

EDITORIAL

The Leipzig Prisoners and the Boycott of Germany

AS the monstrous travesty of a trial at Leipzig approaches its denouement the workers of the world are called to solidarity with the Communist prisoners in the Fascist dock on an international day of protest December 19.

The heroic prisoners at Leipzig, facing their Fascist accusers undaunted and proclaiming their Communist faith before the whole world, are the brightest symbols and most inspiring representatives of the liberation struggle of the proletariat.

But warmly as we support the protest demonstration we have to recognize that protest alone, no matter how loudly it may resound throughout the world, is not sufficient in this case.

In the proposal for this boycott, which has been made by the International Left Opposition, there is nothing adventurous or unrealistic. Neither is it put forward with an exaggerated estimation of the results it can yield.

For the defense of the Leipzig prisoners and the beginning of a real international struggle against Fascism the transport boycott of Hitler's Germany stands on the order of the day.

Cuba and the Comintern

WHAT is the opinion of the Communist International on the tasks of the Cuban revolution? What advice does it offer the Cuban workers for the solution of their complex and difficult problems?

It is no small matter. Cuba may very well turn out to be the Achilles heel of the Wall Street monster. The contradictions between its domination by U. S. imperialism and the life interests of the masses are at the explosive point there.

This is a problem on which the "General Staff of the World Revolution" ought to speak out clearly. The Comintern was organized for just such purposes, and that is the way it acted in Lenin's time.

Is this "non-intervention" in the Cuban revolution a deliberate policy? Was an express promise to keep "Hands off Cuba" a part of the Washington agreement for Recognition? If not, please explain the precise meaning of the following clauses in Litvinoff's letter:

in, the political or social order of the whole or any part of the United States, its territories or possessions."

This treacherous pledge, which brings the blush of shame to every revolutionist, does not refer to some "territory" on the moon. It refers, directly and concretely, and at the present moment, to Cuba.

In our opinion, and we say it with blunt and brutal frankness, it was explicitly so discussed and understood in the negotiations. If our opinion is wrong, we stand ready to be corrected.

Let the Daily Worker print a manifesto of the Comintern on Cuba!

Signs of the Coming Storm

AMONG other characteristics the lynchings wave demonstrated a feature which can be compared only with tropical storms. Like its meteorological counterpart, the lynching wave appeared suddenly and raged with great violence.

Not alone the lynching wave comes up suddenly, and runs its course with unrestrained violence. These features are characteristic now of almost every large scale social event.

The farm riots of the middle West last spring against foreclosures also shot across the social-political sky like a meteor. They too were marked by violence.

As the capitalist system disintegrates further the social weather is going to get stormier and stormier. The great reservoir of violence which these events indicate is going to burst.

The reservoir can burst in one of two directions: in the workers' interests or against them. Which direction the flood takes will depend on the preparedness of the classes—on whether the vanguard workers have constructed a revolutionary Communist party and established its influence.

The Scottsboro Struggle

THE efficient judge who presided over the third trial of Patterson and the second trial of Norris has sentenced both boys to burn in the chair.

For nine on three years the fight has been waged to save the Scottsboro boys from death and set them free. It has been a historic fight, involving hundreds of thousands of workers all over the world.

The execution of the boys was prevented so far only by this fight. That is true. But we are no nearer getting them off altogether.

The capitalists long ago demonstrated their intention of burning them in the electric chair. If they are still in jail it is our fault.

The problem is how to get the workers in the A. F. of L., independent unions, under the influence of the Socialist Party and the I. W. W., and all the defense organizations and liberals to get together behind the fight.

The first step is the convocation of genuine united front conferences with guarantees of democratic representation and conduct.

Either way there is no time to lose. The legal lull in the case is not a time to relax. It is an opportunity to work, to build a powerful protest movement.

Why?

FOREIGN Commissioner Maxim Litvinov was snaked unobtrusively into the Soviet Union on December 9 when he arrived home after having scored the most signal "diplomatic victory" of his career in the agreement he entered into with Roosevelt at Washington last month.

Reported the New York Times: "There was no formal reception or demonstration... The public was not informed in the newspapers that he would return today."

Why? Did the Stalinists perhaps shrewdly calculate that prior announcement of Litvinov's arrival might have led, not to a demonstration of welcome by the Soviet workers, but to a popular display of anger and disgust at the Stalin-Litvinov sale of the Third International to American imperialism?

