

NEW MILITANT

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CAPITOL NEWS LETTER

By JACK ELDER

A.A.A. ACCOMPLISHMENTS
MILK PRODUCTION
CORN BELT CONDITIONS
SAGA OF SCARCITY

WASHINGTON.—News from the New Deal's agricultural front becomes more ominous from day to day. What crop curtailment failed to accomplish, the drought has brought to a dramatic finale. Supplies of meats, grains, vegetables, dairy and poultry products are, as a consequence, running short. The shortage reflects itself in the continued boosting of food prices.

The Agricultural Situation for February 1, 1935, an official publication of the United States Department of Agriculture gives a straight-forward and frank account. Farm stocks on corn (as of January 1) amounted to 800 million bushels—about 300 million bushels "under the shortest supply shelves" recorded.

From October to December 1934, less than 580 million bushels of corn were used in the country, as compared with about 920 million bushels used during the same period a year earlier. As the government experts put it,

"That gives an idea as to how the feeders have lightened up. Of course there are fewer pigs to be fed. But men everywhere are feeding with one eye on the go and with another on the other on the calendar."

Milk Production Lowest on Record

Consider the effects of the tight feed situation upon the production of milk. The production per cow in January was 10.88 pounds. This is the lowest yield which the Bureau of Agricultural Economics has ever recorded. It compares with an average January yield during past years of 12.12 pounds. Even this average, it is important to note, was by no means sufficient to provide American children with the quantity of milk required for health and growth.

More than a million milch cows were disposed of last year, the "greatest reduction in the 55 years recorded". Why such a reduction in the face of higher prices for milk, butter and cream? The answer is simple: Feed prices have soared to such an extent as to throw out of balance the cost-price ratio on which dairy farmers depend for their earnings.

The "poultry industry" we are informed, "is another which has had to tighten up its belt this winter". (Nothing is said about the tightening of belts by wage earners who have had to discard the luxury of chickens and eggs.)

The number of hens and pullets per flock average 78.4 as compared with the 5-year average number of 88.9. The average farm flock in the Central States was producing 15 eggs in January as compared with 19.3 eggs per flock a year earlier.

CORN BELT CONDITIONS

With regard to Corn Belt conditions

(Continued on Page 3)

Cuban Workers in Island-Wide General Strike

Darcy Takes The Stand In Sacramento

C. P. Organizer Testifies His Party Stands For -- Reform!

By Special Correspondent
SACRAMENTO, MARCH 8.—The Communist Party has fired its biggest gun in the Sacramento criminal syndicalism trial. This week Sam Darcy, District No. 13 organizer, took the stand and testified. In direct examination this member of the Central Committee set the keynote of what was to come by his abstract vagueness on all questions, and by his assertion that "the power might fall into the laps of the workers". Then came cross examination: the stage was set for this leader to explain to the jury and to the workers of California the revolutionary platform in thundering tones. But there in the crisis, in the critical hour, the big gun refused to roar; the trigger was pulled and from the cannon's mouth issued . . . social reformism!

The cross opportunism of Darcy's testimony came as a shock even to those who were expecting the worst from a Communist bureaucracy which is becoming increasingly racked by the delusion that it is to be forced underground. When contrasted with the revolutionary testimony offered by the Workers Party defendant, Norman Mini, three weeks ago, Darcy's statements are revealed as a complete capitulation to middleclass reformism.

Is This the Communist Party?

When asked what his party would do when a majority of the people supported it, Darcy, instead of describing the road to power the workers must inevitably follow (as Mini had done) refused to say anything!

The question of the seizure of power was the showdown. Where Mini had told how the Workers Council would develop from simple united fronts for workers' defense into national organizations embracing all the toiling population, Darcy in the same situation said not one word about the soviet.

Where the Workers Party representative told about the formation of the proletarian militia that would defend the workers' organizations and enforce the will of the Councils, Darcy, believe it or not, said: "The workers' and farmers' government might come about by universal suffrage."

