

THE C.W.A. FRONT

10,000 Demonstrate in New York

Last Thursday, February 15, a demonstration of 10,000 workers of the C. W. A. and C. W. S. and the various groupings of the Roosevelt sham of planned recovery—took place in Union Square. On the line of march, for the first time, joining with ditch diggers, bricklayers and all the other categories of Civil Works laborers, were the previously immune "untouchables"—the white collar office workers. They added zest to the spirit in the air.

"The C. W. A. must go on!" "No layoffs!" Thousands of workers shouted these slogans, the streets ringing with protest against the infamy of the present scheme of mass firing. The police—in their usual Hessian fashion attempted to provoke or to cut short the protest by laying out what they thought would be a "proper" route for the marchers. At the offices of the CWA at 28th St., the lusty shouts of the thousands of workers rang out their denunciation of the CWA officialdom. At this point the police tried to stem the march, but failed. The workers marched past the CWA offices twice.

While there are a few CWA organized CWA workers are members that the Association of Civil Works Employees at 22 E. 22th St., has the best chance for growth. All the speakers, including of course the Stalinists from the Relief Workers League, howled for unity! If there is to be unity among the CWA workers, the elimination of superfluous organization must take place, and the fusing of these groups into the main stream. The majority of organized CWA workers are members of the Association of Civil Works Employees. There is where we should concentrate, and help build it into a mass organization for the fight to come.

Inwood Park

A thousand workers are employed here on the A shift. Doing the usual routine of non-mechanized work, such as digging ditches for

drains, filling in or leveling land; the bricklayers laying bricks on the soggy ground, with the melting snow making the work absolutely worthless. Two months ago when an attempt was made to organize the CWA workers for better conditions (such as pay every week, union scale) and in general the right to organize, Mr. MacArthur, a supervisor (now up on charges of padding the payroll) intimidated the process. He said "you can't organize against the Government". "The NRA does not include the CWA."

When a demonstration was being organized to demand pay three weeks in arrears, Mr. MacArthur howled and stormed, threatening the immediate firing of anyone who left the job to demonstrate at the office. Nobody went! The prospect of being fired with no organization as yet strong enough to fight for the workers, dissipated the possibilities of militant protest; everybody just grumbled and cursed. When the wage cut came—the same thing.

There was no organization to lead us, except for a few workers who vented their personal feelings at this damnable "charity work" of the government. Mr. Dutch Schultz and his cohorts grafted pennies and dimes from the workers by the policy racket, and his honor the mayor did right by the working class by suspending it for a week. Mr. Schultz is operating again in collusion with the genteel Tammany boys who officiate as the Foreman with the honorable mayor's dispensation. These boys have organized it on better lines and no arrests take place.

On below-zero Friday, a Negro foreman caught cold and died the next day. A number of workers died, unable to buy decent warm clothes on \$13.44 a week, and to support a family. A worker sacrificed these essentials for paying rent, clothing his kids and buying food. Is there any money left—with rising prices—and our pay cut instead of increased to meet the rise in commodities?

A number of contacts have been made, which should soon enough develop and must develop into the basis for an organization at Inwood

Park to organize for the battle for better conditions and the continuation of the C. W. A. —CWA.

Marine Park

Marine Park, Brooklyn, N. Y.—Marine Park CWA workers succeeded in forcing from the local officials a chance to make up a half-day's pay they had been cheated out of.

When the workers received their pay-check (\$11.20), they discovered they had been docked a half-day's pay, although a promise had previously been given them that they would not be docked for going home early in sub-zero weather.

Spontaneous strikes took place in almost every section of the park, despite the fact that the gangs, which are widely separated, were not aware of their common action. More than 300 marched to the pay-shack to demand their full pay.

The major in charge rushed off hurriedly to park headquarters and returned with the information that we would be permitted to come in early and make up the time "lost". The whole affair should make it very clear to CWA workers that organized mass action is the only means by which they can defeat the plans of the administration to squeeze down on CWA funds and eventually fire every worker from the job.

The officials in charge of the park are prepared to go to any lengths to find excuses for firing workers. They hesitate to make mass layoffs, because they know that this will enrage the workers sufficiently to make them fight back.

On Saturday morning, a windy, icy day, when it was torture only to hold a cold shovel in your hand, the prosperous-looking car of the "major" who is in charge of the project, drew up in front of a gang of section 3, and after a whispered conference with the foremen the men were told to line up for discharge slips. The reason given was that we had "refused to work"! But this dirty deal was too raw to go over, and the "major" drove away with every man still working.

