

# NEW MILITANT

Weekly Organ of the Workers Party of the U.S.

VOL. 1, NO. 20

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1935

PRICE 3 CENTS

## Toledo Leads Revolt of Auto Workers

### May Day March Biggest in Post-War History

W. P. Section Voices Solidarity with Toledo at G. M. C. Building

NEW YORK, May 1.—More than 100,000 trade unionists and members of working class organizations marched in the biggest May Day parade New York has seen since the war. Heading the march were the strongest unions in the city, the unions of the needle trades, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America and the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. Hundreds of locals of other unions fell into line behind them, carrying militant banners proclaiming the struggle to the bitter end against Fascism and imperialist war.

The contingent of the Workers Party of the U. S., and of the youth organizations, the Spartacus Youth League and the Young People's Socialist League, lent color and strength to the whole march with their flying red banners and their vigorous songs of the international revolutionary movement. Time and again the strains of the "Internationale" and the "Red Flag" echoed in the city's streets as the marchers proceeded uptown from 15th Street and Eighth Avenue. Tremendous crowds greeted the demonstrators, lining up by the tens of thousands along the sidewalks and returning lustily cheers and greetings.

#### Boos for Hearst

As the workers ranked the building which houses the Hearst publications, on Eighth Avenue in the 60s, powerful boos and shouts of derision gave vent to a storm of protest against "Workers' Enemy No. 1." Each contingent that passed vied with the others in making felt its deep hatred for this dispenser of reactionary venom against the Soviet Union and the American revolutionary labor movement.

#### Solidarity with Toledo

A block further up, at the central offices of the General Motors Corporation, the sector of the parade which included the Workers Party and the Spartacus Youth League turned into a ten minute demonstration of solidarity with the embattled Chevrolet strikers in Toledo. For fully ten minutes the air vibrated with an immense chorus of voices shouting "Support Toledo Chevrolet Strikers," "Down with General Motors Company Unions" and other militant strike slogans.

As the W. P. column entered Columbus circle, headed for the Central Park entrance, the ranks lining up in military formation behind the banner reading "Workers Party, U. S. A.—For the Fourth International" resounded with a volley of cheers for the new International, for the International of Lenin and Trotsky.

#### Leaders Kowtow to Cops

At the park entrance on West 72nd Street, the parade was finally

(Continued on Page 4)

### Sub-Getters, On the Job!

As the sub drive enters its fourth and last month with competition keen, Frank Collins of Allentown has established himself as the undisputed leader of the sub-hustlers for the month of April. His enviable record was a score of 25 full year subs. The prize goes to him.

From everywhere in the country we hear reports of the activities of the Workers Party. Everywhere the party is on the firing line. In Toledo, once again our members are lighting the prairie fire of class struggle. As the lines draw and the conflict sharpens, the workers need a voice to lash out against the lies of the kept press. The daily strike papers are the union voice. The New Militant is the political voice. The most casual glance at the periodicals issued by other sections of the labor movement will confirm our assertion that the New Militant leads in Marxian direction and most clarity.

Most important is that the New Militant finds a similar appreciation among the thousands of striking union and unemployed workers. No miracle will accomplish this. Indeed, no amount of wishful thinking and self-praise will lead the workers to a condition where it is just as natural for them to read the New Militant every week as it is now for them to buy the daily capitalist press every morning.

What we need is pluggers, of the type of Frank Collins. More Frank Collins means more men and women, young and old, inside and outside the party.

The job is comparatively easy, nothing compared with some of the tasks our party members face on the picket lines. Reports from some of the leading hustlers hint that it doesn't take overmuch lung exertion to persuade a casual New Militant reader to become a subscriber.

But it needs a little punch and a little zest. The same reporters say that the subs did not fall into their laps, they had to go out and get them.

Let's have a little action! And let our party members show the way! The delinquent branches and comrades—and there are too many of them now—are urged to put their shoulders to the wheel.

Speed it up! Only one month left! At the end of the trail are prizes for the champion and capital for the party!

1 year \$1.00; — 6 months 65c. Special combinations are listed elsewhere in this issue.

