

THE MILITANT

Published Twice a Month by the Communist League of America (Opposition)

Vol. III, No. 29

NEW YORK, N. Y. | September 1, 1930

PRICE 5 CENTS

The Military Revolt in Peru

The constant struggle between British and North American financial interests, is clearly discernable in the present military revolt in Peru. Following close on the heels of the fall of the Siles dictatorship in Bolivia, Augusto B. Leguía, director Peru, has been forced to resign the government of that country into the hands of a military committee.

For eleven years, Leguía has served Wall Street well as its Peruvian "viceroy", being ever ready to support the American imperialist interests against their British rivals as well as against the masses of native peons and workers. The various movements which have attempted to struggle in one form or another against the existing regime have been suppressed arbitrarily and in the most ruthless fashion. Consequently the prisons are filled with political prisoners ranging from the liberal bourgeois elements around Haya de la Torre in the A.P.R.A., which under the veil of the anti-imperialist struggle covers up its services to British capitalism, to the workers' and peasants' leaders who have dared to organize the masses against the imperialist exploitation.

A few years ago considerable attention was called in the revolutionary and even in the bourgeois press to the system of forced labor existing in the mines and highways of Peru, the peasants and Indians of certain regions being forced to work for a nominal wage and at times for nothing at all for a certain number of days yearly as a sort of "patriotic contribution" to the country's progress.

Peru is one of Wall Street's most productive colonies, being especially rich in oil, copper, vanadium and molybdenum. The interests of British imperialism are also large, amounting to \$140,897,897 on January 1, 1929 as against \$150,889,000 for the United States at the same date. Prior to Leguía's administration British investments greatly exceeded those of the United States bankers, but the war, together with the control by Wall Street of the political machine headed by Leguía, gave American interests the opportunity to expand and to outstrip the British interests. So far as can be judged by the information available up to now Leguía's downfall, while heralded throughout the world and especially throughout Latin America as a blow to "absolutism" is recognized on the New York stock exchange as a blow to the American investors. This is seen by the sudden drop taken by stocks of the Vanadium Corporation, the Cerro de Pasco Copper Corporation, and by the government bonds and sharp fall of the Peruvian currency. Calvin Coolidge expressed the feelings of his master when he stated in his daily gargon that "the reports of a revolution making headway in Peru are disquieting and discouraging"

On the other hand we cannot refrain from cautioning the editors of the *Daily Worker* against going into ecstasies over the "attempt of the Peruvian masses to seize power". They made the mistake of so analyzing the Bolivian military coup d'Etat of a few weeks ago. Unfortunately the organization and fighting abilities of the Peruvian proletariat, as well as of the Bolivian, are at too low an ebb to make possible at the present moment an effective utilization of these family quarrels among the imperialists and their lackeys.

—RUSSELL BLACKWELL.

Vote Communist!

Against the Parties of Unemployment and Wage-Cuts, and the «Socialist» Reformers

The election campaign is well under way. The capitalist class has put up dummies who execute its orders in the city, state and national legislatures, and the sham battles between the two openly capitalist parties have begun with the usual attacks—entirely correct—upon each other's integrity, malfeasance and corruption in office, dishonesty and graft. The bankruptcy of the Republican and Democratic parties has rarely been brought out in such bold relief.

Capitalist Bankruptcy

The apostle of "permanent prosperity", Hoover, has been neither desirous nor capable of stemming the tide of misery and suffering that has inundated millions of unemployed workers and those at work whose standards are being brutally lowered. Hoover's Democratic critics, who are making the most of the political capital with which his incapacity serves them, shout all the more loudly against their Republican brothers-under-the-skin because they must themselves conceal their total failure to alleviate the indescribable conditions of the workers in those localities where there are Democratic administrations (New York City New York state, throughout the South, etc., etc.).

The truth is that the capitalist politicians, who represent the system which produces unemployment, child labor, prostitution, wars and misery, are cynically unconcerned about the sufferings of the workers except insofar as it gives them arguments against those in office and for those who want to get at the trough.

The third party of the bourgeoisie, the so-called Socialist Party, is still in the field with its petty shop-keeper's reforms. It has become a pure and simple election apparatus, with no more fixed membership

than Tammany Hall, with candidates whose chief aim is to attract votes and not to advance the class interests of the workers. The party of Debs has become the party of Norman Thomas, with his quack reforms, and Heywood Brown, the idol of the liberal intellectuals.

The "Bulwark against Bolshevism"

The American Socialist party is the spiritual and material brother of the British Labor Party, under whose administration unemployment in England has grown and flourished like the green bay tree, under whose knout, saber and machine gun the Indian workers and peasants are being massacred. The Socialist Party is the political machine of the corrupt labor bureaucracy in the needle trades and elsewhere, the parasites who work hand in hand with the bosses against the cruelly exploited workers. The Socialist Party is a vote catching machine that constitutes a safe deposit for the discontentment of the workers. It is a "bulwark against Bolshevism"—as the more enlightened capitalist papers perceive—that is, a bulwark against the advance of the working class in struggle against their oppressors.

