

REVIEWING THE NEWS

Minneapolis and Dunne
Bill Dunne, who wrote the "profound" articles on the 1931 miners' strike for the Daily Worker is at it again.

The truck drivers of Minneapolis carried on one of the most militant and successful strikes seen in years. It roused the entire American labor movement.

In Minneapolis the workers made a second mistake. They allowed themselves to be organized into a union by Trotskyite "counter-revolutionists" "agents of the police".

Sender Garlin was sent out. And he didn't do bad. He reported "A. F. of L. leaders arranging to have themselves arrested on the picket line."

When the battle was over and the strikers had won a partial victory, Bill Dunne was called on. Bill went into another "series" of articles. "The Trotskyites betrayed the strike," "Governor Olson could have been driven from office", etc.

Fascist "Victories"
A leader of New York's Italian Fascists is jailed for extortion. He claimed influence with the city government and hoodwinked a "friend" out of \$3,000.

League Activities

Chicago Hears Report On Minneapolis Strike

Chicago—Despite the discomfort of a hot night, more than a hundred and fifty workers on June 8 responded with unrestrained enthusiasm to the two-hour recital of the experiences of the Minneapolis truck-drivers' strike delivered at Communist League headquarters by James P. Cannon.

Cannon's report was repeated by him the following Sunday before 500 Negro and white workers in Washington Park where a puny attempt on the part of a few inspired but gloriously stupid Stalinists to object to his speaking ended in their complete silencing and disgrace.

Public Trial Clears Militant Worker

Since the League organized its new branch in Richmond, California, the Stalinists have decided that it is time to act to stop these developments. They began their attacks on a courageous worker in the Richmond Standard Oil Plant, making filthy charges, accusing him of being a stool-pigeon and a renegade in a leaflet which they published and distributed in the plant where he was working.

The first this comrade knew of the attack came when he was called into the office of the company, confronted with the leaflet, and in order to find out more about the "reds" in the plant, the company proposed that he should bring the question into court. The comrade naturally refused this "generous" offer, although knowing that his job was at an end and that this would mean the county welfare board for his wife and two children. He was fired.

The League arranged for a public workers' trial in order to clear up all that was involved in the charges and to put the accusers to shame. The trial was conducted by the California Workers' Association, a militant unemployed group which has two Stalinists on its executive board. The A. F. of L. unions were invited to attend and many of the members came. At this trial the official Party was offered a preliminary closed session with the trial board where it could present its evidence. This was done in order to protect it in case there should be any company stool-pigeons in the audience.

The Stalinists refused this offer and one of their members admitted from the floor that they really had no charges. Another member who had distributed the leaflet, stated that while they had no proof they were "morally certain" that the worker under charges was an undesirable element. Undoubtedly he was undesirable to the Stalinist bureaucracy against whom he had fought and who had driven him out of the party and now tried to drive him out of the labor movement.

Being unable to substantiate their charges, the Stalinists tried a little stage play. At the conclusion of their statement made they walked out of the hall in a body. One of their group demanded that they remain until the trial was finished, but that was to no avail.

The result of this filthy attack upon a revolutionary worker has proven a boomerang to the Stalinists. The League has gained new members and new sympathizers. The California Workers' Association, due to this procedure of trying the charges in public, received a valuable lesson in workers' democracy. The A. F. of L. members present promised that they would use their influence to see that the California Workers' Association is strengthened and that unemployed A. F. of L. members support it.

Philadelphia Branch Increases Activities

Philadelphia, Pa. — The Philadelphia branch is going ahead in fulfilling its part of the League Action Program. In the first militant club plan sub drive, its self-imposed quota of 50 new subscriptions was reached and passed. The present drive finds us now with 12 chalked up. Public lectures with national committee speakers will continue right through the summer, to bring our program to persons newly attracted to us. Last week comrade Max Shachtman lectured on "The Crisis in the Socialist Party". Many Y.P.S.L.'s and S.P. members attended. Friday, June 22 comrade James P. Cannon is to speak on "The Lessons of the Minneapolis Strike" at our new headquarters, 1207 N. 5th St.

We were unsuccessful in our efforts to effect a genuine united front May Day demonstration. We judged the closest existing approach to that to be the Socialist sponsored United May Day meeting. We attended in a body, singing the "International" and brought the crowded Labor Institute to its feet in response. Our placards with "The Communist League of America is for the Fourth International" to the front, were the only banners in the meeting.

