EDITORIAL

Needed Now: A New Defence Organization

NE of the most promising developments in recent days has been the activity displayed by the Provisional Committee for Non-Partisan Labor Defense and the hearty acclaim which has greeted its initiative in numerous circles of the progressive labor movement. The profound impulse of the militant workers to get together for a common fight against reaction, which was the driving power behind the great May Day demonstration at Madison Square, is expressing itself also in this response to the movement for a union of forces in the field of labor de-

There is both a reason and a necessity for these manifestations. With the fearful examples of Europe before them, with the terrible threat of war and fascist reaction menacing the world, the need of solidarity in action becomes ever more imperious. The great idea of the united front is making its way in spite of everything. It can and must be realized on the labor defense front without delay.

A significant aspect of the Provisional Committee is the presence in its composition of a number of people who in the past have been prominently identifled with the work of defense organizations in administrative, publicity and executive capacities. This, taken together with the active cooperation of experienced militants of various organizations which the initiating group has already enlisted, constitutes a certain assurance that the task as well as the way to accomplish it is understood.

This confidence has been further reenforced by the efficient handling of the Bellussi case and the protest movement for the four young German Communists who were handed over to the Hitler police by the Dutch authorities. The work done in these instances is now to be followed by the organization of a movement in behalf of the imprisoned hotel strike pickets, Robins and Gras, who have entrusted their case to the Provisional Committee. The method pursued by the Provisional Committee-directly organizing concrete defense activities while simultaneously negotiating with other organizations to broaden the base of the movement-strikes us as the correct and business-like way to proceed. Patently, the formation of a real defense organization on a firm foundation is in the making.

by the Stalinist adventurers has long since passed

the point where the possibility of reforming this organization could be seriously debated among working class militants whose eyes are open and whose heads are in working order. After the treacherous sabotage in the cases of Morgenstern and Goodman, Bellussi, the marine workers and many others; after the miserable bungling and complete disorganization of the Mooney movement; after the cynical prostitution of the 1.L.D. to the factional needs of the clique of Stalinist bureaucrats serving private interests and not the interests of the class or the class war prisoners-after all this, the question has become clear beyond all dispute: a new defense organization Workers Alliance became the first ance movement. On the other hand is an unpostponable necessity.

In our opinion the new organization should not represent a system of committees but a solid organization based on individual members assembled into permanent branches; labor organizations of every kind, sympathetic to the aims and purposes of the movement, should be affiliated collectively. In its attitude toward class war prisoners and other victims of capitalist persecution, at home and abroad, the new defense body should be honestly non-partisan, defending them against the class enemy without conditions and providing material aid without any strings attached to it. At the same time, the Non-Partisan Labor Defense organization should be militant in its policy and should proceed in all its activities from the standpoint of the class struggle.

The composition of the new organization, in its leading bodies as well as in its branches, ought to represent a coalition of all the honest, progressive of the working class. and militant forces, in the labor movement and sympathetic to it, who are willing and able to cooperate loyally in the fight against reactionary persecution. Communists, socialists, anarchists, syndicalists and trade unionists-they all should band together in the defense of the rights of the workers and their organizations. The new defense organization can become the medium for such a united front. At any rate it should strive to do so.

Much depends on it. An honest defense organization, conscientiously carrying out in practice the policy of the united front, will be a support to the labor movement as a whole and a star of hope to the individual victims of reaction. In addition, it can set an example which will stimulate the formation is showing its numerical strength the initiative of calling a National of the united front of the workers in other fields of and efficiency in combat.

Let us hope that the near future will see the consummation of the program of the Provisional It is high time. The strangulation of the I.L.D. Committee and the definite launching of a new organization for non-partisan labor defense. -- J. P. C.

