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# THE MILITANT



Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America [Opposition]

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## Strike Wave Hits Canada Struggles Show Labor Revival

**Toronto.**—During the past several months there has been developing in Canada a strike movement of portentous moment. Parallel to the movement in the United States although much smaller in size, the strike wave in Canada is sweeping across the country, gathering momentum with each victory and giving the urge to increasingly greater struggles of the masses.

Theoretically, the situation here is of very broad significance, especially in the contrast it presents to the American situation. The question of the immediate source of the strike wave is somewhat simplified because of the absence of an N. R. A. to inculcate; that this immediate source is the cyclical upturn can be concretely illustrated by reference to the specific instances composing the movement—for example, the strike of the workers of Hallman and Sable took place at a time when the firm was doing its heaviest business in four years; the upholsterers struck under the condition of a similar industrial pick-up; and the strike of the furniture workers also occurred at a time when new orders were bringing the workers back to their jobs.

**Radical Term of Movement**

Because of the absence of an N.R.A., however, the movement here has taken a more radical direction. In Canada, even more than in the United States, the great masses of the workers are still unorganized and therefore more bitterly oppressed by the crisis. The growth of the depression gave rise to a process of gradual liquidation of the lower strata of the bourgeoisie; and now that the industrial revival is returning the workers to the factories they are finding themselves integrated into larger and more organized economic units—which in itself would produce an urge to unionize.

**Rise of the Strike Wave**

It is of interest to trace the progressive development of the movement over the course of the past few months. Beginning with June there have been the following strikes:

- Strike of 1000 mine workers of Glace Bay, Nova Scotia—in the face of a lockout when they refused to accept a pay-cut.
- Strike of 2000 lumbermen of the Thunder Bay region for an increase of thirteen cents per cord.
- Strike of 350 fur-workers in Toronto—which won for them a 20% increase and reduction in hours.
- Strike of 100 cannery factory workers in St. Catharines—against wages of 10 and 15c per hour. Successful.
- Strike of 700 workers of the Mercury Mills in Hamilton. Concessions won.
- Strike of 1400 miners in Est Courbe, Alta. Successful.
- Strike of 250 upholsterers in Toronto under the leadership of the W. U. L. Large wage increases won.

**Joint strike of 700 furniture workers in five factories, and 80 workers of the Swift Co. in the town of Stratford.** This can truly be called the crest of the strike wave, from the point of view of its militancy, the proportions it has taken on, and its potential after-effects. This Christian-Canadian town of 17,000 people has been witnessing events of really International-Bolshevik portent.

**Mass Movement in Stratford**

The strike of the furniture workers was called on Sept. 14. The strike of the Swift workers took place in an entirely spontaneous manner on the Monday following. It was quickly taken in hand by the W. U. L. and almost instantly the two strikes became knitted into a solid mass movement. Returned soldiers served as buglers to summons the men from one factory to another whenever help was needed. The whole town is behind the strike—employed and unemployed, returned men and militia men. When it was suggested in the city council that the militia be called upon to maintain order, it was discovered that the entire militia was out on the line with the strikers. In desperation the mayor appealed to the government who promptly sent him 120 troops and four tanks from other towns. This action raised a storm of protest throughout the country. The A. F. of L. locals in Stratford formed a united front with the W. U. L. on this issue. Tremendous demonstrations were staged at one of which 8,000 people—more than half the town—turned out.

In normal times strikes occur in a sporadic manner and have value almost entirely as individual economic struggles. The present strike wave, on the other hand, is a definitely organic process, a

growing movement of the masses; and as such it assumes a constantly more definite political character. In Canada its political character has been brought brazenly into the open by the intervention of the military in Stratford. Much depends on the outcome of the Stratford situation. A victory here would spur the vacillating furniture workers throughout the province forward, it would set the spark to the Canadian railway workers who have been on the verge of strike for several months now...and these strikes in turn would give an impetus to other struggles.

—I. LEVINE.

## Order Bellusi to Be Deported

**Philadelphia.**—Antonio Bellusi, a militant Italian worker, has been ordered deported to Fascist Italy. The deportation proceedings against him, which have been pending for some time, resulted in this decision. Comrade Bellusi was arrested in Wilkes Barre on the charge of distributing the Militant. He has been in Gloucester immigration station for several months. We want all workers sympathetic to Communism to write to comrade Bellusi there.