The favorable response of May 1 permitted us more than one sympathetic ear, particularly among the Socialist youth. The Spartacus Youth Club with two clubs met often in efforts for joint anti-Fascist and May 30th anti-war demonstration action with Y.P.S.L. committees.

Mexican Nazis Attack Trotsky

There is in Mexico a fascist sheet, organ in Spanish of Hitler's embassy in Mexico. Anti-labor, anti-Communist, anti-Semitic, with all the lack of originality and logic of that movement the paper, thanks to the subsidy it receives from the Nazis, appears, unnoticed by the great majority of Mexicans. Without doubt, the most religious supporters of this paper are the Jews, who pay 5 cents for every issue in a morbid curiosity to see what new strange fables about them appear.

One thing must be impressed, and that is that this paper is the organ of Nazism. About five months ago a new ambassador arrived from Berlin bearing a membership card in the Nazis and a Baron and a Von before his name (need more he said).

When the issue of the Trotsky expulsion from France came up, in this organ appeared an article by a renegade from Communism named Mallen. The article makes a show of erudition that in its shallowness is really painful to behold. But we do not want to criticize the article. Not being very much read it does not merit criticism. What we want to do is merely to comment upon it.

The theme of this article is that the Jews are the only real internationalists, and that the expulsion of Trotsky from the Communist International is a victory for nationalism. That the struggle between Stalin the Georgian and Trotsky the Jew is really a struggle between nationalism and internationalism.

Let us extract the true core of this matter and leave the rest. That core is that the struggle of the International Communists is in essence a struggle for internationalism, which does not represent the Jew or the Methodist but represents the interests of the worldwide proletariat. Will this frank appraisal by Nazism make some of the rank and file Stalinists think?

The national-socialists of Germany find an ideological rapprochement with Stalinistic "socialism in one country", and find common ground with it in the struggle against the internationalism of Trotsky.

Y.P.S.L. delegates defended the seating of our youth delegates at the Y.C.L. sponsored May 30th conference. Their organization yielded to opportunist whinnings after the rupture with the Stalinist conference, to content themselves with a hike for May 30th. The Spartacus Youth Club then held its own street meeting that day.

At the present time two open air meetings are held weekly. At one corner where Stalinists mobilize to disrupt, they have been effectively squelched. With the new recruits the branch has we look forward to expanding this phase of our work. A Negro comrade, a former I.L.D. functionary is busy organizing a fraternal group of Negro workers.

On Sunday, June 24 the branch has arranged a picnic in Fairmount Park, 33rd and Cumberland St. entrance. All proceeds go for the benefit of the Militant. All our friends are urged to be there with us.

From the Militants

The Farmers and the Minneapolis Strike

Minneapolis, Minn.—During the memorable days of the Minneapolis General Drivers' strike proof was given in concrete fashion that the small farmers can be made allies of the workers. The support they gave to the workers was the kind required by the situation. They declined in the most effective manner to avail themselves of the proffered protection by deputy sheriffs to break the strike. It was the same sheriffs who had the year before been used to attempt to break their holiday movement.

When the Battle of Deputies Run was in progress in the City Market, a strikers' committee was in the Court House facing two men of authority, the chief of police, Johannes and the county sheriff, Wall. It was reported that the faces of these two men expressed bewilderment mingled with dismay. They had been defeated again. "What in the Hell is this 'labor trouble' in 1934?" was the question uppermost in their minds. For they had done everything they could think of, everything they had been told to do by their bosses and still the strikers had an upper-hand.

How well this deputy gag had worked on the farmers in the holiday movement just about a year before, when hundreds of Sheriff Wall's political acquaintances, mostly Republicans, ran the scab trucks through the picket lines to the market. But now—it does not work.

The Farmers about the city and in the town remained passive during the General Drivers strike. But if any actions would have developed amongst them, these actions would have been decidedly in favor of the strikers. A year ago town after town, county after county went "Holiday", against the packing trust, the grain exchanges, the railroads and the bankers. Tear gas, clubs, arrests and convictions were used against them. The weapons were wielded by the enemy. And how was he represented? By the deputy sheriffs, just like those recruited by Sheriff Wall of Hennepin County. Those deputy sheriffs were notoriously rough with the farmers. So when the drivers in the city struck against the produce companies, the food importers, and Sheriff Wall came to the farmers with the same deputies he had used to break their strike and offered to escort them to the market, the farmers answered by just staying home and working in the gardens. When the strikers notified them that they could bring their greens and roots to the city and sell them house to house and to the corner grocery, with or without a city license, they cranked up their model T's and came to town. It wouldn't be surprising to learn that there were many farmers among the indignant crowds in chicken chase through the spacious market square with some eight hundred special policemen as the chickens. By the way, there was some trading done on the market that day. A bushel of police badges, and a half a cord of nightsticks exchanged hands for little or nothing.

