

MARCH OF EVENTS

By JACK WEBER

BATTLE OF THE CURRENCIES

Nothing illustrates so well the fact that capitalist production and consumption rest not on national but on world foundations than does the world-wide battle of currencies. The world is divided into well-defined areas politically and economically under the control of one or the other of the great capitalist powers. The signposts over these areas denoting such control are the pound, the dollar and the franc respectively. The Japanese would like to establish the yen in a similar manner as a token of world dominion. It is this battle of the currencies, each symptom of the gigantic struggle underneath for outright colonial control, that is being witnessed at the moment in China. Control of Chinese currency and Chinese foreign exchange would go a long way in aiding one or the other of the imperialists to control a larger share of Chinese foreign trade. One of the infamous twenty-one demands made on China by Japan was that the Japanese be given control over the chaotic Chinese currency, and that Japan be allowed to set up a gold backing for Chinese currency in the Bank of Japan at Tokyo. Leith-Ross, agent of British imperialism, is now engaged in the effort to tie the Chinese silver currency to the pound sterling. He would do this partly through the aid of an "international loan" to Chiang Kai-Shek. Japan has already signified her intransigent opposition to this scheme. The United States has played no small part in bringing about the present situation.

AMERICAN SILVER POLICY

The policy of increasing the price of silver pursued by the Roosevelt administration had, among other things, the aim of counteracting the gains made by Japan in Chinese trade due to depreciation of the yen. Japanese goods became cheaper for China as for the rest of the world, since Japanese prices did not rise much and other currencies could therefore secure more in goods in Japan. American gold policy—depreciating the dollar in the Far East—did not affect the terms of trade because there silver rather than gold was the basis of currency and money. Hence Roosevelt hoped to secure a greater share of Chinese trade by depreciating the dollar in terms of silver. Since the silver would pour out of the Chinese hoards to secure the profit offered in terms of the American dollar it was hoped that the silver would be exchanged for American goods. This policy has been only partially successful in restoring American trade. Meantime silver has been smuggled out of China

at a tremendous rate despite the attempt to prevent this by means of an equalization export duty. The rise in prices of Chinese goods has now reached the point where inflation threatens. The result of American policy has been to lower the standard of living of the Chinese masses even beyond the starvation level already existing, something that does not concern in the least American capitalism in its mad search for profits.

Now the Chinese government has finally taken the step, under the advice and encouragement of English imperialism, of going off the silver standard. This step is in line with the policies of capitalist nations all over the world of establishing managed (manipulated) currencies to protect the interests of the home bourgeoisie. It is not taken, needless to say, to restore a stable currency that would be for the benefit of the Chinese masses. They do not enter into consideration at all. Besides being concerned over their share of trade, the British are also looking out for their vast investments that are threatened by the instability of Chinese money and the strong possibilities of inflation. China is now the battleground of the nations and the battle is for the moment confined to money. But the fight for control of Chinese money is only part of the conflict to seize and subjugate China as a colony. At any moment the diplomatic and economic coalition threatens to turn to other means, the use of bullets instead of coin. The intervention of America and England in the monetary sphere is only notice given to Japan that her seizure of Chinese territory will sooner or later have to meet the test of force on the international arena. The big powers, England in particular, are giving notice to Japan that not all their attention is devoted to the Ethiopian situation, that they are giving close attention to events in the Far East as well.

That the Japanese will nevertheless apply pressure on the corrupt Chinese government to prevent China becoming a sterling area goes without saying. The Japanese army will intervene, first by threats, then by further action to strangle China. How far they will go depends also on the international "balance of power," on the combinations among the imperialists. As one power moves to gain more control at the expense of the others, the latter combine against the immediate menace, only to fall apart again the moment a new situation arises. The basic law of capitalism at all times, but particularly in the period of decay, is the law of its instability.

