

The I. L. P.**Saviors of Reformism**

The detailed reports that have arrived about the Birmingham conference of the Independent Labor Party enable us to judge its decisions with greater accuracy. As the first cabled reports already indicated, its most important act was the decision to organize as an independent faction the "loyal" I. L. P. representatives in the House of Commons Labor Party group, with a program and a discipline separate from that of the Parliamentary Labor Party as a whole.

The Discrediting of Reformism

The reasons for this radical step will best characterize its significance. The second Labor Party government has been a fiasco not only from the point of view of the revolutionary working class, but from the point of view of reformism itself. So reactionary has been its course, so essentially similar to ordinary Tory regimes has it been, so nobly has it defended the empire on every occasion, that it has awakened the enmity of whole sections of the working class, or at least laid the basis for such an awakening.

"In ten months," said Allen Young, one of the delegates to the I. L. P. conference. "Mr. Thomas has done more to enthrone in autocratic power the financiers and bankers than the previous Tory administration in its four-and-a-half years, and had made intensely more difficult the tasks of future Socialist Governments". In the field of foreign affairs, the great pacifist MacDonald conclusively demonstrated that imperialist interests could be defended as well and as violently by him as by Chamberlain or Baldwin. At the Hague, Snowden roared for Britain's blood-money like a Shylock unleashed. At the London conference, MacDonald's ardor for "our naval supremacy" was indistinguishable under the microscope from that of Lord Grey's in India. Laborite machine guns fire precisely the same bullets as the Tory type. At home or abroad, for the miner of South Wales as for the Egyptian fellahin, the Laborite government has run up a record fully as black as any of its predecessors, so black indeed that even wet-nosed liberals of the New York Nation type have felt constrained to mew a mild protest.

The socialists in power are thus proceeding to accomplish one of their most important if not involuntary tasks: the destruction of working class faith in the efficacy of reformism. The I. L. P. conference decision is a reflection of this fact from two diametrically opposed directions.

First: it is a result of upward pressure from below, the demand from the ranks for a more militant and aggressive struggle against capitalism and its most willing lackey, the Labor Party. There are thousands of revolutionary workers in the I.L.P. who are moving towards Communism, confusedly and unconsciously, but nevertheless they are moving. The pressure they exercised on the Birmingham conference was a step in this direction. From the point of view of the ferment in the ranks, the Birmingham decision is unquestionably to be greeted as a reflection of a powerful molecular process.

Maxton as MacDonald's Saviour

Secondly: the decision is a result of downward pressure from above, the desire of the I. L. P. leaders to save the miserable face of reformism to set up a new wall against the forward march towards revolution of the workers who have been jolted out of their belief in reformism by the brutal realities of its treachery. Maxton, in his keynote speech, adequately showed that he was against the Communist movement because he is against the proletarian revolution, but against the Labor Party only because it brings discredit to, let us call it, intelligent reformism. Just as the Labor Party opposition to capitalist parties is developed rigidly within the frame-work of capitalism, so Maxton's opposition to MacDonald is with equal rigor confined to the limits of reformism. Maxton and Co. have set up a concentration camp two miles to the Left of the Labor Party, and two hundred miles to the Right of the proletarian revolution, in which to intern for as long a time as possible those

workers who would otherwise have no obstacles on their road of march from disillusioning reformism to militant Communism. That does not make Maxton and his colleagues revolutionists, but rather the most skillful deceivers of the working class, the Swiss Guardsmen of reformism. In a word, from the point of view of the I. L. P. leaders (in contradistinction to the progressive ranks), Birmingham marked only a clever and temporary shift of front.

The Incapacity of the C. P.

Were there in England a Communist Party capable of understanding and action, instead of a sect that chases hopelessly after Third Period mirages, this capital situation could be utilized to the utmost for the revolutionary movement. But that is too much to expect of the Murphys and Rusts. British Communism nevertheless has an excellent opportunity to tear aside the contemptible tatter with which the new saviors of reformism have clothed themselves in an attempt to rig up in England a weak-tea imitation of their Austrian prototype, the professional capitulators to reaction. Maxton and his clique will never blaze the trail of revolution in England—it is not in their blood. But the British Communists can. They need only to unlearn Stalinism and learn Marx and Lenin.

The Fight for Harry Eisman

The ruling class has few scruples in its punishment of Communists. It picks from the ranks of fighters for the working class and hits with equal severity at all challenges to its rule. Now from the picket line, now from the Party, and it does not hesitate to send to its prisons even the "tender" youth. Harry Eisman, a member of the Young Pioneers has been sentenced to five years imprisonment in the Hawthorne Reformatory for participating in the March 6th unemployment demonstrations.

It Depends on Whose Holiday It Is

The ridiculous farce of the charge truancy against school children participating in working class holidays and demonstrations is quite apparent. Countless times throughout the year holidays are officially proclaimed by the authorities—flag day, decoration day, Lincoln's Birthday, etc. Here the students are turned loose into the streets and forced to sing and cheer the "Star Spangled" capitalist and land of the slave. The boy scouts camp fire girls, etc., are released from school almost any time the jingo militarists want to show their masters what gracious and valuable service they are rendering them.