What is to prevent him from coming back to try this trick again, and this time successfully? Only the organized action of the workers themselves OF WHICH EVERY CAPITALIST POLITICIAN IS AFRAID. CWA workers must learn the lessons of unions in industry and ORGANIZE TO PROTECT THEIR JOBS.

Prospect Park

Following months of the degrading nonsense which was C. W. A. "work" in Prospect Park, the new park commissioner Moses with the assistance of "Federal Brains" had put the majority of the \$13.44 leisure class at "constructive" work. In this "constructive work", the dictum laid down by Harry Hopkins that no machinery be used is carried out to the letter.

Some are sent to Coney Island to screen the sand on the beach by hand. Truly here is an eternal job for all the unemployed. Others with picks, shovels and wheelbarrows (in mechanized industrialized America) are at work, pecking away at frozen earth and rock—making roads, flower beds, ditches, etc.

Hard miserable work in abominable weather, carried on by poorly clad, ill-fed men for \$13.44 a week. A steam shovel and a truck could efficiently and well do more work than the whole crew. But no machinery is allowed for this is Roosevelt's "made work". In other words it is capitalist punishment for the crime of being unemployed. —K.

Wage Cuts

Along with the cut in wages put over on the unemployed by \$500 a week politicians who think fifteen dollars too much for a CWA worker and his family, went the threat of even cutting off the miserable remaining \$13.44. And that threat is being made good.

Hundreds of thousands of men have already been laid off. They are to be absorbed into industry, we are told. At the same time figures released by Secretary of Labor Perkins, show a decline of five hundred thousand in industrial employment during the month of January.

Starvation on the farms is increasing. Farmers forced off the land by Roosevelt. A. A. program are joining city unemployed on relief rolls. There is nothing in sight for the "released" CWA workers except starvation or the bread lines.

"By May 1st, all CWA work will be ended", says Roosevelt. And in the parks, the mudholes and snow piles where the CWA men work this statement is being discussed. There Park. In the next week or so, a

meeting will be called near the is plenty of militancy and readiness for struggle. The conscious minority must now without further delay push the task of strengthening and building the unemployed organizations. The demonstration of Feb. 15, must be considered only as the beginning of a campaign to turn the paper or skeleton organization of the Association of Civil Works Employees and the Workers Unemployment League into real mass organizations of the CWA and other unemployed. —K.

Shachtman Tour

On March first, comrade Shachtman begins his national tour. This is the second national tour undertaken by the League this season, but it will be far bigger than any one preceding it, extending from coast to coast and covering the most important industrial centers throughout the country. A period of two months and a half has been allotted for its completion with at least one public meeting at every stop-over.

It is the aim of this tour to bring the League message on the most burning questions confronting the American workers to much wider circles than heretofore. First and foremost amongst these questions stands the one of assembling the forces for a new revolutionary party. This will be comrade Shachtman's main topic. He will present the Marxist answer to the question: "Do We Need a New Revolutionary Party in America." Where more than one meeting is scheduled he will also deal with such subjects as: "Is America Headed Towards War?"; "The Future of the New Deal"; and "The Soviet Union Under Stalinism."

Comrade Shachtman is well qualified to answer these questions on behalf of the League. Our viewpoint is well known to many militant workers. They will form the active kernel in building up the meetings and there should be little doubt that in every respect the tour will be successful.

The League itself is in a state of growth with a network of branches throughout the country. Several new ones have been added recently in the Western states. This makes such an extended tour possible. The tour can be a new high point in winning new adherents to our viewpoint and gain new members for the League. In addition, and this goes without saying, the very successful Militant subscription campaign, now well under way, should find its climax in new readers being added to the list in every city visited by comrade Shachtman. All Militant readers will thus be able to help materially in making this tour a new forward step for the League.

The following is the schedule for the national tour up to Chicago. The additional dates will be reported in subsequent issues:

Thursday, March 1st—New Haven Workman's Circle Center, 72 Legion Ave.
Friday, March 2nd, Boston Mass. Otisfield Hall, Cor. Otisfield and Blue Hill Ave., Roxbury, Mass. 8:00 P. M.

Sat., March 3rd Boston, Mass. Sun., March 4th Boston, Mass. Labor Lyceum, Auspices: Young Circle League, 4:30 P. M.

Tues., March 6th—Rochester, N. Y. Wed., March 7th—Rochester, N. Y. Thurs., March 8th—Syracuse, N. Y. Fri., March 9th—Syracuse, N. Y. Sat., March 10th—Syracuse, N. Y. Sun., March 11th—Buffalo, N. Y. Mon., March 12th—Pittsburgh, Pa. Tues., March 13th—Pittsburgh, Pa. Wed., March 14th—Newcastle Pa. Thurs., March 15th—Youngstown, O. Fri., March 16th—Youngstown, O. Sat., March 17th—Cleveland Ohio Sun., March 18th—Chicago, Ill. Mon., March 19th—Chicago, Ill. Tues., March 20th—Chicago, Ill. Wed., March 21st—Chicago, Ill. Thurs., March 22nd—Chicago, Ill.

