

Low Wages for Unorganized Miners in W. Va.

COOPERSBURG, Pa.—So far as the mining situation in West Virginia is concerned, there is little to be said but that the United Mine Workers is smashed. The new union, however, has never got its roots into W. Va. soil.

Wages are being slashed with a knife that cuts two ways. First, they cut wages with reductions, and then they cut wages by refusing to pay for dead work. Not only that, but the men have to take the place of mules. Coal is mined in Moundsville at 51 cents per ton. The stone that comes down with the blasting of coal is not paid for. Other impurities have to be thrown out without compensation. All track timbering and the like have to be done for nothing. The cars are delivered to the mouth of the place and from there the miner has to push the car to the face, whereas under union conditions, cars were delivered and taken from place of work.

Men have to walk in a crouching position for 45 minutes or more. Under union conditions, the miners had a man trip to take them to and from work.

A good two weeks' work will average a man \$3.00 a day. Out of this comes smithing, lamp, doctor, and powder. The miner is lucky if he makes \$2.00 net.

In Moundsville, they have a system of turning over one's earnings to the company store. After the store deducts whatever bills the workers runs up he gets the rest of the pay, if there is anything "coming" to him.

An acquaintance would always be "in the hole" when pay would come around. One pay he owed \$3.64, another pay, \$2.37, two weeks later, \$.99 and he thought he was lucky to owe only 99 cents.

The morale of the miners is at its lowest ebb. They have little respect for the old U. M. W. A., due to its control by the bureaucrats. Of course, one argues that militant organization of the miners into a solid body that would strike terror into the operators is the solution, but they tell you that that's only talk. They will have to be shown. That's how sceptical the miners are now. There is a big job ahead for the Left wing.

—AUGUST VALENTINE

ANTHRACITE TAKES HEAVY TOLL IN ACCIDENTS

WILKES BARRE, Pa.—(FP)—One day's toll in one section of the anthracite is revealed by these mine casualties:

Thomas Walsh, 44, Hughestown, died in an ambulance from injuries sustained when he was caught in a rock fall from the roof of his working place in the Pittston Coal Co.'s mine.

Frank Shumak, 23, Plymouth, was critically injured following a gas explosion in the Dorrance mine of the Lehigh Valley Coal Co. He is in the Wilkes Barre general hospital suffering from burns on the face, neck, chest and arms. A fellow-worker was seriously injured in the same blast.

Peter Kocor, 47, Alden, was burned about the face, neck, and hands when caught in a gas explosion in the Alden Coal Co.'s mine.

Henry Dustrecrem, 47, Wilkes-Barre, suffered serious injuries to his hand while at work in the Glen Alden Coal Co. Mine 7.

MOUNDSVILLE, W. Va.—Wage cuts have brought out 300 miners of the Franklin and Alexander mines, controlled by the Paisley interests of Cleveland. Wages were cut from 51 cents to 45 cents an hour for shovel loaders and 44 cents to 40 cents for machine loaders.

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The Strike of the Toronto Cloakmakers

TORONTO, Canada.—The long-awaited cloakmakers' strike began last week. The wonderful turnout and the fighting spirit of the strikers can hardly be attributed to the organizational efforts of the local I. L. G. W. U. job holders.

The industry has degenerated to such a point that the majority of the workers find it increasingly impossible to make a living. Long hours, speed-up, low wages, unsanitary conditions and short seasons have become the order of the day. In desperation to save their economic existence, the workers are again willing to follow the same leadership that betrayed them so shamelessly in 1924. Even the so-called union-proof elements responded to the call of the general strike, showing how rampant and widespread is the dissatisfaction of the masses.

Right Wing Leaders Sabotage

But in spite of the wonderful response and solidarity of the workers the leaders of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union refuse to fight. The slogans under which they called the strike, firstly, the 44-hour week but not the abolition of piece work is meaningless. Also the slogan of \$1.00 an hour as a fair union wage without specifying the big shops or the small. In the big shops, with the longer season and cheaper work, \$1.00 per hour represents an increase. In the small shops however, with the considerably shorter season and better line of work, \$1.00 per hour might mean an actual reduction.

