

# THE MILITANT

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## International Labor Day

May Day, 1930 is before us. The mobilization of the working class to show the solidarity of labor before the ruling class is an elemental task for all class-conscious and revolutionary workers. It is the duty of every worker to participate in the meetings and demonstrations of the workers on that day. All forces must unite to present a common, broad, militant front before the common enemy—the capitalist class of this country.

Outstanding on May Day, 1930, is the 13th year of the existence of the Soviet Republic, the first Workers Republic of the world, the fortress of the international proletarian revolution. The defense of its heritage, its victories, the fight for its preservation, is the first major task of the workers of all lands.

In the United States, mass unemployment is the gaunt spectre haunting the lives of million of workingmen and women. Labor on May Day needs to demonstrate and demand from the ruling capitalist class either work or compensation for the unemployed. Immediate fighting tasks for the American working masses are the struggle for the seven hour day and the five day week; for social insurance at the expense of the bosses and government; for the fight against the deadly speed-up system.

The masses of American workers are unorganized into any labor organization. Before the militants, the Left wing, the Communists, is the common responsibility to engage actively for the organization of the unorganized into fighting labor unions. The capitalist class in the United States is still on the offensive, endeavoring to smash all organizations of the working class. The united resistance of the progressive and Left wing of the labor movement is needed to resist the capitalist offensive and to prepare the forces of the workers in due time themselves to take the offensive against the bosses and the capitalist government.

A duty of the American masses is to demand the recognition of the Soviet Union by the United States government and especially to demand that the United States shall extend long-term credits to the Soviet Union, which, at one and the same time aid partially to relieve the unemployed situation in the United States and the economic development of the Soviet Union.

The common struggle for the abolition of capitalist society and the establishment of workers rule, for a society without exploitation of one class over another remains as before. On May Day, 1930, let the workers join in solidarity against the capitalist system and resolve to carry on a fight for its overthrow.

## I. L. P. «Turns Left»

The Birmingham conference of the I. L. P. has just passed by under the leadership of the Left wing led by Maxton. What is of the greatest significance is the formal decision not only to endorse the opposition to the MacDonald-controlled Parliamentary Labor Party, but to instruct the 30 members following Maxton to establish themselves as a separate group in the House of Commons with the purpose of organized opposition to the MacDonald regime. This in itself will not, of course, lead to the fall of the Labor government, since the 59 liberals will make up for the loss. But the Birmingham decisions are of immense significance as indicative of the trend developing in the ranks of the I. L. P. which include many revolutionary, if temporarily confused militants. An article giving a more detailed analysis of the significance of the conference appears next week.

## MAY DAY IN NEW YORK

With the Militant Workers - Against Whalen and the Legionaries!

ALL WORKERS OUT TO RUTGERS SQUARE ON THE FIRST OF MAY

The pure democracy of Walker and Whalen has spoken and the right to the streets on May Day has been granted equally to all citizens of good conduct! Here the American Legion, the Russian White Guards and the thousands of police armed to the teeth to protect and assist the reactionary forces—all on Union Square. There the militant workers of New York, with the Communists in the van—at Rutgers Square, with permission to march along a democratically prescribed route to Union Square after it had been "cleared" of the Legion and its Russian thugs-in-law. Elsewhere the respectable "socialists", who gather in the dark in quiet halls to condemn the un-democratic Communists and demand the removal of Whalen so that he may be replaced by another good democrat who will club only Communists; not "innocent citizens and bystanders" as well.

No more democratic arrangement could be expected from the guardians of American capitalist liberty. The socialists are given full rights to spew their mean venom upon the revolutionary movement. The black hundreds of the American Legion and their Russian co-blackguards are generously handed the Square which is traditionally the meeting place of the militant workers. The police are given the liberal right to use their clubs and tear gas bombs against workers who demonstrate their solidarity on May Day. The militant workers are given the right to be threatened by police club and machine gun if they don't behave on the streets like Sunday school boys. The Communist leaders Foster, Minor, Amter, Raymond and Lester are given the right to rest in democratic prison for demonstrating on the free streets.

### Capitalists on the Offensive

The capitalist class in New York, the wisest in the country, has shown its power. It is not on the defensive! It is on the offensive! It knows the possibilities given the revolutionary movement in the unemployment situation, and it is curbing it from the outset. It granted Union Square to the Communists on March 6th, and then

showed its power by the savage, unprecedentedly brutal, manner in which it broke up the demonstration. As pious lovers of democracy, it did not refuse the Communist Party a permit for Union Square on May Day. No! It merely organized its band of toughs in the American Legion, allotted 10,000 well-armed police to help them, and installed them in Union Square.

It calculated on the weakness of the revolutionary movement to contest the holding of the Square with the armed Legionaries, White Guards and police. They would have reckoned in vain had the leaders of the official Communist Party succeeded in mobilizing such a mass movement of workers as would enable them to challenge the usurpers of our May Day meeting place. But the irresponsible, false policies of this leadership have compromised the chances for such a success in advance.