#### NEW MILITANT

2 West 15th Street

New York, N. Y.

Comrades:

Please enter my name for [ ] one year, \$1.00; [ ] six months, 65c.

Name .....

Address .....

City .....

State .....

### Highlights of May Day on Union Square

A comrade who left the tame and stultified May Day Concert at Central Park to seek revolutionary inspiration at the Stalinist Union Square demonstration sends us the following unforgettable snapshot of the high light of this affair, which, if not so revolutionary, was at least unique. The description of this hilarious novelty is taken from the New York Herald-Tribune. Comment on our part would be superfluous. There is no need to gild the Lily of the Valley. Here is the clipping:

Major J. Divine, the little Harlem Negro who calls himself God, stole the show from the Fourteenth Street mortals with the aid of two thousand of his black angels and cupids who had marched to the Square while he rode in a limousine with a liveried chauffeur and footman. A stuffed dove of peace perched on the radiator of the car.

A grinning brown-skinned man of middle age, arrayed in a pink shirt and brown suit, Father Divine spoke briefly into the microphone and aroused more applause than all the other speakers.

"Peace be to every one," said Father Divine

"Peace, father," his disciples shouted.

"Good health and good will," said Father Divine.

"Thank you, father," was the response.

"Unify yourselves with righteousness and justice."

"Amen, father."

It was a strange speech for Union Square.

Father Divine was not a Communist, he explained, but had agreed to join with his followers in a demonstration against war and Fascism. The banners carried by his followers were more concerned with Father Divine than with current issues. Some of them read:

"Father Divine is God."

"Father Divine is the lily of the valley."

"Father Divine is the light of the world and the bright and shining star."

"There is no space where Father Divine is not."

"Over 20,000,000 people can't be wrong. Thank you, father."

"17th Assembly District—God has truly come to earth, Father Divine."

### Illinois Confab Fights Threat To Stop Relief

3,000 Delegates Gather In Huge Four County I. W. A. Meeting

AUBURN, Ill., April 28.—Nearly three hundred visitors and delegates assembled at the Miners hall here Sunday, at a conference called by the four-county section of the Illinois Workers Alliance. Sangamon, Greene, Macoupin, Christian and Morgan counties were represented at the confab.

The conference laid plans to combat the threats of Gov. Horner to close down all the relief stations in the state. The Democratic machine in this state is maneuvering to force into line a stubborn legislature to pass a bill increasing the sales tax from 2c to 3c. The bill is being militantly fought by labor, liberal and unemployed groups from one end of the state to the other.

The conference went on record to stage a mass state march on the capitol within seven days after Gov. Horner closed the relief stations. Committees were elected to cooperate with the state unemployed organization. The conference also went on record asking for the payment of rent or taxes, \$30 and \$0-hour week on all relief work, etc. The conference also voted unanimously to endorse May Day as International Labor Day.

One of the features of the conference was a militant speech by Hugo Oehler, now organizing for the Illinois Workers Alliance in Illinois. Comrade Oehler received a great ovation from the audience and demands were made for him to tour the five counties. That evening he was called nearly a hundred miles north to deliver a speech at another mass conference of the unemployed at Galva, Ill.

The conference was presided over by its regular Chairman, Gerry Alford of the Progressive Miners. Tony Scremin, Kincaid Progressive miner, is secretary and Kenneth Shipley, an unemployed electrical worker, is vice-chairman of the four county conference of the Illinois Workers Alliance.

The conference decided to hold another conference at Auburn,

#### TOLEDO MILITANTS 'DISTURB' WASHINGTON A. F. L. LOBBY

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Toledo interrupted the peaceful proceedings of the A. F. of L. convalescence in Washington which would have preferred to lobby in the corridors of Congress for the demands of labor.

Fresh from the picket lines at General Motors and in the FEIRA strike, a delegation came to Washington where the declared purpose of the smug bureaucrats was to pass a few resolutions in support of the Wagner Bill, the Black-Cannery Bill and the Guffey Bill, appoint a lobbying committee and go home.

