

THE MILITANT

Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America [Opposition]

Vol. III, No. 16,

Telephone: DRYdock 1656 NEW YORK, N. Y. Saturday, April 19, 1930

PRICE 5 CENTS

FIVE COMMUNISTS FRAMED Corporations Make Huge Profits

Unite Working Class Forces for May Day Demonstrations

In a star-chamber proceedings in New York five Communists, including Wm. Foster, were found guilty on April 11 of unlawful assemblage and face a maximum sentence of three years in jail. They had been among the leaders of the unemployed demonstration on March 6th at Union Square.

Typical capitalist justice was dispensed from the time of their arrests till the frame-up was consummated and convictions were secured. So-called civil liberties were again mocked at by the agents of the bosses. A jury trial was denied the defendants. Three judges in special sessions court ruled on all points. No evidence was permitted to be given that stated the case and views of the defendants and the workers. Moving pictures showing that Police Commissioner Whalen had deliberately precipitated a riot were not allowed, nor could witnesses testify to the deliberate and provocative acts of Whalen's Cossacks against the participants at the Union Square demonstration. The riot was precipitated by the police on the pretext that the demonstrators could not march to City Hall to present the facts and grievances of the unemployed regarding the unemployment situation before Mayor Walker. The bosses and their governmental agents were bent on railroading the workers to prison. Sentence has not yet been pronounced. The case will be appealed to the State Supreme Court.

Thus do the capitalists show their concern for the misery of the unemployed and those who try to defend their interests.

It is necessary for all workers, workers' organizations and other groups to rally on behalf of the convicted comrades. A broad defense movement is needed. Among the issues are the right of free speech and assemblage; against the star-chamber proceedings; the right for the workers to express their grievances through demonstrations, parades, etc. without interference by the bosses' agents. Labor must show its solidarity. May Day can become one of the outstanding rallying days on this and other important issues, confronting the working class in the United States and throughout the world. Repressions of the capitalists against the workers are taking place throughout the country. In New York they have taken a most virulent form. The New York capitalists have taken the initiative and given the lead for the capitalists elsewhere.

Regarding May Day we have pointed to the necessity for a genuine united front of all working class forces against capitalism on a number of specific and burning issues before the workers; and that it is up to the Communists, especially the official Communist Party to initiate such a May Day movement. Otherwise, the May Day demonstrations will be limited, the workers' protests divided and made less effective; and to the degree of its influence, the official

RAKOVSKY'S ILLNESS

New information has come to us concerning the health of Christian Rakovsky. Our comrade has suffered a new and particularly severe heart attack. The doctors who were called to his bedside remained for a whole day. Will the Stalinist bureaucracy which exiled our comrade and his sick wife to Barnaul wait too long before permitting him to take measures for the alleviation of his condition?

Communist Party will be responsible for a division of the workers, particularly among those elements who are Communists or sympathetic to the cause of Communism.

All the conditions point to the need of a broad May Day movement. But the policy of the official Communist Party prevents this, and makes a mockery of the slogan it pretends to be for and issues; namely, a United Front of all labor on May Day. In New York the official Communist Party at the May Day Conference called to mobilize the workers for May Day, held a long talkfest, limited to its previously appointed speakers and gave no expression to delegates from the ranks and other bodies. The conference was like others for which the Party has become a laughing stock among honest and sincere elements who want to cooperate and participate in the movements of the day, such as the movement on behalf of the unemployed, etc. The

(Continued on Page 3)

L.D. Trotsky's Autobiography "MY LIFE"

has just been issued in the English language and will be reviewed in the next issue of the Militant. Watch for it.

This outstanding work of Leon Trotsky can be purchased through The Militant. The price is \$5.00 per copy. By ordering "My Life" through The Militant, you can also help to sustain The Militant which receives a commission for each copy sold directly by it. Everyone will want to have a copy. Order from The Militant (Cash with order only), 25 Third Avenue, Room 4, New York, N. Y.

The Naval Conference «Agrees»

The Naval Limitations Conference at London is nearing its close with an "agreement". The imperialist powers and press laud the "achievements" arrived at in the conference. Yet the original aim set for the conference—a five-power treaty—did not develop further than discussions between the delegations. The intense rivalry between the belligerent countries involved at London doomed in advance a five-power treaty.

The conference in recent weeks, recognizing the attempts at a naval limitation agreement between the United States, Great Britain, Japan, Italy and France, as futile, reverted to a three-power agreement which means the exclusion of Italy and France. The negotiations in the latter part of the conference were centered in this direction. Thus the three-power treaty is attempting to establish parity between the United States and England, and a 60 percent ratio for Japan.