V. Dunne Lashes Fakerdom

(Continued from Page 1) head for any progressive idea. "But why did they choose Minneapolis as the place at which to strike the first blow? For two very good reasons. Minnesota is like an island that is looked upon by the workers of the rest of the country, struggling for their rights. Whatever you may think of the Farmer-Labor Party, you must recognize that it represents a new course—the workers here have struck off upon the path of independent political action through the Farmer-Labor Party. Bill Green, the old Republican wheelhorse, and other craft unionists, closely allied with the two old capitalist parties, resent this political expression of the workers. And so they come here hoping to smash the Farmer-Labor Party. At the same time they intend to strike a blow at the industrial unionists. Tobin and Green understand that if they can make a spectacular and smashing blow at 574, they can smash the industrial union movement a severe blow. It is pure business logic with them. They didn't come to Minneapolis simply to get after reds, radicals, and communists; they wish to blaze a trail here that will terrorize the workers all over the country.

The "Purge" of 1924 "In 1924, Paul Smith, personal representative of Green, purged the unions here of reds. Between that time and 1934, when 574 came into the picture, not a single strike was won in Minneapolis. The Citizens Alliance succeeded in making Minneapolis an open shop town. Woe to the people who back red drives. They are only the bureaucrats of the labor movement, and the capitalist enemies of the workers.

"All of the newspapers here have taken up the cry of communism. . . These are the methods and tools of the capitalists. But this is not simply a flash in the pan—it is going to be a long drawn out, a bitter fight. Lewis can't move a single step forward—he has fired his best shots. Publicity and newspaper articles do not take over unions. Maybe we'll see fellows double up, and bend their heads before the onslaughts of the bureaucracy as if their heads were upon hinges. On the other hand, a young, new militant leadership will be thrown up in the process

of the struggle. "But let us be on our guard—watch out. Lewis plans deliberately to perpetrate some outrage. To frame somebody. That is the next card which they intend to play. We offer Meyer Lewis—they say he comes from Iowa—a passport back to where the tall corn grows. Let's send him back!"

South Africans Boycott Italy

(Continued from Page 1) "united front" conference in the Cathedral Hall. Neither the Communist League or the Lenin Club received invitations, but several individual comrades were invited to be present. Among organizations present were the Young Men's Christian Association and several churches. The speakers from the platform included a Bishop and several leading Stalinists. All the speakers were full of praise for the League of Nations, and called upon the capitalist government of South Africa—which one of the Stalinists referred to as "our" government—to instruct its representatives at Geneva to vote for sanctions against Italy. The lengthy resolution which was placed before the conference was pacifist to the core. When one of our comrades attempted to speak in order to expose the reformist nature of the resolution and to move a counter-resolution calling for an organized boycott of Fascist Italy, he was refused a hearing. Through a sympathetic trade union delegate, we succeeded in placing our resolution before the conference, but the chairman, when putting it to the vote coupled it with the Stalinist resolution, notwithstanding the protest of the mover.

The content of our resolution was as follows: "That this conference pledges itself to organize an international boycott of Fascist Italy and will do everything in its power to prevent the handling of Italian goods or the loading of Italian boats. To this end, it will carry on propaganda among working class organizations and especially among the workers engaged in transport."

Our Revolutionary Heritage:

Class War of the '70s

By Leighton Rigby

Ed. Note: This is the first of a series of articles on the revolutionary heritage of the American workers by comrade Rigby.

The early days of the American labor movement after the Civil War, like the heroic period of the Chartists in England, was marked by militant battles against the bourgeoisie and revolutionary spirit among the workers. One reason lies in the fact that the ruling capitalist ranks, and their agents in the ranks of organized labor had not yet consolidated their positions and perfected their subtle and open defense against the aroused workers.

Let us consider for the moment what took place in America sixty years ago. To tell what happened is to review stirring clashes, including the bloodiest two weeks in American labor history, when the capitalists fell to wondering if they had really won permanent power when they erased the menace of the planters. It is for us who carry on to keep alive the memory of those fighting, rank-and-file pioneers who left us not only traditions but useful lessons.

In 1873 capitalism was on the upswing in the U. S. The fact that the inevitable excess profits could be safely converted into capital goods did not, however, prevent the piling up of surpluses of consumptive goods and the cyclical crisis, which was "the panic of 1873." The workers, as usual, took it on the chin, but not without swinging

some very effective blows themselves.

