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Unite in Struggle for the Jobless!

THE PARTY "ANSWERS" ON BLUMKIN

But It Fails to Make a Straightforward Reply to the Questions We Have Raised

The Daily Worker has finally been compelled to "answer" our pointed questions on the assassination of comrade Blumkin. But how contemptibly, how like miserable philistines who bask in the shadow of the distant power that pays so well for literary funkeys, how like the irresponsible bureaucrats who disdain to give an accounting of themselves and their actions.

We asked Foster, Browder, Bedacht, Minor and Co.: Has Blumkin been assassinated and why was this hideous deed committed. They have not answered.

We asked these loyal servitors of the Stalin domain: Do you take upon yourselves joint responsibility with your employer for this unheard of crime? They have not had the courage to do this either.

On the contrary, in the official editorial published in the Daily Worker on February 15, 1930, the whole issue is cravenly avoided. If Blumkin has not been murdered, a simple official denial would suffice and our retraction would follow. If Blumkin has been shot secretly by the G. P. U. on the personal orders of Stalin, then he "must have been" a dangerous enemy of the revolution. In that case, his death should not only be confirmed by the party press, but the action

should be openly defended and the reasons for it made clear to the class conscious workers.

But the handmaidens of the Stalinist bureaucracy dare not take either course: They cannot make a denial because they know Blumkin has been killed. They dare not defend it publicly and boldly, because every honest worker will recoil from them in horror.

We continue to demand of them to explain, not by gratuitous slander and cowardly subterfuge, but in simple straightforward language:

In 1918, when the revolution was surrounded by the wolves of imperialism and torn by bourgeois reaction at home, comrade Blumkin was one of the leaders of the armed anti-Soviet insurrection organized by the Left Social Revolutionaries. He was arrested, tried, and released. He joined the Bolshevik party, became one of the most devoted militants, was a hero in the civil war, and carried on work of the most responsible and rigorous nature for the party and the government up until the time of his death. He was a supporter of the Opposition from the first and never con-

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Naval Conference at a Standstill

The fall of the Tardieu government in France, which will delay the "progress" of the London naval conference for at least a week will only result in the postponement of what has now become as plain as day: Despite all the protestations of the imperialist statesmen, the London Farce has not and will not accomplish anything at all in the direction of "insuring peace" by the deceptive route of so-called naval reductions or agreements. The only favorable point on the balance sheet of the conference is the further discrediting of all pacifist nonsense and the naive belief that capitalism can disarm or take any other step towards peace.

N. Y. Times Is Cynical

The hypocritical character of the whole affair has become so obvious that not even capitalist observers are doing much drum-beating for it. The well-informed correspondent of the New York Times, Edwin L. James, cables his paper from the conference (2-16-30): "Its (the conference's) highest hopes were three: First, reduction second, abolition of submarines and third, elimination of battleships. They all have been disposed of. As the conference approaches its second month, it has been settled that battleships are not going to be done away with. It is settled that submarines will still submerge when the meeting is over, and reduction has got so far into the limbo that the statesmen have now realized that the chief results of the London conference will be some of the finest naval construction programs the world has yet seen."

The cynical comment of a capitalist reporter is indicative of how much stock the imperialist spokesmen themselves put in all

their pious assurances and claims. This refers as much to Tardieu as to Mussolini, and as much to Ramsay MacDonald as to Herbert Hoover. The conference performance of the alleged "labor" premier of England, the prince of pacifism, the darling of the liberal Nation and the less liberal New Leader, is far more disgraceful than that of any of his co-confererees. The others at least make no particular pretence to speak in the name of labor and a new social order. They know what they want, and they go after it without more than a fromal sprinkling of piety. But MacDonald, who is a "spokesman" for labor and a new day, is working with no less zeal for the maintenance of the glorious old Empire, for the retention of its present and future markets, for its domination and violent suppression of hundreds of millions of colonial slaves, than his predecessors of the Tory and Liberal stripe. This austere statesman of "the new order" is anxious to show king and country that the labor party can protect the blood-sated empire as energetically as Baldwin or Lloyd George.

Thomas Apologizes for MacDonald

His American colleague, Norman Thomas, writes apologetically in the New Leader (2-15-30) that "in the handling of this naval conference Ramsay MacDonald can say with truth that he is doing the best he can as the head of a minority government and in face of the traditional British love of the navy." If Mr. Thomas means that MacDonald is doing the best he can to safeguard the piratical interests of British imperialism, he is absolutely right; in fact, he is understating the case. MacDonald and his party are the best props that the declining empire possesses.

Unite Forces on March 6th Demonstrations!

