

PITTSBURGH CABMEN FIGHT TRAITORS

PITTSBURGH—(FP)—Unable to smash the solidarity of the striking taxi drivers' ranks by a frontal offensive, the Parmelee Transportation Co. is resorting to innuendoes aimed at the strike leaders. Letters have been mailed to all the cabmen with photostats of correspondence between organizers and officials of the Teamsters and Chauffeurs union.

One letter, signed by Pres. Daniel J. Tobin of the Teamsters Intl. criticizes the Pittsburgh teamsters' secretary for admitting the taxi men into a teamsters' local. "I advise you now that you had no business to admit those taxicab drivers into your local union, as this is in direct violation of your charter rights," warns Tobin. "Such action on your part without the consent and approval of the international executive board is a violation of the laws of the international union. It is not the policy of the international union to admit to membership men while they are on strike as I told you in our conversation over the long distance phone."

This letter carries the Parmelee caption: Proof of How Your Are Being Misled! Another letter, intercepted by Parmelee spies, refers to the payment of \$500 by the teamsters' local secretary to the strike committee. It carries the unwarranted Parmelee caption: These men Eat Whether You Do or Not!

The company's extensive undercover department, working incessantly to corrupt individual strikers, has been able to reach only five so far. These five were disciplined by the union for counterfeiting tickets for a benefit. Thereupon Parmelee took them openly on the payroll, opened office and installed the five Judases as a "Back to Work Committee."

The Hearst Sun-Telegraph, anxious to discredit the strikers at every turn, has hailed this committee as indicative of the early end of the strike. The strikers' answer was to order the arrest of the quintet on embezzlement charges. Their own solidarity against the company's insidious efforts was shown recently when a company settlement was turned down with only one dissenting vote.

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ATLANTA—The Georgia Federation of Labor will hold its annual convention April 16 at Waycross.

Naval Conference Talks On

New attempts at the revival of the London Naval Conference, after its sudden collapse in recent weeks, continue to make little or no headway. Almost two months of sessions find the conference today no further than when it began. The dispatch of Balderston, in the New York World (3-14-36) makes the following characterization: "The London Naval Conference still lives tonight, although it is fighting for its life."

Realizing this condition, the capitalist powers are trying in every conceivable manner to adjust things so that the failures of the conference shall not be too glaring. The attitude prevails that "at least something ought to be done".

The various powers distrust one another. This was evident in refusals to entertain political pacts among themselves. The French proposals for a political pact between her and England on the one hand, and with the United States on the other, netted nothing. Neither the United States nor Great Britain are ready to accept such political alignments at this stage, and declare by their actions that at this juncture of the war preparations, such steps are premature. The failure of political pacts, while adding to the further crisis in the conference, reopened again the "discussions" on limitations.

In the meantime the conference sessions have been postponed in favor of preliminary discussions between the individual powers with the hope of arriving at some minimum agreements with which to continue with the conference proper. These too, have made no progress.

The main handicap continues to be the failure of the Italians to put their cards on the table, giving figures as to what the Mussolini government considers essential to the security of Italy, it is said. So far, the Italians continue to insist on parity with France as the first essential to an agreement on the Mediterranean. In this manner the N. Y. Times pictures the present situation. The French refuse to budge from their original proposal calling for a 725,000 naval tonnage. Neither will Italy accept any reduction from parity with France. A condition for France's reduction would be a similar decrease on the part of England and the

United States, which is a very unlikely change.

With the apparent impossibility to attain a 5-power treaty, steps have already been taken to arrive at a three party agreement between the United States, Great Britain and Japan. At this writing negotiations on this basis have proceeded and brought with it a renewed attempt to bring about agreement between France and Italy. A three-power treaty would result in an increase of antagonisms. This would mean that France and Italy, without feeling the atmosphere of the conference, would enter into a heated rave in construction which would in turn be counteracted by increased building on the part of the members of the three-power treaty.

It is becoming more and more evident that the outcome of the conference will fall to hit its intended mark. Neither of the powers will budge from their demands of sufficient "security". Edwin James in the New York Times (3-14-36) says, "Looking at the conference broadly, there still exists a possibility of making a limitation treaty here, but there seems no chance at all of registering any reduction in the sum total of the world's war craft."

