

NEW MILITANT

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Ethiopia in the Thieves' Den

The struggle against Mussolini's robber attack on Ethiopia must be continued and intensified. It was, however, made clear at the meeting last week of the Council of the League of Nations that we do not have a case of a dastardly Fascist nation bent on plunder...

France and Italy have pursued their imperialist designs in Africa for decades and specifically moved toward the parceling out of the control, if not the ownership, of Ethiopia among themselves in 1908. England at the moment appears as the chief obstacle in the way of Italy's aggressive plans...

For the moment both Great Britain and France would like to prevent the outbreak of a life sized war in Africa because of the repercussions this would have among their own black, brown and yellow subjects...

The object can only be to get a breathing space in which to line up their forces for the next war and in the meantime carry forward the robbery of Ethiopia under the cloak of peace maneuvers and good intentions.

Thus the Council of the League of Nations decided, first, to appoint a fifth member on a commission to arbitrate the Unalul clash between Ethiopian and Italian troops. The commission is, however, not to take up questions of boundaries or the ownership of the territory...

In the meantime no restrictions are placed on Italian war preparations and the negotiations on the really vital matters are to take place between Italy, France and Great Britain with Ethiopia excluded.

Maxim Litvinov, Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, and now president of the League of Nations Council, hailed the announcement of these negotiations as "something the Council has learned with satisfaction."

Extend and intensify the struggle against the Fascist robber attack on Ethiopia! For the boycott of Fascist Italy! For the struggle against imperialism on every front!

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Fierce Class War Tears Loose in France

(Continued from Page 1)

workers to maintain "peace and dignity." How strongly this smells of Bill Green and his crew of professional strikebreakers! "Peace and dignity" has become the new formula for treachery ever since the Stalin-Laval communique.

Class collaboration, the natural and inevitable concomitant of social patriotism as set forth in the Stalin-Laval communique and accepted by the Stalinist leaders in France as only "natural," finds its expression on July 14 and after where the Stalinist leaders rush up all criticism of Paganon, the Minister of Interior responsible for government repression in the beleaguered cities because—you see!—he is a member of the Radical Party which is in favor of the Franco-Soviet pact and therefore must not be irritated.

When the strikers confronted the troops they chanted the Internationale. When the Stalinists made peace with capitalism and its armed forces they brayed the Marseillaise, the song of the assassins of the Paris Commune of 1871, of the jingoes and slaughter-bund of 1914.

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ists are pledged "to maintain at their full level of security" are brought into play against the workers, wounding them by the hundreds. The Stalin-Laval declaration was not enough. In the July 16 l'Humanite they gild the lily in peans of praise for the army of French imperialism.

"In this immortal French Declaration which constitutes for all the people of all the land, the charter of liberty, the men of 1789 have written that the public force was constituted for the guaranteeing of the Rights of Man."

W.P.A. Strike (Continued from Page 1) 2090, the painters local 905 and the bricklayers local 37. "No one has to work who does not want to," declared Mr. Hopkins, "and if they don't want to do it, other people on relief rolls will take their places and receive the security wage."

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to give a rebuke to all those who endeavor to use it as an instrument for personal ambitions or for the ambitions of a fascist minority.

"They remember that the public force is at the disposal of the indivisible nation and the governmental authority will not tolerate the existence of other organizations of a military character than those which represent the supremacy of the first magistrate of the Republic and the control of the nation."

Whatever else need be said of the treachery of the Stalinists is spoken in the mute comment of the slain Toulon strikers, victims at the hand of these "defenders of liberty."

W.P.A. Strike (Continued from Page 1) 2,600 miners, who came out in a body, the company decided to use the huge reserves which they have been piling up just for this event.

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When the strike vote was taken a thunderous volume of "ayes" went up. The men stood up and cheered while the women looked on with tear-dimmed eyes.

the Republic and the control of the nation. "On this day, July 14, they salute the armies of land, sea and air—officers, sub-officers, soldiers and sailors—the national forces constituted for the defense of liberty."

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

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Fight for Union On West Coast

(Continued from Page 1)

openly espouses the cause of the employers and makes a veiled threat of government action unless the unions capitulate to the demands of the employers. In a statement issued to the press in Washington on July 29, he said: "Flour is rotting in the holds of the ships, (ships loaded with scab cargo from Canada) perishable goods are destroyed, newspaper publishing is being curtailed because the paper is being held on these boats, and business generally is adversely affected."

Gutter Press Aids Fakers To prepare the way for this assault upon the unions the boss press is bending every effort to whip up a "red scare" with Lundberg, president of the Maritime Federation of the Pacific, Bridges of the I.L.A. and other militants being daily labeled "minions of Moscow."

boomerang to their plans. Instead it is expected they will announce that the employers will make agreements with all locals except San Francisco. This will enable the reactionaries to tell the members that recognition of San Francisco can be secured only through strike. It will leave the ther locals the choice of voting agreements without San Francisco, or insisting that San Francisco remove Bridges, "the source of all the trouble."

