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REMEMBER SACCO & VANZETTI!

A landmark in the struggle of the American proletariat approaches. August 22 marks the eighth anniversary of the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti. Once again, we shall relive the experience of that hot August night when, as midnight neared, we waited with anguish for word of a reprieve—word that never came.

The crime committed at South Braintree, Massachusetts, for which Sacco and Vanzetti were unjustly tried and convicted, was a routine hold-up such as occurred innumerable times before, and since. The paymaster and guard of a shoe company were stopped as they left the factory by bullets fired from an automobile. Two men seized the payroll amounting to approximately \$18,000 and jumped into the car which then gathered speed and disappeared.

Facts in the Frame-up
Many people witnessed the occurrence. Most of them testified that it was impossible in the brief period of three seconds, during which the crime was expertly consummated, to identify the criminals. Only fleeting glimpses were obtained of them. Testimony agreed that a light-complexioned man was at the wheel of the automobile and a foreign-looking man was in the back seat shooting. The prosecution could not find anybody, at first, who could describe the criminals more accurately. After Sacco and Vanzetti were arrested, they were brought to South Braintree where Katzman, the district attorney, finally got three unsavory characters to hesitantly identify them as having been in the car. These witnesses were subsequently so discredited that even the notorious Judge Thayer, the trial judge, said at a later stage of the case, when motions for a new trial were presented to him, that the conviction did not rest on the identification, but on the fact that Sacco and Vanzetti betrayed "consciousness of guilt" after they were arrested.

Thayer referred to the fact that Sacco and Vanzetti lied to the police about their activities in the period immediately preceding the date of their arrest. It was shown that Sacco and Vanzetti were active members of an organization which distributed literature banned by the government. Their comrades were being hunted, jailed and deported at that time of post-war anti-Red hysteria. The third degree was commonly used by the police. The illegality of the methods resorted to by Palmer and his raiders in the Department of Justice was so flagrant that even the capitalist courts were forced to condemn them. A comrade named Saleado had, a few months before, died after a third degree examination at the hands of Department of Justice men who held him incommunicado in the office of the department. He either jumped or was pushed from the window of the office. Sacco and Vanzetti were both listed as "dangerous Reds" in the records of the Department of Justice.

When they were arrested by a lone, hick policeman to whom they offered no resistance, they thought that the charge against them was in reference to their radical activities. They sought, therefore, to conceal their movements and to protect their comrades by withholding information from the police.

It was never denied that after the date on which the crime was committed, Sacco and Vanzetti continued the normal existence of the working man—the normal existence of suppressed, exploited proletarians—Sacco working steadily in a shoe factory and Vanzetti peddling fish in the small towns on the coast. Both faithfully carried on the work of advanced workers by agitating and lecturing on behalf of the working class every moment of their spare time. No wonder the "best people" said that "they ought to hang anyway!"

Until the early part of 1926, the defense of Sacco and Vanzetti was entrusted to a committee organized by their friends in the anarchist movement. Thereafter, the International Labor Defense, then a healthy organization under the

leadership of James P. Cannon, assumed control of the mass worldwide agitation for their release. During the early years, the defense committee was handicapped by the sectarian nature of its legal defense committee. The lawyers obtained by the committee had no responsibility for the manner in which they

Progressives Fight for Sway In Rubber Union

Claherty Gerryman-dering Meets with Stiff Opposition

By JACK WILSON

AKRON, Ohio.—Two problems occupied the attention of progressive rubber workers this week as they continued to organize a bloc to wrest control of the federal unions away from the A. F. of L. bureaucracy at the approaching convention for the formation of an international union.

Attempts of Coleman C. Claherty, notorious betrayer in the threatened strike this spring, to reduce the number of delegates from the Akron unions was being fought successfully by the progressives. At the Firestone local, Claherty's efforts to reduce the delegates from 16 to 4 were defeated. However, he will try the same thing in other unions.

His purpose is to cut down the Akron delegation so that he can control the convention through the out-of-towners who are more under his influence. Progressives at Good-year local are meeting this week to plan their fight next Sunday when delegate election comes out.

The problem of selecting a slate of candidates which will swing the majority of delegates behind the progressive bloc is another question confronting them.

Claherty's Maneuvers

Claherty will back either George R. Roberts, his assistant, who was a rubber worker, or else back John House, president of the Goodyear local, who while sincere, is easily led by Claherty. Many workers seem to like either Sherman H. Dalrymple, Goodrich local president or Thomas Burns, A. F. of L. organizer from New England rubber plants for the presidency. Burns led a strong fight against Claherty last year at the rubber workers' convention.

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A.F. of L. Skates Face Crucial Issues in N. J.

