

Wall Street Rules at Montevideo Confab

Tariff Plan of U.S. Imperialism Designed as Weapon Against European Competitor Nations

Although the Pan-American Conference is not expected to adjourn before December 24th, it can be clearly seen already that American imperialism dominates the conference; and nothing will be approved that does not serve the interests of Wall Street. Criticism of American imperialism did break through the barriers, but the representatives and puppets of Washington prevented this criticism from jeopardizing the position of the Yankees in Latin America. Giraudy, head of the Cuban delegation launched an attack against American imperialism in Cuba. He correctly pointed out that intervention has taken place even though the form has become more subtle under the Roosevelt administration. Argentina's foreign minister, as chairman, defended the United States and prevented the criticism from developing. He prevented a Peruvian delegate from launching an attack on American imperialism, and guided further criticism from other delegates, who had taken courage, into safe channels.

Secrecy at Conference

Secrecy prevails at Montevideo as it does at all capitalist conferences. Some of the lesser puppets, who were not obtaining as much attention from the U. S. delegation as the delegation of more favored countries, because they had less that the exploiters of the north wanted, put up a protest against the secrecy, but to no avail.

Mexico led in the attack on the conference. This is not surprising. American relations and domination there stand at a more favorable position than in the past, and the Washington delegation desired to devote their time to more troublesome spots in Latin America. The conference itself is little more than a rubber stamp. The real work is conducted by means of audiences with the Secretary of State of the Colossus of the North. The Steering committee, which is composed of those who enjoy this privilege, is the real conference.

In considering any action of the Pan-American Conference one must always keep in mind its structure. It was constructed by American imperialism for its own use against the other imperialist powers and against the weak capitalist countries and colonies of Latin America. One of the many jokers in the statutes of the Union, which assures American domination, provides that the United States Secretary of State shall always be the president of the Union.

U. S. Hits at Rivals

Many of the concessions and agreements for America's interest obtained at Montevideo will not be known. But the main proposal presented by Hull, horse traded by the Argentine delegates for the "Anti-War Pact", and since rubber stamped by the conference, is the Tariff Plan. The plan proposes reciprocal trade pacts and tariff reduction in order to lower the present trade barriers. The proposal called for no treaties, conventions or legal commitments by the conference. It left this open for a free scramble. Such "Custom Unions" obtained by the United States will be another blow by America against Europe. The United States-Colombian pact has already been signed as a straight reciprocal agreement. Negotiations with Argentina and Brazil, for similar bilateral pacts, are already under way.

The Hull Plan also provides for safeguarding the internal struggle of the American imperialists through the NRA and similar projects. The plan provides that the tariff reductions must not interfere with "the operation of temporary emergency and other extraordinary measures comprising domestic recovery programs." This plan for tariff reduction has stirred up discussion in the States. Some say it is a complete change in policy on tariffs while Moley, who just recently resigned as Assistant Secretary of State, says the Hull proposal contradicts the NRA. If the NRA is for the construction of a self-sufficient economy, of organized capitalism, or of "intra-nationalism" minus its internal or foreign part, it is doomed to failure. But the real purpose of the NRA is something else; and so long as the capitalists supplement it with new measures at each critical turn it will more than justify itself as a breathing spell. The Hull proposal does not contradict the needs of the NRA at a certain stage. Neither does it run counter to the interest of American imperialism in general. It is admirably adapted for these capitalist needs.

Behind the Tariff Plan

The attempt to reorganize production on a higher level under the NRA at reduced cost and, at the same time to reorganize labor

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Celebrate New Years at Gala Masquerade Ball

The New Year's Eve open for the gala affair of the season. The New York branch of the Communist League is undertaking to make this New Year's a day to be remembered for every proletarian within its reach. To be on hand at this event will be more than the chiming in of the new year and bidding the old one adieu. We are taking a lot of time and more trouble to give all our friends and sympathizers the times of their lives—and in a revolutionary way.

Firstly, there will be a red hot jazz band present to keep you moving to syncopated rhythm till the early hours of the morning. We are making arrangements so that you may dance to your hearts content and more if your feet will carry you.

And our new years affair will be a resplendent one. Costumes of all kinds and varieties will be displayed and you are urged to come in other than your usual garb. A popularity prize — democratically selected — will be awarded to the best costume.