The army of American unemployed workers has risen until it runs into millions of men marching the street in a vain search for a job. The most acute suffering has been felt by the workers in every part of the country. Hundreds of thousands who, during the years of "prosperity", had been lulled into a false feeling of security, are now experiencing the bitterest difficulties. Even among the better-paid workers, the savings put away are being rapidly consumed, the homes purchased with mortgages are being put on the block. The prospect for any immediate improvement in industry that would absorb any substantial amount of the unemployed is extremely dim.

U. S. Capitalism Offers No Relief

The millions of unemployed are monumental testimony to the anarchy of the capitalist system. In the United States, where the greatest riches of the world are contained, where industry and agriculture have been developed to a high point, where efficiency schemes have become the rule—the most elementary requirements of human existence cannot be satisfied by capitalism. In the United States, where the records show the greatest number of multi-millionaires, where the payments of dividends and other profits mount into fabulous sums—there is "not enough" to keep five or more million workers and their families at the lowest subsistence levels.

The workers have worked too hard. They have strained their muscles and brain to the last degree. They have produced more than can be absorbed. Then they are thrown out on the streets. The workers starve because there is too much food. They freeze because too much clothing has been produced. They have no work because they have worked too hard.

The capitalist class fears the unemployed mass. It knows that the worker thrown out of a job begins to think, and that ideas become powerful when they penetrate millions. The bosses therefore try to prevent the workers from thinking and acting by dishing out a cup of coffee, and a crummy doughnut, and an occasional flop to the unemployed most severely hit. All the contemptible societies of charity work overtime to give the unemployed five cents worth of grubby "food" to keep them from five minutes of thought.

The workers want no charity, which degrades and shames them and puts them at the mercy of upper-class sob-sisters and sky pilots. The workers want work or maintenance by the state and industry which have used them as long as they were profitable and then thrown them on the heap. The workers have a right to the job, and to the machines and industries and products for which they alone are responsible. But what the unemployed need immediately to relieve their intensely difficult conditions, is work, work at union wages, work without the speed-up system, work without overtime. If the capitalist system cannot provide work, then it must be made to provide maintenance for the unemployed and their families.

To obtain this, the unemployed must fight. The working class never won anything by begging, crawling on its knees, or waiting passively. That holds true today more than ever. United action by the millions of workless, combined with the support of the workers who have jobs, will compel the capitalist class and its government to act. The latter cannot abolish unemployment, which is a natural outcome of the system but it can be made to relieve

some of the suffering if the workers will act militantly and in unison.

Councils of Unemployed

Every city must form its unemployment council, consisting of representatives of the jobless and of every possible labor organization, unions, etc., that is ready to fight in the common battle. A well laid organizational foundation for the movement will insure its strength. The workers must demonstrate their power and make their demands in masses in every city. Isolated disconnected demonstrations, or those organized on ten minutes notice without preparations, or those organized on a narrow basis which makes it impossible to reach the masses, are worse than worthless because they dissipate energy and discredit the movement.

The Communist International has set the date of March 6th for an international day for demonstrations against unemployment. There is much to criticize in the manner in which these demonstrations are being planned and organized by the Stalinists. The date has been set arbitrarily, at brief notice, without preliminary preparations that would insure its effectiveness. It has not taken into consideration the differing pace of development in the various countries. It has not taken into consideration the varying character of the labor movement in the different countries. The American unemployed worker is in a different economic position than the unemployed worker in England or Germany. In the United States, the development of the

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Illinois Jobs Declined

CHICAGO—Though Pres. Hoover and the other loudspeakers have been shouting prosperity and industrial recovery the past two months, Illinois statistics are just as dead against these false federal claims as are those of New York state. The official Labor Bulletin says:

"The decrease in industrial activity which has been apparent throughout all sections of the state since last September was rendered still more pronounced by a 2.6% decline in employment in December. The manufacturing industries during the last three months have reduced their forces 6.1%, thereby losing all the advances made earlier in the year and bringing the index of employment down to 99.3, or about the same as the figure for December, 1928.

"The payroll totals for factory work declined 4.9% from November to December and for the first time during the year the payroll index went below that for the corresponding month of 1928."

The state department of labor reports the average wage for male factory workers as \$30.66 a week and for females \$17.30 a week. Not counting Chicago, the average was \$27.10 a week for males and \$13.23 a week for females.

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BUILDING TRADES HIT IN D. C.

WASHINGTON—Harry Wardma, biggest building trades employer in the District of Columbia, announces that he is now paying only \$3,000 a week on construction payroll, as compared with \$20,000 a week one year ago. He says he will build no more apartments for a year, and that other contractors are in like situation. Local building trades union officers agree that unemployment has been severe for the past four months.