This may not be the precise plan that these fakers have up their sleeve but the workers can look for maneuvers of a similar nature from these union splitters.

The marine workers must prepare themselves for a bitter struggle to preserve the gains they won in last summer's heroic strike. They are in a much stronger position to wage a winning fight than they were last summer. They are all united through the Maritime Federation of the Pacific with its 34,000 members. McGrady has amply forwarned them of the role the bosses' government will play. The main danger is within their own ranks. Hold your ranks firm in the face of the attack of the bosses and send the first faker who tries to split your ranks by raising the red scare down the same road that the rank and file of the I.S.U. sent Scharrenberg.

Mass Arrests in Spring Strike

Mass arrests marked the seventh week of the stubbornly fought Brooklyn spring strike where 450 workers are crippling production and well on the road to a victorious settlement.

Paying no attention to the much-vaunted declaration of La Guardia legalizing mass picketing "New York's finest" smashed a line of some 100 strikers on August 5 before they even reached within three blocks of the plant. 76 pickets were arrested and charged with "disorderly conduct." On the next day 24 workers were arrested on similar charges. Among those seized were several members of the Workers Party who were extremely active.

If the arrests were meant to dampen the fighting spirit of the men and women they failed miserably. Behind the courtroom, in the cell especially provided for such occasions, 22 of the arrested pickets, all of them women, made the welkin ring and the coppers red with anger, by their stirring songs of solidarity. For this an additional charge was slammed on them—two days in the cooler or five dollars fine. On August 8 and 24 the two batches of arrested pickets will come up for trial.

Not only are the police attacks directed at the mass picket line as indiscriminate arrests of individual strikers on no provocation whatever has proved. Joe Koval, leading militant of the union and some half a dozen others were arrested at various times for no other reason than standing peacefully on street corners. The charge was "disorderly conduct" and for it they each served a day or more in jail.

The solid status of the picket line after seven weeks of strike, in which no more than 65 scabs, who merely stand at the windows for intimidation purposes, are "working" in the plant is sufficient proof of why the cops and the mass arrests are needed.

More—in spite of the bonus of \$10 per head for every worker brought back, and a months vacation for reporting on strike activities offered to every foreman in the plant has been unable to operate. Virtually prisoners in a Brooklyn, where they cannot leave their rooms except under heavily armed escort, these fink foremen are receiving their real bonus—the payoff for their rat activities.

Treachery Spiked

It was confidently asserted on the picket line that the strike could have been settled some two weeks ago but for the treachery of the Strike Chairman who behind the backs of the workers met with the bosses in Hotel Towers and as a result was sending strikers back on the job under scab conditions—until his activities were spotted and the scab movement decisively stopped.

Some \$300,000 has been lost by the company since the outbreak of the strike in business and the non-operation of the machines.

Commissaries have been established in the Brooklyn and in the Bronx plant, which is in a similarly strong position. However, finances are still badly needed. All donations should be sent to: Jack Gordon, organizer; International Upholsterers Union, local 140B at 114 W. 14th St. N. Y. C.

Iron Workers of Minneapolis Reform Ranks

(Continued from Page 1)

ular practice to import workers from Germany and Austria to Minneapolis. He has proceeded to exploit their skill and take advantage of their ignorance of our language and customs by underpaying these foreign workers so as to bludgeon down the wages of other workers in his plant. Some of these workers could speak a little English, soon learned of this, and, having been union members in Germany, went to the local metal workers union to ask for help. The union had found work for these men. The other immigrants had been told of this and sooner or later managed to escape the yoke of Tetzlaff.

Another of Tetzlaff's tricks is the farming out of special jobs to his gang foremen so that the workers are doubly exploited, both Tetzlaff and the foremen wringing their profits from the workers. Tetzlaff has given stock to his non-union employees. This stock paid no dividends, had no maturity date. Again, he would sell stock to his workers, permitting them to pay for it by deducting from their pay checks. Later he lost control of this stock issue through a deal with an eastern holding company, the National Bronze Company. He has since regained control, but to the dismay of the workers their certificates have become almost worthless in the process. For years Tetzlaff has maintained stool-pigeons on the job. Baring this in mind, one sees that the struggle at the Flour City plant is not only for wages and working conditions but for the basic right of the workers to organize for their own mutual benefit, a right always denied by Tetzlaff.

Farmer-Labor Mayor Herds Scabs

The first two weeks of the strike were uneventful. Daily picket lines, though small, prevented the bosses from trying to re-open with scab labor. The strikers felt, and correctly, that the real struggle would revolve around the labor-hating Flour City Ornamental Iron Works. On the morning of July 26, the recently elected Farmer-Labor Mayor Latimer suddenly appeared at the Flour City plant with a squad of 68 police and proceeded to escort 30 strike-breakers into the

plant through a small and surprised picket line. Latimer has since confided that he "heard the plant was bringing in gunmen and brought the police down to protect the strikers." How the scabs managed to slip in on his arm still remains a mystery. The sight of a Farmer-Labor Mayor acting as a scab herder is causing thousands of serious workers to do some hard thinking this last week. It wasn't for this that the Farmer-Labor ticket was swept into office. These workers are beginning to see what the local branch of the Workers Party set forth in the election statement is true. In periods of crisis a reformist party cannot protect the interests of the workers. For this a revolutionary working class party is necessary.

