

The National Textile Union

Sectarian Policy Hindering Organization

At the present time with the exception of New Bedford, where several thousand workers are members, the National Textile Workers Union is almost completely isolated from the textile workers. In the South the N. T. W. has continued to lose ground since the end of the Gastonia strike so that now it has practically no organized base to speak of. The N. T. W. leadership and the official Communist Party are responsible for this situation. After the end of the strike almost all of the union organizers were withdrawn from the South and no serious attempt made to bring the workers into the union. To cover its lack of real organizational activities the Party is now preparing to publish a weekly paper in the South. By itself, unless part of a campaign to unionize the workers, it is only a gesture for the records. Bombastic action and statements can never be substituted for the daily struggle and as soon as the Stalinists realize it, the better it will be for the future of the N. T. W.

Several weeks ago the Daily Worker was full of proclamations asserting that a strike of the Paterson silk workers would be called within several weeks. In fact, the International Labor Defense in its appeals for funds at that time included the coming Paterson strike as among the situations for which funds would be needed.

In the March 8 issue of the Militant we pointed out that to call a strike in Paterson at the present time without adequate preparations, would result in the strike being still-born. We urged that careful plans be made so that when the strike is called it can have a chance of being successful.

As typical centrists without any set policy, the Stalinist leadership of the Party and union have not only suddenly stopped all talk about the strike but have decided to end all organizational activities indefinitely. Thus we see a good example of what kind of "leadership" the union is giving the workers in the industries under the direction of such apparatus men as Clarence Miller, who is now the national secretary of the N. T. W.

Role of the Reactionaries

At first they were ready to call a strike without any preparations whatsoever: practically no mass meetings and almost no distribution of leaflets or other preparations. Suddenly a change is made: all "preparations" cease and the idea of a strike is entirely forgotten. It is this kind of misleadership that plays into the hands of such organizations as the Associated Silk Workers and the United Textile Workers Union.

In fact, while the N. T. W. union is standing still and not participating in the struggle to organize the workers, the United Textile Workers Union is making progress in its campaign of organization which, of course, in the long run will mean the betrayal of the workers. In the South, U. T. W. and American Federation of Labor organizers are touring the textile centers and making contacts with the workers who are ready to fight against the low wages, long hours and speed-up conditions. In almost every textile district of the South the U. T. W. and A. F. of L. have now a clear ground for their policy of betrayal due to the abandonment of the field by the N. T. W.

In New Bedford where the N. T. W. has its only organized base, it is slowly losing influence due to the sectarian policy of the Party and its selection of incompetent Stalinist apparatus men as union leaders. Although about 18,000 out of the 20,000 textile workers of the city are jobless, less than 3,000 workers attended the March 6 unemployment demonstration in that city. When one considers that more than 3,000 workers are members of the union in New Bedford, it is easy to see

what a failure the demonstration was.

Need of Systematic Work in the Mills

At a time like this, when the workers should be flocking to the banner of the N. T. W., they are conspicuous by their absence. The reason is not difficult to find. Few parts of the country have been more plagued with Stalinist politics in the Union than New Bedford. Four union organizers within several months has resulted in many of the workers becoming disgusted. Then again, since the Party decided to completely forget about the united front tactics, the U. T. W. has succeeded in winning many workers through the Labor Party they organized in that city. After the 1928 sell-out by the U. T. W., the mass of the workers turned to the N. T. W. for leadership, but the actions of the Left wing union since then, (that is, in the "third period") has resulted in the influence of the union becoming weakened to such an extent that it is in danger to lose its last organized base to the Right wing organization.

Another example of lack of activity on the part of the N. T. W. is the present text le strike in Philadelphia, which is under U. T. W. leadership. While the Left wing organization is doing virtually nothing, the U. T. W. poses as the leaders of the workers, and undoubtedly will sell them out as the U. T. W. has done scores of times in the past.

The N. T. W. nationally is in a critical period of its existence. The next period will decide whether it will exist as a fighting, living force in the American labor movement or will become a rubber stamp for Stalinist politics, without any influence in the class struggle. The policy of choosing union organizers on their loyalty to Stalinism must end. (Russak, New Bedford; Kushinsky in Paterson; Miller as national secretary, etc.) Militant workers who accept the program of the N. T. W. and sincerely want to participate in the struggle must be given work in the organization. Less talk and more day by day work in the mills is necessary. Only on such a basis can the union be saved and become a factor in the labor movement.

—FRANK BROMLEY

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Dynamite in «Dynamic» Detroit

DETROIT—(FM)—While city and county officials are trying to still the protests of the hungry jobless information indicates that in actual fact the number of unemployed is increasing.

The Briggs Mfg. Co., for example, advertised but a few weeks ago for 8,000 workers. The local press immediately seized the advantage to blazon to a hungry world "the return of prosperity". Prosperity returned—for three weeks. 5,000 men were hired. Three weeks later, 9,000 workers were laid off!

The office staff of the Cadillac Motor Car Co. has been severely reduced and further layoffs there are expected. Layoffs in the Packard office force are imminent. A salary slash has already gone into effect. Of the working force 30% were laid off several months ago. It is significant that when the layoff instructions were issued it was ordered that women be retained insofar as possible. They can do the work ever so much cheaper.

A local plant fired its whole force several weeks ago. Recently it opened up—and rehired its workers at 15 cents less per hour. In another concern the wages of the electricians have been cut three times within the last 60 days. "Were it only the unemployment problem we had to face it would not be so bad—but employers use the unemployed as a club wherewith to beat down the wages of the employed", commented our informant.