Comrade Bellusi has been active in the labor movement in Italy and America since 1918. In that year he joined the Italian Socialist Party. Later he joined the Communist Party of Italy founded by Bordigha. If we do not stop this deportation comrade Bellusi will be delivered over to Mussolini's fascist murderers.

So far we have had very little assistance from the I. L. D. in Philadelphia. The I. L. D. Committee Against Deportation failed to hold a meeting week after week. Three mass meetings which had been arranged were postponed. Something will have to be done to organize the support of the workers for comrade Bellusi.

—L. R.

## OPEN FORUM

THE NRA AND THE AMERICAN WORKING CLASS

Speaker: JACK WEBER  
Friday, October 27th, 1933  
8 P. M.  
at International Workers School  
126 East 16th Street  
Auspices: Manhattan Branch, Communist League of America (Opposition)  
ADMISSION 10 CENTS

## Hitler's "Bombshell" at Geneva German Fascism Bids for Arms Independence

Nazi Maneuvering for Free Hand in Military Adventure. Prepare for Drive against the Soviet Union; Seek French Aid.

Last Saturday Hitlerite Germany bolted the League of Nations and the Geneva Disarmament Conference in a precipitant action which the press universally describes as a bombshell. Insofar as the Hitlerist maneuver contributes to a more complete and accelerated decomposition of the farce of capitalist "internationalism", the bombshell has no doubt hit its mark.

After the departure of Japan last year, the German "Austro-Prussian" diplomats express little more of the League of Nations than its bare name.

The sudden and startling move of the Reich followed repeated and increasingly difficult attempts, of the former allies on the one hand, to hold the lines of the status quo achieved by their robbers' treaty of Versailles; and of National Socialist Germany, on the other hand, to achieve "arms equality" and a free hand in war preparations. The desperate internal and external, economic situation of post-war Germany brought into its leadership a clique of political adventurers prepared for any gamble. It was only to be expected that the latter would, the moment they felt themselves to any degree masters of their own house, initiate drastic action on the foreign front.

**The Adventurism of Despair**

The men whom the agonizing Reich bourgeoisie brought into power are destined to extend their adventurism of despair beyond the national borders. Under the camouflage of a "pacifist" and "disarmament" propaganda which has characterized the inter-European diplomatic maneuvers ever since the World War, Hitler attempted to get universal approval for his plan to reestablish Prussian militarism within the framework of the League of Nations. Facing, as he had always expected to face, an unmovable aversion on part of the former allies they achieved over Germany by the Versailles pact, he has from the first sought to bring about a showdown by an open break which would clearly be of advantage to him.

He merely seized the opportunity offered by the British-French stubbornness at Geneva last week. The pacifist Hitler throws the onus for the failure to disarm right into the face of the British and the French, and their dilatory tactics. Winning sympathy thereby for his "sincere desire for peace and disarmament" from all sorts of neutral nations,

he makes the "just" demand: on that basis to be allowed an equal opportunity to arm up to the standards of the rest.

**Fascism Seeks Military Independence**

Fascist Germany is out to get a free hand in girding itself for its next, external attack. The unkind eye cast by the United States upon the British-French hegemony on the continent, its "disinterested" and "neutral" stand; the aloof position of Mussolini, growing out of Italy's special interests—undoubtedly aids Hitler's strategy. France and England are faced with a fait accompli in the German move for military independence. The hope for allied control over German armaments—arising less from fear of an immediate war, than from a view to more distant advantages—has been badly shaken by the Nazi "bombshell".

The Reich government, on its part, has made clear that in striking out for armaments independence it in no way gives up the idea of cooperation with the governments of France, Great Britain, et al. On the contrary. In his radio speech explaining Germany's action, Chancellor Hitler goes out of his way to point out that this latest step is not at all intended as an affront to the above two nations. He goes further than that. The Nationalist Hitler makes a direct gesture, to the French, to bury the hatchet with the Erbfeind (the "hereditary enemy" who takes up such an important place in the Nazi ideology of the Nazis).

"It would be a tremendous event," said Hitler, "if the two peoples could once and for all ban force from their common life...After the return of Sarraute to the Reich, only a madman could believe in the possibility of war between the two states."

**A French-German Alliance?**

Inclination to accept this overture was not lacking among French ruling circles, immediately after it was made. After all, the independent stand of Germany was an accomplished fact. The question arose of how to deal with the new reality. French-German cooperation, on a new, separate basis, was a possibility in any case. The sentiment in this direction grew with the publication of the Fascist chancellor's speech in full. A striking passage therein reads:

"When, however, the French premier asks why the German youth is marching and falling in line, I reply, it is not to demonstrate against France, but

to evince that political determination that was necessary for throwing down Communism and that will be necessary to hold it down."

