

THE MILITANT

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The 5 Year Plan and World Unemployment

RALLY WORKERS ON MAY DAY

The solidarity of labor against capitalism is the watch-word of May Day demonstrations by the working masses throughout the world. To unite the workers to see as their common enemy—the bosses and capitalist government; and to see in the Workers' Republic of the Soviet Union the first fatherland of the workers; to struggle militantly against capitalism, to overthrow it; and to aim to achieve in each country a government of the toilers. This summarizes by contrast the objectives of the class-conscious workers for May Day, 1930.

In the United States the millions of workers find themselves enduring the scourge of unemployment, caused by capitalism. They find themselves either thrown out of work, or wages reduced, work speeded up and hours of labor increased. Reaction, under the leadership of President Hoover is in the saddle. Rough-shod, it rides brutally over the basic needs of the workers. Protest against unemployment is met with arrests, persecution; jailings; removal of civil rights, such as the right of assemblage and press; deportation of foreign-born, etc. Arrogance, brutality, extreme exploitation by the ruling class are the order of the day.

The Situation of American Labor

The U. S. government persists in its refusal to recognize the Soviet government of Russia, now in its 13th year of existence. The agents of the bosses in the workers' ranks, namely, the American Federation of Labor officials, Wm. Green, Mathew Woll, et al, stand by and approve bourbon rule in the United States.

The Labor movement in the United States finds itself weaker than at any previous time in its history. But potential power is still there; it need only direction and militancy from conscious revolutionaries who understand the immediate and ultimate interests of the workers. These elements are the Communists. Unfortunately, the Communists in the United States, even as throughout the world, find their forces divided, split into three fundamental groupings. An effective struggle against capitalism presupposes the struggle for the unity of the Communists again on a common principle platform. Notwithstanding, May Day demands from the official Communist Party, and from all Communists, in and outside the ranks of the official Party, the initiation for May Day of a genuine mass united front of workers and all workers' organizations against the employers, on a number of immediate and burning issues that concern all the workers in the United States.

The Issues for May Day

What are some of these immediate demands of the workers that must serve to unite them on May Day, 1930? They are: The struggle against unemployment; for work or compensation for the unemployed at the cost of the employers and the government; for the seven hour day and five day week; against any reductions in wages and for an increase; for a united front against the repression and persecution of workers by the bosses agents, the police.

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Opposition Paper Published in the Argentine

La Verdad (Truth), organ of the Left Communist Opposition in Argentine, has issued its first number (4 pages), and hereafter will appear regularly. It is printed in the Spanish language and will also circulate among Spanish speaking workers in other countries.

Among the contents of the first issue are Lenin's "Testament to the Party", suppressed by the Stalinist regime, and which now appears in print for the first time in the Spanish language in the South American countries; articles by Robert Guinney, Dvorin and others on the situation in the Communist movement of Argentine and South America and in the International; a statement of principles and organization, declaring adhesion to the Left International Opposition led by L. D. Trotsky and many other articles of importance to the workers of the Argentine.

La Verdad is further evidence that the ruthless efforts of the regime of the bureaucrats—from Stalin down—in the Comintern will fail to stop the development and penetration of the ideas of the Left Opposition among the Communist workers and sympathizers.

The Communist League of America (Opposition) and the Militant greet La Verdad and the Opposition in the Argentine. We are confident that the militant and conscious efforts of the Argentine Opposition will in time bring the regeneration of the revolutionary movement there and the reestablishment of a Communist Party on the original foundations of the Communist International as led by Lenin.

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12 W. Va. Miners Fatally Gassed

ARNETTSVILLE, W. Va.—Twelve miners, among them four Negroes, were fatally gassed and burnt in a mine explosion in the non-union Yukon mine of the Crown Coal Co.

6-HOUR DAY AIM OF TWIN CITY RAIL WORKERS

MINNEAPOLIS—On April 1st a large gathering of Minneapolis and St. Paul railroad workers held their second meeting at Woodruff Hall, Prior and St. Anthony Aves., St. Paul, for the purpose of developing a nation-wide movement for a six hour day on the railroads. A third meeting has been arranged for Tuesday, April 22nd at the same hall.

