

Strike Gains Momentum

Moving forward with seven league boots the walk-out of the New York hotel and restaurant workers continue to tie-up hotels and restaurants every day, chalking up fourteen new establishments in the last forty eight hours.

Outstanding among these paralyzed fortresses of the open shop are the Commodore, Longchamps 79th St., the fourth of this chain to be struck, the Marguery, the Olcott and others. The complete list is published in another column.

The work of the picketing committees before the major hotels and restaurants goes on unabated and with remarkable militancy. Supplementing the activity of the individual picketers are the indomitable committees from whose action no scab hotel is immune. So effective is their work that the thugs in blue uniforms are beginning to interfere with the pickets. One picket was arrested at the Waldorf and another at the Great Northern on complaints of scab agents charging "intimidation". Both are out on bail.

Meanwhile the hotel bosses are becoming desperate at the crippling power of the strike. At the Longchamps, the management offered the strikers \$150 to return to work. Gus Felder and Louis Esposito, strikers, went to the management to protest. They were thrown out by gangsters and when they hit the sidewalk fifteen thugs assailed the two strikers, beating one of them so badly that he required medical attention. A couple of the bruisers were also hurt. On charges by the picketers, two of the plug-uglies were apprehended for assault.

Reports reach the union headquarters with increasing frequency that the scabs are unable to fill the bill although they are paid from seven to twelve dollars per day. Twenty three scabs were fired from the Warwick Hotel for incompetency and the chef threatened to quit if do-nothings—meaning strike-breakers—were the only help that could be obtained.

Dozens of telegrams of the following order have been sent to strikers in an attempt to stampede them back to work:

"SORRY I WAS NOT PRESENT WHEN STRIKERS DELEGATION APPEARED STOP I AM SURE YOU ARE NOT IN SYMPATHY WITH THIS MOVEMENT."

(Signed THE "MANAGEMENT" Organizer Kaldis read these telegrams at meetings. The speakers shouted their indignation. Another obstacle they would clear out of the way.

Despite the lies of the kept press the bosses are searching high and low for skilled workers to scab on the thousands now in revolt against intolerable conditions. We have it on reliable information that the City Hotel's Men's Association were in session all Saturday, Sunday and Monday late into the night discussing the problem of the shortage of trained cooks and waiters and consulting with railroad men, obviously on plans for herding scabs into New York from other cities.

Protesting the hiring of strike-breakers as a menace to public health the Amalgamated has issued the following statement to the Commissioner of Health, dated January 28th:

"Dear Sir: The public health of this city is endangered through the action of the hotels and restaurants on strike in hiring strike-breakers without health cards. The danger is that hotels in general have in their keeping the health cards of the strikers as, for example, the Waldorf-Astoria and the Savarin Restaurants. For the protection of the public health we take it upon ourselves to inform you of this dangerous situation.

"Very Respectfully yours, Amalgamated Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union. N. B. Health cards are being fraudulently passed to the strike breakers.

"JULES CHASTONAY, 'Kitchen Organizer.' -G. C.

CORRECTIONS

To the Militant: Your last issue (January 29) refers to me as a "special strike organizer". This is incorrect. I am participating in the strike in an advisory capacity by invitation. The organizing work as well as the responsibility of the strike rests with the officials of the union. I would appreciate if you would make this correction.

To the Militant: In reporting the Bryant Hall strike meeting you mention my name as a strike organizer. My acting as chairman of the meeting was not in that capacity. I am a rank and file member of the union, not an official.

—HUGO OEHLER.

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EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 1)

In the end, is extended and intensified mass struggle. Instead of allowing the bosses and their NRA to tie up the workers in their iron chains, let the strikers surround every hotel in the city with an impassable iron ring of mass picket lines which will drive the employers into a corner.

Remember the great strike wave of last summer, when tens of thousands of workers throughout the country rose spontaneously in magnificent struggles against starvation conditions. How brilliantly they illuminated the all-important fact that the working class, once started on the road of struggle, reveals that it has enormous reservoirs of strength, of militancy, of solidarity. It is necessary to put all our faith in those reservoirs. It is necessary to rely upon them exclusively, and upon nothing else!

What is needed to win this strike and to inspire workers elsewhere with the victory, is clear vision in the ranks and in the leadership, a bold strategy and militant tactics. The superb mass picketing at the Waldorf-Astoria on the first night of the strike, and the courageous march on the scab employment agencies in face of the police with drawn guns who met the marchers—these are examples of the line of action that must be developed and spread until it embraces every worker in the strike.