In the same speech, the Nazi leader alludes further to the aims of Germany's newly gained independence of action:

"It is not immaterial whether on the Rhine or on the North Sea the outposts of the spiritually revolutionary and expansive Asiatic world empire stood watch...when the National Socialist movement snatched Germany back from the brink of this threatening catastrophe; it not only saved the German people, but also rendered a historical service to the rest of Europe."

**Hitler's "Eastern Orientation"**

On the basis of extending this "historical service", by a transition from the defensive to the offensive (for which full armament freedom is needed), the French ruling class sees more than an even chance for a German rapprochement. It demands that Hitler explain himself more fully. But it already knows clearly his motive. He has made his "Eastern orientation"—the *Drang nach Osten*—more than sufficiently clear.

What is involved is an attempt to crush the workers' state in Russia and the colonization of the Ukraine. To this end the French bourgeoisie is prepared to talk business, even to consider the question of the Saar.

It is generally known that such a direction of Nazi foreign aggression is more immediate than a war against France. It is known that in such a case, the aid of other powers, financial and otherwise, is imperative for Germany. A representative French paper writes:

"We cannot understand why anyone should unreasonably remain attached to a type of procedure and international mechanism which has missed its aim. Hitler's appeal has created a new situation. In a new fashion conversation seems possible."—Le Jour, October 17.

**French Munitions for Germany**

France is preparing to bow before the inevitable and to try for new gains, new advantages on a different basis. From the appearance of things, the new French orientation already has taken roots. The French firm of munition manufacturers, Schneider-Creusot, was recently accused of furnishing 400

(Continued on Page 4)

## Trial Exposes Nazis' Guilt Frame-up Victims Face Death

Every day raises in bolder relief before the entire world what a gruesome farce is taking place in Leipzig. Even the wretched travesty upon justice conducted by the Nazi savages has heralded to the world that the scorch of guilt is slung on the brow not of the accused, the brave Communists in the dock, but ineradicably on the Hitlerite accusers.

The evidence that appears before the "court", the evidence that has leaked into the trial, the testimony of any of those that have been able

to tear away the gag, sends shivers of fear down the spines of the indictors. A more patent frame-up has not been known in this crooked capitalist world. The spectre of the denunciation of the whole world sits in the trial like Banquo's ghost. It has driven the Fascist persecutors frantic.

The contradictory evidence of the Nazi dupe, Van Der Lubbe, threw the first monkey-wrench into the well-oiled plan to place the heads of the Communists on the hangman's block. The solemn verdict of the International Commission of Jurists that sat in London confounded the executioners. The thundering indictment of Torgler and Dimitroff, tortured and manacled for months by the Nazi beast, has announced to the wide world that the diabolic scheme of intimidation could not silence the voice of the revolutionaries. And now the "Brown Book of Hitler Terror" looms ominously before the drum head court martial. For the time being the German Fascists have been diverted from the attempt to place the onus of guilt for the Reichstag fire on the Communist victims. They are busily preoccupied with exonerating Goering and his accomplices, who are the real incendiaries.

## Unemployed Die in L. A. Fire

**Los Angeles.**—Capitalism's cruelty and stupidity have taken a toll of 88 unemployed in Los Angeles' Griffith Park fire of October. All that remained of 61 "missing" men were handbills of ashes. Twenty-seven charred bodies have been identified. Several hundreds are in the hospital. A number of the injured will die.

The work at which the unemployed are put consists of building roads, camp sites, bridge paths, fire breaks—to make Los Angeles more attractive to the parasites of the country. At work in Griffith Park were 3400 men. Political appointees (not forest rangers or experienced fire fighters) were in charge. A blaze started in one of the blind canyons.

The day had been hot and the brush burned like oil. At quitting time the 3400 men were told not to go home but remain to put out the fire. The more rebellious spirits, who refused, were threatened with withdrawal of work orders, and with clubs.

Who were these unemployed? Aged and youthful, laborer and white-collar worker—all poorly fed, poorly clothed and poorly clothed. They had just finished a fatiguing day's work underneath the hot California sun. They were totally ignorant of fire fighting.