But just let a working man's son or daughter walk out to demonstrate against unemployment and the storm breaks loose. Expulsion, terrorism, and even imprisonment awaits the working class children. The capitalist class knows well the phrase: "The youth is the hope of the future." All forces are brought into play to make this

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THE MILITANT
25 Third Avenue New York, N. Y.**Unemployment****A Capitalist Monstrosity**

A study of the world-wide unemployment which faces the capitalists of all countries reveals some very interesting facts. Capitalism in its development has come face to face with a monster of its own creation, the monster of unemployment. The breakdown of the capitalist mode of production and distribution has come to be an awful and compelling truth. The worker is beginning to realize this, to realize that it is not a matter of the personal merits of public officials but that the cause is fundamental and that the true offender is nothing less than the system of class rule under which he is exploited.

But if the worker is beginning to have some faint conception of these things the capitalist class has a much clearer conception. They realize that not only have they no solution to the two problems which chiefly effect the lives of the vast majority of workers today, unemployment and low wages, but also that there is being established through the existence of these two legitimate, inevitable offspring of capital-

ism a real economic basis on which a revolutionary working class driven to desperation by hunger and starvation can unite.

Capitalism has no salvation to the problems of unemployment and low wages because (first) unemployment is caused by the fact that when the workers is employed he receives about one sixth of the product of his labor which in turn produces a huge surplus, an era of capitalist overproduction, so that the worker is turned out to starve while the boss finds a market for his surplus goods. Second, on the question of low wages we find that capitalism, being competitive, is forced to sell its goods in an open competitive market and the manufacturer who sells the cheapest will be the one who get the orders. But in order to decrease the cost of production, he must either increase production through the speed-up or he must cut wages. That the worker is being victimized by both of these methods of exploitation is a fact too well known to deserve mentioning to any extent here.

During the recent unemployment parades the capitalist dictatorship, especially in America, has shown its fear by its brutality. Every move of the working class which might contain a germ of revolutionary spirit is met with the club and bayonet. Giant strides in the class conscious awakening of the proletariat will bring in their train a series of repressions of a hitherto unheard of character. The American capitalist class is the most aggressive, arrogant ruling class in the world today comparable in brutality only to the French feudal lords of 1789, and will not make any retreat except it be a forced one.

However, as the machine age and the dawn of the super-machine age forces more and more workers into the ranks of the unemployed to face destitution and starvation, and as the class struggle becomes sharper, this inevitable acceleration of the masses toward a revolutionary concept will take place. It would be idle to make any predictions as to how long before a decided development of this phase takes place.

Super-Machine Age

War is of course inevitable. Modern capitalism however, has at its command the inventive genius of the world. Never before in the history of humanity has insensate mechanism been able to perform the tasks of both brawn and brain as it does today. One of our radio engineers a few years ago waxing enthusiastic over the success of some experiments in radio-control, predicted that not only was the driverless automobile and the manless battleship here, but that the workerless factory was just around the corner. Predictions of this type are usually dismissed by the average unimaginative worker as so much "bull" until the dream becomes a reality and he finds himself out of a job as the consequence. Quite recently one of the big electric companies was demonstrating the televox, or mechanical man, so that we see that the human supervisor of the machine is about to be replaced by the machine supervisor of the machine.

Reflecting on the tremendous advances of this inventive genius and on the driving force of various capitalist nations to secure the world markets, it is easy to comprehend that a gradual introduction of this super-machine era will take place. Searching for a way to save itself from extinction by competition, capitalism will pave the way for its extinction by revolution. Trying to save itself by avoiding one road it will be hopelessly lost by taking another. Under no circumstances is it possible for a return to the periodical resurrection of capitalist prosperity in the sense of giving part time employment to nearly all the workers. We must organize not to stop the onrush of the machine age but rather to stop any further advance of the machine age slavery. You must fight for the abolition of the capitalist ownership of the machine and the emancipation of the working class through the dictatorship of the proletariat. —G. ROBERTS

future one of servility and docile obedience to capitalism.

Harry Eisman sent to prison for five years; two students, Max Weiss of City College, and Sol Wellman of Boy's High School, are threatened with expulsion; eleven mothers are given jail sentences because their children took part in working class demonstrations. The authorities grow red in the face denouncing the Young Pioneers and the Young Communist League. From the ruling class come cries for the suppression and smashing of these militant youth organizations. Drivers are heralded all over the press to counteract through the Boy Scouts any influence the Young Pioneers have among working class children.

In face of this increased persecution the working class must not remain quiet. Only organizations like the Y.P.S.L., long impotent in the interests of the working class, can fail to respond. With increased unemployment running into the millions, the speed-up and the wage cuts forced on the working class, the cry for organization becomes louder and more imperative. We must consolidate our forces to give impetus to this process.

Especially the working youth which is more exploited, has the great need to ally to the banner of Communism. Any unanswered blow on any section of the working class seriously weakens the whole movement. The case of Harry Eisman does not stand alone as an isolated sign of the cruelty of some city official. On the contrary, it is just one of a long chain of blows dealt both to adult and youth movements. Thus the slogan of Free Harry Eisman should become for the Communist youth a centre for mobilizing the working youth and student. The liberation of this young student is the task of working class youth irrespective of political beliefs and towards this end a broad united front should be created. The Communist League (Opposition) pledges its wholehearted support to save the movement for Harry Eisman from isolation. Let a strong movement be the response to ruling class provocations.

—GEO. CLARKE

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We see from the papers that a little while ago the Lovestone group sent a letter to the Senate Committee protesting the Hoover nomination of Judge Parker to the Supreme Court, evidently with the desire of getting some one into that position who would be fair to labor...Not many days later, the Senate voted to reject Parker. The American bourgeoisie must simply have been scared out of its wits by Lovestone.