

# THE MILITANT

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## The Murder of Blumkinis An Act Against the Russian Revolution

The cold-blooded and cynically calculated murder of the Bolshevik, Blumkin, by Stalin for his adherence to the ideals of the Left Opposition is bringing in its wake swift revulsion against these latest methods of the Stalinist bureaucracy toward the Leninist Bolsheviks in the U. S. S. R. The worker-Communists and the proletarian forces throughout the world are putting the question: Why the imprisonment, exile and now shooting of the Left Oppositionists? What is behind it all? Stalin and his bureaucrats, in firm unity for years with the Bucharin-Rykov Right wing, carried out a program that was swiftly giving renewed life and strength to the Nepmen and Kulaks in the Soviet Union. They were thereby earning the gratitude of the bourgeoisie throughout the world. The expulsions and persecutions in the most vicious forms of the Opposition led by I. D. Trotsky went on simultaneously. But the Opposition, firmly rooted in the working masses of the Communist Party and the country continued to stand by their platform; for an industrialization

tion has been proved correct on every major issue before the C. P. S. U. and the Communist International. What cynicism, what brutality and coarseness, what disregard of the interests of the proletariat of the Russian October, mark this Stalin and his conscienceless chinovniks, the Molotovs, Thaelmanns, Fosters, Minors, Cachits! With one hand they wave the red flag of the revolutionary proletariat and with the other they persecute and even shoot the best fighters of October and the international revolution. The proletariat, the Communist workers demand an answer!

**Stalinists Politically and Morally Bankrupt**

The acts of Stalin against the Opposition, now culminating in the murder of the noble fighter for the Revolution, Blumkin, are acts against the fundamental interests of the Revolution. Stalin performs the work of an anti-Bolshevik when he decimates the ranks of the Communist movement. In far-off China, the Stalinist followers shot at a leader of the Chinese Opposition. In the United States the Pos-

## Build A Broad Movement To Aid The Unemployed

Through out the United States millions of unemployed workers, their ranks increased by tens of thousands in recent weeks, face a future of increased misery, degradation, poverty and starvation. U. S. capitalism offers fine words to the unemployed but no work or compensation. In November 1929, immediately after the Wall Street crash, President Hoover called a conference of millionaire bankers, industrialists and manufacturers at Washington to map out a vast industrial and building program that would "normalize" business again and provide employment for the mass of unemployed workers. That conference has resulted for the workers in exactly—nothing.

Leading capitalist and governmental officials are now less sanguine about the prospects for a swift and huge economic revival. Lieutenant-Governor Lehmann of the State of New York, in which unemployment is greater than in any other section of the country, states: "We are not going to return to normalcy overnight. There never was a chance of that, in spite of over-optimistic predictions."

demand for compensation, for wages must be made upon industry and the government, local, state and national.

**Organize Unemployed on Elementary Issues**

Under the conditions it is possible to develop a broad movement on behalf of the unemployed masses, as has been previously shown by the Militant. This can be done if the class conscious workers, the revolutionaries and particularly the Communists, use correct tactics; that the broadest conceivable movement is sought and worked for; that simple elementary demands, such as, Work or Compensation from industry and the government of the bosses, are put in the forefront. Mere noise and bombast and demonstrations (here today and gone tomorrow) will not serve the purpose. Sectarian, narrow movements, in which the main object of the leaders is only to express their particular views, and who regard the workers involved, but as objects of agitation, will also not get anybody very far, and least of all the unemployed worker who is looking for a job, food, clothing and shelter.

The gravity of the situation, the misery rampant throughout the country, rise everywhere to confound with stark facts the Hooverian sooth-sayers. The capitalists and their hired scribblers and mind-befogging professors find themselves unable to put forward any capitalist remedies that can relieve the acute conditions of existence and starvation that affect the lives of millions of working people. On an international scale, in fact, the deadly pall of unemployment hangs over tens of millions of workers and their families. Their need is, in short, bread. They are ready to work to get it. If they cannot get work, the

The participation of workers in such movements of struggle, however, serves as an excellent preparatory school in the class war. Such movements teach the workers the nature of class society, the role of the governing classes, and certainly aid the development of the workers towards a class conscious ideology and action. This is the objective to be sought. But such conferences of the unemployed as the one called and held by the Trade Union Unity League of New York City, on Wednesday February 19th, at the Manhattan Lyceum will end only in a swamp, and bring about no bonafide organization of the unemployed workers to make effective their demands upon the bosses and the state.

## 40 Percent Jobless In Bay State

**BOSTON**—During January but 60% of the 260,000 workers who would be employed normally in 1,106 Massachusetts factories and mills were at work on full time schedule. Jobs, part time and full time, could be found for only 213,000 of the quarter million or more, states the Massachusetts labor department.

Employment declined 1% between December and January and average earnings sank from \$24.16 a week to \$24.08. An upturn in the shoe industry of 17% kept the average from sinking far lower. In 31 industries employment dropped below the December level. During the month seven factories went out of business, including three woolen mills and two shoe factories.

The state labor department has created a new index of employment, based on a figure of 100 for 1925-27. Employment in January was 82.9, according to this revised index, contrasted with 89.2 in January, 1929. Cotton goods showed 68.3, or a decline of one third in the number of jobs in four years. Other depressed industries are: Woolen, 67.5; textile machinery, 81.2; rubber goods, 72.2; hosiery, 76.2. Industries which have gained in employment are: bakery, 107; women's clothing, 102; printing and publishing, 109.

**MASS. EMPLOYMENT CONTINUES DOWN**

**BOSTON**—Employment fell off 4% in Massachusetts public utilities between December and January, reports the state labor department. Steam railroads, with a cut of 6.5%, accounted for 2,040 jobless men. Payrolls fell 3.4% and on the railroads alone, 5.7%.

## New York T. U. U. L. Conference a Talkfest

The T. U. U. L. nationally, as the trade union instrument of the Communist Party in the United States, has set a task to organize the unemployed of this country, which is to culminate in an international demonstration on March 6th against the scourge of unemployment in all capitalist countries. The New York Conference of the T. U. U. L. therefore serves as a picture of what is undoubtedly being duplicated in other cities where it has or is calling similar conferences.

At the New York Conference, 300 people representing, according to the chairman, Sadie Van Veen, 12 unemployed councils, left wing unions, T. U. U. L. groups, workmen's circles, working class housewives, etc. were present. The chairman, Van Veen, was not elected, she just served and opened the meeting with a speech of some 30 minutes length. In the course of her remarks, she stated: "There is no trade union movement outside the T. U. U. L." Such profound notions may or may not be the main problem to discuss at conferences called to organize and aid the unemployed; or they may also help to make clear why the Trade Union Unity League is virtually nonexistent.

Called upon to speak, all C. P. or Y. C. L. members, were a Negro comrade, Alexander; a Pioneer speaker, a youth organizer of the T. U. U. L.; a speaker of the Communist Party, Darcy; a Needle Trades Industrial Union speaker. No remarks from the delegates were invited. None of the speeches advanced concrete tasks for immediate solution and action. All truthfully assailed capitalism as the cause of unemployment; all called for the overthrow of capitalism and for the establishment of workers' rule.

## TROTSKY ON STALIN AND BLUMKIN

"Blumkin did visit me at Constantinople..."

"I told him among other things, that my exile as well as the imprisonment of other comrades did not change our fundamental line; that in the moment of danger the Oppositionists would be in the most advanced posts; that in the difficult hours Stalin would be forced to call upon them, even as Tseretelli appealed to the Bolsheviks for aid against Kornilov..."

"...The Stalinist repression against us does not yet signify a change in the class character of the State, but only prepares and makes more easy that change; our course remains, as in the past, that of reform and not that of revolution; the implacable struggle for our ideas must be based on the perspective of a long delay."

—Excerpt from a letter of comrade Leon Trotsky of January 5th, 1930 at Prinkipo, Turkey.

program for the Soviet Union, presenting their projects in 1927 in the form of a 5 Year Plan; for the policy of collective and Soviet Farms and against the encroachments of the Kulak; against the growing bureaucracy in the Party, the Soviet Union and the trade unions; and many other principle and tactical issues.

**Opposition Pressure Forces Stalin to the Left**

Under the pressure of the Opposition, the Stalin Centrists have been compelled to swing back from a Right course toward the Left, and piece-meal to adopt the Platform of the Opposition. The Militant has made and will make further evaluations of this latest Stalinist zig-zag, the so-called Left turn. But we put here the question: How does one carry out a Left course genuinely and at one and same time expel, imprison, exile and murder the Left Opposition? Why this fury? The Opposi-

ter-Lovestone cliques adopted the methods of the underworld, of gangsterism, against the Communist Opposition. Why? We ask and will continue to demand adequate replies of the Stalinist regime for their defenseless acts against the Opposition, against the Revolution.

These brutal acts only show more conclusively the political and moral bankruptcy of Stalinist Centrism. It is the replacement of a political line with the bureaucratic power of a corrupt apparatus. The murder of Blumkin will but serve to consolidate more firmly than ever before the growing ranks of the Opposition. At the same time the murder will call forth the protest of the Communist and class-conscious workers throughout the world. Come what may, the Opposition knows its path and duty. The Opposition remain at their post and continue to serve the cause of Communism.

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MOCKED BY INCOME REPORT

**WASHINGTON**—Equality of human opportunity in the United States in these days of big-scale industry is mocked by the Internal Revenue Bureau's preliminary report of taxable income for 1928, which shows that 24 persons had private incomes amounting to \$242,000,000. As these were the taxpayers in the class "above \$5,000, 000", it is to be assumed that some of them, such as the Rockefellers and Fords and Mellons, must have had incomes of \$30,000, 000 to \$50,000,000 each. In the year 1927 only 11 persons admitted incomes above \$5,000,000.

**SNOW FAILS TO BRING JOBS TO JOBLESS MINNEAPOLIS**—(FP)—The hungry and jobless used to look to the skies for help. When snowflakes began falling, they reported to the snow removal bureaus and lined up for jobs.

This year snow means little to the unemployed. Tractors are being used with scrapers to collect the snow, and automatic hoists to lift it into the trucks.

Eighty per cent was the estimate of unemployment given by one building trades council representative. The Citizens Alliance admits that thousands have been laid off in the last two months, and that the end is not yet in sight.