The Holiday Movement pledged food for the strikers if needed. This pledge was never drawn upon. It was not necessary. The strike leaders spoke to the Holiday state convention, and sat with a special committee to co-ordinate workers' and farmers' strikes. In the future the alliance will prevail. —C. F.

California Ordinances Against the Reds

The United Front Civil Rights Committee of Alameda County against the serf ordinance number 282 is becoming a struggle for power between various elements, including the Stalinists, and to the detriment of the organization.

On May 30th a meeting was held as a test case against the ordinance number 282. This ordinance forbids any person or persons to stand, sit, walk, loiter, congregate, speak, or in any manner obstruct traffic on any highway, street, lane, alley or property whatsoever in the county of Alameda. The Stalinists endeavored to turn the meeting into a national Youth Day demonstration and to prevent any speakers except members of the official party from taking the platform.

At the meeting previous to this of the committee, the official party endeavored to pack the conference with delegates from sixteen of its paper organizations as well as with delegates from every branch of the I.L.D., W.I.R., etc. etc. At all meetings of the committee, the Stalinists have refused to recognize the chair, have filibustered from the floor and have proven the perfect specimen of disrupters.

The picture of the Stalinists in this conference is only a little less disgusting than that of some of the other elements who help to make up the majority of the bona-fide delegates. Nathan, the head of the conference and a Proletarian Party member, who now holds an A. F. of L. office, openly declares that he is going to throw every C. P. member out and make the thing a real mass organization. Undeniably, the latter have called this threat down upon themselves by their tactics. Still it should not be the policy of throw anybody out, but rather to broaden the organization by bringing it into closer contact with all the working class sections, the trade unions, etc. and to make it a really representative body that can lay the base for a general defense committee.

Most of the counties in California have passed similar ordinances. On the whole it is a vicious move aimed directly at the "Reds". That is why it has to be met in a serious manner. The bosses today direct their fire mainly against the working class vanguard. Their objective is the open shop. Their intention is to crush all working class organization. And while many of the most vicious open shoppers, as for example, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, carefully point to a difference between what they call the illegitimate Communist within the labor movement, and the A. F. of L., their real intention should not be misunderstood. They hope to crush the militant section of the trade union movement first and if that succeeds, then to annihilate all labor unions. —C.F.

MARCH OF EVENTS

The Textile Crisis
Nothing illustrates so well the utter inability of capitalism to lay down plans for production of wide-range character, as does the textile crisis. The need for a sudden drastic cut in production reveals clearly that even a capitalist cartel including all of a given industry, cannot regulate production to consumption. All it can do is to order sharp curtailment when production gets out of control. It cannot avoid crisis, for the present situation is a distinct crisis brought on all the quicker by the capitalist attempt to regulate production. What is happening in the textile industry is a forerunner of what will happen in all the big mass production industries under monopolist control.

The Workers and the Forces of Production

The working class can see here too, the meaning of the NRA and the way in which its operation affects their livelihood. When the Cotton Textile Code Authority orders a decrease in production by 25% for three months without any change in hourly wage rates it places the burden of the crisis in this industry immediately on the backs of the proletariat. The NRA is a police club which beats down the forces of production when they threaten profits for the bosses. At the same time this club descends on the heads of the workers, the class that is concerned with and represents the social forces of production. The working class encounter this sort of action more and more in the future. Ultimately they must learn that not capitalist control of production for profits, but workers' control of production for social use can assure them a livelihood and eliminate starvation. Capitalist control means the sabotage of production, workers' control means its unlimited expansion for the benefit of the masses. The closed shop is the first step in the direction of workers' control but its achievement depends on the building of powerful, militant trade unions. Through such unions, casting off the treacherous leadership of the reformists, the textile workers can best reply to the bosses when they put through wage cuts.