Mini told how the Workers and Farmers Councils would declare themselves to be the new government in the name of the whole people and would use the revolutionary forces to suppress and expropriate the capitalists; Darcy, in his turn, told how the American government might "collapse" and "fall into the laps of the workers" by an event and the collapse of czar-

(Continued on Page 4)

Ohio League Congress Holds Impeachment Over Governor

COLUMBUS, Ohio, March 11.—Action toward impeachment proceedings will be started against Governor Martin L. Davey if he refuses to comply with the demands of the unemployed, according to a resolution adopted at a special emergency conference of the Ohio Unemployed League here yesterday and today. Conference delegates were to see Davey today. The con-

Workers Party Sends Letter To P. P.

The following letter calling for the "further unification of the revolutionary forces" has been sent to the Proletarian Party by the Workers Party:

Proletarian Party of the U. S. c/o John Keracher, National Secy. Chicago, Ill.

On December 1-2, 1934, the Communist League of America (Trotskyists) and the American Workers Party held a union convention in New York City. The Workers Party of the United States was formally launched by the merger of these two organizations on the basis of a Declaration of Principles and Constitution which had been formulated by joint committees and unanimously adopted in the conventions of the two organizations.

We regard it as a noteworthy development that after a decade of splits and disintegration in the revolutionary movement, two organizations should have set an example of unification on the basis of a thorough-going Marxist and Leninist program.

The revolution of forcing all healthy revolutionary forces in the United States is of the utmost urgency and importance. The mobilization of the left progressive forces in the unions, the organization of the masses in the basic industries and of the unemployed, the waging of effective strike struggles in the big industries, the combating of Fascism and war, as well as the rallying of revolutionary forces throughout the world, after a period of demoralization and defeat, for a victorious attack upon capitalism and imperialism—the achievement of all these depends in large measure upon the building of an effective revolutionary party in the United States. Elements in unifying the revolutionary forces, and especially those which are already agreed on accepting neither the Socialist party nor the Communist Party, the Second International nor the Third, is dangerous and may be fatal. On the other hand, further positive steps toward this goal will have an electrifying effect upon the working class in the United States and throughout the world.

We present herewith copy of the Declaration of Principles and Constitution of the Workers Party of the United States for your immediate consideration. We believe that you are in agreement with this proposition. If you are, it should not be difficult to initiate a serious objective discussion on this urgent question of further unification of the revolutionary forces, thus providing added impetus to the building of the new revolutionary party and the new international.

For Political Committee W.P.U.S.
Fraternally yours,
A. J. MUSTE,
National Secretary

SETTLEMENT IN SIGHT FOR DENTAL MECHANICS

Twenty more dental laboratories have signed up with Dental Technicians Equity, bringing the total of shops covered by agreements to sixty, in the first week of the general strike of dental mechanics in the metropolitan area.

As yet, no disorder is reported on one of the widest spread picket lines in recent strike history—764 laboratories in the metropolitan area are being picketed by the 1,100 members of the union.

Negotiations are in progress with the Dental Laboratory Owners and Union officials are optimistic a favorable agreement will be reached. The Associated Dental Laboratories continues its refusal to negotiate.

vention stayed in continuous session from 10 A.M. Sunday to 4 P.M. Monday.

Representing 128,859 organized unemployed from 63 counties in Ohio, 380 delegates declared that "the brutal indifference and criminal neglect of the welfare of the unemployed displayed by Gov. Davey demonstrate that he is unable or unwilling to serve the interest of the people and should be impeached."

Hit Sales Tax

The League also voted to initiate a referendum to repeal the state sales tax, declaring that "the tax is a burden on the poor to relieve the taxation of the rich" and advocating in its place taxation of income of corporations and individuals earning \$5,000 or more per year.

