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The Wage-Cutting Drive

What Green's Sellout to Hoover and the Bosses Really Means to the American Workers

What's Going On in China?

The Daily Worker, through its great Orientalist Doonping, announces that "the Chinese Revolution advances by leaps and bounds towards the establishment of a Soviet Republics" and that "the red armies grow like snowballs". (D.W. August 9). The stimulant to this latest effusion is the reported operation of the so-called "Communist armies" in the Yangtze Valley (Hunan, Hupeh, Kiangsu and Fukien).

A couple of months ago, its pages plastered with maps and rhetoric, an issue of the Daily Worker appeared greeting the convocation of the "All-Chinese Congress of Soviets". Thereafter with the same startling legerdemain this all-Chinese Congress completely disappeared from the eyes of men, "sunk without a trace". Long, weary weeks afterwards, with the intelligence service of a great state at his disposal, Stalin vaguely referred to this "Soviet Congress" in such terms as "it is said" and "if it is true, it would not surprise us".

Sands of Illusion

The Communist International cannot be built on the shifting sands of illusion. Such scruples however play small part in the factional calculations to those for whom the rising of a Bolivian military clique is a social revolution, a tribal raid is a war against imperialism, five thousand in Union Square are fifty thousand, water turns into wine and the wafer into the body of Christ. Wishes are not facts and we do not propose to replace Marxism by journalistic bally-hoo. We adhere to Lenin's "old-fashioned" practise of calling a spade a spade, and a putsch a putsch. To avoid mere emotionalism, one must retain a clear picture of the character and the perspectives of the Chinese Revolution.

The theses of the Second Congress of the Comintern energetically warned against the danger of permitting petty-bourgeois democratic movements in the colonial countries to masquerade as Communist. What shall we say today when amorphous guerilla bands of socially uprooted soldiery and peasantry have only to use the insignia of the hammer and sickle to be proclaimed as the genuine Soviet emancipators of China? Yet in this confusion for which the Stalin bureaucracy is responsible there is a certain logic. Here is more testimony to the political consequences that flow from the reactionary idea that the next stage in the social development of China is the "democratic dictatorship", in theory the peasant democracy—in fact, the regime either of a Kerensky or Chiang Kai-Shek. Yesterday this famous "democratic dictatorship" was to be realized through the bourgeois Kuomintang; today it is slated to emanate from peasant guerilla warfare. But what of the industrial proletariat... and the Communist Party? In 1925-6-7, the Communist Party was turned into a mere appendage of the Chinese bourgeoisie; in 1930, the fragment of the Communist Party left after the massacres of Chiang Kai-Shek, has become a red-tinctured edition of the "green" peasant parties of Raditch and Stambulisky.

The Third Chinese revolution is inevitable—if its strategy is Marxist, if its leadership is actuated by the recognition of its real driving forces. Between opportunism and putschism the Stalin machine has shown that it can only retard and ruin revolutionary possibilities. In 1925-6-7 the

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Hardly had the stock market collapse and the mass unemployment that followed right on its heels had time to sink into the minds of the working class than that ever faithful footman of the American capitalist class William Green rushed to the Hoover employers' conference to pledge that he would do all in his power to prevent any strikes in the coming period.

America's industrialists winkingly assured Green, without smiling, that on their part they would not undertake to cut labor's wages.

Green Remains Loyal

Green has of course kept his part of the bargain. In accordance with the role he is paid to play, and has played for years, he has religiously sabotaged any movement of the American workers to fight against the growing impoverishment to which unemployment, speed-up and wage slashing condemn them. He motivates his incessant scabbing with a reference to the employers' "pledge" to "maintain the American wage standard". Here is how it is being maintained:

The National Cash Register Co. of Dayton, Ohio, has put through a 10 percent cut for 6,000 employees.

"Fifty hosiery mills in the United States have abolished extra rates for continuous operation services," says the Labor Bureau, "which amounts to actually decreasing wage earnings, while members of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Tin Workers in the Youngstown, Ohio district, are to receive 25 cents a ton less as wages during May and June as a result of a decline in the average price of steel bars. Similarly, employees of copper producers in Arizona are to receive a preliminary wage reduction based on the average selling prices of copper during April. 'Average selling prices for May will, of course, be lower and hence another wage reduction will take place on June 1'."

Sixty Wage Cuts

The August bulletin of the Labor Bureau reports 60 distinct wage cuts by as many firms or industries since May. It adds: "The wage truce, supposed to have been agreed to by employers at the Hoover conference early last winter, has been violated by reductions in pay." (Honor to Bill Green who would not violate the gen-

tleman's agreement by organizing strikes against starvation wage cuts!)

These figures are but part of a much greater mass. And they relate only to those workers who have jobs. How about those that are jobless? The Labor Bureau publishes the following

Twelve-Month Comparison of Volume of Employment in percent

1928 to 1929	1929 to 1930
July..... 7	January.....— 5
August..... 5	February.....— 7
September..... 5	March.....— 9
October..... 3	April.....—10
November.....—1-2	May.....—12
December.....—4	June.....—13

These figures represent only the percentage changes in the number employed. No account is taken of part-time employment. It is pointed out that the number of man-hours worked would show an even more drastic downward curve.