Crime and Econoimes

Starving Men Steal

unemployed worker is shot dead for swampy soil of crime is the econotaking a loaf of bread. In Chicago, mic poverty of the masses which three Negro workers are killed for leads to their intellectual and moral participating in a protest demon-poverty. Abolish want and starvastation against eviction. In New tion and you stirke directly at the York City scores of men have been roots of 90% of the crimes that are beaten and jailed for demanding committed daily. Abolish poverty adequate relief. All over America by socializing wealth so that none ties, those taken over several years of the united front is definitely of the situation. The local organin 1933-in Los Angeles, Detroit, of us need go hungry or unclothed in New York City: Minneapolis, Philadelphia-tens of then will you see crime disapthousands of unemployed workers pear as does fog under the noonday have been given jail sentences for sun. stealing food, clothing, money.

As the depression deepens it is evident that the crime wave grows police of this country: in intensity. Even a cursory examination of the latest criminal statistics will disclose the fact that the 1932 vast majority of crmes are petty 1933 crimes against property. The reason for this is not hard to find; the fountain head for the overwhelming majority of all crime is poverty and want. It is not the well-to-do, the big bourgeoisie, who suffer from known Part 1 crimes, of which 722,want of food and clothing; it is the 909, or 98.8% were crimes against workers and the lower stratum of property. the petty bourgoisie-the declassed, the dispossessed.

basis. It arises from the worker's 98.9%, were crimes against properfight for life. It is on a different ty (robbery, burglary, lacency, auto class basis than is gangsterism, for theft). instance, which arises from bourgeois greed (in Chicago, for just one example, where has been traced the connecting links binding together the gangsters, Capone, Madden, O'Donnell, Durkin, etc.; the Pinkerton and Burns Detective Agency; the A. F. of L. trades unions, Tim Murphy and other leaders; the International Harvester Company, the Chicago Tribune and other manufacturers and newspapers; the judges, chiefs of police, aldermen, bankers such as Melvin Traylor, Insull; city corporation counsels such as Ettleson, state's attorneys, etc.)

Prison Statistics

A surveyal of penal justice in the Yes, the economic factor is the United States, and the penal code all-important one in these crimes. as it is functioning today, enables And do you doubt that this same clusions. Let us look at the follow- cases of non-negligent and negli- in the main the efforts of the unions to make an end to any further uning statistics, which indicate how gent manslaughter, in rape; and in to enforce the provisions of the ion advance and began to apply the Comrade Leon Trotsky were an unable to get credits on the scale crime increases in direct proportion the execution of minor offences, NRA. Now the situation is differ- iron hand and discriminate against eloquent testimony to the growth of required. as the proletariat becomes increas- such as boot-legging, dope-peddling, ent. A great deal of disillusion- union members left and right. The our movement in New York, to the ingly impoverished. Here is the etc.? prison census for seven years, the figures being taken from the U. S. POVERTY! Let us turn for a mo- ever rising cost of living, mounting ernment is called upon ever more Bureau of the Census covering State ment to foreign shores. Here is a more rapidly than any of the few to execute the wishes and orders of be seen at our May Day mass meetand Federal Prisons and Reformatories:

1926									,				91,669
1927								,					97,991
1928	,				,								109,346
1929													116,390
1930													120,496
1931													129,050
1932													137,516
1933					1	1	01	t	3	et	ŧ	a	vailable

Isn't it obvious that our American school of criminology, with its cruel sentences, its fantastic jails and jailors, its unrealsitic outlook, has not been able to lessen crime. On the contrary, America has arrived at a morass of vice which increases] ing can ever be done to combat crime so long as capitalism reigns; for as capitalism cannot guarantee that no one will starve, it can not

In Buffalo, New York, a young | reach the basis of crime. The

In 1932 and 1933 the following Part 1 offences were known to the

Non-negligent Negligent Rape Man-slaughter Man-slaughter 2,806 3,2302,015 2,285 2,922 3,514 Robery Burglary Larceny Auto

1932 51,067 179,572 331,327 171,103 1933 50,719 187,583 374,662 158,508 In 1932 there were, then, 741,120

In 1933, despite vast increases in federal and state relief, there were Petty crime, then, has a class 780,193 crimes, of which 771,472, or

for the greater part, committed be- ologists. cause the offenders are poor and, not being able to find employment, (Second Article NEXT WEEK) are forced to seek elsewhere for the means to feed and clothe themselves, to keep a roof over their Second Strike Wave heads.

