



One Road for Miners!

Lay A Firm Class Foundation at the Gillespie Convention

The Progressive Miners' constitutional convention, which meets at Gillespie, Ill., Oct. 3, has a mighty job in hand and a great duty to perform.

First on the agenda, if not in numerical order, then at least in importance, is the task of solidifying the union foundation in a working class sense, to secure its progressive direction and clinch the objective which establishes its militant character.

Your way to victory is the one of militant struggle. That is your one main weapon and a powerful one. Of this the past has furnished ample proof to you.

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WHO RAISE THE BOGEY OF THE "REDS"

The bogey of the "Red" issue is raised in order to swerve the miners from their progressive path. "Stay clear of the 'red,'" says the operators' propaganda.

We do not forget the fact that the many blunders and false policies of the official Communist party Stalinist leadership has helped to make it possible for such propaganda to appear.

WHICH IS THE POLITICAL PARTY OF LABOR?

In your deliberations at the convention and in your future seeking, you will likely meet the sleek office seeking careerist. You know how to deal with him.

When given the prerequisites of militant unionism, resting on a class foundation, your best guarantee for victory in this present strike struggle is at hand.

PROGRESSIVE MINERS OF AMERICA CAN SHOW THE WAY

Your future tasks are enormous and there are great difficulties in your way. But given a class foundation, a rank and file membership imbued with the will to win, the spirit to fight to the last and the readiness to sacrifice for the cause;

Which Political Party Shall the Miners Support in the Coming Elections

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—

The coal diggers of Illinois are fighting a great battle. It is a battle against many foes, which promises no easy victory. Yet every day is rich in lessons for every miner that wants to learn.

There can be no doubt about the real character of the Peabody and their henchmen, Lewis and Walker. With them there can be no peace. But the troopers, the militia, the deputies—

MOSCOW LETTER

Crisis in Soviet Economy

Stalinism Endangers Alliance Between Town and Village

The following document arrived from Russia in a foreign language, into which it had been translated for comparative reasons.

There is a great and constantly widening gap between the facts of the economic life of the Soviet Union and their reflection in the press or even in the official reports.

The slowing up of the tempo has its deep causes in the increase of disproportionate relationships. Every sphere of industry, no matter how great the efforts made, restricts itself to its minimum element.

Down with Lewisism!



Two More Expelled for «Trotskyism»

Following the arbitrary expulsion of comrade Sebastian Pappas for "Trotskyism", the Stalinist bureaucracy in New York has summarily expelled from the party two more of the active militants for their refusal to denounce the Left Opposition and comrade Trotsky as "counter-revolutionists".

Comrade Gordon is a charter member of the Communist movement in this country, a foundation member of the Communist Labor Party in 1919. His activity in Chicago, Detroit, Rochester and New York is well known in wide circles of the party.

Problems Before the Gillespie Convention of the Progressive Miners of America

SPRINGFIELD.—

The first constitutional convention of the Progressive Miners of America which will convene in Gillespie, Ill., on Oct. 3, will be a very important event in the history of the miners of America.

The Progressive Miners Union is meeting in convention at a time when the whole system of capitalism is in a stage of decay, with a crisis in the coal industry that is world wide and is made more acute by (a) world shrinkage of consumption; (b) increased industrial development in other countries, thereby destroying markets and creating new competitors; (c) developments of other sources of power, such as: oil, hydroelectric, etc.—

For Class Struggle Program

To meet this general capitalist attack, the Progressive Miners union must free itself from the illusions of capitalist democracy and unite on a program of class struggle. Since the present struggle began, the members of the Progressive Miners union that went on the march to West Frankfort and Taylorville should henceforth be under no illusion as to the nature of the State which everywhere revealed itself as an instrument of the Peabody Coal Co. and the other coal operators.

Lewis Gangsters Fail to Cow Miners

Springfield Miners Resist Strike-Breaker Mobilization

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—

William Sneed, generalissimo of the Lewis gunmen in this state, called a meeting at Knights of Columbus building on Sunday, September 25, for the purpose of organizing strike-breakers to open up mines in Sangamon County.