Company Unionism

For many years Rockefeller has maintained a subsidized strike-breaking agency called the Industrial Relations Counselors, Inc. This agency has the support of Cyrus McCormick (ardent promoter of the company union), A. H. Woods, Owen D. Young, etc. This outfit "gives advice" in matters of "personnel" to all the big industrialists including the steel barons, the oil magnates, the manufacturers of farm machinery, the electrical trust, etc. Since 1926 Rockefeller has supplied generous funds to enlighten the boss class on the best methods for trapping the workers in "employee representation plans" or company unions. This organization became especially active in the period following the adoption of the NRA with its 7a fake labor clause. A widespread campaign was conducted through the subsidized technical press, urging the bosses to defeat independent unionism by setting up fake, controlled unions. Thus in Automotive Industries for December 1933 we read, in an unsigned article entitled, "Organizing a Company Union": "Shall we, or shall we not, sanction a 'company union' in our plant?—If you do not, someone will organize your employees for you. This is not in the least meant to be interpreted as a threat, but is merely a foregone conclusion under current conditions." The article then proceeds to outline minutely the best method of going about entangling (and forcing) workers into the boss' union.

More recently the Industrial counselors have been mobilizing their forces wherever the threat of mass strikes arose. Thus the head of the organization, A. H. Young, was thrown into the steel industry as soon as "trouble" threatened there. He is now with the U. S. Steel Co., just as C. J. Hicks is with the Standard Oil Co. of N. J. for the same nefarious purpose.

Smash Company Unions!

The company unions are the latest form of "yellow dog" contracts forced on the working class. The drive against the organizing of the workers in real unions has been well planned long in advance and has the support of all the big financiers, from Ford to Swope, Teagle to Rockefeller. Roosevelt merely obeyed the voice of his masters in the Auto Strike when he legalized the company union. The same tactics are being applied now to defeat the steel workers. We must mobilize labor to smash company unionism by militant action! The capitalist government attempts to carry out the strike-breaking program of big business. We must checkmate Roosevelt! —J. WEBER.

Sidelights From the Great Battle of the Minneapolis Workers

It requires days, weeks, to settle down to normal existence and dispassionately run together the surging snapshots garnered during so tremendous an event as the Minneapolis strike. So much took place in those two weeks that had never taken place here before.

The orderly and vital throngs at headquarters. Through the loud-speaker would come: "Volunteers wanted to go to Lyndale and 52nd. A car and five pickets wanted. Who will volunteer? (A pause.) Here's the car, and one picket—two pickets—three pickets! That's the stuff! Two more pickets wanted. Come on, fellows, step up. It's your battle." At this point the crowd outside the headquarters doors would surge forward. Two young men, obviously office workers and dressed up for the evening would make their way to the doors, their girls at their elbows. The young men's eyes would shine. The girls would look up in their faces. "What do ya say, Hal?" asked one. "Geez yes," says the other, "let's go. It's our battle, all right." The men spoke to the girls, the girls squeezed their arms and gave them encouragement. "We'll volunteer", the pair say to the doorman. The door is opened, the two men disappear into the garage. Through the loud-speaker comes: "Here's the rest of the carload. Five men and a car to Lyndale and 52nd." As the motor roars up the eternally cheerful loud-speaker says: "Make way at the door there, please. And let's give the men a hand as they go out! Let's give 'em a hand!" Amid shouts of applause and a big hand, the car full of pickets wheels out of headquarters, five determined men smiling grimly back at the crowd. In the front office, the windows of which are now soaped to render them opaque, sits the Brain of the picketers—the dispatchers. There they sit in their vests and shirt-sleeves, calculating, alert, red-eyed from loss of sleep—there they were sitting 24 hours ago—48 hours ago—there they will stay until the strike is victorious, until the union is recognized, to come forth at the end a hundred-fold stronger than when it entered the battle.

mass contrasted with the foppish, hysterical mob of "citizens" in the Moorish Room of the West Hotel! And for over an hour, from the east and south, through the gathering dusk, thousands of strike-supporters continued to stream across the Parade toward the loud-speaker, to silently listen and furiously applaud the militant agitators. There was a wild fire spirit abroad that night at the Parade, a spirit surging with hope. There, in the darkness, was welded together a solidarity of the workers of Minneapolis that will hold—hold through another strike, and another, until finally the rotting carcass of this murderous system gasps out its last fetid breath and goes down under the heels of the victorious wave of—Soviet America.