Extending the Strike Front

The extension of the strike brings to the fore the problem of the union as a whole. The Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union is only one section—and a powerful one—of the Amalgamated Food Workers Union. It is fortunate that the hotel workers are part of a union which has a firm base in other parts of the industry, notably among the bakers. The task here is to inspire in the workers the vision of a powerful industrial union, organized on a nation-wide foundation and covering all the trades and crafts. The Amalgamated Food Workers Union is admirably constructed for this purpose, by virtue of its industrial form of organization, its class struggle tendency, its constitution and its progressive traditions.

The Militant deems it highly important for the Executive Board of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union to draw other detachments of the mother organization into the work and support of the strike, and if necessary, into common fighting action.

The workers have an endless capacity to fight and to win. Let them but realize the fact and half the battle is won. Let them but realize that they have hardly begun to summon up all the forces and powers at their disposal. And let them make the bosses and their banks realize that obstinate resistance to the union's demands will not meet with capitulation, or retreat, but with stiffer blows by the workers!

The workers who have already closed down the largest and most powerful hotels in New York in less than a week, and closed them down tight, have the right and the duty to call for aid from the workers in other crafts and trades. The Amalgamated Food Workers Union has an extensive jurisdiction. And the men who struck the hotels of this city are capable of striking every branch of the food industry. Let the bosses beware!

The extension of the strike is, to our minds, of a piece with the establishment in the union of a broad, inclusive leadership which uses every progressive and constructive force. Least of all do we Trotskyists have anything in common with clique tendencies and factional monopoly in the leadership of mass organizations. The idea is repugnant to us. We regard the trade unions as the mass organizations of the workers, embracing them all without regard to their political, economic, racial or religious affiliations. They must allow free play for every tendency to express itself by democratic means. They must draw in every healthy force to bear its share of the responsibility for the organization in its struggles. A narrow policy in this field is fatal, and the International-Communists—who have fought such a course relentlessly in the A. F. of L. and the Stalinist unions—will oppose it just as pitilessly whenever and wherever and in whomsoever it manifests itself in the Amalgamated.

The workers who have had their bellies full of the Gompers-Green brand of bureaucratism and of the stifling of the workers' voice in the Stalinist unions, will not permit the infiltration of any similar poison into the Amalgamated. The first sign of it must be crushed without mercy. Every conscious worker will join hands in a concerted effort to make the Amalgamated a model union in this respect, a union where the members feel at home, where they can talk and criticize freely, where they can elect their officials or recall them, where their initiative may be unfolded instead of restricted, and above all where the clear and honest voice of progressivism may be heard above the deadening growls of reactionary conservatism.

Red Baiting and Reaction

In the same spirit, we are adamant in our opposition to any Red-baiting in the union, regardless of the forms it takes, even if they are of the most "polite" and covert nature. Bitter experience teaches the workers the reactionary character of Red-baiting. Everywhere it has gone and always will go hand in hand with a contemptible groveling before capitalist "public opinion", hand in hand with treachery to the workers and their fights. Isn't this clear from the clamor of the hotel men who denounce the Amalgamated as a "red union"; from the affidavits submitted by the attorney for Waiters Local 16 of the A. F. of L. in applying for an injunction in the Supreme Court against the Amalgamated, to "prove" that it "is in the pay of Moscow"? Red-baiting is the weapon of reaction. It plays into the hands of the bosses, of the labor skate and traitor, of the dark forces. "Respectability" bought by a union at the price of an anti-Red campaign is bought dearly. Such "respectability" means the end of its existence as a fighting organization and the beginning of its enslavement to the bosses. Every time the employers or their agents have demanded of a union a repudiation or renunciation of "Reddism" or "Communism", they have demanded that the union give up its backbone and independence!

In this connection, the attempt to impute any relationship to such ideas to the secretary of the union in an interview which appeared in the World-Telegram, will not meet with success. We feel sure that the spokesman for the union was misquoted and that a true militant cannot have voiced such views at any time.