Litvinov had to sink home, but William G. Bullitt, the American ambassador, who arrived a day after him, was officially greeted at the frontier and given a reception in Moscow.

Why?

Soviet Policy and Turkish Terror

Stalinist Diplomats Praise Oppressor of Turkish Workers as 'Best Friend'

The Daily Worker of November 30 reported that a delegation of Turkish workers in the United States would be visiting the local Turkish consul to protest against "the murderous persecution of revolutionary Turkish workers by the Kemalist government."

The C. P. organ concluded that the delegation called upon the workers of the United States "to actively support the struggle for the release of these prisoners, for the smashing of the brutal anti-working class terror of the Kemalist government, which is supported by the same Wall Street imperialists who today, under the 'New Deal,' are ruthlessly increasing their robbery and murder of the white and Negro masses of this country."

It goes without saying that every last member of the Left Opposition both here and in other countries, endorses this protest against the vicious Kemalist terror in Turkey, the Turkey that was "liberated" from imperialist domination in the early post-war period with the aid of Soviet arms.

Karakhan and Pasha

It is recorded that at the end of 1929 Lev Karakhan, diplomatic representative of the Soviet government, made an official trip to Kemalist Turkey, where, even at that time, there was proceeding a "murderous persecution of revolutionary Turkish workers."

Adventurism in St. Paul Strike

(Continued from page 1) guaranteed minimum, 40 hour week; recognition of the union; against the speedup, etc.

The strike was called the following day and pickets were placed at the Armour Co. gates. The pickets succeeded in turning back the 1300 men who were returning to work as usual.

Pickets to whom we spoke readily admitted that men were not joining the union, and that many of the workers were hostile to it. A large number of these pickets were from the unemployed councils of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Another German Leader Revolts

(Continued from page 1) idiotic as the other. "Naturally we must fight for a proletarian government in the Saar and for a Soviet Germany. But that does not do away with our duty to tell the workers how they should vote in 1935."

Today we can tell the workers only this: As long as the Nazis are in power in Germany, a reintegration of the Saar territory is out of the question for them. (The S. P. has not taken a clear position either). The workers in the Saar have the opportunity today to deliver several heavy blows against Nazi foreign policy.

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"best friend"? If so he was unreported to represent the Soviet power. If not, why create an illusion and deceive the masses as to the true character of the Turkish foreign minister and his government?

On Karakhan had more to say. On his arrival at Ankara he said: "This city reflects the calm and firm security with which the new Turkey is built, which supports itself upon its own forces and PUTS ITS HOPES IN THE CREATIVE FORCE OF ITS PEOPLE AND THEM ALONE."

The government, and the economic and social systems of Turkey have not changed, since these words were spoken by Karakhan. It is therefore pertinent to inquire how the American Stalinists today can associate themselves with a protest action against a government which has the "same ideas" as the Soviet government?

The "New Turkey"

But let us pass on. The well-known Soviet writer, L. V. Nikulin, returned to Moscow in July of this year from an extended trip to Turkey—the same Kemalist Turkey about which Karakhan before him had enthused so fervently.

He compared the "old Turkey" with the "new Turkey," stating that "the obvious difference between the new Turkey, the Turkey of People's Palaces, schools, universities, industrial construction, and the Turkey of the fez, the yashmak, mental torpor and Arab cafeterias had become quite clear to me."

Adventurism in St. Paul Strike

(Continued from page 1) The Armour officials, seeing that the overwhelming majority of the men were taking no active part in the strike, began to utilize the press to induce them to return to work.

The workers began to return despite the efforts of the pickets to prevent them. By Thursday, November 23rd, the men were streaming back by the hundreds.

Repudiated by the Workers

On the following day the union called a mass meeting of the Swift workers. About 250 were present. The union leaders demanded that these men go on strike.

The press reports that on the same day a group of men who claimed to be members of the Armour strike committee went to a South St. Paul lawyer, repudiated the union, and demanded that the "Communist leaders" Hurvitz, Karzen, and Schneiderman be run out of town.

Another German Leader Revolts

(Continued from page 1) Whether or not this is true is hard to say but the fact remains that the police went to the union hall and arrested the three men. The workers present made no protest.

In this strike the official party has once more revealed that it can no longer play a progressive role in the struggle of the workers. In place of a realistic appraisal of the situation which demanded careful preparation and persistent work to create a sentiment amongst the workers for a mass strike, the method of bureaucratic ultimatum was employed.