In speaking to the workers and in the press reports, the bureaucrats apologize for having called the strike. "The whole fault lies with the bosses who don't want to be fair". But, they go on to assure the workers, "the strike will be over in a few days, since we can't bear to see your families suffer".

Is the strike a fake, as the Stalinists claim? It is not difficult to see that the International does not want to fight and will not fight. They promise the bosses to close the doors to any possible organization of the industry by the Left wing in exchange for Right wing recognition in the shops. That they won't make any real demands, except possibly a few scraps to shut the mouths of the workers and make it look like a real "contract", is true. But the Left wing union is unable to play any decisive role in the strike because of its negative membership and isolation. As a

matter of fact, nobody knows that they are playing any role at all. The leaflets distributed by the N. T. W. I. U. previous to the strike denouncing it as a "fake stoppage" and expounding the Right wing, only had a tendency on the whole to make the workers apathetic. Certainly, it brought no new members into the Left wing union. It never occurred to the Left wing leaders to enter into the struggle and by the course of it win the workers away from the Right wing.

—M. QUARTER

Pittsburg Cab Drivers on Strike

PITTSBURG, Pa.—In this city, which is considered one of the most industrial cities in the United States, the working conditions are no better than in other cities. The workers are harassed by an unbearable hunger, despair and starvation.

It is 18 days since the taxi drivers went out on strike. The Yellow, Green and Checker companies are using every means at their disposal to break it. Strike-breakers, company thugs, ministers, judges, police and society women—all of them are in their service. Mr. Walter S. Laird, the president of the Yellow company, utilized all the usual means in order to paralyze the courage of the strikers. He brought the professional strikebreaker from Chicago Charles Burger, who is also an organizer for the A. F. of L. He was one who in the strike of the milk drivers last summer used all his tricks to surrender them to the mercy of the Liberty Company.

Now, again, as representative of the A. F. of L., in a speech delivered to a meeting of the strikers, although he was violently hissed by the audience, he dared to tell them that he would take their union charter away if they do not want to compromise with the companies. That is how he tried to terrorize the strikers and show the bosses that he is faithfully performing his duties as a betrayer of the working class. But the strikers to a man and with splendid courage, not only confront these disgraceful and base tricks of Mr. Walter Laird, but also jails and beatings by the police, injunctions and whatever other means the miserable capitalist system is able to put at the disposal of the companies. The strikers are determined to continue the struggle until they win their demands.

—JAMES SIFAKIS

Minneapolis Stalinists Disrupt the Ladies Auxiliary

Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Comrades:

It is necessary to acquaint the left wing with the recent events in the Minneapolis Ladies Auxiliary of the Independent Workmen's Circle which the Stalinists have "captured". The Auxiliary consists of various classes of women, mostly of left wing opinions—and has always done constructive work in the labor movement generally. With this program the organization has very seldom been a scene of factional squabbles.

Now however, like a dream, all this has vanished. The Stalinist plague has descended upon us and, as in other workers' organizations, our Auxiliary has not escaped. Here is a sample of their work:

First they began to poison the minds of the members against the class conscious women who would not permit themselves to be misled. Stalin's famous bugle call, "counter-revolutionary" and "renegade" began to be circulated first secretly, then openly in our meetings.

They come with finished decisions made in closed rooms. There is no discussion permitted. Even the chairman is made to order. The Ladies Auxiliary has never yet suffered such dictatorship and such brazen arrogance. The more class conscious women gradually began to react with feelings of injustice, and finally we began to take action on these questions. The healthy criticism of honest working women in regard to the Stalinist tactics began to be heard more and more. But in spite of this the activity of the Auxiliary began to weaken. The old spirit died.

In election periods the Stalinists began to show their wonderful tactics in labor organizations. You see, it was necessary to save the Stalinist officers. There was no lack of automobils to bring dead timber to the meeting for this purpose.

And the Stalinists were victorious.

What a victory! Loyal proletarian women, some of them founders of the organization were craftily eliminated, while petit-bourgeois women were boosted into office. Whose hands are these raised against class conscious workers? No understanding is necessary. The really vital questions in the life of our movement are thrust aside. After all, why discuss them, they may be "counter-revolutionary." Ideology? What is that—a women's disease, perhaps? A hand for Stalin, and all your past sins against the working class are forgiven. The capitalist class has long ago realized that workers hands and not their minds should be used. The Party leadership is dragging our organization downhill to destruction.