Down the steep canyon walls the men rushed, impatient to put the fire out, anxious to get home. But the flames flared, the men attempted to climb the canyon only to fall into the flames like scorched flies.

"Paupers" (unemployed) are not eligible for State Workmen's Compensation. Barring an undetermined but trivial sum of county insurance the families of these men are to be complete objects of the most miserly charity.

The blood spots of murder of the unemployed will not come off the hands of the capitalist class. The working class has indicted them. Into the collective consciousness of the masses the guilt of capitalism has been branded.

The curtain has been lifted. Nothing the Hitlerites may do will blind the world as to who is the real perpetrator of the heinous deed. The secret passage from the Reichstag to Goering's offices, the deliberate absence of the Berlin are department until after the fire had done its intended damage, is blazing proof that the spark was ignited by the brown hordes to provide the excuse for the proscription of the German Communist Party.

Torgler, Dimitroff, Popoff and Taneff stand in the shadow of the Fascist guillotine! The bourgeois gentleman of motley "liberal" shadings have agreed to their innocence. But that is not enough to stay the hand of the Fascist butcher. Only the mighty power of the international proletariat can shatter the plans of the Hitler, Goering and Co., to fragments. This protest has not been heard.

The working class must not be silent. In its protest it must show the capitalists that international solidarity is not dead. Let this cry resound throughout the four corners of the globe; let it be thundered forth in huge demonstrations and strikes: "Torgler, Dimitroff, Popoff and Taneff must be freed!"

**CHICAGO MEETING**  
ARNE SWABECK  
on  
**THE FUTURE OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM**  
at  
International Labor Lyceum  
2557 W. North Ave.  
Sunday, October 22—3 P. M.

## The Organizing Campaign of the New York Food Workers

The Hotel workers of New York City and vicinity are responding to the organization call of the Hotel and Restaurant Branch of the Amalgamated Food Workers. The response is so enthusiastic that it surpasses the most optimistic expectations of those workers who devoted themselves to the great task of building the union again to its former strength. This splendid response is not at all accidental but on the contrary has a justification in the fact that this union has shown the workers in the past that it can defend its interests in an effective way.

Twenty-one years ago, in 1912, the Hotel Men's Association through their chefs and head waiters exercised a virtual terror over the workers in order to exploit them more effectively. Conditions became so intolerable that the workers determined to end them organizing themselves into a union. The A. F. of L. union, with its craft divisions did not inspire the Hotel and Restaurant Workers. Therefore, they preferred to organize themselves into an industrial union, accepting in its ranks every worker of the shop. The 1912 strike is still remembered by many oldtimers in the industry as the first militant attempt of the workers to enforce humane conditions of work. Although this strike failed to organize the workers, still it succeeded in bringing home the determination of the Hotel and Restaurant workers to put an end to the humiliating conditions.

**The Strike of 1918**

In 1918, another attempt at organizing the Hotel workers was undertaken by this union, this time of a far wider scope. More than

18,000 workers participated in this strike. The main hotels of the city of New York could not open their dining rooms, because not only the waiters were on strike but the bus boys and the cooks with their assistants and dishwashers. The Hotel Men's association refused very stubbornly to recognize the union although they were forced to grant almost all its demands, that is, higher wages, the establishment of eight hours work, day off and sanitary conditions (lockers, washing-rooms, and the rest). They employed negroes as strike-breakers and this fact alone must teach us how necessary it is to recognize the negro as workers with equal rights in our ranks. Already many negro workers are coming to the headquarters inquiring about our drive. The bosses also organized a central employment office with a black list carrying the names of the militant Hotel workers.

Because our union did not succeed in forcing the Hotel Men's Association to recognize it and thus to secure the closed shop, the union lost many of its members, retaining a few who were devoted and willing to keep the organization alive. The next effective struggle took place in 1924 when the Union had as closed shops the entire Proctors Corporation, that is, the main Broadway cabarets. But when these cabarets were closed the union was reduced to four closed shops comprising in all not more than six hundred workers.

**The 1929 Strike and Split**

In 1929 the same union undertook the organization of the Cafeteria workers and succeeded splendidly in mobilizing more than three thousand workers in a militant

strike that won the admiration of every unionist. This success, instead of serving as a basis for further struggles, led to the weakening of the union. This was not on account of any blows from the bosses but from the very people who were bragging about revolutionary devotion and the rest. The Stalinists split the union in order to build a sectarian organization under their exclusive control.

