

C. W. A. NEWS

C.W.A. Lay-Offs

85,000 workers have been laid off in New York State from the CWA rolls in the last two weeks. 24,000 more are due for the pink slips this Friday. The role of the capitalist press has been one of misinformation from the very beginning of the CWA, tending with their blarney to give "a happy feeling", by statements of millions and hundreds of millions being spent on the unemployed. Every day different figures are issued. Each day swells the sums of money granted to the CWA. Have the CWA workers actually received these "generous" grants, or has it been a hoax, a stinking piece of capitalism's bagging as to how a worker should starve, either with the aid of their "relief agencies" or minus their pittance.

In the Press, as Feb. 15 was approaching, the scribes of the local papers, howled their sorrowful hearts out, shedding a tremendous amount of glycerine tears over their fears as to what would happen should the CWA fold up and silently steal away. It was a question with them, as to who should pay for the "civil and public works"; since it was the Government at Washington that was doling out the miserable jobs and paying the \$13.44 a week, they felt that the CWA should continue, until the weather was balmy, and when the weather was balmy, jobs would somehow be available.

Everybody learned to use the phrase "seasonal work". In the winter—it is snow, in the summer—it must be sunshine. If the statements of the "liberal" Miss Perkins means anything, it means that jobs in the last month fell off 1%. Where and how is the "slack" to be taken up.

The capitalist press does not say and it cannot say: its role is not that of advising the workers, but of keeping up a sham, to chide Washington for the bad job it is doing for the unemployed. We know its role, and knowing it—we should not be taken in by their jovial and hilarious news from day to day.

From the very beginning, the authorities of the CWA promised us jobs at our trades. First we began to dig ditches 9 days a month, at 40 dollars then when the Government took it over, we were given 12 days a month at 60 dollars, which was cut down two months ago to \$53.76. More workers are losing their jobs, greater unemployment is in sight, but the capitalist press, in line with the CWA authorities and the Washington administration, show themselves in the first line trenches against any of these "ameliorations".

The CWA will not last to May 1, the end is already in sight: through the winter we did all sorts of non-sensical work, having absolutely no social value; today we have pink slips and the home relief again.

We must again raise the slogan of Unemployment Insurance and wage a real fight for it! —C. W. A.

Hillside Park

At Hillside Park, Long Island, a very large crew is at work bringing it to completion. It is a wind-swept place and on these days bitterly cold, frozen ears, fingers and feet being very common. If it is raining or snowing we are laid off

immediately and told we can make up the hours on the other shift. The straw bosses here drive the workers unusually hard. Lack of clothing adds greatly to the misery of many.

Rackets run rampant all over the park. Workers are given to understand that it wouldn't hurt to buy some tickets of one kind or another. Foreign workers are discriminated against. It is a very long walk to work. Buses should be supplied to connect with other means of transportation. Wages are cut and more are to come. Organization is absolutely necessary in order to stay on jobs and win better working conditions, as other CWA crews have already done. —C.

Inwood Park

The Process of "tapering off" is now in full swing. One half million workers on the CWA all over the country, have already felt the heavy blows of the Roosevelt "tapering" machine. The bludgeons of our "charitable bourgeoisie" are falling. The "fruits" of five years of struggle of the unemployed, struggle for bread, for the mere means of life, is now on the way back to the treasuries and the banks. No more money is destined "to flow" for CWA or any one of their damned alphabetical organizations, unless we tear it from them.

Before the mass of workers are laid off on any project, the usual procedure is first, to find out who is active among the workers, to find the militants: they are the first to go! Without the leaders, without those who have the experience and the knowledge for fighting back, for leading the CWA workers into the trenches, they feel, then, the job will be easy, the workers will take their pink slips grumble a little and quietly go home. At Inwood Park last Monday a dozen workers, active in organizing the project were handed the pink slips. One of them insisted on being told the reason for his dismissal, and he was told, told that he was a "troublemaker". They are very much concerned: troublemakers mean FIGHT! Organization! They do not want that.

On Friday, March 2, at P. S. 52, Broadway and Academy, near the Inwood Park project, a mass meeting will take place under the auspices of the Association of Civil Works Employees, protesting the firing of these 12 workers, and to take up the further organization against the "tapering off" of the CWA. All CWA must realize that there is little time left to daily around! Now is the time to unify our ranks against the plans of the Roosevelt machine, to counter these layoffs with demonstrations that will make our genial politicians quake: now is the TIME TO ORGANIZE! —ROSS.

