

Capitol News Letter

By JACK ELDER

WASHINGTON, D. C.—To the despair of the Brain Trust "economic planners," the cotton textile mess grows worse from day to day.

True, the AAA program has succeeded in raising raw cotton prices, which was its primary objective.

Plantation owners, for the time being, enjoy larger incomes. Section 77 of the law notwithstanding, the plantation owners have not seen fit to share more than a microscopic portion of the benefit payments with their tenants.

Higher prices for raw cotton have raised the cost of living for workers and farmers in general. It is not the manufacturers, in the last analysis, who pay the processing taxes.

Equally fatal to the public welfare have been the consequences of the NRA. Minimum wage rates have gone up under the cotton textile code—in theory, on paper.

Cotton textile employers, during the early days of the code at least, made money hand over fist. They were able to do so because prices soared abruptly, while labor costs remained virtually stagnant.

The latest development is vigorous lobbying by the cotton textile manufacturers to get rid of the processing tax. They threaten to call a strike of capital, to close down their mills, unless the government dips into the Work Relief funds to pay the plantation owners their benefits.

While share-croppers are kicked off the land; while textile mill operators go jobless; while America's share of the world cotton trade dwindles; while spindles and looms shut down; while high clothing prices impose a heavy burden on the wage earner's purse, the New Deal plunges ahead blindly as before.

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In Every City and in Every Nation History of May Day Strikes, Demonstrations, Revolution

May Day, as a day of revolution-ary labor demonstration, was born in America during the struggle for the eight-hour day.

On October 7, 1884, the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor, meeting in Chicago, drew up an audacious resolution: Resolved, that eight hours shall constitute a legal day's labor from May 1st, 1890.

Chicago Center of Struggle The center of the eight-hour day movement was Chicago. From that city radiated the eight hour leagues, formed for the sole purpose of pushing the eight hour day.

In 1889 the first congress of the Second International adopted May Day, and instructed all its sections, "in all cities and all countries on the appointed day to demand of the state authorities the legal recognition of the working day to eight hours."

May Day Comes to France France, the home of revolution, first took up the banner. In 1890 there were monster strikes throughout the industrial section of the North. The government, fearful of the workers, called out the army, and only succeeded in suppressing the workers after eight days.

In Italy In 1898 in Italy the whole working class came out to protest the rise in the cost of bread. There were continuous battles with the army from April 27 until the 6th of May.

In Russia during the years 1902, 03, 04, 05, the years of rising revolution, May Day was the occasion for fierce battles, omens of the revolution of 1917.

May Day During the War The Great War intervened. The Second International betrayed its trust to the working class. During the war the official parties counseled the workers to pass over May Day, to observe it in peace.

"YOUNG SPARTACUS" OUT! The monthly organ of the Spartacus Pouth League, "Young Spartacus" is off the press. Articles concerning May Day, the Yipsels, Student Strike, etc. are featured.

WORKERS Protect Yourself Against the Hazards of Life. Join the WORKMEN'S SICK & DEATH BENEFIT FUND OF THE U.S. Organized, managed by and for workers with only one purpose: to render protection to members and their families.

But May Day cannot be downed. In every country a few true revolutionists worked to celebrate May Day as it should be celebrated.

In Germany In Germany Kari Liebknecht, almost alone against the Prussian government, against opposition of his own party, organized the masses in Berlin, the workers protested the senseless war; the germ of the German revolutions of 1918 and 1920 were born in the war time May Day celebrations.

May Day in 1917 And in Russia in 1917, May Day came of age. May Day 1917 was a milestone on the road from February to November, on the road from capitalism to the workers state.

After the War In 1918 and 1919 May Day was celebrated in every country of the world by innumerable masses of workers. The post-war revolutionary upsurge was in full swing.

Back to the U. S. Even in America, which for years disregarded the Day, woke up. In many cities there were parades and demonstrations.

But the promise of the May Days of 1919, 1920 was not fulfilled. The revolution entrenched itself in Russia, but failed in Germany, in Austria, in Italy.

On May Day 1935 the American workers are celebrating in larger numbers than ever before, even than during the driving days of 1890. The eyes of the workers throughout the world are turned with hope toward America.

A Sacramento Juror Weeps

CP's "Vigilante" Is Only Human After All

(Herbert Solow, newspaper correspondent and editor, is one of the founders of the Non-Partisan Labor Defense, and was its special representative in California during the Sacramento trial.—Ed.)

By HERBERT SOLOW Eight young men and women have been sentenced to San Quentin for one to fourteen years . . . because they dared to organize fellow-workers in the rich agricultural valleys of California and to strike for higher wages and better working conditions.

Attorney Albert Goldman, Chicago Socialist retained by the Non-Partisan Labor Defense on behalf of Norman Mini, a member of the Workers Party, moved for a new trial for all defendants on the basis of McIntire's affidavit.

Half an hour after the verdict was recorded the writer, accompanied by Goldman, walked past a Sacramento hotel. From a lobby window, McIntire and Mrs. Keith, another juror, signalled us to come in.

New Deal Paradise Summed Up

18,000,000 people dependent on emergency relief. 10,000,000 people on relief work. 1933, 14,500 persons fatally injured in industry. 55,000 persons sustained permanent injury. 3,000,000 persons over 65 years of age (one half the total dependent on others for their support).

Machine Guns In Ohio Strike

COLUMBUS, Ohio.—The county authorities have evolved a novel method of "preserving peace." When strikers of the Columbus packing Co. who are out four hundred strong, displayed some home-spun militancy in treating scabs, the authorities retaliated by ordering 10,000 rounds of machine gun ammunition.

