure on the urban and rural masses, all this is to make possible competition on the European markets. But it is precisely the profit economy that narrows the market possibilities internally and externally, crises arise which counterpose the hungry unemployed and the pinched masses to finance capital.

National boundaries are an expression of the interests of the profit economy of the financial groups of the country concerned, and the abolition of the limits and boundaries is equivalent to the suppression of the capitalists, that is, the proletarian revolution.

Only the United Soviet States of Europe can eliminate the chaos and misery in Europe.

The bourgeoisie exerts its political

domination over the decisive proletarian class in the Czech republic, which can carry out this revolution, through the reformists. The domination of the bourgeoisie in modern Europe is possible only through the isolation of the Communists from the oppressed sections and from the proletariat. If a genuine Left turn in the leadership of the Communist Parties does not take place within a short time and a Marxist direction established in the whole Comintern, then Europe is condemned to a further vegetation. The counter-revolution will continue its march in Europe and raise its head in Soviet Russia.

The student riots in the Prague universities, which took place under the leadership of the fascists, show the perspective. The reformists, who have four ministers in the government, will have to take a position on questions like unemployment, reparations (which signify a new tax burden on the people), crisis in agriculture, tenant protection, etc. They will of course not solve them in the interests of the working population.

It was only in the second session of parliament on December 13 that the new government came to a reading of its programmatic declaration. The fact that this was introduced only at the second session, and its general lack of concreteness, shows how difficult it is for the government to speak of its future, practical measures for surmounting the crisis.

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Yet, a capitalist government shows its face even in its general declarations.

The government promises to overcome the industrial worries by a collaboration of the parties in the interest of the state. That is, of the capitalist state, whose interests are antagonistic to those of the toiling population. The government promises to defend the national economic interests of the capitalist state as a whole and its position on the international front, which means in other words, to sharpen capitalist rationalization in order to appear capable of competition on the markets and to conduct the eventual war conflicts that arise out of the nature of these affairs with sword in hand. In this connection, the declaration assures that the government will devote thorough attention to the security of the defense of the state. In the question of reparations, the government promises to yield as much as possible.

This then is the program of this new government of finance capital. It is noteworthy that the chairman of the house of deputies has been entrusted to the Agrarians, that of the senate to the social democrats. In the first and second sessions, the newly-elected Communist deputies carried through a technical obstruction. The government proceeded to its first "action": All the Communist deputies present were excluded for 10 sessions and a month's wages withdrawn from each of them. It is too bad that the party leadership of the C. P. C-S. takes no steps to expose the meaning of the democratic acts of violence of the new government in mass meetings. This fact may be traced to the isolation and theoretical untenability of the present Centrist leadership.

The Communist Party has the task of drawing the dissatisfaction of the masses into a revolutionary path through a correct mass policy. But the leadership of the C. P. C-S. has no clear perspective.

In its central organ, *Rude Pravo* (12-13-1929) an appeal to all the trade union, political, sport and cultural organizations of the proletariat, to the whole conscious working class of the republic, is issued in which we read the following:

"The five-year industrial plan is an achievement that humanity has never before seen. Through this plan, the Russian proletariat wants to reach and surpass the highest industrially developed states of the world (?) abolish the last remnants (?) of capitalism, and erect (?) the socialist society."

Thus, through the five year plan the Russian proletariat is to surpass the most highly developed capitalist world. This five year plan is to abolish the last remnants of capitalism and erect the socialist society.

What hinders this idyllic construction of socialism? Perhaps the economic isolation, the international division of labor

which requires the extension of the proletarian revolution in Europe, the United Soviet States of Europe? Not a trace! The appeal says:

"But the capitalists outside and inside Soviet Russia are striving with all means to make impossible the carrying out of this plan. They provoke the Russian proletariat and its government and want to pull them into war conflicts."

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The idea consequently prevails in the appeal that if the bourgeoisie does not force a war, the five year plan will build up socialism in Russia, that is, in one country.

Is this perhaps ignorance or shameful stupidity? No, it more than that, it is reformism, it is the theory of socialism in one country.

This appeal was signed by 16 organizations under Communist influence and the Party Central Committee itself.

It is difficult to expect a Marxist position from such a leadership in all questions of the mass struggle (courageous leadership, preparation for surprising turns, correct trade union, peasant, national policy, questions of democracy, fascism, etc.)

The petty bourgeoisie, (middle peasants, officials) is showing a proletarianization in the Czech, German, and especially in the Slovakian sections. The proletarian and semi-proletarian class is growing. The enslavement of the exploited takes place through all the parties. The dissatisfied masses swing between democracy and fascism, which contain all the species of clericalism (Catholicism, reformed church, anti-semitism), Nationalism (Masarykism), humanism, pacifism, reformism, defense of the fatherland, irredentism, etc.

Communism is confronted with the task of finally finding a way out. Otherwise, Europe remains the home of convulsive crises, barbaric misery and war.

—H. LENOROVICS

Prague, December, 1929.

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## Fascism Still Alive in United States

NEW YORK — (FP) — That Mussolini was only kidding the U. S. when his black shirt ruffians recently announced the dissolution of their Fascist League of America is now definitely proved by activities and utterances from official Fascist sources in this city.

"American Fascism is more alive than ever," screeches *Il Grido della Stirpe*, (The Yell of the Race) Italian language newspaper published in New York as the official organ of Fascism in America. It tacks this statement onto the same headline in which it announced that the Fascist League is no more.

Dissolution of the official black shirt band only means that in the future "Fascism will be stronger, better armed, more effective, and if necessary more violent in all parts of America," *Il Grido* goes on to explain. Finally, it says, Fascism in America "will be ready to defend itself an attack others with words, the press, and fists".

Anti-Fascist leaders point to the ceaseless activity of scores of Italian consulates throughout the country as centers for spying, intimidation, and Fascist propaganda. Italian consuls, among other things are taking a systematic census of Italian Americans, especially wage workers. Pressure is brought to bare on these people-American citizens as well as Italian subjects—to reveal their trade, their place of employment, the number of persons in their families and other information.

Finally, there is the Italian Historian Society, a cover organization for the same bunch of terrorists which ran the deccase Fascist League. Its secretary is Harold Lord Varney, renegade I. W. W. who sold out to the bosses and renounced the labor and all its works 15 years ago. Since then he has been busy shocking timid gathering-time stories about the horrible reds—at a much per shock.