report by Mr. Negley Farson on wage increases, sets the workers the capitalist monopoly concerns, ing. After a whole day's marching, growth economically and consecrime in Great Britain:

"Increase in crime coincides exactly with the industrial depression in Great Britain, Per million population, we find that burglaries were 3,000 in 1913, 3,500 in 1928, 8,000 in 1931—the rise of 4,500 or 150% during the last two years proves out Sir Herbert Samuel's (the British Home Minister) contention that crime increases in exact ratio with the industrial depression. The industrial depression has not increased crimes of passion, although robworks out as follows:

Crimes of violence

Crimes against property with violence 25,000

Larcenies 86,000 In 1930 in Great Britain, then, 116,400 crimes were committed, of which 95.6% were crimes against property. Great Britain's total indictable offences increased roughly by 12,000, or just under 10%. Facing such an increase, British courts have been imposences to penal servitude."

One more set of criminal statis-

Burglary, Total Larcency, police police dept. Year Robbery force expenditure 1900 5,588 7,426 \$11,494,393 1927 11,491 16,973 45,018,725 1929 13,611 17,780 48,705,918 1931 15,654 19,333 63,910,282

More Criminals—Bigger Jails

In New York City crimes against property have definitely increased during the depression. The living standard of the worker has been pushed lower and lower. And yet all New York City can or will do is to increase its police force, pour more millions into its rotten gangster-infested police department, instruct its courts and judges to hand out more and sterner sentences,

build bigger jails. All Great Britain can think of to combat crime is to "impose longer and more plentiful sentences to penal servitude."

-CARLOS HUDSON.

Under the NRA

(Continued from page 1)

into motion.

1934 to 81 percent, with the same more political in character. Sexual crimes 3,400 system, causing an enormous re-lance.

Toward the National Workers' Alliance in Spain

(Editorial in "La Antorcha", new | throwing obstacles into the path of fortnightly organ of the Spanish the revolutionary movement, and Communist League - Bolshevik- the stubborn sectarianism of the

Leninists-May 1st, 1934) Catalonia gave the signal and it Federation (F.A.I.) which is surresounded with an echo of clamor- prisingly close to the anti-Marxist ous enthusiasm throughout the ultimatism of the official communcountry. The idea of the united ists, do not substantially alter the front was translated into a hope- reality of the general adhesion of inspiring reality, the Catalonian the workers to the Workers Allistep towards the formation of the the idea of the united front is makproletarian block, towards united ing its way irresistibly among the action of all working class political anarchist and communist workers. order to withstand the ever-increas- evitably crush all who oppose its ing Fascist menace. advance.

The Catalonian pact contained at into the Spanish proletariat confi- rapidly and without losing a single dence of its own strength, of over-minute, if we wish it to render the coming the momentary discomfiture enormous potential efficiency conthat might result from the electoral tained in it. And the first step in victory of the rightists. With ex-this direction—and which may be raordinary rapidity the idea of the decisive—is the constitution of the Alliance won great sympathy among Workers Alliance on a national roundly affirmed-it is the burning isms will accept the pact now in aspiration of the immense majority effect in Catalonia, Valencia, and Vitality of Alliance

strated its vitality on the 13th of produce overflowing enthusiasm in strike, which, while it is true that radically change the course of poit failed in Barcelona due to the litical events, altering immediately period of transition through which the correlation of forces in favor of the working class movement is the proletariat. passing, was carried through successfully in over forty towns In the Regional Conference to throughout the region. At the pres- take place in a few days, the Workent moment the Velencia Alliance ers Alliance of Catalonia will take

For the moment only these two more opportune for this step. All Alliances exist on a regional scale; of the necessary premises exist for but very shortly, the united front the immediate establishment of the many cities and towns and is in The Communist Left, which has process of formation in many others. labored untiringly throughout the in one city. Fnally, the proletariat of Zaragoza, whole country, in favor of the unitunited front formally, but thanks to ed tenacious efforts in order to calists, communists, anarchists and new hope from the initiative of Casocalists, has sustained an admir-talonia, and will not rest until it the Spanish labor movement.

Lesson of Experiences The lesson to be drawn from Alliance may become a reality with these experiences is that the cause the rapidity required by the gravity

won, in the sense that it counts on izations and Regional Committees the adhesion of the immense major-should consider the achievement of ity of the workers. The stupid this end as the central objective of sabotage of the Stalinists who, with their activity. a consistency worthy a better cause, fulfill their fundamental mission of Barcelona, April 22, 1934.

-ANDRES NIN. New York Organization Notes

But it is necessary to build this

For a National Conference

ternational. This campaign was working class today. opened with a lecture by Comrade

sentment amongst the workers.

demand for union recognition and ceeding lecture. enough is indicated for us to see was not well with the system; this rectly in many of the strikes. The Fourth International to take place crimes are crimes against property. petty theories worked out by our rived at by the mutual connivance 20th, at the Irving Plaza Hall. And crimes against property are, "scientific" sociologists and crimin of the auto bosses, President Roose- In protest against the hounding velt and the A. F. of L. officials of Comrade Leon Trotsky by the some time ago, while allaying tem- reactionary French government, and

sweep into the discard all that or- held at the large hall at Irving plentifully up to the hilt, if it gets THE CAUSE OF CRIME IS Simultaneously the pressure of an the future of unionism. The gov-ment for a Fourth International. Index figures from the same courts which, together with the pri- and friends who were in the march well, by withholding from it what to the capitalist governments." source quoted above inform us that vate gunmen of the corporations, at- with us, we were pleased to see the it required most machinery. To Today the C. I. which has no in the 89 industries covered by its tempt to suppress the strikes. These hall filled, and that the weariness a large extent they failed. Despite real existence cannot mobilize the survey employment rose in March, present struggles are becoming ever of the day did not affect the enthu-

mouth a year ago showing 59 per- Militancy, turbulent clashes with least. The New York local distribcent (1923-25 equals 100). On the the forces of the capitalist govern- uted in the line of the May Day same scale the payroll increased ment and increased hostility to the Parade 10,000 four-page leaflets from 37 to 65. The actual per cap- NRA-these are the outstanding with our statement on May Day ita earnings of the workers is sup-features in this present strike wave. which explained why we participatposed to have increased 15 percent It centers entirely around the A. F. ed in the Labor May Day Parade in this period, according to the of L., the so-called revolutionary rather than in the Stallnist demonsame source of information, while unions of the T.U.U.L. being in evithe cost of all food commodities dence only in the statements they addition, were given out and a large ing the Soviet Union a little—on bery with violence is daily more increased 20 percent and clothing issue from their paper organiza- supply of literature was sold. yearly with frightening speed. The prevalent. Roughly, the crime 25 percent. It is certain at least tions. No effort is being spared by Twelve New Members in One Week stark truth is, of course, that noth- sheet for Great Britain for 1930 that these statistics are not twisted the A. F. of L. officials to sidetrack All these activities did not remain in favor of the workers. Added to the movement and lead it to defeat, without any organizational results. this direct economic pressure is the But for the real militants this can Only within the last week twelve

of the Communist League in New lecture was so well received that we Company. York, and a campaign to bring proceeded to arrange a whole series forth the program for the building of lectures covering the primary of workers engaged in the repair benefit of the lineal descendants of of the new party of the Fourth In- burning issues confronting the and construction of high voltage Ajayyaybee.

To date these lectures have taken Cannon on the program of the up War and the Fourth International, The Trade Union Question and the Fourth International, Fascism and the Fourth International.

porarily the storm that was brew- the refusal of asylum to the leader ing then, has since served to bring of the October Revolution by the

against persons 2,000 increased intensity of the speed-up only spur them on to greater vigi- comrades applied for membership of the discussions taking place in -A. S. into the organization.

REVIEWING THE NEWS

leaders of the Iberian Anarchist is revealed.

Mike Gold is one of the experts pieces of silver. and a new Stalinist form of Geometric Progression is the systemall carried on under the general slogan "Down with Social Fascist tures on the Fourth International and trade union organizations, in This sweeping movement will in- Facts." Writing on the Union by Comrade Cannon at the Irving Mike cried for a Shakespeare as the crowds who stay until almost midonly one capable of doing justice to night to discuss the questions of least one virtue; that of instilling movement, it must be organized it. After this display of becoming War, Trades Unions, Fascism and modesty, Mike decided to don the the New International. Though the "justice" himself.

the masses, and it can today be scale. If the leading central organ- But, said Mike, let's cut it in half ward by Comrade Cannon and adand that leaves 200,000 (what's a vance their own. fifth of a million to a free-hearted other localities of the country, the fellow like Mike?). united front can within twenty-four

The example of Catalonia was im- hours become a living reality Mike asked, that every Communist Cannon to debate with a representamediately followed by Valencia. throughout Spain. This would be has 5 sympathizers and friends? tive of his Party. On Cannon's The Catalonian Alliance demon- of immense importance, it would That makes a million. (According statement that he would be glad to February, declaring a general the whole working class and would 000-but of course what is a small member announced that he would

consists of four persons. Multiply of the Stafinist bureaucrats. Conference. No moment could be the million by four and we have 4,000,000. Four million Stalinists and friends! Such a force is sure will be a beautiful reality in Astur- national united front. The gravity of the petit bourgeoisie, say another movements and traditions a group ias, and in the rest of the country of the situation, the dangers threat-million. So, after all—Browder and of professors in the "America for it has already been established in ening the working class, demand it. Minor may be running New York Americans" Party have delved into

No. Mike, the Daily Worker does- American Revolutionist. without even having established the ed front, which has already expend-Cervantes might do justice to Don 17th, 16th, or 15th centuries. None the effective united action of syndi- achieve a national pact, will derive Browder and Sancho Minor. But for of the "foreign rabble" with their estimating parades, meetings, etc., alien theories, who came to America you can't heat Baron Mike and the with Columbus or in the few cenable general strike which constinctions acheves, with the aid of all willing rest of the Munchausen family who turies since his arrival, contamintutes one of the brightest pages in to cooperate sincerely, the task of form the present Daily Worker ate this tradition. No, this group forming the proletarian block, in staff. 1,000,000 Stalinists and sym- of professors speaking the American order that the Spanish Workers pathizers in New York City! Vas language, drinking American whisyou dere, Mike?

Politicians and Their Price

speech but who had great influence ers. The recent period has been dis-|Fourth International which brought or another would have interfered "America for Americans Party" are tinguished by an intense activity out an audience of about 500. This with the privileges of the Utility holding a midnight supper at the

Mike Gold the Mathematical Wizard electric lines, did not come to his At last the secret is out. A great committee but to the Assembly Lamystery to all readers of the Daily bor and Industry Committee. How-Worker since the start of the 3rd ever the worthy Senator wrote the period has been: What system of Associated Gas and Electric that mathematics is used in estimating they could depend on him to kill it. the numbers in the T.U.U.L. unions, "Horse thieves", kidnappers and mass meetings, parades, etc., and gang leaders are honorable and upalso who are the mathematical right men compared to such demo-Ponzi's in charge? In a recent copy gogic swine as this who spout about of the Daily Worker the whole thing democracy and then sell the lives of electric line men for thirty lousy

We Are Challenged

The series of Sunday night lec-Square May Day demonstration, Plaza hall, are attended by capacity Shakespearian mantle and do some great majority of the audience have been won for the Fourth Interna-And this is how Mike figured it tional, there are however, repreout. There were 200,000 in Union sentatives of practically all tenden-Square and 200,000 more along the cies in the movement present who line of march. That made 400,000, hotly question the position put for-

At the last lecture a member of Section Two of the New York Stal-Take the 200,000. Is it not a fact, inite Party challenged Comrade to my figures that would total 1,200, accept the challenge, the C. P. matter of subtracting 200,000 when go back to the Party and demand you can always multiply by five?), that the debate be held. So we'll At this point, overwhelmed by either have a debate or another C.P. the immensity of the Stalinist move- member will learn that the Stalinment in New York, Mike says, ists do not debate with Internation-'Let's not labor the point." But al Communists. At next Sunday's why not? Let us look at it again. lecture on the United Front he will The average family in New York bring his answer and the answer