The cold figures speak an eloquent language. They show as clear as day that the American capitalist class is working to issue out of its own, crisis by squeezing the last drop out of the working class. The less resistance that is offered the more arrogantly will the bosses proceed to carve deeper into the standards of life hitherto won by the workers. The need for a militant front to include every worker is now more imperative than ever.

For Social Insurance

And for the unemployed, whose fate is so closely linked with that of the worker with a job, the broadest campaign to alleviate their difficulties must be conducted. The costs of the crisis must be shifted to the shoulders of those who profited by the prosperity, the capitalists, and who now want the workers to suffer from the decline. The demand must be raised everywhere for recognition of the Soviet Union and long-term credits to it so that it can commence the purchase of machinery here on a large scale. The demand for social insurance to be paid by the state and the bosses, must be developed until the force behind it cannot be resisted.

The Camorra of Green and Co. has betrayed the workers. They must lead the fight against wage-cutting and unemployment themselves.

Our Class War Prisoners Must Be Freed!

In a few days the third anniversary of the cold-blooded murder of Sacco and Vanzetti will be reached. Their memory, ever green in the heart of the world proletariat, remains a burning appeal for the struggle against class justice and persecution.

While the workers everywhere gather to commemorate their judicial assassination the pledge must be renewed for the fight to release all the class war prisoners who continue to fill the penitentiaries of the bloated plutocracy of this country. At this very moment, a cynical, farcical "hearing" is being held again on the case of Tom Mooney and Warren Billings. The whole miserable edifice of perjury, falsehood and crime built up against them has crumbled long ago. What is left is the hideously naked body of the American frame-up system, the acme of our capitalist culture. At the hearings, the prosecutors boldly declare that irrespective of the evidence relating to the alleged crime proper, they favor the imprisonment of Mooney and Billings because they were labor agitators!

The real crime in the Mooney and Billings case remains, as before, the passivity of the workers who let their fighters rot in prison. Hearing or no hearing, we have learned the bitter lesson sufficiently that

no dependence can be put upon the capitalist agencies. The need of the moment is a broad protest movement to shake the country and liberate the two victims of Californian capitalism.

At the other end of the country, William Foster, Robert Minor, I. Amter and Harry Raymond remain imprisoned on Welfare (!) Island. The "magnanimous" Mayor Walker has kindly consented to have the first three released at the end of six months. Every additional day of their incarceration makes more crying the need for a defense movement that will release them and prevent others to come from taking their place.

In the fight for the release of these men, as for the defense of the Atlanta victims, the Centralia I.W.W., for the Italian Communist Serio, Malkin and others elsewhere, the Left wing must take the initiative and the leadership. Thus far it has failed signally. It is apparently too busy with phrase-mongering about the "Third Period" to carry out such "petty" work as defending the class war prisoners. It must nevertheless be done. And on a broad serious scale. Let the master class learn that they cannot murder and imprison our militants without hearing the reply of the working class!

Is Sylvia Bleeker to Be Expelled?

As we go to press, we are given the following important information:

Comrade Sylvia Bleeker, one of the well known leaders of the Left wing in the needle trades, was barred from attending the meeting of the Party needle trades fraction held in the Workers Center Friday night August 8. The Stalinist appointees in charge of the meeting informed her that she could not attend without a permit from the secretary of the Control Commission of the New York district.

The action is evidently the result of the meeting a week previously of the district Control Commission which comrade Bleeker was instructed to attend. There she was confronted with an anonymous accusation of being a "Trotskyist". In answer to a number of heresy-hunting questions, she replied that she was sympathetic towards the views of the Left Opposition. The Inquisition then demanded that she hand in a written statement of her views.

A Typical Case

The case of comrade Bleeker is undoubtedly typical of scores of other comrades in the Party, whom the ruinous course of the latter has set to thinking fundamentally on the situation in the Communist movement and the issues raised by the international Left Opposition. Comrade Bleeker is not only one of the most prominent militants in the needle trades, but an old devoted Party member. She joined the underground Communist Party in the United States in 1920 to which she had been transferred from the Russian Party, for which she had been carrying on responsible work in Poland during the most critical days of the Russian revolution. Since 1926, she was secretary of the milliners' local 43 of the Zaritsky union, and was one of the leaders in the Left wing fight. She was elected a vice-president and member of the General Executive Board of the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union at its foundation, and still occupies the post of organizer of the Headwear Department of the organization. At the recent convention of the N.T.W.I.U., she was removed from the G.E.B. by Johnstone and Co. because of the militant defense of her views on the Party's trade union policies.

The question that now arises is this: is comrade Bleeker to be expelled from the Party by the Browders and their little Perillas because she, like so many others, dares to hold views, entirely Communist, that run counter to the momentarily official dogmas of the Stalinist clique? Thus far, it seems the question of her Party membership is pending. Her expulsion, like that of supporters of the Left Opposition in the past, would constitute a disgraceful act by the Stalinists and deepen the mark of bureaucracy with which their past acts have branded them.

The Aim of the Browders

There are many other in the Party like comrade Bleeker who allow themselves to think, to express their views and to demand the right to discuss the within the limits of Party democracy. Are they all to be expelled? Is the Party to be systematically cut down so that the membership is reduced to the apparatus crust at the top and blinded, gagged, devitalized yes-men at the bottom? Evidently, that is the ideal towards which the Browderian agglomeration is striving.