It must be said openly that this organization, the Food Workers' Industrial Union, did the worst service to the Hotel workers of our city. While accepting participation last August in a united front, its leaders, in a mass meeting for union agitation, attempted to confuse the workers by distributing cards, bearing the address of their own organization. Their spokesman, Gromber, evaded the question of fusion of the two unions and spoke the worn-out phrases of trade unionism. Comrade Gitlow, speaking as the representative

## == Banquet ==

To Celebrate the Fifth Anniversary of the American Opposition and the Sixteenth Anniversary of the Russian Revolution  
on Saturday, Nov. 4th, 1933, 8 P. M.  
At STUYVESANT CASINO  
9th Street and Second Avenue  
ADMISSION 50c  
Auspices: Local N. Y. Communist League of America (Opposition)  
126 East 16th Street

of the Hotel and Restaurant workers branch of the A. F. W., pointed out that now, more than ever, the workers must undertake seriously the establishment of one union in the industry. These remarks of comrade Gitlow were received enthusiastically by the workers present. The Stalinists could not accept such a proposal because their high priest, Browder, told them plainly in the columns of the Daily Worker that "many trade union functionaries of the Party while working in other unions must at the same time try to build the 'Revolutionary unions'." In other words, go out and smash the other unions. Such is the policy of the elements who destroy whatever they are unable to rule.

The following meeting took place under the auspices of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers' Union because the Stalinists violated the united front by not only withdrawing themselves from it but also by evading the fusion of the two unions into one.

They resorted to such debasing and degrading methods as for instance the carrying of huge signs around the streets that were leading to the Palm Garden where the mass meeting took place informing the workers that the mass meeting would take place the next day. In spite of this sabotage the hall was packed and was addressed by comrades Cannon, Gitlow and Field and others. The union has succeeded in organizing more than 2,000 workers in more than 25 hotels, some of which rank as the biggest in New York City.

**Bosses Prepare to Fight Union**

The bosses, in anticipation of the pending militant fight of our union, already are putting into motion,

the mobilization of all the Fraternal Societies of cooks and waiters. The outstanding organization of this nature is the Geneva. Rumors are widely circulating that already its leaders have received a fat portion of the sum that the Hotel Men's Association have raised in order to combat the efforts of the workers to organize into a powerful union.

In other words, the bosses are already preparing certain scabbing machinery to defeat our efforts. It is necessary to follow carefully those steps of the bosses. One of our elementary duties is to approach the members of the Geneva and the like and convince them to join our Union and, at the same time, to expose the scabbing character of their leaders who, as it is plainly known to all, are nothing but agents of the bosses. The Geneva especially always aims to serve one purpose, namely, the interests of the Headwaiters and Captains. Only our Union is in a position to serve effectively the interests of the Hotel and Restaurant workers. The 54 hours a week and the apprentice system, which are discussed quite extensively in another article in this issue, would have been inserted in the code if our Union as well as the other unions did not undertake their organizational drives. Very soon the hearing will be held in Washington, D. C. and the stronger we are the easier it will be for us to enforce our demands in the code.

**The Fight for Union Recognition**

As could be expected this rapid growth of the Union created quite a great problem to be handled by a few workers. The form of its constitution fortunately, is an ideal one. But as the form of the A.

F. of L. Unions is subordinated many times to the substance of the movement, so the industrial form of our union is not always a guarantee of its automatic application. Therefore the workers themselves, who join our Industrial Union, must be educated to understand our union thoroughly and must be encouraged to participate in its leading committees and especially in its organization committee. Then and only then will we be able to fulfill our great task of organizing the Hotel and Restaurant industry so thoroughly as to insure the recognition of the union by the mighty Hotel Men's Association. Otherwise, even if the bosses will be forced to recognize the demands of the workers they will do so only temporarily, under the pressure of the drive. In order to assure permanent gains, and not permit the bosses to throw overboard all these concessions it is necessary to force this recognition of the union and the closed shop.

Let all of us redouble our efforts and bring into the union more fellow workers in order to force our bosses to recognize our union. Thus we can put a stop to the miserable wages and long hours. We can also end the humiliation that we, the Hotel and Restaurant workers, are forced to undergo, not only from the guests of the hotels, but also from the militaristic commands of our headwaiters and chefs. We must always bear in mind that besides the kitchen and the dining-room departments we can also organize the other workers of the hotels who are equally exploited by our bosses, that is, chamber-maids, laundry-workers, elevator operators and the rest.

—ARIST. CALDIS.