Support was voted for the Workers' Security Bill initiated by the National Unemployed League. This provides for a \$10,000,000,000-a-year public works program, unemployment and social insurance, and a 30-hour week for public and private employment. Funds for the public works program are to be obtained by taxes on incomes over \$5,000.

Pending establishment of unemployment insurance, the bill provides that Congress shall appropriate \$5,000,000,000 for immediate cash relief of \$10 a week for each unemployed worker and \$4 for each dependent. The Ohio League is preparing to participate in the Caravan to Washington of the National Unemployed League in May, before Congress adjourns, to press passage of the Security Bill.

AF of L Busy Sabotaging Akron Strike

Leaders Fear They Are Losing Grip On Rubber Union

AKRON, Ohio.—Desperately striving to keep its grip over the rubberworkers unions here and to regain some of its lost strength, the A. F. of L. is bringing those clever demagogues and notorious working class betrayers, John L. Lewis, president of the U.M.W.A., and Francis J. Gorman, of textile strike disrepute, to address mass rallies, Coleman G. Claherty, A. F. of L. bureaucrat and organizer for the rubber industry, told newspapermen.

This action resulted after a three weeks drive for membership brought but few of the thousands of workers back into the union. They had dropped out because of the A. F. of L. inactivity.

Meanwhile, even the United Rubberworkers council, governing body of the rubber unions, and special tool of Claherty, passed a resolution to press "immediate action". Similar motions on union meetings have led the workers to believe that a strike is sanctioned, but they are reeking without the ingenuousness of the bureaucrats to forestall any real action. Of course, no unfortunate of strike is made. Unfortunately, the workers are under the impression that a strike will be called early in April, or that they can wait until then to pull a successful one. Progressives are fighting hard to press action sets in and it is an open question whether it can be opened or not.

Wall Street's Priest

Father Coughlin Wins Fame and Fortune with Red Scare -- Says Henry Ford Is a Communist

By DAN EASTMAN
This is the second of a series of articles on Father Coughlin, delayed for a month for lack of space. It proves timely in the light of Coughlin's recent burst into the news with a semi-indorsement of that other arch-demagogue, Huey Long, and his tri-corner debate with Long and General Johnson.

Father Coughlin hardly had time to settle down in his new parish and deliver his first sermon before he was negotiating a weekly broadcast. Three weeks after his appointment he was on the air over station WJR in Detroit, at \$8 per week, a first deal mainly with church and Sunday school topics, social and political problems. By 1929 he had influence enough to secure a three station hookup, but it was not until after a series on Russia and the Red Serpent, in the early part of 1930 that he really hit his stride.

The Red Serpent

Let us quote from the first of his series on the Red Serpent, it sets the tone for his subsequent career.

"America," he announced, "is tainted with the purple poison of Bolshevism. Between it and the Catholic Church there is war to the death. Our weapons are truth and charity. He goes on to quote from a personal letter I, he received from Harry A. Jung, 'The hellish conspiracy fomented by the Godless government of Russia, etc.' etc" and concludes, "There speaks a patriot!"

Harry Jung, we recall, is notorious as a professional anti-Semite and red baiter, a man who has dedicated himself to raising funds from frightened capitalists, both Jew and Gentile, for the purpose of spreading vulgar, criminal slanders about Communists, Socialists, Jews, foreigners, etc. An ideal type of what Father Coughlin calls a "patriot", a proponent of "truth and charity"

Christ's Prime Minister

"The international socialists," Coughlin continued, "are unwilling to assist in building up a better navy and a stronger army to protect a country where Christ is still king."

Protect the teaching of Christ, cries the Catholic priest, protect it with rifles, machine guns, artillery, bombs, torpedos, gas and high explosive. Millions for bloody slaugh-

ter and destruction so that Christ may remain king, and Father Coughlin continue on the radio as his prime minister!

"Have I any suggestions to offer?" he asks helpfully. "There are plenty of them. We can start with the leaders of industry. We can ask them to better the conditions of their laborers."

