

MARCH OF EVENTS

The New German Decrees

Fascism is a governmental system under capitalist rule, based on the proletarian democracy, when these weapons of the workers forged with such difficulty in courageous struggle, are turned against the ruling class in a challenge for power.

'Iron Heel' Legislation

But the wiping out of the organizations of proletarian democracy does not satisfy enraged, terror-stricken capitalism. The new epoch of civil peace must be guaranteed! No opportunity must be left the workers to reforge their weapons of struggle.

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Hitler will keep the working class under enforced disunity, he will render them powerless to resist by a firmly-continued policy of repression. Hence this May Day the promulgation of new 'Iron Heel' legislation. Any propaganda against the National Socialist State is declared high treason, punishable by death if need be.

The Value of Organization

As if to give point to the bitter lesson that must be fully absorbed by every worker from the situation in Germany, there comes the illustration of the impotence of a working class without its own independent organizations. In the shop elections for worker representation recently held all over Germany, the clearest indications of opposition to the Nazi regime are visible.

But the ballots are merely voided! Having no independent organizations ready to enforce their expressed will, this protest of the German workers remains impotent! Had they fought, arms in hand, for the existence of their parties and trade unions, the enemy, the capitalists, would today be impotent, not the workers.

The New York Post and the Middle Class

The bought defenders of the capitalist system, which category includes the bourgeois press, are well aware that the big bourgeoisie rule only with the aid of the petty bourgeoisie, including the farmers. Generally content to follow in the wake of the big finance capitalists, so long as things run smoothly, the middle class becomes disoriented the moment a crisis supervenes.

Of course workers picked up and misled in this process will do no harm either. Thus we see a campaign on Firetrap Tenements and on Milk Prices. Also campaigns on banking and finance scandals and now on the Mortgage racket. But when it comes to war the "pacifist" Post leads its deluded readers to believe that it is only the European countries that are imperialist rivals of Japan in the East, not good-hearted America. The problem of winning the middle class is vital and must not be left to the paid demagogues of capitalism.

-JACK WEBER.

Minneapolis Rail Workers Organize

Minneapolis Minn.—On Sunday, April 22nd, a meeting was held by Employed and Unemployed, Members and Former Members, of the O.R.C.; B. of L. E.; B. of R. T.; B. of L. F. & E. and S. U. of N. A. to take organizational steps to deal with the growing problems of unemployment among the above mentioned crafts.

The following program was discussed at length and adopted by a secret ballot of 104 voting "Yes" and 2 voting "No" and one simply writing on the blank ballot, "For a Thirty Hour Week". The program reads as follows: Program of Demands 1. Twenty Six Days or 2600 miles to constitute maximum work month for all railway employees.

of the "bona fide" union of the General's own selection, will be met with, "at the end of a rope". California is after all a classic State for barbaric reaction. In a few weeks the papers out of the Valley and the Liberal weekly magazines will be weeping tons of tears and tons of ink at such human treatment: these gentlemen can be indignant—but never too much so. The damnable low wages of the workers and the terrific hours working in the broiling sun and in a semi-torrid climate (the desert), the heat rising to 105 degrees, all this, with the terror of the Vigilantes and the Legion, and "their own choosing" will shortly ferment another militant struggle on the part of the agricultural workers.

What is essential now—is Valley-wide organizers! Defense groups to cope with the extraordinary tactics of the Vigilantes! And publicity in the workers' press as to what is taking place and will take place in the Valley. This must be done!

-HARRY ROSS.

Terror in the Imperial Valley

Brawley, Calif.—In this great hot house of America, the land of citrus and honey, of wide open spaces, of desert and the broiling sun, under the legal and heavy hand of that infamous Gen. Glassford who led the attack on the Bonus Army, a "red scare" is being worked up all through the Valley, in conjunction with the local American Legion Posts.

Methods of Intimidation

At a meeting recently of an investigating committee, to investigate "red and union" activities, held at the Barbara Worth Hotel at El Centro, Gen. Glassford persuaded the agricultural workers to join "a union of his own choosing", the Mexican Consul Terrazas Union, a carbon copy controlled directly by the barons of the Valley, in preference to the Agricultural Workers Industrial Union which is known to the workers as a militant organization.

Red Scare in the News With the melon season about to begin, the red scare issue is being pushed into the forefront of the news, and is being worked up, so that any militant action on the part of the agricultural workers outside

approximately ONE HALF OF THE QUILTA FOR THE CURRENT CROP. No moratorium on the staggering debts to the Wall Street banks has been declared; no reduction in them, despite optimistic White House pronouncements, has been put on the agenda of current problems. The approach of the end of the harvest means that tens of thousands of workers will again be thrown out of the process of production with no prospect whatever of working again until the late fall of the year!

-T. STAMM.