Met with the direct challenge of industry to President Roosevelt to abandon all legislation in any way sympathetic to labor, Bill Green could only regretfully look back on the past and declare: "Better ten thousand times that Congress had never given us Section 7a than that it should be used as an instrument of persecution of those who believed in it."

Matthew Woll reported for the sub-committee. Characteristically enough he spoke of the possibility of labor being "misled" by congress. It was noted at the gathering that Mr. Woll, of strikebreaking fame, forgot to mention the reaction of the workmen in factories and shops when they will find that their right to strike was crippled by the hamstringing provisions of the Wagner Bill.

In contrast to this glorified NRA sponsored by the labor scab, the Toledo delegation exploded its bombshell. Disgusted with this perpetuation of the National Run and sick of begging at the back-door of congress, Oliver Voley called for direct action. Mending the ever-growing sentiment of the workers in the country for bold steps, he demanded that the type-quit playing around with the "letters-writer" and "called on the labor unions" to get on the picket line.

"Gag rule" was the opinion of the Toledo delegates on the procedure used by the conference, strongly reminiscent of similar action in Akron and Detroit.

### "Settle the Strike on the Picket Line, Not in Washington," Strikers Slogan

FLINT INVADED Jamesville, Atlanta Plants on Strike

1. Jim Roland, chairman of the Toledo Chevrolet strike committee, yesterday entered Flint with a flying squad of strikers in an effort to get support of strike from that quarter. Arrested by the police at labor headquarters, the whole squad was immediately released on pressure from local labor bodies.

2. The Buick local in the Flint plant of General Motors notified the bosses that if their demands and those of the Toledo workers were not met, they would strike Monday morning.

3. The M. E. S. A., independent auto union in Detroit, announces no material from Toledo will be handed by its men while strike is going on.

4. A conference of the 23 auto locals of the A. F. of L. to take up joint strike action and their organization into an industrial union, as proposed by Jim Roland of Toledo, is being discussed for this coming Sunday.

5. A flying squad of Chevrolet strikers has set out for Muncie and Anderson, Indiana to take up contact with workers in G.M.C. plants there.

6. Louis Spivak, leader of workers in the Cleveland Fisher Body plants shut down several days ago, said the men there would not return to work until the Toledo strike was settled.

7. 2,300 Cincinnati G. M. workers remained solid in their sympathy strike called to aid the Toledo walk-out.

8. As we go to press, news reaches us that the Atlanta plants has voted for a walk-out.

### Heed the Call of Toledo!

By A. J. MUSTE

TOLEDO, April 30.—As this editorial is written on the eve of May Day in Toledo, the picketers march up and down on the line at the Chevrolet plant where not even a telephone operator is permitted to work. Every few minutes the telephone in our headquarters rings and a new and exciting report comes in from the rapidly extending battle-front: Norwood General Motors Plant Out One Hundred Per Cent. All Cleveland General Motors Plants Shut Down For Lack Of Transmissions. Flint Bids Plan To Take Toledo Work There. Will Take Strike Vote Tonight. The Mechanics Education Society Of America (independent union) Will Not Work On Scab Material.

Not since the Haymarket year of 1886 has there been a May Day as significant for the American labor movement as this May Day of 1935, marked by a strike which already involves 15,000 automobile workers, by the prospect of a general strike against at least one great automobile corporation, by the beginning of the show-down fight over the recognition of unionism in the basic industries of the U. S.

How does it happen that the workers of Toledo again act decisively and take their place in the vanguard of labor's battle? How explain the differences between the constant postponement of action in Detroit and in the steel centers, the "sell-out" of the strike of rubber workers in Akron before it got under way, and on the other hand the brilliant achievement of the Toledo workers in shutting down the key plant of General Motors and within one week bringing out over ten thousand G. M. workers in other centers with them? Such things do not come by accident.

