

FROM THE FIRING LINE

Three Leagues Built in Week

LEHIGH COUNTY ADDS 600

ALLENTOWN, Pa.—Three new branches, Coplay, Ormrod and South Whitehall, totalling more than 600 members, have been added to the Lehigh County Unemployed League during the past week. Two of the leagues, Coplay and Ormrod, grew out of the demand of unemployed youths for work on relief projects.

Many cement workers in this region work only two days per week earning \$7.50. Relief officials have consistently refused to place on relief projects adult members of the families of these workers.

Draw Up Plans

The Coplay League has drawn up plans for a municipal swimming pool and town hall which it will push through in order to provide work for the unemployed of the town. The Ormrod League hopes to force the authorities to approve a project for a community center. The League at South Whitehall was formed when workers realized their unified power through a spontaneous strike called to reinstate a worker who had been arbitrarily fired by the boss. The workers on the project are organized practically 100% and have elected committees to carry on collective bargaining with the bosses and relief officials.

Organize in Palmerton

A new League has also been formed in Palmerton, in Carbon County, a company town of the New Jersey Zinc Company. Weston Kelsey, administrator of relief for this area was formerly manager of this company and draws a huge pension from it.

Conditions in Palmerton are unbelievably bad. One family with nine children was found sleeping on the floor, with no mattresses and few covers. Children were found who had no clothing but had underwear, many others who had underwear, many others who had underwear. Company houses have been neglected for so long that it is almost impossible to heat them. Plaster has almost entirely disappeared from the many. A weather vane placed on the table in one of the "homes" indicated the direction of the wind! Some months ago when a League was formed in Palmerton the leading members were evicted from company property for their activity. The new League is so strong, however, that the Zinc Co. officials dare not interfere. Already it has forced the relief administration to set up an office in Palmerton. Formerly the unemployed had to walk 8 miles to the nearest relief station.

Mayor McNair Has a Flair FOR SINGLE TAX AND SCABS

PITTSBURGH.—William N. McNair, Pittsburgh's Single Tax mayor, continues to play the role of Allegheny County's leading strike-breaker. Recently in the strike of the A. & P. haulers, McNair rode a truck beside the police and a scab driver to assure the safe delivery of supplies to A. & P. stores. When the strikers persisted in following the truck McNair got off and lead the police in an attack on the strikers and ordered their arrest.

McNair first became infamous as a potential strike-breaker when he announced last June that he would support the employers if there was a steel strike.

After being on the losing end for twenty-five years McNair became mayor last fall in a New Deal landslide. His hobbies are apple-eating and "ground rent". He vetoed an ordinance of the city council which provided \$500,000 out of a bond issue for unemployed relief. When a delegation from the Pittsburgh Unemployed League visited the mayor to protest against the veto, he told the committee that they should get behind the bill.

The Party at Work

PITTSBURGH.—The branches of the Communist League of America and the American Workers Party have come together and formed the Pittsburgh Branch of the Workers Party of the U. S. The merger meeting was held December 14. John Sullivan was elected chairman; Solov, vice chairman; Irvin Oklin, secretary; Mary Belton, treasurer; Hopton Howell, education; James Siskakis, trade union fraction; Ben Cooper, P.U.L. fraction. These officers make up the branch executive committee.

The branch is planning to hold a social affair for January 11 to which it is planned to invite sympathizers and other interested persons when the program of the new party will be discussed.

The branch has also selected a committee to work up a mass sheet.

which he had in council which provided for taking the ground rent that was now going to Europeans owning land in Pittsburgh.

He also told the delegation that "every mayor should take up boxing". He then invited the committee outside to have their pictures taken with him in front of some advertising benches which a furniture company had sent for the unemployed to sit on while they were waiting for food orders. The committee declined to accept the honor.

The mayor is such good copy for the local Hearst paper that an officer of the Workers Party was told by this paper that if the party wanted publicity for any of its meetings they should get the mayor to speak.

Holstein Freed In Minneapolis

ONE FRAME-UP REMAINS

MINNEAPOLIS.—The Hennepin County Grand Jury has voted a no-bill in the case of Emanuel Holstein, leading militant of Drivers Local 574, whom the Citizens Alliance and Police Chief Bloody Mike Johannes had been attempting to frame for the murder of a millionaire special deputy who died during the May strike. The clearing of Holstein is a direct result of the fight staged by the Minneapolis trade union movement led by the militant fighters of Local 574. Minneapolis unionists are wild with enthusiasm at this new blow to the Citizens Alliance, which had hoped to terrorize labor by railroad Holstein to death. A few weeks ago the attempt to frame the Machinists Brotherhood business agent was also smashed by mass pressure.

One more Citizens Alliance

frame-up remains to be defeated: the charge against Philip Scott for the same murder which the labor-haters failed to pin on Holstein. The County Attorney has been moving heaven and earth to get Scott before a jury as quickly as possible, hoping to railroad him before the defense could get organized.

The defense movement got going faster than the prosecutor, however, and now the latter has begun to stall. He claims to have discovered a new material witness, and wants to postpone the trial. Meanwhile, the defense campaign goes forward with great speed. The Auditorium has been hired for New Year's Eve and the labor movement will stage a big party for the benefit of the Scott Defense. Local 574 has requested Herbert Solow, formerly Managing Editor of its daily strike bulletin, to solicit funds in the east for the support of the defense movement. Other Minnesota unions are also being asked to back the fight. The prospects are promising and it looks as though the Citizens Alliance is due for another trimming.

Relief Wood Strike Looms

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Dec. 19.—Intensifying their fight against relief officials because of their notorious system of distributing wood while thousands of miners of this city are idle, the Illinois Workers Alliance is preparing for a strike at all wood yards of this territory. A strike committee, with Joe Angelo, Workers Party member, as secretary was elected at the last meeting of the alliance. Workers Party and socialist workers are leading the fight which is quickly spreading in all circles of the local labor movement.

Independent Printing Employees Win 5 Day Altum Press Strike

A.F. of L. Printing Unions Urged to Help Organize Industry

A striking success has come out of the first strike conducted by the Independent Printing Employees of New York. Despite an empty treasury, sabotage by government officials supposed by law to be impartial and the organized resistance of the boss printers, the workers in Altum Press, 165 William St., after a five-day struggle are back on the job under conditions that set a high mark for shops not organized by the A. F. of L.

Last week's strike was the culmination of a ten-months struggle led by the Altum workers under the I.P.E.'s leadership. Altum Press brazenly ignored the Graphic Arts Code, which is supposed to guarantee the workers certain conditions. The I.P.E. fought before the NRA boards so ably and vigorously that the boards could not evade giving a decision in favor of the workers.

The NRA, as usual, did nothing to enforce its own "decisions", and finally the workers struck. The boss printers tried to make this a test case. The workers held out on the picket-line, however, aided by volunteer pickets from the Workers Party. On request of the I.P.E., the A. F. of L. Printing Pressmen's Union 51 notified all its chapels not to scab. Finally the boss had to back down.

Altum Press negotiated with a committee headed by Sam Gordon, president of the I.P.E. Matthew Levy, member of the Socialist Lawyers Association, advised the I.P.E. committee on legal aspects of the final settlement, which has been signed by the boss and all the workers of the shop. This settlement included:

1. Rehiring all strikers and firing of the one scab.
2. An immediate wage raise of \$5 pending revision upward by further negotiations.

3. Recognition of a shop committee as the collective bargaining agency of all the workers (of the highest importance since all the workers belong to the I.P.E.).

4. Amount of employment in slow season and overtime rates to be arranged by agreement with the shop committee.

5. Guarantee of one-year employment for all men.

In a statement to the New Militant, a leading official of the I.P.E. yesterday said:

"This victory will help us quickly add many to our present membership list of 1,000. In the last two days the workers of two shops have called us in to organize them. The I.P.E. will continue to urge the Allied Printing Trades Council to back a joint drive to organize all printers in the city into the A. F. of L. The perspectives for such a drive are excellent. The Altum fight involved only a small shop but the beginning of a long struggle that will end in victory and improved conditions for all workers, including those already in the A. F. of L."

W.P. to Open Training School; In Fight Against Capitalism

The International Workers School, to show workers how capitalism exploits and keeps the masses in poverty, but better still, what to do about it, will open a district school in New York within the next two weeks, to be followed by the opening of other schools in keeping with the growth and expansion of the Workers Party, Hugo Oehler, National Educational Director of the Party, announced for the National Educational Committee of the W.P.

In addition to the International Workers School, the plans of the committee include a National Training School to train Party members. The training school will be in New York.

Party to Train Workers
"The Party through its branches and districts will select comrades throughout the country who will be sent to the National Training School for a period of training," Oehler said.

They will be trained to organize Unemployed Leagues and fight for

Facts Are Facts For Coal Miners

ILLINOIS "EXPOSURE" EXPOSED

Allard Cites P.M. of A. Records Against Article by Ralph Shaw In Labor Unity

By GERRY ALLARD

In the October Issue of Labor Unity, Ralph Shaw, it is announced, begins a series of articles in which he hopes to "expose" the Musteltes-Trotskyite elements in the coal fields of southern Illinois. Now it is common knowledge in the radical movement that truth and accuracy are held as "bourgeois prejudices" by the Stalinists. Shaw's mixture of indictments, "charges" and insinuations are written in characteristic "Labor Unity" prose: he quotes people, but consistently fails to tell the reader where the quotations can be found.

Taken as a whole his article simmers down to precisely one thing: a clear example and admission that the Communist party is no longer an important force in the Illinois coal fields.

Shaw's article is long and cumbersome. It is not necessary to answer his allegations in detail, save from one paragraph. I quote from Shaw, page 18, Labor Unity, Oct. 1934:

"Facts Are Facts"

"The Musteltes and S. P. elements helped put over the infamous 'we must accept the same scale as Lewis has with Peabody.' Here is how it was done: The Independent Operators' Ass'n. was willing to give \$5.70 to settle the strike (a reduction of 40 cents from the original contract). Rejcek and Keck did not accept it. Rejcek but came to the Convention declaring 'we want the same scale as Peabody has, no more, no less.' (Peabody scale was lower with U.M.W.A.) The Musteltes now try to disclaim responsibility for this act of betrayal but facts are facts and undeniable."

We admit that facts are facts and they are not deniable. We will therefore let the facts speak. I quote from the proceedings of the first constitutional convention of the Progressive Miners of America held at Gillespie, Ill., October 3 through October 8, 1932. On page 1 of the proceedings, Wed., Oct. 5, 1932, night session, began at 7 P.M.:

From the Record

"Scale Committee's report given: 'Peabody: The operators said that they had to have a scale that was competitive. We had a group of mechanized operators represented and out of that group one representative of the Southern Coal Co. They stated that they couldn't pay the \$6.10 scale and compete with other operators in southern Illinois. Then they brought in a proposal. They wanted us to allow their mines to operate next morning on this proposal until this convention gave their approval or rejected the scale. We said that if the mines went to work in the morning they would have to pay the \$6.10 temporary agreement. This group only represents a small group of operators. The largest operators say that if we would take this scale not only them but other large operators would sign it."

"Rejcek: The question is what are going to be our demands from now on. The mechanized operators told us very frankly that it would not be possible for them to pay any

more than \$7.00 scale. . . . As I view it we must make a wage scale that will catch most of the operators at this time in that part of the country where we hold most of our membership. The operators say they can't pay a higher wage scale than Franklin county and compete with them."

"Douglas: I think this convention should work out a differential. I think that in placing a 12c differential as you go on north you can render the situation satisfactory."

Allard Opposes Retreat

"Allard: I speak under a handicap at this convention because I am from Franklin county and my mine is working under the \$5.00 scale. There are one of two courses to pursue. One course is to retreat and the other is to retreat the strike movement. Here is where we incur lots of difficulties. The retreat proposed by the scale committee I don't believe is very well timed. There is not a section of the state that has expressed a desire to retreat. The spirit of the membership is still on the upswing."

After considerable discussion a motion was then made to accept the scale committee's recommendation, which was to stand pat on the \$6.10 temporary agreement. McGill, Springfield board member and right wing adherent moved an amendment as follows:

"McGill: I demand that they be instructed to return back and make an agreement identical in wages to this agreement in effect in southern Illinois."

50 Opposition Votes

The amendment was carried by a vote of 112 to 50. After Allard had led the opposition against the rest of the fifty opposition votes cast in the convention which included Corbridge, Steed, Fraser, Allard, Burrell, Battuello, Ansboury, Tracy, Bernard, Leveque, Scremin, etc.

In a last desperate effort to outmaneuver the right wing Allard moved the following according to the proceedings:

"Allard: Motion made that a referendum be held within two weeks."

"Motion to table. Carried 90 to 46."

From the above one can see that the debate and opposition of the left wing was vigorous. Heated discussion took place as the lefts and rights crossed swords. The left wing fought to the end trying to refer the matter for a referendum vote of the rank and file. Three Stalinists, all speakers, did not voice a single word during the debate according to the official record.

Shaw's Nightmare

Now let us compare the above facts with the nightmare in Shaw's article.

1. Shaw states, "the Musteltes and S. P. elements helped to put over the infamous slogan 'we must accept as Lewis has with Peabody.'" The convention proceedings (as Shaw says, "facts are facts") disprove this in no uncertain terms.

2. Shaw states, "the Independent Operators' Ass'n. was willing to give \$5.70 to settle the strike (a reduction of 40 cents from the original contract)."

The truth is that the original wage scale for this classification of labor, conveyors, was \$8.04, a reduction of \$1.34. Facts are facts, but Shaw is not sufficiently conversant with details to know what he is talking about.

3. Shaw states, "Peabody and Keck did not accept or reject this but came to the convention declaring we want the same scale as Peabody has, no more no less."

The facts are that Peabody, Keck and Lieutenants fought and voted to have the wage cut ratified. They will not deny this, claiming that this policy put the P.M. of A. over. Now, Shaw here is trying to cover up the treachery of Peabody and Keck. He does this unconsciously, of course, but no shrewd Stalinist gymnast would care to be quoted on such a careless faux pas.

4. Shaw states, "the Musteltes now try to disclaim the responsibility for this act of betrayal but facts are facts and undeniable."

The Musteltes and the Left wing have never gone out of their way to deny any misleading charges made by Stalinists on the matter of the wage cut in the Illinois coal fields. The records speak for themselves.

Made Supreme Sacrifice

Moreover, in freshly dug graves repose the prematurely dead bodies of miners, some of them Left wing members who made the supreme sacrifice for the wage cut and for a union of the rank and file. Let it never be said by a responsible person that the remaining Left wingers abrogated the principles of the fighting Illinois miners. It simply can't be proven even by fantastic minds of uncscrupulous jack-

IN THE UNIONS

By KARL LORE

The Labor Racket

Chicago's unions still fight the labor racketeer. The cancer which made its way into the labor movement of that city has not yet been eradicated. The agents of Murray Humphries and of the late George (Red) Barker still have influence in the workers' organizations.

The Federation News, organ of the Chicago Federation of Labor reports the efforts of the Joint Council of the International Teamsters Union to oust "Lefty" Lynch, secretary treasurer and business agent of Local 704—the coal teamsters organization. The local was originally known as the Chicago Coal Teamsters Union and was one of the locals of an independent organization, racketeer controlled. In February 1934 it affiliated to the teamsters union of the A. F. of L. and in the elections Lefty, a former officer of the old organization, was placed in the saddle again.

"It turned out," says the Federation News, "that Lynch could not forget the tactics employed by the Chicago Teamsters and it was not long before he thought that he was a new Mussolini. . . . One of his first actions after taking office was to get out a book for which he solicited advertisement from coal merchants and others costing from \$25 to \$100."

He transferred the union headquarters to his own home, miles away from the center of town where it was impossible for the membership to attend meetings or to take any active part in union affairs. Special assessments were levied against the membership at meetings with only a handful of the 3,000 members present. No accounting was made on the union books of his disbursement of organization money and the President and vice president of the union were summarily expelled when they opposed him.

Union Receivership

Charges were preferred against Lynch in the Joint Council and that worthy was expelled. The local itself has been placed in the control of a receiver by the International, elections have been held and it is hoped that another step has been taken in blasting the racketeer out of the labor movement.

It is unfortunate, however, that labor organizations generally seem to believe that the cure for a dictator is another dictator. The practice of putting the affairs of local unions under the full control of receivers has been a curse in many national unions. The racketeers had the doors opened to them in the first case by the trade union bureaucracy. The denial of the fullest trade union democracy is bound to breed the rats who fatten on the organized workers.

The classic example of this fact is, of course, the case of the New York electrical workers. H. H. Broach was sent in by the International to clean out a nest of corruption in Local No. 3. He did so and then set up a dictatorial regime of his own to "keep out the gangsters". Under the era of "enlightened dictatorship" that Broach inaugurated the same mess came into being all over again. The only guarantee of clean unionism is full democracy in the organizations of labor.

