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## STRIKE WAVE SWEEPS COUNTRY

### General Strike Looms in Toledo

The state authorities of Toledo are making plans to establish martial law as the 110 unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. prepare to walk out in sympathy with the Auto-Lite workers. 68 unions have already voted for the general strike, while the workers of the Toledo Edison Company and its subsidiaries, the DeLancey Light and Power Company and Lake Shore Power Company are scheduled to walk out as we go to press. Toledo has already recorded another page in the history of splendid labor battles.

The strike which started at the Electric Auto-Lite Company has cost the lives of two workers while over two hundred have been injured. The bosses and the state have used every means at their disposal to stem the growing militancy of the workers. But the latter have fought back tenaciously and unyieldingly. 31 workers have been arrested and are on trial for violating an injunction against picketing while others have been jailed on other pretexts. This has not however weakened their fighting spirit or solidarity. The repercussion of the Toledo strike is now being felt from coast-to-coast.

A wave of resentment against the deceptions of the Roosevelt-NRA administration is sweeping the country. It is receiving its inspiration from Minneapolis and Toledo. In San Francisco, San Diego and New Orleans striking longshoremen are waging a militant struggle against the brutal terror of the police. Two members of the Communist League were arrested by the police of San Francisco for distributing leaflets to the striking longshoremen. The Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel, and Tin Workers have decided upon a general strike for June 15th. The United Textile Workers of America threaten a general strike which will bring out 300,000 textile workers. These are but the first rumblings of the storm to come. The strikes are taking on more and more of a political character as the workers come in head-on collision with the forces of the state.

#### Background of the Struggle

The events leading up to the Toledo strike are as follows:

In June 1931, the Security-Home Trust Company, which held the bulk of the workers' savings, closed its doors. The workers were left penniless. Some of the executives of the bank were the very industrialists who used the workers' money to expand the auto-parts industry. At the same time, three other important banks also closed their doors, after deceptively declaring that a 60 day notice must precede withdrawal of funds. The workers and small business men were stuck to the tune of 150 million dollars.

Significantly enough, these banks were controlled by the interests which directed the destinies of the auto-parts industry in Toledo. Moreover, C. O. Miniger, president of the Auto-Lite Company, was a prominent member of the directorates of these four closed banks. In this strategic position he was able to salvage enough funds from the wreckage to keep his plants going. As usual, the workers were left holding the bag, which Miniger had emptied.

This precipitated the gravest economic crisis in the history of Toledo. Out of a population of 400,000, at least 100,000 workers had to be fed and clothed from relief funds. In 1932, the jobless and moneyless workers had to stand in line like beggars asking for a handout. Miniger had stolen their money. The bank crash had closed most of the factories, leaving them jobless.

Riots broke out among the unemployed because of the inadequacy and inferior quality of the food. The workers were getting restive under the whip of hunger. They were losing all hope.

#### Tricked by Labor Board

A brief strike in February was ended by a truce agreement with the Regional Labor Board. This provided that both sides should negotiate the demands of the union, which included a twenty percent wage increase, a closed shop, better working conditions, recognition of the union, seniority rights, and no discrimination against union employees. The Regional Labor Board succeeded in sending the workers back to their jobs pending a settle-

ment. Consequently the workers found themselves tricked because nothing came of the negotiations.

About five weeks ago the issue again came to a head. The workers, organized into the Automotive Federal Union, declared a second strike. Again the workers insisted that the bosses accede to their demands. The company refused. Instead it continued operations with strike-breakers. The aroused workers went into action. They stormed the factory.

One striker, looking up at the broken windows of the plant, remarked: "They wanted an open shop—well, now they have it." Then the National Guard was called in.

When the union organizer, Thomas J. Ramsey, attempted to restrain the workers, he was shoved aside. "To hell with the soldiers. Let's drive them out of town." Otto Brach, secretary of the Central Labor Union, bewailed the fact that he "could not do anything to control the boys now."

#### No Delay on the General Strike!

The bosses answered the demands of the workers with tear and vomit gas. National Guardsmen, private detectives, thugs, special guards, police, and the most brutal reign of terror. And Governor White who was on a fishing trip stated that he would use the "entire force of the state . . . to insure life and property". At the same time the Auto-Lite company, which pays its workers even below the miserable NRA scale, announced that it will distribute its regular dividend of \$71,000 to preferred stock holders.