Shachtman Tour Boston, Mass. MASS MEETING "THE SOVIET UNION UNDER STALINISM" at LABOR LYCEUM Boston, Mass. Sunday, March 4th—4:30 P. M. Auspices: Young Circle League

Shachtman Tour Boston, Mass. MASS MEETING "DO WE NEED A NEW COMMUNIST PARTY IN AMERICA" at OTISFIELD HALL Cor. Otisfield and Blue Hill Ave., Roxbury, Mass. FRIDAY, MARCH 2nd—8:00 P. M. ADMISSION 10 CENTS Auspices: Boston Branch C. L. A.

Revolt in the Blockers Union

Reactionary Clique Struggle Threatens Split

The workers in the Blockers Local 42 of the Cap and Millinery International Union are up in arms against Zaritzky's arbitrary and autocratic leadership. The revolt reached its height Monday, Feb. 12, at a packed meeting in Bryant Hall when President Zaritzky was not permitted to proceed with his appointment of officers for the local.

Results of Clique Struggle

The present ferment of the blockers is the culmination of a protracted struggle that has been going on between the racketeering clique of Goldin, who headed the local till 1932, and the autocratic Zaritzky bureaucracy heading the International. In 1932, Zaritzky reorganized Local 42, and imposed upon it an appointed leadership of his own henchmen. Goldin, with a number of blockers following him, organized his own local as part of the United Hatters Union. This resulted in bloody warfare in the shops, with both cliques competing for the recognition of the bosses by giving up one after another the conditions the blockers had won through years of struggle.

Now, that the Zaritzky leadership of the Millinery International has come to terms the Michael Green outfit heading the United Hatters, Goldin was left out in the cold. One of the terms of this agreement was the merger of the two blockers locals. At the meeting on Feb. 12, Zaritzky came to announce his appointees for the merged blockers local. The workers reacted in no uncertain terms against Zaritzky's abuse of their fundamental democratic rights, to elect their own officials. Goldin is now taking full advantage of the sentiment among the workers.

Among those who joined up with Goldin in the hypocritical cry for workers' democracy in the union, are Brickman and Sint who have been partners in crime with Zaritzky in 1932 during the reorganization of Local 42. These individuals, themselves are guilty of violating the workers rights, by accepting Zaritzky's appointments when the organization took place.

Fishing in Troubled Waters

The "united front" Stalinists too are trying to fish in the troubled waters. Working in the interest of the discredited "Industrial Union" they exploit every occasion to weaken and split the International. This "United Front" group has become part and parcel of the Goldin clique of racketeers. These masters of split and disruption are trailing behind Goldin, supplying him with the "left" phrases. The "leaders" of this so-called United Front, Gustav Wollman & I. Wollman have themselves had a taste of the kind of union Goldin can give them. Goldin is the very one who expelled militant workers from the local during his rule, keeping them out of meetings with the aid of police and gangsters. We have not forgotten the kind of "democratic" elections Goldin gave us. We have not forgotten the gangster rule of terror with which Goldin maintained himself in office.

Another small figure in this shady combination is one Max Rose. This respectable person, who played around with the Left wing and even

made a big noise about his radicalism, has shown his colors in this crisis and has become a supporter of the splitting combination.

This colorful combination of the black Goldin clique, the "red" United Front and the section of Zaritzky's former henchmen, are trying now under the battle cry of workers democracy to mislead the blockers to go through with an election of officers over the head of the International, this Monday, Feb. 26.

Where Will Revolt Lead?

The revolt of the blockers against Zaritzky's abuse of the fundamental rights of the membership has reached a point now when the next immediate step will decide whether it is to become the lever that will shake his autocratic rule in the International, or it will become a purely local movement of defiance and eventually get into the blind alley of split, disintegration, and subsequent destruction at the hands of Zaritzky's superior forces: the control of the International machine. The latter must be the outcome if the blockers follow the misleadership of Goldin, Wollman, Brickman, Sint, and Co.

Zaritzky has appointed the administration of the local. Goldin and his allies are proceeding with their own elections. The day after these proposed elections, the blockers will find themselves with two sets of officers. This will mean another protracted guerrilla fight and a contest in each shop, with all the advantages on Zaritzky's side; control of the other crafts, the agreement with the bosses, and an army from unemployed blockers from which to draw recruits, not to speak of the treasury at his disposal, and the backing he will undoubtedly get from the other needle trades International unions. The hopeless fight of Local 43 and its consequences are still fresh in our memory.

