

WORKERS OF THE WORLD. UNITE

THE MILITANT



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10,000 IN MASS HOTEL PICKET LINE

Revolt At Local 16's Treachery

Members of A. F. of L. Refuse to Act as Scabs

The shabby fraud practised by Local 16 in its effort to get its own members to scab had proven a flop.

Here is the story of the racket, as described by a former member of Local 16, who quit to join the Amalgamated.

EDITORIAL

Every day brings heartening reports of new thousands added to the ranks of the hotel and restaurant workers on strike in New York.

The history of the labor movement in this country and elsewhere has demonstrated over and over again that what is decisive in every working class battle is the question of policy.

We of the Militant, we International Communists whom the official Communist party calls "Trotskyists", have definite opinions.

The Strike and the N.R.A.

The enemy is the association of hotel proprietors and the banks that stand behind them. Their assistants and allies are the police, the courts, and the vast machinery of the capitalist government.

From the very outset, we considered as the most dangerous illusion the idea that the NRA could or would help the workers in any movement to advance their interests.

How Will the Strike Be Won?

The emergence of the Amalgamated into battle as a forward-looking, independent, fighting union shows anew that the methods of routine conservatism are powerless to organize a fight against the bosses.

What is indispensable in the strike is a firm reliance upon the mass movement of the workers alone, and not upon the good will and kind hearts of the bosses and the benevolence of the government.

"The challenge to the NRA code and the hotel magnates in whose interest it was drawn up," wrote the Militant just a month ago, "leads with iron necessity to a strike.

Essentially the same question rises before us now. What methods, what policy should be pursued to gain a favorable settlement in the strike, one which the workers can accept proudly and with satisfaction?

The kind of settlement the strikers want will not be achieved by a voluntary change of heart by the bosses or the NRA.

Not some polite paper threat, written with wind and tongue in cheek, like the A. F. of L. officials' bluff for a New Year's Eve strike.

No, what has been accomplished up to now and what will win

F. W. I. U. «Fortress» Collapses

New Yorker Men-Vote Solid for 'Amalgamated'

The 18th St Food Workers' Industrial "Union" (Stalinists), has received a decisive setback in its efforts to sow discord in the strike and to make political capital at the expense of the strike.

Some time ago, the F. W. I. U., which had no following in the hotel industry of the city, set out to gain one in order to compete with the rapidly-growing A. H. & R. W. U.

Many refused to sign up until they could find out more about both unions. As a result there was confusion which caused a neglect of the business of the strike while meeting after meeting was held.

As each day went by, the strikers became more and more restless, anxious to close ranks, end organizational disputes and take part in driving home blows against the bosses.

At the last meeting, only four workers—the professional Stalinists who started the disharmony—rose to speak on behalf of the 18th Street "union".

Flock to Amalgamated

At this point a worker arrived at the Hellenic Center from union headquarters with a pile of strikers' cards.

There may still be another pep or two from representatives of the F. W. I. U., but the action of the New Yorker rank-and-file, pushing their way over all obstacles into the H. & R. W. U. because of their desire for militant, unified action,

Strikers 'Greet' Roosevelt Scab Birthday Dinners

The picket line of the hotel workers' general strike took over Park Avenue last night. For more than an hour the highway which usually serves the plutocratic elite of the city as they roll in limousines to luncheon, tea, cocktails and banquets at sumptuous hotels, resounded to the tramp of marching feet and shouts as 10,000 strikers demonstrated their numbers, strength and solidarity.

In this way the strikers expressed their indignation at the action of President Roosevelt in permitting birthday dinners to be given in his honor at hotels which employ scab labor in an effort to break the workers' fight for union recognition and decent conditions.

Setting out after a meeting of 10,000 in Madison Square Garden Annex, with the intention of parading past the Waldorf, the line kept going despite the icy winds and paid its respects to a whole series of hotels.

McAlpin, the Commodore, the Pennsylvania, the Ambassador, the Savoy-Plaza, the Plaza, the New West-

The greatest strike picket line New York City has seen in years was a smashing answer to the mendacious bosses' press which has persisted in spreading the lie that the strikers number only a thousand or two at most.

Inside the hotels the effect of the strike was astounding. Discipline among the workers in departments still unaffected by the strike broke down completely. Front doors were jammed with bellboys, porters and other workers watching and occasionally applauding, while straw-bosses frantically yelled at them to get back to their posts.

At the head of the picket line marched B. J. Field, Secretary of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers' Union and other strike leaders.

The pickets wound up their march with two rallies, at Union headquarters and Palm Garden.

Draw Guns On Pickets

Police Effort to Scare Workers Is Defied

Hitting the supply of strike-breakers at its source, a squadron of three hundred strikers marched up and down Sixth Ave., defied police guns, and picketed the scab employment agencies.

The picketers paraded from Fifth St. to Forty-Second St., yelling "Down with the scabs" every time they spied a misguided worker eye the placards announcing jobs in struck hotels.

Cops Draw Guns At Fifty-Seventh St. and Ninth Ave., the cops drew their guns from the holsters, threatening to use them on the strikers if they did not cease their militant activities.

Another demonstration was held on the same avenue yesterday, during course of which several thugs armed with clubs were in evidence especially at the Geneva on Forty-Ninth St., and Sixth Ave., giving the lie to those ostentatious statements "No strike jobs".

Almost without exception the agencies display signs bearing the legend: "No strike jobs supplied here."

Another N.R.A. Project Collapses

Another of the grandiose projects of the New Deal has turned out to be a dud. According to a U. P. report appearing in the World-Telegram for Jan. 8, "the use of federal funds for slum clearance and housing projects in general has been abandoned as a part of the Roosevelt recovery program."

It will be recalled that the newspapers were chock full of big-time stories splashing the fact that amounts running into astronomical figures were being allocated to improve the housing situation.

New Hotels Join Ranks of Strike

The following is the list of hotels and restaurants that have joined the strike in the last forty-eight hours:

Savarin, Commodore, Picadilly, Chatham, Marguery, Madison, Alamac, Prince George, Gotham, Olcott, Caylar, Longchamps 79th St., Downtown Athletic Club.

Face Thugs at Longchamps

Longchamps! All out for Longchamps!

The picket line formed outside of union headquarters, marched double file through Central Park.

A laborer waved greetings. A woman with a "pooch" under her arms stopped and snuffled—out of cold or contempt; it was hard to say which.

The marchers jeered. They refused to be intimidated.

One of the "mugs" outside tried to start trouble. He pushed one of the marchers. The lone cop, scared representative of law and order, pleaded with him. Pleaded with the "yegg".

Bulletin! Longchamps! 79th St. branch is now out! This is the fourth branch to strike.

10,000 Fill Mass Rally

Madison Square Garden Jammed With Strikers

Ten thousand cheering, determined workers packed Madison Square Garden yesterday in one of the most imposing mass strike demonstrations ever seen in New York City.

Jammed to capacity and vibrating with enthusiasm, such as only workers in revolt can display, this monster rally marks a high point in a strike wave that is mounting higher every day.

The mass meeting was opened on schedule time by Paul Bourget, who acted as chairman. He set the tone to the meeting when he stated, amid cheers, to the hotel workers that "we are here to fight and will remain out till we win".

Secretary Fields elaborated the irrepressible growth of the strike and its militant actions from day to day. He denounced the standers of the capitalist press saying that "the great action of the general strike of the hotel workers has given the lie to the vicious press reports."

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There is a great war taking place in America today between two giants—capital and labor. We are soldiers in this fight and we are here to carry it forth to victory.

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