American Imperialism in the Ascendancy
Should the signing of the three-power agreement take place the conference will end with the following results:

1. The achievement of parity between the United States and Great Britain, signifying the destruction of the British Empire's hegemony on the seas, and its formal replacement by the United States as the leading imperialist power in the world. Such a parity would mean that Great Britain would cease in the next six years to build naval armaments. But the establishment of this parity involves a billion dollar building program for the United States, thereby destroying the myth of disarmament and placing heavier burdens upon the shoulder of the American working class.

2. The failure of the conference to arrive at its original program of a five-power treaty. The three-power treaty would not be binding upon Italy and France.

3. The complete collapse of the disarmament character of the conference.

Even the three-power treaty carries in its wake a number of difficulties. There are doubts as to Japan's signature to the treaty. Japan indicates that she will not sign the treaty until she is able carefully to study the final draft of the treaty. In addition, the present proposed treaty allows for a "safeguard clause". Recognizing that the three-power treaty would have no binding character on either France or Italy. Britain demands that such a clause be entered into the treaty, since if the other two powers strengthen their naval fleets, they will become a menace to British interests in the Mediterranean. In such a situation the "safeguard clause" would allow Great Britain immediately to begin the construction of naval armaments. This would also apply to the United States and Japan.

Thus, A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the admiralty, says: "It should of course be recognized that each of the parties to the three-power agreement will have to be covered by the terms of the treaty in such a way that they may adjust their position if the construction programs of other powers outside the agreement should make that necessary. For example, our reduced destroyer tonnage would be materially affected by an increase in submarine tonnage elsewhere. This is, unfortunately, unavoidable in the circumstances."

E. L. James, in the New York Times of April 12, says as follows on the safeguard clause: "It has been agreed that the safeguard clause shall not apply solely to Great Britain, but to all three powers..."

The entire conference was a sham. Its original program was defeated. It failed in its attempt at disarmament, and could not arrive at a five-power treaty. The alternative, the three-power treaty, is a belated attempt to "achieve" something out of the talkfest. But the three-power treaty is filled with more explosives than is suspected. The London Daily Herald, summing up the situation, says: "The gains of the conference are plain enough (!). But at the same time it would be folly to overvalue them. It has neither achieved disarmament nor assured peace."

The conference draws to a close with conditions about the same as before it began. The parity between the United States and Great Britain took place prior to the conference; Japan's ratio was fairly well established also before the conference. The only additions remained Italy and France, and they are now out of the conference proper. There has been three months of talkfest; war is in the air; preparations for it continue. The role of the imperialists needs to be exposed more than ever.

How American corporations made hay while the boom sun shone last year is further revealed by recent financial reports. Steel, oil, motors, and chemicals, all important war industries, were especially prosperous up to the time of the crash.

U. S. Steel and Standard Oil Get Huge Profits

United States Steel raked in the largest income it ever reported in peace time, paying \$21.19 dividends on each of its 8,132,000 shares of common stock, as against \$12.50 in 1928. Bethlehem Steel sent its "earnings" (read "unpaid earnings of its workers") up more than 100% over the previous year. It donated to each idle holder of a piece of common stock a neat \$15.50 for what the Italians call "sweet doing nothing".

The Standard Oil companies, as usual, did nicely, thank you. The California unit paid dividends of \$3.70 a share, while the Indiana company, the sturdiest of the family, raised the ante to \$5.37. Though Vacuum Oil showed a drop of over \$2,000, in net profit, its stockholders were none the poorer. By putting into practice the principle of "stabilized earnings" (for capitalists only) they were given nearly \$21,000,000 in dividends instead of the previous year's \$19,000,000.

"Public Service" Corporations Rake in the Dough

United Gas Improvement Co., which has subsidiaries in at least eight states, and operates the municipal gas work of Philadelphia on a private lease, is now negotiating to absorb the monster Public Service Corporation of New Jersey, controlling practically all the power, trolley, and bus service of that "commonwealth". Mid-West Utilities, presided over by one of the insistent insulins, nearly doubled its "net", but American Superpower increased its winnings no less than tenfold!

International Harvester did the largest volume of business in any twelve months in its history, due largely to an increase in its foreign trade, some of which went to Soviet Russia. Its common stock dividends went up from \$5.58 to \$6.65. Eastman Kodak Co., also "outstripped all previous earnings"—no wonder old George can afford to give away 50,000 cameras for advertising to twelve-year olds next summer! Radio Corporation of America, which last year swallowed the Victor Talking Machine Co., cranks, discs, and all, reports \$182,137,000 gross business, compared with \$155,933,00 for the two companies in the year before consolidation.

American Tobacco was another corporation which turned a "record year", increasing its total profits by 20% and rolling dividends on each share up to \$13.17.

A LECTURE

on

Communism and the Trade Union Movement

by

JAMES P. CANNON

Saturday, April 19, 1930 at 8 p. m.

LABOR TEMPLE
242 East 14th Street

Auspices: New York Branch
Communist League of America (Opposition)
Admission 15 cents