C.W.A. "Separations"

How are the CWA workers being laid off? They are given discharge slips and told to stay home, until they send them a post card to appear before some committee. But this is just a farce. The workers never receive a card nor does he meet with any committee. He finds himself out on the street and without a job. The worker then, without the

Letters to the Editor

Another Preparedness Parade in Frisco

Dear Comrade: I wish to record, as best I may, a little of the mingled feelings of various moods surging through mind and body yesterday when I witnessed, after a lapse of almost 18 years, a repetition and duplication of the former attempt to whip the country into line via staging a "Preparedness" parade through the heart of San Francisco.

I stood, watching the march, just about a block distant from the point where I watched the preparedness day parade in 1916, and was, therefore, fully able to contrast the two events, calculated to make our patriotic and respectable citizens war maniacs.

The Parade of 1916 The parade, its formation and line of march, its general character and purpose, and possibly some of the marchers in its ranks, were about the same as in 1916, but there was a noticeable something different apart from the parade itself—something lacking, something parallel to a tin-type of the former event, a striking absence of enthusiasm, a sort of purely mechanical effort on the part of both marchers and public notwithstanding the effort of a few to throw out their chests here and there.

In 1916 the event found 90% of the public doffing their hats as "Old Glory" passed—anyone failing to do so was liable to be engaged in an argument, and possible scrap, or at least, have one's hat knocked off. The percentage seemed to me yesterday to be just reversed, and those within my observation at least, appeared as if ashamed to be seen doing so, acting somewhat similar to the little animal usually found with the organ grinder who, in a somewhat furtive manner, quickly doffs his headpiece and as quickly recovers.

The local dignitaries leading the march in a large comfortable automobile were the Mayor (Ross), Catholic City Administrator (Cleary, Catholic) and Archbishop Hanna (also Catholic). Followed various Army and Navy sections, then a raft of fraternal organizations, winding up with about 150-200 CWA (on foot) carrying pointed shovels, and said to be receiving 50c per marcher!

No Bomb This Time Two circumstances were noticeable. The first: The march was pulled off at 2 P. M. Saturday afternoon; the street (Market St.) appeared not much more populated than on any ordinary Saturday afternoon. The second noticeable comparative event was the absence of any "preparedness day bomb" for which former event an innocent post card, calls on the CWA office, requesting that he be put back on the job. They tell him that he is not fired, but that he no longer works for the CWA. That he has "only been separated". The "separation" is from the miserable wages that he has been existing on, and from this "he has been separated."

At 79th St. and Riverside Drive many have been "separated", all over New York as in the rest of the country, "separation" is the word. We must not allow them to do this: we must fight back. —A. W. C.

man has already served 18 years. As I watched, various thoughts percolated through my mind,—history, Marx, the State, Capitalism, Church, Proletariat, Nazism, Christianity, Barnum—all were unfolding in miniature before me—in this parade, and then: The CWA carrying pointed shovels! I wondered if the significance of this effect reacted on others who were watching the same thing—the proletariat becoming the gravediggers of capitalism! —GEO. ELLIS.

Aftermath of the Garden Affair

To the Editors of the Militant: Dear Comrades: I suppose that you are interested in the attitude of the workers to the Communist Party after the Madison Square Garden meeting held in sympathy with the Austrian workers which the Communist party broke up.

The day after the meeting I had a discussion with a group of workers in my shop. Three of the workers were Socialists, and about five were Left wingers who sympathized with the Stalinists. During the discussion the Socialists tried to find reasons why the Communists acted as they did. They claimed that the S. P. called the meeting on such short notice that the C. P. was unable to participate in the United Front. The Left wingers railed against the S. P., calling them Fascists and betrayers of the Austrian workers and the working class in general. I took the point of view that if the Party came to the meeting they were to sit at the meeting and listen and be orderly.

A Stalinist Argument One hot-headed Stalinist got excited and asked who I was. Another worker gave her the information that I was a Trotskyite. So she shouted "counterrevolutionary renegade", and with a mouth full of saliva spit me in the face. I was so stunned for a moment that I did not know what to do. By the time I had recovered, the workers had taken her away.