The immediate need of the moment is to intensify and develop the struggle. The strike-breaking role of the Labor Board and its multimillionaire agent Charles P. Taft, the son of the late president, must be exposed. No illusion must be

harbored as to the role of "mediators" and "arbitrators". The splendid example of the role the women played in the Minneapolis strike must be utilized. The delay in calling sympathetic strikes plays into the hands of the bosses. The militants should press for immediate action from the Central Labor Council so that every labor union in the city of Toledo takes its stand with their striking brothers. The A. F. of L. bureaucracy must not be

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The American Workers Party and the Fourth International  
Special Lecture By  
**MAX SHACHTMAN**  
Editor "The New Internationalist"  
IRVING PLAZA HALL  
15th St. and Irving Place  
SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 8 P.M.  
QUESTIONS :: DISCUSSION  
Admission 15c  
Auspices: N. Y. Local,  
Communist League of America

### Union Recognition Gained By Militant Minneapolis Battles

#### Victory is an Inspiration to Workers Everywhere

By JAMES P. CANNON

Minneapolis, May 29. The Drivers' strike conducted by General Drivers Union, No. 574 was settled on the basis of recognition of the union, unconditional reinstatement of all strikers and agreement to arbitrate the demands for wages

and hours. Employers had previously granted substantial wage increases in the attempt to head off the strike and avoid recognizing and dealing with the union. The union is now presenting demands for further increases. Out of the six thousand men involved in the strike, only a few isolated cases of attempted discrimination had been reported to the union since the settlement of the strike three days ago. The majority of these men have already been reinstated on demand of the union.

Last night's general membership meeting was a rousing affair. Thousands of newly organized workers, the majority of whom never belonged to a union before, crowded the big strike headquarters to hear reports on the execution of the settlement; and further plans to strengthen and consolidate the union. The speeches of union leaders, Brown, Skoglund, and Dunne, reflected the spirit of the crowd and every appeal for continued militancy and vigilance was cheered to the echo.

The spirit of victory and achievement was in the air, although no attempt had been made by the leadership to exaggerate the gains of the first battle. Recognition of the union, which, in the language of the Minneapolis striker, means "protection" of his job, is regarded as a great achievement for a new union. The workers are determined to hold on to this achievement. And it is quite clear that the

bosses, after the experiences of the 10-day battle, are not anxious for another fight soon. This has been shown particularly by the readiness of the individual bosses to meet with the union officials and adjust any claims of discrimination in rehiring the strikers. It is further shown in the absence up to date of any threat of persecution of the union leaders for the casualties that resulted from the strike battles. A stern warning that any such attempt will bring the workers into action again was sounded at last night's meeting and brought a roar of approval from the workers.

The militancy of the drivers' strike is known to the world. The efficiency of its organization and the quality of its leadership—which released this mighty wave of rank and file militancy with such telling effect—is also acknowledged on all sides in Minneapolis.

The prestige of General Drivers Union, No. 574, and the group of militants at its head, is on the heights. There is little doubt that they will be a force for still greater accomplishments in wider circles of the labor movement. The strike brought a shower of telegrams from workers' organizations and numerous invitations to the men at the head of "574" to come to other localities to lead organizing campaigns.

### How the Strike Was Organized

Minneapolis, May 28.—The courage and determination so effectively displayed by the striking Minneapolis truck drivers and helpers has proven conclusively that the American working class is very well equipped to fight their exploiters. It only remains for a proper leadership to come to the front in the entire labor movement and guide these dynamic forces to victory.