The Molly Maguires

The first to strike back were the Molly Maguires, secret organizations of Pennsylvania coal miners. To appreciate the origin of the name, Molly Maguires, one must know that a society by that name, in Ireland, had accomplished much by way of preventing foreclosures and evictions. The members of the original Molly Maguires often disguised themselves as women when performing their missions. The purposes of the American group of 1874 matched those of its Irish partner in many ways, but the feminine disguise was never worn.

Mining in the anthracite districts was greatly increased during the planters' revolution, in pace with the speeding up of industry generally. With the industrial breakthrough, the lot of the miners, already unbearable, became even worse. There was no miners' union, but the Molly Maguires fought fiercely.

Whole counties were covered by the Molly Maguires as they struck terror into the black hearts of their oppressors. Mine owners, bosses and police were beaten, and many were killed. Hell broke loose in the coal regions of Pennsylvania. It was class warfare! And it was not halted until James McParlan, the Judas of 1874 who turned out to be a detective, had won the confidence of the Molly Maguires and subsequently maneuvered the leaders into capitalist courts of "jus-

It is true that incidents of private grievances sifted into the plans of the Molly Maguires. But it is also true that their struggle was, above everything else, a manifestation of the revolutionary spirit of the American worker. Faced with starvation, the miners of Pennsylvania struck back.

Fierce Struggles of 1877

In the summer of 1877 a walkout of Baltimore and Ohio railroad workers heralded two weeks of fierce battles between thousands of workers in several industries and their sympathizers, on the one side, and police and both federal and state troops, on the other. Even the farmers entered the fight, furnishing food to the strikers and their families. The East was paralyzed as trains stood still, and the West was shaken by clashes between workers and vigilantes.

A dozen workers were mowed down by troops in Baltimore, and many others were killed in Buffalo and Reading. Nineteen were murdered and hundreds wounded by police in the day-long battle in Chicago. Pittsburgh was the scene of the most pronounced revolutionary spirit. There, the workers, armed mainly with brickbats and clubs, fought advancing columns of soldiers as their comrades fell dead beside them. The station was burned at Pittsburgh, as were roundhouses and hundreds of box-cars.

The railroad strike was broken

at last by the military power of the state of Pennsylvania. Whole trainloads of troops piled between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, offering to shoot down or lop off the ears of any who attempted to impede their progress. In the end, the workers won nothing for themselves. But they helped the cause of organized labor, while showing clearly the power of working class solidarity if it be followed to the end.

What occurred in 1877 was brought about by the rank and file. Enthusiastically and almost automatically responding to the spirit of their comrades, the workers spread the strike from city to city. All that was needed for victory was co-ordinating and interpretive leadership, which failed to come from the officials of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

The failure of the leaders to lead became tradition in the high command, not being broken by Gompers who, with Strasser, brought about the formation of the A. F. of L. in 1886. When the membership of the Federation became formidable, bankers and industrialists invited Gompers to lunch. The latter gladly "walked with kings," but he "lost the common touch."

And the "kings" have carried the flattery to the point where today Green and Co. not only betray their murmuring followers at every conference table, but they deliberately shout out their intention to whip the rank and file into silence. The only "common touch" they retain is the one that affects the workers' pocketbooks. Their fight against and ignorance of Marxism are founded upon the proposition that there is none so blind as he who will not see.

Question Box

By A. WEAVER

M. Z., NEWARK—

Question: Is there any difference between supporting sanctions "only to the extent required by British imperialism" and sanctions "forced upon these imperialist governments who want them only as a threat, and carried out over the head of the capitalist state apparatus, by independent united-front class actions (strikes, demonstrations, active boycotts, picketing, etc.)?" The Daily Worker (see Harry Gannes' column) of Oct. 16, 1935, makes this distinction.

Answer: Just as they distinguish between the nations of peace-loving, democratic and of war-seeking, fascist capitalisms; between fake and genuine labor parties; so do the Stalinists now attempt to cover their crimes, this time on the war question. There are, if you please, had sanctions, i.e., those which the imperialists wish to apply, and good sanctions, i.e., those which the Stalinists want "force" them to apply.