No concession to such a trend can be allowed, without the A. F. W. degenerating into a replica of the conservative A. F. L. The fact that a union is independent of the A. F. L. is no guarantee against such a degeneration. The Progressive Miners of America is a sad example. It started out with magnificent prospects. It gave the devil of Red-baiting a finger, in the hope of gaining respectability in the eyes of the coal operators. Then it gave its whole hand. Today it is indistinguishable from the reactionary Lewis union, and the members of the union are as badly off today, if not worse off than they were before the P. M. A. was launched. Let the members of the A. F. W. be on guard against any attempt to play this dangerous game! Far from tolerating such trends in the union, they must be fought. In its place, the A. F. W. must continue to stand for the broadest possible united front with all forces—not even excluding the Stalinists. We are not unmindful of the fact that a good deal of the criticism of the "18th Street Union" emanates from dubious sources and strikes a reactionary note. We oppose the Industrial Union not because there

Labor Greet Amalgamated

Headquarters of the striking Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union are beginning to receive expressions of sympathy and concrete assistance from labor groups of the industry outside New York, as well as from organizations outside the hotel industry. In addition to the backing of the Amalgamated Food Workers, the federated industrial union of which the Hotel Workers' Union is a department, the strikers have received greetings from Leonidas Augustas, President, on behalf of the Restaurant and Lunch Room Workers Association of Massachusetts (4,000 members) and from Chapter 2 of the Restaurant and Lunch Room Workers Association of America. Laryas Pantas, President of the latter, wrote in part as follows:

"If everyone in the United States had the nerve and the courage to fight for their rights. I am sure the workers would be getting satisfactory wages today."

John Rojas, a leader of food workers in New Haven, Conn., wired his congratulations on the strike and stated that thousands of workers "await only courageous leadership to carry on."

Greetings were also received from Leon Lostal, former organizer of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union. Writing from Miami, Fla., he expressed the joy of workers in Miami by reading the news of the strike in the morning papers. He wrote:

"Year after year, I have asked myself: how long will we continue to submit to this merciless exploitation by our cruel bosses? Comrades, you are at last answering that question... The downtrodden workers in the hotels and restaurants throughout the country are watching you with reawakening hopes, realizing that success in your struggle means the dawn of a new and happier day for them. Comrades, you owe it to them and to your families and to yourselves to spare no effort, and to fight like heroes to at last establish the Union as a force and power to aid you and protect you against the greed of your bosses."

Among the organizations outside the industry which are assisting the strike, in addition to the Communist League of America whose organ, The Militant, has singlehandedly battled against the flood of lies in the boss-owned daily papers of New York, are the following:

- League for Industrial Democracy; Conference for Progressive Labor Action; Emergency Strikers' Welfare Committee; American Civil Liberties Union; Young Peoples' Socialist League, Greater New York Federation, Spartacus Youth Clubs. A more complete list is being prepared and will be published in the next issue of the Militant.

10,000 At Mass Rally Pack Garden

(Continued from page 1)

...Extend the hotel strike to all food workers... Our motto is class solidarity. Our goal is: those who do not work shall not eat! The sturdy halls of the Garden rang to the echo as James P. Cannon roared these remarks of class solidarity and class struggle to the assembled multitudes.

The Militant goes to press before we have the opportunity to report the speeches of Mary Fox, A. J. Muste, Arturo Giovannitti and Ben Gitlow. They will be recorded in a subsequent issue.

This huge mass meeting, broadcast over station W. E. V. D., stood out as a symbol that the hotel strikers were ready to go through hell's fire for the victory of their stirring cause

Finances are needed to publish the MILITANT three times a week during the strike. Send contributions to 126 E. 16th St., N. Y. C.

THE MILITANT

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are Communists in its ranks or leadership, but only because of its disruptive and indefensible policies.

The Amalgamated can live and grow and inspire workers with confidence and enthusiasm only if it holds to a truly militant course and checks every deviation from it at its inception. The principal guarantee for such progress is an organized Left wing which is the banner-bearer of the ideas outlined above.

The workers cannot depend for this upon the ideas alone, hanging in the air, or upon individuals alone carrying out these ideas. What is needed is a group of conscientious fighters, devoted first of all to the Amalgamated—not to the corrupt Local 16 gang, or to the 18th Street sect—who are interested above all in the strengthening of the union, in improving its fighting ability, in making it the pride of the labor movement. A group in short which stands four-square and unequivocally on the basis of a class struggle program and a class struggle fight. Such a group has not yet been formed as it should be. Its formation is an urgent need, and we for our part will do all in our power to assist it, and thereby assist the union as a whole.

The Amalgamated stands before great tasks, but even greater opportunities. It has the power to measure up to both. If it does, it will have written a golden page in the record of the regenerated labor movement of America.