Don't forget New Year's, December 31, at Germania Hall, 16th St. and 3rd Ave. The admission is 50 cents. Be on hand with your friends.

Gangsterism Again!

The Stalinists are endeavoring to defeat the political work of the Communist League in Brownsville by methods of terror. Following the Hoffman Mansion meeting of Dec. 14th, they had systematically attacked our comrades. On Friday evening, Dec. 15th a group of six assaulted four members and sympathizers of the Communist League in front of the Brownsville Labor Lyceum after a Socialist meeting. A much larger group of Stalinists attacked our comrades who were distributing leaflets on Sutter Avenue for this Wednesday's Brownsville Labor Lyceum meeting.

Authentic reports inform us that a number of our comrades have been marked for physical assault. Individuals have been assigned to "lay" for Al Dasch, recently expelled member of the Brownsville section committee of the Communist party.

The responsibility for such actions rests on the shoulders of the leaders of the Communist party. They will be held responsible before the Communist workers and the working class as a whole for the consequences of this reactionary hooligan campaign. We will take all the necessary steps for the defense of our comrades, organization and meetings. We call upon all workers and workers' organizations to join us in our struggle against these reactionary Fascist methods.

Inflamed by the fact that Al Dasch, former member of the Brownsville Section Committee of the Communist party, was to speak on the Comintern and the Soviet recognition from the platform of the Communist League, the Stalinists mobilized over fifty members to disrupt the meeting held at Hoffman Mansion, Thursday evening, December 14th. The meeting ended in a riot leading to the intervention of the police, called by the hall owner, who cleared the hall by swinging their clubs at everybody.

As the hall was filling with workers, there was a sudden mob rush of about 50 Communist party and Y. C. L. members to crash through the door. They demanded free admittance. After some commotion and exchange of blows, the staircase was

cleared of Stalinists and the door leading to the street closed. The Stalinist hoodlums proceeded to break the glass of the door and used battering rams to force the door open.

When they could not make much progress, a representative of the mob was sent up to arrive at an agreement with us. It was proposed to them that twenty of their comrades would be permitted to enter free of charge on the condition that they maintain order. They agreed. Twenty were permitted to enter.

No sooner had the chairman, Joe Carter, opened the meeting than the Stalinists began a systematic disruption. A continual heckling ensued. One after another the clique of local Communist party leaders rose and recited his piece. Finally a motion was made and carried overwhelmingly that anyone interrupting the chairman or speaker given the floor would be ejected. Provocative heckling and disruption resulted in a free for all fight, with chairs and fists flying. For a while the cops looked on; then they wielded their clubs against all those present.

A number of serious casualties resulted on both sides. A Stalinist, Kirschner, called a cop to arrest one of the members of the Communist League. Although he went to the police station to press charges of assault, the case of so flimsy that the charges were dismissed.

Insisting on its right to hold a public meeting in Brownsville on the Comintern and Russian recognition, the Communist League has arranged for a meeting on that subject with the same speakers as scheduled for last Thursday's meeting, Max Shachtman and Al Dasch, to be held at the Brownsville Labor Lyceum, 219 Sackman Street, Wednesday evening, December 20th.

Various workers' organizations have been invited to send representatives to this meeting so that in case of a recurrence of the scandalous action of last Thursday's meeting, they will be able to place the responsibility on those to whom it belongs.

Nazis Demand Death Verdict for Torgler

International Solidarity of the Workers Alone Can Save Prisoners from Fascist Vengeance

Criminal Syndicalism Trial Ends in Hung Jury

Trial of Pat Chambers, leader of the cotton pickers' strike in the San Joaquin Valley, on the charge of criminal syndicalism ended with a hung jury. He was defended by the Civil Liberties Union attorney, A. L. Wirin, who in this case was also representing the International Labor Defense.

The case is of vital importance because of the effort of the prosecution to make the criminal syndicalism law cover all threats of violence made during a strike. In the past the California courts have sought to prove that the I. W. W. and Communist defendants were revolutionists, trying to overthrow the government and transfer industry to the workers. Chambers was not accused of revolutionary radicalism but of leading a strike during which he was alleged to have recommended to the cotton pickers that they resist all arrests, even if they put some people in the hospital by so doing. Chambers claimed he had urged resistance only to illegal arrests.