The next day a committee of two of the workers came over to me and asked me to please go down to lunch a few minutes earlier, and to come up not later than 12:30. I went, and when I came back they told me that some of the workers in the shop had held a meeting and that they came to the following decision: that she either apologize to me in the presence of the whole shop, or that she leave the shop. The worker apologized.

Of course this worker lost out by her method of discussion, and so did the influence of the Left wing. I hope that the workers will learn and spitting them in the face they will not bring about the revolution that they are fighting for.

Comradely, A WORKER IN AN I. L. G. W. U. SHOP.

The Daily Worker and The Hotel Strike

Dear Friends: The "Daily Worker" of March 5 contains an article attacking the recent New York hotel workers' strike. In this article I am mentioned as "a member of the Trotsky group." I am glad to save you the embarrassment, should you find it such, of disowning me.

At the same time, I should like to point out that, while undoubtedly the "Daily Worker" would have yelled "sell-out" no matter what the outcome of the strike, many criticisms they make of the Right wing leadership of the strike and of B. J. Field might well have been lifted from my article in a recent issue

The Cuban Bolshevik-Leninists

We have just received the first issue of *Rayo* (flash, ray), official organ of the Bolshevik-Leninist Party of Cuba, section of the International Communist League. It is an eight page tabloid and contains important material.

The leading article entitled "Beware of Adventures", makes a careful study of the present political situation in the island, warning against the present putschistic attempts of the Stalinists who, in spite of a formidable decline in their influence and prestige since last September, are now calling for the seizure of power. Another analytical article draws the balance sheet of the Grau San Martin regime and of the Communist Party policy which led to the massacre of Sept. 29 when Mella's funeral was supposed to be the signal for an insurrection.

There is an important report on Bolshevik-Leninist Party in Oriente, the organizational activity of the Easternmost province of Cuba. Our comrades have been able to build up an extensive organization with units in most of the important

of the Nation which they condemn so hotly. Of course, I did not charge a sell-out and the whole spirit and purpose of my criticisms was different: I wanted the strike to be won, the Daily wanted it to be lost so it could denounce somebody. Indeed, they might have been lifted from the Militant, and it was because The Militant criticized those leaders in a forthright manner (quite different from the slanderous, lying, disruptive attacks peculiar to the Daily Worker and the 18th St. "union") that I called it "the clearest voice" of the progressive elements in the strike committee. The lumping together by the Daily Worker of J. P. Cannon, The Militant and an independent writer, Ham Fish, Woll, La Guardia, Herrick, Weasel Duffy, is the good old C. P. habit of seeing everything outside its ranks as one reactionary mass.

I should like to make one point here for which I had no space in the Nation. The Daily Worker kicks up quite a fuss about the failure of the strike leadership to provide relief. I leave it to The Militant to report what the progressive group said on this matter. On my own behalf, however, I wish to state that I carried on a constant agitation vis-a-vis Messrs. Field and Gitlow against their negligence on the relief question. I offered to help set up a committee of strike sympathizers to raise relief, but for days I was given the run-around. When a committee was finally set up, I induced friends to give considerable time to help put over the job. They found that the whole approach of the union leaders to this question was such that no effective work could be done. When I complained to Field about this state of affairs he had no time to discuss the matter with me or to listen to my proposals for reorganizing this work.

I am not aware that the Daily Worker or the 18th St. union did anything constructive on the question of relief or on any other question. Their howl at this time is entirely one of spurious indignation. Sincerely, —HERBERT SOLOW.

P. S. The Daily refers to me as a former editor of The Menorah Journal. I do not know whether or not that is supposed to make me blush, but it does not. I recall that my attack on Zionism, which several years ago led the Editor of the Menorah Journal to force me out, was reprinted in the Freiheit, Yiddish organ of the C. P. as the praiseworthy expression of "an honest intellectual." I also recall that the John Reed Club, quite reluctantly it is true, once adopted a unanimous resolution sustaining me and a dozen other writers who had complained that John Reed Club members had broken our strike against the Menorah Journal.

PLEDGE FUND

A number of our members and sympathizers, impatient at the occasional skipping of an issue and interested in helping to overcome the difficulties have expressed a desire to pledge a definite weekly or monthly sum to assure the regular appearance of the MILITANT.