On May Day 1934 the Auto-Lite strike in Toledo was dead on its feet because the officers of an infant Federal union passively submitted to an injunction and the leadership of the A. F. of L. could and would teach them no other course. By militant defiance of that injunction the Lucas County Unemployed League and the branch of the Workers Party of the U. S., cooperating with activists in the union revived the strike and paved the way for that night in May when ten thousand workers of Toledo stormed the Auto-Lite plant, drove the sheriff's deputies to cover, fought the militia. Thus a partial victory was wrung from defeat. In the succeeding months that victory was

(Continued on Page 4)

### FIGHT SPREADS

Local Votes Support for Daily Paper

#### Special to New Militant

TOLEDO, Ohio, April 30.—Swift massing storm clouds of labor revolt are spreading darkly throughout the nation over the wide-flung domain of General Motors Corporation. Moving with a precision, speed and power seldom ever displayed in this country, the progressive and militant strike committee of the struck Toledo Chevrolet plant, headed by Jim Roland, brilliant and aggressive young strike leader, twice today landed lightning blows against the massive citadel of Sloan, Rascoe, DuPont and Co. and forced the shut-down of the Hue Fisher Body plant in Cleveland, Ohio, and the Chevrolet assembly and Fisher Body plants in Norwood, Ohio, suburb of Cincinnati.

Riding rough-shod over the stalling and cowardly policies of Bill Green and his official machine, the Toledo strikers, acting through their local strike committee, have already sent strike calls to all locals of the United Automobile Workers Federal Labor Union in G. M. C. plants informing them of the 100 percent walk-out in Toledo and instructing them to take similar steps immediately. Swift moving strike action is expected to close plants in Flint, Mich., St. Louis, Kansas City, Jamesville, Wis., Tarrytown, N. Y., Baltimore, Buffalo, Oakland and many other towns shortly. A general auto strike, without sanction of Bill Green, is in the making.

#### Flint Takes Strike Vote

As this is being written, a strike vote is being taken at the U.A.W.F. L.U., Buick local in Flint. Representatives of this local conferred today with Toledo strike leaders and indicated that a walk-out is practically certain.

The management of the Cleveland Fisher Body plant forestalled impending strike action for propaganda purposes and shut down the entire factory. They denied this was a "lock-out," but due to lack of materials from the Toledo plant, Cleveland representatives of the auto union appeared this afternoon in Toledo and informed the strike committee that the Cleveland local is on strike until the Toledo strikers' demands are met and that they will not return to work even should the G.M.C. attempt to start up the plant again. Picket lines are being established and strike tactics similar to that now employed in Toledo will be used.

#### 1,700 Out in Norwood

The 100 percent walk-out in Norwood, Ohio came as a result of the personal appeal to the auto workers there made Sunday by Jim Roland and Bill Prior, experienced strike man and organizer of the first mass picket lines around the Toledo plant. In his appeal, Roland urged the Norwood workers to walk out first and then wait for Bill Green's approval. Bolstered by the example of the Toledo strikers, the Norwood workers took his advice and 1,700 walked out this morning. The present total of strikers is about 13,000, with 9,000 in Cleveland and 2,300 in Toledo.

An extraordinary development in the strike is the resolution of the Toledo strikers, adopted last night, to call upon all General Motors employees to strike and to set up a national joint-action committee composed of representatives of all strike committees to act as a national negotiating committee for the entire strike. The resolution further urges that the contract demanded in Toledo, or one similar, be made the basis for the national demands and that an agreement be made that no settlement be made except on a national basis with no local to return to work until every local agrees to return.

#### Dillon Tries to Stem Tide

One serious menace to the healthy conduct and development of the strike has been the attempt of the A. F. of L., through its organizers T. N. Taylor and Francis Dillon, to seize the reins of the strike from the strikers themselves and their elected committees. Last Friday night Dillon spoke before a mass

(Continued on Page 2)

### Claherty Hits at Akron Rebels

By JACK WILSON

AKRON, O., May 1.—The betrayal of the rubber workers by the American Federation of Labor bureaucracy had three significant results this week which are continuing the demoralization that set in after the sell-out agreement was foisted recently on the big three locals here.

1. The India Tire Co., which has a closed shop of the A. F. of L. union, locked out two hundred workers employed there when the union made wage demands last Saturday, thus continuing the capitalist offensive against organized labor in the tire industry.