The conference has thus far failed to make any progress; on the contrary it sustains the contentions of the Communists that such conferences of the capitalist powers, are held to bring confusion in the ranks of the working class and to cover the war plans of the imperialists. The unmasking of these attempts at deluding the masses is the task of the Communists.

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MILWAUKEE COPS ABUSE CHILDREN IN JAIL

MILWAUKEE—(FP)—Police beat and abused eight children, arrested with 60 adults in the unemployment demonstration March 6, it was revealed when the demonstrators were released from the Milwaukee jail. Twenty five of the adults were charged with rioting and 35 with vagrancy, presumably because of their unemployment. Six were given six months in jail as one way out of solving their individual unemployment problems and 18 got three months each.

THE ABERLE MILL STRIKE IN PHILLY

(Continued from Page 1)

dustrial Philadelphia, but the Communist party here has never discovered this.

Lovestone and Foster yesmen, who as District Organizers, have so gallantly paraded through this city—Bentall, Tallentire, Weisbord, Jakira, Bail, Benjamin and now Gardos, never penetrated into this vast unknown hinterland. Yet, every nationally known Philadelphia product, except Baldwin Locomotives, Kirschbaum Clothes and Scott's Sanitissive, is manufactured in Kensington. Miles of streets are lined with textile mills and the homes of textile workers. Here Stetson Hats are made which are carried around the world by ships built in Cramps Shipyard. The vast coal and grain piers of the Reading R. R. and the world-known Diston Saw works are both manned by Kensington workers. There is probably no larger nor more fully proletarian unit in America.

Kensington is very largely populated by the descendants of Scotch, Irish and English textile emigrants, for, before the Southward movement, it was the greatest textile center in the country. There is a scattering of other nationalities, but it is typically American in its entirety. It is the proper base for the working class movement in the Philadelphia industrial area.

Philadelphia's Labor Record

It is generally believed outside of Philadelphia that it is a city of scabs. Whatever truth there may be in this, certainly does not apply to Kensington. It has always been strongly union. When the textile industry was in its prime there were probably 75,000 organized workers in that industry, most of whom lived and

worked in Kensington. This had its natural reflex in helping other workers, such as barbers, bartenders, store clerks to unite. During the great car strike, Kensington was an armed camp. Police, state constabulary, National Guard, occupied the streets of the section, and riots were continuous. Ashwagion drivers dumped their loads upon the tracks while women from nearby houses brought oil and gasoline out to burn the stalled cars to the ground. The Cumberland Street carbarn was only comparable to a Belgian fortress on the German frontier. IF THE A. F. OF L. HAD HAD A CLASS VIEW INSTEAD OF A CRAFT OUTLOOK, Kensington could have been organized 100%. Hundreds of lesser struggles attest the fighting qualities of these workers. The outlaw railway strike closed the Reading shops in Kensington, while the last strike at Cramps is a labor classic.

The pitifully inadequate leadership and the wrong policies of the Communist party are here most clearly shown. After ten years of existence in Philadelphia they have absolutely no connection with its most militant workers. Hand picked D. O.s sent here to keep in order political fences have never troubled themselves with little things like this. The handful who did realize the importance of Kensington were given no aid or encouragement. In fact some who were too insistent in demanding that real work be done were driven from the Party.

Left Wing Isolated; Fakers Pleased

Where is the National Textile Union in a situation of such magnitude? If it has any existence, except on paper, in this great textile city, the writer is unaware of it. It has not appeared in the Aberle

It has doubtless been a great relief to the A. F. of L. fatboys, McMahon and Co, that the Communists have so kindly withdrawn from the field. It's tough enough to try to keep in hand a bunch like these Kensington workers, who, despite all the advice of their officials, have insisted on making this strike real, who, in defiance of injunctions have made mass demonstrations around the mill, 60 of them being arrested recently at one time. It's worth a \$10,000 yearly salary to work that hard, without having a lot of Communists in the union counteracting every effort toward peaceful class collaboration. One can almost hear them breathe, "Thank thee, oh God, for the blessed third period."