The Right Road

There is only one remaining road for the blockers to follow. It is necessary to utilize the entire pressure of this revolt to force Zaritzky to call for an early election. The protest movement must be intensified and spread into the other locals of the International to pick up our battle cry for a democratically run union. There is sufficient discontent among the milliners of all crafts with Zaritzky's autocratic rule that can be ignited into a powerful movement, to do away with the abuses of Zaritzky and his henchmen. Goldin, Wollman, and Co., are merely playing into the hands of Zaritzky, by dragging the blockers into the trap of a dual blockers local, court proceedings, competition for the good graces of the bosses, and the further lowering of the miserable standards that prevail in the trade.

Maintain United Local

We warn the blockers to maintain a united local under any and all conditions, not to be misled by Goldin and his henchmen, who are out merely for their personal gains; not to be misled by the irresponsible adventurism of the so-called "united front".

In this revolt of the blockers there was only one voice that spoke clearly for a militant fight along

Money vs Men

Capital and Labor in the Hotel Strike

Like a good many other industries, the hotel industry expanded and overexpanded during the boom period of the 1920s. The effects of this investment orgy were obvious even as early as 1928, at the very height of the prosperity flush. In the eight year period from 1920 to 1928 the number of available rooms had increased 50 percent (from 1,070,000 to 1,521,000) whereas the rooms actually occupied increased less than 13 percent (from 914,850 to 1,028,916), and the number of guests by about the same percentage. In other words, the percentage of occupancy had declined to 67.6%, though it is understood in the trade that 70 percent occupancy is necessary for profitable operation. During the same period, failures increased yearly from 59 in 1921 to 112 in 1928.

Wages in 1929 were as low as \$844 annually for dining room, lunch room and kitchen employees in the whole country and \$988 for New York workers. The average annual wage of other workers was \$904 and \$1,081 respectively. (These figures taken from the U. S. Census Bureau statistics of 1929 refer only to hotels of 25 rooms or more, operated all year around.)

Since the above figures were gathered wages have fallen twenty-five percent and more. Nor has the NRA helped any. Quite the contrary. Wages of waiters and waitresses which were \$20 before had fallen to \$15 in August 1933. And these are official government figures. A group of skilled workers—cooks—who were making an average of \$40.88 a week when they took their jobs, were making \$30.04 in October 1933. At the same time, hours and the amount of work to be done have increased.

Along with excessive investment what characterized and characterizes the hotels is the high degree of concentration of capital. There are 26,800 hotels in the country of which about half are small businesses (less than twenty-five rooms), many of them operated only seasonally. In the remaining half, the estimated investment is \$250,000 per hotel, 22 workers in each of the whole country and 33 in each for New York.

To further justify their wage cutting, the bosses and bankers have resorted to manipulating their accounts so that their books show smaller profits. Costs of depreciation of buildings, etc., have been falsely raised to an absurd degree; financing costs have been heavily padded. All this in order to show excuses for wage cuts against workers who in many cases have spent eighteen years learning their trade—chefs for example.

But while the bosses have no money for wages, they have plenty of money to fight workers' organization for better conditions (the "war chest" has been estimated at some \$900,000). They have the bankers who control them behind them. It is against them, against miserable conditions that thousands of workers, following the example of the Waldorf-Astoria men, are now striking under the leadership of the Amalgamated Food Workers Union.

These lines, for a fight against Zaritzky's abuses and Goldin's misleadership. That was the voice of the United Blockers League. This group of militant workers, through its leaders, and at the mass meetings, gave the proper warning and pointed out the correct road for the blockers. We are confident that the blockers will realize that this is the only road for them to follow. —BLOCKER.

Another United Front Burlesque

Chicago.—A "united front" conference held here in the Abraham Lincoln Center on February 10 and 11 resulted in the organization of a Chicago branch of the American League Against War and Fascism. The whole thing evidenced the fact that the Party has as little conception of what constitutes a united front as it had during the height of the "third period".

The call was issued by a group of individual liberals, pacifists and Communists in their own name and stated that they were not representing any organization. The opening session of the conference which took place Saturday night was held with the signers of the call firmly in the saddle as arrangements committee. They had decided in advance the number on the credentials and resolutions committees and who should compose such committees.

Thomas McKenna, executive secretary of the Chicago Civil Liberties Union and undercover Stalinist, called the meeting to order. He called on John Werlik, "representative of the American Federation of Labor" but in reality representing a small metal polishers' local to act as chairman. Then he elected himself secretary of the Conference.