The Communist Party has decided to retreat from its original plan to start its demonstration in Union Square and contest for place with the Legion. It will, instead, hold its demonstration in Rutgers Square. The step is a correct one. It was indicated by us previously in the Militant and under the circumstances was not to be avoided. The isolation to which the leaders of the Party have doomed the membership made the Union Square contest difficult. But the fact that it has been a retreat has not been acknowledged; and that is necessary. The workers must learn to distinguish a retreat from an advance. Those who tell the workers that a retreat is not really a retreat but a victory, are criminally misleading them and preventing them from judging their own future. Upon the Party leaders and the Daily Worker fall the guilt of this light-minded mis-education.

The alleged "majority group" (the Lovestone Right wing) is overjoyed at the retreat. They speculated upon it and the hopes that the blunders of the Stalinist leaders would lead to a crushing defeat in Union Square for the Party and a justification for the cowardly policy of permanent

retreat which is the present line of Lovestone and Company. In the past, Lovestone went along with, and initiated, every criminal adventure for which his whole regime in the Party was noted. Today he has developed under the tutelage of that master of falling backward, Brandler, to the policy of criminal and permanent retreat.

The Militant, on the contrary, declared in its last issue: "The Party cannot fight this battle alone. It must appeal to the masses. Upon the volume of support which the masses give to this appeal, clearly manifested beforehand, depends the question whether the Communists should accept the challenge to fight for the Square on May Day, or make a temporary retreat before stronger forces of the enemy. All efforts in the next days must be concentrated in going to the masses with this issue."

The Party leaders failed to do this. They made the retreat inevitable with their narrow policy. But for Lovestone, retreat is a constant inevitability. May Day will show: Upon the strength of the Rutgers Square demonstration, upon the numbers which have responded to the call, upon the tempo of workers assembled, still depends the question of whether Mr. Whalen and his Legionaries shall be allowed to usurp the workers center in Union Square unchallenged.

### Organize Labor's Resistance

The New York May Day demonstration is the most important one in the country. It is confronted with a growing offensive of the capitalist class and it must strengthen the resistance of the workers. It is the enemy that is on the offensive; the workers are on the "offensive" only in the fantastic proclamations of the Daily Worker. It is the enemy that dared to carry through the scandalous trial of the five Communists, with a denial of jury trial, of bail, of defense witnesses, in Star Chamber, and with the imposition of brutal, maximum sentences. It is the enemy that dared for the first time in years to take over Union Square with its Legionaries. For the first time in history the White Guard rats are out of their holes and offering to join the Legionaries to fight Communism in America.

The workers must answer at the May Day meeting. But the Party leaders make a well-organized and concerted answer difficult. Their slogan of the "general political strike" under present circumstances is unrefined stupidity, guaranteed only to discredit this valuable slogan. The workers must rally to Rutgers Square, around the demands for work or compensation, for the 7 hour day and five day week, for social insurance, for extensive credits to the Soviet Union as a measure of alleviating unemployment misery, for the defense of the arrested Communist leaders.

The workers must give voice to their solidarity and demand a fighting united front against unemployment, the main problem of the American working class today. The Party members must press upon the bureaucratic layer that stifles Party democracy and initiative, and compel a united front of all revolutionary elements. The Communist Opposition is in solidarity with the May Day demonstration and will be found in its ranks. A solid mass of workers, capable of acting intelligently and militantly, will be our reply to the provocative, Cossack attacks of Whalen and his paymasters.

ON MAY DAY—ALL NEW YORK MILITANTS TO RUTGERS SQUARE.

## UNEMPLOYMENT UNRELIEVED

The situation remains dismal for the millions of unemployed workers in the United States, who are occupied with the discouraging task of seeking non-existent jobs. Neither Spring nor Hoover have brought the awaited acceleration of employment. The report on industrial activity for the month of March, issued by Francis J. Jones, director general of the United States Employment Service of the Department of Labor, Washington, has to admit continued wide-spread unemployment and depression in the outstanding trades, manufactures and industries. The report in part, states:

"...There was no great improvement in industrial activity during March... The iron and steel industry has not reached normal operations and unemployment continued among the workers.."

"Curtailed schedules continued in the boot and shoe industry, particularly in the New England States, where a large number of workers were employed on a part-time basis, with quite a number idle..."

Nor is the picture a prettier one for

the cotton textile workers.

"The cotton-textile industry remained unchanged, with a large volume of textile mill laborers working part-time and many unemployed..."

Pittsburg reports for the steel trades, expressed both publicly and privately, are gloomy. As per New York Times report, they "have a strongly conservative tinge". As we have stated before, the economic reaction is world-wide and is taking its immense toll everywhere through added joblessness and misery for the workers. The reports from Germany are that the steel market has grown more inactive, both in ingot steel and in the rolling mills. The steel trust is about to discharge 5,000 workmen and the Siemens & Halske company, 2,000, according to Berlin dispatches.

Φ

LOWELL, Mass.—All union bricklayers in Lowell are on strike for the 40-hour week with a compensatory wage increase from \$1.50 to \$1.65 an hour. Employers would not grant the increase.