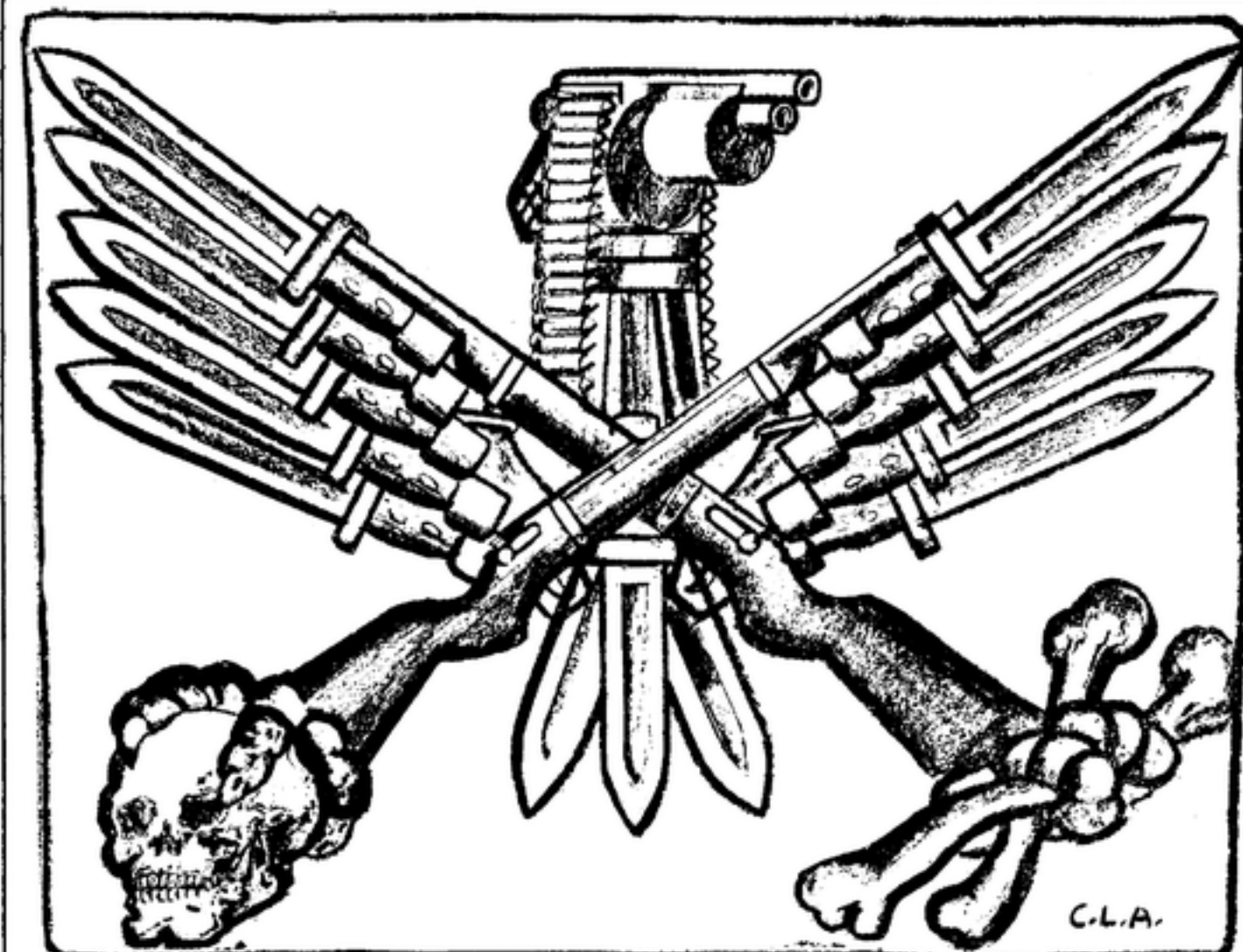
The striking truck drivers and helpers were suffering from economic adversity but their condition was no different from that of other workers in the United States. These men were simply a representative cross-section of the American working class. The abilities which they brought into play are lying dormant in every group of American workers.

Every effort was made by the leaders to give these natural abilities an opportunity to come to the surface. No stone was left unturned in the attempt to do this. Something more than numbers is required on the picket line. The men must feel that their efforts are well spent, that they are a part of a smoothly functioning machine, that they can successfully hold every position they win. To stimulate and justify this confidence the leaders must perfect a thorough organization and all preparations must be carefully checked to the most minute detail. That was done in Minneapolis.

**The Details of Organization**  
A large garage about 400 feet wide and a block long was selected to serve as the headquarters for the Minneapolis strike. A large sign was painted across the front of the building announcing that this was the strike headquarters. Supplementary field headquarters were set up at points where it would prove necessary to concentrate a sizeable force for mass picketing. At the main headquarters a stage was erected and a loud-speaker system installed to be used in dispatching of pickets and in addressing meetings.