Neither Sheriff Anderson nor the chief of police are any too popular with the strikers. When the police chief, Kundts, came around to investigate he was greeted with boos and cat calls from the pickets.

Of four hundred and fifty men in the plant four hundred are out. The company has succeeded in hiring a few scabs, but has been unable to make any deliveries. The strike is for a closed shop.

WHAT TO ATTEND

May 4, Saturday, 8:30 P.M.—Branch 1 Housewarming and Dance at new headquarters, 420 E. 19th St. Dancing, refreshments, entertainment, chess and checkers. Everyone invited.

May 3, Friday, 8:30 P.M.—What the \$5,000,000,000 Bill Means for the Unemployed Worker. Speaker: E. R. McKinney, 420 East 19th St. between Avenue A and 1st Ave. (1 night up) Auspices Branch 1, W.P.

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CORRECTION The Pittsburgh Branch headquarters of the W. P. is located at 546 Sixth Avenue.

Battles in Chicago and in Milwaukee The First May Day

Let us Remember the Martyrs of 1886

The first of May, the workers' international holiday, is still regarded by many workers in the United States as something foreign, imported to these United States by a "lot of foreign radicals."

The response of the workers to the first May Day in history was truly magnificent. All sections of the labor movement responded. Parades and torchlight processions were held in dozens of cities.

On the first day of May of each year the workers also commemorate the death of those who struggled and died for a better and more decent life here on earth.

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world. Following is a brief review of the turnout in various cities of the country called for the May 2, 1886, issue of the New York Tribune.

Chicago: There is no exaggeration in the statement that scarcely an industry in the city has escaped being enormously affected. More than two-thirds of all manufacturing establishments closed. Riots were carried in parades.

St. Louis:—All plumbers out on strike. 7,000 turn out (for May Day). Jay Gould hanged in tor.

Philadelphia:—Street car companies threaten use of colored workers as scabs if men go out. Men go out.

Cincinnati:—About 1,000 workers work today to demonstrate for the 8 hour day.

Concord, N. H.:—Woolen mills closed. Men out on strike. Special policemen hired.

St. Paul and Minneapolis:—All plumbers in twin cities quit work. Demand shorter workday and increase in pay.

Louisville:—6,000 working men paraded the streets here on May 1.

Pittsburg:—3,000 coal miners threaten strike unless company grants ten percent increase in pay.

Milwaukee:—Over 3,000 men out on strike this first of May.

Baltimore:—2,000 carpenters strike for eight hour day with increase in pay.

Akron:—The new eight-hour law which went into effect has caused great excitement. Business men are depressed. Workers are demanding ever greater and greater increases in pay.

St. Louis in Union Sq. New York:—20,000 in Union Square. Working men march into square with torches blazing. Striking sugar house workers from Brooklyn receive tremendous ovation as they enter the Square.

From St. Louis to New York, from the Missouri Pacific to the Third Avenue Railway, from St. Louis to Hart the labor organizations of America are united.

Historically the above is one of the first May Day speeches made in America or anywhere in the world. Swinton's speech in 1886 can be repeated today, May Day, 1935, 50 years later, with much greater hope of its fulfillment.

Hollywood Fury

It is not often that films are reviewed in the columns of the New Militant. The truck disgorged by that moulder of "public opinion," the Hollywood cinema industry, is usually so banal as to make comment at all quite unnecessary.

For what is warning is not the way the workers live or act; nor is it the way workers should live and act under given circumstances—but the way Hollywood and its barons want the workers to live and behave.

Such a presentation is the recently released and much touted film "Black Fury" dealing with miners and their union and bosses and their hired thugs.

Were the film to deal with these situations honestly, that is, the conflict between miners and their bosses who hire thugs from scab agencies to supplement their own coal and iron police, the picture would mark a milestone in the development of the motion picture art.

"Black Fury" tells the story of how the miners are incited by an agitator in the union who exposes the misery of the workers and calls upon them to defy the half-a-loaf policy of their timid leadership.

This worker who makes the most militant speech in the course of the film turns out to be a plant of a scab agency. He works in the ranks of organized labor to foment trouble, thus enabling the scab agency to cash in when a strike is declared. The men go out on strike in defiance of the union leaders.

The scab agency then notifies the mine owners that they are ready to send in scabs and special armed deputies to protect property. The mine owners are shown to be really nice sort of guys who stand agast at the thought of trouble. No violence, they plead, just protect our property.

Then there are a few striking scenes of police brutality. Of course the real iron and coal police are not even so much as seen wielding a nightstick. It's only the agency police that do all the dirty work.

In an effort to rescue a girl from being pawed by one of the special thugs one of the striking miners, who didn't want the strike in the first place because he's solid behind the half-a-loaf union, is killed. His friend, who has been on a jag because his girl ran off with a cop, decides to avenge his friend's death. He learns that his friend wanted the men to stay out now until the old agreement was reestablished in the industry. Getting himself a lot of dynamite and bread he prepares for a single handed siege of the mine.

And so by blowing up some sections of the mine and threatening to blow the whole damn mine to pieces the bosses finally give in, the New Deal steps in and arrests the trouble makers, the leaders of the scab agency—oh yes, and the girl who ran off with the cop returns to the arms of Mr. Muni and I presume they lived happily ever after.

I think that the synopsis of the story should be enough to caution any workers from wasting his two bits on this drunken jag into the class struggle. Pick up a good movie opera or a musical—the real movie of the class struggle in America is yet to be born.

Greetings FROM PIONEER PUBLISHERS AND BOOKSHOP 96 Fifth Avenue, N. Y. C. Books of All Publishers Special May Day Offer The History of the Russian Revolution By LEON TROTSKY 3 VOLUMES Reg. Price \$10.00 Our Price \$5.00