Toward this end we are starting a PLEDGE FUND. The Fund will be administered by the business manager of the MILITANT separately from the general funds of the organization. In this manner we hope to establish a guarantee of the regular appearance of the MILITANT.

Each week the MILITANT will carry a list of the pledgers numbered consecutively in the order in which they are received. The first to pledge is comrade Paul King of the Brooklyn Br., New York Local. Next week we hope to be able to print a few more names.

Goldin Clique in Blind Alley

Unscrupulous Policy Endangers Unity in Blockers Union

New York.—The rump elections in the Blockers' Local of the Millinery Union were finally held on Mon., Feb. 26, according to the wishes of the corrupt Goldin clique in combination with the Stalinist United Front Committee. By this move, this partnership played its last card and revealed its complete bankruptcy.

Genuine Revolt Against Zaritsky The total number of votes cast is reported to be close to one thousand. This proves that the revolt against Zaritsky's machine was genuine and deeply rooted among the blockers. But this revolt was misdirected and led into a blind alley. Goldin and his henchmen elected to office find themselves without any power. The workers who participated in the elections to register their protest against Zaritsky's abuse of their democratic rights, will not follow Goldin in the next logical step; the setting up of a rival union. The blockers have gone through this experience once before, and they have learned the meaning of it. They know, that as

long as their revolt is localized within the confines of one craft in the industry, the attempt to set up a rival union would be a criminal adventure certain to end in catastrophe for the workers.

In the elections the blockers voted for the Goldin clique as an expression of indignation against the Zaritsky machine. But the blockers also remember the kind of democracy they enjoyed under a Goldin administration. They remember well his gangster methods of intimidating militant workers, his use of police to keep them out of meetings, the favoritism he practiced in the distribution of jobs. The workers used the election as a vehicle to express their protest. But they will not follow Goldin any further.

Stalinist Bloc with Goldin Prior to the elections and in the election campaign the "United front committee" was merged with the Goldin clique so completely, that in all its literature it did not have a single word of criticism against this corrupt outfit. The election leaflet of the U. F. C. calls for the election of its leader I. Waldman for organizer, but left the posts of the other two organizers for the Goldin clique to fill. Two days after the elections the first signs of disagreement in the partnership became evident. The report of the elections, printed in the Stalinist organ the Freiheit, concludes with the following phrase: "...between Zaritsky and Goldin there is no disagreement in principle, they are conducting a struggle for power." Why this sudden discovery? When we pointed this out long before, we were condemned as "renegades" by these same people. If there is no difference in principle between Goldin and Zaritsky, then on what basis did the Stalinists arrive at their decision to support Goldin? The answer to this sudden discovery will be found in the election results. While the Stalinist "united front" played fair with Goldin, leaving for him two out of three paid jobs on the ballot, Goldin double-crossed them, nominated and elected his own complete slate of officers, giving the Stalinists only two out of 15 places on the executive board. Now, after this rough deal they got from Goldin, it suddenly dawned upon the Stalinists that Goldin has no principles, that he is only fighting for power.

Militant Builders 789 Subs!

The Club Plan sub drive took another leap upward since our last report. The list below tells the story. The complete record up to date is as follows:

New York Local	384
Minneapolis Br.	88
Kansas City Br.	48
Pittsburgh Br.	32
L. Brown	20
Boston Br.	16
J. Hamilton	12
A. Teacher	12
Chicago Br.	12
Youngstown Br.	12
Chicago Friends of Militant Club	8
Davenport Br.	8
D. Marcus	8
D. L.	8
J. Ruby	8
G. Papcun	8
S. Hardy	8
I. Goodman	8
Q. Parker	6
G. Kotz	6
M. Hurwitz	5
Buffalo Br.	4
G. Ellis	4
D. Fogel	4
M. Gendelman	4
C. Hoffman	4
T. Mill	4
Philadelphia Br.	4
Salt Lake City Br.	4
W. Toupin	4
H. Sukut	4
D. O'Dwyer	4
M. Steinbach	4
M. McLeod	4
St. Louis Br.	4
L. Murphy	4
M. Koehler	4
C. Genfan	4
R. Carlson	4
TOTAL	789

Only 211 subs to go and we will reach our goal of one thousand new subs through the Club Plan. Can we do it in two weeks? We think so. We are counting on all those Militant Builders in the list above and those who have not yet swung into action to put the drive over the top.