The historic trial of the Communist leaders at Leipzig has come to an end and the Fascist judges are now in session deliberating on the verdict which is to be rendered any day now. The trial designated to justify the Nazi regime and give a legal cover for bestial terror campaign against the Communists was transformed into colossal exposure of the Fascist monsters before the entire world.

The heroic conduct of the defendants in court, the complete collapse of the case against them and the universal revision against the procedure of the Fascists in the case all combined to deal a powerful blow to the prestige of the Fascist beasts who rule Germany. They failed completely to establish any convincing proofs of the guilt of the accused and were compelled to acknowledge their failure in the case of three of the defendants—Dimitroff, Popoff and Taneff.

Despite that, the Fascist prosecutor demanded the death penalty for Ernst Torgler, leader of the Communist fraction in the Reichstag. The life of Torgler hangs in the balance, and the others also, for the Fascist press is already demanding "new proceedings" against them. The strong hand of international working class solidarity is all that stands between them and the executioner's axe.

All the defendants stood by their convictions and, in closing speeches to the court, affirmed their innocence of the framed-up charge against them. Dimitroff protested again against the refusal to allow him an attorney of his own choosing and stated that he had no confidence in the Fascist lawyer, Teichert, who had been assigned to conduct his "defense". Continuing, he declared: "I am defending my political convictions as a revolutionist. That is why my language is sharp. My aim has been to prove that neither myself, my Bulgarian comrades here, nor Torgler, nor the Communist movement has had anything to do with the Reichstag fire."

Torgler said: My whole life I have fought for the vital interests of the German working class. Neither the German Communist Party, nor any member, thought at the time of any armed uprising, because the necessary prerequisites were lacking. I did not have the slightest thing to do with the fire. There is no doubt that the international exposure of the trial and the protest against the frame-up has partly upset the Fascist plan to proceed smoothly with the execution of the defendants. But the danger remains that they will go through with it in spite of all. The protest of the international working class must ring out louder than ever in the remaining days. The most effective blow that can be dealt to the Fascist murderers at this time, a blow that would free the prisoners, is a transport boycott.

RAILROAD ACCIDENTS INCREASE

While in 1932 one worker was killed in road service for every 1,907 employed, in 1931 one worker was killed for every 1,929 employed, according to figures released by the Interstate Commerce Commission. In train service, while in 1929 one worker was killed for every 810 employed, in 1932 the rate had gone up to one killed for every 736 employed.

Deaths to yard trainmen rose from 1.15 to 1.37 per 1,000; engineers rose from .06 to .23 per 1,000; brakemen rose from 1.95 to 2.37 per 1,000.

The following letter from a worker written after the Binghamton wreck last month, gives the depleted maintenance forces as one reason for wrecks and accidents.

Library, Pa.: "There has been in the last couple of weeks an increasingly larger number of train wrecks due to negligence on the part of the railroad companies. The safety devices have all been neglected because of the furloughing of 750,000 maintenance men. This is part of the companies' plans of economies. They lay off the men who maintain safety devices and safety signals. Those who are left at work have to do so much that they cannot take care of all the mileage or the trainmen and engineers cannot live up to the safety rules. It is easy then for the company to shift the buck to the worker involved and escape adverse publicity. . . . Any railroader will tell that it's hell if you obey the safety rules and get your train late and it is hell if you don't and get in a wreck. The brotherhoods, to one of which I belong, seem powerless to do anything."

New Upheaval Shakes China

The Fukien Rebellion and Its Perspectives

Shanghai.—Fukien has rebelled. Prepared for several months, it came about all of a sudden as a bomb thrown into the Chinese politics. The public was startled by the radical character it assumed, in casting off the Kuo Min Tang mantle, denouncing its rule, turning such a round-about face towards the people, promising to fight for the abolition of unequal treaties and for tariff autonomy, undertaking to give land to the peasants and granting the right to strike to the worker, and freedom of convention, speech, etc., to the people in general. It claims to establish the producers' power, guaranteeing to such people absolute freedom and equality, "excluding those who are treacherous to the nation and who exploit the peasant and the worker" from enjoying such rights. To overthrow the feudal system and to develop national economy are also points mentioned in the declaration of the new government. What has actuated this independent movement, especially at the time of the low ebb of mass movement? What is its general perspective and relation to the Chinese revolution.