On "Shorty" Buehler and Cora Duff

Death has taken a heavy toll among the fighters for revolutionary internationalism in our growing outpost in Kansas City. The grim reaper has swept from the scene of battle without regard to age and service two of our staunchest warriors in that plucky band in the Middle West. Cora Duff—a symbol of the new generation that will hold high our banner—and Shorty Buehler—the steadfast old-guard devoted to our ideas and sacrificing in service—have been snatched from our midst, creating a chasm that will not easy or soon be filled.

August A. Buehler, better known to us as "Shorty" for his diminutive size, was a landmark for the revolutionary movement in the Middle West. For almost twenty-five years there has been no "Jimmie Higgins" east or west of Kansas City who carried on his work so splendidly and unstintingly as Shorty. A Revolutionary Since 1913 Shorty joined the revolutionary movement during a "free speech" fight in Kansas City in 1913. From that time until his death the untiring efforts of Shorty have contributed heavily to the propagation and perpetuation of the ideas of Marxism in that Mid-Western American city.

Shorty was one of the active spirits in one of the first post-war left wing groups that helped lift the socialist movement out of the bog of reaction and which gathered around the Workers World, edited by Comrade James P. Cannon and the Workers Educational League which spread the message of the Russian revolution and Lenin to the workers of the Mid-West.

Together with others Shorty helped to swing the entire Kansas City branch of the Socialist Party over into the Communist Labor Party. From that time up till 1928, when he was expelled from the Communist Party for holding true to the ideas which had motivated his life-struggle, Shorty was an inspiring persevering member of the Communist Party.

Moving Spirit of Kansas City Branch It is to comrade Buehler more than any other single comrade that we owe our rapidly growing branch of the Communist League in Kansas City. Arranging meetings, distributing leaflets, visiting contacts, soliciting subs for the Militant—no task was too menial, or too big for Shorty.

Shachtman Meeting In Davenport

Davenport, Ia.—Comrade Shachtman's meeting in Davenport was a huge success in spite of the vicious drive the Stalinites made to prevent it from being held. The Unity Center Hall which we had engaged and paid for a month in advance of the meeting was taken away from us but a few days before Comrade Shachtman's meeting through the efforts of the Stalinists.

Both local papers refused to give a notice of the change. The secretary of the Unity Center put in a notice that the meeting was cancelled at their hall. When the Stalinists learned we were going to hold the meeting in spite of them they were wild. One of the women Stalinites phoned one of our comrades calling her vile names, telling her that if we went through with the meeting they would bring forces and break it up, that we would bring this on ourselves by expounding Trotsky theories in this city.

But the comrades went right on with their preparations for the meeting, also calling on friends and sympathizers to help defend their meeting. In spite of the sabotage of the Stalinites and the local press we had a good attendance.

The meeting was just started when the Stalinites arrived. First they tried to get in by the usual plea of unemployed, but when that failed they tried to heckle an old Socialist into using his influence to get them in. But they got let down in that quarter. Then they began to make a nuisance of themselves generally so our comrades told them to get out. So seeing that it would not be healthy for them to start trouble they left. One told us that more would come back, but it was just bluff. Our young comrades were ready to defend their meeting.

Comrade Shachtman's talk on War, Fascism or Communism? was well received. Questions and discussions followed.

-BETTY ROWLAND.

REVIEWING THE NEWS

Death of Woodin

W. H. Woodin, a millionaire, a director of the Remington Arms Co., and one of the largest American investors in Cuba, gave \$35,000 to Roosevelt's campaign expenses and was made Secretary of the Treasury. As head of the Treasury he became famous as a composer of music. His name was found on Morgan's "Preferred List". That made his retention in a cabinet that claimed to be "driving the money-changers from the temple" a little unwise. So he was gradually and gently ousted. Last week he died. The capitalist press did itself proud thinking up lies about his good qualities. The President attended the funeral. Enthusiasm for the New Deal and the fame of Woodin which were nurtured on ballyhoo could be placed in the grave with him. All belong now with the "forgotten man".

The Police and the Crooks

When La Guardia became Mayor, and Ryan was made Police Commissioner, orders were given: "Drive the crooks out of New York". The shoe, now, seems to be on the other foot, and the crooks are doing the driving. It's a great game between birds of a feather, but the uniforms on the cops make it easy for the onlooker to keep score. So far the score is 4-0 in favor of the gangsters.

The Daily Worker and the "Renegades"

In an editorial of the kind that made it famous as a slander sheet, the Daily Worker deals with "renegades" in the May Day parade. "A miserable 200 in all"—hanging to the S. P. like a tail to a cow's rump—"class enemies to be destroyed". The Stalinists form of arithmetic is seen here in the reverse.

Considering that in estimating the attendance at their own meetings, parades, etc., they always multiply the actual number by 5, 10, or 20, as the occasion demands, I suppose it is only fair that they should practice division when estimating the numbers in the "renegades" parade.