A novel idea indeed! (Why bother to organize and strike? Just ask those kind hearted capitalists who shudder every time a worker is murdered on the picket line, to better the conditions of their laborers. Why hasn't someone thought of it before?)

Coughlin and Hearst

As for the rest of the series, to quote L. B. Ward again, "Father Coughlin continued to detail for his audiences the advance of Communism in America—he drew a picture of the red serpent as it crawled from campus to campus." (Father Coughlin and W. R. Hearst have always been on good terms. The Detroit Times, a Hearst paper, has given him much favorable notice, the whole Hearst chain has carried articles by the good father on the nationalization of women in Russia, and he chose bits of cheap hysteria.) "He drew a picture of the serpent crawling from campus to campus. . . . He mentioned by name Bertrand Russell (sheer courage!) who was a guest at (Indiana State) etc. etc."

The series on The Red Serpent brought notice from several quarters.

None other than the ubiquitous Norman Thomas who hastens from pillar to post explaining to capitalists and workers alike that Socialism is not so bad as it sounds, charged Father Coughlin with "A serious misrepresentation of socialism and of the Socialist party, and a hopeless confusion of it with communism." Thomas endeavors to point out the difference between the dark beatitude of socialism and the rosy horror of communism to Father Coughlin, alas for Thomas, proved unsuccessful.

Father Coughlin's Red Scare

The J. Ham Fish Commission investigating subversive doctrine (J. Ham Fish is best remembered as the red-baiting congressman whose address to Congress, due to a very appropriate typographical error, was once printed in the N. Y. Herald Tribune, in the weekly pet column under a large picture of a guppy fish), meeting in Detroit in

(Continued on Page 3)

Mendieta Sustained By Wall Street Army Alone

Intolerable Conditions Result of American Sugar Imperialism, Cause of Permanent Unrest All Support to the Cuban Workers!

Wall Street's most important semi-colony, Cuba, is now in the throes of a nation-wide general strike. Martial law has been declared. The death penalty has been decreed for all those offering open opposition to the government. The trade un-

Ark. Workers College Is In Danger

By GERRY ALLARD

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—Commonwealth Labor College, the Arkansas trail blazer for workers' education, is in danger. The state legislature of Arkansas, a special investigating committee, the Ku Klux Klan, and other landlord-capitalist agencies are working overtime to wreck the proletarian institution—product of ten years of painstaking work.

The college needs no introduction to the militant labor movement. Back in 1930-31 this institution sent a delegation of teachers and students to black Herlan County, Kentucky, to aid the hungry coal diggers establish a union.

Again when the Illinois miners marched by tens of thousands against the betrayals of John L. Lewis in 1932, the Commonwealth plunged into the struggle and performed courageous work. Though they were the first to be arrested, the Commonwealth delegation performed a role of solidarity with the Illinois miners which the Left wings haven't forgotten.

When the share cropper situation popped up, right at the door of Commonwealth in Arkansas, again teachers and students laid aside their studies to enter the fight against the reactionaries. Desperate wealthy landlords, the exploiters of vast cotton plantations, were quick to intensify their reign of terror. Ploppings, kidnappings, jailings and threatened lynchings became the order of the day.

Lucien and Raymond Koch, Commonwealth teachers, were arrested, beaten and thrown into jail. The raiders had a noose with them. Horace Bryant, an unemployed organizer in western Arkansas was arrested and charged with anarchy. C. C. Williams, a clergyman was also arrested. Other laborites, preachers, A. F. of L. members, etc. are being arrested and threatened daily.

Summarily a bill was introduced in the Arkansas house of representatives aimed to destroy the labor movement in the state, and especially designed to wreck Commonwealth College.

The labor movement must answer these attacks with a real united counter movement.

ions have been declared dissolved. A great struggle is under way between the workers, professionals and students on the one hand and the agents of American imperialism on the other. Hundreds of thousands of the most oppressed people under Wall Street's domination are desperately attempting to overthrow the Sugar Trust's Cuban lackeys.