In spite of the fact that this government is called by its enemies as a product of the social democrats and "the third party", the former 19th route army regarded as the social-democratic fundamental military force, in fact we have no such a social democracy in China in existence, connected even with the people, not to say with the workers. The military and their politicians and literati may have conceived such an idea but it never existed in any tangible form. What is going on in Fukien is only a revolt of combination of ex-military men, the military rulers of that province, the politicians, the radical intellectuals and the right nationalists. There is a contradiction between the radical program and the composition of the government (military in majority). This shows clearly that the government gives chief attention to the military overthrow of Chiang Kai-Shek by means of combination and intrigues rather than to mobilize the masses for the anti-imperialist and anti-Kuo Min Tang struggle. The radical program and the confused ideology are undoubtedly due to the influence of the existence of the "red army"

It seems unlikely that military operations will begin in the near future because both Nanking and Fukien must have time to seek allies, and to get out of the complicated situation of being attacked in the rear. But the alliance between the peasant army and Fukien is an accomplished fact. This has a great significance. The blockade which Chiang Kai-Shek has enforced against the Soviet districts has broken down as the peasant army now can receive supplies from Fukien. Thus, the only success which Nanking has claimed for its anti-red expedition of the last two years has come to nothing. Further, if the "red army" alone could embarrass Chiang Kai-Shek so much

that he is compelled to change the period for the liquidation of the "red army" from three months to three years, what if the combined strength of both the red army and Fukien would be presented to him? He must have given up the hope of eliminating the red army altogether. Besides, the Fukien movement, if not quickly suppressed, will set an example to the discontented militarists of other provinces who can also come out to denounce Chiang Kai-Shek's kow-tow before Japanese imperialism or to stigmatize the corruption of Kuo Min Tang rule. So in a certain sense we may say that the Fukien revolt spells the beginning of the end of the Chiang Kai-Shek regime.

There may be several perspectives open before the Fukien government. If it can attain its main objective of overthrow of Chiang Kai-Shek in a quick manner by military combination, then it will degenerate and become conservative, throwing aside the present revolutionary phrases, otherwise it can be made dependent upon the mass movement and draw advantages from it. For example, the finance of the province will become ever more inadequate to feed the growing needs of the army and the way out must be sought in the seizure of the customs revenue and the realization of the tariff autonomy, in putting a stop to the officials' embezzlement and corruption, in relieving the burden of the petty bourgeoisie by diminishing the taxation on them and by a corresponding increase on the big bourgeoisie. All such needs open

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Terzani Frame-Up Smashed

Atmos Terzani was acquitted Dec. 13 of his anti-Fascist comrades Anthony Fierro, by a jury in Queens County Court which deliberated only thirty-two minutes. It was a victory against heavy odds, since the judge had been openly hostile to the defense.

Prosecutor Harry Huber centered his attack on Samuel Wein, former Khaki Shirts member, who testified that Frank Moffer of Philadelphia, a former associate, killed Fierro in the night at the Fascist Khaki Shirts meeting in Astoria in July. Wein had told the grand jury that the killer was a man in a brown suit, such as Terzani had worn, but said he did this because Commander Art Smith of the Khaki Shirts had threatened his life.

"General" Art Smith testified, charging again that Terzani shot Fierro. He swore he accused Fierro that night before Terzani witnessed Moffer as the slayer. But Patrolman John Nolan, state's witness, testified that Terzani accused Moffer five or ten minutes before Smith accused Terzani.

After the verdict had been announced, hand-clapping aroused the judge's anger. Summoning before him the culprit, Fort Vellona, cartoonist for the anti-Fascist daily, *Stampa Libera*, the judge cut short his apologies with "Don't lie to me. This case has been saturated with lies." The labor jury representing nine labor organizations delayed comment on the trial until a carefully considered statement could be prepared.

PUSH THE ACTION PROGRAM

In our last issue we outlined a Program of Action designed to extend the political activities of the League. Some of the points have already been partly carried out. The national tour of comrade Swaback has been completed. It was very successful. We have reduced the price of *The Militant* and made a beginning towards its popularization. At the same time *The Militant* circulation has greatly increased. Its influence is thereby undoubtedly extended, but the increase in circulation does not yet compensate for the drop in income by the reduced price.

Live workers' clubs have been established in a number of cities. In addition, language workers' clubs sympathetic to and supporting the work of the League are functioning among Italian, Greek and Jewish workers in Chicago and New York City.