A commissary department requiring a personnel of 35 was set up and maintained throughout the strike. A special service and repair department was provided and a crew of 12 mechanics well equipped with tools, were busily engaged in picking the cars and trucks of the pickets in good running order. Special arrangements were made to secure gasoline and to obtain tire repair service.

A first-aid station was established at the headquarters through the



THE SPIRIT OF THE BLUE EAGLE

### Longshoremen's Strike Ties Up Pacific Coast Ports

Maritime commerce on the Pacific Coast is almost entirely paralyzed by the longshoremen's strike. It began with 12,000 men out and has since swelled to 25,000 with several other unions having joined the walk-out.

A splendid testimony to the solidarity of the strike and the support it receives from other workers was given by the longshoremen's parade on Sunday, May 12th, in San Francisco. Five thousand strikers marched up Market Street and not less than 12,000 took part in the demonstration in the Civil Center. League militants have taken their place on the firing line in the San Francisco Bay District. A couple of them hold the most responsible strike posts, while the whole membership gives its sympathetic support.

All along the ports on the coast the employers are making special preparations to attempt to suppress the strike by force. The Oakland chief of police, Bodie Wallman has issued orders to all subordinates that the docks are to be kept clear of strikers and that any demonstrations are to be met with force sufficient to quell it promptly. For this purpose he has sworn in numerous special police. They are given instructions on how to suppress strikes. Special supplies of tear

gas bombs have been obtained. In Seattle Mayor John F. Dore has given orders to his police department to take full charge of the docks in an effort to save the perishable cargoes which are rotting in ships' holds. In the Los Angeles area 500 uniformed policemen, radio officers and detectives are patrolling the water front daily with instructions to protect property. That means, of course, to prevent mass picketing, and suppress all other strike activities. Several efforts have been made along the coast by the employers, through their mediation board, to take over the regular union hiring halls.

Two members of the League, Eloise Booth and Florence Wyle, were arrested last week for leaflet distribution when the San Francisco police, attempted to crush the longshoremen's picket line. Under police protection the Pacific Steamship Company tried to employ scabs on pier 18. Tear gas, bombs, pistols and sawed-off shot guns were brought into play. The several thousand strikers defended their right to a union and fought back in splendid fashion. They suffered several casualties; but four policemen also had to receive hospital treatment. The militancy amongst the workers remain unabated as the strike enters its third week.

### The "Red" Issue Enters the Strike

The coast wise strike of the International Longshoremen's Association (I.L.A.) here is well along its third week with the workers holding the line firmly at every point except San Pedro and San Diego where the strike is only partially successful.

The Associated Press reports indicate that there are 60 ships tied up in San Francisco, in San Pedro 28 ships are tied up and in Portland 26. All ships in Seattle and Tacoma are tied up.

On May the 21st, Mr. J. S. Mallard, the president of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, issued a red baiting statement in an effort to win the support of the workers away from the strike. This effort on the part of the Chamber of Commerce to drag a red herri-

across the trail of the strike was very effectively answered when the Masters, mates and pilots, the Sailors Union of the Pacific, the Marine Cooks and Stewards, the Marine Firemen and Water-tenders together with several other unions made good their strike vote by walking off the ships, and issuing a joint statement that they supported and approved of the strike and would cooperate with the Longshoremen and teamsters already out.

#### General Strike the Answer if Troops Are Called Out

In the state of Washington the mayors of several jerkwater interior towns demanded that the Governor call out the militia. The unions in Tacoma and Seattle reiterated their former position taken

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### Communist League Makes New Gains On Pacific Coast

Comrades Caesar Booth, Eloise Booth, Victor and Eugene Peterson, fresh from their struggle against the bureaucracy of the Stalinist party, continue their splendid struggle by having become members of the San Francisco branch of the Communist League. Expelled from the party on the routine Stalinist trumped-up charges, these revolutionary workers did not cease in their activity as fighters in the class struggle. The most amusing phase of the shameful expulsion of these comrades was the charge of white chauvinism. But the actual fact that three of the most active Negro comrades were expelled together with them, mainly because the latter stubbornly opposed such a frame-up as well as being firm in their opposition to the local bureaucracy, has been concealed.