Workers Party Takes Mand Early in the afternoon a few of the leading Workers Party comrades, active in trade union work, walked into the strike headquarters. There were only about twenty men present. An air of gloom hung heavy about the place. Our comrades made a quick and accurate appraisal of the situation, and then went into action.

In this situation we could have behaved as the local Communist Party behaved towards the Local 574 strikes last summer. We could have organized a "rank and file" movement, we could have attacked the leadership of a union struggling for its very life against the employers, we could have issued a leaflet slandering the Stalinist party. And by so doing we would have earned exactly what the C.P. earned last summer: the contempt of thousands of local working men and women. The Workers Party does not act in that fashion.

Here was a case where scabs had gained entrance to the plant. If the boss could get away with this, the strike was broken. The scabs would be coming out at 4:30, in just a few hours. What was needed was a picket line. To build a picket line requires numbers of fighting workers. The job was to build that picket line in two hours.

The Communist Party members active in the strike leadership were active, courageous and devoted workers, the cream of the local membership. But now they were

in one of those situations where all the past sins of the false Stalinist line were back to haunt them. To get pickets in a hurry, you need a real, living contact with the masses. The Communist Party does not have this. The Unemployed Council? It does not exist. The Communist Party local? Either it has dwindled to almost nothing, or its members are not interested in picketing. The Friends of the Soviet Union? Nice people no doubt, but not the kind to come out on a picket line. Why not call a meeting of the district committee, discuss the problem, issue a leaflet, agitate? That might do the trick—in a week or so. But a picket line was needed right now. This afternoon.

How Revolutionists Act

And how was it with the Workers Party in Minneapolis? It was different. We know that situations like this will arise again and again. We know that they must be prepared for by hard realistic work—day-to-day work that never slackens. What could we do to establish that picket line? The Workers Party has contact with the General Drivers Union, with the Federal Workers' Section of Local 574, and with its own no-longer-insignificant membership. A half dozen messengers were sent about town—to various plants, to workers on various relief jobs. Workers were told that their help was needed immediately on the picket line at the Flour City plant. Because the workers trusted the messengers, they responded. By 4:30 a good 250 pickets were outside the Flour City building. A crowd of a thousand or so quickly gathered, and the police began arriving in squad cars. The plan of the employers was to escort the scabs through the picket lines in autos owned by the management and the salesmen. Among the scab autos were to be interspersed the police cars. It so happened that at 4:30 the entire strike committee was absent from the picket line, and down in the Mayor's office conferring with Latimer.

The cars began coming out. Somehow, or other the police cars were always held up for a minute or so as they came rolling out of the plant. This cut the police off from the scab autos, which were greeted with a shower of bricks. Each scab car looked as though it had been caught in a rain of cannon-balls. Things finally got to the point where the police cars were having the same trouble, and the shops were rolling around on the floors of their cars amid a shower of flying glass. Though the event

was unrecorded in the local society columns, it was certainly one of the most successful receptions of a gay summer season. Spirited picketing like this had the effect of reviving the strike with a bang. Here was a strike broken by the Farmer-Labor policy, creating a situation before which the Stalinists were helpless. It required the Workers Party to step in and rebuild the strike. There are lessons here for every worker to learn.

The Employers Whimper

Except for that one-day attempt by the Flour City plant to reopen, the companies have been completely shut down. The employers react to this strike approximately as they did last summer. They greet the public daily with large newspaper advertisements, the majority signed by Tetzlaff, informing us that the workers are quite content, that they don't want to join the union, that we are an "unruly mob," and so forth. The employers use the editorial columns to call for more and better police protection. Of course they secured an injunction which they thought would stop the picketing. But American workers in these days of mass misery aren't reading injunctions. This weapon of the bosses was treated with the contempt it deserves. The workers are defying it.

While Local 574 will continue to give its full cooperation to the striking iron workers and to support them to the limit, it does not take the responsibility for the strike. The "Northwest Organizer," weekly organ of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference, has now been placed at the disposal of the striking union, and may appear daily if events demand it. On Friday the paper carried an interesting exposure of Tetzlaff's many-sided struggle to maintain his open shop. The strikers are demanding that the Farmer-Labor mayor declare the Flour City plant closed as a menace to public peace, that he investigate the working conditions there and make a public report.

An open mass meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 5, at the Central Labor Union, where local labor leaders will answer the lies of the employers' paid advertisements. All local workers are called upon to support Local 1313's strike. Be on the picket line every morning at six o'clock. Be around the strike headquarters. Give financial aid to the striking union. Make the ornamental iron industry a union industry! Make Minneapolis a Union Town!

SPEAKERS: A. J. MUSTE M. SHACHTMAN

The 7th Congress of the Communist International

Wed., Aug. 14-8 P.M. Irving Plaza Hall Irving Pl. & 15th St.