But the real test today by which the influence of a revolutionary organization can be judged lies unquestionably in the trade union field. Progress there will have a decisive bearing on future developments. In regard to this we can record only initial steps. In carrying the Action Program to its completion this particular form of activity must be strengthened.

Point four of the Action Program provides for the acceptance of members into the League on a broader basis than heretofore. This proposal flows directly from our change of orientation toward the creation of a new revolutionary party. Freed from a number of its former factional limitations, we assume now a completely independent role. For that we have been well prepared by our struggle of the past. The League membership is growing rapidly. Since our second national conference we have more than doubled our membership. Together with that twelve youth clubs are functioning in various cities, adding new recruits to our

OPEN FORUM

SAM GORDON
on
HOW CLOSE IS WAR?
at
Friday, December 22nd, 1933
8:15 P. M.
International Workers School Hall
126 East 16th Street, nr Irving Pl.
Admission: Manhattan Branch, Communist League of America (Opp.)
Questions — Discussion
ADMISSION 10 CENTS

United Front at Minneapolis

Labor Organizations in Unemployment Fight

Minneapolis.—On December 10th two thousand workers met in the City Auditorium on call of the Minneapolis Central Council for Unemployed to hear about the need of an all-inclusive unemployed organization in this city. Speaker after speaker piled up arguments for greater unity, more organization, around a common program of demands covering the most elementary needs of the workers today.

A simple formula for a democratic central organization that would tie the unemployed together with the workers organized in the trade unions, labor political, and fraternal organizations was elaborated by V. R. Dunne, speaking for the Central Council. To a central council every trade union, labor political or fraternal organization, and cooperative shall send delegates on a proportional basis. This body in turn shall organize locals for unemployed workers in various districts of this city, which will be represented in the central body on the same basis. Thus every organized worker in the city shall be directly represented in the Central Council, which co-ordinates all separate phrases of struggle and all forces at hand for the most effective struggle against unemployment.

Growth of the Movement

Since the October 29th conference that launched the M. C. C. U. there has been steady progress in growth of this movement; new adherents, new forces, wider scope to its activities. Naturally, there has been much confusion, much talk and also disruptive activities from the enemies of such a unifying

movement, to put up with, but the fundamental correctness of this form of organization for labor's struggle against unemployment is proving itself every day.

The greatest confusion rises from the almost total lack of understanding of what is a United Front, due to the fact that there has never been a correct united front functioning in this city before. Added to this are the innumerable distortions of the united front indulged in by the Stalinists of the official C. P. which had prejudiced, misdirected, and finally liquidated section after section, group after group, of honest working class elements who had sincerely joined with the Party to effect unification of efforts. The ultra-Left policy of the "united front from below" which keeps the C. P. outside this movement, fighting it, is doing yeoman-service to the reactionary labor bureaucracy which is quietly working against the movement, behind the scenes, spreading pessimism, lies, and slander among the workers in the unions and on the relief lines.

The narrow-minded upstarts in the leadership of the Party locally disgraced themselves by their antics in the October 29th Conference which formed the movement. They represented an insignificant minority of the workers represented there, monopolized the floor while they bragged and lied for two hours or more, bolted the conference, returned and bolted again when their ultimata were not accepted. Having issued a statement against the conference at the door, calling every one connected with it a "social Fascist", the C. P. then broke with the conference when it decided for the formation of unemployed organizations throughout the city, which of necessity would compete with the defunct, sectarian Unemployed Councils.

Thus the Stalinists with no united-front policy place themselves in a position that exposes them as disrupters and splitters of working class unity before masses of workers. With a correct united front policy the Left Opposition is placing itself in a position to unify the working masses behind simple necessary demands which they need, together with the accepted reformist leaders of the workers, who, if they falter, disrupt this unity, or betray the interests of the workers in the movement, will be exposed.

Incidentally the first group of leadership to disrupt this unity, and to betray the fundamental class interest of the workers for the sake of their immediate organizational interests (the miserable Unemployed Councils) are the Stalinists. The class-conscious workers in the Unemployed Councils should take stock of their leaders and their policies and draw the necessary conclusions. They should join the District organizations of the M. C. C. U., and in these bodies build up a constructive class consciousness and a policy of struggle that will be an aid in advancing our class to the next higher stage of struggle. —C. F.