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President Roosevelt -- Strikebreaker No. 1

Fierce Class War Tears Loose in France Against Laval's Starvation Decree Laws

TROOPS SLAY 5 "Dignity" Advice of C.P. In Fusillade Of Bullets

Five workmen gave their lives in France in the first battle of the oncoming civil war which will paint the nation either with the black of fascism or the red of proletarian revolution.

Breaking through the dead weight of passivity which fettered the ranks of labor since the establishment of the "united front" of inactivity the sailors and workmen in France struck the first blow at Laval's decree laws, thereby pointing the road of struggle to their brothers in the rest of the country.

In Toulon, Brest, Cherbourg, Lorient, St. Nazaire and Havre the luxurious sea palaces of the French line are lying idle in the harbors while pitched battles between the troops and the workers stain the streets with the blood of the dead and the wounded.

Here the police, the Mobile Guards and the most ferocious of French imperialism's colonialists threw up barricades to stay the marching strikers. Their devices unavailing against the determined militants, the troops fired volley after volley into the columns of the strikers, killing five and wounding two hundred.

First results of the action in these cities are already to be seen in the conferences summoned by premier Laval to "enforce" his decrees on the one hand and on the other to make them more "palatable" to the people by "distributing" the burden more evenly among all classes.

Every indication points to the fact that the strikes and the resultant actions were to a large extent spontaneous, that the trade union and the party bureaucracies of the C.P. and the S.P. had nothing to do with them, except to hamstring and restrain militancy of the workers.

As was pointed out in a previous issue of the NEW MILITANT so scornful was the capitalist class of the Bastille Day marches with its waving of the tricolor, its singing of the Marseillaise and its patriotic speeches that two days later Laval kicked the working class in the face with his decree laws.

Iron Workers of Minneapolis Reform Ranks

Teamsters local 574 And W.P. Members Help Raid Scabs

MINNEAPOLIS, August 5.—The strike of the Ornamental Iron Workers, Local 1313, which is now in its fourth week here, is roaring along. About 250 men are out in seven or eight shops. The union's demands are: Increases to bring wages up to 45-67 1/2 cents an hour; a 40-hour week; time and a half for overtime; seniority rights; and union recognition and shop committees.

Though the strike is small, it is unusually rich in lessons because of the political developments which have grown out of it. The three parties involved are the Communist Party, the Farmer-Labor Party, and the Workers Party.

The leadership of the union has been drawn largely from the Stalinists. Before the strike was called the membership of Local 1313, through its representatives, asked several of the local unions for help.

A Slave-Driving Boss The two largest shops affected were the Olson Company and the Flour City Ornamental Iron Works. Almost from the first the Olson shop has shown a willingness to negotiate.

The Flour City plant, employing about 80 workers, has followed a different policy under the management of Walter Tetzlaff, Citizens Alliance man, a boss who has for years held a contemptible labor attitude in his plant.

Recognizing the Draconian measures taken in China, as the article below reveals, against the Communist League (Bolshevik-Leninists), the insufferable oppression and the brutal persecution leveled at them by the butcher Chiang Kai Shek who at the same time complacently watches and tacitly supports the Japanese invasion and partition of that country, the Political Committee of the Workers Party of the United States wholeheartedly endorses their appeal for funds and will do everything in its power to raise a movement of protest against the imprisonment of the best elements of the Chinese Bolshevik-Leninists.

Comrade Liu Jen-uhin, known internationally as Niel Sih, and four other leading comrades of the Communist League of China (Bolshevik-Leninists) were recently arrested and are now prisoners of the Kuomintang military authorities in Nanking.

Doomed to Life of Poverty Ozark Tiff Diggers Rebel

Writer Describes Misery of Men, Women and Children Suffering Untold Horrors In Effort to Earn Livelihood

(By Special Correspondent)

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—What promises to be the most sensational strike of the year for the Middle West is the action of the brutally exploited "tiff" miners of Washington Co., Missouri, which has just begun.

The strike is a protest against wage and living conditions always low but which with the recent rise in prices of foodstuffs are no longer tolerable. These miners of the Ozark hills, comprising as they do the descendants of the heroic and self-sacrificing first settlers of the Middle West are today the neglected and the "forgotten" men of the barium sulphate industry.

The fact that they are organizing is phenomenal in itself, after decades of suffering and privation in silence. But organizing they are and their first act was to stop not only the mining of the "tiff" but the transportation of the reserves which the company has piled up for just such an event as this.

With families of six and eight and incomes of \$2.50 a week the picture of the suffering rivals any previous expose of social conditions ever made.

Protest Persecution of Chinese Bolshevik-Leninists - W.P. Call

when Comrade Chen Tu-hsiu and ten others were taken and sentenced to long jail terms in Nanking. The most recent arrests coincided with the revival of the organization's activity, especially among the Shanghai workers.

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cal attention, subsisting on a starvation diet and living in houses which makes the miserable hovels of the Southern sharecropper and the West Virginia coal miner seem almost grand in comparison.

Many of the miners live in company houses located on the property of the National Pigments and Chemical Co., a subsidiary of the powerful union-busting National Lead Co. Still others occupy "houses" furnished by individual producers, a description of which would defy the English language.

Militancy of the Illinois unemployed workers was demonstrated several weeks ago when Gerry Alard of the Workers Party led the Hunger March on the state capitol. This march reaffirmed not only that militancy but also the confidence the workers have in W. P. members who are also members of the I.W.A.