If British imperialism wants sanctions "only as a threat" against Italy, whereas the worthies of the Third International would "force" His Majesty to take more drastic action, then it is quite clear that the Stalinists, even though they motivate their course by claiming a desire to defend Ethiopia, are demanding an IMMEDIATE imperialist war at the same time that they credit British imperialism with wanting peace. Unfortunately for the Stalinist contention, however, British imperialism is already FORCED to strike an effective blow at the Italian bandits in order to prevent the latter from taking the rich British colonial empire and exploiting it for the benefit of Italian, instead of English, finance-capital; in order to prevent Mussolini from reducing Great Britain to the place of a third rate power. If England confines itself, for the present, to economic sanctions, it is because she has everything to gain by delaying military operations. The deeper the Italian army penetrates Ethiopia, the more difficult does the situation become for Mussolini; it is even possible that the Ethiopians may score military victories. Time permits Great Britain to strengthen her armaments in the Mediterranean and some thing which the British Admiralty has neglected to do, develop a naval strategy for these waters. The delay which the British are utilizing, therefore, is as much a part of military and naval strategy as the correct allocation of battle-ships, so that the sanctions of Stanley Baldwin are quite as effective as any which Harry Gannes and Co. would, if they could, "force" on him. Downing Street, it appears is not quite as illogical in its methods of defending the interests of British imperialism as are the Stalinists.

Stupid as the latter's policy may be, however, they call on the workers to "force" it on the imperialists by strikes, etc. "over the head of the capitalist state apparatus." Stupidity is here multiplied by insanity. Will the British workers be called to strike against the handling of goods destined for Italy when such goods are not being shipped because of orders from the British government? Will the Stalinists call on the British workers to boycott goods which are not being sold, such sale being already forbidden? How is it possible, except on the pages of the Daily Worker, to support sanctions by calling political strikes against the government applying them? Sanctions are of a military, as well as of an economic character. For the British workers to enforce military sanctions "over the head of the capitalist state apparatus," power must have first passed into the hands of the proletariat. How is it possible for the proletariat at the same time power and at the same time be "putting pressure" on the imperialists to apply sanctions? Only God, be he in heaven, or in the Kremlin can solve the insane riddles and contradictions which the scribes of the Daily Worker generate in justification of their betrayals.

The essence of the whole matter, of course, is that there is no difference between the sanctions of Stanley Baldwin and those which the Stalinists would "enforce." Stalin has subordinated the policies of the Communist parties to the Stalin-Laval pact, i.e., to the interests of French imperialism. The latter supports sanctions so the Stalinists internationally are doing the same.

that here they have honest people to deal with—people they do not know how to approach, how to talk with, how to deal with. They have dealt with gangsters too long.

"But do not think this is going to be an easy battle. They will continue to fight the union, and they will fight bitterly to the finish. They are determined to crush 574—because they are showing the country how militant industrial unions can effectively protect the rights of the workers."

Overflow Crowd Cheers Speakers

(Continued from Page 1)

me to disassociate yourselves from local 574." We said, "We can never do that. Not until 574 came into the picture did our union amount to anything. They helped us in every possible way, attended the negotiations with the employers, and helped us to get a settlement with the bosses for the first time in the history of the industry here. We would be traitors to 574, to ourselves, and to our workers, if we now turned against it. It is the only union that helped us at all times. We never got such help from the Central Labor Union. We are going to go along the line with 574 one hundred percent." 574 has shown the incompetency, the uselessness of the old-line reactionary leaders who stayed in their offices, with their feet upon their desks, smoking cigars, and doing nothing for their workers but collecting dues from them. These old-line leaders are afraid the workers will wake up and understand. That is why they are fighting 574 which is showing the workers the meaning of real, honest, sincere unionism."

Latz also announced that Rabbi Gordon, who had served as impartial chairman of the committee which had drawn up the settlement between the union and the employers had called him that evening and assured that the agreement still stood, and that he would have nothing to do with the union splitters.

Power Union

Next there was introduced Brother Kotarsky of the Northern States Power Union Local 160, A. F. of L.

He said that the members of his union had been rendered speechless by the actions of Lewis. While he is not much of a speaker, he would read a letter drawn up by his union. "We take deep concern in this matter both from the standpoint of the union and from that of our obligations toward 574. It was due entirely to the struggle of 574 that our own union was able to form. On many occasions the officers and men of 574 have helped us, and we know from numerous reports in the C.L.U. that, in spite of their expulsion from the A. F. of L. unions, they have helped other A. F. of L. unions. The industrial union fight will bring increasing gains to the workers."