American Traditions-A Fable

Breaking completely with all alto gain the leadership of a section ien and international "jabberwocky" and actually building up socialism carly history and dug up the story of what may have been the first

key, and digging with American shovels, have dug up the story of Ajayjaybee, a mound dweller who Senator Warren T. Thayer, the led the mound dwellers in battle State Senator who never made a against the aristocratic cliff dwell-

on the Senate, is being investigated. Unfortunately the revolt was not While chairman of the Senate Pub-successful and Ajayjaybee was belic Service Committee he was also headed, cooked and eaten at midon the payroll of the Associated night sometime following the last Gas and Electric Co., and in this ice age. Honoring the memory of capacity was instrumental in killing this hero, and in order to strengthen numerous bills, which in one way the purely American tradition, the Kaff-Kazz Cafe. At the supper a One bill, providing for the safety collection will be taken up for the

The Johnson Bill and Credits to the U.S.S.R.

(Continued from page 1)

ment were also less than one million dollars while from Cuba the the Soviet Union offers we do not U. S. imported more than two and know. The discussions are taking a half times that amount.

capitalist world, the New York buy more, the U.S. export more? the dark. No word has leaked out. This agreement legalized the Local of the Communist League The Soviet Union has explained That is what fills us with misgiving. company union. It attempted to arranged a mass meeting which was again and again that it will buy

slastic spirit of the audience in the course of Stalinism the Soviet Un- to assist the Soviet Union. The ion achieved gigantic and historic Marxists must do it without and

are vitally concerned with the Far ing class organizations which really Eastern market. In the Soviet Un- mean to defend the Soviet Union, ion's strength they see a check to and especially of those which de-Japan. They are not averse to clare for the revolution internationtheir terms. And, if they can get it they want the Soviet market for HARLEM BLOW OUT!

Pressure on Soviet Union

Moscow now between Bullitt and

[Soviet officials. The ruling of the Attorney General is to put pressure Still this tells only part of the At these Sunday night lectures, Militant has discussed the question on the Soviet Union. It is an act story. The main issue in the pres- Comrade Cannon addresses an in- many times. Here let us note from of aggression characteristic of the ent strikes is the struggle for or- tensely interested audience which Litvinov's figures to what extent strategy and methods of the world's Figures for previous years are of crime, to relieve the destitution ganization and the struggle against manifests a greater enthusiasm for the Soviet Union's dependence on dominant capitalist power. It gives not even available, or have been of the masses which leads to the suppressed such in the company union monster. The our point of view with each such is the company union monster. The our point of view with each such is the company union monster. manner in which our government son! God forbid! Why this might the struggle against discrimination The next lecture in the series will demands on the market its further maintained in the face of what the treats its criminal progress makes progres treats its criminal problem. But lead to an acknowledgment that all for union activities stand out dithat the overwhelming majority of would be a betrayal of all those perfidious automobile agreement, ar-

What the U. S. demands, what place according to the best rules of Why doesn't the Soviet Union Stalinist-capitalist diplomacy - in

Fight for Soviet Credits!

Five years ago the internationalganized labor had previously gained. Plaza on April 22nd. The 700 New the treation signed by Stelle and ist Communists proposed to the The big corporations, stiffened by York workers who came to this the treaties signed by Stalin and Communists proposed to the this direct encouragement decided mass meeting to express their ingovernments to grant the credits, by this means to assist the Russian Until now the United States has workers in building up the economy ment with the NRA has set in. struggle has become a struggle for increased popularity of the move-Union. Its policy was motivated own situation through the employ-Another indication of this was to by fear of the October Revolution ment trade with Russia would cre-It mobilizes its troops, police and despite the fatigue of our comrades quently in the military sphere as lutionary and went hat in hand

against the C. I. That is the duty Now the American imperialists of the League and all those work-

T. STAMM.

Dance and Entertainment Trade and credits are the subject SATURDAY, MAY 19, 1934, 8 P.M. at 130 East 107th Street Admission 10c