Fruit of False Policy

The results of such a policy should be carefully considered by every serious worker. The workers in the South St. Paul packing houses are now more than ever in the grip of the bosses' company unions.

That the South St. Paul workers will rise again in militant struggle against the bosses is certain. And what is equally certain is that as far as the Stalinist "Independent Revolutionary Unions" are concerned the workers in these packing houses are through for once and for all.

"People's Palaces, schools, universities, and industrial construction," a country whose ruling ideas are identical with the ruling ideas of the Soviet Union—is a reactionary government which suppresses the workers by means of a ruthless white terror.

Stalinist Diplomacy in America

To bring this brief study up to date, to show the consistency with which Soviet diplomacy has degenerated under Stalinism, which has rendered it indistinguishable from the diplomacy of bourgeois states, we need only recall one incident of Litvinov's recent visit to the United States.

What do the American workers, particularly the Communist workers, think of this gratuitous flattery of Roosevelt, this flagrant and disgusting fawning on the representative par excellence of American finance-capital who is driving the workers of this country into ever lower depths of privation and misery?

Henri Lacroix--Deserter

El Socialista of September 29 publishes a letter from Francisco Garcia Lavid (Henri Lacroix) in which the latter requests his reinstatement from the E. C. of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party.

It was only "by mistake," writes Lacroix, that he disassociated himself from the socialist ranks. Consequently he condemns his whole past activity, which was, according to his own expression "an adventure and a crime against the proletariat" (sic!)

Lacroix has thus passed into the ranks of the socialist lackeys of the Spanish bourgeoisie ("return to Marxism"). Less informed comrades might be astonished by this fact. How is it possible that Lacroix, who has played an important role in the Spanish Opposition has thus betrayed? Is it an accident? It is necessary to say that for some time we expected the worst, because for some months Lacroix conducted a furious struggle against the International Opposition and his responsible comrades.

GENERAL DEFENSE AFFAIR

New York.—Important additional musical talent has been enlisted for the General Defense Committee's annual Christmas Fund entertainment, concert, and dance.

Class-war and classical songs are on the program, which is to be staged Friday, December 15, in Irving Plaza Hall, 15th Street and Irving Place. Proceeds will enable

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international dynamics of the so thoroughly aggressive German capitalism. The startling sudden turn of the Nazi leadership towards peaceloving declarations can astonish only those who are completely limited in their outlook.

The sending of checks to political prisoners and their dependents. The prisoners include the seven Kentucky miner serving life terms; the I. W. W. strikers in the Yakima (Wash.) jail; Mooney and Billings; and various others.

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Notes of the Week

THE DOLLAR isn't all that's "batoney" under the NRA. Mr. Al Smith may have a broad wit, but he has limited interests.

What do we have? We have unemployment, cold weather, low wages, speed-up—and so far only a lot of batoney promises: about re-employment, jobless relief, a living wage and a 30 hour week.

Section 7a of the Recovery Act grants the legal right of both individual and collective bargaining. "Individual bargaining"—that means, as so many of us have discovered—the right of the boss to hire and fire at will, to command you to work for a bowl of miserable soup or be thrown out into the street altogether.

In his effort to wrest improvements from the boss, the laboring man has no strength other than the neeping hand, the common mind and will of his fellow men. The boss has the banker, the police, the gunman and the dollar on his side.

What the worker is beginning to feel more and more is the need for more and bigger "collectives", for genuine broad collective effort—that the "bargaining" won't be all on the boss's side. It is interesting that the first organized expression for this need comes from the employees in an industry that was among the first to be blessed with a NIRA code—the textile industry.

THE UNITED TEXTILE WORKERS union, by decision of its executive council—the country's press informed us on Tuesday last—has decided to call upon the American Federation of Labor to prepare for a General Strike to bring about the 30-hour week and other union demands. The General Strike—that is the most effective weapon for "collective bargaining" there is.

When a McMahon speaks for General Strike—that is a sign that the textile slaves under him are pushing banners and tongs for it. When a McMahon begins to give lip service to labor action—then that means that the McMahonocracy is holding in store for the tolling masses bearing down upon the advocates of class peace, a betrayal far greater than any of those in the past.

Watching his fingers closely, the workers who have determined to stand up in struggle against capitalist misery will use every measure to make McMahon and his ilk live up to their words. A sweeping country-wide collective strike is the best and surest way for labor to advance its interests at this stage. In preparation for it, practical and strategic problems loom up big: how to get together employed and unemployed, skilled workers and the unskilled, those already organized and those still unorganized.

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