

# THE MILITANT

Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America [Opposition]

Vol. III, No. 13

Telephone: DRYdock 1856 NEW YORK, N. Y. Saturday, March 29, 1930

PRICE 5 CENTS

## CUBANS STRIKE

Defy Machado Rule - Demand Unemployment Relief

Growing out of the acute unemployment situation prevalent throughout Cuba and which has thrown 200,000 out of jobs, Cuban workers struck on March 20 in protest against unemployment and against the suppression of the labor unions and other organizations of the workers by the Machado government. The strike, called by the National Federation of Labor of Cuba, was widely supported, despite the intimidation and terror of Machado's spies, police and troops. It indicates the readiness of the masses to struggle against their severe exploitation by native and American capitalists. The strike, among others, brought out the workers of the streetcars, omnibuses, breweries, cigar factories, cafe employees, bakeries printshops, longshoremen, etc.

Delegates representing the Workers' Association called upon President Machado, the Dictator of Cuba, and among other demands called for: Recognition of the right to organize and strike; an end to police intervention in the unions and labor struggles; free speech and press; a seven hour day; payment of wages to the unemployed by the employers and the State; no eviction of unemployed from their homes for non-payment of rent; free transportation for the unemployed and their families while seeking work and free night restaurants and shelter for the unemployed.

### The Bloody Rule of Machado

Under President Machado, the willing hickspittle of Wall street, the labor and revolutionary movement in Cuba has been viciously suppressed. The bloody Machado has been responsible for the murder, imprisonment and deportation of thousands of Cuban labor leaders and revolutionaries, among them, Julio Mella, the Cuban Communist, who was murdered in Mexico after his exile by Machado from his native country.

Now the acute conditions of misery and starvation of the Cuban masses is bringing forth their resistance despite every terror of the Wall Street-controlled government.

American capital has invaded entire Cuba and has particularly gained control of the sugar plantations and refineries and has subjugated the workers to long hours of toil at low wages. The acute economic conditions give the background to the strike. Sugar forms the main base for the prosperity of the American investors and the starvation and degradation of the Cuban masses. The price of raw sugar is now 1.59 cents a pound, compared with 2.40 cents in 1928 and 2.82 in 1927.

Semi-starvation and destitution prevalent (Continued on Page 7)

## A LECTURE

on

**Communism and Syndicalism**

by

**JAMES P. CANNON**

Saturday, March 29, 1930 at 8 P. M.

**LABOR TEMPLE**

242 EAST FOURTEENTH STREET

Auspices: New York Branch  
Communist League of America (Opposition)

Admission 15 cents

## Mass Unemployment Continues

Reports from throughout the country give the lie to the propaganda of the bosses and the government that unemployment is on the decrease. The employment service of the U. S. Department of Labor itself is forced to acknowledge, in its report for the month of February, that "industry made no substantial gains" during the month, while "in some industries a slight recession was noted." Yet but a few days prior President Hoover had declared that the "recovery" from industrial depression had been the most rapid in American history!

Before the Senate Committee, Senator Wagner of New York declared that the unemployment situation is the worst that has ever existed in the United States. Investigations and statistical reports from all sections of the country confirm the fact of mass unemployment. For the millions of working men and women it has brought the most dire need and acute misery. There is nothing to indicate any substantial improvement in the economic situation in the near future. Every city and hamlet in the country counts its toll of unemployed and misery. To mention any is to describe all. Distress from unemployment in Chicago, states Professor B. M. Squires of the University of Chicago and who is also director of the Illinois State employment agency, "has been the most acute in ten years."

### Iron and Steel Production Slow

The steel industry, the barometer of industry in general, remains low, according to iron and steel publications which report that no definite upturn is yet apparent, and that this situation prevails also in the foreign markets. The Iron Trade Review comments that "Continental and British iron and steel markets generally are dull, some British plants having gone on short time as a result. World trade in iron and steel is low, and restricted inquiry forecasts continuation of this condition." In virtually all trades, manufactures, industry and agriculture fields there is described a condition of wide-spread unemployment. Hoover and the employing class continue to hand out hokum for consumption by the jobless, but they themselves know the reality and find no capitalist remedy for the situation. Any other kind of solution is of course to them unthinkable.

As never before, public and charitable institutions have been utilized as a sop, but the breadlines grow longer and increase in number. The U. S. government has declined to do anything directly to provide work or compensation for the unemployed, but instead continues to talk of industrial revival, while jobs become scarcer each day. All sorts of proposals have been forthcoming from capitalist politicians for public works, etc., but all remain on paper.