The first Twin City Conference of Railroad Workers was held on March 19th and was called originally by Local No. 206 of the Switchmen's Union. Among the points discussed were the railroad mergers and speed-up, the need for a six hour day and five day week without any pay cut, and other problems affecting the organized and unorganized railroad workers throughout the United States. The Conference went unanimously on record to fight for the six hour day, for the organization of the railway workers, as well as for other demands of an economic and political character.

A Provisional Committee, consisting of members from the different local unions, has been set up to organize these meetings and to send out the calls. The Provisional Committee consists of: G. H. Farrell, Railway Clerks, No. 319; Ulrick Ulrichson, Railway Clerks, No. 1310; V. F. Case,

ST. LOUIS BUSMEN WIN STRIKE

As we go to press, we learn that the St. Louis bus drivers have won their strike. A flat 9 1-2 hour day is established, instead of as much formerly as 13 hours; a six day week supplants the seven day week; garagemen work 44 hours with a Saturday half holiday. The union is recognized. Other demands of a secondary nature are also gained.

ST. LOUIS—(FP)—With 5,000 members of the St. Louis street car men's union assessing themselves \$1 a month. The strike of bus drivers and conductors enters its third week assured of financial support. The international union is also granting relief funds.

The members of this young union voted a unanimous "No" to the company's proposed terms of strike settlement, which would tie the men for three years under 'open shop' conditions at wage rates in effect prior to the strike.

Not a bus has moved since the walk-out. Threats to operate busses with cabs under police protection have not passed the threat stage. The Central Trades and Labor Union has voted to accept the new union and exempt it from payment of per capita tax until the strike is over.

The central body stands ready to go into action with strike relief machinery in behalf of the 750 strikers if the situation warrants. The strikers offer to return to work when the right to organize is recognized. Pres. R. W. Meade of the St. Louis Bus Co, who boasts that he has broken six strikes during his career, refuses to consider any proposals which fail to give the company the world encircled by an airtight fence.

By L. D. TROTSKY

The internal development of the Soviet Union is reaching a critical point. No matter in what way we evaluate the present course of the collectivization which, in one year, has surpassed by two and a half times the plan elaborated for the whole five years (fifty percent of the peasant holdings collectivized instead of the twenty percent prescribed at the end of the five years), it is clear that the tempo of collectivization has already blown up the whole five year plan. Up to now, the official leadership has maintained silence on this point. But it would be impossible to be silent for long. To imagine that all the other elements of the plan—industry, transportation, commerce, finance—can develop on the formerly prescribed scale while agriculture makes totally unforeseen jumps, would signify to see in the economic plan not an organic whole but a simple sum of various departmental orders. Until recently it was recognized, at least in principle, that the relations between industry and agriculture ("smytchka") form the principal axis of the plan. Well, what has happened to this axis? If the "smytchka" was taken into consideration in the plan, then it must now have been destroyed by the prodigious leaps of the collectivization which nobody foresaw. On what side will an equalization be made?

At this very moment, "complete collectivization" has already aroused among the frightened leadership a certain backward movement. At what point will the commenced recession come to a halt? It is as yet impossible to foretell. It is probable that this time; also the retreat will extend much further than is required by the objective conditions. But the retreat itself is unavoidable. It is quite probable that because of the effects of the signs of inflation there will begin a revision of the slogan "The five year plan in four years".

The Bureaucracy Runs Blindly

Retreat is always a painful operation, in the military field as well as in politics. But a retreat carried out in time and in an orderly manner can prevent unnecessary losses and prepare the possibility for developing an offensive in the future. The fatal danger is always a belated retreat, panic-stricken, under fire, when the enemy is at your heels. And that is why we, the Left Opposition, are not afraid to call back the bureaucracy which is running ahead blindly. It is necessary to call a halt to the prize races of industrialization, to revise the tempo on the basis of experience and theoretical foresight, to reconcile collectivization with the technical and other resources, to subordinate the policy towards the Kulak to the real possibilities of collectivization. In a word, after the periods of "Khvostism" (the policy of dragging along at the tail of events and movements. —Ed.) and adventurism, it is necessary to take the road of Marxist realism.

The plan corrected in this sense would present a minimal variation. It would necessarily proceed from the situation which has been created up to now as a result of great successes and no less great mistakes. Such a plan cannot eliminate the contradictions that flow from the historical past and the world environment. But it must reduce to a minimum the results of mistakes, partly mitigating and partly post-

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