As far as the order of March is concerned, it is true that our section was towards the end, being followed only by the POCKET-BOOK MAKERS, a section of the S. P., and the UNEMPLOYED UNION. Last year we paraded in the "United Front" and so "united" was the "front" that we had to engage in fist-fights every time we gave out a leaflet. On that occasion we were in the tail-end of the parade. And if it is simply a choice of being a tail to a Socialist "cow" or Stalinist bull we chose neither. But between the cultural organizations which formed the major part of the parade to Union Square, and the organized trade union movement which dominated the Madison Square parade, we chose the latter.

As for "class enemies to be destroyed" we have heard that before. We stand for the United Front with reformist and other working class organizations against Fascism. We are against National Socialism. We are opposed to Stalinism and also to sycophancy. We stand with the working class for the INTERNATIONAL Revolution. If that makes us class enemies of the Wickes and Browders, so much the worse for the Wickes and the Browders.

Dope From the Hop-Joints

"Religion is the opium of the people". A few quotations from the sermons preached last Sunday in New York's churches will give an idea of the miserable opium dished out to the church-goers in New York.

The very Reverend Milo Gates proposed "Rogation Days" as a substitute for farm relief. "The drugger of American farm life would be relieved by processions going out into the fields blessing the fields, and praying for a fruitful season as in Spain".

Rev. Dr. Charles D. Trexler: "Real freedom is the ability to move without hindrance in our proper spheres". (The worker free to move within the sphere of his wage-slavery, and the boss free to roam the world at will.)

Rev. J. Herbert McConnell: "A miracle is wrought as one looks into the cup of communion for there is the vision of the crucified Saviour. The world must accept the Communion Cup to bring peace among the nations and the peoples".

Rev. Dr. Christian F. Reiser: "The church is being impoverished. The government thru the OWA aids so-called social agencies that exclude religion, but nothing is given to the Church that does real social service".

Rev. Dr. A. Edwin Keigwan: "Faith begins where science ends, where proof is wanting, where argument falls flat". (In other words, where knowledge, and intelligence ends, religion and ignorance begins.)

-BILL.

THE CUBAN REVOLUTION ON THE DEFENSIVE

The Cuban revolution is now on the defensive. The grandiose sweep of the workers which drove Machado out of the seat of power, hurled De Cespedes into the abyss and unhesitatingly tolerated Grau is now retreating before Mendieta and Batista, that is to say, before the Cuban servants of American imperialism.

Not the workers, but the imperialist-bourgeois reaction ousted Grau and replaced his vacillating regime with the black puppet act of Mendieta-Batista. Mendieta was far from the bourgeoisie's ideal of a "strong man to deal with the situation", that is put down the workers with blood and iron. He began by returning the electric company plant to its owners and sending soldiers to force them to work. The workers responded with a hunger strike. Other workers threatened to come out in sympathy. Mendieta decreed all strikes illegal in the light, water, telephone, telegraph and other services. The workers responded by calling strikes for the seventh of February. A general strike began to loom up. Already on the third of February Mendieta declared that the problem created by the return of the electric plant and the strike "might contribute to the fall" of his government.

Advance of Reaction

But there was no party to give leadership to the workers and the favorable moment passed. Step by step the reaction has advanced with the harvest driving the workers at the point of the bayonet and persecuting their organizations. Thus the Havana Federation of Labor which was under the joint influence of anarcho-syndicalists and the Bolshevik-Leninists passed over to the side of the latter and was illegalized by Mendieta. Other organizations too have suffered a like fate.

But the question is not yet settled. No decisive battles have been fought. The apparent strength of the bourgeoisie is two parts the failure of the workers to advance on the road of decisive struggles and two parts the armed might of the United States military forces. Mendieta has not solved a single one of the grave economic, social and political problems of the country. The quota assigned to Cuban sugar for export to its chief market, the United States, is still a little more than one third of the productive capacity of the island's crops and its INDUSTRIAL-TECHNICAL organization.

What course will the workers' struggles take? Will they confine themselves to the demands for the improvement of conditions, the shortening of hours, increases in wages, the discharge of an offensive police official? Or will they take place under political slogans? Will the workers demand nationalization and control? That depends on whether the workers assimilate the lessons of the past period. And that in turn on whether there is a vanguard capable of helping them learn. From this point of view the situation is promising. The influence of Stalinism has been weakened both ideologically and organizationally by its adventurist-treachorous course; the influence of the Bolshevik-Leninists is increasing.

Democratic Demands

If today it is necessary—and it is necessary—to advance slogans for democratic demands, that does not yet by itself indicate within what framework these demands shall be put forth. In other words, what is the perspective? We have nothing in common with the craven grovelers before American imper-

alism—the Stalinists—who want to struggle for "municipal power", and who promise not to attack American property. In our opinion the revolution will traverse the ground from which it retreated with great speed and arrive quickly at the decisive questions. There will be no escaping the problem of state power. Failure to seize it will mean, not the step-by-step reaction of Mendieta, but the bloody heel of military dictatorship.

-T. STAMM.