On the evening of the first day free movies were shown in a public park in Springfield. These movies were taken by W. P. member Hank Mayer, Educational Director of the I.W.A., and showed the lights and shadows of the backwoods of Missouri.

Malnutrition and the diseases arising from it are rampant. Of the State's 17,000 cases of trachoma, the dreadful eye disease that strikes at America's army of the underfed, it is estimated that a large percentage of them comes from the poverty-stricken homes of the Washington County tiff miners.

When the N.R.A., "the Magna Charta of American Labor" came along the tiff miners thought they were going to get a break. But alas! The lead bosses in conjunction with the code authorities managed to work out a code for the lead industry which put millions into the pockets of the manufacturer.

By EARL LANE PORTLAND, Ore., Aug. 11.—Determined to smash the solidarity of the marine workers of the Pacific Coast, evidenced by the formation of the Maritime Federation of the Pacific, refusal to handle scab cargo, and the ousting of such reactionary officials as Scharrenberg of the International Seamen's Union, the waterfront employers have launched a drive that has as its goal the smashing of every marine union on the West coast and a return to the intolerable conditions prevailing prior to last summer's strike.

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Full Report of C.I. Congress Next Week

A comprehensive article on the Second World Congress of the Comintern, by Max Shachtman, editor of the New Internationalist, will appear in the next issue of the NEW MILITANT. Full treatment will be given to the decisions of this congress to participate in bourgeois governments, to support imperialist governments in alliance with the Soviet Union—all these new betrayals will be exhaustively discussed. Watch for the next issue!

150 Delegates Attend I.W.A. Convention

Movement Toward Left Shown in the Proceedings

By CYRUS RIGBY

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Aug. 3.—The second annual convention of the Illinois Workers Alliance opened August 3 at Springfield. About 150 delegates from all parts of the state attended.

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Orders Striking WPA Workers Off Relief

Trade Unions Stand by Men Demanding Living Wage; Flying Squads Formed

Several thousand skilled workers struck on New York City Works Project Administration jobs this week demanding the prevailing union rate of wages. Flying squadrons which have proved such a popular and effective weapon in recent labor struggles set to work immediately to spread the strike throughout the city, and indications are at the time of his writing, that it will become general, affecting all of the WPA jobs.

This is not the first example of a strike on relief project works; but it is the first real sign of the determination of the workers to maintain the union standard of wages gained after decades of bitter struggle.

Forces Clash Before Rubber Union Confab

By JACK WILSON

AKRON, Ohio, Aug. 5.—Issuance of a call for a rubber workers union convention tentatively set for Sept. 12 to form an international union affiliated with the A. F. of L. has spurred progressive elements to form a block to take control away from the A. F. of L. bureaucracy and has brought sharply into light the forces which will clash at the coming convention.

Coleman C. Claherty, rubber organizer for the A. F. of L., and his assistants, are uniting reactionary forces throughout the country in an effort to keep their strangle hold on the rubberworkers, as per instructions from their boss, William Greene, who has announced he will attend.

Leading "industrial unionists" in the A. F. of L. bureaucracy probably including John Lewis, United Mine Workers president, and others are quietly encouraging a few mislead workers in the hope that they can control the Akron delegates to the next national A. F. of L. convention.

The Stalinists are concentrating their entire Akron strength to gain control of the progressive bloc and thereby make an entry into rubber and keep out the Workers Party from exerting any influence. The usual run of slander and lies against the Workers Party is the only weapon the C.P. has to accomplish their latter aim.

The Akron branch of the Workers Party is working steadily to counteract the C.P. propaganda.

West Coast Marine Workers Fight for Class Struggle Union

By EARL LANE

PORTLAND, Ore., Aug. 11.—Determined to smash the solidarity of the marine workers of the Pacific Coast, evidenced by the formation of the Maritime Federation of the Pacific, refusal to handle scab cargo, and the ousting of such reactionary officials as Scharrenberg of the International Seamen's Union, the waterfront employers have launched a drive that has as its goal the smashing of every marine union on the West coast and a return to the intolerable conditions prevailing prior to last summer's strike.

The present agreement expires September 30, and the employers state they will not renew it unless all strikes (including sympathy strikes) are barred for the duration of the agreement, and on the condition that the militant leadership of the San Francisco local of the International Longshoremen's Association headed by Harry Bridges be ousted.

International Solidarity Year after time during the past year the longshoremen and seamen have demonstrated their working class solidarity by refusing to handle scab cargo and work ships loaded by scabs. During the North-west lumber strike the longshoremen consistently refused to pass picket lines established by the Sawmill and Timber Workers Union, thus aiding the lumber workers materially in their struggle.

Union Officials Put on Spot

Of course, the trade union officials are on the spot. They know who's the employer and all of their past actions have shown a hundred times over that their sympathies are pretty close to the sentiment expressed by the General. But in this instance there is something more at stake than just an ordinary strike. And today these officials fear that permitting the Roosevelt coolie wage to stand would not only tear down the wage standard but also seriously undermine the existence of the trade union movement itself.

More over, in the threat made by General Relief Administrator Hopkins is a further warning of the need of this most complete coordination of the project strike already demanded by several New York local building trades unions, amongst them the electrical workers local 3, the carpenters local 4.

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