With the joining of these comrades who have demonstrated their value to the revolutionary movement by their work, and are known to many other members of the Communist Party, the San Francisco unit is well on the way to becoming a serious factor in mass work.

District No. 13, cracked up to be the strongest section of the Stalinist party in America, is in a process of disintegration. Reports are prevalent that the Sacramento and Stockton units are violently shaken by this new wave of expulsions and from all indications more is to follow. The position of the Communist League is becoming more clear and as it does so to the party membership the inexorable axe claims a few more heads.

Under the banner of the League these new members remain at their posts in the class struggle. They carry on with renewed inspiration, ready to meet all sacrifices this may entail. Comrade Eloise Booth has already received her baptism under the new banner as she was arrested together with Florence Wyle distributing League leaflets to the striking longshoremen.

IF THE NUMBER ON YOUR WRAPPER IS 226 OR SMALLER, YOUR MILITANT SUB HAS EXPIRED AND SHOULD BE RENEWED WITHOUT DELAY.

### At the Minneapolis City Market "The Battle of Deputy Run"

From the inception of the organization work in connection with the General Drivers strike, it was correctly estimated that our strategic position was the so-called central market place. This takes in an area of approximately six square blocks. It is bounded on the one whole side by the railroad tracks, which are the team tracks where practically all of the market produce is unloaded.

In concentrating on the market, we were guided by the fact that the food situation, especially at this time of the year, was the real point to attack. At the start of the strike this strategy was not so apparent. But on the second and third days, it became plainly visible that the perishable food supply was running low and that the market bosses were going to attempt some drastic action to move their perishable foods.

Through our connections in the market houses it was learned that on Saturday morning there was to be a concerted effort to make deliveries. The strike committee held a conference and it was decided that we would relieve some of our forces from positions where there was not so much activity and hold them in reserve. It developed that although we had a little skirmish on that day that a serious threat was not made for any wholesale delivery.

#### The Battle of "Deputies Run"

The market situation was watched closely and, after waiting for Sunday and Monday to pass, we learned through unquestionable sources, that the big offensive was to be made Tuesday about eleven o'clock. This information was received about midnight Monday. Immediate action became compulsory. "Concentrate the Pickets", was the slogan. "Cruising squads" of pickets were dispatched, motorcycle riders roared out, street car motormen and conductors on the owl cars carried the word to our pickets at outlying points, telephones and other messengers were utilized for the mobilization of every available picket.

Soon the outlying positions were deserted except for a skeleton picket line. The pickets came pouring in to strike headquarters, thousands of the tired but eager fighters, an-

xious to defend their rights with their lives if necessary. Tons of food had been prepared and was waiting for these fighters; but it seemed that it was hardly touched, so anxious were these workers for the job to be done.

No raised voices; no milling; quietly questioning each other: "Where do we go? When do we start?" The word goes from the dispatcher to the big strike headquarters: "Start moving!" Then trucks lined up. Noiselessly they were pushed into place. Next order: "Fill the trucks!" Like one man these eager fighters filled the trucks to capacity.

In code the drivers only were given the destination. "Move out!" Motors roared and in an instant three hundred pickets were on their way to a destination, unknown then, that was to make new history for the American workers.

Adjacent to the market and on one of the border streets, Labor Headquarters is located. Into this hall holding about two thousand men our pickets were concentrated. A skeleton patrol was sent to patrol the market streets and to report any move to start delivery. Word quickly comes back: hundreds of special deputies, special police and harness bulls armed with clubs and guns, squad cars of police with sawed off shot guns and vomiting gas. Quietly the pickets patrolled the streets, curiosity seekers hurling curses at the hired strikebreakers. A truck starts to move, our pickets jump to the running boards and demand that the scab driver stop. A hired slinger raises his club and slashes at a picket. Down the picket drops as if dead. The fight is on. Phone rings at the concentration hall: "Send the reserves!" Orderly, but almost as if by magic, the hall is emptied. The pickets are deployed by their leaders to surround the police and sluggers. The police raise their riot guns but the workers ignore and rush through them. "Chase out the hired sluggers", is their battle cry. The cowardly sluggers take to their heels and run. The police and strikers use their clubs freely. Many casualties on both sides. The workers have captured the market!

—A STRIKER.