Fight for Spoils at Top; Demands from Ranks Sidetracked

Comforted by the delightful breezes of Atlantic City, the A. F. of L. Executive Council is now in session in preparation for the 55th annual convention scheduled for October 7. Among the questions considered was the report of its stewardship to be made to this convention, and in spite of meager information it is already clear that only very scant attention will be given to the real problems that face the trade union movement today.

The stimulus given to union organization by the NRA no longer exists. Two serious strike waves were effectively checked with a corresponding set-back to the movement. This enabled the employers to proclaim more boldly their open shop policy and to resist union recognition more effectively. The effort to tie up the workers' struggles in the complicated system of governmental boards has won a temporary victory.

Failure and Disappointment

Undoubtedly, trade union membership is receding from its peak a year ago, and receding at a time when conditions were favorable for gains. The decline is most obvious in the basic and in the mass production industries. On the one hand, this is due to sheer disappointment of the workers at the failure to pursue an aggressive policy of organization; but much more disastrous in their effects were the outright strike betrayals in the automobile industry last year and in the rubber industry this year.

Even in many of the well-established unions of the skilled trades there is an appalling loss of membership due to unemployment and consequent inability to pay dues. Above all, however, the whole American wage standard is threatened by the Roosevelt coolie relief wage on the WPA projects ranging from \$19 to \$93 a month.

But these questions are not the ones that cause the most worry to the mandarins on the Executive Council. They have their own vested interests to protect. While they are unable to separate these interests entirely from the life and growth of the unions, what is now uppermost in their minds is reflected in the maneuvering for position that goes on behind the scenes. The Executive Council is not united. And beneath the surface of complacent tranquility the issues of the life of the movement in the sense of the positions of bargaining power afforded by an organization—the

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Fur Workers Elect New Leadership

Stalinists Unite With Right Wing to Gain Control

The first elections, since unification, to the New York Joint Council of the International Fur Worker's Union have just taken place. The Stalinist leadership of the former industrial union, led by Ben Gold, was elected by a large majority. Indications are that they could have elected the whole administration had they chosen to nominate a complete slate. Their endorsement of certain "right wing" candidates and their slanderous campaign against the "Progressives" did not meet with the same success.

Despite the slanderous attack, five members of the Fur Workers' Progressive League and one member of the Furriers Unity League were elected to the Joint Council. In addition, Irving Baritz, of the Progressive League was elected as a business agent. Other members of these two groups ran well ahead of some of the "independent" and "Right wing" candidates endorsed by the Stalinists.

Oppose Removals

The elections indicated, as expected, that the Stalinist "Rank and File" group has a decisive majority in the union. That majority is reflected in the new administration, and any attempt to oust the democratically elected representatives could only mean an attempt to split the union and should be opposed by every progressive force in the union, and in the labor movement as a whole.

Though opposed to any attempts by the A. F. of L. bureaucrats to oust the duly elected officials of the union, it must be stated that we have no confidence whatever in their. Past experiences with these Stalinists when they were in control of the Industrial Union show that they repressed minority group opinion in the most brutal and bureaucratic manner. Their new turn, which conforms to the opportunistic and social-patriotic turn of Stalinism on a world scale, only reveals that added to their past policies of suppression and split is a new one—that of collaboration with reactionaries against progressives. A few quotations from their pre-election leaflets will prove this:

"Right and Left, Unite" (!)
"We want a united leadership in our union to consist of the two main tendencies in the working class movement, namely, the right wing and the left wing." . . . "We pledge ourselves to agitate for"
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AFL Crew Turns N. Y. WPA Strike Into Fiasco

Follow Their Example!

From a group of New York fur workers we have received a \$10.00 greeting for the 8-page weekly. This is a splendid tribute to our press and the ideas it stands for, but it is also an example worthy of emulation by others. With such encouragement there is rich assurance that the campaign will succeed speedily and the 8-page weekly will soon be an actuality.

To date, however, we have collected only one-fourth of the funds needed. Three-fourths of the way is still to be made. This is the serious question before us. We pass it on to our comrades, our readers and our sympathizers.

Our aim with this campaign is a doubly effective and a doubly powerful NEW MILITANT. To reach this aim, we propose four weeks of concentrated efforts, in order to collect the \$2,000 that is necessary.

Our New York organization is now taking the lead in such a concentrated effort, starting out with a complete mobilization of the whole membership. All will be obliged to go out and visit friends, shop-mates and fellow-unionists with contribution lists and subscription blanks, and we expect a rapid rise in the figure column and a corresponding increase in circulation. Only actual results count in this campaign.

The District Committee will take full charge. Each branch has a quota to fulfill and will keep strict account of the activity of each member. The quota for all the New York branches combined is \$825.