The unforgettable mass meeting at the Parade Grounds. On Tuesday afternoon, but a few hours after the market was won, men and women appear on the downtown streets with armfuls of circulars: NO SURRENDER. And all day Wednesday, on every corner, in the middle of every block, strikers, wives, sympathizers, are handing out these challenges, this call to the mass meeting in support of the workers. Cops and business men, white faced with venom, stare their hatred at these distributors. The meeting at the Parade is called to counter the infamous Law and Order get-together of the Citizens' Alliance which met at the West Hotel on the previous Friday. That first meeting represented the Citizens of Minneapolis, said the capitalist press. Only employers are Citizens in this country, you know. Well, the workers would show what they could do. At 7:30 that night, on the far end of the Parade, under the trees, the workers began to arrive. There was only a rude platform of wood, hastily constructed; and a truck bearing loud-speaking apparatus. At a little after eight, the chairman began to speak. Already, there were five thousand, six thousand people there. Men in working clothes, holding little children in their arms, women, veterans, girl factory workers, the unemployed. All so eager to show their solidarity with the strikers; all tense and still to hear what the speakers were saying. How this

One of the better-known special deps was none other than the once-famed pug, one Dick Daniels (out on bail, after confessing to a half-dozen hold-ups). Daniels figured—and rightly—that our judges, before whom he is to come up in the near future, would view with leniency a bandit who had a distinguished record as a scab to offset any little minor anti-social display such as breaking into a few stores here and there. But, alas, Mister Daniels' record will never furnish material for a fascist saga; the last we saw of him, he was fleeing down toward Washington Avenue from the market, with a handful of strikers triumphantly threatening his rear.

And to learn that the good Mr. Lyman, manufacturer, who took time off from a Sunday School convention to go down in the market with a blackjack to show his Christian love for the starving workers, was, before his unfortunate demise, an officer in the Citizens' Alliance, will help to stifle the reader's tears. In one respect, though, Lyman was

A peculiar "sport" of the Alliance breed; for it is the common practice of this brave gang of pirates to learn the news of their victories and defeats by telephone or wire, in the safety of their offices and homes; and not in the streets, where their cocos are apt to be tapped by poor misguided workers. Oh no! Why in Heaven's Name should a Citizen's Alliance man go forth to battle—when, by opening the jails, by calling forth all the horrible scum that is spawned by a poisonous system, by sending for the National Guardsmen, the Alliance can get others to fight their battles for them.

At the funeral of the above mentioned Christian Soldier, the better element was so afraid that strikers would attack the coffin (thus do the minds of these gentfolk work) that the cemetery was packed to the gills with private dicks—who were mourning on their own account, no doubt, the loss of a good meal ticket. For Lyman, you know, paid the men in his own factory munificently—20c an hour. It takes lots of spies to be able to pay wages like that.

One other social group distinguished themselves by the brilliancy of their strike-breaking efforts. I refer to the fraternities at the University of Minnesota. Possibly alumni pressure was brought to bear; or maybe these young hopefuls did it of their own sweet will. Anyway, in some cases entire chapters rushed down to scab headquarters to swear in as deputies, anxious to show the strikers their proper places in the scheme of things. How utterly characteristic of the atrophied social appetites of these "brothers in the bond". Unfortunately, these fraternity men, too, proved but poor allies to the thugs and gangsters. Such was the

quality of their courage before the determined strikers that scarcely a one had the courage to pin on his dishonorable badge or exhibit his sap. And when the break came, the boys dropped badges, clubs and all, feeling to a man before the fury of the workers.

A word about the special deps being outnumbered. That's a lie broadcast to cover up their cowardice. There were over fifteen hundred armed deps in that market on Tuesday, and probably half as many armed strikers. But when the blow-off came, the deps deserted, the strikers stuck to their posts. That's the difference. After the battle, a keg of deputy badges were picked up from the streets and taken to strike headquarters—but at scab headquarters there was not a single driver's union badge as a trophy of the chase.

Olson, the Farmer-Labor governor, who boxes the political compass whenever he gets into such a jam as was precipitated by the strike, didn't care to appear at the Wednesday night mass meeting. So he sent along his lieutenant. The crowd listened patiently for ten minutes while this man spouted. At the close there was no applause. The lieutenant was desperate. An idea flashed in his mind. Turning back to the mike, he said, "And I say 'God speed you,' if that means anything." It didn't. Silence. Then a hoot from the audience. The workers are learning that God is certainly not on their side. God is against them. Yes, on the side of the workers is only right, a fierce willingness to struggle, and a growing determination to build a better world; a socialist world. The frantic attempt of this pious gentleman to drag in God by the heels proved the crowning disaster. —C.H.