The riot resulted in the death of Porter Williams, a police detective. They have charged Garnett Smith, another of the Lewis gunmen with the murder of Williams, although several eye-witnesses saw Bill Sneed shoot down Williams.

When news of the meeting appeared in the local press the P. M. A. decided to picket the K. of C. building and 1,500 P. M. A. members were on the picket line.

The local strike-breakers came first from the K. of C. building and were followed by Peabody-Lewis gunmen, with deadly

weapons flaunted in their hands, incensing the strikers by threatening to shoot if a word was uttered. Dominic Digeronimo shouted, "Long live the P. M. A.!" and immediately had a bullet shot through his chest.

The miners, still displaying that marvelous courage that has characterized them throughout the entire struggle, refused to be intimidated by the blood-thirsty savages employed by Peabody and Lewis. The firmness of the miners in their insistence that the gunmen be run out of town created a frenzy among the latter—who shot Detective Porter Williams while aiming a miner. They also wounded Dan McGill, a local leader of the P. M. A. In the ensuing fight, the gunmen got a deserved trimming.

The miners, carrying out their decision to run the thugs out of town, pursued them to the Leland Hotel. Here they were met by State Cossacks, sheriffs, deputies and the entire detective and police force of Springfield, with machine guns, tear gas bombs and the paraphernalia of modern warfare.

The police, in their usual role of bosses' lackeys, carried the gunmen to safety in the police station, while the street leading to the jail was guarded by the National Guardsmen. Hundreds of miners jeered them on the way.

The miners are learning lessons in this struggle, lessons that cannot easily be forgotten. The role of the state as an instrument of the bosses is being keenly brought home to them. The state, Peabody and Lewis, feeling secure in keeping the mines in Franklin, Williamson and Saline Counties operating, have now moved the offensive to Christian County. Here the militancy of the P. M. A. is at a high level. The state, realizing that this is no ordinary struggle, has sent two battalions of machine gunners to reinforce the artillery already stationed here.

The duty of the leadership of the P. M. A. is to call for mass picketing at Taylorville right away. In this respect, they have already lost time. Mass picketing will shut down Taylorville!

In spite of open terror and semi-legality, the Communist party won a great victory in the municipal election at Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, giving evidence to the constantly growing sympathies for Communism among the oppressed and enslaved masses. However, according to the Communists, the election victory is to be nullified!

BERLIN LETTER

New Step Toward Fascism

Struggle for Democratic Rights Now on Agenda in Germany

At the very moment when the Reichstag put the imprint of the most tremendous vote of lack of confidence upon the Papen government, the social democratic president, Hindenburg dissolved the Reichstag. The Communists skillfully introduced this decision. The tactic of the only government party, the German Nationals, contributed to them enormously.

Already in the preceding days, the Papen government showed similar signs of "strength": the parade of the Steel Helmets, the administration reforms, etc. It proclaimed that in a short time it would continue unwaveringly with its program: the program of constitution changing, the program of millions in gifts to the capi-

talists, the program of branches in wage scales, the program of armaments. The struggle against the "dirty swine at home" proclaimed by von Schleicher naturally stands in the foreground.

It would be ridiculous to undertake Papen-Schleicher, behind whom stands the will of German finance capital to remain independent; it would however be disastrous to develop a perspective out of the appearances of the present events. It should not be forgotten for a moment that Papen's "main strength" is the indecisive relationship of forces between the proletariat and Fascism, which may shift one way or another at any time.

Let Papen feel towards the parliament like a Bismarck, yes, as a Cromwell, whose paths proceed through dissolved parliaments. In reality, he is lacking in everything for this role: the progressive aim, the outlook for a conjuncture, and primarily and over and over again, the mass movement. In the latter lies the distinction from the Nazis, a distinction which must eternally remain a book with seven seals to those who call Papen, Bruening, Wels and Hitler Fascists in one breath. That is what will compel the bourgeoisie in the not very distant future to employ Papen together with Hitler. That is why, for example, the semi-official Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung does