(By an IRT Subway Worker)

workers on the subways? Last

week I told of a new spirit among

the men. They are organizing

a new union, a genuine union, in

opposition to the company union!

men got some of their friends to-

gether, and started a union of their

own, in opposition to the Company

It was so easy to get the first

few dozen members that they

thought that in a few days they

would have the whole road organ-

ized, "just like that". It was not

as easy as that; but they stuck to

their task, and by the time the

Pension fake come up there were

several hundred men in the union.

and several hundred more knew all

about it, and talked to others about

it, and a new feeling was begin-

The subway workers began to

feel that maybe if they tried they

could get somewhere. They were

so "sore" about the pension graft,

added to their other grievances,

that they started flocking into the

The Two Men

men for joining the union, but it

has agreed to take these two men

back. In what capacity was not

stated by the company, but if the

union continues to grow there is

get their old rating and pay. (Since

this was written word comes to us

The name of the union is the

any one in the station department,

and they will verify the following

The Man Defied Them

doorstep so as to be able to follow

him to work the next day; he got

tired of this and finally got up in

erhood and announced that he knew

department men take notice!

We might also add the follow

AKRON, Ohio, Jan. 16 .- Using

A careful rumor was spread that

there would be no meeting for a

Rubber Strike

ing: The second month after the

A.F.ofL. Blocks

About five weeks ago, a man was

at their old pay.)

It was about this time that the

ning to get into all the men.

lying down.

Bretherhood.

story):

TWO YOUNG MEN START

What has happened to the the union was growing so fast that

FROM THE FIRING LINE

Three Convicted on Old Charge For Assisting Evicted Family

In Virden, Ill., Clarence Mayer, | family in the park." of the Workers Party, and two jobless comrades have been found guilty on charges growing out of an attempt last summer to expose and stop evictions in Virden. The New Militant is proud to print the following story of the

By CLARENCE MAYER

Last summer Galen Sutphin was served with an eviction notice to vacate the home his father had bought and mortgaged, because of illness, to the Building & Loan Association.

Although the President had said. "None shall go hungry or shelterless in America", the relief organization did not act in time to save him from being evicted and his furniture was placed in the alley lorty or fifty who tried to help the closed, he came back to Virden. next to his home on August 17, 1934. The committee from the unemployed organization practically on bond by Progressive Miners and unemployed will fight to have the leaned backwards in seeing the Mayor, the supervisor, the relief authorities, the minister, and many ence in getting a house for this evicted family. After every peaceful and legitimate means was exhausted and nothing came of it, the unemployed decided there was only one way to end evictions in Virden and that was to take the furniture into the City Park where it would have public protection and attention.

Move Furniture

park.

with the evicted.

These Terrible Unemployed!

had broken the law! They had and then appeal the case. taken the furniture in the park. had to save their faces.

other laborers, and when the State's essentials that belong to all.

Attorney and the sheriff and others stated that they go home and be good boys, they thought nothing would come of it.

Three Are Found Guilty

From August 23, when we were arrested, until January 14, 1935, A picnic of the Progressive Min- nothing happened; it was suddenly ers was going on and much atten- brought to trial and there the tion was brought to evictions by whole farce and comedy was exthe speakers, Laura Clerick and ploded in a four-day ordeal costing others. For the coal miners in the tax-payers of Macoupin County illinois know what eviction means some one thousand dollars to prove and the sympathy of the picnic was to the authorities of Macoupin County that houses are meant for people to live in, and that they were determined that that should be the The authorities were in a turmoil. case. At the end of the four days They had been foiled! What charg- the jury deliberated five hours and es could they bring against these came to a verdict of five innocent terrible unemployed who wanted a and three guilty. The three found house to live in? Gracious! They guilty will have a court decision

Galen Sutphin and family are What could they do about it? They good citizens. He worked in the coal mines many years. When they So five days later they issued closed, he went to Detroit to the warrants for eleven of the some automobile industry. When that evicted family. They served five life is a worker who wants to work. days in county jail, were released He is denied the right but like all

other people who might have influ-other people who might have influ-Germinal, "or I'll Eat a Shovel"

By Germinal

of Illino's, for the position of secto all Left Wing miners.

At two o'clock Saturday, August | Two conventions of the Progres-18, 1934, this action of moving the sive Miners of America had decreed furniture to the City Park took that "no officer should succeed The furniture was unloaded in the But Pearcy did not choose to return to the pit.

policemen on duty said, The man had become infamous "What is all this disturbance?" and among intelligent miners for his the unemployed answered, "We are hazy, topsy-turvy ideas of what a placing the furniture of an evicted progressive labor movement should

be. He claimed to oppose the ideas new union by the hundreds. SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Jan. 19 .- of the A. F. of L. in general, and The defeat of Claude E. Pearcy, the ideas of John L. Lewis in parpresident of the Progressive Miners | ticular, but this never panned out in practice. Indeed, in some in-"safer" to deal with than Lewis, and on the Semitic question he was more reactionary than the gentlemen who adorn the lofty perches of

the post of secretary-treasurer is in no way a victory. Jones is the union board member of the Belleville territory. Proclaiming to be a Socialist, he has been everything but that; unless one accepts the Oneal-Waldman - Solomon conceptions of "socialism". In the fight against "reds", support of NRA, de-militantizing the Women's Auxiliary, expulsions from the union, removal of left wing members from union positions, the right wing found an able lientenant in Jones. And when the "Jewish international bankers" scare was raised he gave being followed by "beakies" day week give us a picture of a branch elements from independent unions eloquent support by his well-timed and night, they even slept on his

Keckism Wins

was elected vice president. The | a meeting of the Company Brothsmall coal operators know they have nothing to fear from him. can attend the banquet organized Keck will make a very unpopular

What the miners will do with

union I do not know. Behind closed doors with the bosses, governors, NRA agents and the like he is at home. He is seldom seen congre-

mous than Pearcyism, believe it or every known artifice of labor misnot. Although it is unpopular to leaders, the American Federation ance took place right in the strike make such statements in advance, of Labor bureaucracy here was able clip this item and watch events for to stave off a strike vote of Firethe next six months. If Keck stone rubber workers this week doesn't turn out to be a down-right after their rank and file leaders agent of the coal operators I'll eat secretly voted "immediate action".

Program for Future

their fight. They should keep their away. The Firestone company did local organizations progressive, its share by rehiring about 75 of steer away from any unity with the militant 325 battery workers the rank and file of the U.M.W.A. sentiment. It was argued by the from the misleaders, build unem- bureaucrats that this indicated the ployed organizations, fight for more company would rehire all the othpay and better conditions, and last ers and so a strike was unnecessary! but not least, join the Workers; Refusing to admit defeat, milivation; there is no other road to an "outlaw" strike for which senti-

who wanted his money back could Two years ago they took a 10 | get it; all be had to do was to ask percent wage cut. They took it for it. Three thousand five hundred torted to go up and the men began before they knew what it was all to get more and more "sore". Five about should get their money back, or six months went by and one day and can-with no questions being two ambitious and optimistic young asked. The New Agreement

company pension graft was started

the Company got scared and pub-

lished an emphatic statement to

the effect that the pension was

REALLY voluntary, and anyone

Now comes the working agreement for the new year (1935) to decide what pay and hours the men will have. There are 16,500 men, and there are about 16.499 different working rules, ratings, wage scales, working days etc. Many men work, nights for years and years. There are over 4,000 men working underterborough Rapid Transit.

ready working eight hours, will re- ingly difficult situation caused by knows where else. ceive one half of their cut back, the collapse of the price and proand those who were working 12 duction control features of the coal hours, will receive their entire 10 code. percent cut back, and a 10 percent raise in addition, to repay them for two men who had started the union the four hours per day which they were found out and promptly fired, will lose when the 8-hour day goes but it was too late. The company into effect. The seven-day week was forced not only to stop firing is still in effect.

The men are plenty sore about the whole thing, as they expected the return of the 10 percent cut. Some locals of the Brotherhood had passed resolutions instructing their no doubt whatever that they will delegates to demand the 10 percent back, and an additional 10 percent on account of the rising cost of that they are already back at work living. More than half of the men, the lowest paid group, get nothing whatever from the agreement. The Transport Workers Union", and better paid men, those already on in case there are any who now wish eight hours, get one-half of their to join it but are afraid of being cut back, but the lower groups get fired, we respectfully refer you to nothing except a reduction in hours from nine or ten to eight.

Men Stirred Again

The men all over the road are getting stirred up again, and there is a steady stream of them coming nto the union once more

This is only the start. Worse times are coming. While wages remain the same, the cost of living continues to go up and up. What are the men going to do? How can they support families on \$20.04 to \$24.80 per week?

he was being followed and spied on What will happen? There can be to find out if he was an organizer only one answer: The men will confor the Transport Workers Union, tinne to join the Transport Workand to settle the question, he stated that he WAS an organizer and had ers Union until it is strong enough busy schedule of meetings has been Mass action is what caused Tom application eards with him at all to demand—and get—an increase for every man who is now getting times if any one wanted to join. less than a living wage. A man This man is still working. Station annot support a family, and live like a human being in New York City today on less than \$30 per

The Company would like for the men to forget about the wage cut, and to accept the present ratings as permanent, as the "basic" rate. The men, however, will never forget. I think I can say this for every worker on the line.

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SUBWAY UNION ROLLING IN THE UNIONS

Hard Facts for A.F. of L. have to be the base of their pro-Pow-Wow

A very important meeting of the men asked for their money back place at the end of January. For But then- (and this is the and got it. All who were forced to the first time since the San Fran- the Mine Workers wants the coal join, and those of the track depart- cisco convention, the eighteen big industry treated as a public utility. After the cut the cost of living ment who were fooled fitto joining chiefs of the Federation will gather The futile and ridiculous political ·lubs at home.

> feeling uncomfortable and insecure. After a short breathing spell they face the possibilities of another and even more severe strike wave. Auto labor is sore at the elections 12 hours a day, seven days a week. which are being conducted by the Many work 10 hours a day, six Automobile Labor Board and which days a week, and so on. Some of are serving to legitimatize company sary to keep labor in its proper these men have been working unionism in their industry. The Progressives in steel are planning the great drive to organize the steel ground in New York seven days a rubber workers must either take labaloo at the last convention has week on one subway alone-the In- action soon or see their union killed by a long drawn out court that such a campaign undertaken The new agreement provides the fight. Even in coal, which was so at the present time would furnish same wages as now, but with an solidly organized with a minim :13 the spark to set off explosions not eight hour day, instead of 9, 10 or of trouble by the cohorts of John only in blast furnace land but also 12 worked at present. Those al- L. Lewis, labor faces an increas- in autos, rubber, textiles and God

Times Are Tough

The A. F. of L. Research staff has just issued a report which proves that the Great White Father Franklin I), has let down his faithful labor lieutenants most shamefully. It begins its review of the year with this gloomy statement:

"As Labor reviews the year 1934 and looks ahead to 1935, we see no significant gains during 1934 in employment, real wages or hours of work. . . . Such gains as were made since the enactment of NRA were accomplished in the summer and fall of 1933. During 1934 production of mines and factories increased only slightly; production on farms decreased; the wherewithal to raise living standards was not supplied. Industrial profits on the other hand, increased, business failures decreased and the business community was in a better position to carry on profitably at the end of

increase in the number of organtions and of company un'onism, A. pathizers invited. F. of L. records show an increase to Internationals and 1,115 directly affiliated to the Federation.

of unrelieved blackness. "The ont- at once. standing fact is," the report conto put the unemployed to work. . . We find that small employment gains in manufacturing industries, coal and other mining, utilities, in all to only 170,000 new jobs for more than 11,000,000 unemployed dancing, games, supper and drinks. (certainly no extreme estimate-K. L.) and even these were offset by ing in all to 230,000 lost jobs. The J. Muste and Jay Levestone. increase in 1934 of persons seeking work approaches 400,000. . . . Un-

Wages Down; Profits Up

persons."

employment in November 1934 ex-

ceeded November 1933 by 429,000

"The workers' average yearly wage has increased 6.7 percent while the cost of food rose 11.3 percent and prices of clothes and house furnishings rose 15.3 percent. Clearly, the average employed worker's standard of living was lower in 1934 although his yearly income rose from \$1,029 in 1933 to \$1,099 in 1934. . . . Figures for average hours worked . . . show neither gain nor loss since 1933; the average was 371/4 after the codes had been established last fall; it was 371 this year."

Profits of industry, on the other hand, have gone up. The profits of 418 large corporations increased from \$605 million in 1933 to \$911 million in 1934.

Hard Facts

Those are the cold, hard facts assembled by their own research department. It will give the Executive Council plenty to chew on. This cruel set of statistics will

A major point on the agenda will be the planning of a legislative program. The thirty-hour work week, abolition of company union-Executive Council of the American ism, recognition of the principle of Federation of Labor is due to take majority rule in employee representation are on the list. Lewis of in Washington for a pow-wow. And horse trading in which the Federaalthough the pipe of peace will be tion has indulged so long, will besmoked for the benefit of the public gin agair. Nothing will be done at large, few of the braves will be to ruffle the feathers of the poliso foolish as to leave their war ticians, especially of that best democrat of them all, Franklin Delano The boys can't be blamed for Roosevelt.

Reactionary interests are pushing bills to outlaw sympathetic or general strikes and to force compulsory arbitration of all disputes. These labor leaders want to prove that they are gentlemen and that no such drastic measures are necesplace. It is interesting to note that action. Akron's strongly organized industry, announced with great hulnot yet materialized. It is feared

For the same reason every possible effort is going to be made to patch up some sort of agreement in the building trades controversy. All indications are that no compromise has yet been reached and that the main effort will be to keep the rift in the National Building Trades Council from affecting the local units. Peacemakers have pointed out to the warring factions that jurisdictional strikes which would hinder and tie up the federal building program are sure to add strength to the movement for government supervision of labor organizations.

(Notices for this column should be sent in as long in advance as possible, and if destined for a particular issue must be on the editor's desk by Tuesday morning.)

New York City

Jan. 26, Sunday evening, Irving Plaza-Max Shachtman, "Should The bright side is the constant Communists Build a Labor Party?" Feb. 2. Saturday night-District ized workers. In spite of severe Housewarming Party, 2 West 15th repression by employers, an unpar- Street, third floor. See page 1 for allelled growth of boss organiza-| story. Members, friends and sym-

Feb. 7, Thursday evening-Benefor the year of 3,369 locals affiliated fit Theatre Party, "Sailors of Cattaro". Frances Drake, chairman. Few tickets still available. Out-But otherwise the picture is one standing tickets must be settled for

Feb. 10, Sunday afternoon-Irvtinues, "private industry has failed ing Plaza. Welcoming back A. J. Muste from his nation-wide tour.

Report from Comrade Muste on conditions throughout the country. Feb. 16, Saturday night—Germantrade, service industries, amounted in Hall, 16th St. and 3rd Avenue. "Red" Cabaret and Dance. Revue,

(See ad in this issue.) Feb. 17, Sunday, 2:30 P.M.-Irvemployment losses to farm laborers ing Plaza. Debate on "Which Pro-.. and to railroad workers amount- gram for American Labor?" by A.

Friday night forums at all New York branches, including:

Feb. 1, Friday, 8:30-Branch 6, 1776 Pitkin Ave., Brooklyn. Hugo Oehler on "Should Communists Organize a Labor Party?"

Feb. 1, Friday, 8:30--1281 49th St., Brooklyn, Branch No. 7. Dick Etlinger on "Roosevelt's Program". Davenport, Ia.

Jan. 29, Tuesday, 8 P.M .-- Old Masonic Temple Auditorium, N. E. cor, of Third and Main Sts. A. J. Muste: "What Does America Face in 1935?" Tickets obtainable at Pecks Confectionery, 2224 Rockingham Rd., Davenport. Free unemployed tickets also at this address.

Kansas City, Mo. Jan. 29, Tuesday evening, Workers Library-A. J. Muste and J. P. Cannon on "The Workers Party of

St. Louis

Jan. 31, Thursday, 8 P.M.-Hibernian Hall, 3619 Finney Ave. A. J. Muste and James P. Cannon on "The Program and Purpose of the Workers Party of the U.S.* Los Angeles, Cal.

Feb. 1, Friday, 8 P.M., Walker's Auditorium, 730 S. Grand Ave .--"The Message of the Workers Party of the U. S." Speakers: Sam Meyers, Charles Curtiss and Dave Har-

Gillespie, Ill.

Feb. 1, Friday, 7:30 P.M., Socialist Party Hall -- "The Workers Party". Speakers: A. J. Muste and J. P. Cannon. Chairman: James

Tovey, Ili. Feb. 2. Saturday, 2 P.M., School House-"The Workers Party" A. J. Muste and J. P. Cannon. Chair-

man: C. H. Mayer. Springfield, Ill. Feb. 3, Sunday, 8 P.M., Carpenters Hall, 5th and Monroe Sts .-

"The Workers Party". Speakers: A: J. Muste and J. P. Cannon. Jerry Allard, chairman. Feb. 3, Sunday, 10 A.M.-All day

Left Wing Conference.

The Party at Work

MINNEAPOLIS BRANCH MOVES | state. This conference brought the FORWARD

More complete reports from Min-

force in this city. Militant members of Local 574 are making applications and becoming members of the branch. At the same time these militants are in demand for other fields of the class struggle and actually being drafted to take over leading positions in

V. R. Dunne became attached to the leadership of the St. Paul garage workers' strike. That strike is now settled with a victory for the workers. Miles Dunne was drafted for the Fargo, N. Dakota drivers local in which he has since been active, taking the leadership in one successful strike. He built the local up to a membership of approximately 700. Henry Schultz was drafted for the organization of a new and thriving local union of the Northern States Power Workers. Indications are that this new-

its demands without a strike. Since the strikes of last summer the progressive forces, not only in Local 574, but in various other unions in Minneapolis, St. Paul and throughout the state have become strengthened and the movement is taking on organized force. Our comrades are the active spirits in

ly emerging local union will win

this movement. Sometime ago the progressive Feb. 2. forces had a conference in St. Paul, participated in by militant representatives from local unions from Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Superior and other cities in this

Railroad Jobs Get Fewer and Fewer

WASHINGTON .- Railroad employment dropped to the lowest point in the year in December 1934. The Interstate Commerce Commission reports 960,769 railroaders employed in the middle of that month, as compared to the previous low o' 966,365 in January, 1934. Since September railroad employment has been below the levels of last year.

The December figure represents a 1.88% drop in employment from the previous month on class 1 railroads and .57% decrease compared to December, 1933.

WASHINGTON .- Consumers paid 11% more on their food bills (or ate less) in the two-week period ending Dec. 18, 1934, than in the corresponding period of 1933, according to Department of Labor figures on retail food prices. Prices were 11% higher than a year ago, and about 16% higher than on Dec.

FOLLOW THE NEWS IN THE

issues of the class struggle to the forefront. It has since become a regularly organized, permanent inneapolis than were available last stitution. It includes progressive buzzing with life. Since the strikes as well as from A. F. of L. unions. of last summer our Minneapolis The next conference will take place branch has definitely become the on January 26 and will be addressed leading political working class by Comrades Muste and Cannon. The conference is scheduled to adjourn in time so that the delegates by our Minneapolis branch celebrat. president. ing the occasion of the visits of Comtades Muste and Cannon. A that schedule, the town will damned sophy.

well know that there is a branch of the Workers Party in existence," such a fossil at the head of their Educational activities are not beng overlooked by our Minneapolis comrades. Regular weekly forums are being held under the auspices of a workers club organized some gating with rank and file miners, time ago. The attendance of this as he has a secret contempt for forum is steadily growing. During them. the garage workers' strike our comrades put on a strike play entitled | "Under the Clock". The perform-

HEAVY SCHEDULE IN N.Y.C.

beadquarters.

NEW YORK CITY .- The coming weeks provide a well filled program for the New York District and its branches. Following the trade union conference this weekend and a lecture by Max Shachtman on Sunday night, Jan. 27, we will hold John L. Lewis, work to win over whose lay-off crystallized strike our housewarming party the following weekend, Saturday evening,

The next event on the program is the theatre party, "The Sailors of Party. Therein lies the road to sal- tant rank and filers are planning Cattaro", Feb. 7, to be followed a iew days later by the welcome home meeting to our National Secretary, A. J. Muste at which time he will report on the tour.

Two hig events are scheduled for early in February. The first is the "Red" Cabaret and Dance to be given on Saturday evening, Feb. 16, at Germania Hall, and the second is the long heralded debate between A. J. Muste and Jay Lovestone, to projects gathered at a mass meetbe held on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 17, at Irving Plaza. Admission to the latter event is 35c and since give the men a chance to discuss the limitations of space in the hall grievances and to formulate plans will mean a rush for tickets, read- for correcting them. ers are asked to buy them well in advance from the District Office at 2 West 15th Street.

retary-treasurer, was great news stances Pearcy proved that he was place. Nothing unusual happened. himself or run for a lower office". the A. F. of L. roster. Jones, NRA Socialist The election of S. L. Jones for

William Keck, also of Belleville,

"We've got to listen to the people we deal with (coal operators). laid out for these comrades and Mooney to remain in jail these our reporter says: "By the end of many yars," sums up Keck's philo-

Keckism will become more infa-

any miner's shovel.

The rank and file should continue strike vote, keeping many workers

ment is rising. 600 At League Meet

(Special to New Militant) ALLENTOWN, Pa., Jan. 14 .--More than 600 workers on relief ing called by the Lehigh County Unemployed League on Jan. 11 to

"We must work in mud up to our knees." "We got 15 minutes for lunch." "No shelter is pro-

DRINKS 'RED' CABARET & DANCE Saturday, February 16th 9 p.m

> GERMANIA HALL 144 East 16th St., near 3rd Ave.

Dance Numbers, Singing and other Entertainment MAX SHACHTMAN, Master of Ceremonies

In advance 49c At the door 75e Tickets at International Workers School, 2 West 15th St., N. Y. C. stressed the necessity of organiza-

vided from the cold." "The water boy has only one tin cup and this spreads influenza." "The boss fired eight of us because we didn't haul enough dirt in our wheelbarrows." "The boss fired me; he said I was agltatin'." "They don't allow us anything for transportation. My bus fare is \$1.20 a week." "The place where we work is worse than a hog wal-

The assembled workers passed a resolution that the Unemployed League be adopted as the organization to represent them; that grievance committees be elected on each project; and that project grievance committees meet weekly to discuss matters of mutual interest and to carry unadjusted grievances to higher sources.

Arnold Johnson, Secretary of the National Unemployed League, in a stirring speech, warned the workers of the efforts being made to lower the rates on relief work and

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