The chairman first called on McKenna to read a communication from Prof. Robert Morse Lovett who could not be present. The Professor's letter was full of "sexual urges" and "cosmic urges" as causes of war. Then he called on Mrs. Felsenthal, representing the Jewish bourgeois Women's Federation, to read a letter from Mrs. Lola

Maverick Lloyd of the Women Peace League who also could not be present. Her letter called on the conference to "organize the beautiful sentiments against war," the human instincts against war." Both letters were roundly applauded by the 75% Stalinist audience and practically set the keynote to the entire proceedings. There followed Rev. W. B. Walmire who recounted the horrors of War and B. K. Gebert, Communist Party District Organizer who spoke in the same vein offering no clarification on either war nor Fascism.

Joseph Knight, delegate representing Local 34 of Chicago Workers Committee on Unemployment, introduced a minority report of the Resolutions Committee. His two resolutions, in contradistinction to the majority (Stalinist) resolution, summed up Marxian analysis and program of action on the questions of war and fascism. The first resolution established a correct relation between these two which the Stalinist resolution lumped together in a most confused manner. In addition to Local 34 the minority resolutions were supported by Local 21 of the same organization, the Communist League, the Communist Party Opposition (Lovestonets) and the Militant Workers Club of the South Side.

The Communist League was represented by comrades Goldman, Satir and Giganti. Of these only Goldman was able to get the floor to speak. When his allotted five minutes were up and the chairman requested him to stop voices throughout the hall urged that time be extended. A motion to extend his time, made by R. Sacharow,

representing Workers Committee, Local 21, and seconded by an I. L. D. delegate, was voted down.

The credential committee reported delegates from 151 organizations: I. W. O.; I. L. D.; W. I. R.; Communist Party; Fraternal and Cultural societies, Ladies Peace Society's; etc. The only people present not under direct party control were ourselves, the Lovestonets, the Workers Committee Locals, Junio Wobblies and several other groups. Nevertheless, the reporter for the credentials committee stated without stammering that the conference represented 96,000 organized individuals. This does not prevent the Daily Worker, however, from reporting present 175 delegates with 70,000 being represented. This enormous paper strength does not fool anybody.

The antics of the Stalinists made good subject for humor, in many instances. For example, Beatrice Shields, the party's theoretical heavy weight in the District, unwittingly told the delegates that the Program of the American League Against War and Fascism, which was placed under fire by the Left Opposition as well as by Hackman of the Lovestonets, had been formulated by the party as a minimum program and that their maximum program went much farther. It must have occurred to many that no matter how "minimum" this program was, it still IS THE PARTY'S PROGRAM. It was arrived at by agreement with no one but themselves. It is designed to attract the Ladies Peace Society but not the workers. —J. S. G.

Things the Minneapolis Coal-yard Workers Won't Forget

- Those pickets who dumped two seven-ton loads in front of North Western Yard No. 1 on the first morning of the Strike: The action that warned the rest of the Companies what to expect.
- That 3 hour running fight up West Broadway to keep a load of coal from being delivered to ex-Sheriff Brown's greenhouse.
- That fighting young worker who seized a cop by the throat and made him apologize (before the crowd) for calling him a vile name.
- That in this Strike, mass picketing became a reality—not an empty slogan.
- The sight of a hall full of sleepy men jumping to their feet, shaking the sleep from their eyes, responding eagerly to the never ending demands—ten pickets here! twenty pickets there!
- The steady line of workers flocking up to join the Union—then leaving to swell the picket lines.
- The fact that few—very few, farmers tried to scab by selling wood for easy cash although wood is plentiful—and the farmers needed the money.
- The cheer that went up from the coal workers when they learned that the Ice Wagon Drivers, in spite of their officials, had decided to go out in sympathy.
- The militant young pickets who in the face of pistol fire and five squad cars full of cops—dumped that load of coal.
- That the second and the third night of the Strike—found the fuel oil drivers responding to the pickets' demands for "no fuel deliveries". Many drivers refused to work.
- The fact: That the entire police force backed the bosses, but that all the coal that filtered through the picket lines, could have been delivered by ONE Union DRIVER in two hours.
- That the Strike was so effective after the first day—it required a Doctor's prescription to get coal through the lines—in case of sickness.
- That the Union agreement to let Welfare Coal go, the first day—was violated by any number of greedy coal owners—it was banned after that because of this double-crossing.
- That the bosses had to swallow their insolent sander that "the men can't organize", "they won't stick"—they saw UNION organization—they saw them STICK—More than that, they saw them FIGHT. —V. R. D.