The workers are confronted—not only on election day but all through the year—by a dictatorship of the capitalist class, by that group of James W. Gerard's multimillionaires who REALLY run the country, a dictatorship that can be abolished only by a dictatorship of the workers, that is, of the overwhelming majority of the people, a dictatorship that would be a thousand times more democratic than any capitalist "democracy". The whole election system is a monstrous fraud of capitalism, a fraud which creates the illusion that the workers can seriously improve their lot or take control of industry by throwing enough bits

of paper into the ballot box to "elect the right men"

The control of government, of industry, of power are never decided on the floors of congress, but on the battlefield of the class struggle. The elections give the workers the opportunity of testing their strength, their mood for struggle. The elections give the workers the opportunity of transforming the fraudulent paper battle around the ballot box into a genuine struggle for their demands: a struggle in the form of demonstrations and strikes that break through the hypocritical veil of spurious "democratic" elections.

The Main Issue

The principal issue of the day is unemployment, and the wage cuts, evictions, and starvation that accompany it. The Communist Party has properly focused the attention of the working class on this point. This party is the only one in the field that represents not only the immediate but also the final aim of the proletariat.

The Communist League of America (Opposition) has many disagreements with the policy of the Communist Party. We warn against the Party's tendency to make the social insurance bill the focal point in the election campaign. It is not through bills in Congress that the unemployed will obtain relief, the evicted a rent moratorium, the workers an end to wage-cuts. To cause the workers to believe otherwise would be to sow the most destructive illusions among them. It is not Congress that can and will aid the unemployed by adopting a social insurance plan; it is not a bill that will aid the jobless in some dim, distant future (if ever under capitalism). It is the living, genuine struggle of the unemployed and the starving for food—of which there is plenty; of the homeless and evicted for roofs over their heads and against the grasping landlords—and homes there are enough—in short, it is only by their own struggles every day (and not around a ballot box) that workers can obtain relief.

The Communist League is also opposed to the appeal the Communist Party is making to the farmers—an appeal that does not unite the interests of the workers of the city with the workers in the fields and the poorest section of the farmers, but sets the interests of the farmers in general against those of the city working class.

Where We Stand

But the Communist Party nevertheless remains OUR PARTY. Its errors and shortcomings are the errors and shortcomings of a temporary leadership violently imposed upon it. The Communist League has appealed to the Party for united action in support of the Communist campaign. The faction agents who run the Party by grace of appointment have rejected this appeal. We will continue in spite of that to support the Communist Party campaign with all our strength.

The Communist Party is the only Party of the working class. It embraces the main elements in the revolutionary movement. Despite its incompetent leadership and their destructive policies, the Party remains the only one that workers conscious of their class interests can support. A vote to the Democratic, Republican or Socialist parties is a vote thrown away to the class enemies of the workers and their loyal assistants and moderators. A vote for the Communist Party is a vote for working class power.

VOTE COMMUNIST!

—S—n

Blumkin Dead-Is Rakovsky Next?

Every day brings news of intensified measures of repression against the Left Opposition in the Soviet Union. Stalin is taking new steps forward. In order to apply the "law" with even greater cynicism, he constantly extends the meaning of the accusations against our comrades. "Counter-revolutionist" addressed to them is not an insulting and lying epithet, it is an accusation involving five and ten years in prison. Comrade Trotsky has been expelled from the U.S.S.R. with the accusation of organizing "counter-revolutionary" movements—that is of organizing the Bolshevik, proletarian resistance to the pressure of class enemies whom the Stalinist apparatus fights in words.

At one time Yaroslavsky invented the police conspiracy of the "Wrangel officer"—of a so-called collusion with an agent provocateur, former Wrangel officer sent into the Opposition's ranks by the G.P.U.—in order to compromise our comrades in some infamous plot. Stalin continues to create "amalgams" of this kind at every occasion. But he no longer needs such complicated fables. He directly "amalgamates" the Oppositionists with the laws that punish counter-revolutionary activity of White Guards, capitalists and speculators. Hundreds of militants, revolutionary workers, have been sent into places of deportation, then into prisons and solitary confinement under the lying accusation of "counter-revolutionary" activity.

Now we learn that a new system of

accusations has been set going by the Stalinist apparatus. Our comrades are accused of espionage in the interests of the counter-revolution when their relations with Opposition Communists outside the U.S.S.R. are discovered. This monstrosity was disclosed by an accusation of espionage brought against a comrade imprisoned at Chimkent under the pretext that he was corresponding with comrade Trotsky. This is no isolated fact but a system. We learn that comrade Pestov, at Slavianskoye Selo, was accused in the same sense at the moment of his arrest "of entertaining relations with the counter-revolution abroad". Similar accusations are brought against other comrades.

The aim of this new and abominable invention is clear. The accusation of belonging to the counter-revolution "in general" is not sufficient to attain the aim sought, which is the physical extermination of the Left Opposition! To be able to lock up revolutionists for ten years in solitary confinement prison, to exterminate the best groups of the Opposition by shooting them at will, they have invented "espionage" and "relations with the counter-revolution abroad". The mechanics of Stalin are obvious. It is this blind and murderous mechanics that had Edumkin shot, who followed Eutov and others to their death. Stalin is trying to generalize his activities—which are genuinely counter-revolutionary.

Stalin is persecuting the very best.

(Continued on Page 5)