For weeks, strikes and bombings have harassed the Mendieta government which in turn has replied with a reign of terror against all of its adversaries. A strike of teachers and students, spread from one province to the other, extended to various industries and professions. As this issue of the **New Militant** goes to press, practically all labor and professional groups in Cuba, including most of the government employees as well as on strike. The nation is paralyzed. The capitalist press reports the strike is being broken by military terror. Its accounts are obviously exaggerated.

The present outburst in Cuba came as a surprise to no one acquainted with recent developments on the island. The very narrow social base that Mendieta once had, as with Machado in 1934, has been washed away from under him until his sole supports today are the army under Batista and American imperialism, represented by Jefferson Caffery.

Cuban Labor

In spite of division and persecution, the Cuban labor movement has recently conducted a number of exceedingly militant struggles. The increasing poverty of the masses following the loss of the gains made during the "Autentico" (Gruau San Martin) regime (Sept. 1933-Jan. 1934), drove them again to militant action and revolutionary conspiracies and terrorist activities of the petty-bourgeois parties and groups alternated with strikes of the workers on plantations and in the mills. In some places the peasants and agricultural workers seized landed estates.

The impotence of the government increased as the waves of the new upsurge washed away its social base. The general political strike is but the culmination of a whole series of violent, bloody struggles, which open the way for new revolutionary advances of the Cuban masses.

A Crisis Regime

The Mendieta regime was born in crisis and has lived in a state of permanent crisis. Time and again when its life appeared threatened, the imperialist masters were obliged to take steps to prolong it. Among these measures were the renoucement of privileges under the "Platt Amendment" by which the United

(Continued on Page 3)

N.U.L. Paper Announces Club For Jailed Heroes of Labor

Formation of the John Brown Honor Society, with Tom Mooney as honorary president, "to honor all workers arrested in the fight for the right of the working people" is announced in a front page story in the first issue of Mass Action, organ of the National Unemployed League, which has just come off the press.

Members of the 56-or-Nor Club

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—Business Manager.

Roosevelt OK's Machine Gun Squads Formed In Sacramento

Below we reproduce excerpts from a column, "Sacramento" in the Sacramento Union. It reveals what the good citizens of Sacramento are preparing for workers who engage in "strikes and other disturbances"—machine guns, riot guns, gas.—And all with the approval of President Roosevelt and the Federal authorities!

"Vigilante talk in the criminal syndicalism trial has caused several readers to inquire if a secret 'Ku Klux' organization is being formed in Sacramento to exterminate radicals and stir up trouble. The answer is no. There is no secret organization being built up. There is an official special police system being formed at the request of President Roosevelt and federal authorities.

"These special police are picked men, voluntarily enrolled in a corps that is being given strict military and police training with the full knowledge and authority of Police Chief Hallanan and his department. . . .

"The purpose of these special officers . . . is to create a special defense organization in event of disturbance by radicals. Their selection and their activities are strictly within the law, and part of the law. . . . It is an emergency arrangement, not due to any im-

mediate danger, but one inspired by the San Francisco general strike.

"Citizens are not being spied on or annoyed, except those who are regularly watched by the federal government's, secret agents. The radical movement has always been kept under careful scrutiny and will be so long as it foments strikes or other disturbances. We have no vigilantes in the community, just a reserve police force functioning without cost to the taxpayer and organized as a precautionary and defensive measure for service whenever needed."

The nature of this "precautionary and defensive" police force, "within the law, and part of the law" is shown in another item, from the Sacramento Bee:

MITTLESTAEDT IS TO TRAIN

"POLICE TO QUELL RIOTS

"One of the first official acts of Colonel R. E. Mittlestaedt when he assumes the newly created duties of police commissioner next Monday will be to inaugurate a training course in combatting gang warfare and riotous demonstrations.

"Special squads will be selected and trained in the use of sub-machine guns, riot guns and tear gas bombs."