Pursuing this course everywhere, it should be easy to collect the three-fourths still to go. We recommend it.

Four weeks of concentrated effort to go over the top in the campaign. Four weeks of active work visiting friends, shop-mates and fellow-unionists for support to the 8-page weekly. With the energy and devotion, characteristic of revolutionists, we should soon reach our goal.

Imperialist Ring Tightens Around Ethiopian Nation

By MARTIN A. GLEE

"You offer us the choice between assassination and suicide. We prefer the latter. At least, then, we shall be able to call out for help." These were virtually the last words spoken at the most recent session of the League of Nations Council, thrown into the teeth of the chairman of the Council, Maxim Litvinoff by the Ethiopian delegate, Jeye.

And thus the matter stands to date. The choice offered Ethiopia by the imperialist bandits, aided and abetted by the representative of the Stalin bureaucracy is indeed that of "assassination or suicide."

Which road will the kingdom of the Negus take? What can its people do under the circumstances? What solution will the bourgeoisie of France and England offer through its respective intermediaries, Laval and Eden? What solution to the problem of Ethiopia can we, the proletariat, suggest? These are questions which every person conscious of the seriousness of the situation is asking.

Pathetic View for Arms
From the viewpoint of his own particular interest, Haile Selassie is

Prepare Now for Silk Strike

CPSHouts for General Strike but Does Nothing About It

By FELIX GIORDANO

PATERSON, N. J.—In an article published in the May Day issue of the NEW MILITANT we called for extensive preparations in the silk industry for the expected general strike. A resolution embodying the same program was introduced to the Joint Board, where it was killed. Now, three and a half months later, the Communist Party suddenly remembers the general strike, and just as suddenly comes to life shouting and demanding that the strike be called.

How has the strike been prepared? What has the Communist Party done to see to it that the preparations for the strike were

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Expulsions Hit French Socialist Youth

Bolshvik - Leninists and Zeller Group Ousted by Reactionaries

Serious events have just taken place in the French Socialist Youth. The Lille National Congress on July 28-29 has decreed the expulsion of the entire revolutionary wing.

The National Congress had been preceded in the Seine district by a Federal Congress which was held on July 21. The different tendencies were: the Bolshvik-Leninists (170 mandates); the Zeller tendency (200 mandates)—Zeller is Regional Secretary—the strongest tendency in the federation, formerly hostile to us and recently approaching us very rapidly, representing the average state of mind of the Young Socialists of the Seine; the "Spartacus" tendency, inspired by the S.A.P., composed mostly of intellectuals, most frequently living on intrigues against the Bolshvik-Leninists (90 mandates); and finally the right tendency in the Seine, Mireille-Osmin (130 mandates) which is a Centrist group nationally.

After the Federal Congress on the 21st, which had been a great success for the Bolshvik-Leninists, and where the lies of the Stalinists against us had been exposed, their influence in general had been liquidated in the Seine, the three left tendencies (Bolshvik Leninist, Zeller, and "Spartacus") agreed on a common motion and prepared to defend this motion in the National Congress at Lille. The main points of this motion were as follows:

Today the problem of revolution is placed before the entire working-class youth. The Young Socialists

beyond the Second International which collapsed in 1914 and beyond the Third International which is submerged in Class Peace we must firmly convince ourselves and work for the creation of a new International.

This New International will not reject everything in those which have preceded it. It will reject their mistakes, their errors, their crimes.

It will be enriched with the experiences accumulated by them. It will proclaim itself the legitimate heir of the doctrines of Marx and Engels, of Rosa Luxemburg and Liebknecht, of the example of the founders of the Third International.

The motion ended thus: our intransigent opposition to reformism and to Class Peace will not keep us from fighting for the fusion of the Communist Party and the Socialist Party and of their youth.

The Young Communist workers are our brothers. Shoulder to shoulder with them in action, discussing fraternally with all the guarantees of democracy and discipline, we will build the revolutionary vanguard.

The Bolshvik-Leninists signed this joint motion. They had also brought in a further statement on the international question, making clear their position on the Fourth International.

The National Conference at Lille
The Congress opened in an atmosphere of threats against the revolutionary majority of the Seine. Every question (division of delegates, etc.) was a pretext for provocation. An imposing group of sergeant-at-arms were massed in the Congress Hall and physical vio-

lence was used on the delegates of the revolutionary minority (a comrade of the Seine, Bressler, member of the outgoing National Committee, the highest body of the organization was carried out of the hall unconscious due to blows received.) The young bureaucrats have learned very well the teachings of their elders.