THE STRIKERS SPEAK

Emil Smith Dining Room Delegate, Waldorf-Astoria:

"The capitalist press is the dirtiest in the world—if all those lies about our strike can be written up for it. The firing of Fournigault, the chef de Manger, forced us to strike. He was hired two and half years ago by the Chef and proved to be an excellent worker... Firing him was an attack on the strength of the cooks. Only three weeks before the general walk out, the solidarity of the waiters was tested. For three minutes the waiters stopped working. The fired man was quickly reinstated. But now the dining room waiters and room service waiters have joined with the kitchen force demanding that they be treated as workers and not slaves. They have struck for the recognition of the A. F. W.—Boom was given a chance to show a reason for firing Fournigault, but he preferred to be high and mighty and swore that he would never deal with the union. He said he was his own judge and could hire and fire the men who worked for him without advice from union delegates. The workers in all three services at the Waldorf have been fed up on the conditions there too long, not only for violation of the NRA code, but also for all the petty abuses. For the first time we have joined together because we have conviction, we have the right of collective bargaining and we know that our union is not a racketeer union. We are all ready to hold out together until the Waldorf-Astoria recognizes our rights, our union and our wage demands."

Gustave Barth Kitchen Delegate, Pennsylvania Hotel:

"We have been fed up too long on last minute promises and rotten food. At the Pennsylvania they didn't give us the chance to organize a union of our choice, as they should have according to the conditions of the NRA. But even good wages and all those promises could not keep us working when the rest of the hotels struck. We are fighting now for the recognition of the A. F. W. as our union. And we mean it. One hundred percent of the kitchen force stopped work at eleven o'clock Saturday morning.

While the bosses' press loads its columns with statements from Boomer, Muschenheim, Oscar and the rest of the strike-breaking crew, the Militant presents the views of the striking workers. These interviews with strike leaders and rank-and-filers will appear in all future strike issues. They are verbatim reports of the strikers' views on subjects which they choose to discuss. Ed.

Ninety-nine and 3-4 percent of the waiters struck. Until yesterday our picket line was weak. But the scabs are not getting in now. Sure we can hold out until we have won the right of our own union. And now that we are sticking together—we've got to win."

Marcel Gauduchon Kitchen Delegate, Hotel Astor:

"We walked out first of all because we are with our brothers for the right of our union. But we have our own battle with the Astor. The food is just plain lousy and the hours are worse. They dock us for being late but pay us very little for overtime. It's been a standing order at the Astor to ask a newly hired cook or waiter: 'What society do you belong to?' And the Vatel Club has been suggested usually as the right society to belong to. Now we don't want any discrimination in favor of the clubs or societies or a company union. What we want is the right to belong to our own union, the A. F. W. The wages at the Astor have been fair for five years, but last year, when the NRA went into effect, the Astor began to cut wages like the rest of the hotels. The boss has been unwilling to meet union delegates. Only two months ago when a waiter was discharged I and another delegate, Chris Minihane, went to Muschenheim to find out why. He refused to meet us as union delegates but would talk to us only as shop men. He said he would deal with individuals—but not the union. Well, that's not what we want. We'll stick by the union.

V. Mastro Picket Captain, Waiter, Hotel New Weston:

"What's been going on at the New Weston makes us ready to stick it out until we win. For instance—our hours! We were al-

ways sure of the time we had to check in, but we could never know what time we'd be going out. From 7 to 2:30 or 3 o'clock we'd have to work and then come back at 5:30 to last out until 10 or later. We were supposed to go off at 8, but that never happened. We got all the abuses, but none of the considerations. From 1929 to 1933 our wages were \$30 a month. With the NRA they raised us 20 percent and then charged us three dollars a month for our uniforms. That stopped three weeks ago, when a strike threatened the bosses. They stopped all right on that uniform business but they still kept feeding us food not fit for the dogs. The NRA? Yeah, they heard of it. But they didn't know what it means. The boss newspapers don't know either. They've been giving this strike a raw deal too. The Militant knows that we're fighting for the recognition of the union. We'll get it. We're all sticking together."

Herbert Schneider Waiter Delegate, Longchamps, 57th Street:

"The conditions at the Longchamps restaurant, are the same as at the New Weston Hotel, only worse. The boss, Allen Lustig, and all his rotten treatment can be blamed for our walkout. Three cuts in our wages—ten percent cuts. Working for twelve hours, fourteen hours. Violation of NRA? And how! The ten percent service charge on all Longchamps checks is another joke. That ten percent was split four ways before we got what was left. The bus boy and the butter boy, the coatroom boy and the waiters had to share it. And the same plan was used to chisel the bar service check. The waiter got only two and a half percent of that. Lustig claims that he'll never deal with union men. He says he means it. O. K. We mean it too. We didn't have to be called to the strike. It would take a long time to tell you what's been going on. But we are through with such lousy conditions, and all the hardships, with the privilege of working for starvation wages. The boys never eat at Longchamps. What's served in the dining room may be very tasty and appetizing. But what they give us is week-old tripe and rotten hash. That's the truth. The Militant will write it up that way. The other papers haven't.