Working women! Don't permit your thoughts to be trampled upon. Historical facts bring us closer to the reality of the new life in the class struggle. Down with the bureaucrats! Down with the disrupters and splitters of the working class! Carry forward the ideas of Lenin. Stand by the working class. Tomorrow it will be with us.

CLARA KAUFMAN

MINNEAPOLIS WORKERS SCHOOL

The Workers School of Minneapolis wishes to announce the completion of the first half of its courses as planned last Fall. An "examination" in the elements of Communism demonstrated a definite improvement in ideology and a grasp of practical problems of the movement from a Marxian viewpoint. Continued progress will warrant the extension of these courses and possibly the establishment of new ones on an even broader scale. The classes are held every Tuesday evening, 8 p. m., at 401 Washington Ave. South. There is no charge and all workers are urged to enroll for the second half of the season.

The Socialist Party and the Radicalization of the Masses

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In reality there is nothing strange or inexplicable in the present developments. Reformism is a blind alley which diverts the workers from a class advancement and even from any real struggle for their immediate needs. But how are the American workers, not yet through the primer school of class education to know that? The majority of the workers of Germany, trained for generations in the class struggle, many of whom have seen revolutionary battles, do not know it yet. If they will learn from day to day, on the basis of their own experience, as Lenin said, how will the American workers learn it overnight?

American Labor and Reformism

It must be remembered that the American workers have never seen Social Democratic betrayal on a big scale for the simple reason that these agents of capitalism have not yet had such an opportunity. The American Socialists have never held any power except in such isolated and relatively unimportant sectors as the needle trades. The American worker, bound all his life to capitalist ideology, is apt to consider a vote for the Socialist Party a radical step forward. He is not fated to stop there. He is not a "fascist" when he takes that step, but a deceived worker who wants to improve the position of his class. Such a worker is, and should be regarded as a potential Communist.

The Communist struggle for the support of the masses in American has many different aspects from than the same struggle in the capitalistically developed countries in Europe. There, the great majority of the workers are already politically organized in the Socialist and Communist camps and the recruiting of workers to the banner of Communism requires the breaking down of long-established traditions and habits and organization bonds. The struggle here, in the main, is to win workers away from direct allegiance to the capitalist parties. In this the Socialist and Communist Parties are and will be rivals. Despite the primary stage of the class struggle in American and the consequent lack of class consciousness of the workers, the prospects of the revolutionary party, even for the proximate future, are good. There is plenty of ground for the assumption that developments in America, on the basis of its inextricable involvement in world economy once fairly started will be swift. In such a setting Communism, given a correct policy can bound forward and become the banner of the workers' struggles as well as of their aspirations for freedom from the capitalist yoke.

This presupposes a correct approach to the workers—the politically unorganized as well as the victims of reformist deception. The Communist International in the fundamental documents of its first four Congresses, has given a clear guide in this task. It is necessary to restore our movement to this basis and cast overboard all revisions and "improvements" which have been smuggled into the International since Lenin's death. Among other things this means to revive the united front tactics and apply them in place of the counterfeited dogma of "social fascism". It means to strengthen and support the Opposition which fights for Communist fundamentals on an International scale.

The sooner and the more aggressively the Communist workers turn to these basic tasks, the sooner will the present advance of reformism be transformed into a temporary incident and the better will the awakening workers be prepared for future victories.

QUAKER CITY KNITTERS REVOLT ON WAGE CUTS

PHILADELPHIA—Revolt is spreading through the Quaker City's scab hosiery mills on the heels of wage cuts. Three hundred workers, nearly the entire force of the Rodgers mill, have walked out to join the ranks of the 1,400 Aberle strikers. Discharge of union workers caused the Rodgers strike.

Discontent is running high in other non-union mills and further strikes are expected. Smaller plants have caught the contagion and knitters in scab shops out of town are also ready to "pull the rods".

The Rodgers plant not only paid under the scale but worked shifts of 10 and 12 hours. The strikers want the straight union scale and two shifts of eight hours