Shachtman Tour

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.

THE MILITANT

Entered as a second class mail matter November 23, 1925, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y. Under the act of March 3, 1879. Published Weekly by the Communist League of America (Opposition) 126 East 16th Street, New York, N.Y. Vol. VII, No. 10 (Whole No. 214) SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1934 EDITORIAL BOARD Martin Abern James P. Cannon Max Shachtman Maurice Spector Arne Swaback Subscription rate: \$1.00 per year \$0.50 per half year—0.25 for 26 issues in blocks of four or more. —A BLOCKER.

THE I.L.D. IN THE CAPITALIST COURTS

Boston.—On Feb. 22, David Udell of the Boston branch of the Left Opposition and a member of the Young Communist League (Stalinists) named Cohen, were arrested for distributing leaflets outside a Socialist party meeting held to protest against Austrian Fascism. The course and outcome of the case are a clear revelation of the degenerate character of the International Labor Defense under Stalinist rule.

Comrade Udell had been distributing leaflets advertising the meeting which comrade Max Shachtman of New York was to address; Cohen was distributing bulletins for the Workers' (Stalinist) School. Immediately after the arrest comrade Konikov of the Left Opposition called a bail commissioner by phone from the police station. Before the commissioner arrived, another commissioner, called the I. L. D., came in. Comrade Konikov offered him a check to cover the bail bond for both Udell and Cohen, the Stalinist. The I. L. D. commissioner refused the check, but accepted a bank book provided by another comrade. Konikov then paid the bail for both defendants with cash.

Next morning before court opened, Burke, Boston leader of the I. L. D. offered to defend Udell along with Cohen. Udell accepted, placing his defense in the hands of the I. L. D. Burke also offered to defend four Socialists arrested earlier in the week for distributing leaflets. The Socialists refused. Burke managed to get a postponement until Feb. 26.

The Socialists offered a technical defense, saying they had not distri-

buted leaflets but had merely held them, allowing people to help themselves. One of them added that he is "a good Christian", was born in this country, and that Socialists are peace-lovers. Burke and other Stalinists in the court mocked the Socialists after their trial, accusing them of "belly-crawling and sniveling." Burke invited them to be at the Udell-Cohen trial and witness a "real workers' defense."

Burke took Udell to the I. L. D. office to go over the defense with a lawyer; on the way he told Udell stories of previous trials and the I. L. D.'s record of making "real Communist defenses." Udell waited at the office several hours but no lawyer appeared. He was told to go away and call up the next morning to arrange a meeting with the lawyer, Cohen and another Stalinist arrested on a similar charge. When he called up he was told the I. L. D. would not handle his case. No explanation was offered.

When his case came up Udell took a militant, class-conscious line. Although given little opportunity to talk, he brought out that he was arrested not for distributing leaflets but for distributing leaflets for a workers' organization. He pointed out that capitalist politicians are never molested for distributing leaflets during their political campaigns.

The Cohen case, defended by the I. L. D., came up next. Those who had mocked the Socialists now proceeded to ape them. Cohen argued that he had been on a step, not on the sidewalk, and that therefore the police had no right to ar-

rest him. The I. L. D. lawyer argued that Cohen was not distributing a leaflet but a school catalogue, and wound up by pleading for leniency on the grounds that Cohen is a youth (the youth are so easily misled!). Both defendants were found guilty and fined \$5 each.

Another Stalinist tried the same morning denied that he had distributed leaflets or that he knew anything about the C. P. He said that somebody had rushed by and thrust the leaflets in his hands; he then pocketed them and did not learn their nature until his arrest. He was found guilty, fined \$5 and agreed to pay.

Udell and Cohen decided to appeal. Apparently expecting an acquittal, the I. L. D. was at this point caught by surprise. It had made no agreements for bail. Again comrade Konikov put up bail for comrade Udell and also for Cohen, the Stalinist.

After the trial Cohen, the Stalinist defendant, said that the I. L. D. had fought on technicalities in order to take advantage of the "opportunities" offered by the bourgeois courts. He promised that at the next trial the I. L. D. will make a "Communist defense." Interesting enough, Burke who had boldly invited the Socialists to be present, was himself absent from the trial.