Musicians

Ace Brewer, representative of the Musicians Union (of which Lewis claims to be a member) assured the meeting that the Musicians were 100 percent for 574.

Bergstrom, the president of local 1313, the ornamental iron workers union which has just come out of a victorious struggle against the most notorious open-shop bosses, spoke next. "The ironworkers," he said, "are 100 percent behind 574. 574 gave us the kind of help hard to get anywhere else. 574 never turned down the iron workers. We didn't know anywhere one could get a better reception. There was little or no organization among the drivers before 574 came on the scene. This was too much for the boss class. That also goes for the A. F. of L. bureaucracy. They don't want organization the moment a union really begins to function in the interests of the workers. They only look upon the unions as a collection agency for getting dues from the workers. That is why

they ousted 574 from the A. F. of L. The reputation of a union depends upon its action during a strike. Workers will always respond to a union like 574. That is why it is not going to be easy to tear 574 down. Leaders in industry, and the top leaders in the ranks of labor, want to frighten the workers by calling the leaders of 574 reds. Well Abraham Lincoln said that the radicals of today are the conservatives of tomorrow. This doesn't mean that all radicals will be conservatives tomorrow. But it does show that all ideas when they are first introduced look radical. But tomorrow they will be accepted as the ordinary thing. Is it any wonder that the old-line leaders oppose any new ideas? The last A. F. of L. convention shows the trend all over the country. It was the first convention which didn't work like a steam roller. A large proportion of the delegates voted for industrial organization—the only method by which the workers can be organized effectively. The failure of the A. F. of L. has failed to organize the workers. The employers have organized right along. The small success of the A. F. of L. is revealed in the small number of workers which it has organized. The A. F. of L. has not performed its work well in having so many unorganized workers outside its ranks. But only the workers can organize themselves. And when they set out to do this, they are branded as reds. What of it? We don't expect to please the opposition by what we are doing." Bergstrom declared his union 100 percent behind 574.

Earl Martin, business agent of the Iron Workers Local 19, oldest union in Minneapolis, also praised 574, and declared that "before 574 came into the picture local building trades were hibernating and sucking their paws."

Resolution of Rank and File Bill Brown read spontaneous resolutions, drawn up by the members of 574 and presented to the leaders declaring their complete support of the union and for its leaders. These resolutions came from the Yellow Cab men, a group which Tobin warned 574 not to try and organize because the Yellow Cab was "a national concern, and too powerful to organize;" also from the Cameron Transfer, whose owner is one of the leaders of the Citizens Alliance; from the Pittsburgh Coal Co. men, Gamble Robinson Company, and the Colonial Warehouse, where 574 recently won a strike.

Farmer-Labor Alderman

The radical Farmer-Labor alderman, H. G. Scott, declared that the Farmer-Labor group in the city council did not have the courage to come out openly for 574. "They try to shush everything. It is time they take a stand and get off the fence." He declared that he was always ready to be at the service of 574, and that 574 was the one bright spot in the industrial situation in Minneapolis. He declared that the whole nation was watching 574. "There used to be a paper, the Minneapolis Labor Review, which was the official organ of the Minneapolis labor movement. But since The Organizer has been put out by 574, that has become the official organ."

Candy Workers

A mere youth, Paul Williams of the Candy Workers Union, was introduced. His union was the newest in town—only three weeks old. Three weeks ago the workers had been forced by bad conditions to go out on strike at the Powell Candy Company. They had no leadership, no knowledge, no resources. They didn't know what to do. So they came to 574. "It was the only place we know where to go. They gave us leadership and advice. And in 24 hours they had an agreement with the Powell Candy Company. Now the entire industry has been signed up and is completely unionized. Well, I'm not a speaker, and I've told you 'now we stand on 574.'"