Hoover's Prosperity Racket Fades in Middle West

CHICAGO—(FP)—Politicians from Herbert Hoover—now dubbed the Great Stationary Engineer—down to the smallest me-too country editor may shout prosperity and recovery all they like but each section of the country has its impressive array of facts and seasoned judgements that give the shouting the lie. In the middle west a few symptoms may be set down to match those marshalled in other regions.

1. Bankruptcies of established banks, trust companies, real estate organizations and staple industries no longer excite attention. They are too common. Decision by corporations not to pay the regular dividends the next quarter scarcely rank as financial news.

2. On the labor side unions report unexampled unemployment. Chicago Typographical Local 16, one of the most steady-going in the country, states that there are at least 1,500 printers out of work in town.

3. In the farm belt similar conditions prevail. Speaking not to the public at large but to his own trade following the expert of the Produce Review, leading butter and egg trade weekly takes an undigested rap at the Hoover prosperity patter, writing: "speculation as to future industrial conditions gives us nothing definite to tie to, but we do know that present conditions are not favorable AND WE SHOULD NOT BE MIELED BY POSITIVE STATEMENTS EMANATING FROM HIGH PLACES IN WASHINGTON that the near future will see unemployment passing. In many larger cities today there is much unemployment and our agricultural population is in many important states not prospering. We face such uncertainty that we feel sure conservatism will increase as reserves of storage eggs accumulate."

4. Railroads are laying off shop and maintenance men at a time when they should be taking on extras. Where layoffs are considered bad for public consumption they are disguised by 5-day week device that mean reduced weekly earnings per worker or by transfer of work from contract to railroad shops as has happened respectively with the Northwestern and the Baltimore & Ohio in this region.

5. Help Wanted ads are greatly reduced in number while the rush of applicants for positions open is unexampled since 1922. An ad for a \$15 a week stenographer, hours 9 to 5 in a new downtown office building, brought 200 girls to the spot, stampeding the overwhelmed office manager.

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ANTHRACITE MINERS HIT BY UNEMPLOYMENT

ASHLAND, Pa.—Reports to the United Mine Workers convention in Indianapolis by Sec. Thomas Kennedy that the anthracite is in a "healthy" condition is causing wide discussion in local unions of hard coal diggers. In Schuylkill valley, 35,000 miners have been rendered idle by the Reading Coal Co., in Lansford the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co. has thrown 5,000 out of jobs; in the Lehigh valley a steadily mounting number are joining the army of the jobless.

Prospects indicate an extraordinarily slack summer.

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TERRE HAUTE, Ind.—The Freemont Typesetting Co. of Terre Haute has been signed 100% by the typos.

ALBERT M. GLOTZER

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The Youth Movement

Saturday, April 5, 1930 at 8 P. M.

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Communist League of America (Opposition)

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HAITI STRUGGLES

(Continued from page 1)

The occupation of Haiti by the United States took place with its rapid expansion into the arena of the leading world imperialists. Haiti's favorable geographical location in the Caribbean Sea, as a naval base, and its strategic importance as an aid to the defense of the Panama Canal, along with its offensive possibilities against Great Britain, led to America's military and financial invasion and resultant control. This condition came about through the intense exploitation and persecution of the Haitian masses.

The present movement for Haitian independence is undoubtedly an expression of the current feelings of the masses. At present it is still weak in its outlook. With a bourgeois and liberal leadership the movement is so far led into channels of subservience to American dictates. The open revolt against the puppet president, Borno, and the intensity of the struggle of the masses, caused Hoover to form a commission with the object of "studying" the conditions. Realizing the revolutionary temper of the Haitians, the commission made a proposal for election of a temporary president to replace Borno, as if the removal of Borno would solve the problem of Haitian independence.

The newly elected president, Eugene Roy, a broker by profession, was elected under the supervision of both the leadership of the opposition and the United States in collaboration with Borno. However, Roy does not take office until May 15, when Borno's term expires. When Roy takes office, he is to continue as temporary president until next fall. Then legislative elections are held, and a new president seated by the deputies and senators. The further proposals of the commission for "gradual" removal of marines as a basis of permitting a slow solution to independence testify to the fact that Haitian independence, under the "good will" of the American capitalists, is just a guise with which to nullify the movement of the Haitian masses.

Election of Roy—A Sham

The election of Roy, as the temporary president, is the biggest farce in the commission's program. Roy, just as all his predecessors, will continue to serve the interests of the National City Bank of New York. Being a broker himself, this will not be a difficult task. The "eventual independence" of Haiti, given freely by the United States, is an illusion, handed down in order to quiet the discontent. It is easy to understand, in view of this, why the removal of the marines will be only a "gradual" process. The marines will be kept in Haiti in order to act as the sword of American capitalism. They will be there to protect the continued exploitation of the Haitian masses.

The present "solution" can only be a temporary one. American capitalism has only removed one puppet and replaced him by another. But this temporary "solution" while it may for the moment soften the discontent of the masses, can in the end only add fuel to the existing state of revolt in Haiti. The leadership of the masses have succeeded in misdirecting the movement into accepting the further dominance of "dollar diplomacy". Roy's election, and the maintenance of the marines, along with continued domination of U. S. capitalism will only bring further persecution and exploitation. The military dictatorship of the United States will lend fuel to the further growth of the revolutionary movement of the Haitian masses.

The struggle for independence must be accompanied with a decisive fight against American imperialism. It must be accompanied with a struggle against the military dictatorship by United States marines. This end however is not alone the struggle of the Haitian masses, but is likewise a task of the American working class who must join in the fight for Haitian independence, against the domination of Wall Street and the military occupation. —A.G.