Of course, if one reads the Daily Worker, another impression might be gotten. At first the Party press virtually ignored the strike. Now, to cover up the inactivity of the Party and the N. T. W., stupid and lying stories are carried. This gets nobody anywhere. For instance, the Daily Worker captioned, "Thousands led by N. T. W. U. fight Aberle scabs." An untruth out of the whole cloth, concocted presumably by the Party to cover up the failure of the N. T. W. textile organizer, Murdock. On a few occasions, Party members, not textile workers, have made futile gestures by distributing denunciatory leaflets. The capitalist press has not even mentioned them, and the capitalist is not likely to overlook any bets to scare up a RED issue in the strike. Of the 92 strikers arrested, none are reported as being members of the Party or N. T. W. U. The funeral demonstration, sadly enough, was an A. F. of L. affair entirely. The Mayor, the police and the A. F. of L. fatboys realize the volcano underlying the situation and cooperate in every way to provide a safety valve that would harmlessly—for them—let off steam. The rest

Marion Workers Discuss New Strike

MARION, N. C.—(FP)—This mill town is seething with excitement, both among the blacklisted strikers of last summer and the workers employed in the Marion and Clinchfield mills. Announcement by the mill managements that the stretchout system is to be put back into effect has caused threats of a strike. Before and after work the workers are seen knotted in small groups discussing the new order.

One hundred and thirty families numbering 735 men, women and children are facing starvation here. They are the victims of strikes at the two scab mills. Ejected from company owned shacks, they are now living in dugouts, barns and abandoned shacks, as many as 14 adults and children in two rooms.

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A Letter to the Italian Left Communists

(Continued from Page 4)

the type to carry out orders. The sterile quibbling of his speeches, always definitively directed to the defense of opportunism, is the exact opposite of the vigorous, strongly-marked and fruitful revolutionary thought of Amedeo Bordiga. By the way, is it not Ercoli who tried to adapt to Italy the idea of the "democratic dictatorship of the proletariat and the peasantry" under the slogan of the Italian Constituent Assembly supported by a "worker-peasant body"?

On the questions of the U. S. S. R., the Chinese revolution, the British general strike, the revolution in Poland, or the struggle against Italian fascism, Ercoli, as well as the other leaders in the bureaucratic machine, invariably began by adopting an opportunist line and eventually rectified it by means of ultra-Left adventure. It appears that at present, that variety is again in season.

Having thus on the one side Centrists of the Ercoli type, and on the other side ultra-Left confusionists, you are called upon, comrades, under the difficult conditions of the fascist dictatorship, to defend the historic interests of the Italian proletariat and of the international proletariat. With all my heart I wish you good luck and success.

Yours,

L. Trotsky

Constantinople, September 25, 1929.

of the Daily Worker reports are in line with the above quotation. As for an occasional leaflet distribution, this is not the equivalent or substitute for persistent, solid, systematic work among the workers.

Establish Roots among the Workers

What's to be done? There is but one possible course. The Party must be re-orientated. Its roots must be firmly planted in Kensington. The work that should have been done years ago, must be begun at this time. The policy of working also within the A. F. of L. must be revived.

If the Party in Philadelphia had adopted a correct attitude years ago, it would have established bases in Kensington and picked up the broken threads of the S. P. It would have built an influence, that, by the time of the Passaic textile strike would have enabled it to have reached masses of Philadelphia textile workers, and have secured their hearty cooperation, both organizationally and financially. The Party today would be in a position to have occupied a leading position in the recent great demonstration. When Weisbord finally came to Philly, he spent his time in factional politics, as did all the other apparatus men who followed him.

If such preparatory work had been properly carried out during the past years, so-called unemployment demonstrations staged here lately at the City Hall, could have been real. There are tens of thousands of unemployed in Kensington. Whole families are unemployed and starving. Thousands of them have lost the equities they had in homes sold out at sheriff's sales.

Will the value of this lesson be lost? It is for the Communist and the Left wing to turn seriously to the task of obtaining a base among the most exploited sections of the Philadelphia working class, especially in the Kensington area.