Farmer-Labor Legislator

Sam Bellman, Representative in the State House of Representatives, and a Farmer Laborite, spoke. "In my opinion 574 has been the mainspring and the motive that has brought the workers to the level where they now are. The 3rd Ward F. L. local last night endorsed the union. Its death will be the death blow to the liberal movement in Minneapolis. Only militant action will win. If the union is destroyed, Fascism will triumph in Minnesota and the liberal-workers' movement will fall by the wayside. I am willing to go down fighting with 574."

Speech of Miles Dunne

Miles Dunne was then introduced. His speech was as follows:

"Lewis announced over the radio that the men were leaving 574. The opposite is true. In the last two months the union has taken in more members than in any similar 60 day period. It has made better contracts than ever before—directly with the employers, this time, and not through any government board. 574 finds itself in a better position than ever before."

"In the winter of 1933 a group of people in the coal industry felt that wages were too low, that better conditions, could be obtained, and that the workers were ripe for organization. In February of 1933 they were organized, and made their demands upon the employers. Those were refused and the men were forced on strike. It was a three-day strike; the elements were on the side of the union. It was bitter cold, and the demand for coal was extremely brisk. In three days the union won a victory and obtained a settlement. The union organizers did not rest upon their laurels. They went on and organized the general transport workers. There followed the May, June and July strikes. The struggle was a bitter one. The employers said they would never deal with 574. They filled the radio and the local press with paid advertisements in which they called for the removal of the 'Communist' leadership of 574 before they would deal with the union, and in which they claimed that 574 represented the edge of the revolution that was creeping into the United States. The workers never paid any attention to the radio and press statements of the employers, but fought it right on to victory.

"Today 574 is one of the largest single local unions in the United States. A union is no good unless it produces results—unless it is

something more than a mere dues-collection agency. 574 has produced results. It brought the standards of living of its members from 35c an hour for a 12-16 hour day—in the market place wages were as low as 12c per hour—up to 55c per hour. An increase of 25 percent and more in living standards. In addition there is going to be another five-cent increase in wages in 1936. Moreover, the union has recently negotiated contracts with the coal and transfer industries of Minneapolis whereby the workers in those industries will be paid one and one-third overtime for all hours they work over eight per day after the A. F. of L. has talked for decades about the eight hour day, have written about it in their journals—574 has brought it into reality.

"During the strikes in which it engaged, 574 came into conflict with many obstructive forces within the labor movement. One of them was Daniel Tobin who almost caused the loss of the strike. He refused to pay the union any strike benefits, and continued his warfare with the union until he expelled it. The nominal reason was that 574 didn't pay its per capita tax. But that was not the real reason. 574 wanted to, and still desires to remain in the A. F. of L. But before it could pay its per capita tax to the international it had to meet its pressing obligations to the orphans and widows of the martyrs of its great strike struggles. It had to pay the doctor and other expenses of the many victims in those struggles. It had to pay the necessary expenses of keeping together its organization—after it had been forced to rely almost entirely upon its own resources in its struggles by the refusal of Tobin to pay it strike benefits. The members knew that the per capita tax had not been paid. The matter was discussed many times in the membership meetings. And the members all agreed that 574 must meet first of all its most vital obligations rather than pay tribute to Tobin and cripple the organization, so that he could take more trips to Ireland and what not. But Tobin thought otherwise. With him, Tobin came first; so he revoked the charter of the union. Did that make any difference? Of course not—what was that charter? Why, it was a framed piece of paper, signed by Tobin, which said 574 had a right to exist. 574 turned that picture, face toward the wall—and went right on existing. This made Tobin jealous. He wondered how he could get 574 to continue to pay him a per capita tax.

"Now it is an open secret why Meyer Lewis is here. Dan Tobin, the most reactionary person in the A. F. of L., without exception, has thrown in his lot with Green. He has said to the latter, 'I'll give you unqualified support. That is why Meyer Lewis is here attacking 574. What will the A. F. of L. reactionaries try to do? We can judge what they will try to do by what they have done. They will attempt to discredit the leadership of the union, to hook it up with gangsters and with vice rings. They will go into the Central Labor Union and try to get the C.L.U. to refuse to recognize any drivers union except 500.

"In Chicago and Cleveland, Tobin and his henchmen sent in mobsters and gangsters to mop up on their rival racketeer unions. These are the only methods they know how to use. They don't know, however,