### Bosses Cutting Wages

The bosses have naturally ignored Hoovers "request" at the conference consisting of Hoover, the employers and the A. F. of L. bureaucrats, not to reduce wages. Henry Ford, the "high wage" boss and "philanthropist" has been outstanding in speeding men out of work and then cutting wages still further on one pretext or another. On the other hand, Wm. Green, the labor faker and agent of the bosses in the ranks of labor, continues to advise the workers not to resist the attacks of the bosses through strikes, etc.—all in the name of

the "national welfare", that is, for the bosses. Not all workers who still have jobs take this "advice". By a vote of four to one, to the surprise of the reactionary officials of the United Textile Workers Union, the company-union workers employed in the notorious Amoskeag Manufacturing firm of Manchester, N. H. in the manufacture of printcloth refused to accept a 10 per cent reduction in wages. Here and there (Pitts- (Continued on Page 3)

Φ

## TROTSKY SERIOUSLY ILL

The Militant is informed of the serious illness of comrade L. D. Trotsky, the leader of the International Opposition of the Left Bolsheviks. Exiled to Constantinople by Stalin, Trotsky has suffered from many maladies, engendered during his years of service to the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia and the international revolutionary movement. Now his condition is exceptionally aggravated by heart trouble, following recent illnesses. Trotsky has made efforts to be permitted to go to one of the West European countries for medical attention and treatment. But the imperialist nations have apparently accepted wholeheartedly the desire of Stalin that Trotsky shall remain isolated in Constantinople where lack of proper medical attention can easily result in his death. Stalin and the imperialists are as one in their enmity of Trotsky, the organizer and leader of the Red Army and the co-worker and comrade of Lenin.

We have spoken before of the illness of comrade Trotsky. In the past months, an unfavorable change has set in. He and his wife and son are located on Prinkipo Island in the Sea of Marmora. The climate there is unsatisfactory for one of his condition and a different climate is needed in addition to special treatment that is not available there nor in the country at large.

The arch-bureaucrat Stalin is to be held fully responsible for the exile of comrade Trotsky from the Soviet Union and for his connivance with the bourgeois government to prevent Trotsky from obtaining access to a West European country. The proletariat of the Soviet Union and the whole world will yet deal with Stalin, who persecutes, imprisons, exiles and even shoots Bolsheviks and undermines the cause of Communism.

Φ

## KANSAS CITY BUILDING TRADES WIN FIVE-DAY WEEK

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—(FP)—Building trades of Kansas City have won the 5-day week and an increase as a result of a 3-week strike which tied up construction activity. The struggle was a bitter one for a time, but the backbone of the Builders' Assn. opposition was broken when several independent employers signed the new agreement and resumed work.

According to the peace pact, the 44-hour week will continue until July 1, when the 5-day week becomes effective, supplemented by wage increases ranging from 22 1-2 to 50 cents a day. On Jan. 1, 1931, another wage boost, a flat 50 cents a day, is ordered. The agreement expires March 1, 1932.

## HAITI STRUGGLES Demands Independence From Wall Street Rule

The killing of five Haitians on December 7 by a detachment of United States marines, forced into the open the serious nature of the protest of the Haitian masses against United States occupation, and also against its puppet president, Borno. Since then the movement for Haitian independence, although curtailed and misguided by a bourgeois and liberal leadership, showed the increased temper of the mass of Haitian peasants, whose protests were set forth under such slogans as, "Long live Independent Haiti", "Down with the Council of State". They culminated during the past number of weeks in a demand for an end to the occupation of Haiti by the United States marines and the National City Bank of New York.

The past history of the occupation of Haiti by the United States, is a record of bloody extermination of the peasant masses. From a period of the occupation in July, 1915, the "peaceful guardianship" by the marines has resulted in the slaughter of over 3,000 Haitians, who dared to protest against the military dictatorship and exploitation of United States capitalism. The state of affairs brought about by American occupation finds the Haitian masses in a virtual state of peonage. The old Haitian laws against the ownership of land by foreigners resulted, since 1915, in the dispossession of the peasantry and allowed for large holdings by the United States and other foreign imperialists. Dr. Dalencour, head of the Haitian Medical Journal, characterizes the situation in the following manner: The Haitian peasant sees his future endangered by the entry of American capitalism. This necessarily results from the creation of large estates which would cause the subjugation of the peasants into a servile peon class." The peasantry of Haiti are actually in such a state today, which accounts for the vigorous struggle they are making for an "independent republic of Haiti".

(Continued on Page 2)

Φ

## St. Louis Bus Drivers on Strike For Union

ST. LOUIS—(FP)—Five days after their first meeting to unionize and 48 hours after their demand for union recognition had been tossed in the wastebasket by the traction monopoly, organized bus drivers and conductors of St. Louis walked out in a spontaneous unexpected strike. Bus operation has been completely tied up.

The company, with an ugly anti-union background, was taken completely unawares. The meeting, held at 2 a. m., authorized the strike by unanimous vote and the next morning not a bus rolled out of the big barns.

These raw recruits to unionism are picketing the garages like seasoned veterans and intended strikebreakers have been enrolled in the union about as rapidly as the company has been able to hire them. Not even the skeleton of a crew has been recruited. The strikers belong to the street carmen's union and the fight bears the endorsement of the St. Louis central body and the Missouri Federation of Labor. A sympathetic strike by 5,000 union street car men is not considered unlikely.