Unions and Government

Radicals and progressives have always warned against the tendency on the part of many union leaders to involve the trade union movement closely with the machinery of government. There can be

no doubt that the relations of the two have been increasingly intertwined and that the whole tendency of the NRA labor machinery has been to the labor's hands more and more in the exercise of its elementary rights. It is almost inevitable that this should happen.

A recent decision of the National Labor Relations Board illustrates how the process works and how—almost by accident—the precedents are established by which later labor's rights may be curtailed. Four workers brought a complaint against the Bennett Shoe Company of Marlboro, Mass. The company had entered into a closed shop agreement with the independent United Shoe and Leather Workers Union of which the complainants had been members. Sometime later these complainants were expelled from the union because they violated a provision of its constitution that no member could belong to any other organization in the trade (the Shoe Workers Protective Union in this case). The union demanded that the employer discharge the four, which he did in accordance with for provisions of the union contract. The fired workers appealed to the N.L.R.B.

Dangerous Precedents

The Labor Board upheld the right of the boss to discharge workers under these conditions. It ruled that "by joining the United the complainants ratified . . . the closed shop agreement. . . . By requesting and accepting membership in the United at a time when that union had already adopted the constitution they assented to it and it must therefore . . . be assumed to be . . . binding on them."

If we take such a ruling away from its setting in this particular case, it may easily be seen what a tremendous repressive effect it can have on minority groups in unions, or on insurgent groups which revolt against an independent organizational path. In substance it makes it possible for national union officials to get together with manufacturers, to impose anything on a local union and to make them like it. A local in this situation could not revolt, would find it impossible to withdraw from under its national leadership and would have to accept its command unquestioningly. . . .

Briefs

The growth of company unions in the past year is reflected in a recent report of the National Industrial Conference Board, employers statistical organization which shows that, of the companies studied 126 have company affairs while only 17 have agreements with unions. Under the New Deal 42 new company unions have been started with twelve more in process of formation. Only nine more companies signed union agreements however. . . . Another survey of 697 public utility companies shows that of the 580,000 employees covered in the survey, only twelve percent dealt with their companies through organized labor unions. In the railroad industry the figure is radically different, 75% of the 760,000 workers covered dealing through regular unions. . . . Be happy Tom Mooney. The workers of the San Francisco Market Street Railway Company—the outfit which framed you when you tried to organize their employees—has had to come to terms with the labor unions. Shorter hours, higher wages and union recognition were awarded following the general strike. . . .

Build A Marxist Library

KARL MARX—Capital (3 vols.) each.	\$2.50
Critique of Political Economy	1.25
Poverty of Philosophy	1.25
Letters to Kugelmaier	1.00
Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte	.80
Critique of the Gotha Program	.50
Selected Essays	2.00
Civil War in France	.25
F. ENGELS—Revolution and Counter-Revolution	.60
Peasant War in Germany	1.50
Condition of the Working Class in England	1.75
Socialism—Utopian and Scientific	.25
Origin of the Family	.60
Feuerbach	.60
PLEKHANOV—Fundamental Problems of Marxism	1.50
Socialism and Anarchism	.60
KARL KAUTSKY—Foundations of Christianity	2.50
Are the Jews a Race	1.50
Ethics and the Materialistic Interpretation of History	.60
The Social Revolution	.60
The Class Struggle	.60
The Labour Revolution (Reg. Price \$2.50)	1.50
LABRIOLA—Socialism and Philosophy	1.25
Essays on the Materialistic Conception of History	1.25
L. BOUDIN—The Theoretical System of Karl Marx	1.25
MORGAN—Ancient Society	2.00

BOOKS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Schluter—Lincoln, Labor and Slavery	1.00
Beard—Rise of American Civilization	3.00
Simons—Social Forces in American History	1.60
Ware—The Labor Movement in the U. S. 1880-1895	1.00
Marlen—The Road - A Novel of the Proletarian Revolution	1.50
Lorwin—Labor and Internationalism	8.00
Lorwin—The American Federation of Labor	8.00

Write for Catalogue — Mail orders promptly attended to.

PIONEER BOOKSHOP

102 East 11th St., New York City

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES and CONSTITUTION

of the WORKERS PARTY OF THE U. S.
NOW AVAILABLE IN PAMPHLET FORM
Single copies 5c. \$4.00 per hundred prepaid.

ORDER NOW
PIONEER PUBLISHERS
102 East 11th Street
New York, N. Y.