Protest Chen Du Siu's Imprisonment

(The following appeal is made by prominent leaders of the British labor movement. It is reprinted herewith from the Red Flag, official organ of the Internationalist Communists of Great Britain):

SAVE THE LIFE OF CHEN DU SIU!

We, the undersigned, draw the attention of all working-class organizations to the arrest and imprisonment of Chen Du Siu, an outstanding and courageous leader of the Chinese workers' movement, now undergoing a sentence of 13 years imprisonment by the Chinese Nationalist Government.

Chen Du Siu has a long record of service in the struggle of the Chinese people for their freedom. Born in 1875, in his early years he worked mainly in the sphere of editing radical and literary papers and in educating the youth of China, founding for this purpose the monthly "The Youth", a paper which played an important role in the development of the Chinese social and cultural movement. During the years 1916-1919 he played a prominent part in preparing the ground for the development of the mass National movement, which began with the students' anti-Japanese demonstration of May 4th, 1919. At the height of this agitation Chen was imprisoned by the pro-Japanese Peking Government as the author of a seditious leaflet.

After his release he went to Shanghai where he founded the Chinese Communist Party. Twice arrested during 1921-1922 by the French authorities, his release was secured by the protests of the Chinese workers. From that time until 1929 Chen was General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party,

Obviously, this sentence of 13 years upon a man of 58 is a death sentence, especially under the conditions existing in Chinese prisons. We urge all working-class bodies to join in the demand for the release of our fellow fighter in the cause of the emancipation of the working-class. All protests should be sent to the Chinese Embassy, 40 Portland Place, W. 1, and to the Socialist and Communist press.

- Signed by: Tom Mann, C.P. James Maxton, I.L.P. Fenner Brockway, I.L.P. W. Harris, E.C. of N.A.F.T.A. Alec Gossip, " A. E. Harvey, " Albert Thomas, " Percy J. Johnson, " A. J. Bickell, " J. L. Swift, " C. W. Taylor, " Walter Randall, " John Jagger, N.U.D.A.W. Dick Beech, Pres. Chem. W. U. Edwin W. Mackwell, Nat. Org. Chemical Workers Union. Arthur Gillian, Gen. Sec. C.W.U. Jack Tanner, Organizer, A.E.U. W. Howell, Engineer, A.E.U.

(A copy of this appeal was sent to Harry Pollitt of the Communist Party and to A. F. Walkden of the T. U. C. General Council. No reply has been received.)

Subs Double

Two days ago, in the first issue of the triweekly we reported that the sub drive opened with 115 new subs. Now we are happy to announce that in the brief period between that issue and this, which includes Sunday, we have received as many subs again—114. This total now is 229. The New York Local made a magnificent start toward realizing its quota of four hundred new subs. The City Committee bought 84 of the Club Plan half-year subs cards at twenty-five cents apiece. Pittsburgh bought twelve.

Comrade Leaser of Brooklyn shot in 8; and comrade Goodman of Philadelphia sent in four.

Six comrades sent in one sub apiece at the regular rates. The list of leaders now stands as follows: comrade Leaser—8; comrade Goodman—7; O. Coover—5; R. Sharron—5; J. Ruby—5; A. Konikow—3; J. Ruby—3. These comrades have sent in two apiece, and twenty five have sent in one each.

The drive is just beginning but it is clear that it will be a success. The whole Club Plan scheme is the simplest, easiest thing ever devised to distribute a paper to workers. A single half-year subscription to the Militant is fifty cents. That is cheap enough. But on the Club Plan basis it is twice as cheap that is, it is only twenty-five cents, provided they are bought in blocks of at least four at one time. There is no maximum; you can buy as many more than four as you can afford.

You invest one dollar in four Club Plan sub cards. Then you either resell them, one at a time, two at a time, however you can. If you resell them you have your money back. You can stop there if you want to. But you can do better than that. You can reinvest the dollar in four more cards and resell them. In this way you will have a small revolving fund at work increasing the circulation of the Militant. And when you wind it up you will have spent nothing yourself.

Build the Militant! Help circulate a Marxian paper for workers! Order for Club Plan half year sub cards for one dollar! Use the blank below!

THE MILITANT 126 East 16th Street, New York City, N. Y.

Enclosed please find \$.....for.....(four is the minimum) Club Plan half year sub cards.

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