2. Coleman C. Claherty, A. F. of L. rubber organizer, who acted with William Green to railroad the agreement on the rubber workers, began a terrific red scare in the locals in an effort to intimidate progressives who are trying to organize definitely against him.

3. Less than ten percent of the workers in the Goodyear union appeared at the Sunday meeting in deploring how the workers are falling away from the union because of their disappointment.

"India Tire" Workers Fight Back  
The India rubber workers have set up strong picket lines around the factory aided by the Mogadore Unemployed League and have refused to permit even company officials to enter the plant.

Although normally 400 workers are employed at the plant, seasonal decline in the industry reduced the personnel to half that number.

Following an article in the Summit county Labor News by Sherman H. Dalrymple, Goodrich local president, charging the Communists with being "disrupters," etc., Claherty has appeared at the local meetings and threatened expulsion to every "red" throated.

The attack and red scare obviously are to divert the attention of the rubber workers from the sell-out and swing the resentment of the workers from Claherty to the progressives when they begin attacking him openly.

### 65 Killed as Filipinos Rise

Wall St. Oppression Is at Bottom of New Revolt

The first audible signs of revolt against the new fake "independence" granted the Philippines by U. S. imperialism resounded around the world this week as 65 Filipino fighters fell in an insurrection led by the Sakdalista party. The casualties resulted from battles fought by Sakdalistas and constabulary detachments at Cabuyao and Santa Rosa in Laguna Province while other clashes occurred in outlying areas of Luzon Island. Manila, the capital, was cut off from the interior for several hours.

The Sakdalistas have been carrying on an active campaign against the "Commonwealth Constitution" which is to be subjected to a plebiscite on May 14. This party of radical agrarian anti-imperialist orientation has considerable following in a number of provinces and had three representatives elected to the Philippine Legislature in last year's elections.

The Philippine revolt follows close on the heels of the intensive agitation around the issue of independence or statehood for Puerto Rico, and is another indication of the extremely precocious internal situation prevailing in Wall Street's colonial possessions, due to the effect of the Cuban revolution on the Spanish speaking colonial countries as well as to the economic situation prevailing in the colonies themselves, where the crisis has penetrated to still greater depths than in the United States proper.

MEXICO CITY (FP).—About 800 striking miners, members of the Mining and Metallurgical Workers Union of Mexico, have decided to start on a hunger march from the state of Jalisco to Mexico City to bring their case to the attention of Pres. Lazaro Cardenas.

The strikers have been out since Feb. 8, when the Amparo Mining Co. and Piedra Bola, Inc. refused to sign collective contracts and adjust wages and working conditions.

### Public Backs Omaha Strike

By PAT MURPHY

OMAHA, April 27.—The strike of some 400 employees of the Omaha and Council Bluffs Street Railway Company, seeking higher wages and a closed shop, entered its 8th day at 4 A.M. today. Striking employees continued to picket car barns in Omaha and Council Bluffs.

In Omaha they have put a few cars in operation. These cars have heavy protection screens covering the entire car. From four to eight police ride each car. Every squad car follows each tram. Also a squad is taken to intimidate the strikers and encourage the people to ride the trams. But the citizens as a whole are very indignant and refuse to ride.

The sheriff of Omaha has mobilized all available material to act as strike breakers. The company has apparently run out of local men, and they have resorted to importing men who have been discharged from the service here in the past. Some of these were dismissed for serious offense. The Central Labor Union is going to protest Monday morning to the city council about the sheriff hiring, for scab work, former city employees who are now on pension.

The car barns are surrounded by police and armed sluggers. In Council Bluffs not a tram moves. Public sentiment is all with the strikers. And the strikers are determined to win. We talked to one striker who had 21 years service and in case of disability would be eligible for a pension of \$21.00 a month. He said, "We are fighting for our very existence. If we lose, then it looks like we will have to go on relief, but the morale of our men is holding strong. We are out to win."

NEW YORK (FP).—Unemployed workers in March 1935 numbered 9,700,000, according to the employers' National Industrial Conference Board. This is a decrease of 125,000, or 1.3 percent from the preceding month, but an increase of 396,000, or 3.9 percent, over March 1934.