In a more or less excited manner the debates continued Sunday and Monday (vote on the organizational report: 4,082 votes for and 1,389 votes against). Monday afternoon, at the opening of the session, discussion was immediately begun on the following motion:

"Whereas certain comrades have placed themselves on record for their affiliation to the Fourth International and this attitude is incompatible with membership in the Socialist Youth, affiliated to the Second International.

"And, whereas the systematic denigration and violation of the theoretical line of the Socialist Party as formulated by its Congresses cannot be tolerated by members of the Socialist Youth.

"And, whereas the repeated attacks directed against the best militants of the Party and of the Socialist Youth are guided solely by the well-established intention to split the Socialist organization

"The National Congress of the Socialist Youth decrees the complete dissolution of the Bolshvik-Leninist Group as a tendency within the Socialist Youth.

"Further it decrees pure and

Entire Seine District Supports Leaders; Pivert Urges Fight

simple expulsion for comrades who, having taken an active part in this movement, have by their sectarian action contributed to the development of intolerable confusion within our organization.

"In conclusion, the congress decrees the expulsion of the responsible militants: Roussel, Van, Ivan and Maria Craipaun, Brando, Bressler, Pero, Fred Zeller, Genia, Lissansky, Makarovsky, Rigel, Corvin and of all those who in public action follow a policy in opposition to that of the Party."

Attack on Revolutionary Position
The discussion immediately opened on this motion. The attack of the bureaucracy was centered on the position taken against national defense and class peace, for revolutionary defeatism, and also against the appearance of the independent paper of the Seine Federation, "Revolution." The attack was not directed only against the Bolshvik-Leninists, but against the bulk of the majority of the Seine Federation. The International discussion had not yet come before the Congress (the pretext of "affiliation" to the Fourth International was introduced at the last moment) and among the expelled there are some who are opposed to the Fourth International.

Conciliatory attempts have been made (by Mireille-Osmin in particular). The conservative bureaucracy attacked in haste, so that these attempts would fail.

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LIMIT WALKOUT

Sabotage Picketing While they Connive With Gen. Johnson

Due to the glaring incompetence and in many instances downright sabotage by the local trade union officials, the strike on the New York WPA projects entered its second week in a state of utter confusion. Characteristic of this state of affairs is the fact that on some of the projects, one or more of the building trades are called out while others remain at work. In other instances, one or more trades are called out and shortly thereafter told by the business agents to return and await further developments.

On the Astor project, bricklayers were called out; but on the High-Bridge swimming pool project, bricklayers remained working. On the latter project, carpenters were called out one day and later told to return. Moreover, in several instances where committees of the unemployed organizations, whose cooperation had previously been accepted by the union officials, appeared to assist in calling out the unorganized, they were met by some of these officials demanding business agent's credentials, together with policemen ordering them off the projects.

Workers Want to Strike

From the outset the overwhelming majority of the approximately 100,000 workers employed on the projects, who are unorganized, proved their readiness to make common cause with the unions. This was demonstrated in face of the fact that these workers openly expressed their disappointment of the failure of the union leaders to take measures to secure home relief for those refusing to accept the Roosevelt "work or starve" edict. In a test case made one worker was granted such relief, but even this advantage was not followed up.

Reports are now current on the projects that the local union officials are backing down from their once loudly proclaimed intention to fight for the prevailing union rate of wages, and are scheming to induce General Johnson to accept the establishment of a rating board to comprise representatives of the local unions concerned. Obviously, the aim would be to secure a somewhat better rate of relief wage and drop the fight for the prevailing union wage. But hidden behind this aim lurks the danger of throwing the interests of the unorganized to the winds at a time when the most complete coordination between the unions and the unorganized is imperative.

Groundwork to Lower Standards

The failure of this coordination in the first place accounts for the utter confusion now prevalent in the strike. There exists no doubt in the trade union movement that wherever the monthly relief wage ranging from \$19 to \$93 prevails, the groundwork is laid for the tearing down of the whole standard of union wages. This crucial issue remains. The unions are fought to lead the fight. The fight they can conduct effectively only through the establishment of unity of action between the unions and the unorganized project workers.

United Front Anti-War Meet in Boston

BOSTON, Mass.—On August 4, 21st anniversary of major declarations of war, a united front demonstration against imperialist war was held on Boston Common jointly by the Socialist Party, the Workers Party, the Young People's Socialist League, and the Spartacus Youth League.

The Communist Party and the Young Communist League also had been asked to join in this united front, but had replied (per Sidney Bloomfield, district organizer of the C.P., and Mac Libby, D. O. of the Y.C.L.) that they "would not enter any united front with Trotskyists" and "would rather unite with Fascists."

However, the Workers Party and the S.Y.L. are working for a United Front Sacco-Vanzetti Memorial Demonstration on August 23, and will fight for participation by ALL workers' organizations, including the C.P. and the Y.C.L.

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